

**VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**OF**

**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**Fall Meeting**

**American Legion National Headquarters**

**Indianapolis, Indiana**

**Saturday, September 26, 2020**

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Janine Ferren, RPR, CRR, CSR-IL No. 84-4852

Connor Reporting, A Veritext Company

111 Monument Circle

Suite 4350

Indianapolis, IN 46204

317.522.9600

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*...At 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 26, 2020, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Bolt.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Please rise.

With the colors of our nation being in place, join me in a right-hand salute. Two.

I will now call on National Chaplain Rodney Tolbert to invoke the blessing of God.

Please uncover.

### **Invocation**

#### **Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan**

Dear God, thank you for enabling us to gather here for this meeting. May we have meaningful discussions that will help us build each other up and glorify Your name and our organization. Help us to share things that will benefit all of us and draw people to The Sons of The American Legion. Help us to deal with different challenges that we're facing as a team, when we approach each other with respect and kindness. Lord, create an environment of cooperation in this place to help us to be one spirit. In Your name. Amen.

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.*

### **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 designates a POW/MIA empty chair at all meetings. This is a physical symbol of the many American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for, 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 defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

I will now call on National Vice Commander Blair Miles to please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I will now call on National Vice Commander Chris Cook to lead us in the preamble. Please cover.

### **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 The Sons of The American Legion.*

### **Blue Star Banner Ceremony**

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

*(Gavel)*

Please be seated.

I now call on National Adjutant Tony Wright to read the fall NEC meeting call.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Pursuant to Article VII, Section 2 of the National 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 September 26th, 2020, virtually in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: National Adjutant Tony Wright will now call the role.

**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)

Robert J. Avery, New York

David M. Ridenour, Indiana

Scott A. Williams, Virginia

Scott J. Thornton, Ohio- EXCUSED

National Chaplain

Rodney J. Tolbert, Michigan

National Historian

Thomas E. "Tom" Marsden, New Jersey

National Judge Advocate

Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms

Gregory A. Falco, New York (East)

Charles Curtis, California (West)

## **PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS**

Immediate Past National Commander

Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs, New York

Past National Commanders

Michael K. Seaton, California  
Robert A. McBride, Ohio  
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland  
John M. Sherrard, California  
David P. Stephens, Indiana  
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York  
Frederick L. Hartline, Sr., Ohio  
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota  
David R. Faust, Wisconsin  
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota  
William E. Matoska, Maryland  
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana  
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma  
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas  
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts  
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas  
Raymond P. Giehl, Jr., Indiana  
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois  
Mark E. Arneson, Georgia  
James K. Roberts, III, Florida  
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland  
Michael W. Moss, Colorado - EXCUSED  
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska



Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona

Brian J. O'Hearne, Massachusetts

Danny J. Smith, Colorado

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN**

Alabama, NEC

Alaska, NEC

Arizona, NEC

Arkansas, NEC

California, BOTH

Colorado, NEC

Connecticut, NEC

Delaware, NEC

Florida, BOTH

Georgia, NEC

Hawaii, NEC

Illinois, NEC

Indiana, BOTH

Iowa, NEC

Kansas, NEC

Louisiana, BOTH

Maine, NEC

Maryland, BOTH

Massachusetts, BOTH

Michigan, NEC

Minnesota, NEC

Mississippi, NEC

Missouri, NEC

Montana, NEC

Nebraska, NEC

Nevada, BOTH

New Hampshire, NEC

New Jersey, NEC

New Mexico, BOTH

New York, NEC

North Carolina, NEC

Ohio, NEC

Oklahoma, BOTH

Oregon, NEC

Pennsylvania, NEC

Puerto Rico, NEC

South Carolina, BOTH

Texas, NEC

Utah, NEC

Vermont, NEC

Virginia, BOTH

Washington, NEC

Wisconsin, BOTH

Wyoming, NEC

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I now declare this Fall 2020 meeting of the National Executive Committee for The Sons of The American Legion regularly convened virtually.

National judge advocate -- call on the NEC from Alaska. Question?

I don't see a question.

National Judge Advocate Joe Paviglianti will now explain the use of unanimous consent for today's proceedings.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Good morning, gentlemen. This is obviously a unique approach that we are taking relative to virtually meeting in unique circumstances. Given that, and that our world has changed in General for all of us, the approach and aspect of what we are gathered here to do today has to have a couple of fundamental changes that we are going to employ.

We, along with American Legion NEC, will be bringing into use an approach called unanimous consent. In nonlegislative deliberative bodies operating under Robert's Rules of Order, of which we are and we operate under, unanimous consent is often used to expedite the consideration of noncontroversial motions. It is sometimes used simply as a time-saving device, especially at the end of the session.

In our environment, given the virtual process that we are going through today and operating in, to provide an efficient process which provides the same level of accuracy as a voice vote, without the complexities of the voice vote in a virtual environment, the national commander will ask for any questions from the voting and voice-authorized members of the NEC. Any questions and objections will be discussed and considered. The national commander will then state, "If there are no objections, the report or resolution is adopted by unanimous consent." If the national commander determines the need for a roll call vote on any subject, that would be conducted.

I would ask and remind everybody who has the ability for a voice and/or voting position in the NEC, to make sure that you state your name, the position and title, and detachment, when you are recognized for your comments and conversations.

In addition to that, let me go over three or four quick points that will ultimately be incorporated into a resolution to be brought on to the uniform code of procedures for the NECs, to account for meetings like this in the future. If insomuch that we have to experience this again at some point in time, we want to set up the properties and procedures for that. Again, this will be extremely similar to what The American Legion is doing, and we will follow suit and apply that accordingly.

Ken George referenced many things this morning as he kind of kicked off and did a recovery of yesterday's activity. But just so everybody has a good understanding of where we're heading as an organization relative to the conduct and operation of virtual meetings, upon signing into the meeting, all committee members shall identify themselves and shall consistently maintain Internet and/or audio access throughout the meeting.

The meeting quorum number is determined based upon the national bylaw requirements. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum attendance is determined by the online list of committee members, unless a committee member demands a quorum count by an audible roll call. Such a demand may only be made following any vote for which the announced totals add to less than the required quorum.

Each committee member is responsible for his audio and Internet connections, as no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of or poor quality of a committee member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

To seek recognition by the chair, the committee member shall raise his hand or utilize a method within the Internet meeting service being used. A committee member intending to make a motion or request shall raise his hand or utilize a method with the Internet meeting service being used. For today, that is raising of the hand, and shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the chair instructions before attempting to interrupt the speaker by voice.

Lastly, the secretary or his assistants will display a video of the chair throughout the meeting, and they'll also display the video and/or photo of the committee member or individual currently speaking.

Again, we shall take these points and a few others, place them into a resolution for consideration at the next NEC meeting. But these are rules which I will ask all of us to follow and be understood that we will conduct ourselves under, even before that is put into place, since they are generally accepted rules and understanding of virtual meetings being conducted by the Internet.

Mr. Commander, that's all I have.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

## **Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The minutes from the Fall 2019 meeting were published on Friday, September 18th, 2020. If there is no objection, they will be accepted as published.

Since there is no objection, the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting will be accepted as published, subject to any corrections or additions submitted to the national adjutant in writing.

*(Gavel)*

## **Opening Remarks**

**Clint D. Bolt**

**Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Virginia**

Good morning, gentlemen. All of you are looking great today. I wanted to thank each of the National officers, the NECmen, commission and committee chairmen and their members. But also, I want to say thanks to all the blue cappers for being a part of the first virtual NEC meeting of The Sons of The American Legion.

This meeting is being conducted in The American Legion NEC room at national headquarters in Indianapolis. This, too, is historic. You can feel the 101 years of history that have been debated in this room. Right here is where, in 1931, the creation of The Sons of The American Legion was discussed. And in 1932, we were established as a program of The American Legion at the national convention in Portland, Oregon.

Since our beginnings, The Sons of The American Legion have been discussed in this room countless times, and one thing is for certain: We were discussed with marvel and with pride at all that we did for The American Legion year after year.

As this meeting gets started, I ask for your cooperation and patience. Virtual meetings bring challenges, and with those challenges, we learn and adapt to our environment so that we can continue to flourish. A tremendous amount of work and planning has gone on for months, to ensure that we are able, virtually, to have this meeting today.

Many thanks to Ken George and Brian Compton, all The American Legion staff, and Markey's, for the production of this NEC meeting. In this new age of uncertainty due to the COVID-19, we as an organization are relying on these platforms to conduct our meetings, from the national headquarters here in Indianapolis, all the way to your squadron. New approaches, and with planning meetings like this, are becoming another means for the SAL to move forward.

Conference calls, they have become a vital tool to our organization during this shutdown. I am truly blessed to serve with five of the greatest national vice commanders ever. They have streamlined the regional conference calls to be information-packed and efficient uses of time, with the exchange of ideas that benefits us all.

Our commission and committee monthly conference calls are more productive with in-depth knowledge of the latest information. These calls are open to all members of The Sons of The American Legion. Our Public & Media Communications chairman, Seth Rippe, maintains the national call-in calendar where you can find the dates, times, and call-in information for each call. Please use these tools and be better informed about our organization.

In your packet you see who all of the award winners are for 2020. Congratulations to all who won those awards. And all of those who received the per capita ribbons, you will be receiving them from your detachments shortly.

Our individual award winners are:

Nick Arceo from the Detachment of Colorado. He was the winner of the Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award.

And Dennis Theobald from the Detachment of Iowa. He's the winner of the George B. Evans Grassroots Lobbyist of the Year Award.

Congratulations to those gentlemen for those prestigious awards.

Every year at national convention, we hold a memorial service on Sunday morning, where we honor all of our members who have passed on to Squadron Everlasting. Will you please uncover and honor our 3,478 members lost for the 2020 membership year. If you can please stand for a moment of silence.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Our destination is a place far greater than we know. For some, the journey is quick. For some, the journey is slow. But when the journey finally ends, we claim a greater reward and a final everlasting peace together with the Lord.

Thank you. Please cover.

Your national leadership looks forward to serving you for this year, 2021, and it is our goal to make this year the best year ever for The Sons of The American Legion. Thank you for all each of you do for the organization.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford was unable to be with us today in person, but he has sent us a message. Right now I'm going to read his bio for us.

National Commander 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 Bill is a Paid-Up-For-Life member and a past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department commander of North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Commander Bill was an aviator electronics technician for the A-6 Intruder, and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Commander Bill 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 Bill has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city-council of Cahah's Mountain, North Carolina, he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Commander Bill has volunteered as a coach, umpire, a referee, and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Commander Bill is a member of the Masonic Lodge, the 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 Mike Carr. They also have four grandsons: Isaiah, Micah, Jaggar, and Dawson.

At this time, we'll have the virtual greetings from National American Legion Commander Bill Oxford.

## **Greetings**

**James W. "Bill" Oxford**

**American Legion National Commander, North Carolina**

National Commander Clint, distinguished leaders of The Sons of the American Legion, friends and guests, it's truly an honor to speak with you today.

The American Legion family, in fact, our country, has never been tested the way we have in 2020. Yes, we have had arguably bigger challenges. The Great Depression, World War II, 9/11, they come quickly to mind. But the coronavirus pandemic is something that we have not seen the likes of since the Spanish flu occurred, which was before any of us were alive.

Our American Legion family, and I mean our entire family, really stepped up. Most of our relief efforts, whether it was a drive-through food bank, a blood drive, or a Legion Riders event, have been conducted with significant contributions from The Sons of The American Legion and our American Legion Auxiliary. We simply could not do these things alone.

I'm ineligible to join The Sons of The American Legion. If I could, I would join without hesitation. You are a vital piece of my theme, which is "A Foundation for the Future."

Sixteen million veterans returned from World War II; most of them are gone now. When my generation was in Vietnam, we had a much larger military and veteran population than we have today. While The American Legion family firmly believes in having a strong

military, it's unlikely we'll ever see the kind of numbers that we have had decades ago. We believe in the all-volunteer force and we certainly don't want another world war.

The LEGION Act, passed in 2019, immediately made an estimated 4.2 million veterans eligible for The American Legion membership that weren't eligible before. For our Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary, it's many times that.

Due to my Vietnam service, I was already eligible for The American Legion. But by virtue of just my service alone, there are five members of the Oxford family that belong to the Sons of The American Legion. And while my son and four grandsons belong to the SAL, I imagine that more members down the line could be added.

Now, think about those 4.2 million potential Legionnaires now eligible due to the LEGION Act. Many are also eligible to join The Sons. Moreover, if each of them had five male descendants like I do, that's a potential 21 million people now eligible to join the SAL because of the LEGION Act.

I think back to the founders of the American Legion. They were World War I veterans. The dream at that time was for World War I to be the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, it wasn't meant to be, but it's still a dream worth having, no war. If there are no wars, there can eventually be no wartime veterans. The American Legion itself would go extinct, but it would be for a very worthwhile reason.

When the last veterans of the American Revolution died, The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution took over and continued their legacy. As the number of veterans are reduced due to mortality and a smaller military, it would be even more important for you, our Sons, to advocate for and deliver the service that was epitomized by our Four Pillars.

The coronavirus took all of us, including The American Legion, by surprise, but it didn't stop us. And I know that it will not stop our Sons from supporting our programs and building a foundation for the future.

Thank you. Have a great meeting.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Commander Bill. We appreciate your address at our meeting today, sir. Just to let you know, your chair is pretty comfortable, sir.

Thank you.

At this time I'm going to call on Ken George for remarks.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, you're muted.

## **Greetings**

### **Ken George**

#### **National SAL Staff Liaison, California**

Good morning, everybody. I'd like to welcome everybody to our first-ever virtual meeting. Right now, you may not know it, but we have over 200 people logged in watching our meeting between Facebook Live, our general viewing link, and of course, our regular login for the NEC and our PNCs.

Today marks a lot of firsts: Our first virtual meeting; our first NEC meeting in the NEC room of national headquarters, the same room where the SAL was created, the same room where the GI Bill was drafted, and the same room that holds the VA accountable in taking care of our vets. When you walk in this room, it's a pretty awesome experience, and I encourage everybody to do it at one time or another, in your travels in coming to headquarters.

To do this, it requires a lot of front work. So I want to say some thanks to a few people. First and foremost, I want to thank you to all the commission and committee chairmen. You

rounded up your committees, you conducted your meetings, you got them done in a timely manner, in a professional manner. I was on most of them, and I was very impressed.

I want to thank the adjutant team, National Adjutant Wright's team. They did a phenomenal job in getting on all these meetings, taking the minutes, compiling the reports, and getting them out on time and to the NEC eight days prior, which was the goal.

I personally want to thank Reggie Mathis, headquarters staff, he works in our convention division. I couldn't have done this without his professionalism and expertise. We've worked together on a few projects, and this is definitely one of them.

I want to thank Markey's. You don't see them. So what you don't see in front of me is, there's equipment, there's computers, there's all kinds of stuff set up, and it's pretty cool.

Also want to thank my assistant, Brian Compton. A lot of this stuff can't be done without him, and he keeps me running straight.

I also want to thank one of my coworkers as well, Kevin Mook. He's actually one of the administrators on this page; and then the rest of the headquarters staff.

But I'd like to close by stating that everyone needs to stay healthy, we need to stay strong, we need to support our country, protect our flag, and get out and vote, because our country needs all of us to cast that vote.

Thank you and have a great meeting.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I'll now call on Adjutant Tony Wright for an announcement.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: For official minute purposes, I'd just like to let everyone know, for recording purposes, that Past National Commanders Michael Seaton and Neil Warnken are present, as well as our national historian, Thomas Marsden.

## **Appointments to National Commissions/Committees**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have three vacancies to fill this morning, and one vice chairman assignment to make: The death of member Marvin Nay, the VE&E vice chairman;

The other is the resignation of Ray Edwards, VE&E member;

And the resignation of Brandon Curry, National Convention chairman, due to relocation of the convention city.

If there is no objection, I appoint:

Jim Coates, from the Detachment of New York, as vice chairman of VE&E;

Fred Vaccarella, Detachment of Virginia, as a member, fulfilling the unexpired term of Mr. Marvin Nay;

William Sheehan, from the Detachment of Massachusetts, as member, fulfilling the unexpired term of Mr. Edwards;

Chuck Treat, from the Detachment of Arizona, replacing Mr. Curry due to the relocation of the convention city.

Are there any questions regarding these appointments?

Hearing no objection, the resignation and new appointments of the aforementioned members are approved by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

I also am invoking the Duties and Powers Rule Number 3, Item C of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, and request the removal of Ryan Longeway, from the Detachment of Pennsylvania, from the MT&D Committee, and the assignment of Scott Baker from the Detachment of Pennsylvania to fill the unexpired term.

Are there any questions regarding this appointment?

Hearing no objections, the resignations and the new appointments of the aforementioned members are approved by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

We will now proceed to the commission and committee reports.

We will begin with the National Americanism Commission report, including the National Children and Youth Committee report and the National Child Welfare Foundation Committee report.

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

### **Report of Americanism Commission**

**Donald "J.R." Hall, Jr., Chairman, Maryland**

## Americanism Commission

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on September 3, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Donald "J.R." Hall (MD).

### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Donald "J.R." Hall (MD)</u>	Members:	<u>James Borgman (IL)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)</u>		<u>James Eubanks (CA) – Absent</u>
Secretary:	<u>Anthony Wright (PA)</u>		<u>Ernest Laberge (MA)</u>
	<u>National Adjutant</u>		<u>Casey Lenort (MN)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Steve Laws (NC)</u>		
	<u>Past National Commander</u>		
Guests:	<u>National Commander Clint Bolt (VA); National Vice Commander Ned Fox (CA); Past National Commander Danny Smith (NE); Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA)</u>		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Hall declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Committees:**

Committee reports were given by CWF Chairman Mark Nave (PA) and Children and Youth Chairman Bill Clancy (NY) on their meetings.

**Regional Reports:**

**Eastern Region:** Ernie Laberge (MA)

Boys & Girls State

Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. Boys and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each state usually on a college campus, within that state. Massachusetts is one of the few states that hosts Boys and Girls State at the same college campus in the same week. This year I will submit an interview with a Boys State and Boys Nation Counselor and Alumni.

10-Ideals and 5-Star Programs

The 10-Ideals and 5-Star programs help us to better understand what true Americanism is. Those individuals who complete the programs will also benefit in other ways, such as a better working knowledge of U.S. history, Legionism and the development of leadership skills. Every Sons member not just our junior members should consider taking part in these great programs. Completed and sent.

Work has been completed on the 10-Ideals PowerPoint and the related Applications for Award Form and is awaiting the final approval from the National Organization.

Work has been completed on the 5-Star PowerPoint and the Test Answer Key. Draft materials have been sent to all Commission members and have been approved. The draft materials are awaiting the final approval from the National Organization.

**Southern Region:** Chairman Hall (MD)

Chairman Hall thanked everyone for all their work this year and for being on all the calls, he said it is an honor to serve as Chairman.



The following are the award winners for the 2019-2020 administrative year.

Atwood-Beyea-York Memorial Award [for the Best Americanism Program]

- Squadron – Dodge County Squadron No. 126 – Eastman, Georgia
- District – no form data is available this year
- Detachment – no form data is available this year

Highest NEF Per Capita Donation by Region

- Midwest – Wyoming (\$1.76)
- South – Arkansas (\$1.29)
- West – Alaska (\$1.12)
- East – Connecticut (\$0.60)
- Central – Iowa (\$0.49)

Legacy Scholarship Fund Award [for the Highest Monetary Donation by Region]

- Central – Illinois (\$3,611.00)
- Midwest – Kansas (\$500.00)
- South – Florida (\$500.00)
- East – New York (\$275.00)
- West – Arizona (\$175.00)

As previously announced, we will hold all 2020 Community Service Scrapbook Award entries for judging at the 2021 Convention in Phoenix.

We received 1,353 squadron reports with total Americanism accomplishments of: \$2,359,766.00 in donations, 752,285 hours worth \$20,462,152.00 for a total of the year of \$22,821,918.00 in donations and services. Great year by all our Squadrons and members.

**Central Region:** Jim Borgman (IL)

Oratorical Contest

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop a deeper appreciation and knowledge of the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Scholarships will vary from Department to Department, but the National organization provides \$128,000 in scholarships to the National Finalists, Semi-Finalists, and winners of the National Finals.

Four Chaplains

The first Sunday of February is a Remembrance Day of the saga of the Four Chaplains. Many Posts, Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments will hold their own production of this ceremony; for those that have not attended one of these ceremonies, I would highly encourage you to find one nearby to first-hand witness this moving ceremony.

On February 3, 1943 at 12:55 a.m., U.S.A.T. Dorchester, carrying 902 servicemen, merchant seamen and civilian workers, was hit by a torpedo fired by a German submarine. The ship would sink in less than thirty minutes and 672 would perish. It was known as Torpedo Junction, the U-boat infested icy waters of the North Atlantic during World War II.

When last seen, the Four Chaplains were standing together on the deck leading the remaining men in prayer. With arms linked in friendship and heads bowed in prayer, they sank beneath the waves. I would like to encourage all reading this to consider getting involved in this ceremony. It is not complicated and with minimal expense, this can be made a reality most anywhere, your Post, Church, Community Center, Elks Lodge, etc.

**Midwest Region:** Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)

### Junior Shooting Sports

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program teaches youth rifle safety and procedure and lets children participate in an Olympic skill sport while fostering healthy completion. All interested youth under 18 years old (or high school seniors no older than 20) are welcome, regardless of gender or physical ability.

Junior Shooting Sports can be an effective and fun way to get youth and Legionnaires involved with your post. Some of your goals for the program may include:

- Educate young people about firearm safety.
- Introduce the shooting sports to community members and educate them about shooting.
- Harness shooting sports to help young people develop leadership, discipline, concentration, sportsmanship, and responsibility.

For more information on Junior Shooting Sports, email [juniorshooting@legion.org](mailto:juniorshooting@legion.org), visit [www.legion.org/shooting](http://www.legion.org/shooting) or contact your department chairperson.

### Consolidated Squadron Report

The Consolidated Squadron Report form is the basis by which the National Awards under the programs of Americanism, Children and Youth and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation are determined each year.

Although not every Squadron is able to participate in all aspects of Americanism, Children and Youth and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, the key is to report all that the Squadron, District, and Detachment has accomplished during the current membership year.

**Western Region:** Jim Eubanks (CA) [written report submitted to Chairman Hall]

It has been without a doubt a difficult time for all during this pandemic, with Posts closed or only open in a minimal status. The activities of the Boy Scouts have been cut dramatically and even the Boys State and Legion Baseball programs have been cancelled, which has left little to report on, but there are some areas that we have found useful to continue with.

One item that I believe that has actually been a necessity is the Buddy Checks, with individuals being restricted to minimal contact and the cancellation of the DEC's, NEC's and Conventions it has been a valuable tool in keeping communication lines open. We tried to continue with the Flag Appreciation program, where we handed out Certificates of Appreciation to those flying the American Flag, but for a while it did not seem to be appreciated, which is understandable with the current conditions.

With things starting to loosen up a little, we have considered starting the Flag Appreciation program up again. We have however scheduled our first 5-Star class for Sept. 12th and currently have what appears to be a good size class. I have always enjoyed teaching the class and I have fun with it by adding tidbits of additional information regarding flag etiquette and history. It is a good class to teach, especially since I have always felt that our youth no longer get much of the information in school.

I had sent out several articles to the Squadrons in California, trying to stay nonpolitical and somewhat neutral in my commentaries. One was a simple article regarding the difference between Patriotism and Americanism, which I think are being confused at times. I had also put together an article that discusses the opening and closing of a Squadron meeting and the proper etiquette of addressing the Flag, some of the do's and don't's you might say. There are so many Squadrons that do not seem to understand or do not know what, why and how things should be done during a meeting. I have even been working with several Posts (which is where the Squadrons learn from) regarding proper flag etiquette.

#### National Emergency Fund

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial help to family members and posts. Take a look at what's going on in Texas and Louisiana with the current storms and in California with the ongoing wildfires. They need our help more than ever now.

The fund provides up to \$3,000 for individuals and up to \$10,000 for posts. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

1. Applicant must be displaced from their primary residence due to damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.

2. Applicant must provide receipts showing purchases of basic need items.
3. Membership must be active at the time of the disaster and the time of the application. (NOTE: This means paid-up at National.)

If you need more information, please go to [legion.org/emergency](http://legion.org/emergency).

#### **Old Business:**

Discussed the work done on the 5-Star and 10-Ideals Programs. Brian Compton said he has received several calls asking for information on these programs and has sent all he had. Chairman Hall asked member Ernie LaBerge to send all the new PowerPoints to Brian. All of this has been presented in past NEC meetings. Brian will send them to our webmaster, Gene Theroux, to have him put them on the website.

Mr. Compton also addressed the issue of what happened with District and Detachment CSRs for the past year and said it should not happen again.

#### **New Business:**

Chairman Hall asked everyone to please use and promote the SAL app and [mySAL.org](http://mySAL.org).

Discussion was had about the CSR being filled out on [mySAL.org](http://mySAL.org) and the new items that could be coming our way.

PNC Panel Chairman Danny Smith sent out an email on the work that the Commission needs to do for the Strategic Plan. We will need to work on a presentation on the Americanism Commission and what we do.

Chairman Hall announced that judging for the National Americanism Awards was complete, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Squadron (which does not get an award) is George C. Evans Squadron 103 (Colorado) with 322 points. The winning Squadron for the year with 350 points is Dodge County Squadron No. 126 (Georgia).

#### **Resolutions:**

None

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) thanked the Commission for their work in helping spread the word when asked about the CSR this year and wanted to thank everyone for their work.

National Vice Commander Ned Fox spoke to the Commission and members on the call thanking everyone for their work.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Donald "J.R." Hall (MD) adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for the Americanism chairman, Don Hall?

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

**Report of Children and Youth Committee**

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

**Children and Youth Committee**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on August 24, 2020 as a video conference call 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)

Guests: National Commander Clint Bolt (VA), National V/C Ned Fox (CA), Americanism Chairman Don Hall (MD), Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA), 2<sup>nd</sup> Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN), Robert Clark, Tim Aboudara (CA), Phillip Stander

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the reciting of the Preamble.

**Old Business and review of last year's accomplishments:**

Chairman Clancy attended and represented the SAL at the AL National C&Y Meeting.

The new concept of an AL Family Fun Day -Open Houses at AL Posts was promoted by the Committee.

April of this year was planned to be the biggest ever AL Children and Youth Month.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Room & Activities at Louisville Convention was set up.

Then the pandemic came about affecting all these planned activities. However, the Sons of The American Legion raised an extraordinary amount of money even given the COVID-19 pandemic:

- \$575,853 was raised for C&Y programs Nationally
- 77,241 C&Y volunteer hours which at an hourly rate of \$27.20 each equals \$2,100,955.20
- All with only 1,143 squadrons reporting.

The Committee reviewed the top reporting squadrons under the Children & Youth category.

**New Business and plans for the upcoming administrative year:**

The Committee will be promoting April of 2021 once again as the biggest ever American Legion C&Y Month, with a request to all the 6,100+ Squadrons to host an event.

All Detachment C&Y Chairmen are invited to regional calls in September to promote the initiative with publicity, enthusiasm, and FUN! Monthly calls to promote the initiative at a grassroots level – Get The Word Out!

The Committee will once again plan for the National Convention in August 2021 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SAL Convention Youth Room.

**C&Y Committee Call Schedule 2020/2021:**

The Committee will hold monthly calls in support of their initiatives on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 8:00 PM Central Time. September and February will be special months where the C&Y Committee will be inviting all Detachment C&Y Chairmen on their monthly regional calls to discuss Children & Youth Month in April 2021.

Note: .....All calls will take place of the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 8:00 PM Central Time

Call #: 480-297-0773      Pass Code: 9582899

- September 2020.... No National Call – Regional calls with invites to all Detachment C&Y Chairmen
- Oct 26, 2020
- November 23, 2020
- December 2020 – No Call
- January 25, 2021
- February 2021 - No National Call – Regional calls with invites to all Detachment C&Y Chairmen
- March 22, 2021
- April 26, 2021
- May 24, 2021<sup>th</sup> (Hopeful to have some results from April)
- June 2021 – No Call

- July -26, 2021- Pre-Convention Call
- August 2021– No National Call due to National Convention

The Committee was also provided with a Squadron press release template, and information regarding radio ads and road signs. This information will be made available to all.

The Committee discussed the Squadron winners under Children & Youth. As more work is required for verification on a few items, the listing will be determined in the next few days.

**Resolutions:**

**None.**

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman William Clancy, III (NY) adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

On August 27, 2020 the Committee submitted the following award winners:

- Best Overall Squadron: Carlisle Bennet Squadron 13, NM
- Southern Region: Veterans Memorial Squadron 347, FL
- Central Region: Charles B. Reeves Squadron 27, IN
- Mid-Western Region: Fort Owen Squadron 94, MT
- Western Region: Seaside Squadron 99, OR
- Eastern Region: Chili Squadron 1830, NY

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for the Children and Youth chairman, Bill Clancy?

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

**Report of Child Welfare Foundation**

**Mark Nave, Chairman, Pennsylvania**

**Child Welfare Foundation Committee**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on August 19, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA).

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	Mark E. Nave (PA)	Members:	Lyle Chapman (GA)
Secretary:	Scott A. Williams (VA)		Jon Coakley, II (OH)
	National Assistant Adjutant		George Fleming, Jr. (PA)
Liaison:	(none assigned)		Sanford Lipman (MI)
	Past National Commander		
Guests:	Clint Bolt, SAL National Commander, Michael Fox, Leading Candidate, Mike Felber (VT), Phil Stander (IL), Jeff Trout (IL), Willie Morgan (VA),		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Nave declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

Minutes from previous Conference Call to add Greg Price from Michigan to the list of attendees. Minutes approved with correction.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Nave thanked everyone for their efforts during this difficult year. National CWF Office is thankful for everyone’s efforts this year. Chairman Nave announced that the goal for this year will be \$500,000 for CWF which should put Sons at \$9 million in donations to CWF. We will be looking fine at nine.

Chairman Nave Western Region– Chairman Nave reported he was on the last Western Region Conference call. He said that 5 of the 10 Western detachments donated this year. He also said the communication within the Western Region has been great. He encouraged all of the Western Squadrons to be more creative in their fundraising efforts to support CWF, depending on different restrictions due to COVID.

Jon Coakley Southern Region – Mr. Coakley said he was on the last Southern Region Call where they said there were 174 grant applications submitted to CWF this year. The committee narrowed it down to 50 and the recommendations for Grant recipients had to be turned in by September 4. He talked to the Southern Region about the Cross-Tab Report and the CWF Aprons. He encouraged the Southern Region to keep up the good work to get more donations for CWF.

George Fleming Eastern Region– Mr. Fleming reported that the Eastern is promoting the \$1 per member donations to CWF.



Sanford Lipman Central Region – Mr. Lipman thanked Chairman Nave for participating in the Central Region Calls last month. He said every Detachment in the Central Region made a donation to CWF last year and was proud of them for that. He looks forward to working with everyone again this year. Mr. Lipman will be promoting the CWF Aprons again this year. There will be an additional donation coming in from Michigan. He will participate in the next Central Region Call. He will also be promoting the CWF Piggy Banks again this year.

Lyle Chapman Midwest Region – Mr. Chapman reported that the Midwest is steady and has been participating in their regional calls. He said the Midwest region was down in monies donated this year.

**Old Business:**

Chairman Nave reported that the main issue with the CWF reports is with membership numbers that drive per capita numbers. The committee would like to change the per capita basis to the June 1<sup>st</sup> Membership Report (beginning of the CWF Year) which would require a resolution. Chairman Mark will work with Internal Affairs and National Adjutant Tony Wright to draft this resolution to keep target at \$1 per member as of the June 1 Membership Report.

Chairman Nave spoke to Stacie Cope at National Headquarters regarding the CWF Aprons. He said that National has a supply of the Aprons ready for sale. He encouraged everyone to contact Stacey to get the CWF Aprons at \$20 per Apron. Due to the cancellation of the National Convention, the CWF Aprons will be the only CWF Merchandise available for sale this year.

Chairman Nave said that Piggy Banks would be available this year and are Pearl White. Coordinate with Stacey Cope at National to get the Piggy Banks. They are free of charge. However, Squadrons may have to pay postage for shipping.

Chairman Nave announced the 2020 National CWF Awards per below. These may be announced on a video at a future date.

Garland F. Murphy, Jr. Award [for the Highest Detachment Donation]

- Pennsylvania - \$31,959.96

U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award [for the Highest Legion Family Donation]

- Florida - \$46,937.15

Achievement Award [for the Greatest Increase in Detachment Per Capita Donations]

- TBD [determined by HQ Staff and presented by Dennis Boland (FL)]

Highest Monetary Donation by Region

- East - Pennsylvania - \$31,959.96

- South - Florida - \$22,620.00
- Central - Indiana - \$16,635.27
- West - Arizona - \$14,325.00
- Midwest - Colorado - \$14,001.00

Highest Per Capita Donation by Region

- West - Hawaii - \$6.73
- Midwest - Colorado - \$5.21
- South - Virginia - \$3.63
- East - Vermont - \$2.83
- Central - Iowa - \$0.98

\$2.00 Per Capita Donation

- Arizona (\$2.04); Arkansas (\$3.47); Colorado (\$5.21); Hawaii (\$6.73); North Carolina (\$2.20); Oregon (\$2.34); Philippines (\$4.94); Vermont (\$2.83); Virginia (\$3.63); Wyoming (\$2.75)

\$1.00 Per Capita Donation

- Alabama (\$1.43); Alaska (\$1.22); Delaware (\$1.02); Florida (\$1.18); Georgia (\$1.27); Louisiana (\$1.66); Massachusetts (\$1.06); Mississippi (\$1.66); Montana (\$1.31); Nebraska (\$1.40); New Jersey (\$1.15); South Carolina (\$1.71); Utah (\$1.02); West Virginia (\$1.45)

From the 1,143 squadron reports received, Sons donated \$143,624 and 17,222 hours (valued at \$27.20 each for another \$468,438.40) in support of CWF in 2019-2020.

**New Business:**

Chairman Nave reported that the National CWF Committee received 174 Grant Applications where the Committee reduced it to 50 applicants for consideration. The 50 applicants were sent out on Flash Drives to the Committee Members for review. He said the National CWF Committee had to submit their recommendations by Friday September 4. CWF Committee members deadline for their selections would be August 31. The committee would have a short conference call on September 1 to finalize their selections. On September 15, SAL National Commander Bolt and Chairman Nave will be a part of the National CWF virtual meeting to select this year's grant recipients. The meeting will be done via Microsoft Teams. The recommendation list of the SAL National CWF Committee would be 10 recipients including 4 from the Legion Family. This Year's Legion Family grants include the National Oratorical competition, Scholarships, TFA, and Auxiliary totaling \$479,000 for this year. The CWF Committee will possibly need a resolution that would make the 4 Legion Family choices as mandatory along with possibly adding a SAL Scholarship. This would be discussed on a future call.

Chairman Mark announced that the Fall NEC meeting will be virtual outside a select few individuals going to Indianapolis. The meeting is scheduled for September 26 at 11am.

Chairman Nave said that we will need to be more creative with Fundraisers. We need to think outside the box. Use Social Media. Be creative as possible. Some suggestions were shared with the Committee on the call.

Bill Clancy – C & Y Chairman – April 2021 – push to promote and encourage ALL Squadrons to hold an event to support C & Y Month from a grassroots level. Thanked Chairman Mark and Committee for their support.

**Resolutions:**

None.

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion**-Chairman Nave said he wished to be meeting in person next week for the National Convention. He continued to encourage everyone from National Leadership, Detachments, Districts to continue their efforts to support CWF and for all of their work during the past year.

There will not be a CWF Call in September since this is the Fall NEC Call. Next call will be October 21 8pm will be the October CWF Call.

Possibility of giving certificates to Detachments certificates for those who donated to CWF in the 2020 year. Chairman Nave will follow up with Finance Chairman, Bill Hill on this.

NEC Willie Morgan (VA) – thanked Chairman Mark and complimented him on a good meeting.

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. SAL National Commander Bolt thanked those on the call tonight and everyone for their efforts this year. Commander Bolt said that the Sons raised \$252,000 for CWF this year. He also said that he and Chairman Mark were invited to attend the National CWF Meeting on September 15 when the selections for the CWF Grants for this year will be made. He said they look forward to representing the Sons and all of the work done this year to support CWF. He also said that we need to be more creative in the upcoming year to do raffles and other fundraisers for CWF.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Committee. Mr. Fox thanked the committee for all of their efforts this year in challenging times.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA) adjourned the meeting

at 8:45 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for the Child Welfare Foundation?

If there is no objection, the Americanism Commission report will be accepted as published.

*(Gavel)*

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: NEC members, I would remind you that if there are questions, you should use the raise-your-hand feature. We're all viewing it very intently, there are probably five of us viewing the raise-the-hand process. So if there are questions of any of the reports that you have previously received through distribution, as the commander is going through these questions, use the raise-the-hand to be able to get involved in the discussion.

Mr. Fox, I see your physical hand up. The hand I'm referring to is the hand on the electronic raise-hand feature under "Participants." But obviously, we have seen your physical hand, so if you want to recognize Mr. Fox.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Mr. Fox, do you have a question?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: I did, Commander, but it has been answered. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

We will now proceed to the National Finance Commission report.

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

### **Report of Finance Commission**

**William "Bill" Hill, Chairman, Maryland**

## Finance Commission

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on September 2, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman William G. Hill (MD).

### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	William G. Hill (MD)	Members:	Steve Honigfort (OH)
Vice Chairman:	Dennis M. Blue (MN)		Robert Thompson (SC)
Secretary:	Robert J. Avery (NY)		Greg Price (MI)
	National Assistant Adjutant		Brad Dudley (PA) – Excused
Liaison:	Brian O’Hearne (MA)		
	Past National Commander		
Guests:	National Commander Clint Bolt (VA), National V-Comdr-East Gary Nelson (NJ), National V-Comdr-West Ned Fox (CA), Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA), National Liaison Kenneth George, Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN), Legislative Commission Chairman Thomas Deal (MD), VE & E Commission Chairman Thomas Skelley (TX), Membership Committee Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM)		

### **Old Business:**

The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020 Year-to-Date Statement. The reconciliation report is through August 31<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Steve Honigfort and seconded by Dennis Blue to accept the YTD report; the motion carried.

The Commission reviewed their proposed 2021-year budget. Following discussion on several items the Commission approved the 2021 FY Budget on a motion by Steve Honigfort which was seconded by Dennis Blue.

### **New Business:**

The Commission will begin working on the 2022 projected budget.

### **Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2020

Title: National Executive Committeeman Training

Origin: Member Training & Development Committee  
Discussion: \$6,500.00 annually to fund a training program for NECmen at the Fall NEC Meetings

Financial Assessment:

Items captured within the MT&D and Travel line items:

NEC Training - Fall NEC	\$6,500.00
Additional Travel Expenditure – One additional day of Per Diem [55 NEC]	<u>\$5,500.00</u>
Total:	\$12,000.00

Action: Recommended approval on a motion by Dennis Blue, seconded by Greg Price.

S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2020

Title: Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education

Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Discussion: \$200.00 to fund an engraved plaque from American Legion Emblem Sales for presentation at the National Convention beginning in 2021

Action: Recommended approval on a motion by Robert Thompson, seconded by Greg Price.

S.A.L. Resolution 11 – Fall, 2020

Title: Call-In Approval for All Members of the National Legislative Commission

Origin: Legislative Commission

Discussion: Fund call-in reimbursement for all members of the Legislative Commission to attend the Washington Conference beginning with the 2021-2022 budget year.

Financial Assessment:

Items captured within the Travel line items:

Washington Conference – Nat'l Legislative Comm Members (4)	\$4,902.00
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Action: Recommended approval on a motion by Dennis Blue, seconded by Steve Honigfort.

S.A.L. Resolution 12 – Fall, 2020

Title: Call-In Approval for the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain

Origin: Legislative Commission

Discussion: Fund call-in reimbursement for the National Chaplain to attend the Washington Conference beginning with the 2021-2022 budget year.

Financial Assessment:

Items captured within the Travel line items:

Washington Conference – Nat'l Chaplain	\$925.50
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Action: Recommended approval on a motion by Steve Honigfort, seconded by Robert Thompson.

S.A.L. Resolution 16 – Fall, 2020

Title: Revision of Article X of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

Origin: Finance Commission

Discussion: Revise documents at all levels of the organization to come into compliance with the recent dues increase by National.

Action: Recommended approval on a motion by Dennis Blue, seconded by Steve Honigfort.

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

PNC and Liaison Brian O'Hearne thanked the Commission for their hard work.

National Commander Clint Bolt addressed the Commission thanking them for their untiring efforts and knowledge of the finances of this organization.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox thanked the Commission for their work and also for their openness and availability.

National V-Comdr-East Gary Nelson appreciated the many hours the Commission puts in and their ability to resolve issues that may arise.

National V-Comdr-West Ned Fox also thanked the Commission. Chairman Hill answered his question on the process of using non-expended monies from budget lines. If the funds are used within the realm of that particular subject (such as Americanism) the monies may be re-assigned. However, any use of those funds elsewhere would require NEC approval.

Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel discussed S.A.L. Resolution 17 – Fall, 2020 regarding membership incentives which had just recently been received from the Membership Committee. The Commission took no action on this matter at the request of the National Judge Advocate until he has had the opportunity to review the document.

Legislative Chairman Thomas Deal and VE & E Chairman Thomas Skelley both thanked the Finance Commission for their consideration and approval of the resolutions which originated from their Commissions.

National Asst-Adj Robert Avery thanked the Commission for their hard work and indicated he will forward the minutes of this meeting to Chairman Hill as soon as possible.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman William G. Hill (MD) adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Bill Hill?

PNC O'Hearne, you have a question?

PNC BRIAN O'HEARNE (MA): Mr. Commander, PNC Brian O'Hearne American from Mass.

I have a question on the resolution. Is this the appropriate time or should I wait?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Wait.

PNC O'HEARNE: Okay. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any other questions for Chairman Bill Hill?

If there are no objections, the Finance Commission report will be accepted as published, minus the resolution.

*(Gavel)*

I now call on National Subcommittee on Resolutions chairman, John Jennings.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Good morning, Commander. If everyone could, please, you should have your minutes in front of you. We'll go over resolution SAL



Resolution 16 Fall 2020. Title: Revision of Article 10 of the constitution of The Sons of The American Legion, origin, Finance Committee.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 16 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Revision of Article X of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion**

**Origin: Finance Commission**

WHEREAS, In 1932 the Sons of The American Legion was established as a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of American Legion Members and deceased American Legion-eligible Veterans with specific eligibility requirements to become a member; and

WHEREAS, In May 1972, a Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was adopted by The American Legion National Executive Committee to provide a framework for a national organization; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 2 of the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution and By-Laws states, “The amount of such annual National dues shall be \$2.00 per member and shall be payable October 20 of each year and for the succeeding year”; and

WHEREAS, With the recent change to the National per capita in Article X, Section 2, each time the per capita changes this article would have to be amended to match the per capita change; and

WHEREAS, The removal of Section 2 from Article X would remove the requirement to amend this section when a per capita change is approved by the members at the National Convention, and removing Section 2 from Article X would be more in line with the parent organization’s National Constitution and By-Laws 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That Article X, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be removed and replaced as follows:**

**“ARTICLE X. FINANCES**

**Section 1.** The revenue of the Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

~~Section 2.~~ The amount of such annual National dues shall be \$2.00 per member and shall be payable October 20 of each year and for the succeeding year.

**Section 3** 2. The annual dues amount is determined by the Squadron and Detachment, respectively, which will include the National per capita and will be transmitted within thirty (30) days either electronically direct to the National Organization or via the Detachment of the respective Department of The American Legion to the National Organization not later than October 20<sup>th</sup> of each year for the succeeding calendar year and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of such Department.

~~Section 3.~~ The amount of annual Detachment dues shall be determined by the Detachment organization of the Sons of The American Legion under such procedures as The American Legion Department having jurisdiction over the Detachment provides; such funds shall be transmitted to the officer charged with the custody of Department funds and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds of such Department.

~~Section 4.~~ The amount of such annual Squadron dues shall be determined by the Squadron.

~~Section 5.~~ The annual National dues shall be collected by each Squadron and transmitted through the Department Headquarters of The American Legion in which the Squadron is geographically located and then to the National Treasurer of The American Legion.”; and, be it finally

**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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action


Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

[Comm. Mtg. on 9/2/20]

WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
Finance Commission

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Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I move for unanimous consent on acceptance of Resolution 16.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I see there are a lot of hands raised, and I'll get to you in a second. I need a second on John Jennings' motion.

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): No, you don't. No, you don't. No, you don't. No, you don't.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: We have a motion on the floor. We need a second.

The commander is asking for a second. We have three hands raised. We need an NEC representative, voting representative to provide a second to the commander's request so that we can enter into discussion on this resolution.

ANECMAN CHRISTOPHER AFFOLTER, SR. (AR): Chris Affolter, alternate NEC, Arkansas. I second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any discussion?

Chair recognizes Bob Brown from Georgia.

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

I would think, in brevity of the time, that we don't need to read all the whereases, just the resolve part of the clause, it makes it a little easier to understand. And we all have it in front of us anyhow. I would ask that the Chair see that that's done. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

National Vice Commander Ned Fox, do you have a question to our discussion?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: No, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Past National Commander Brian O'Hearne?

PNC BRIAN O'HEARNE (MA): Thank you, Mr. Commander. This is Past National Commander Brian O'Hearne from Massachusetts.

I have a question on the resolution. Currently, our constitution has in there, in Article X Section 2, the dollar amount, which is required to be voted on by the national convention to change the dues. Unless I'm missing something, the covered resolution doesn't require any vote from the convention or anyone to change the dues. Am I interpreting incorrectly?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: No. The resolution will still require approval by the NEC and by the national convention because of the dues change. The designation of the dollar amount is removed and will be based upon the current level of per capita dues and any increase or decrease that may come about as a result of those changes.

So the national convention -- short answer is, national convention still requires the approval of the dues increase.

PNC O'HEARNE: But it does not say that in the resolution. It just says it can be changed.

So Mr. Commander, I would recommend to the NEC that they amend this article by keeping our current bylaw Article X, and just changing the dues amount in Section 2 from the \$2 to the \$7.

And I yield back my time.

NECMAN ROBERTS: From seven to five.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Go ahead.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Gentlemen, this resolution doesn't require dollar amount. The dollar amount will stand at the last voted dollar amount or per capita from the last convention or the last membership delegation that voted on it.

The current process is, if the NEC approves a per capita increase, which will be done by resolution or by recommendation by the Finance Commission, it will then go from the NEC to the national convention where the membership votes on it.

You've taken the amount out, because if we put the amount in there -- and we have found this across the country and The American Legion learned it also is, if you put an amount, you have to change a bylaw every time. That's just a waste of time, where you can actually put in the same stopgaps without a dollar amount. That's why it was written in this way. This was actually reviewed by the national judge advocate and upon his recommendation as well.

I yield the floor, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Ken.

Okay. Well, Brian O'Hearne offered an amendment.

PNC O'HEARNE: No, I offered a recommendation. I'm not a voting member.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: He recommended. If a voting member wants to attach their name to it, then they can present that as amendment, but a PNC cannot.

You have PNC Faust is up there too.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Past National Commander David Faust?

PNC DAVID FAUST (WI): Thank you, Commander. I was going to echo the comments of PNC O'Hearne in that it is not clear to me how future dues increases would come about. I do not see where it says anymore, with this resolution, that it has to be done at a national convention.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can hear you now.

PNC D. FAUST: I was echoing the comments of PNC O'Hearne in that, in its current state, the way this resolution is stated, I do not see any prescribed method for any future dues increases. I am unclear as to how the organization would raise dues, who would have the authority, and how that would come about.

I yield my time.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So PNC Faust -- let me address PNC Faust's statement.

The authority to change the per capita dues of our organization still lies within the national convention approval and is subject to recommendation to that organization or to that level, either by the NEC or the Finance Commission.

That is not extraordinarily clear in this resolution. It needs to be addressed and adopted, and I think the commander should entertain an amendment to this resolution which incorporates the guidance and the approval requirement by national convention, and the administrative group

can so make the wording. But let's get the amendment in there and we'll work through the words.

But yes, it is the intention, it is the requirement, it is the need that the national convention of this organization still approve any action on the change of per capita dues.

So you have a hand up from Billy Murphy.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Bill Murphy?

NECMAN WILLIAM MURPHY (MA): Yes, Mr. Commander. William Murphy, NEC of Massachusetts.

I would move to amend this resolution, replacing Article X, Finances, Section 2 as follows:

"The amount of such national dues shall be \$7 per member and shall be payable October 20 of each year and every succeeding year."

And I yield back my time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay.

NECman Bill Murphy has offered an amendment to this resolution. Is there a second?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: For the amendment to continue, we need a voting member of the NEC to second it.

I see Ned Fox is up.

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

I'll second that for the purpose of discussion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have a second. Is there any discussion on the amendment?

I'd like to recognize Chairman Bill Hill.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HILL: Thank you, Commander. National Finance Commission Bill Hill from Maryland.

Correction, the current per capita dues are \$5 and not \$7, which has been referenced twice. It is \$5.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. So noted.

Any other discussion?

NECMAN MURPHY: Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Bill Murphy, go ahead.

NECMAN MURPHY: I would revise my amendment to \$5 per member.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I'd like to call on the Subcommittee on Resolutions chairman, John Jennings.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander.

With the amendment, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, I'd also like to input, as NECman from the Detachment of Florida, that the dues increase is, as our judge advocate stated and as our liaison stated, if the amendment is to be done through Section 3 stating that any future dues increases would be recommended by the National Executive Committee, approved by the national convention at the next convention, whichever that would be.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Is there any other discussion?

NEC Bob Brown.

NECMAN BROWN: Thank you, Commander.



I would want to concur with the recommendations of national judge advocate for The American Legion, in his recommendations that that dues amount not be included.

We do a summer project back home in our own squadron, district, and detachment. It makes it so simple to move on, and you don't have to change your bylaws or your constitution every time you have a change. If we know what we've got to spend, then that's determined by the squadron or the detachment respectively when they calculate their membership to their particular members. And to go into this kind of detail, I think would be detrimental to the entire organization and cause confusion and changes every two to five years whenever dues are changed.

That's the end of my discussion. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

National Vice Commander Ned Fox.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Ned Fox, national vice commander. I withdraw my second to the amendment.

I'm done.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Well, since he has withdrawn a second, do we have a second to Bill Murphy's amendment?

NEC from Colorado, Scott Garrett?

NECMAN J. SCOTT GARRETT (C0): Scott Garrett, NEC, Colorado. I will second that amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Is there any other discussion on the amendment?

So hearing no other discussion -- oh, David Faust, discussion?

PNC D. FAUST: Thank you, Commander. This is PNC David Faust from Wisconsin.

I guess I'm kind of at a loss as to what this is really going to accomplish for us. If we have to vote on a dues increase at the convention anyways, changing the number in a document and republishing it, to me, is no big deal. It's like, really? Is it that difficult to just change a number in a document and republish it in their constitution and bylaws? I mean, what's the hangup? I guess I just don't get why we need to do that.

I like the transparency that it's in our document, in our constitution and bylaws, and any member can go in and see exactly what the dues is at any given point in time based on that.

Thank you. I yield my time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?

Tom Glander.

NECMAN REV. THOMAS GLANDER (AL): My question is, shouldn't that number just change, when we vote in a dues increase, automatically? Does it really take a vote of the NEC to change that document?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It takes a vote of the national convention to change that. It's the --

NECMAN GLANDER: You know, I'm talking --

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: -- of the national convention that changes any documentation of the commentary, and the constitution and bylaws has to be updated. I think that's the question that's really being posed here, is this is a documentation change, it's not a change in what would ultimately be the per capita dues requirements are concerned.

In many cases, the document may not actually be physically changed by the time the per capita dues increase is initiated, based upon whatever that timing would be. Because it does take more than just a flip of a switch to update a physical document of the constitution and bylaws.

Tom, if you're talking, we can't hear you. You're muted.

NECMAN GLANDER: Sorry. I guess my question is, is can we do a resolution, then, that just allows us, when we vote a dues increase, that that number in Section X just changes to what we have increased the dues by, by a vote of the convention, instead of having to come back here and vote and change the document every time?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I guess I don't follow your question. Because, in fact, that's really what is being attempted to be accomplished now. You have two things that are happening. One is the process of changing the dues, which that is not changing, in essence; that still has to be approved by national convention.

What NEC Brown talked about was the administrative processes of the downstream effect of updating all documents that relate to what the per capita dues are of the organization.

This document -- or this resolution is intended to take that piece away. We do need to add, and I'll say it again on record here, we do need to add the commentary and the comments that all national per capita dues increases must be approved by the national convention. And that will get added.

The discussion that's being held here is the degree of criticalness and/or importance whether the document of our National Constitution and Bylaws has the physical current value of our per capita dues embedded in it. That's the question that is being asked in the amendment.

The resolution is clean without it. The amendment is asking that to be added, that the physical dollar amount be inserted into this portion of our National Constitution and Bylaws, Article X.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Mr. Commander, since there is an amendment and there's not a clearer way to do a unanimous consent on this, we do have to have a roll call.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The motion was made by Bill Murphy and seconded by Scott Garrett to the amendment.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Ned Fox has a question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: National Vice Commander Ned Fox?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Thank you, Commander.

The amendment at this time would appear to be out of order, because the original amendment was at a dollar amount of \$7. Currently, it is at \$5. I withdrew --

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: He fixed that.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: The amendment was seconded again by our NEC from Colorado. So the amendment still stands at seven.

However, I believe that this amendment is changing the original intent of the resolution and it shouldn't be allowed. This resolution altogether should be ruled out of order.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: The resolution is in order. He can, and he has fixed, adjusted his amendment, the NECman from Massachusetts has fixed his

amendment from seven to five. That adjustment was seconded after the withdrawal of the initial second.

So we have an amendment that is adjusted from seven to five, and we have a second of that amendment.

The only way for this to not go to roll call vote, to be considered on a yea/nay basis, is for the amendment to be withdrawn and/or the second to be withdrawn and not be recognized again. Otherwise, we will need to instruct the adjutant to move on to a roll call vote.

Hearing nobody withdrawing any actions on the amendments, Mr. Adjutant.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Do the roll call, please.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: We will do the roll call on the amendment. I'm going to request that you say "yes" or "no."

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS:**

National Vice Commander East: Yes.

National Vice Commander South: Yes.

National Vice Commander Central: Yes.

National Vice Commander Midwest: No.

National Vice Commander West: No.

**IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER:**

Immediate Past National Commander: No.

**DETACHMENTS:**

Alabama: No.

Alaska: No.

Arizona: No.

Arkansas: No.

California: No.

Colorado: Yes.

Connecticut: Yes.

Delaware: No.

Florida: Yes.

Georgia: No.

Hawaii: No.

Illinois: No.

Indiana: Yes.

Kansas: No.

Louisiana: Yes.

Maine: No.

Maryland: Yes.

Massachusetts: Yes.

Michigan: Yes.

Minnesota: No.

Mississippi: No.

Missouri: Yes.

Montana: Yes.

Nebraska: Yes.

Nevada: Yes.

New Hampshire: No.

New Jersey: Yes.

New Mexico: No.

New York: Yes.

North Carolina: No.

Ohio: No.

Oklahoma: No.

Oregon: No.

Pennsylvania: No.

Puerto Rico: No.

South Carolina: No.

Texas: Yes.

Utah: No.

Vermont: No.

Virginia: No.

Washington: No.

Wisconsin: No.

Wyoming: No.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Thank you.

Commander, according to my records, there is 18 yes, 31 no.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: So the amendment has been defeated.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So gentlemen, I hate to be the bearer of bad news and more anxiety here. However, given this is not an overwhelming defeat, I am not comfortable utilizing unanimous consent for the action on the resolution itself, which is still required for consideration.

While it is clearly not a 2-to-1, but it's a 1.8-to-1 margin, I would ask that a roll call vote be conducted to get final guidance, approval or rejection of the original resolution. With, again, the understanding, gentlemen, that the action of the national convention will be added to that resolution administratively, which we have the ability to do based upon a previously agreed to and approved administrative action resolution passed by the NEC about ten years ago.

Mr. Adjutant, you need a roll call for the action. Yea approves the resolution, nay rejects it; in your words, yes or no.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Sounds good. We're going to go through roll call once. Upon the recommendation of our national judge advocate, Joseph Paviglianti, did everyone understand what National Judge Advocate Paviglianti said?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER NELSON: Gary Nelson, National Vice Commander East. Can he repeat it, please?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: And we also have a question from NEC of Ohio. You may be asking the same question I'm about to answer. So after I get done, if you have it, please lower your hand.

So the commentary was, is that based upon the action of the vote, although it is a majority, strong majority rejected the amendment, I am not comfortable imposing or utilizing the unanimous consent process for the final consideration of the Resolution 16 by the NEC.



So I've asked and instructed the national adjutant to conduct a roll call vote to take final action on Resolution 16 from the voting members of the NEC, to get clarification on whether it's adopted or rejected. A 1.8-to-1 ratio is not a comfortable ratio of majority for me.

So we have William from Ohio and NEC Glander. William was first.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: William from Ohio.

NECMAN WILLIAM SUTTERLIN (OH): This is the NEC from Ohio. On this vote, if I'm hearing it correct --

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: PNC Cerullo needs to mute, please.

NECman from Ohio, we didn't get your question.

NECMAN SUTTERLIN: Well, I've got to write it. The question is, on this Resolution 16 you're voting, with that being that the national convention is the one that's going to actually okay that with the amount in it? Are you trying to put this through now or how?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: No. The insertion of the dollar amount has been defeated with the last vote that took place on that amendment. So now we are simply doing a roll call vote on the resolution as it stands with the exception of the insertion, introduction, addition of national convention approval requirement. The dollar amount amendment has been defeated, that is no longer in question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Tom Glander.

NECMAN GLANDER: To make it clear for everybody, can you just reread the clause of the resolution so everybody is clear what they're voting on?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I would have the Subcommittee on Resolutions chair do that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman John, John Jennings.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Joe. Is that going to be with or without the insertion?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: If you're as fast on your feet as you would claim to be, I would put the insertion in there, but I can't guarantee that's where it's going to be. But I would, indeed, identify that national convention approval is going to be added and will be required for any dues increases.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Okay. Got you.

Okay. Reading "resolved" sections only:

"Resolved, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26th, 2020, that Article X, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion be removed and replaced as follows:

"Section 1: The revenue of The Sons of The American Legion shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion.

"Section 2: The annual dues amount is determined by the squadron and detachment respectively, which will include the national per capita and will be transmitted within 30 days, either electronically direct to the national organization, or via the detachment of the respective department of The American Legion, to the national organization no later than October 20th of each year for the succeeding calendar year, and shall be held and accounted for separately from other funds as such departments." And with an insertion that will include "the amount to be approved at the national convention of The Sons of The American Legion."

"Be it finally 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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion."

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, John.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So gentlemen, the only other piece I would add to it is, looking at and pulling out of the National Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion, the verbiage that will be added is "The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by the national convention for the ensuing years."

Those are the words that will be added to clearly define that national convention of our organization is the body that approves any changes to the national dues.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Roll call, Tony.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: All right. That being said, we're going to go through roll call vote.

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS:**

National Vice Commander East: Yes.

National Vice Commander South: Yes.

National Vice Commander Central: Yes.

National vice Commander Midwest: Yes.

National Vice Commander West: No.

**IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER:**

Immediate Past National Commander: Yes.

**DETACHMENTS:**

Alabama: Yes.

Alaska: No.

Arizona: No.

Arkansas: Yes.

California: No.

Colorado: No.

Connecticut: Yes.

Delaware: Yes.

Florida: Yes.

Georgia: Yes.

Hawaii: Yes.

Illinois: Yes.

Indiana: Yes.

Kansas: Yes.

Louisiana: Yes.

Maine: Yes.

Maryland: Yes.

Massachusetts: Yes.

Michigan: Yes.

Minnesota: Yes.

Mississippi: Yes.

Missouri: Yes.

Montana: Yes.

Nebraska: Yes.

Nevada: Yes.

New Hampshire: Yes.

New Jersey: Yes.

New Mexico: Yes.

New York: Yes.

North Carolina: Yes.

Ohio: Yes.

Oklahoma: Yes.

Oregon: Yes.

Pennsylvania: Yes.

Puerto Rico: Yes.

South Carolina: Yes.

Texas: Yes.

Utah: Yes.

Vermont: Yes.

Washington: Yes.

Wisconsin: Yes.

Wyoming: Yes.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Commander, we have 43 yes, five no.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Resolution NEC2020-F-16 is adopted.

*(Gavel)*

We will now proceed to the national Internal Affairs Commission report, including the -

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: The president is here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Oh, okay. It's live, things happen.

We are now going to have greetings brought to us by the national president of The American Legion Auxiliary, Nicole Clapp. I'd like to read a bio of Nicole Clapp.

President Nicole of Gladbrook, Iowa, was elected national president of The American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 99th National Convention held August 23rd through 29th in Indianapolis, Indiana. President Nicole will serve the patriotic service organization as the national president for a year, to make it their 100th year anniversary.

President Nicole joined the ALA as a junior member at age four. She has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she served as 1987-88 ALA honorary national junior president, and chaired many committees and served special appointments, including National Finance Committee chair, National Children and Youth Committee chair, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee chair, Future Focus Committee, and the ALA Centennial Strategic Plan Committee member.

She also served as the national vice president in the 2018-19 administrative year.

"I feel very humbled and honored to represent us in our 100th anniversary year, and to be the first honorary national junior president to have life come full circle by becoming the national president," President Nicole said.

President Nicole's journey in the ALA started because she wanted to hand out poppies in exchange for donations. The little red flower is what attracted President Nicole to the ALA, but it was its mission is why she stayed as a junior member.

"I enjoyed how I felt each time I went to visit the veterans and saw the smiles on their faces. I still have that same feeling while serving our mission. The visits offer a sense of appreciation and a basic gesture. To see a young person paying attention to them gives them a sense of hope. They see the future and they see that all of their efforts and sacrifices were not for naught. And they see that the individuals, be it junior ALA members or otherwise, have an understanding of the sacrifices."

President Nicole graduated with honors and distinction from the University of Iowa, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing, followed by her master's degree in nursing administration. She then relocated to Wisconsin for a 22-year career at Grant Regional Health Center. She is board certified in healthcare management and an American College of Healthcare executive.

President Nicole was named the Wisconsin chapter's Young Healthcare Executive of the Year in 2004. She was also recognized as one of the "Becker's Hospital Review" 50 Rural Hospital CEOs to Know in the United States.

A 44-year Paid-Up-For-Life member of The American Legion Auxiliary from Gladbrook, Iowa, Unit 127, President Nicole is eligible for membership through the service of her grandfather, Roger Schroeder, who served in the United States Navy during World War II.

We will now have greetings from President Nicole.

**Greetings**

**Nicole Clapp**

## **National President, American Legion Auxiliary**

Hello, Commander Clint, past national commanders, members of the NEC, Sons, staff, and guests.

Our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, once stated, "We live in the midst of alarms. Anxiety clouds the future. We expect some new disaster with each newspaper we read." Oh, how true those words are just 150 years later.

We all know the COVID pandemic, along with protests that turned to riots, this interrupted our lives during this past year, but not our resolve. I, along with Commanders Bill and Clint, would not be standing before you as the only two-year national leadership team of our great organizations if our collective resolve were not in play.

President Lincoln also believed, "Let us have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

Our duty is to serve you, our members, into the new century of service, no matter what that new normal entails.

It is an honor and privilege to continue to serve as your national president for a second year. All of the ALA national officers, national chairmen, and all but a couple national committee members have retained their roles through 2021, and the vast majority of departments have followed suit as well.

Our members have demonstrated their duty and resolve by making thousands of face masks, preparing and delivering meals, hosting blood drives, participating in motorcycle drive-by birthday parades, virtual holiday programs, scrubbing graffiti from historic monuments, and so much more.



The American Legion family is made up of common people who are dedicated to a mission of service. That same U.S. president commented, "Common-looking people are the best in the world; that's the reason God made so many of them." I fast-forward that statement to today to mean The American Legion family, three million strong.

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

Our centennial theme, "Celebrating a Century of Service," remains intact. It blends the past and the future in our organization in such a fashion that people will want to gravitate towards our mission.

You may recall my pin showcases a poppy field at night, giving way to a sky of fireworks. Fireworks are for special occasions, and our 100th Anniversary is one such occasion (audio distortion). One hundred years ago we entrusted our lives into their hands, and what is more important than us (audio distortion).

Because now, as we look at the Department of Veterans Affairs, reports that veterans returning home today using prosthetic sensory devices and other equipment have increased more than 70 percent. So nationally, we are continuing our work with the two organizations to respond to adaptive lifestyle needs.

First, it is All in Sport Consulting, outlining opportunities for members to volunteer while participating in activities such as sports or physical activity programs in communities. I have tried and walked with a prosthetic leg, kayaked with soldiers at Walter Reed, and skied down a mountain strapped to an adaptive sled in New York. I learned a great deal from each experience, and I have to tell you, none of them were easy.

The second organization I shared with you last fall, and I'd like to remind you once again, is The Independence Fund founded by Sarah Verardo. A devoted military wife and caregiver to her husband, Mike, and mother to three little daughters, wrote a children's book entitled "Hero at Home." "Hero at Home" is a result of their oldest daughter being made fun of in preschool because of how her daddy looked after he returned from Afghanistan. We have been utilizing this story with our junior members, will be with our Girls Nation senators and caregivers. I would suggest maybe you consider sharing this story with your younger SAL members.

As a family, we have been using technology to keep our members engaged, just like today. We have recorded several public service announcements videos, and I want to thank Commander Clint for participating in the virtual Poppy Day program hosted by the ALA back in May. Together, we are the true definition of a family.

And together, to stop that membership slide, we all know it is everyone's responsibility to recruit and retain members. Last year, we were excited with the passage of the LEGION Act and spousal eligibility, and now potential members from the Space Force. Our membership opportunities are continuing to expand.

We realize many departments, as well as us nationally, did not get a chance to celebrate our anniversary milestone. How many people and businesses do you know get to celebrate their 100th birthday for two whole years straight? So we will continue celebrating all the way to Phoenix, and we hope you Sons members want to celebrate right along with us.

As a Paid-Up-For-Life member, I pledge my ongoing dedication to serve veterans, military, and their families. I hope to inspire others through my passion and knowledge by continuing to lead the ALA membership of over 600 strong by embracing Commander Clint's

theme, "Serving Those Who Serve~... Full Steam Ahead," while we continue "Celebrating a Century of Service." Clint and I have something in common: both of our grandpas served in the Navy in World War II.

I believe it is a very fitting blend to the appreciation of the past of our themes and the hope for the future of The American Legion family.

So Commander Clint and everyone on the call today, please take care of yourselves, be safe, and I look forward to seeing you during my travels this year. Thank you again, everyone, and have a great rest of your NEC meeting today.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Madam President, appreciate those kind words. Thank you.

We will now proceed to the national Internal Affairs Commission report, including the National Convention Committee report, the national Member Training and Development Committee report, the national Membership Committee report.

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

## **Report of Internal Affairs Commission**

**Mark Tansel, Chairman, Indiana**

### Internal Affairs Commission

#### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 pm EDT on September 1, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Mark A. Tansel (IN).

#### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	Mark Tansel (IN)	Members:	Jay Cook (OK)
Vice Chairman:	Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD)		Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL) – Exc.
Secretary:	Lyle G Larson (KS)		Michael Kirschner (CO) – Exc.
	Past National Assistant Adjutant		Steve Gower, Sr. (VA)
Liaison:	Rick Cook (OK)		
	Past National Commander		
Guests:	Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA); Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN); Chuck Treat (AZ); Joe Schultis (IN); Joseph Navarrete (NM); NEC John Jennings (FL), Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY); NVC Gary Nelson (NJ); NVC Ned Fox (CA); NVC Richard Pfeiffer (IN); Don Culver (KS); Brian Compton (IN); S.A.L. Liaison Ken George (FR)		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Tansel declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Committee(s):**

Convention Committee – Member Chuck Treat (AZ) gave a report.

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

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

**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). This has been modified and is now Resolution 3 – Fall, 2019 which includes a rescinding of Resolution 5 – Spring 2018. This completes the action to be taken by this Commission.

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. He also discussed several core value points targeted by the PNC Panel and future action will be taken on these in the coming months.

**New Business:**

2019-2020 S.A.L. accomplishments were reviewed. A total of \$1,934,977.00 in donations and 277,603 hours were reported under Internal Affairs.

A Resolution on Membership Goal Incentives from the Membership Committee was reviewed and discussed. A motion to have the Membership Committee have this Resolution duly processed and registered with the Adjutant so it can be referred to the Finance Commission was made by Larry Weinzirl (MD); seconded by Jay Cook (OK). Motion carried on voice vote.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Ernest E. Laberge (MA) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts  
Action: Motion to receive and file the resolution by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA); seconded by Jay Cook (OK).  
Discussion: None  
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2020 [resubmission of NEC2019-S12]

Title: National Executive Committeeman Training  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Action: Motion to defer action on the resolution until the Finance Commission approves it by Jay Cook (OK); seconded by Larry Weinzirl (MD).  
Discussion: \$6,500.00 annually to fund a training program for NECmen at the Fall NEC Meetings  
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Matthew Griffis (AZ) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Arizona  
Action: Motion to receive and file the resolution by Jay Cook (OK); seconded by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA).  
Discussion: None

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Ohio

Action: Motion to receive and file the resolution by Jay Cook (OK); seconded by Larry Weinzirl (MD).

Discussion: None

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Ronald E. Roberts (MS) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Mississippi

Action: MOTION to receive and file the resolution by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA); seconded by Jay Cook (OK).

Discussion: None

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2020

Title: Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee

Origin: Detachment of Mississippi

Action: Motion to reject and refer the resolution back to the Detachment of Mississippi for dates and representation provisions by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA); seconded by Jay Cook (OK).

Discussion: Amend Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee to state, "Voting representation from a majority of the Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion shall constitute a quorum." (The current Rule states, "Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum.")

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

#### S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Terry Harris (KS) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Kansas  
Action: Motion to receive and file the resolution by Jay Cook (OK); seconded by Larry Weinzirl (MD).  
Discussion: None  
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Michael L. Kirschner (CO) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Colorado  
Action: Motion to receive and file the resolution by Larry Weinzirl (MD); seconded by Jay Cook (OK).  
Discussion: None  
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 10 – Fall, 2020

Title: Membership Goal Setting  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Action: Motion to approve the resolution by Jay Cook (OK); seconded by Steve Gower, Sr. (VA).  
Discussion: This Resolution needs to be properly updated from Membership to Internal Affairs.  
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 13 – Fall, 2020

Title: Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Action: Motion to approve the resolution by Jay Cook (OK); seconded by Larry Weinzirl (MD).  
Discussion: None.  
Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 15 – Fall, 2020

Title: Revision of Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Action: Motion to approve the resolution by Larry Weinzirl (MD); seconded by Jay Cook (OK).

Discussion: None.

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

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

The Chairman opened the floor for comments from all in attendance. Every person listed in attendance addressed the Commission.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) adjourned the meeting  
at 9:55 pm .

Minutes of Internal Affairs Conference Call

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

8:00 pm Eastern time

Present:

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman

Larry Weinzirl (MD), Vice Chairman

Jay Cook (OK), Member

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL), Member

Rick Cook (OK), Past National Commander

Michael Kirschner (CO), Member (Excused)

Steve Gower, Sr. (VA), Member (Excused)



Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) notified the Internal Affairs Commission members by email on September 8, 2020 to call for this meeting. The purpose of said conference call is to take action on SAL Resolution 17 – Fall 2020 titled Membership Goal Incentives. This resolution was previously reviewed and discussed during the September 1, 2020 Internal Affairs Conference call. A motion was made during that call to defer the resolution to the Finance Commission after it was duly processed and registered with the National Adjutant. Due to time constraints, this resolution did not make it to the Finance Commission’s agenda for their conference call on September 2, 2020.

**Discussion:**

In addition to other less significant elements, the Commission engaged in the following points of discussion regarding SAL Resolution 17 – Fall 2020:

1. Is this per capita based between larger and smaller detachments?
2. Dates on the resolution do not match in resolved clauses #1 and #3.
3. Has The American Legion reviewed this resolution?
4. Is this only for one year? Will it remain in effect after the pandemic is over?
5. The word “winner” in the second resolved clause is not specific. Wording should specify winner as Detachment.

**Action:**

A motion was made by Jay Cook (OK), to return SAL Resolution 17 – Fall 2020 back to the Membership Committee for further study and clarification of criteria; seconded by Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL), Motion carried on a 4-0 voice vote.

With no further business to consider, Chairman Tansel (IN) entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Larry Weinzirl (MD) made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL). Motion carried on voice vote. Chairman Tansel adjourned the conference call at 8:21 pm.

**NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT:** Are there any questions at this time for Internal

Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel?

*...Committee Chairman Treat submitted the report of the Convention Committee.*

**Report of Convention Committee**

**Charles Treat, II, Chairman, Arizona**

**Convention Committee**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm EDT on August 16, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Brandon Curry (KY) .

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Brandon Curry (KY, 2020)</u>	Members:	<u>Shawn Davis (MN, 2018) – Excused</u>
Secretary:	<u>Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)</u>		<u>Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019)</u>
	National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Charles Treat, II (AZ, 2021)</u>
Liaison:	(none assigned)		<u>Allen Watry (WI, 2022)</u>
	Past National Commander		
Guests:	I/A Chairman Mark Tansel (IN)		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Curry declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Outgoing Chairman Brandon Curry (KY) warmly greeted those on the call and thanked them for participating. He announced that as of Monday evening, August 10, 2020, the chairmanship of the National Convention Committee had changed hands to Charles “Chuck” Treat, II (AZ) in preparation for the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Curry congratulated Chuck on his new position and thanked the entire Convention Committee for its help in trying to plan this past year for Louisville, KY. Although the 2020 National Convention was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee’s efforts did not go in vain. Some ideas discussed for Louisville can be transferred to Phoenix – it is just a different venue. At this point, Brandon turned the reins of the call over to Mr. Treat.

Incoming Chairman Charles Treat, II (AZ) thanked former Chairman Curry for his leadership this past year in planning for the 2020 National Convention that was to have been held in Louisville, KY. It is very unfortunate that Louisville was cancelled due to the public health emergency. The SAL membership was looking forward to visiting Louisville, but now we move forward in anticipation for Phoenix in 2021. The planning process for Phoenix has already begun in Arizona.

There will be a **SAL Past National Commanders (PNC) Dinner** hosted by the Detachment of Arizona – details forthcoming. Looking at Saturday night of National Convention. This dinner will follow the tradition started back in 2008 when Arizona hosted before. Unknown if the dinner will be open to others, depends on the size of the venue. A dinner location is in mind, it overlooks the entire Phoenix valley at about 600 feet above ground level where the downtown convention will be held.

The design of the **Phoenix Convention Coin and Pin** has started. Ideas are being tossed around. Designs have yet to be finalized. Ideas will be forwarded to the SAL National Convention Committee for its feedback in the near future.

Chairman Treat (AZ) **questioned if Phoenix 2021 would be the 50<sup>th</sup> SAL National Convention** or had it been decided that the 50<sup>th</sup> will not have occurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic cancellation. SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) was not sure if anybody could answer that at this time. Will the convention numbering change with the passing over of Louisville, it was still uncertain. Mr. Tansel recommended consulting with SAL National Liaison Ken George and/or SAL National Adjutant Tony Wright (PA) for an official answer on the convention numbering. Chairman Treat would investigate with Ken and Tony via email and include the entire Convention Committee on the correspondence.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**Upcoming Deadlines for SAL Fall 2020 Conference**

- Wed., Sept. 2, 2020 – Convention Report to SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN)
- Wed., Sept. 9, 2020 – Internal Affairs Commission Report due

- Mon., Sept. 14, 2020 – National Assistant Adjutants compile reports for Fall Conference
- Sat., Sept. 26, 2020 – SAL Fall NEC Conference (virtual) at 11:00 AM EDT

Chairman Treat (AZ) inquired about credentials to participate in the SAL Fall 2020 NEC Conference. Who from the Convention Committee needs to attend the virtual NEC Conference? Brandon Curry (KY) replied just the commission/committee chairmen only.

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) noted that if the Convention Committee did not envision any new developments between now and the Fall NEC, this August 16<sup>th</sup> teleconference could suffice for the Convention Committee's Report to the NEC. If that be true, Mark suggested that once the minutes were drafted for today's teleconference and subsequently approved by Chairman Treat (AZ) that National Assistant Adjutant Hicks (NJ) forward the minutes on to Mark by September 2<sup>nd</sup> for inclusion in the SAL Internal Affairs Commission Report. Chairman Treat (AZ) agreed.

#### Strategic Plan for Convention Committee

Chairman Treat (AZ) questioned if there was a **National SAL budget for the convention**. Brandon Curry (KY) recommended Chuck consult with National Finance Chairman Bill Hill (MD) for an official budget, but Brandon believed it was between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Enough funds to cover banners, pamphlets, etc.

Chairman Treat (AZ) announced the **Detachment of Arizona has chosen one of its own to chair the hosting of the SAL National Convention in 2021**. Name to be announced in the future.

**Banners, buntings, and balloons** will be discussed at the next meeting of the SAL National Convention Committee held in October 2020. Exact date/time TBD. There were no objections to this plan.

**Arrangements for special guest speakers.** Chairman Treat (AZ) asked if there was anybody special that needed to be invited to attend future National Convention Committee meetings? SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) replied that other than National Commander Clint Bolt (VA), to also include Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) and possibly include Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN).

Chairman Treat (AZ) inquired if there were any objections to **including the Arizona state SAL committee for the 2021 National Convention on the conference calls of the SAL National Convention Committee**? The main reasons being for coordination and liaison purposes. There were no objections. The Arizona state SAL convention committee would include 12-14 additional comrades on the National Convention calls. Let it be clear, the Arizona members would only attend National Convention Committee meetings with a voice but NO vote. Again, no objections to this proposal.

Chairman Treat (AZ) asked Brandon Curry (KY) if his plans for Louisville included an **open invitation for the Friday night dinner or was that an exclusive event**? Brandon replied that dinner was to be open to the entire American Legion Family. Chuck understood and reported that Arizona was already working on similar ideas for Phoenix. That's why Chuck wants the Arizona state convention committee on the National Convention Committee calls to help develop ideas for fundraising.

Chairman Treat (AZ) inquired if the 2018 Minneapolis national convention had **Christmas ornaments** available for purchase? Greg Spaulding (IN) confirmed yes. Chuck was curious as to where further information on the Christmas ornaments could be found? Greg suggested that Chuck confer with Shawn Davis (MN) for the particulars. Once Chuck consults with Shawn, he will share the information with the SAL National Convention Committee.

#### Youth Activities under the Children & Youth Committee, under the Americanism Commission

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) noted that Bill Clancy (NY) is the Chairman of the SAL National Children & Youth Committee. Mark recommended that Chairman Treat consult with Chairman Clancy

regarding any youth activities planned for the Phoenix National Convention. Chairman Treat agreed. Brandon Curry (KY) concurred with Mark as he did the same for Louisville planning.

Chairman Treat (AZ) inquired of Brandon Curry (KY) if he had demonstrators of flying drones scheduled to entertain the youth at the Louisville Convention? Brandon replied, no. Brandon was going to have his Base's EOD Unit come out with their EOD robots for a demonstration. In addition, Brandon was hoping to have had his military search and rescue unit dog come out. According to Brandon, Bill Clancy (NY) was scheduled to have the youth visit the Little Slugger Museum in Louisville on Saturday afternoon, to be followed by a flag lowering ceremony at the club house pool with a pizza party. All these youth events were planned for all day Saturday of convention.

Chairman Treat (AZ) asked the committee for **any new ideas for children and youth activities at the Phoenix convention? If any committee member has an idea to share, please let the Committee know via email for consideration.** Chuck reported that Phoenix has a drone training station out in the desert. The station includes video games for flying drones. These games are used as a recruitment tool of sorts. But Chuck was going to contact the U.S. Army Reserves and the U.S. Army National Guard Phoenix training units to determine if they would be interested in allowing the youth to "fly" in simulator predator aircraft in a drone mode. The drone would NOT be flying, but it would give the youth an opportunity to see what flying a drone feels like.

Greg Spaulding (IN) raised a **concern about transporting youth at convention.** If that is the plan, then that needs to be cleared by The American Legion National Headquarters due to liability issues. This would include background checks and insurance coverage. Something to investigate. **Chairman Treat (AZ) clarified that the Army mobile units would bring the equipment to the kids, so no worry about transportation. It would be a safe zone.** Greg appreciated the clarification and apologized for the misunderstanding. Chuck appreciated covering all our bases.

#### Open Floor for General Comments

Greg Spaulding (IN) questioned Brandon Curry (KY) about the **quantity of convention pins that he had hoped to order for the Louisville convention.** Originally Brandon was going to order 1,000 pins and that was based on half of what Indianapolis had ordered. Greg clarified that Indianapolis ordered 1,700 pins and a bunch were leftover. Brandon stated he was still going to order some pins as some members have conveyed interest in wanting one. As soon as the Louisville pins are delivered, Brandon will send an email to solicit orders. Chairman Treat (AZ) had already sent Brandon \$500 for Louisville pins plus \$50 for shipping on behalf of the Detachment of Arizona. Brandon would follow-up with Chuck on the quantity. **In general, there will be a limited supply of Louisville pins for sale. Those interested, please email Brandon. Each member is limited to no more than two (2) pins.** Anything left over after that, will be on a first come, first serve basis. The Committee had no objections to this plan.

#### Minutes of the Teleconference

National Assistant Adjutant Jeff Hicks (NJ) planned to have the minutes of this meeting drafted and into the hands of the National Convention Committee for review and comment within a week, so **emailed by Sunday, August 23, 2020.** Chairman Treat (AZ) was okay with this plan. Chuck asked each Committee member to invest some time to review the minutes once published and offer their feedback as needed.

#### New Phone Number for Future Teleconferences & Preferences for Meeting Days/Times

Chairman Treat (AZ) announced a NEW conference call number to be used for the 2020-21 Sons of The American Legion administrative year. **The number will be (508) 924-3315. NO access code is needed.** Chuck asked for Committee member preferences on the day/time of the week to hold National Convention Committee teleconferences. Please email Chuck your availability for conference calls ASAP.

**Resolutions:**  
None.

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

Greg Spaulding (IN) extended a heartfelt **thank you to Brandon Curry (KY)** for his dedicated efforts across the 2019-20 administrative year planning for the 2020 SAL National Convention. Sadly, the Convention did not occur due to the pandemic, but an honest effort was made by Brandon to make it a successful event! One take-away from Brandon's leadership was the development of a timeline that will aid future Convention Committees in planning for future conventions. Great job Brandon!

Brandon Curry (KY) was appreciative of Greg's compliments. Brandon noted that it was a team effort and everybody on the Committee chipped-in when asked and it helped make the task easier to manage! So, **much thanks to everyone on the Committee!**

Brandon Curry (KY) also thanked SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) for all his guidance and assistance over the past year. His words of wisdom were appreciated!

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) echoed the same sentiments expressed by Greg. On behalf of the Internal Affairs Commission, Mark sincerely thanked Brandon for his service to the SAL organization this past year!

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) reported that there will be a new member appointed to the SAL National Convention Committee soon. This new member will be coming from the Detachment of North Carolina. SAL Committee on Committees Chairman PNC Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., (IN) was aware of this vacancy and would announce the newcomer by the October 2020 teleconference. Shawn Davis (MN) drops off the Committee this year.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Charles Treat, II (AZ) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm .

**NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Convention**

Committee Chairman Chuck Treat?

*...Committee Chairman Schultis submitted the report of the Member Training and*

*Development Committee.*

**Report of Member Training and Development Committee**

**Joseph Schultis, Chairman, Indiana**

**Member Training and Development Committee**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on August 26, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN) .

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Joseph Schultis (IN)</u>	Members:	<u>Michael Cotten (DE)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Jimmy Hunter (IL)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Richard L. Cook (OK)</u> Past National Commander		<u>Lowell Long, Jr. (MT) – Absent</u>
Guests:	<u>Mark Tansel (IN); Ken George (FR); Chuck Treat (AZ)</u>		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Schultis declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Schultis led a discussion of several topics.

The Committee has talked about cancelling the Sunday breakfasts for the Fall Commanders School and Spring NMI Sessions. We would make the certificate presentations as part of the National Executive Committee session instead. This would deliver a significant cost savings to the organization.

Ryan Longeway has been adapting a "New Post Commander Course" PowerPoint presentation from the Legion for use by new squadron commanders.

Chairman Schultis asked Liaison Ken George to clarify the procedure for having content posted to the national website. Mr. George replied with a summary of the Legion's policy.

- Items are reviewed by the relevant National Staff area (Internal Affairs for the S.A.L.)
- Next is a review by the Media and Communications Division
- Next is a review by the National Judge Advocate
- Next is a review by the National Adjutant
- Once all approvals are given, then the item can be published.

Chairman Schultis asked if we should have the S.A.L. National Judge Advocate review our items as well, and Mr. George suggested it might be a good idea, if he has the time to do so.

Jimmy Hunter is doing a similar adaptation of the Legion's "New Post Adjutant Course" presentation for new squadron adjutants.

Chairman Schultis noted that we were just about to go to print for the NMI program in the Spring when all of the COVID-related cancellations happened. We will need to begin updating the materials for Spring 2021 soon to prepare for that session. Don Culver (KS) has agreed to continue as the gatekeeper for NMI nominees. All NECmen need to submit their candidates to Mr. Culver and copy Chairman Schultis.

Chairman Schultis 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.

He reported he received a letter from PNC Danny Smith noting that each national commission and committee has been asked to create a PowerPoint or video presentation highlighting its responsibilities and giving an overview of itself. Mr. Schultis said we will work with our PNC Liaison, Rick Cook, for this action.

**Old Business:**

**Stipend for NMI** – Past Chairman Treat (AZ) reported that this request originated as a question from the floor of a previous Committee meeting and it was under consideration with the SAL National Finance Commission. Nothing new to report as there is still a question of the overall Committee budget. Chairman Schultis said he will speak with Finance about the issue to see if we can make any progress.

**New system for NEC breakfast tickets hopefully starting at Fall 2019 NEC** – Chairman Schultis indicated that this is no longer under consideration as the breakfasts are being recommended for cancellation.

**New Business:**

Mike Cotten asked National Liaison Ken George if there is some facility at National to store all of the Committee's electronic content to avoid the loss of it should something happen to any members possessing it. Chairman Schultis reported that we have some space available through National Adjutant Tony Wright's OneDrive account. Mr. George suggested that we may want to purchase some cloud storage (e.g., Dropbox) for this purpose; estimated cost is ~\$100 per year.

Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel noted that past chairmen Mike Sawicki and Chuck Treat were in possession of everything. Mr Treat reported that he turned over everything he had developed, along with what he inherited from Mr. Sawicki and Past National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne to Mr. Schultis on a portable hard drive. Mr. Schultis confirmed he has it.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2020 [resubmission of NEC2019-S12]

Title: National Executive Committeeman Training

Origin: Member Training & Development Committee

Action: Motion to approve the resolution by Mike Cotten (DE); seconded by Ryan Longeway (AR).

Discussion: \$6,500.00 annually to fund a training program for NECmen at the Fall NEC Meetings

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

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

Chairman Schultis announced that the next regular conference call for the Committee will be on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm Eastern Time.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Member Training and

Development Committee Chairman Joe Schultis?

National Vice Commander Ned Fox?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Thank you, Commander Clint Bolt.

I have a question for Internal Affairs. I couldn't get the hand clap up there.

My question to Internal Affairs, based on the agenda that we're sent, is that I do not see Resolution Number 14, and I question that, based on the fact that that resolution was back in August. But looking through the paperwork that was available to us, that the Subcommittee on Resolutions didn't actually approve that until their meeting on September 2nd.

So I'm just wondering, did the cart go before the horse in the fact that a resolution was presented to the NEC but had not been approved, or a recommendation?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I call on Mark Tansel to answer that.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Mr. Commander, Mark Tansel, Internal Affairs chairman, Detachment of Indiana.

I have NEC Resolution 14 in front of me, and the origin was the Subcommittee on Resolutions. It did not come through the Internal Affairs Commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other questions?

Are there any questions now for the Membership Committee chairman -- oh, Mike Pipher, question?

NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Thank you, Commander. Mike Pipher, NEC, Detachment of Indiana.

I just had a quick question, I didn't get this in time for the Convention Committee. Did they ever determine whether the Phoenix convention will be the 50th or not?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Milwaukee will be.

Any other questions?

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

## **Report of Membership Committee**

**Joseph Navarrete, Chairman, New Mexico**

### Membership Committee

#### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 pm EDT on August 18, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM).

#### **Roll Call:**

Chairman: Joseph R. Navarrete (NM)

Members: Richard Huntley, Sr. (ME)

Secretary: David Ridenour (IN)

Jason Roberts (GA)

National Assistant Adjutant

Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH)



Liaison:

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Juan Torres (TX) (EX)

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Past National Commander

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Jim Stewart (NV)

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National Vice Commanders:

East: Gary Nelson (NJ)

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South: Blair Miles (AL)

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Central: Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer (IN)

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Midwest: Chris Cook (OK)

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West: Ned Fox (CA)

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Guests: John Clark (WA); Mark Tansel (IN); National Liaison Kenneth George (IN); James Eubanks (CA); Joe Schultis (IN); Michael Fox (CA); Chris Carlton (IN); Ken Sun (\_); Tim Weaver (MN); Jeff Trout (IL); Mike Holley (MI); Sandy Lipman (MI); Carvin Chapman (MI); Clint Bolt (VA)

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Navarrete declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) opened the meeting in regular fashion with a Salute to the Colors, Invocation, POW/MIA Empty Chair, Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble, Blue Star Banner and Roll Call of Officers.

Our membership theme for this year is: "Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead"

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.
- Obtain a 105% in membership by National Convention in Louisville.
- Recognize our achievements (awards).

Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) said traditionally, we would be laying out our plan for the new membership year and the goals set by our newly elected commander, however this is has been far from normal and while we all are working through the current pandemic conditions we need to continue to support those that have provided us with the eligibility into this great organization.

We need to remember our priceless heritage, continue to 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.

Over the next few months, we need to continue 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. The Membership Committee has a customizable renewal letter to help and can be mailed/emailed within your detachments and squadrons. It can be found on our website along with several other helpful membership tools.

#### Membership Reports:

Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) said we started off the year exceeding our numbers from the previous year by just over 4,298. The August 17<sup>th</sup> membership report has us at 5.75%. The first target date of 10% for the 2021 Member Year is on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Currently we have 18 detachments exceeding the 10% goal so congratulations to a great start of our membership year.

#### Regional Reports:

##### East: Dickie Huntley, Sr. (ME)

We finished off the year at 92.27%. The sad part is everybody started out great then everything was shut down and membership tumbled bad. Unfortunately, we are 11,000 members behind than what we needed for a goal. We had one detachment that did 100%, France at 103.5%. Congratulations to them and congratulations to everybody. Unfortunately, he believes we did not see the true numbers of what we could possibly have seen. Most we can do now is keep picking up the pieces and try to move forward with those we have until the end of the year to reach our 100% and get our renewals done to try and offset the deficit numbers for 2019-2020. The East finished off in 2nd place with 85.6%. But still we were 20,000 members difference. We do a good job recruiting but we do not do as good a job renewing. The Eastern Region has 20,000 members kicking around that could be renewed. As Joe was saying for our current year 2020-2021 our first target this year is 23 days away and we are at 2.1%. To reach 10% we have about 23 days to do that. Everybody is anxious to get out. Please do not forget that we have plenty of 2019-2020 members out there. We can continue the Buddy Checks and whatever it takes to make sure we are still asking and checking in on everybody, trying to get those members renewed would be very much appreciated.

##### East: NVC Gary Nelson (NJ)

The East is going to concentrate on renewals this year to not only pick up the renewals for 2019-2020 paid for and done before the end of this year. We are going to try a little different strategy to educate the Blue Cappers. We are going to get to the Adjutants of the Detachments and tell them not to be afraid to send out bills, emails, texts, Buddy Checks, whatever it takes to get those dues paid. Unfortunately, we had the COVID and the East had a slow start, we are not making any excuses but will try and make up for it in the 2020-2021. Pick up some of those loss members that we had in 2019-2020. He plans on having a different strategy by then and hopefully it will work, and we will have great successful year working with the other Vice-Commanders and of the Eastern Region Committee people. He will be willing to work with everybody. Thank you.

##### South: Jason Roberts (GA)

We are 100% for 2019-2020 and already met our 10% goal for 2020-2021. In Georgia they work on keeping their current members. They can always get new members, but they try hard to keep their current members that way they do not have a revolving door. We keep the ones that are already signed up, keep them interested, keep them involved in something. He thinks that is one of the biggest things when our detachment sends us out, we keep our members busy. Doing something and listen to the ideas they have. Thanks to the 6 Detachments that are over 100%, Puerto Rico blew it out of the water with 203%. Thank you for all the work this year and looking forward to the new year.

South: NVC Blair Miles (AL)

2020 came to a close, but we still have plenty of renewals out there. We are concentrating on 2020-2021 pretty hard. The pandemic presented a huge challenge to the region, Posts closed for a while, members lost their jobs. Some Posts reopened, wound up closing down again. Subsequently membership took a very big hit for the entire nation. In the Southern Region many Detachments took advantage on the down time and got busy. 6 of the Detachments incorporated a "Membership Stimulus Package". They took their unused budget money from all the missed meetings and reached out to their hurting members. The result?

- 6 Detachments above 100%. 4 more Detachments are only a few members away from reaching the 100% mark.
- 5 Detachments surpassed the 105% target goal.
- 3 Detachments reaching an "All Time High" mark.
- Puerto Rico doubled their membership and posted a 203% mark.

He was proud to report with the new membership report the South is now over 100% for 2019-2020 year. He cannot thank the Detachment Leadership in the South enough, everybody came together when they had some down time, they got busy. They got on the phones and made the calls. The South has already met the September target goal. Two Detachment Alabama and Georgia have already initiated a new package and is already showing up in the membership thanks to those Commanders and NEC. It's been a good year and we are looking forward for another great year. Thank you.

Central: Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)

Although the 2020-2021 membership year is well underway, he must recognize the accomplishments of the Central Region during the 2019-2020 year, as many great things happened. Here are just a few:

1. We heard the Central Region leads the nation in renewals with 114,301 members for 87.03%.
2. Detachment of Iowa reached an All-Time High in membership, surpassed the 105% national target, and earned the Triple Nickel Award, its fifth in the last ten years.
3. Detachment of Wisconsin reached an All-Time High in membership and surpassed the 105% national target.
4. The Central Region leads the nation with nearly fifty Individual Recruitment Awards earned.
5. Communication was drastically increased with the implementation of a weekly membership newsletter.

It's impossible to list all of our accomplishments but these stood out. Congratulations to everyone in the region.

Now for 2021, the Central Region is in third place with 8,998 members for 6.780%. Hats off to the Detachment of Illinois, which leads the Central Region with 3,977 members for 27.339%. Their five-year program is paying off and is something that everyone should talk to Commander Stander about.

One area where the Central Region needs improvement is in the use of My SAL. According to numbers provided by National Vice-Commander Pfeiffer (IN), we only have 218 Squadrons utilizing this great tool. Please note that these are not official numbers, as information for two Detachments was not available at the time of the report. Plans to increase the usage of MySAL is high on the priority list for 2021.

For this year's membership program, the Central Region has been divided into three divisions based on Detachment membership totals for the end of the 2020 membership year.

- Any Detachment reaching 100% by the 2021 American Legion Birthday will receive a plaque.
- Any Detachment reaching 105% by the May 12, 2021 National Target Date will receive a plaque.
- Any Detachment that reaches 95% Renewals by July 28, 2021 will win breakfast for their Detachment Commander and Membership Chairman at the National Convention in Phoenix.

The Divisions are as follows:

- Red Division Under 10,000 members (Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin)
- White Division 10,001 – 20,000 members (Illinois, Minnesota)
- Blue Division 20,001 members and up (Indiana, Michigan, Ohio)

We look forward to a successful and competitive 2021 as we continue, "Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead".

Central: NVC Doc Pfeiffer (IN)

The Central Region started off the year in the middle of the pack and stayed there throughout the year. At the end of February, we were well ahead of last year's membership and on track to achieve another all-time high and hopefully hit Commander Bolt's goal of 400,000 members. Then the bottom fell out due to the COVID19, Posts were starting to close as well as many Departments. Membership as we knew it ceased to exist. For years we were lulled into a false sense of achievement. In the past we lost about 10-15% of our members who did not renew, but we always signed up more than enough new members to make up the difference. This would not hold true this year, with so many Posts closed it was hard to attract new members. The Central Region met this problem head on. We started to think outside of the box and come up with some programs to help our members that were affected by this pandemic. We were proud to finish the year in first place in renewals at 87.33%. We had 2 Detachments, Iowa, and Wisconsin Finish at over 105% in membership. Iowa and Wisconsin both received the Triple Nickel Award this year. That makes 5 Triple Nickel Awards within the last 10 years. Congratulations to Commander Mike and Commander Bob on an outstanding year. Even though we did not reach 100% as a region this year I feel my Commanders and Membership Chairmen gave 110% this year. We cannot dwell on not achieving 100% or a new all-time high, we need to go forward. The SAL is driven by challenges, we will overcome this setback and come back stronger than before. Hopefully, we have learned how important renewals are to our program.

Midwest: NVC Chris Cook (OK)

This has been an interesting year for membership. He thanked the Midwestern Region for all the work they do and continue to do to improve their numbers. We started off this 2019-2020 year at the top of the pack and was chasing the south quite a bit throughout the year. At the turn of the year we started dropping off and the pandemic hit. Our number fell out as with other regions, but He wanted to thank the Midwest Region for finishing the membership goals with over 93%. As Commander Bolt (VA) and Chairman Navarrete (NM) have explained, we can recruit in this organization, but our renewals are where we see our downfall.

The Midwest Region is setting at a 83% renewal – that is not good. That is 5,000 members that we have lost in our region, with a region that is less than 30,000. We need to continue to reach out to our old

members and seek them out as members again. Whether they have moved or just lost touch with their local squadron. We need to go back and get those renewals. Because we worked so hard to get them into this organization, why can't we continue to work and keep them in this organization. He is going to continue this recruit, renew, and reinstate as long as Commander Bolt (VA) and Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) have done this past year. He believes that is the best way that this organization can grow, because if we cannot keep our recruits over three years what are we doing in this organization. He looks forward this next year serving with Commander Bolt (VA) and Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) and continue with this membership year.

West: Jim Stewart (NV)

He thanked NVC Ned Fox (CA) for his leadership during this past year and is looking forward to working with him again this coming year.

He congratulated all of the regions for doing such a great job this year, particularly the Southern Region. Congratulations for reaching 100%. That is a remarkable feat and you made it a real race to the top for the Western Region. However, be warned Southern Region, you will have to be watching out because the Western Region will be there next year.

Not to give any excuses, the Western Region's membership has been really suffering by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our states in the Western Region are still under closure orders by their Governors. This makes it very difficult to connect with our members, even though we have been performing our Buddy Checks. With our post homes closed and without any events or activities, our presence has not been out there. This can really be noticed by the lack of capturing our current members to renew this past year. The Western Region reached only 80% renewals for the 2019-2020 year, coming in last nationally.

Our plan going forward is to have each detachment in the Western Region to focus on their 2020-2021 renewals before December 31, 2020. If we can capture our current members and recapture our recently lost members by the end of the calendar year, we can already be at 90% of goal and will be in a great position to lead in membership. If we can get our current members by the 12/31/20 deadline, we can then start on January 1, 2021 to focus for the next six months on recruiting for new members! Let's get the low-hanging fruit in the first half of the year and then put all of our efforts into recruiting new members the remaining half of the year. With this format, I feel that we will be leading the nation, showing that the West is the Best!

West: NVC Ned Fox (CA)

He is going to continue with his monthly calls. He believes it is important to keep these guys working toward this membership, and other programs the American Legion does. He wants to push the online renewals we have a lot of work to do. We will continue to be the cheerleaders for membership. As an ultimate goal we want to serve our nations veterans and continue to work hard in that area.

Upcoming Target Dates:

Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) mentioned our next target is just a couple weeks away on September 10<sup>th</sup> - our 10% target date followed by our 25% target date of October 15<sup>th</sup>. We have started off to a good

start. We are hoping to see that momentum continue. We are hoping that through some of the restrictions being lifted, some of the states being open, we will start to see that membership move in the right direction.

### **Old Business:**

Strategic Ad Hoc Committee Report – Update Squadron Handbook Publication

- Review current Squadron Handbook – Completed.
- 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 app.
- Review of the Resolution that was passed by the Membership Committee for the Spring NEC approved and moved to NEC however with the cancellation of the Spring NEC, we were not able to meet so Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) brought it up and shared the resolution.

#### **S.A.L. Resolution 10 Fall 2020**

##### **Title: Membership Goal Setting**

**Origin: Membership Committee** on the Microsoft Teams screen. He displayed and read the resolution. Discussion of the resolution lead to the changing of the first Resolved cause:

Originally read:

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in **regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 2-3, 2020**, That the membership goals for the year be set based on the previous year’s “Delegate Strength Target Date,” and , be it further

Now reads:

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in **virtual meeting assembled on September 26, 2020**, That the membership goals for the year be set based on the previous year’s “Delegate Strength Target Date,” and , be it further

The Last Resolved read:

RESOLVED, That the membership target goals will commence with the 2021-2022 membership year.

Motion to approve as amended to reflect correct meeting location and date by Regional Committeeman Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH), seconded by NVC Gary Nelson (NJ). Motion passed by committee.

- Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) asked National Liaison Kenneth George (IN) to clear up the membership years. He asked National Liaison Kenneth George (IN) what is our current membership year dated as right now? National Liaison Kenneth George (IN) stated that as of right now we are starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, the 2020-2021 Membership Year. You are ending the 2019-2020 Membership Year as of December 31, 2020. Your membership has two dates on it that you need to keep in mind. One is the Renewal Year and then you have the Membership Year. The renewal year starts July 1<sup>st</sup> and ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Your Membership Year is actually when your card is valid and invalid is January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, you have a 30-day grace period to renew it by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Otherwise your membership is suspended and technically you have to go through the whole process again.
- Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) asked please do not forget the National Renewal month is approaching quickly we need to get the renewals in. Also, two new awards have been added the Recruiter of The Year Award and Detachment Recruitment Award. Let us recognize those who have worked so hard for our organization.

### **New Business:**

- New proposed resolution on Membership Goal Setting by NVC Gary Nelson (NJ). He said this is a resolution that they talked about at the last membership conference call. It’s a membership goal incentive he printed it up in resolution form. It is titled as:

Review of resolution for Membership Goal Setting:

**S.A.L. Resolution 17 Fall 2020**

**Title: Membership Goal Incentive**

**Origin: Membership Committee**

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in virtual meeting assembled on September 26, 2020, do hereby recommend \$5,000 be used as an incentive program to hit 100% membership goal for the 2020-2021 year the quickest.

RESOLVED, That each region will have a first, second, and third place winner with 1<sup>st</sup> place receiving \$500.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> receiving \$300.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place receiving \$200.00.

RESOLVED, That each detachment's winnings must be donated back to a S.A.L. program with credit going to the detachment.

RESOLVED, That the membership incentive will commence with the 2021-2022 membership year for a period of one year.

With the resolution Resolved above clauses the motion to approve as amended to reflect period of one year by NVC Gary Nelson (NJ), seconded by NVC Chris Cook (OK). Motion passed by committee.

- Membership Awards for the 2020 Membership Year:
  - National Regional Membership Award (First Detachment to reach quota in each region)
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Place South – Mississippi 11/21/19
    - Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Midwest – South Dakota 2/19/20
    - Tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place West – Idaho 2/19/20
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Central – Iowa 4/2/20
    - 5<sup>th</sup> Place East – France 6/8/20
  - Hartline Award – {Detachment chartering the most new squadrons (July1 – June 20<sup>th</sup>)}  
Illinois – 9 Squadrons
  - Largest Squadron Award (as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year)
    - Newport Harbor, Inc. Squadron No. 291 – Newport Beach, CA – 1,604 members
  - Highest Renewal Percentage by Detachment by Region (minimum of 200 members as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year)
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Midwest – South Dakota 99.14%
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place South – Louisiana 98.46%
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place East – France 97.95
    - 4<sup>th</sup> Place Central – Iowa 92.45%
    - 5<sup>th</sup> Place West – California 82.54%

- 90% Renewal Detachments (as of the 105% Target Date Report)
  - Alabama – 90.00%, France – 97.95%, Hawaii – 103.70%, Illinois – 91.55%,
  - Iowa – 92.45%, Louisiana – 98.46%, Mississippi – 94.72%, Nebraska – 90.09%,
  - North Dakota – 92.01%, Philippines – 109.09%, Puerto Rico – 123.08%, South Dakota – 99.14%
- Arthur D. Houghton Trophy (Detachment with the greatest percentage increase over previous year)
  - Category I (200-1,000 members) South Dakota – 125.143%
  - Category II (1,001-3,000 members) Alabama – 106.790%
  - Category III (3,001-6,000 members) Iowa – 105.691%
  - Category IV (6,000-12,000 members) Arizona – 97.597%
  - Category V (12,000 + members) Florida – 100.519%
- Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) said they did extend the Blue Brigade Award and IRA Award till the end of this month so those are still under review. We are still accepting those applications. Now we are sitting on 25 Blue Brigade Awards, that have been submitted, they are being verified and provided for as they come close to the date. They will be honoring those separately also.
- Triple Nickel Award (Any Detachment with 105% of Quota, 5 new Squadrons, 85% Renewal Rate, all by July 1)
  - Iowa – 105.600%, with 8 New Squadrons, and 92.05% Renewal Rate
  - Wisconsin – 105.609%, with 5 New Squadrons, and 86.69% Renewal Rate
- Renewals: Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) and the committee have been asked to look into renewals and a way to help out with renewals for this remaining year. As everyone is well aware we are 13,000-plus members behind this time the previous year. We are in dire need of our membership. We are coming close. We have just over four months of hopefully not breaking a tradition of over 40 years of the S.A.L. surpassing their previous year's membership. Commander Bolt (VA) has stressed very strongly that he would like us to do everything in our power that we can to try and make up these numbers. We are running out of time. It is very difficult he knows, because of the situation with all the closures and everything. We will be talking more on this on our remaining conference calls. He wants everyone to be thinking and coming up with ways we can focus on renewals. One of the suggestions is that each of our regional and vice-commanders get a list of the detachment adjutants in their areas, reach out to them, make sure they are on mySAL, and they are pulling the report on renewals that are required, that they are reaching out and coming out with a plan, to reach out to them and see if we can bring them back to rejoin us.
- Comments from National Liaison Kenneth George (IN) he had the operations center pull the expired for 2019 and 2020 and the renewals for 2021 the post card is going out. He is trying to send it out as early as possible, they will be targeting those three groups. He recommends the squadron adjutant contact their detachment adjutant. He does not know how it happened, but it did. It is until now, it needs a software upgrade the department adjutant can actually pull S.A.L. reports on myLegion.org they have not built out mySAL.org yet, but they put it in myLegion.org for the time being until they have the capacity to do that. So, make sure you get the expired from 2019, 2020 and renewals from 2021. It is not too late to make your membership year nationally as the Chairman has said till December 31, 2020, so keep working at it.
- There is a lot of confusion on per capita. How much is per capita for 2020 or later.
  - Example: 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017 and further on back is \$2.00 per member until December 31, 2020. 2021 membership is the \$5.00 per capita. On January 1, 2021 all per capita regardless of year will be \$5.00 per capita. Right now, if you process any dues for 2020 or earlier you have to process it through a paper trail. If you have 2021 membership dues you can go to mySAL.org and process it, but they have shut down the previous year's payable dues online.

## Resolutions:

S.A.L. Resolution 10 – Fall, 2020



Title: Membership Goal Setting

Origin: Membership Committee

Discussion: Set membership goals based on the previous year's "Delegate Strength Target Date;" set a 3% detachment growth goal; and set a 5-member increase goal for detachments under 350 members; all beginning with the 2021-2022 membership year.

Action: Motion to approve as amended to reflect correct meeting location and date by Regional Committeeman Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH), seconded by NVC Gary Nelson (NJ). Motion passed by committee.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 17 – Fall 2020

Title: Membership Goal Incentive

Origin: Membership Committee

Discussion: Recommend \$5,000 be used as incentive program to hit 100% membership goal for 2020-2021. Each region will have a first, second, and third place winner with 1<sup>st</sup> place receiving \$500.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> receiving \$300.00 and 3<sup>rd</sup> place receiving \$200.00. Each winning detachment to donate it back to a S.A.L program with credit going to the detachment. The membership incentive will commence with the 2021-2022 membership year for a period of one year.

Action: Motion to approve as amended to reflect period of one year by NVC Gary Nelson (NJ), seconded by NVC Chris Cook (OK). Motion passed by committee.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee and thanked everyone for being on the call. He said he is working with our Adjutants, Assistant Adjutants, and National Staff Brian Compton and National Liaison Kenneth George (IN) to work our way through new ways to do business. These calls and future calls are vitally important for our organization to move forward. Commander Clint Bolt (VA), Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA), and Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY) will be in Indianapolis for our virtual Fall NEC on September 25-26, 2020. Commander Bolt (VA) said to keep up the good work gentlemen and he looks forward to working with all of us this coming year.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) said congratulations to everyone on the work they have done throughout this last year with the craziness going on in the world. Keep up the good work and he is looking forward to another year moving forward and making the Sons of The American Legion the best it can possibly be.

Second Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) said everyone has been doing a great job this year knowing we all know the tough times we all had last year and the tough times we are going to have. We are going to experience things we have never experienced before, and we will find new ways to do things. He encouraged us to keep doing what we have been doing. Find new and imaginative ways to do our business, try to find those members and reach out and think outside the box. Because we

have a great organization. We know we can do this; it will just take a little bit more effort on our part. So, keep up the great work.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) adjourned the meeting  
at 9:44 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for the Membership  
Committee chairman, Joe Navarrete?

If there are no objections, the Internal Affairs Commission report will be accepted as  
published, minus the resolutions.

*(Gavel)*

I now call on National Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman John Jennings.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander. And I thank Bob  
Brown for making that observation, because I was undecided on whether I was going to read all  
the "resolved" clauses. But for clarification purposes, thank you, Bob Brown.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 1 - Fall, 2020**  
**Title: Endorsement of Ernest E. Laberge (MA) for National Vice Commander**  
**Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts**

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, Ernest E. Laberge has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Massachusetts 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Massachusetts hereby endorses Ernest E. Laberge 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 Massachusetts and the Department of Massachusetts with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Clifford A. Smith, and the Department Adjutant, Milton Lashas, are on the submitted resolution.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

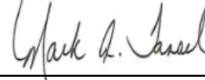
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Out of the Internal Affairs Commission, SAL Resolution Number 1, it's an endorsement of Ernest E. Laberge of Massachusetts for national vice commander, out of the Detachment of Massachusetts. It was received and filed.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 2 - Fall, 2020**  
**Title: National Executive Committeeman Training**  
**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion Member Training and Development Committee, hereinafter referred to as "MT&D Committee," has the duty and responsibility to provide member training and development to the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The MT&D Committee currently provides training in the form of New Detachment Commander / Adjutant Training classes at Fall National Executive Committee (NEC) meetings, National Ambassadors Training and National Management Institute Training at Spring NEC meetings; and

WHEREAS, The NEC is the governing body of the Sons of The American Legion, absent the National Convention, and there currently is no National Executive Committeeman training provided for the new or existing NECs; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the MT&D Committee of the Sons of The American Legion develop a program for National Executive Committeeman Training which shall include, but not be limited to, printed materials, PowerPoint presentations, and other resources of pertinent information, to be provided in a training session on Friday afternoon at the Fall NEC meetings (time and location to be determined); and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That funding in an amount not to exceed \$6,500.00 annually be provided to cover the cost of a meeting room, handouts, necessary equipment, and the development and continuing presentation of this training program, as well as any per diem allowed for arriving on Thursday to include the MT&D Committee and other individuals involved in the presentation of the program and those NECs that can come in on Thursday.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:  Member Training and Development Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission

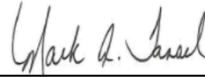
Other Action

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

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Finance Commission Chairman Signature

[Comm. Mtg. on 9/2/20]

WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
Finance Commission

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: After a lot of deliberation and consideration and conversations taking place, the Subcommittee on Resolutions took a vote on this resolution

at our meeting on September 9th, 2020. And through vote, unanimous, that the resolution be returned to the Internal Affairs Commission, to the Member Training and Development Committee, for further considerations, a little better breakdown in descriptions on what the involvement of this training would be, and some alternatives.

And after our deliberation, we decided that there were a lot of considerations and alternatives that are available. So with that said, as NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I move for unanimous consent of Resolution SAL 2 Fall 2020.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John, so you're making a motion to refer the resolution?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: No. I'm making a motion to accept the return of the --

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: To refer back to MT&D?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: The motion should be to refer back to MT&D.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, to refer.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings, from the Detachment of Florida, has made a motion to refer Resolution NEC2020-F-2 to the Member Training and Development Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission for further consideration and evaluation.

Is there a second?

Jay Marsden?

NECMAN JAY MARSDEN (MO): Jay Marsden, Detachment of Missouri, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. We have a second.

Is there any discussion on this?

Hearing none --

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Unanimous consent was my motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: You can't do that, John.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Okay. I'm sorry.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: If there are no other objections or discussion, the resolution is referred by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

Chairman John?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, sir.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 3 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Endorsement of Matthew Griffis (AZ) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Detachment of Arizona**

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, Matthew Griffis has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Arizona 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona hereby endorses Matthew Griffis 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 Arizona and the Department of Arizona with indicated National action submitted for the local**

resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Keith V. Birkemeyer, and the Department Adjutant, Angel Juarez, are on the submitted resolution.

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action  Received and filed

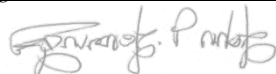
Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: SAL Resolution 3, endorsement of Matthew Griffis, Arizona, for national vice commander, Detachment of Arizona. Received and filed.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 4 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Endorsement of Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Detachment of Ohio**

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, Jeff Vrabel, Sr. has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Ohio 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio hereby endorses Jeff Vrabel, Sr. 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 Ohio and the Department of Ohio with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Scott J. Thornton, and the Department Adjutant, Suzette M. Heller, are on the submitted resolution.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

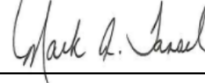
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

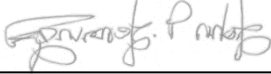
Other Action  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: SAL Resolution 4, endorsements of Jeff Vrabel, Sr., of Ohio, for national vice commander, Detachment of Ohio. Received and filed.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 5 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Endorsement of Ronald E. Roberts (MS) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Detachment of Mississippi**

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, Ronald E. Roberts has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Mississippi 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Mississippi hereby endorses Ronald E. 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 Mississippi and the Department of Mississippi with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Danny Baser, and the Department Adjutant, Deborah Fielder, are on the submitted resolution.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation


Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

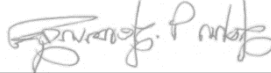
Other Action  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: SAL Resolution 5, endorsement of Ronald E. Roberts, Mississippi, for national vice commander, Detachment of Mississippi. Received and filed.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 6 - Fall, 2020**  
**Title: Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee**  
**Origin: Detachment of Mississippi**

WHEREAS, Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee states, "The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion. Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum;" and

WHEREAS, According to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, the “requirement for a quorum is protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number or persons;” and

WHEREAS, Archive research of NEC meetings, including Fall, Spring, Pre-Convention and Post-Convention for a period including 2013 to date reveals that the minimum number attending was 28 at the Post-Convention meeting in 2015 and the highest number was 44 at the Fall meeting in 2018, the average over the years mentioned was 37 National Executive Committeemen attending meetings; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the quorum for the NEC meetings including Fall, Spring, Pre-Convention and Post-Convention be changed by amending Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee to state, “Voting representation from a majority of the Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion shall constitute a quorum.”**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:  Mississippi by the Internal Affairs Commission

Other Action

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Again, on Resolution 6, there was a lot of input, a lot of conversations from a lot of the committee members with the quorum number, especially in the "whereas" section, because each of us know, at different times, there's ins and outs and not there. That vote was taken on September 9th, 2020, by the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and passed unanimously that this resolution be returned to the Detachment of Mississippi for further considerations.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: We have 7 and 9 to address.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: 7 and 9, John.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 7 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Endorsement of Terry Harris (KS) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Detachment of Kansas**

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, Terry Harris has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Kansas 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas hereby endorses Terry Harris 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 Kansas and the Department of Kansas with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, Don L. Culver, and the Department Adjutant, Jimmie Foster, are on the submitted resolution.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

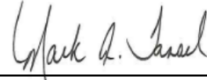
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature




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MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

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Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: SAL Resolution 7, Fall 2020, endorsement of Terry Harris, Kansas, for National Vice Commander, Detachment of Kansas. That was received and filed.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 9 - Fall, 2020**  
**Title: Endorsement of Michael L. Kirschner (CO) for National Vice Commander**  
**Origin: Detachment of Colorado**

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 L. Kirschner has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Colorado 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado hereby endorses Michael L. Kirschner 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 Colorado and the Department of Colorado with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant, J. Scott Garrett, and the Department Adjutant, Charles Pat Smith, are on the submitted resolution.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

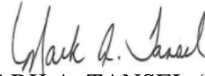
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Resolution SAL Number 9, Fall 2020, endorsement of Michael L. Kirschner, Colorado, for national vice commander, from the Detachment of Colorado. Received and filed.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 10 - Fall, 2020**  
**Title: Membership Goal Setting**  
**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a member-based program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The growth of our membership is vital to our success; and

WHEREAS, The recruitment of new members should be recognized at the National level; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the membership goals for the year be set based on the previous year's "Delegate Strength Target Date," and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That there shall be an increase of 3% to every detachment's Delegate Strength Target Date to help align with membership growth; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That any detachments with membership at 350 or lower shall increase their target by 5 new members; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the Membership Committee will consider special circumstances for the adjustment of increase, in consultation with the National Commander and the Detachment Commander; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the membership target goals will commence with the 2021-2022 membership year.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

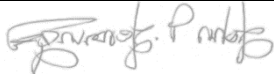
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:  Membership Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Chairman

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COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Another resolution that there was a lot of conversation done on our September 9th, 2020 conference call, a lot of pros, a lot of cons. But

after a vote was conducted, it was voted on unanimously that this resolution be returned back to Internal Affairs, to Membership, to have some more clarifications, considerations.

And one of the biggest issues, I think, that come out of this resolution was that it gets a little confusing, understanding the sizes of detachments with what the targets are and what the increases are and so on and so forth.

So with that said, the Subcommittee on Resolutions makes the recommendation that Resolution 10 be returned to Internal Affairs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings, from the Detachment of Florida, has made a motion to refer Resolution NEC2020-F-10 to the Membership Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission for consideration of more equality for all detachments.

Is there a second?

NECMAN JOHN CHANG (NY): John Chang, NEC New York.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, John Chang.

Is there any discussion?

So if there's no more discussion, if there are no other objections, the resolution is referred by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 13 - Fall, 2020**  
**Title: Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)**  
**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, In 1932 the Sons of The American Legion was established as a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of American Legion Members and deceased American Legion-eligible Veterans with specific eligibility requirements to become a member; 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 virtually on September 26, 2020, That Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be revised as follows:**

**“ARTICLE IV. ELIGIBILITY**

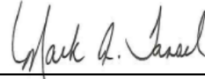
**Section 1. All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during ~~World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods~~ the period of April 6, 1917, through November 7, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941 to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.”; and, be it finally**

**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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

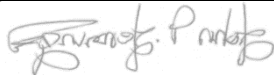
- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions



COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: After reviewing with the Subcommittee on Resolutions on September 9th, after unanimous vote, this resolution was accepted.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings, from the Detachment of Florida, makes a motion to accept NEC Resolution 2020-F-13.

Is there a second?

NECMAN WILLIAM SUTTERLIN (OH): Ohio, Sutterlin, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: From now on, let me call on you. Don't blurt it out, please. We have raised hands. We'll get there, we'll all learn this together.

Discussion. Bob Brown?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, in the final "resolved" clause, Mr. Jennings read it as the 2020 National Convention. That needs to be noted as the 2021 National Convention, not the 2020.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: So noted.

Mike Pipher?

NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Thank you, Commander. Mike Pipher, NEC, Detachment of Indiana.

I just have a historical question. Does somebody know the history behind why the date of November 7, 1918, is used, and not November 11, 1918?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It follows the same verbiage and structure of The American Legion's eligibility verbiage. So we just picked up the words and carried it over.

I don't know if that answers your question or not, but that is how it is on here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any other discussion?

If there are no more objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 15 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Revision of Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion**

**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, In 1932 the Sons of The American Legion was established as a program of The American Legion comprised of descendants of American Legion Members and deceased American Legion-eligible Veterans with specific eligibility requirements to become a member; and

WHEREAS, In May 1972, a Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion was adopted by The American Legion National Executive Committee to provide a framework for a national organization; and

WHEREAS, The United States government in the LEGION Act (P.A. 116-35) officially acknowledged that the United States military has been involved in at least twelve additional military conflicts not previously recognized; and

WHEREAS, It is now proper to amend the Preamble to recognize all of the millions of United States military veterans from these many other wars and conflicts since the great wars of World War I and World War II that are not currently being recognized within the Preamble; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion at the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana passed Resolution 44 which changed “The Great Wars” in the Preamble to “All Wars” officially recognizing all military veterans from all other wars and conflicts that were previously not recognized; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Preamble to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be revised as follows:**

**“PREAMBLE**

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage, we male descendants of veterans of ~~the Great Wars~~ all wars, associate ourselves together as “Sons of The American Legion” for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism; to preserve the memories of our former members and the associations of our members and our forefathers in ~~the Great Wars~~ all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.”; and, be it finally

**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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

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Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: And if it suits the commander, everybody has this in front of them. You can see where "the Great Wars" have been struck, and "all wars" included. There's two locations, first paragraph, second paragraph of the preamble.

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 2021 National Convention, as required by Article XII of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: So John Jennings from the Detachment of Florida makes a motion to adopt resolution 2020-F-15. Is there a second?

Calling on Jay Marsden for a second.

NECMAN JAY MARSDEN (MO): Jay Marsden, Detachment of Missouri, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

Any discussion?

PNC Jim Roberts?

PNC JAMES ROBERTS, III: Hey, sorry, folks, I had to step away for a little bit, but I'm just getting back and I heard the resolution.

My question is the resolution, I'm assuming these are all changes as it relates to the LEGION Act and the resolutions -- are we enacting this immediately? And if so, is there a reason why we have to wait to solidify the fact to the 2021 National Convention?

And I yield the floor.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: The final "resolved" clause does say that the revision be implemented immediately. The aspect of it being given final approval by the 2021 National Convention is more of an administrative aspect than it is of whether we move forward with this or not. NEC approves it, it sets the guidance and direction of the organization, with ratification happening at the 2021 National Convention.

PNC ROBERTS: Can I request a follow-up real quick?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir, Jim.

PNC ROBERTS: I'm just going to throw it out there. What if the National Convention body says, "Sorry, we're not going to approve it"?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: That will be a consideration that the National Convention could make, and we'll adjust and adapt accordingly.

PNC ROBERTS: Okay, I yield. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Jim.

Any other discussion?

If there are no objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Mr. Commander, before we move on, I want to go back to the question the NEC from Indiana had.

Mike, in review, I did a quick poll of The American Legion's Constitution and Bylaws and, in fact, it should be November 11th, 1918, not the November 7th that is printed in the document. We'll adjust that accordingly, administratively, to make sure that it does follow exactly to the words in the documents in The American Legion Constitution. Thank you for bringing it up.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Call on John Jennings.

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

**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 17 - Fall, 2020  
**Title:** Membership Goal Incentive  
**Origin:** Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a member-based program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The growth of our membership is vital to our success; and

WHEREAS, The recruitment of new members should be recognized at the National level; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That do hereby recommend \$5,000.00 be used as an incentive program to hit 100% membership goal for the 2020-2021 year the quickest; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That each region will have a first, second, and third place winner with 1<sup>st</sup> place receiving \$500.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> receiving \$300.00, and 3<sup>rd</sup> receiving \$200.00; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the membership incentive will commence with the 2021-2022 membership year for a period of one year.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:  Membership Committee by the Internal Affairs Commission

Other Action

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Chairman

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Finance Commission Chairman Signature

JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
Finance Commission

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: On our September 9th subcommittee meeting, there was a lot of conversation regarding Resolution 17. And after all the conversations, gathering of information, a vote was taken, and the vote by the Subcommittee on Resolutions that this resolution be rejected.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings, Detachment of Florida, has made a motion to reject NEC2020-F-17. Is there a second?

NECMAN JOHN CHANG (NY): John Chang, NEC New York, seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, John.

Is there any more discussion?

Hearing none, the resolution from John Jennings from the Detachment of Florida to refer this back is adopted by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

We will now proceed to the National Legislative Commission report.

*...Commission Chairman Deal submitted the report of the National Legislative Commission.*

## **Report of Legislative Commission**

### **Thomas Deal, Chairman, Maryland**

## Legislative Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm EDT on September 2, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD).

### Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Thomas G. Deal (MD)</u>	Members:	<u>Bill Kelly, Jr. (FL)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Mike Monserud (IA)</u>		<u>Richard L. Humphrey (CO)</u>
Secretary:	<u>David Ridenour (IN)</u>		<u>David Lee (NY)</u>
	<u>National Assistant Adjutant</u>		<u>Bernie Kessler (OH)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Michael Moss (CO) – Excused</u>		
	<u>Past National Commander</u>	PR Liaison:	<u>Damon Bradtmueller (IN) – Absent</u>
Guests:	<u>Clint Bolt (VA); Richard Pfeiffer (IN); Ned Fox (CA); Michael Fox (CA); Bill Hill (MD); Joseph Schultis (IN); Mike Holley (MI); Edgar Seegers, Jr. (TX); Dennis Theobald (IA); Ernie Laberge (MA)</u>		

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Deal declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Deal (MD) thanked everyone for being on. He hopes that everyone is still practicing social distancing while the virus is still going on around some more than others. Some are opening up and some are closing. Try to keep everybody safe and do what you can to be safe.

The National Legislative Division uses Voter Voice – we need to get the word out. Voter Voice is the new advocacy platform for contacting The American Legion Members with members of Congress. You can find it at <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/home>. Everyone needs to sign up for the new Voters Voice if you have not done it. There are only 23,000 members signed up. So, we need to get everyone signed up on the new platform so they can get alerts and updates.

National Legislative Update – This week Congress is in recess and they are all back in their home states until September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee will hold a hearing on Veterans Suicide Prevention legislation on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The American Legion has been invited to testify; more details will be upcoming. The House Veterans Affairs Committee will be holding a hearing on Veterans Suicide Prevention legislation on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The American Legion will submit a statement of record.

Suicide prevention is very important. It is not good to lose any veteran. They have to be in a really dark place to do this. We need to find them help. Support these two committees if you have someone that is on that committee from your state. Please contact them and ask them to please report these two things from the Senate and the House. It is very important to get something done to try to help.

There are a lot of things that are veterans issues out there. The list is out there for the legislative agenda if you find something that you really are strongly and passionate about. Learn about it and contact your Senator or Congressperson; talk to them about it, see where they stand and get them to support the legislation that we need.

Vice Chairman Mike Monserud (IA) – Last year when we were ready to go out to D.C. one of the topics we were talking about was that we were not sure if we were going to get two buses filled and people were dragging their feet waiting to sign up to see what COVID was. We need to push the detachments to submit so we can get the buses. We do not want to go through that again because it was pretty last-minute situation last year. Tom said he and David Lee (NY) were always worried because it would come down to the wire. When we have two buses we need to fill them. Please send your reservations in as early as possible. If we get cancelled we do not have to turn in the wreaths until a week before so it will be in our final count for the florist. They said if we have a problem up



to a week before they have no problem not putting the wreaths together. They are pretty respectful for us in the situation of the country. Mike said if you want to buy a wreath and are not going to be there, and you want a representative of your detachment we can find someone to present your wreath at whichever monument you want it to be placed at. He encouraged everyone to get a box lunch; there was plenty of time to sit down to eat them and enjoy the company. Chairman Tom Deal said let's get out these forms to the National Vice Commander to distribute they have been very good at getting them out to their detachments.

David Lee (NY) – He wanted to really congratulate Dennis Theobald (IA) on being awarded the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans' Advocate of the Year Award. He has known Dennis for a long time and knows the work and dedication he puts in; he really applauds Dennis and is glad to see him receive this award.

During the Eastern Conference last week, the Vice Commander had a lot of people on the phones. David talked a lot about Get Out the Vote. He reminded them that we are non-political. If someone wants to rent your hall, they can, but do not be posing in the pictures with your cap on or Sons emblem on. Do not get under the American Legion plaque, because we do not want to look like the Sons of The American Legion is endorsing them. A lot of young members we should be registering them to vote. That is one of the things in life that every person should be doing, we need to emphasize that all the way down to the blue cappers. Create a program to register our younger members to assist in getting people registered and registering themselves. As far as the Voter Voice. He would like to see us put something together with the permission of the American Legion, directly focused to the Sons of The American Legion with the Sons emblem, some type of poster that they can display at their Legion Post so they can get the PR out about the Voter Voice. With 23,000 members participating in Voter Voice he would be interested in finding out how many Sons are actually registered in it. Because we have a lot of young people that have access to the phones, computers, technology that we could nail this pretty good for our American Legion and our veterans. He asked everybody to be safe. He works at a university; they are doing their best with COVID. He works at the university and works for the state, one of the ones involved just went from 50 to 100 to 230 students with COVID in a very short period. Be safe.

Bill Kelley (FL) – He would like to say thanks to all the Commission members, Dennis congratulations on winning the George B. Evans Award. We really appreciate all the hard work you do for us. Thanks to everyone on the Commission that worked hard on the resolutions that hopefully will be passed at the Fall NEC.

Bernie Kessler (OH) – He said congratulation to David Lee (NY) on 38 years and still working, that's great. Tom and Eleanor Deal (MD) congratulations on your anniversary and hopefully many, many more. He also congratulated Dennis Theobald (IA) and Richard Humphrey (CO) sorry for your loss. He was on the Mid-West Conference Call last night and was a good call. They also used it as a Fall Conference, there were 8 of 10 detachments present. The Commanders all gave a report on their detachments. They also said that past National Commander Mike Moss had a toe amputated and will been in rehab a long time. He said he watched both political conventions last couple weeks. We have to push people to get out the vote. Try to register as many young people as we can and make sure everything is done on the up and up.

Richard Humphrey (CO) – He passed on his congratulations. Regretfully he was not able to make the Western Call, because he lost his wife. He does plan on making the Washington Conference and he will be able to help in any way possible. So just let him know what he needs to do and he will be there.

### **Old Business:**

Chairman Deal (MD) said there were two resolutions submitted from the Legislative Commission they have been accepted from a conference call earlier they are there for the convention. First resolution is for a call in for the National Chaplain to get a call in for the Washington Conference. Second resolution is for a call in for the Legislative Commission to get a call in for the Washington Conference. Currently the National Chaplain and the Legislative Commission do not get a call in for the Washington Conference only the Chairman and Vice Chairman get a call in.

Chairman Deal (MD) thanked everyone who worked on these two resolutions. He also thanked Mike Monserud (IA) who worked hard for the resolution on the Commission.

Discussion about slides they have some old ones that was submitted to strategic planning. David Lee (NY) said they have someone that was interested in updating them and asked if he could let the process get started and make it look new. Chairman Deal (MD) said that he was interested if he wanted to do it. He will get the old slides to him for he can change them, update them and add to them new them.

### **New Business:**

The Legislative Commission reviewed the nominations for the George B. Evans Veterans Advocate of the year award and the Commission unanimously selected:

- Dennis Theobald - Edward H. Bitzer Squadron. No. 27 - Muscatine, Iowa

Since there is not going to be a National Convention this year Mike Monserud (IA) volunteered to present it to Dennis at their next Detachment Conference in Iowa this winter.

Chairman Deal (MD) congratulated Dennis Theobald who was on the call; he said he knows that Dennis was a member of this Commission for many years and still works on legislative issues. He wanted to congratulate you and thank you for all you do for us.

Dennis Theobald (IA) was lost for words as for receiving that particular award it was very heart felt for him to get that. Just like he told Mike Monserud (IA) not very often is he speechless. The only thing he can say is thank you and he was totally surprised and thankful that the Legislative Commission thought him worthy enough for this special award. Dennis thanked everyone for thinking of him. He said Mike Monserud (IA) said he would be honored to present the award in Muscatine, Iowa, but Dennis said he knows that the Detachment are the ones who got behind him and promoted him for that particular award. If it is agreeable with Mike Monserud (IA), Dennis would like it to be able to take pride in presenting it to him when the detachment is able to get together.

Chairman Deal (MD) asked Dennis Theobald if he was still around when George B. Evans was Commission Chairman. Dennis said his first National Convention was in 1994. He remembered George being there and attending the National Convention. George was very forceful about legislative issues of the Sons. He made sure he got his point across. These things are important and let us take notice and take action.

Washington Conference for 2021 the date is February 28-March 3, 2021. February 28 will be the wreath laying ceremony. Commander Bolt (VA) has elected to go to the World War II, Vietnam and Arlington Memorials this year. The schedule is below.

Washington Hilton Hotel, 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington DC, 20009 – Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

- 8:30 am – Commander Clint Bolt will address attendees
- 8:30-8:45 – Pictures of Wreaths with National Commander Clint Bolt can be taken
- 8:45 am – Board Buses and load Wreaths
- 9:00 am – Bus will leave from lower level of hotel promptly
- 9:20 am – Arrive at World War II Memorial
- 10:15 am – Depart the World War II Memorial
- 10:30 am – Arrive at Vietnam War Memorial Wall
- 11:30 am – Depart Vietnam War Memorial Wall area
- 12:00 pm – Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery for Tour of Tomb Guards Quarters
- 1:15 pm – Wreath laying Ceremony at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier
- 2:30 pm – Leave Bus area and return to Washington Hilton Hotel
- 2:30 pm – Depart Arlington National Cemetery
- 3:00 pm – Arrive Washington Hilton Hotel

*Last year there was some confusion on Tram tickets to Arlington. It does not cost to get into Arlington National Cemetery. It costs if you want to take the Tram from the Visitors Center up to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. If you want that it is a \$15.00 fee; we can get a group rate for \$11.00, we got that last year and it was very successful. If you are a veteran you can get a \$6.75 ticket, the only thing with that is you have to go there and get your ticket or reserve it online yourself. We cannot order group veteran tickets. The cost of the wreaths is the same \$150.00. Box lunches are \$8.00. Arlington tickets are \$11.00 at the group rate. Chairman Deal (MD) did put in for two buses again this year. The forms are out there, they should be on the website, but he has not seen them yet. If anyone would like the forms early email Chairman Tom Deal (MD) at [tom.deal@verizon.net](mailto:tom.deal@verizon.net). The cutoff for accepting the forms and Tram seat tickets, lunch, and wreath is February 10, 2021. He must have payment in his hand February 10, 2021. Very important that you get those in early.*

Bernie Kessler (OH) said he watched both political conventions these last couple weeks. Do you think security is going to be a concern for us that last week of February? He hates to be a devil's advocate, but he just did not know the way things are going and the way everybody is defacing monuments and memorials. He hates to take everybody's monies and we get out there and everybody gets harassed. Is that a concern for anybody? Chairman Deal (MD) said he had not heard of anybody being disruptive or doing anything; if they do something he will look into something and see if they will have a danger. Bernie just did not want all of us to bring a group and have people shouting at us like we see on TV out of Washington D.C. Chairman Deal (MD) said we need to think about it, look at it and see. We need to still go and do our job, but we need to be able to do it safely. That is one thing

that we need to check on. As far as the monument being defaced I do not think it was real or it was not the World War II Memorial that was defaced now. We want to be safe while doing this job too.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 11 – Fall, 2020

Title: Call-In Approval for All Members of the National Legislative Commission  
Origin: Legislative Commission  
Discussion: Fund call-in reimbursement for all members of the Legislative Commission to attend the Washington Conference beginning with the 2021-2022 budget year.  
Action: Accepted from a previous call.

S.A.L. Resolution 12 – Fall, 2020

Title: Call-In Approval for the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain  
Origin: Legislative Commission  
Discussion: Fund call-in reimbursement for the National Chaplain to attend the Washington Conference beginning with the 2021-2022 budget year.  
Action: Accepted from a previous call.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He said to his old friend Dennis Theobald (IA) congratulations. Dennis and Commander Bolt (VA) served as National Vice Commanders together. Commander Bolt (VA) was Vice Commander of the South and Dennis Theobald was Vice Commander of the Central Region. Commander Bolt (VA) was doing pretty good until Dennis Theobald (IA) got the Central Region motivated up and beat the South. Commander Bolt (VA) said he remembered George B. Evans too, he was a strong speaker, everybody in the room would listen when he spoke. He was very passionate about legislative matters that pertained to the veteran. It showed every time he was at the podium what a dynamite individual he was. Commander Bolt (VA) liked some of the points that David Lee (NY) made about Voter Voice. He would like to see that number 23,000 members, with as many members as we have, he is surprised that number is not a whole lot higher. There is room to get everybody on board. He knows that Seth Rippe over the summer has pushed capturing emails of all the members in our detachments maybe that will go hand in hand in helping him achieve his objective. He said last summer a year ago we started out with some big legislative achievements with the MISSION ACT and the LEGION ACT. When we started in September our 2020 Membership year, we were excited about the LEGION Act, the American Legion was asking us to do all we can to recruit those new veterans into the rank of the American Legion. Then we made it all the way to the Washington Conference which is one that none of us would forget. Chairman Deal (MD) did an excellent job planning it and pulling it off. For all the attendees prior to the Washington Conference, all of them got an email from the American Legion National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, asking us not to shake hands at the Washington Conference. It explained that there was a virus going around that it has not got in full speed yet when we were at the conference but none the less he asked us to limit personal contact when greeting friends and fellow people that were attending the conference.

Saturday morning of the conference the National Vice-Commanders and himself took a tour of the National Capitol and they got a tour all through the building, it was a great tour. Then a week later all tours were cancelled at the National Capitol and they haven't had any tours for the public since then. A lot has happened in the last several months since March at our Washington Conference. He left after the Commanders testimony on Wednesday and on Thursday the Internal Affairs let the American Legion cancelled all travels for all National Officers and all meetings until September 30<sup>th</sup>. So, it was moving fast, closures were sweeping across the country, departments were closing, it was certainly a time that none of us would forget, what they all went through there. He wanted to thank everybody for everything you do the Legislative Commission, you're doing a great job in getting the information out, keep encouraging the Voter Voice to sign up for. He thinks that is important to help make the American Legion voice even stronger on all legislative matters.

Chairman Deal (MD) – Thank you Commander for the kind words on the conference and planning and all. But I want to thank you as a commission, not as the Commission Chairman; this commission works very hard to make sure that the conference goes off without hitch and there are a lot of people that had a lot of work to do, than just me. So, it is the commission that does the great work, but I do accept it for the commission and with the commission at my side. Thank you for those words, Sir.

Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA) – He thanked Chairman Deal (MD) for the opportunity. Last year he missed the trip. Being stuck in meetings and not able to go with you guys. This year coming up he looks forward to the opportunities to get back out there and be with everybody to pay our respects and be part of all the ceremonies. It is a thankless job and he know it has already been brought up, but all the work that goes behind the scenes. He is looking forward to seeing what kind of new endeavors you and your guys have planned for next year. Thank you for the opportunity.

Central NVC Richard Pfeiffer (IN) – He thanked Chairman Deal (MD) and all the Commission Members for all the hard work you do. It's kind of a thankless job, you do an outstanding job and he appreciates everything you do.

West NVC Ned Fox (CA) – Thank you Mr. Chairman on behalf of the west he really appreciates how the information flows out of your committee and he will continue to make sure whenever anything comes out of your legislative it will be distributed. He does blind copies that way we are not looking at hundreds of emails again and again. Gentlemen, thank you very much.

MT&D Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN) – Thank you for allowing him to listen in on the commission's calls. They have been very informative. You are doing a great job and thank you all very much.

Detachment Commander Mike Holley (MI) – He would like to thank the commission for all that they do. Congratulations to Dennis Theobald (IA) for receiving the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans' Advocate Award. Sorry about the losses the other guys have been going through. Last year was his first year going to Washington D.C. and he really enjoyed it. Hope our plans all turn out this year there should be six to eight of us. Michigan is ready to go for it.

Dennis Theobald (IA) – Had an idea he is going to send to Mike Monserud (IA) to see what he thinks about his idea. A lot of times there are different things that are being done in different states. He thinks it would be kind of interesting if all the different Legislative people for the different detachments send into the National Legislative people different things that might have been done in their state for veterans or shining a light on different problems that veterans have and issues that should be addressed. He is going to send Mike his thoughts on that so that he can find other ideas about that and possible have an update for the next conference call.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD) adjourned the meeting  
at 7:52 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Tom Deal?

There are no objections. The Legislative Commission report will be accepted as published, minus the resolution.

*(Gavel)*

I now call on Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman John Jennings.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander.

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

**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 11 - Fall, 2020**

**Title: Call-In Approval for All Members of the National Legislative Commission**

**Origin: National Legislative Commission**

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American National Legislative Commission is responsible for the Wreath Laying Ceremonies and to coordinate Legislative Events throughout the Washington Conference; and

WHEREAS, The events of the Washington Conferences must be completed by a full complement of the Legislative Commission to make sure the events of the Conference are conducted with the utmost dedication and accounting of all available Commission members; and

WHEREAS, The Chairman and Vice Chairman are the only members of the Commission who are eligible for a Call-In for reimbursement, even though all members of the Commission have duties and are encouraged to attend; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That all members of the Legislative Commission be eligible for reimbursement for the Washington Conference starting with the 2021-2022 budget year.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation


Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

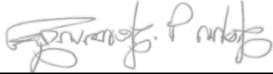
Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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THOMAS G. DEAL (MD), Chairman  
Legislative Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Finance Commission Chairman Signature

*[Comm. Mtg. on 9/2/20]*

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WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
Finance Commission

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Again, on our September 9th subcommittee meeting, there was a lot of conversations, a lot of good, positive input from not only our committee members, but we had some guests that kind of opened some light to some of the things that go on at the Washington conference, that some of us may or may not know. But there's Facebook opportunities to watch some of the activities, there's live-streaming activities.

Anyway, after a vote, a lot of conversations, this Resolution 11, after a vote of the committee, was rejected.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings from the Detachment of Florida makes a motion to reject Resolution NEC2020-F-11.

Is there a second?

Dennis Henkemeyer seconds the motion.

Is there any other discussion?

David Blair?

Jeff Seiler?

NECMAN JEFFREY SEILER (MD): Yes. Can you tell me why this was rejected?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman J.J., can you please answer that question?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, sir, I'll do the best I can.

There was a lot of conversation in this. You know, Washington conference is a big deal. We, as a committee, and we, our attendees of our meeting, all chimed in about the values and importance of our presence.

But with that said, there are some things that The American Legion do that is not actually correct in some of the "whereas" clauses. Back in '72 and '98, if you do some research, you'll find out that The American Legion turned a resolution down on this same issue. And then with the travel and with the -- specifically, right now with pandemic and with the live-streaming opportunities, the committee felt that it was in the best interest of the organization and the people involved that this resolution be rejected.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: David Blair?

Any more questions?

Hearing no more questions, the resolution is rejected by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

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

**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 12 - Fall, 2020

**Title:** Call-In Approval for the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain

**Origin:** National Legislative Commission



WHEREAS, The Sons of The American National Chaplain is responsible for providing a prayer for the SAL National Commander's presentation of wreaths at memorials at the Washington Conference; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain is responsible for providing spiritual guidance to all those members of The American Legion and Sons of The American

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain is responsible for delivering prayer at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington, Virginia for the SAL National Commander's presentation of a wreath; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain does not receive a call-in to the Washington Conference; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain receive a National Call-in and be eligible for reimbursement for expenses for the Washington Conference starting with the 2021-2022 budget year.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

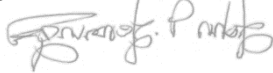
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:  Legislative Commission pending the outcome of The American Legion's review of all call-in structures

Other Action

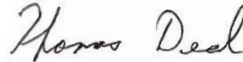
Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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THOMAS G. DEAL (MD), Chairman  
Legislative Commission

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Finance Commission Chairman Signature

*[Comm. Mtg. on 9/2/20]*

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WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
Finance Commission

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: This resolution, again, on our September 9th conference call, took as much debate as Resolution 11 did. We sat and discussed. There are options available for this. One of those options are, after questions, that the national commander does have an opportunity to make a request for the chaplain to attend if the commander deems necessary.

So with all of the conversation, the Subcommittee on Resolutions took the unanimous vote to reject Resolution 12.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings from the Detachment of Florida has made a motion to reject Resolution NEC2020-F-12. Is there a second?

Scott Garrett seconds.

Any discussion?

NECMAN J. SCOTT GARRETT (C0): Commander Bolt, this is Scott Garrett.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir.

NECMAN GARRETT: I was trying to get in not so that I could second Resolution 12.

If I'm not too late, I would like the record to show that on Resolution 11, I was in opposition. Therefore, it was not a unanimous vote.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: But that's the purpose of unanimous vote, so that's fine.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Well, we're back to the motion that John Jennings from Detachment of Florida made to reject Resolution --

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Actually, the action of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, John, on your report is to refer back to Legislative Commission. So it should be referred back to, not rejected. It's so marked on the resolution that has been distributed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there a second to refer this motion back?

Dennis Henkemeyer seconds.

Is there any discussion?

Jay Marsden? Jay, any discussion?

Bob Brown?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, NEC Bob Brown, Georgia. The motion by Mr. Jennings, chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, was to reject, not refer back. If we're going to vote on that, we need to make that change before we do the voting. That's the end of my --

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: J.J. needs to correct his statement. The action of your committee was to refer back to, that's so listed in the resolution body itself. So you need to correct your motion, J.J.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Mr. Commander, I'll correct my motion that this resolution be returned to the Legislative Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: And the second still stands?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Yes.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: That was Dennis Henkemeyer.

We have a motion, corrected verbally, and a second by Dennis Henkemeyer.

Is there any other discussion on this matter?

Scott Garrett.

NECMAN GARRETT: Scott Garrett, NEC Colorado. I wish to voice my objection for the vote.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. So recorded.

Jeff Seiler?

NECMAN JEFFREY SEILER (MD): Yes, was Resolution 12 rejected or returned?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: We'll address Resolution 12 in a moment -- or, I'm sorry, we are on 12.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We are on 12.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It was referred back to the commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The Legislative Commission.

NECMAN GARRETT: That was for Resolution 11, not 12.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We're working on 12 right now, F-12.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: In the documents of your resolutions, you will see that the action is referred to Legislative Commission pending the outcome of The American Legion's review of all call-in structures, and that's the action of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, and that is what the chairman corrected his motion to reflect. It's being referred back to the Legislative Commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other discussion?

If there's no objections, the resolution is referred by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Mr. Commander, before we move forward, just to again clarify for the record, because there is a question that came up in the chat.

So the Resolution 17 Membership Goal Incentive was rejected. The commander used the phrase of "adopted by unanimous consent" as just a phrase. The action was adopting the motion made by the Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Jennings. It was rejected, and we will correct the minutes to show that the commander showed it as being rejected, not adopted. A simple play of words, a slip.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Slip, yes.

We will now proceed to the National Public & Media Communications Commission report.

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

## **Report of Public and Media Communications Commission**

**Seth Rippe, Chairman, Nebraska**

### **Public and Media Communications Commission**

#### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on September 3, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE).

#### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Seth A. Rippe (NE)</u>	Members:	<u>Brandon Roberts (GA)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Mark McCue (MA) – Excused</u>		<u>Doug Evans (KS)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Kevin Chaplin (VA)</u> <u>Damon Bradtmueller (IN)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Thomas Cisna (IL)</u> Past National Commander		<u>Matt Parsons (CA), Nat'l Update Editor</u> <u>Gene Theroux (MA), Webmaster</u>
Guests:	National Commander Clint Bolt (VA); Mike Holley (MI); NVC-W Ned Fox (CA); Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA); Jeff Trout (IL); Brian Compton (IN); PNC Danny Smith (NE).		

#### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Rippe declared the minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting approved as published.

#### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Rippe thanked everyone for taking the time this evening to join this call. He's had the opportunity to join several calls during the last year and hear about how our members are serving our organization and our veterans in dozens of ways through the multiple programs of The American Legion. This Commission is here to help promote all the work being done through several platforms like the *National Update*, our national website, and the national Facebook page.

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 help each committee and commission to promote the programs that fall under them and assist them in reaching their goals we have appointed a member of the PMCC to each.

To better serve our NVCs we assigned a member to each region with the intent of having representation on every monthly call.

Do not hesitate to reach out to any of these individuals or Chairman Rippe for assistance.

**National Update** – Editor Matt Parsons reported that National Headquarters is blasting The American Legion newsletter every two months and recognized Andy Proffet for his assistance in coordinating this. We can use this facility as well to publish our own updates. We plan to publish to print issues of the newsletter during the year and one around the National Convention. Please send ideas and articles to Matt for inclusion. Our last issue seemed to be focused on Buddy Checks; so far we don't have a specific theme to the items submitted. We need to get links to the published issues posted on our section of the website to make it easier to read them.

**National Website** – Webmaster Gene Theroux reported that we currently have three administrators for our national Facebook page: Gene, Matt Parsons, and Andy Proffet of the National Staff. He also thanked Brian Compton from our Liaison's office for his prompt responses to requests for posting assistance. Gene noted that our newsletter is a very visible recruiting tool and he agreed with Matt that we need to get the links to the published issues posted on the website.

### **Old Business:**

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.
  - Update: PNC Panel Chairman Danny Smith notified the Commission in January this year the The American Legion Marketing Committee has stated that the Sons of The American Legion should not be involved in soliciting corporate donations, and this action item will no longer be part of the Strategic Plan.
- 4.B Develop campaign to recruit and retain younger members (12-35)  
Revamp the SAL App to be viable for the members.  
Create a public Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram account.
  - Update: One of the primary tools to recruiting, retaining, and engaging these members is through social media. Gene Theroux has done a great job of updating content on both the National Website and Facebook page. Matt Parsons has not only created a hard copy of the *National Update* with content designed to interest younger members but has also created an electronic *National Update*. National Headquarters' staff has been assigned to help with both of these platforms giving us access to additional tools and resources.
- 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.
  - Update: Members of the PMCC will be assigned to each Committee/Commission to develop articles for the *Legion* magazine. We are continuing this for this year and are working with National Liaison Ken George to obtain space in the magazine issues for the articles.
- 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.
  - Update: The American Legion Headquarters' Staff has been creating videos that are posted to our YouTube channel and to the National Sons of The American

Legion Facebook page. The Commission recommended to move this particular item to the National Staff as the videos are created and distributed by them.

- 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 through National Staff, and determine distribution method.
  - We will work with the other commissions and committees to identify subjects for videos.

Matt Parsons asked if anyone has considered the cost involved to give all SAL members a s subscription to the *Legion* magazine (it's about \$3-\$4 per person). Chairman Rippe responded that it is unlikely to be possible with the current per capita but maybe with a future increase. For now we will encourage members to purchase their own subscriptions. Gene Theroux noted that dual members can already get it through their American Legion membership.

Matt also mentioned the previous discussion about generating "this is who we are" videos to engage younger members by featuring current members to introduce the organization to them. These can be produced at no cost. Chairman Ripped encouraged him to begin producing them. Matt will try to get something out before November.

PNC Tommie Cisna asked Chairman Rippe if he was familiar with Ken Kraetzer (NY) and his S.A.L. Radio program. We could suggest guests for Ken to interview for his future programs, such as our officers and chairmen.

#### **New Business:**

Chairman Rippe reminded everyone that Snapshots of Service is a photo contest promoting the programs of the Sons. The picture must represent one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children & Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. The Commission has seen an increase in submissions over the last two years, but we want to see more! We voted electronically, and the Chairman said he is happy to announce the winners in each category:

#### 2020 Snapshots of Service Awards:

- Americanism
  - 1) Susquehanna Squadron No. 135 – Perryville, MD
  - 2) Charles L. Futch Squadron No. 189 – Sebastian, FL
- Children & Youth
  - 1) Franklin Squadron No. 193 – Ohiowa, NE
  - 2) Berkeley Squadron No. 14 – Martinsburg. WV
- National Security
  - 1) Again, this year, we received no submissions in this category.
  - 2) We will give additional effort to promote it this year.
- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
  - 1) Colonial Heights Squadron No. 284 – Colonial Heights, VA
  - 2) Samuel G. Cook Squadron No. 267 – Columbus, GA

#### **Resolutions:**

None.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. He thanked everyone for their efforts last year and also for stepping up to get everything prepared for the virtual NEC meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. He likes what he's hearing from the Commission's plans and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

PNC Tommie Cisna (IL) addressed the Commission and stated that he is excited by the work the Commission is doing in the use of electronic media given all of the limitations related to COVID-19.

Gene Theroux noted that yesterday was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V-J Day, marking the end of World War II in the Pacific. He encouraged everyone to use this year to celebrate the service and sacrifice of the members of the Greatest Generation.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE) adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Seth Rippe?

If there are no objections, the Public & Media Communications Commission report will be accepted as published.

*(Gavel)*

We will now proceed to the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission report.

**Report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

**Harl "Butch" Ray, Chairman, Illinois**

**Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on August 31, 2020 as a conference call by Chairman Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL) .

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL)</u>	Members:	<u>Steve Tansel (IN) – Excused</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Joseph E. Roberts (AZ)</u>		<u>Eddy Seegers (TX)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott A. Williams (VA)</u>		<u>Phillip Cook (NH)</u>



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National Assistant Adjutant

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Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY)

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Liaison: Jim Hartman (MD)

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Past National Commander

Guests: PNC Danny Smith (NE); PNC Robert McBride (OH); SAL National Commander Clint Bolt (VA); Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA); Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN); Rich Buford (TN); Bill Sutterlin (OH); John Clark (WA); Mike Holley (MI); Rick Pond (NH); Willie Morgan (VA); Phil Stander (IL); Ken Sutton (CA); Stu Sonee (MN); Nick Arceo (CO); Chris Shu (IL); SAL National Vice Commander Ned Fox (CA)

19 guests were on the call with 13 Detachments represented.

Ten minutes into the meeting, participants were cut off. Issue being further investigated.

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Not applicable for this meeting.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Ray said that this call was serving two purposes. The call would be both the monthly VA & R Call and the Fall NEC Call due to the accelerated schedule for the Fall NEC meeting. Chairman Butch opened the meeting with a prayer and roll call of Commission Members and Guests. He thanked everyone for their support for this Fall Virtual NEC.

The first order of business discussed was that the VA & R Mission Plan would be updated for the 2020-2021 membership year to pick up some of the VA & R Programs discussed the past year. This will include the "Helmets for Heroes" program, H.O.O.V.E.S, the WOMEN R.I.S.E. program of the Waco, TX VA, and the VA's "My Life, My Story" program. He also reported that the commission has been assigned a task to create a PowerPoint slideshow presentation that illustrates the roles and responsibilities of the VA & R Commission. Chairman Ray reported that we already have such a presentation that is approximately 80% complete. It should be finished and provided to the Past National Commander's Panel for review sometime in the Fall of 2020.

Commission Member Gabe Cinquegrana (NY), our VAVS National Representative, provided an update on the SAL VA representatives and Deputy Representatives. He reported that as of January 2020 the SAL had 50 Reps and Deps accounted for. As of August 2020, that number had dropped to 44 Reps and Deps due to losing two to death, three being inactive, terms for three expired, and we activated three new members. He also reported that at any one week we have 103 registered SAL members volunteering in over 63 VA facilities nationwide. Of those 103 members, 42 of them now volunteer in 29 VA facilities that currently do not have a SAL Rep or Dep. Next year we will encourage those members to take the Rep and Dep positions, which will increase our numbers. Mr. Cinquerana then explained how we will attempt to modify the registration and certification process with the American Legion and the VA to include indefinite terms and

having the registration forms sent directly to the SAL for processing. Other VAVS Goals were addressed and can be seen in the attached documents to this report.

Joe Roberts, Vice Chairman (AZ) – Western Region – Vice Chair Roberts reported on how he continues to push for Rigsby applications and recently reported on the information provided by the VA on how they are now beginning to reopen their facilities across the country utilizing social distancing and other public health guidelines.

Eddy Seegers (TX) – Mr. Seegers reported that the Detachment of Texas is attempting to convince one of their members to become the VAVS Representative for one of the VA's in that Detachment. He also reported that he has found a very good source of information for answering many VA & R related questions. He urged all on the call to utilize the VA's website VA.GOV. He has found the answers to many VA & R questions he has received over the past year using this website. He also reported that many from the American Legion family are banding together to assist those who are dealing with damage from Hurricane Laura.

Chairman Ray reported that there was only one Charles Rigsby application out of 52 Detachments submitted for the 2019-2020 year. He reminded everyone on the call that those that did not submit an application lost the chance to honor those in their Detachment that have volunteered and worked so hard for the benefit of our veterans.

The lack of Rigsby applications was an indicator of the drop in the total number of Consolidated Squadron Report forms received. Only 1,143 squadrons turned in forms this year (a 18% return) as opposed to the 1,638 forms turned in last year (a return of 27%). This was after 43 additional squadrons were chartered last year. All were urged to be sure that each of their squadrons fill out and submit a report form.

The good news from the data collected from the Consolidated Squadron Report forms is that for VA & R programs and activities for the 2019-2020 membership year, donations totaled \$917,526.00 with 205,134 volunteer hours. The current value for a volunteer hour is calculated at \$27.20 per hour. This translates as a total value of \$5,579,644.80. The grand total values of donations and volunteer hours is \$6,497,170.80! Imagine what these totals would be if all squadrons turned in a report form!

All others on the call were given the opportunity to say a few words and general regional and detachment VA & R issues were discussed.

Jeff Van Horn (IL) – CSRs – National had some problems with processing the CSRs this year. Additional 1,300 reports made it in after the deadline. Data was probably under reported this year.

Mike Boughner (MI) – No holiday parties at VA in Michigan. Encouraged gift cards.

Rick Pond (NH) – Inquiry regarding a VA Rep from Vermont.

Ken Sutton (CA) – Side fundraising and Helmets for Heroes support.

Willie Morgan (VA) – Thanked everyone. Said he is a Navy Veteran. Mr. Morgan supports the local VA in Hampton.

Phil Stander (IL) – Thanked the Committee for all they do.

PNC Robert McBride (OH) – He expressed concerns over COVID and the commission losing momentum. The commission is not letting people down. He encouraged everyone to keep up the good work.

Vice Commander Ned Fox (CA) – Complimented the Commission on the way the information gets out and appreciates the Commission's efforts. Need to get more people involved. Continue to encourage Detachments to submit those nominations for the Rigsby Award.

**Old Business:**

The Consolidated Squadron Report was revised and used for the 2019-2020 membership year. All were urged to continue to support VA & R programs such as Operation Comfort Warriors, the Fisher House Foundation and all of the regional programs that support our veterans. The GI Josh Dog program / corporation has been dissolved. They are trying to resurrect the GI Josh program, but it is removed from the CSR. Chairman Ray gave general reminders on the completion of the CSR forms.

The Rigsby application will be streamlined for the future. The application will include all work done by one individual in one membership year – July 1 to June 30 time frame. The Rigsby application needs to be simplified for future years.

**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 thanked Chairman Butch and the Commission for reaching the 50 Reps and Deps. The take away is that we are moving in a positive direction. Gabe's report gives a lot of promise for the Sons and for the organization. Windows visitation are being done at VA Facilities. Congratulations to Nick Arceo for his Rigsby Award 2 years in a row. Congratulations to Squadron 335 for the Kirby Kepler Award. Commander Bolt said that it has been a pleasure to serve this past year and the upcoming year. It will be a major task to update the VAVS Rep Application Forms.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. Mr. Fox talked about the implications of COVID. He said we all can plan and move forward. He said just be ready to help out and be creative. He thanked the commission for everything they have done this year.

Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN) – Mr. Carlton congratulated everyone for all of their hard work. We keep finding ways to make things happen. Don't forget about the CSRs.

Chairman Ray announced the National VA & R Awards for the 2019-20 year as follows:

PNC Danny Smith announced the Kirby Kepler Squadron National VA & R Award for the 2019-2020 membership year. Commander Smith reported that he modified the award winner calculation spreadsheet to reflect the revisions that had been made to this year's Consolidated Squadron Report forms. Commander Smith ran the calculations multiple times to ensure all was running well. The Kirby Kepler Squadron VA & R award will be presented to Sylvester Squadron #335 of the Detachment of Georgia!

Due to a mistake at National – No District or No Detachment Awards were announced.

Allen I. O'Brian Memorial Award [for the Best District VA&R Report]

- no District form data is available this year

Earl Webster Memorial Award [for the Best Detachment VA&R Report]

- no Detachment form data is available this year

Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award

- Nick Arceo – George C. Evans Squadron No. 103, Littleton, Colorado – Second Year in a row. Mr. Arceo thanked the Commission and humbly accepted on behalf of Detachment of Colorado. He encouraged all of the Detachments to submit a Charles B. Rigsby Applicant for next year. Charles B. Rigsby Award for the 2019-20 Membership Year was announced by VA & R Commission Chairman Butch Ray.

Squadron VA & R Award presented by PNC Danny Smith – Squadron 335, Georgia - 303 total points in per capita – First place. Kirby Kepler Award.

Squadron 13, New Mexico - 266 per capita points – second place.

Keep up the good work and send more reports.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL) adjourned the meeting  
at 9:15 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Butch Ray?

Hearing none, the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission report will be  
accepted as published.

*(Gavel)*

We will now proceed to the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission  
report.

**Report of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission**

**Thomas "Thom" Skelley, Chairman, Texas**

**Veterans Employment and Education Commission**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on August 16, 2020 as a conference call  
by Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX) .

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Thomas P. Skelley (TX)</u>	Members:	<u>Doyle T. "Travis" Cummins (MO)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>James Coates (NY)</u>		<u>Ray Edwards, Jr. (MD) – Resigned</u>
Secretary:	<u>Ed Sheubrooks (FL)</u>		<u>Greg N. "Nick" Arceo (CO)</u>
	<u>National Assistant Adjutant</u>		

Liaison: Gene Sacco (CA) – Absent

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Past National Commander

Guests: NVC Chris Cook (OK); Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN); Patrick Gallagher (NJ); Edgar Seegers (TX); National S.A.L. Liaison Ken George (FR)

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Skelley called for a motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2020 conference call as published. Greg “Nick” Arceo (CO) made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by James Coates (NY). The motion carried.

### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Thom Skelley (TX) – Chairman Skelley stated that it has been an honor for him to chair the Commission this year. I want to thank everyone for their hard work. We set out to fulfill our mission statement which is, “To assist The American Legion in assuring that America's Veterans have the opportunity to provide with honor and dignity the economic necessities of life for themselves and their Families.” I would like to talk about some of the programs that are being conducted around the country. In Muskogee, Oklahoma Victor Lezama created the “Barracks” Program. It helps homeless veterans transition from the streets to actual housing. Commander Mark Pate of Squadron #294 in Heartland, Wisconsin spearheaded an event to raise awareness of Homeless Vets. Along with members of his Squadron, Post and Auxiliary and community spent two days and nights encamped in cardboard boxes over the Valentine's Day weekend. The event raised awareness and over \$20,000.00 for Wisconsin Veteran programs. Robert Carver, Squadron #19 of the Detachment of Kansas co-created the Hold'em for Hero's Program. It has raised over \$46,000.00 over the last three years. This is just a small example of events around the country.

Chairman Skelley reported on the year end Consolidated Squadron Report numbers for the Commission. Out of 6,201 Squadrons nationwide, we received 1,143 Squadron reports or 18% Squadrons reporting. From these reports, the monetary contributions were \$56,628.00. There was 17,660 hours of support at the rate of \$27.20 per hour for an equivalent total of \$480,352.00. That gives us a combined total of \$536,980.00. We must reach out to the Detachments to ensure all events and donations are reported.

S.A.L. Liaison Ken George spoke on the reporting of the CSRs. Last year, 26% of the Squadrons submitted reports. This year only 18% or 1,143 out of over 6,200 Squadrons. The Legion, which we just closed was at 70% out of over 13,000 Post. Here is my dilemma: these numbers are not just used when The American Legion goes before Congress. I have to submit a report to The American Legion and the Sons numbers are down about 10%. This is not acceptable. We have to get our reporting up, not only for Congress, but to The American Legion as well.

Nick Arceo (CO) – Thank you Chairman Skelley and welcome everyone to this conference call. I am the VE & E representative for the Midwest and Western Regions. I share what the Commission is doing and forward the V.E & E weekly update to all. I also assisted in the development of a brochure for the Commission. It is a tri-fold brochure and includes phone numbers and websites on Veterans Employment, Education, and

Homelessness. It contains our mission statement and a list of suggested activities for our Squadrons and Detachments. It has been submitted to National for approval.

James Coates (NY) – Reported that he is the Eastern Region representative. I have been sitting in on all of the region's conference calls to keep everyone informed on what the Commission is doing. My assignment was to develop a standard operation procedure (SOP) for the Commission to present to the Detachments and why they should form a VE & E Commission within their Detachments and Squadrons. The information includes what the Detachments can participate in, such as the monthly VE & E conference calls, and working with their respective Departments. Also getting information from other veterans organizations within their areas and working with them as well.

Travis Cummins (MO) – Chairman Skelley summarized Doyle Cummins' duties on the Commission. His job was to work on the tri-fold brochure as well. He continues to talk about the Office of Military and Veteran Services and the Student Veterans of America. He has worked with higher education colleges to have a student liaison on campus to help the veterans further their education.

Ray Edwards (MD) – Chairman Skelley stated that Ray Edwards has resigned from the Commission due to personal reasons. We are sad to see him leave the Commission. His task was to draft a resolution for the Marvin P. Nay VE & E Award. The resolution (NEC2020-F8) is in the hands of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Hopefully, this resolution will go forward during the virtual Fall NEC meeting. Chairman Skelley asked S.A.L. Liaison Ken George if he had an update on the resolution. Mr. George responded that there was a rumor that the National Organization was against it. He stated that that was not true, and that Mr. Nay was an excellent S.A.L. member and that this is a good resolution and it should go forward. Chairman Skelley stated that the resolution includes permission from Mr. Nay's family to name the award after him. The resolution has all the supporting documentation attached to it. We are targeting the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix for presentation.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

Chairman Skelley stated that the Veterans Education and Employment Commission is down two members. He is working with the Committee on Committees to get two new appointments to the Commission. Hopefully, this will take place with the upcoming virtual NEC meeting in September. He will keep the current members informed.

Chairman Skelley stated that in the future, all emails from the Commission will also include the conference call information for any interested parties.

As you know Job Fairs and Stand Downs have been shut down due to the Corona Virus. There are some Virtual Job Fairs that are starting to pop up on the Legion website. Send these out as you receive them.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2020 [resubmission of NEC2019-S10]

Title: Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education

Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Discussion: \$200.00 to fund an engraved plaque from American Legion Emblem Sales for presentation at the National Convention beginning in 2021

Action: Approved in a previous conference call and submitted for approval by the National Executive Committee

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

National S.A.L. Liaison Ken George addressed the Commission. Mr. George stated that in these unprecedented times he wanted to thank everyone for their flexibility in having these conference calls and Zoom meetings. He is here to answer any questions and observe that the Commission is doing.

Second Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. He thanked everyone for the hard work they have done, and for what they continue to do as a Commission.

Greg “Nick” Arceo sent prayers out to everyone to stay safe and healthy during this pandemic. I thank everyone that has participated on this call.

James Coates reiterated those prayers for everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Chairman Skelley stated that he has a personal vested interest in the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. When I took over the Commission I did not know much about VE & E, but with help and guidance quickly learned what the Commission was about. Taking a point of personal privilege, Chairman Skelley announced, “my son has joined the U.S. Navy, and I am very proud of him.” So, I have a personal interest in the Commission, and at some point in four, ten or twenty years, he may come and ask me, “Dad what did the Sons do for me and the Veterans?” So, if you thought we were busy before just wait – it's going to get busier!



**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX) adjourned the meeting  
at 8:50 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Thom Skelley. Any questions, Thom Skelley?

Hearing none, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report will be accepted and published minus the resolution.

*(Gavel)*

I now call on National Subcommittee on Resolutions chairman, John Jennings.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander.

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

**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 8 - Fall, 2020  
**Title:** Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education  
**Origin:** Veterans Employment and Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a volunteer program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the Sons of The American Legion to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission is dedicated to supporting The American Legion by assisting The American Legion in ensuring that America's veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, The actions of such individuals who assist in such vital endeavors should be recognized at the National level; and

WHEREAS, Marvin P. Nay (MA) served as Vice Chairman of the VE&E Commission for two years prior to his death, during which time he was a veterans' advocate specializing in homelessness and stand downs; and

WHEREAS, Written permission has been received from Marvin P. Nay's family for the use of his name; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on September 26, 2020, That the National Executive Committee hereby recommends the creation of the "Marvin P. Nay Award" to recognize outstanding contributions to veterans employment and education; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the members of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission shall select a winner from all qualified applicants; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the criteria for this award, a nomination form, and instructions for submitting nominations accompany this resolution as supporting documentation; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the award shall be an engraved plaque purchased from American Legion Emblem Sales at a cost not to exceed \$200.00, including mailing if necessary; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the Marvin P. Nay Award commence during the 2021 membership year, to be first presented at the 2021 National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion.**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

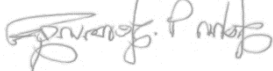


THOMAS P. SKELLEY (TX), Chairman

Veterans Employment and Education Commission

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Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

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Finance Commission Chairman Signature

[Comm. Mtg. on 9/2/20]

WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
Finance Commission

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: On our conference call of September 9th, we unanimously discussed this and unanimously approved this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings, from the Detachment of Florida, makes a motion to adopt Resolution NEC2020-F-8.

Is there a second?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Bob.

Is there any discussion on this?

Dennis Henkemeyer?

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, while I appreciate such an award, my only concern is that -- and I can only speak for northwestern Minnesota where we have a lot of small squadrons. They are in areas where there is no veterans homes, no CBOCs. Sometimes we're not even allowed to volunteer at the CBOCs up here, even if we do have one.

I'm just wondering if we should create categories for this award so that it's not just the larger squadrons in the larger communities that have the VA hospitals and whatever else. It looks like they'll be the only ones that are going to be eligible for this award.

I yield my time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman Thom Skelley, would you like to speak to that concern?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Thank you, Commander. Yes, I would.

NEC Henkemeyer, the award is actually designated for an individual SAL member. Some of the qualifications to win this might be creating a fundraiser to donate, or volunteering

hours. It doesn't necessarily have to be at the VA, if you look at things, Homeless Stand Downs and such.

So it is an individual award, and we feel that the criteria for -- at least an application for it, is fair to all members.

I yield my time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Chairman Tom.

Blair Miles, question?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MILES: Just, sir, if I May, Commander. Yes, sir, can you tell us who Marvin Nay is? I'm not familiar with that name myself.

I yield back.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman Tom?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Thank you.

Yes. Marvin Nay was a member of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. He was vice chairman. He unfortunately passed away unexpectedly last year. He was a quad member as well as, one of the only few -- the only one I know personally, a member of The Sons, he became a Legionnaire under the new LEGION Act, he qualified under his wife to become an Auxiliary member, and a Legion Rider. And he has dedicated his time to serving the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, and in his home Detachment and Department of Massachusetts.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Chairman Tom.

The NECman from Ohio.

NECMAN WILLIAM SUTTERLIN (OH): Yeah, I was just getting in on that second, but I didn't get called. So I thought I put my hand down, but apparently it didn't go down.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: National Vice Commander Blair, did you have a follow-up question?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MILES: No. I was just saying thank you. I didn't know if I undid my hand or not.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any other questions?

If there are no objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

*(Gavel)*

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir, Dennis.

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: Mr. Commander, I would like the record to reflect that I vote "no." Thank you.

I yield my time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir. Noted.

We will now proceed with the National Subcommittee on Resolutions' report.

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

## **Report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions**

**John T. Jennings, Chairman, Florida**

### Subcommittee on Resolutions

#### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm EDT on September 9, 2020 as a conference call  
by Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) .

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	John T. Jennings (FL)	Members:	Joe Keiser (NV)
Secretary:	Anthony W. Wright (PA)		Jay Marsden (MO)
	National Adjutant		David Blair, II (TX)
Liaison:	(none assigned)		John Chang (NY)
	Past National Commander		
Guests:	National S.A.L. Liaison Ken George (FR); Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN); National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY); National Assistant Adjutant Scott Thornton (OH)		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Jennings declared the minutes of the Fall 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, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Ernest E. Laberge (MA) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts  
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2020 [resubmission of NEC2019-S12]

Title: National Executive Committeeman Training  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Action: Motion to return the resolution to the Member Training and Development Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission for consideration and evaluation made by Joe Keiser (NV); seconded by John Chang (NY).  
Discussion: \$6,500.00 annually to fund a training program for NECmen at the Fall NEC Meetings  
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Matthew Griffis (AZ) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Arizona  
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Ohio  
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Ronald E. Roberts (MS) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Mississippi  
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2020

Title: Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee  
Origin: Detachment of Mississippi  
Action: Returned to Mississippi by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Terry Harris (KS) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Kansas  
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2020 [resubmission of NEC2019-S10]

Title: Create the Marvin P. Nay Award for Outstanding Contributions to National Veterans Employment and Education  
Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission  
Action: Motion to approve the resolution made by David Blair (TX); seconded by Jay Marsden (MO).  
Discussion: \$200.00 to fund an engraved plaque from American Legion Emblem Sales for presentation at the National Convention beginning in 2021  
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Fall, 2020

Title: Endorsement of Michael L. Kirschner (CO) for National Vice Commander  
Origin: Detachment of Colorado  
Action: Received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

S.A.L. Resolution 10 – Fall, 2020

Title: Membership Goal Setting  
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
Action: Motion to return the resolution to the Membership Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission for consideration of more equality for all detachments made by Jay Marsden (MO); seconded by Joseph Keiser (NV).  
Discussion: Set membership goals based on the previous year's "Delegate Strength Target Date;" set a 3% detachment growth goal; and set a 5-member increase goal for detachments under 350 members; all beginning with the 2021-2022 membership year.  
Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 11 – Fall, 2020

Title: Call-In Approval for All Members of the National Legislative Commission  
Origin: Legislative Commission  
Action: Motion to reject the resolution made by Joe Keiser (NV); seconded by John Change (NY).  
Discussion: Fund call-in reimbursement for all members of the Legislative Commission to attend the Washington Conference beginning with the 2021-2022 budget year.



Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 12 – Fall, 2020

Title: Call-In Approval for the Sons of The American Legion National Chaplain

Origin: Legislative Commission

Action: Motion to return the resolution to the Legislative Commission pending the outcome of The American Legion's review of all call-in structures made by Joe Keiser (NV); seconded by John Chang (NY).

Discussion: Fund call-in reimbursement for the National Chaplain to attend the Washington Conference beginning with the 2021-2022 budget year.

Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 13 – Fall, 2020 [resubmission of NEC2019-F5]

Title: Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Action: Motion to approve the resolution made by John Chang (NY); seconded by Jay Marsden (MO).

Discussion: Amend Article IV (Eligibility), Section 1 of the National Constitution due to the LEGION Act.

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 14 – Fall, 2020

Title: 2020 Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Action: Motion to approve the resolution made by David Blair (TX); seconded by Jay Marsden (MO).

Discussion: Change the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee meeting to a virtual format due to COVID-19 concerns and regulations.

Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

#### S.A.L. Resolution 15 – Fall, 2020

Title: Revision of Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Action: Motion to approve the resolution made by Jay Marsden (MO); seconded by John Chang (NY).

Discussion: Amend the Preamble to the National Constitution as a result of the LEGION Act to replace "the Great Wars" with "all wars."

Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 16 – Fall, 2020

Title: Revision of Article X of the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

Origin: Finance Commission

Action: Motion to approve the resolution made by David Blair (TX); seconded by Jay Marsden (MO).

Discussion: Amend Article X of the National Constitution to simplify the explanation of membership dues..

Disposition: Motion carried on a voice vote.

S.A.L. Resolution 17 – Fall, 2020

Title: Membership Goal Incentive

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

Action: Returned to Mississippi by the Internal Affairs Commission.

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

None.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) adjourned the meeting  
at 9:20 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman John Jennings?

National Vice Commander Ned Fox?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Thank you, Commander.

Through the chairs to the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Looking at Resolution Number 14, you know, it kind of leaves it open on when that was sent to the -- via

email to the committee, to your committee members. I'd like to know when that took place. And I think your report should reflect that, on the date that that took place. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman John, would you like to answer that?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Do I have a choice, Commander?

*(Laughter)*

This resolution was held by email back in August of 2020. The resolution had not officially been brought before the body, and it was delivered in packet as SAL Resolution 14, and it was going to have disposition taken on it to date. I have it front of me to read, but it did not make a bullet on the agenda.

I yield back.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other questions?

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

So maybe I'm a little slow, being as we got up early out here, but when was it presented to the Committee on Subcommittee of Resolutions via email? That, I hope, clears my confusion for anybody else. But when was it submitted to the committee? I appreciate a response.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman John, would you have --

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, sir. NVC Ned, this was a resolution that had been sent out via email vote back on August 20th, back in August, for acceptance. The resolution was presented to me about two weeks prior to this NEC in a written form to be disposed on today. That's all I can tell you, sir.

I yield back.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Chairman John.

Any other questions?

All right. If there are no objections, the Subcommittee on Resolutions report will be accepted as published.

*(Gavel)*

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir, Chairman John.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Minus Resolution 14, sir.

I yield back.

### **Old Business**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We will now proceed with old business.

The National Executive Committee adopted three resolutions electronically since our last physical meeting. For the record, they are:

Resolution NEC 2020 Spring-8, the cancellation of the Spring 2020 National Executive Committee meeting. It was adopted March 8th, 2020.

Resolution NEC 2020 Spring-11, cancellation of the 2020 Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. It was adopted April 22nd, 2020. Note, this resolution also stipulated that all national officers and committee and commission chairmen, members, will continue serving in their current position through the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Resolution NEC 2020 Fall-14. The 2020 Fall meeting of the National Executive Committee. It was adopted August 13th, 2020.

Is there any other old business to be brought before the National Executive Committee?  
National Vice Commander Ned?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER FOX: Thank you, Commander Clint Bolt.

How can we adopt a resolution prior to it actually being submitted to the Subcommittee on Resolutions and to Internal Affairs? Seems like we jumped ahead without following the procedures in place.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So let's be clear. This resolution you're talking about affected what we're doing right now. In addition to that, the resolution was circulated to all voting members of the NEC for their agreement and action onto it. I believe I could be mistaken, but I think it was 48-to-2 was the final.

So the action of that, to cancel this meeting or defer this meeting to a virtual environment, for which we are currently experiencing, you know, it's a circular reference question that you're not going to have an answer to it.

Honestly, it's one which I don't think carries any value of discussion. We did that which was indeed required, needed. It was voted on appropriately by the voting members of this National Executive Committee. I don't know the exact time that J.J. did get or didn't get it, should have gotten it, whether he didn't get it. I don't know any of that. It's not applicable nor is it of any substance to the discussion.

We are here, where we're at right now, and anything that gets further involved in Resolution 14 just makes this event longer than it should be.

So quite honestly, Mr. Commander, I would say that any more questions regarding that are simply out of order and we move on.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Bob Brown?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia. I concur with the ruling of the judge advocate. That intent of using electronic communications has been on the rules of the NEC for several years now, and it was handled accordingly in the only fashion that we could, considering the state of the health of the nation at the time. I think we have done with it as we should, and we should move on.

I yield.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Bob.

### **New Business**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any new business to be brought before the NEC?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there anything for the Good of The Sons of The American Legion?

John Jennings, Detachment of Florida.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, sir. Mr. Commander, John Jennings, NEC, Detachment of Florida.

Just for a point of privilege, I want to give a big shout-out to Scott Thornton, which all of you know that Scott's been working on our register of resolutions for quite some period of time. And some of you may have seen the register, may not have seen. But he is doing a phenomenal job, and I'd like for that to be in the record, because he is working very diligently, with a lot of integrity, putting stuff together for us to do a better job with research on resolutions.

With that said, Commander, I'd like to say in my closing to thank you, thank your staff, thank you, Ken George and his staff, for putting together this virtual meeting that I was very skeptical about to start with, wondering how efficient it would come out. But after sitting on it, watching it, it has surpassed anything that I could have thought of.

With that, I yield back.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, John.

You need to raise hands. It works for us. We're not stepping on each other.

Tom Marsden, go ahead.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN MARSDEN: Mr. Commander, I would like to apologize for not being in proper uniform and what have you for the meeting. I am out doing recovery work in the Louisiana-Mississippi-Alabama area, and I just wanted to apologize to everybody for not being properly attired.

I yield my time back.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Tom. Keep up the good work there in Louisiana. I know they need you, sir.

All right. National Adjutant Tony Wright?

### **Final Announcements**

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: While I don't have any announcements of any positive news, what I'm about to say, I received word from our national assistant adjutant, Scott Thornton, this morning that he was unable to attend our meeting due to his father being admitted to the hospital for health reasons. And secondly, our National Child Welfare chairman, Mark Nave, his father was admitted to the hospital earlier this morning as well.

Therefore, I ask everyone to keep Scott's and Mark's families in their prayers.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

If there is no further business to come before this National Executive Committee meeting, I now call on National Chaplain Rodney Tolbert, who will lead us in the closing prayer. Please rise and uncover.

### **Benediction**

#### **Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan**

Bless us, Lord, as we leave here today. Take Your passion with us. Fan the flames after we part and inspire our best contributions. Remind us always of Your love, as we see our plans unfold and accomplish the goals we have set here today.

In Your name. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Amen.

Please cover.

Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligations 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 a 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 others, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy.

The colors of our nation being in place, would you join me in a hand salute. One. Two.

I now declare the 2020 Fall NEC meeting virtually adjourned.

*...At 1:53 p.m., Sunday, September 26, 2020, the National Executive Committee meeting of The Sons of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.*