

## **CONVENTION COMMISSION**

**Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman**  
**Bridget A. Robinson, CMP, CMM, Georgia, Director**

The 103<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of The American Legion convened in Milwaukee Aug. 26-Sept. 1, 2022. National Commander Paul E. Dillard of Texas called the national convention to order at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30, welcoming Legionnaires to Milwaukee and thanking them for their continuing service to our country and our veterans. The convention began with the opening ceremony, which included Rob Jones, a USMC veteran and Paralympian, who addressed nearly 5,000 American Legion Family members on Tuesday morning. Other guest speakers addressing the 103<sup>rd</sup> National Convention were LTG Walter Piatt, Director of the Army Staff; CSM Robert M. Patterson, USA (ret.) Medal of Honor recipient; Hon. Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Hon. Ron Johnson, U.S. Senate; Hon. Scott Fitzgerald, U.S. House of Representatives; Hon. Mary M. Kolar, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs; Hon. Cavalier Johnson, Mayor of the City of Milwaukee. Also, Chip Ganassi, Jimmie Johnson and Tony Kanaan were in attendance.

There were many highlights during the 2022 national convention, but four events deserve special mention. On Friday, Aug. 26, the Color Guard Contest took place and was well attended. Four color guards competed in three categories with Newport Harbor Post 291 of Newport Beach, Calif., being awarded the National Commander's Color Guard title. Four bands participated in the Competitive Concert Band Contest on Saturday, Aug. 27, with Joliet American Legion Band of Joliet, Ill., being crowned national champions. There was one exhibition band. The Patriotic Memorial Service, featuring the Bel Canto Chorus, was attended by approximately 2,000 American Legion Family members on Sunday, Aug. 28. On Tuesday, Aug. 30, the National Commander's Banquet for distinguished guests was held at the Milwaukee Convention Center. The banquet featured the local all-genre band Front of House as the entertainment and was attended by over 2,300 Legionnaires and guests.

### CONVENTION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

The Convention Commission conducted three regular meetings during the year: the 2022 Washington Conference, Spring Meetings and Fall Meetings. Revisions of the request for proposal (RFP) continued in 2022. This process is extremely important as it provides an equal opportunity for all cities to be evaluated the same way during the site visit process. It is the commission's desire to continue to attract new cities that desire to host an American Legion national convention, providing "blue cap" Legionnaires and their families with varied and enjoyable conventions on an annual basis.

For the 2028 National Convention, the commission received two departments of The American Legion that submitted the proper resolution expressing their interest in bidding on the convention. The two cities supported by the appropriate resolution were Columbus, Ohio, and Oklahoma City. Site visits were conducted after the first of the year. Following the site visits and after listening to formal presentations from each city, the Convention Commission recommended to the National Executive Committee that Columbus, be awarded the 2028 National Convention for the dates of Aug. 25-Aug. 31, 2028. The National Executive Committee later approved the recommendation.

#### **Future conventions and dates:**

Charlotte, N.C.	Aug. 25 – 31, 2023
New Orleans, La.	Aug. 23 – 29, 2024
Tampa Bay, Fla.	Aug. 22 – 28, 2025
Louisville, Ky.	Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 2026
Kansas City, Mo.	Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2027
Columbus, Ohio	Aug. 25 – 31, 2028