PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Fall Meeting

Sheraton Hotel City Centre
Indianapolis, Indiana

October 13 - 14, 2018

Stenographic Record By:
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At 8:30 a.m., Saturday, October 13, 2018, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Gibbs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I'd like to call this meeting to order. Gentlemen, the colors are in place. Hand salute: One, two.

National Chaplain will invoke the blessing of God on us. Please uncover.

Invocation

David L. Rippe, Delaware, National Chaplain

Heavenly Father, we ask for Your guidance this weekend as we meet as Sons of The American Legion. May our minds be clear and our hearts open to share and receive information to better our organization.

We ask You to comfort and protect the victims of Hurricane Florence and Michael.

Heavenly Father, we are saddened at the death of Past National Commander Chris Huntzinger and past Detachment of Georgia Commander Mark Wells. It is hard to see any sense in their deaths, but we believe they were taken from us for a purpose; there is a purpose in all things. May this loss and pain impact sacred meaning to our lives and purpose.

There are other hearts that grieve at this time. Help us send love and comfort to us. We will recover and laugh again, but we will never forget them. Amen.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Gentlemen, you'll notice the flag is draped for Past National Commander Chris Huntzinger, and I'd personally like to dedicate this weekend of meetings to him, in his honor.
POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

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

Sergeant-at-arms, please place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, gentlemen.

Our national vice commander from Colorado, Pete Sierminski, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: You may recover.

Our national vice commander from Arizona, Ed Cleary, will lead us in recital the Preamble to our Constitution.

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

Gentlemen, as we proceed this weekend, this is a reminder, we've mentioned this in the past. But we have Janine with us over in the side for us who takes notes for us, and then notes are also taped. So you must, you must come to a microphone when you have something to say, give us your name, your title, and what state you're from. Otherwise it will not appear on the tape, and that will present problems for our minutes. So please cooperate with that both today and tomorrow.

Anthony?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Pursuant to Section 2, Article 7 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 October 13th and 14th, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: National Adjutant Wright will now call the roll.

Roll Call

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

National Commander

National Vice Commanders
East:  Michael S. Cotten, Delaware
South: Steve A. Gower, Sr., Virginia
Central: Matthew T. Christie, Illinois
Midwest: Peter J. Sierminski, Colorado
West:  Edward M. Cleary, Arizona

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

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

National Chaplain
David L. Rippe, Nebraska

National Historian
Timothy S. Van Patten, II, New York

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Gregory A. Falco, New York

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas - EXCUSED
Raymond P. Giehl, III, Indiana
Augustin R. Diaz, Alaska - EXCUSED
Charles Curtis, California

National Commander's Aide
Gary W. Denmon, New York
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Danny J. Smith, Nebraska

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
Robert H. Faust, California - EXCUSED
James R. Hartman, Maryland
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland
David P. Stephens, Indiana
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota
Eugene L. Sacco, California
Roland D. Matteson, Arizona
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
John T. Dietz, Kentucky
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana - EXCUSED
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Steven C. Laws, North Carolina
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
James K. Roberts, III, Florida - EXCUSED
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland
Michael W. Moss, Colorado - EXCUSED
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska - EXCUSED
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - EXCUSED
Brian J. O'Hearne, Massachusetts

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEEMEN

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Commander, that completes roll call. You have a quorum.
NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I now declare this 2018 fall meeting of the National Executive Committee regularly convened.

Adjutant Wright, the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting?

(Laughter)

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: I'll read it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: If there's no objection, the minutes will be filed as published, subject to corrections and additions.

NECMAN JAMES HUNTER (IL): Hunter, Illinois, NEC.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, you're recognized.

NECMAN HUNTER: I make the motion as stated by the commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Again, if there is no objection, the minutes will be published and filed subject to any corrections or additions.

We have a motion. I would entertain a second to that motion.

Joseph Keiser, Nevada.

NECMAN JOSEPH KEISER (NV): NEC Joseph Keiser, Detachment of Nevada. I would second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Okay. Carried, thank you.

Opening Remarks

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

I'm going to just begin with just a few brief remarks.
NECmen, you've seen these probably at your table. These were passed out at convention. For those in the audience, they are a flash drive and it contains the handbook and the calendar for the year, some of the information that Chuck Treat began several years ago. So each of the NECmen should have one of these. We do have a few extra. And if you're interested, please see myself or my aide, Gary Denmon, in the next two days and we'll fix you. Ray Jarvis from New York has these with him. And if you need an additional one, NECmen, please let us know. There's also eight gigs of memory on that, so you can put all your reports for this whole year on that drive and keep it with you.

Also you may have seen these at your place. These are the official rules of the NEC. If you've never seen this before, please familiarize yourself with it immediately for the proceedings of today and tomorrow, and keep this with you and pass this on as needed.

Also, gentlemen, for those of you who still don't understand the "What's up, Doc" thing, that is my father's insignia from World War II in the Marine Corps, and that's where part of the "What's up, Doc" comes from. My dad was a Marine airman in World War II. And I also come from a three Blue Star family from World War II: my dad and his two brothers.

(Applause)

However, you may have noticed on the TV when you came in, there was a scrolling program set up by Seth Rippe. I talked with Seth later this summer, actually, about showcasing the people that gave us our eligibility: our fathers, our mothers, our grandparents, whoever that may be. And Seth got about a hundred responses. If you have not responded to Seth, we're going to keep that going all year long, and hopefully, at convention in Indianapolis next August, that slide show will go for quite a few number of minutes.
So please send Seth any photo you have of the person that gave you eligibility in our fine organization. In military dress, that would be great. If you don't have one of those, any picture would be fine. Give Seth your information, and he'll make sure it gets up on that screen. And we'll have that rolling at different times this weekend again.

Before we begin, I'd like to have any of our dual members please stand and be recognized.

Gentlemen, we appreciate your service.

(Applause)

Thank you.

I always felt it was interesting that our dual members, that they honor their mothers or fathers or grandparents so much that they chose to be involved in the Sons, perhaps rather than The American Legion, which is a great honor and we love to have you here. Thank you.

Would any first-time attendees please stand up and be recognized. Any first-time attendees to the NEC. Excellent.

(Applause)

Thank you, gentlemen. Thank you very much.

Now, I actually do have some personal remarks. We have an unprecedented opportunity this coming year. As all of you are aware, it's The American Legion's 100th anniversary. Certainly, while it is not our 100th year, we still play a big part of our parent organization's celebration, and we still are an active part of the Team 100 that our Legion commander, Brett Reistad, speaks of.
This year there will be a tremendous amount spent on public relations and showing what The American Legion has truly done for our country. This covers certainly the Four Pillars: Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs, Americanism, and Homeland Security.

The legislation alone that has been connected to The American Legion is truly mind-boggling. For one organization to wield that much clout and power is unheard of, yet the Legion has forged many social legislation items that have helped create the American middle class as we know it since World War II.

During this year we'll be able to capitalize on that fanfare and those public relations and also showcase what The Sons of The American Legion is all about and how we impact our local communities and our nation.

While this heightened awareness is upon us this year, reach out and draw in those that are eligible for membership. It is simply the "just ask" phrase that we've all heard about for years. But this year may be the year that people are truly hearing about what The American Legion and The American Legion family does maybe for the first time in many years.

It is our goal this year, as The Sons of The American Legion, to give The American Legion the best anniversary gift ever: the highest Sons membership as well as the highest charitable donations. We will remain steadfast in our focus on the Child Welfare Fund, CWF, this year, and also NEF, the National Emergency Fund. Much of the funds for NEF have been depleted this year due to Mother Nature's wrath, and it needs replenishment. And as you can see, there were a number of folks that were excused from the meeting that probably have been in harm's way this past week, and our prayers and thoughts go out to all of them.

Just a few housekeeping items. Again, I mentioned the dog tags, the thumb drives, plenty of room on those for your reports this year.
We also are looking to impact our 20- to 30-year-old members this year. We have a number of them. Certainly the Detachment of New York has a bunch, my squadron has some. They're there, they're on our membership rosters. But we'd like to find out how we can make them more active in our meetings, our activities, and our organization's leadership roles.

These are our future leaders. We need to engage them now, to involve them, to train them, and to embrace them to the fullest degree. Find out what it takes to get them to play a more active role, and share that information in your reports throughout this year.

We hope that by convention we have some answers to share. If we don't, we're planning to have a forum, and we may even have a forum anyway, at the national convention for 20- to 30-year-old members, have them all in one room or those that come, and ask them, "We know your time is limited. We know you're a young person just starting maybe your career for the first time, you may be starting a young family. And you are a member, so you've chosen to get involved with The Sons. How can we help you be more involved? What can we do for you to make Sons a bigger part of your life? And how can you help us with our upcoming leadership roles in the next few years?"

We need to do that and we need to do it now.

This can be a banner year, but it's up to you. Take advantage of the great 100th year public relations and the attention and help spread the word about The Sons of The American Legion. I hope that will get us rolling, gentlemen.

I've got a few more announcements before we break into our side meetings.

We do have some appointments to national commissions and committees. I understand that Richard Humphrey from Colorado is joining the Legislative Commission this time around to fill a gap.
Do I need to have a motion, Anthony?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: And we would entertain a motion to accept any appointments to national commissions and committees before we break out.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, go ahead.

NECMAN C. COOK: Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, you're recognized.

NECMAN C. COOK: I make a motion to accept the appointments.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: You're recognized.

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: Detachment of Minnesota, NECmen.

I second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the matter?

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

All right, carried.

At this time we'd like to have Paul Brown come up to the podium and give us some greetings from our national SAL liaison.

*(Standing ovation)*
Greetings

Paul Brown, California, National SAL Staff Liaison

Well, it's been a year, and it's been an interesting year. There's been a lot of things that have happened and I've learned a lot. More than anything else in this last year, I've learned that I have a lot of friends in this room. And I think we've overcome a lot. And we've overcome some issues and created some along the way.

One thing that I've learned is how impressive this organization is as far as what they can do, and when you guys put your mind to it, what you can overcome. That's been very impressive.

I stand here kind of a little humbled, because a lot of the things and a lot of the intentions I had as far as what I wanted to implement, we were only able to introduce. And I'm sad to say right now that I am actually stepping down from my role. And many of you in the room are already aware of that because I'm taking on the role of department adjutant for the Department of California in about a month, so this is my last month at national headquarters here.

I definitely, before I go, kind of want to just take a little bit of your time and say thank you to a few people. First of all, this last year was unique. If it wasn't for a few people helping me out in my role, I would not have succeeded at all. Two of those people, first of all, is the national adjutant, Anthony Wright, thank you very much. And also the immediate past national commander, Danny Smith, thank you very much, I appreciate it. John Kerestan, I'm very glad to see you in the audience, because if it wasn't for the ability to be able to call you, I wouldn't say I called you at night but I'd call at any
time during the day and get a response about where this body was buried or that body was buried. I thank you very much.

(Laughter)

I will tell you this. John, I think if it wasn't for your mentorship as far as me understanding the role, I wouldn't have had any success. And I hope my successor, you're able to provide the same type of support to, because I don't know how he's going to get by without it.

So it's kind of been a sad part because the friendships I've made here, that I'm moving on. But you know me, I don't like to take up a lot of your time so I'm not going to. But I will say that, starting in April when I knew what was going to be happening with me, I started looking for someone that could do a good job to not only replace me but be a benefit to this organization.

I started talking with Ken George, unfortunately he's from California, too, but anyway. He's not only a Legion member but he's also an SAL member as well as a Rider member, has experience in all three organizations, has the intelligence, the savvy, and the follow-through to be a benefit to you as a national staff liaison. He's joined staff, he's been here for about a month, probably about six weeks total. And I have a lot of faith in that he's going to carry the torch forward on what we've been working on and where the organization needs to grow from a staff perspective.

I'm going to step down. I just want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you very much for the opportunity. I know I'm leaving this opportunity way too soon, and I do have some regrets about some of the things I was not able to see through. But thank you very much for all the support you gave me and the trust you gave me in this role and the willingness that all of you had to work with me in this past year. Thank you very much.
Greetings

Ken George, California, Incoming National SAL Staff Liaison

It's been a while since I've done that. Good morning, everybody.

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

Come on, good morning, everybody.

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

That's what I want to hear. There's a lot of enthusiasm here, and I'm very proud and very humbled at the same time that I get to be your liaison. And I'm excited, I'm looking forward to it. I've already started with your strategic plan and moving that forward. We are back on track, and I will be talking with a lot of you this weekend.

A little about myself. I am from the Department of California. However, I grew up in Illinois in one of the Chicago suburbs. Where's Illinois at? All right. Where's Wisconsin at, by the way? Hey there, go Packers.

(Laughter)

The strategic plan, I've got some items I've been working on, working some of the online services you've been asking about, and I want to move that forward. I'm trying to pick the low-hanging fruit, take care of that, and let's get on the more complicated issues that will bring this organization forward.

One last thing I'd like to mention as well, a couple of states I'd like to recognize. I lived in Arkansas for a while. Where is Arkansas? Soo pig, go hogs; right? Then where's California at? There you guys are, all right.
So anyway, I'll be around all weekend. Please feel free to approach me, call me, tell me what you like, tell me what you don't like, let's talk about it, let's create dialogue. But let's solve problems.

You guys have a good weekend. Show the federal government how to really do business, not some of the craziness and the circus we've had in Washington, DC. Thank you very much and I look forward to meeting you.

*(Standing ovation)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, gentlemen.

We do want to break shortly for our meetings, but we do have just a few more minor things to take care of.

There have been maybe a few changes to the agenda that you received in your packet. I think the only one that affects us this morning is the time of the finance meeting in the Ohio room on the 21st floor will be 10:00 rather than 9:00. I think that's the only piece right now that needs attention.

Just a reminder that tomorrow, our religious services, through the grace of our chaplain, David Rippe, begin here at 6:45 in the morning. Please attend. The detachment commander's breakfast will immediately follow that. However, that room upstairs will not be open any earlier than 7:15 just due to housekeeping measures. So please do not go up to the 21st floor and be waiting there at 7:00; it will not be open until 7:15. Please help us with that to make that as smooth as possible.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER THOMAS CISNA (IL): Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: PNC Tommy Cisna, go ahead.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CISNA: I wish to extend a huge thank you to the National Sons of The American Legion. I fell ill at the national convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and I was hospitalized. The cards and greetings that I received were very uplifting, and I'm very proud that I belong to a very active national organization. And thank you to those that made the arduous trip by bus or by car to come see me in the hospital, it meant the world to me.

My long-suffering wife Kathy has been taking very good care of me at home: driver, chef, caregiver. She's been awesome. I'd also like to especially extend a thank you to Bruno and Patty Williamson and Butch and Pinky Ray for helping Kat handle all this struggle, as we were very far away from home, plus all the good food that they smuggled into the hospital for me.

(Laughter)

I'm doing well and I'm back to work, and again, I thank you all very much. Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

Ray Giehll, you're recognized.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAYMOND P. GIEHLL, JR. (IN): PNC

Raymond Giehll, Jr. speaking as the chairman of the Committee on Committees.

This is the weekend that we do interviews for national chaplain, including the leading candidates national chaplain and future chaplain. So if you are interested in being chaplain now or somewhere down the road, Committee on Committees meets in the Circle Centre Room at 1 p.m. Give us a little time, we have a few things to talk about, but feel free to come down between 1 and 1:30 and we'll get you in as soon as we can. Thank you, Commander.
NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Ray.

Yes?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEVE LAWS (NC): Mr Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: You're recognized.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER LAWS: Leading candidate Clint Bolt has asked me to remind everyone that lunch will be served next door beginning at 11:00. Please go by and see Clint.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good, thank you.

J.J., you're recognized.

NECMAN JOHN JENNINGS (FL): Yes, sir. Mr. Commander, the one correction on the Subcommittee on Resolutions meeting. It will not be in the board room. It will be at 1:00, but it's going to be straight across the hall in the Centre West Room. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

Does everybody have that? Subcommittee on Resolutions, Centre Room, same time, across the hall.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PETER SIERMINSKI (CO): Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes. Pete Sierminski, you are recognized.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SIERMINSKI: National vice commander from the Midwest, Pete Sierminski.

The Midwest will have a caucus out in the lobby by the elevators immediately following recess.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. Thank you.
Yes, sir. State your name and title.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER JAMES FISCHER (CA): James Fischer, Detachment of California, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, you're recognized.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER FISCHER: I'd like to approach the podium for the purpose of giving the commander a gift.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. Certainly.

(Laughter)

Don't turn down gifts, I guess.

DETACHMENT COMMANDER FISCHER: Commander, this is a pin of the National American Legion Rose Parade float.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good. Thank you very much. Hope to be there.

(Applause)

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MATTHEW CHRISTIE (IL): Mr. Commander, Matt Christie, Central vice commander.


NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CHRISTIE: I'd like to, after this meeting, Central Region caucus, I'd like to have it out here in front of emblem sales. How does that sound?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Steve Gower from Virginia, you're recognized.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER STEVE GOWER (VA): Thank you, Mr. Commander. Southern Region caucus, we will meet back here in the back corner.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good.
Ed Cleary from Arizona, you're recognized.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER EDWARD CLEARY (AZ): The West is going to meet right outside the doors, across the hall.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Mike Cotten from Delaware, you're recognized.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MICHAEL COTTEN (DE): Gentlemen of the East, up here in the front, left.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have one more bit of presentation this morning.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJ. EMERITUS HAROLD THOMPSON, JR. (NE): Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, Harold, you're recognized.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJ. EMERITUS THOMPSON: Harold Thompson, national assistant adjutant emeritus.

I do have some breakfast tickets. If you need some, I will stop past the commanders room to make sure all the commanders have their breakfast tickets. But then meet me outside and we will have what's left for sale, or otherwise see me up in the office area.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Joe Keiser from Nevada, you're recognized.

NECMAN JOSEPH KEISER (NV): Mr. Commander, Joseph Keiser, NEC. Permission to approach the podium for purposes of donation to CWF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. What we would like to do, gentlemen, just because -- yes, you're welcome to come up, Joe. For time purposes this morning, we'd love to do most of the donations tomorrow. So if you're going to be here both today and tomorrow, we'd appreciate it if you would do that tomorrow. If you're obviously leaving on a flight or
something and not going to be here for the full meeting tomorrow, we would accept donations this morning as well.

So just for timeliness, we'd love to put it off until tomorrow, if that's okay.

NECMAN KEISER: I can do that, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: However, it is open to anyone who does have donations that know they need to do it today, please take care of that at this time.

Okay. Gentlemen, we have a special declaration for this morning to a special lady who is with us. I'd like to read this, and then I'm going to call the folks up to near the flags this morning.

**Recognition of Service of Eveline Thompson**

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: This is a special declaration presented to Eveline Thompson. In recognition of your many years of continuous dedicated service to The Sons of The American Legion, you are hereby appointed "Official Mom" of the national staff of The Sons of The American Legion. Signed this 22nd day of September, 2018, in conjunction with your 100th birthday celebration.

Please come up.

*(Standing ovation)*

This is presented from the office of the national headquarters of The Sons of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, attested by myself as commander and Anthony Wright as national adjutant.

It's a pleasure to have you with us. Thank you for all your years of service. God bless you.

*(Applause)*
Thank you. We wish you many, many more.

Thank you, Harold.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJ. EMERITUS HAROLD THOMPSON, JR. (NE): Would all the assistant adjutant please come forward. John if he's still in the room.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Come on up so we can get a picture of you all together, please.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJ. EMERITUS THOMPSON, JR.: Brian.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: All right, gentlemen. Unless there's any other -- would you like to sing "Happy Birthday"? We could do that. Could we have a rousing round of "Happy Birthday"? One time.

...The National Executive Committee sang "Happy Birthday" to Eveline Thompson.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Wow, I hope I'm here at 100 to be able to hear that. Whew.

Unless there's any -- yes, Mark, you're recognized.

CHAIRMAN MARK NAVE (PA): Good morning, Commander. Permission to come to the podium for a CWF fundraiser.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Certainly.

CHAIRMAN NAVE: Good morning, everyone. Can I ask one of the sergeant-at-arms to have the CWF committee to bring in the quilt from the table outside.

What we have is a quilt which we'll show you in a second. It has the stitchings of all the state flags of our nation. It was given to us by the CWF yesterday and we're going to do a silent auction on it. So we have a sign-up sheet out at the table outside, and we'll be accepting bids
for this quilt from now up until 2 p.m. today. And then tomorrow morning during our meeting, we'll announce who will be the winner of this quilt. As the gentlemen quickly bring it in.

So this quilt will be auctioned off. The sign-up sheet is at our table. In addition, we also have hoodies, which will definitely be needed this weekend with the weather, and they're going for $50. We also have polo shirts that are on sale outside for $30, and a CWF T-shirt which is on sale for $20, and we have some piggy banks that are still remaining that you can take and collect some funds towards CWF.

So we look forward to some great bids and raise money for our kids. Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you. Silent auction, so please sign up outside.

Anything else before we adjourn this at the moment?

Okay. With the colors being in place, let's hand salute: One, two.

The NEC is now in recess until 8:45 a.m. tomorrow.

...At 9:17 a.m., Saturday, October 13, 2018, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, October 14, 2018.

SECOND DAY

Sunday, October 14, 2018

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Gentlemen, we'd like to call this meeting to order. With the colors in place, please hand salute by the numbers: One, two.

The chaplain will invoke the blessing of God. Please uncover.
Invocation

David L. Rippe, National Chaplain, Delaware

Almighty God, you are the king of kings and lord of lords. You hold all authority in heaven and earth. We seek to give you the respect you deserve. We acknowledge the areas of responsibility you have put in our lives. You have ordained that we be a leader in our home, church, and workplace. We ask to be the best leaders that we can be. By our faith we believe you will bring wisdom and guidance that is needed to coincide with your plan and purpose.

Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, David.

National Vice Commander Matt Christie will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: National Vice Commander Pete Sierminski, Colorado, will lead us in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: National Adjutant Anthony Wright will now call the roll.

Roll Call

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

National Commander

National Vice Commanders
East: Michael S. Cotten, Delaware
South: Steve A. Gower, Sr., Virginia
Central: Matthew T. Christie, Illinois
Midwest: Peter J. Sierminski, Colorado
West: Edward M. Cleary, Arizona

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

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

National Chaplain
David L. Rippe, Nebraska

National Historian
Timothy S. Van Patten, II, New York

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Gregory A. Falco, New York

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas - EXCUSED
Raymond P. Giehl, III, Indiana
Augustin R. Diaz, Alaska - EXCUSED
Charles Curtis, California

National Commander's Aide
Gary W. Denmon, New York
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Danny J. Smith, Nebraska

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
Robert H. Faust, California - EXCUSED
James R. Hartman, Maryland
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland
David P. Stephens, Indiana
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota
Eugene L. Sacco, California
Roland D. Matteson, Arizona
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
John T. Dietz, Kentucky
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Steven C. Laws, North Carolina
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
James K. Roberts, III, Florida - EXCUSED
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland
Michael W. Moss, Colorado - EXCUSED
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska - EXCUSED
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - EXCUSED
Brian J. O'Hearne, Massachusetts

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

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

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Commander, that completes roll call. You have a quorum.
NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  Before we begin the regular business, we have a guest speaker with us this morning.  However, I just want to remind you again, same rules apply as yesterday.  When you have something to address the dais with, please go to the microphone, tell us your name, your title, and the detachment or whatever you represent.  We need to do that again for our minutes.  Janine is taking our minutes again today, and that puts everything on tape.  So please cooperate with that.

I was the one who went off key yesterday and introduced people because I've known them for 20 years, but I should let you introduce yourselves.  So please do that at the microphone.

Gentlemen, please stand.  We have our national commander from The American Legion, Brett Reistad, with us this morning.  I'd like to welcome him up to the podium.

(Standing ovation)

Gentlemen, before I actually -- as I introduce our National Commander Brett Reistad, who are we?

...The National Executive Committee shouted "Team 100!"

**Brett P. Reistad**

**American Legion National Commander, Virginia**

We don't have that on video?  We're going to incorporate that again before I leave so I can put it on my Facebook page.

Commander Greg, past national commanders, officers, distinguished guests, fellow officers, good morning.  It's an honor for me to be here this morning with you and to bring greetings to you from The American Legion.
We've got a lot to do this week. And what I enjoy about these conferences, the fall and spring conferences or meetings, is that we can have fun as we work. I hope some of you had the opportunity to join us last night to join us over at Post 64 for my homecoming event. I think good food was had by everybody and great fellowship. I appreciate those of you that took the time to be able to come out and do that.

As I travel the country, and I've been doing so now for about a month and a half, many of the visits that I make take me to posts in the states that we're visiting. We've been already to about eight, and there is always a significant presence of your brethren out there during our visits. And I'm impressed by some of the circumstances by which I come into contact with The Sons. It really heartens me when I come to a small-town post and there's a color guard standing outside, waiting for me, and it's comprised of Legionnaires and Sons standing side by side together.

I have an interest in the history of The American Legion, and I'm trying to share that as I travel the country. I had the opportunity the other day, if you go on the Legion website, I think it's archive.legion.org, you can bring up a lot of the old publications. When I have time on my hands, I like to look at some of the old magazines just to get some knickknacks for speeches such as this where I can interject some of the history of The American Legion.

I think we all know that in 1932, our forefathers in the Legion created the Sons of The American Legion to carry on their legacy. But I was interested to find out, as I was reading and we were getting closer to World War II, of course our World War I veterans had no idea that there would ever be another world war. So they were preparing for it in having you, your organization created, like I said, to carry on their legacy.
But what I found interesting in reading the article I was reading is that they were preparing what they called "last man's clubs" in the posts, because they knew that their numbers were going to dwindle down to where there was only going to be one person left in a post. They were trying to find a way to be able to recognize the older Legionnaires and to celebrate it. But then they were interrupted by World War II coming along, adding a big boost to the ranks of our organization.

So I appreciate the fact today that we have a large number of Legionnaires and a large number of Sons working side by side and our friends in The American Legion Auxiliary as well. I think I was blessed this year with perhaps the best Sons of The American Legion commander I could have asked for, and the same for our counterpart in The American Legion Auxiliary, Kathy Dungan.

I hope you have a very productive week. I know you're probably coming toward the end of it because I know you finish up in the next day or two.

Hello, Steve. It's nice to see some of our Virginia Legionnaires in here, Scott Williams and Steve Gower and of course, where's Clint? What are you doing hiding over there? You're supposed to be here where people can see you.

(Laughter)

You're going to have an excellent candidate for national commander next year, I guarantee you that.

With that, I just wanted to thank you for giving me the time. I'm a little out of sequence because I'm trying to make a meeting that starts at 9 a.m. up on the 21st floor. But I hope you have yourself a great meeting.
I'm going to ask a favor from you, if you could do that Team 100 thing over again and let me take my camera out here, because I'd like to post that on my Facebook page.

The reason I'm doing this, I'm trying to promote a Team 100 Challenge online. The challenge is that they get up just like you did and say, "Go Team 100," and then we post it online and challenge other posts and squadrons and units around the country to do the same and try to promote Team 100 and the membership in the Legion. I look forward to this. Just give me a second to set this up. Let me get this on video.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Gentlemen, who are we?

...The National Executive Committee shouted "Team 100!"

A.L. NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Great. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I'm going to ask you to sit for one more moment. But I would like the dual members to please rise.

(Applause)

I want our national commander to see the dual members. Thank you, gentlemen.

Thank you very much for coming today. I also just wanted to present you with this, not that you will perhaps use it, but to show you what we are doing.

A.L. NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: Oh, how cool.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: This is a thumb drive of our handbook and our calendar for the year for The Sons of The American Legion, and we passed those all out to our NECmen to use and to share. So I just wanted to let you know what we were doing.

We wish you the best, and I'm sure I will see you on travels. Thank you very much.
A.L. NATIONAL COMMANDER REISTAD: You will, and I will exchange this as soon as I get an opportunity to see you again.

Thank you, everybody, I appreciate it.

*(Standing ovation)*

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Gentlemen, we also have one new appointment that we need to take care of. As you know, we lost our webmaster this past year, Wes Wills, and a lot of the web materials have been blank so far this year, which is not a good thing.

But we have secured a replacement for that position, someone who is quite talented and ready to be able to do that job, and that would be Gene Theroux from the Detachment of Massachusetts.

So I'd like to entertain a motion to add Gene Theroux as our new webmaster from the Detachment of Massachusetts.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CLIFFORD SMITH (MA): Mr. Commander, Past National Commander Cliff Smith from Massachusetts.

I move to accept the appointment of Mr. Gene Theroux for the webmaster.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK, (OK): Point of order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, sir.

NECMAN C. COOK: PNCs have voice with no vote.

Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma.

I'd like to make a motion to accept that appointment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you. We have a motion. Can we have a second, please?
NECMAN LINWOOD MOORE (VA): Linwood Moore, NEC, Virginia.

I'd like to second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you. I forgot, it has to be through an NECman, obviously. Thank you, Cliff, sorry.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Commander, appreciate it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second.

All those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Opposed, same sign.

Thank you. Gene Theroux is our new webmaster, and he will be on it as soon as possible.

Okay. We're going to start with our first commission reports. If I could have Don Hall, who is the chairman of the Americanism Commission, come up to the dais. And Bill Hill will be on deck, please.

**Oral Report of Americanism Commission**

**Donald Hall, Maryland, Chairman**

Everybody is ready to get home and so we're going to try to get it going quickly.

Americanism Commission called to order yesterday morning at 9:30, started our meeting off with Doc Gibbs coming in and speaking to the commission.

Took roll. Five of our six commission members were there. Donny Allisot was excused for health reasons. Twenty-five members and guests signed in including PNC Laws and PNC Matoska. Minutes from our spring meetings were approved, as well as our minutes from our September and October conference calls.
After that we took our reports from CWF chairman, Mark Nave, which I will let give his report right now.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: May I interrupt? I apologize for the interruption, but J.R. just mentioned Donny Allisot from Maine. For those of you who don't know, he just had some serious surgery and is not out of the woods yet. Please keep him in our thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

**Oral Report of Child Welfare Foundation Committee**

Mark Nave, Pennsylvania, Chairman

Good morning, everyone. On Friday, October 12, the Child Welfare Foundation Committee held a meeting at 4:00 in the afternoon. We had 42 attend the meeting, which was a very good crowd. During the meeting we had introduction by National Commander Doc Gibbs who spoke about CWF being his project for the year. We carried on with also introductions from leading national candidate Clint Bolt who gave words of encouragement also.

During the meeting we discussed about our goal for the year, which was one dollar per member. And also currently, right now, we're about $100,000 away from reaching the $8 million point. So this is great news for you because, since our inception, over $15 million have been given out in grants. The Sons of The American Legion has accounted for over half that money. So that's a testament to you and your hard work throughout the years and hopefully continue for this year.

(Applause)

Also discussed, we've been very busy as a committee. During the past month, we had the opportunity to review 50 different grant proposals that came in to us from the foundation, different organizations throughout the country that provide services for our kids. Out of those
50 proposals we were given, we made a recommendation of 12 to be selected, to be awarded. Now, there's a Child Welfare Foundation dinner tonight where they'll be discussed and the final decision will be made.

Right now it looks as though we will probably give out, the foundation will give out $790,000 this year in grants to these different organizations. Again, that's great work that's been done in us collecting money along with everyone else.

After that we had some open discussions where some good ideas were communicated. One issue was about the report that we have and maybe how to better communicate the information on that report, which we'll take back to the foundation.

Our meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

CWF to me is everything that The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion stands for. When people ask what do we do as an organization, nothing speaks louder than us supporting our children and an organization that supports our children.

So as is well known within the Legion family, let's continue to communicate this great program outside The American Legion family. Encourage organizations that you know in your community to apply for this money; it's there. What better marketing tool do you have when you're trying to get a new member to say, "We have this great program, this is what we do. And in addition, we also help organizations in our community get money so they can continue to do what they do for our children, for our country."

So I look for your continued support. Give, give, give. Take care, everybody. Thank you.

(Applause)
Committee Chairman Nave submitted the report of the Child Welfare Foundation Committee.

**Opening:**
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm on October 12, 2018 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA).

**Roll Call:**
Chairman: Mark E. Nave (PA) Members: Lyle Chapman (GA)
Secretary: Scott A. Williams (VA) George Fleming, Jr. (PA)
Liaison: National Assistant Adjutant Sanford Lipman (MI)
          (none assigned) Jeff Evans (VA)
Past National Commander
Guests: Joseph Miller (AZ), Richard Pregnall (VA), Greg Spaulding (IN), Ron Mitchell OR, Willy Williams (OR), Doug Evans (KS), David Lee (NY), Scott Merrill (NH), Phillip Shipley (IL), Bill Towns (OH), Willie Morgan (VA), Dellie Suiter (VA), George Flasinski (PA), Steve Curry (KY), John Jennings (FL), Ken Warner (PA), Matt Parsons (CA), Steve Gower (NVC - VA), Bill Murphy (MA), Ray Samko (MA), Phil Starde (IL), Tom Lucas, II (AZ), Ed Cloquy (AZ), Mike Kane (PA), Emis Laberge (MA), Don Hall Jr. (MD), Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Terry Harris (KS), James Noble (NJ), Joe Schultis (IN), Mike Cotton (NVC – DE), Cliff Boyer (PA), Matt Christie (IL), Gregg Gibbs (Natl Cdr – NY), William Kelly (FL), Tom Klinger (FL).

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**
There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**
There was none.

**Old Business:**
There was none.

**New Business:**
Goal for the 2018-19 Year is $1.00 per member. Chairman Nave encouraged all of us to have fun in raising funds for Child Welfare Foundation.

He talked about reaching the $8 million goal this year.

Chairman Nave talked about the CWF Grants and reviewing the Grant Proposals. It is anticipated that $790,000 in grants will be awarded this year. He shared the list of Sons recommendations for the selection of the grant recipients. These are The American Legion Oratorical, The American Legion TFA, The American Legion Scholarships, The Eight and Forty Foundation, Gift of Adoption, Missouri Delta Medical Center, Our Military Kids, Sandy Hook Promise, Children’s Organ Transplant Association, Special Love, Inc., Truth in Nature, and Ryan’s Case for Smiles.

He also talked about Team 100. He emphasized the importance of family and how we can use Child Welfare Foundation as a way to promote membership.

We are doing the $1.00 per member banner again this year. CWF is SAL National Commander Gibbs project for this year.

Chairman Nave talked about CWF Sales of shirts and hooded sweatshirts at the NEC tomorrow.
Resolutions: There were none.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Committee. He promoted Child Welfare Foundation as his Commander's project this year. He has a Coin for a $30 donation to CWF.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. He introduced his Vice Commanders. He encouraged us to share ideas of what each Detachment is doing that is successful.

An open discussion with those in attendance took place.

The CWF report goals need to be revised to the total Membership Goal for each Detachment.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA) adjourned the meeting at 4:38 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: After Chairman Nave gave his report, we had Chairman Korba for Children and Youth give his report. Now at this time he'll give it here.

Oral Report of Children and Youth Committee

Joseph A. Korba, New Jersey, Chairman

Good morning, everybody. My name is Joe Korba, I'm the chairman of Children and Youth for this year.

We met 6:00 on Friday. We had four of our five members present. We had 38 guests, which I thought was great. Great turnout, we had 38 guests.

The first thing I did was recap what we did last year. The reason I'm doing this again is, I just think it's so impressive to see what we've done.

The money that was raised, and again, this is just with 20 percent of our squadrons reporting, $1,314,866. 127,000 hours of service. So our message is getting out there, and I'm going to thank everyone for their support. You all deserve a hand. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

Going forward this year, we're going to have two newsletters that are going to go out, the e-newsletters. I think they've been very effective in getting our word out, and I think that's
reflective in the numbers we've produced. We're going to do that in the winter and the spring, and that will highlight probably four to five of the programs that we have, to get the message out to everyone. This is good to get down to the blue cap members in the squadrons so they know what's going on.

We're going to have four teleconference calls every other month on Tuesday, the third Tuesday of the month. It's going to be 8:00. I changed it because we conflict with the Eastern regions, so we'll be doing 8:00. November 20th, January 15th, March 19th, and May 21st. That information will be getting out to all the NECs.

We also have a Facebook page. The Facebook page is a very valuable page we have. We only have 420 members registered for it; we should have 4,000 members on there. Sons of The American Legion Children and Youth page, go to it, like it. We're going to started posting information about the programs. But I also want to post information about what's going on with the squadrons and the detachments that are out there, because I think that's important to get back to everybody. There's programs that they might be using in California that you want to use in New Jersey or vice versa. We need to get the word out of what we're doing.

Right now I'd like to introduce you to my members that are here. Myself, I'll be handling the Southern region. John Mejia from California, he'll be handling the West; he's not here this weekend. Phil Shipley, Phil will be handling the Central. Ken Warner, Ken will be handling the Midwest. And Bill Clancy from New York, he'll be handling the East.

So please, they'll be in touch with you. They're your contact people, they're your members, they're working for you. Make sure you get in touch with them if you have any questions, any issues about any of the programs.
One of the things I want to do this year is also establish a Children and Youth award highlighting outstanding work from a blue cap member that has done something that stands out in Children and Youth. We'll get some more information about that for the next NEC meeting, but that's something I'm looking forward to doing for this year.

We ended the meeting with an open discussion of what the squadrons and the detachments have been doing, and it was very effective. We had a lot of good ideas back and forth. I think that's important to share ideas; that's what we come together for. We're here for a common goal, to help our Children and Youth. And again, I want to thank everyone for their support. Thank you.

(Applause)

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on October 12, 2018 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Joseph A. Korba (NJ).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Joseph A. Korba (NJ)
Secretary: Robert J. Avery (NY)
Liaison: (none assigned)
National Assistant Adjutant: John Mejia (CA) Excused
Past National Commander: William Clancy, III (NY)

Members:
Phillip Shipley (IL)
Ken Warner (PA)
John Mejia (CA) Excused
William Clancy, III (NY)

Guests:
Don Hall (MD), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Bill Towns (OH), Phil Stander (IL), Mark Natale (NJ), Mark Fayer, Sr. (MD), Tom Deal (MD), Doug Evans (KS), Terry Harris (KS), Ronnie Grist (GA), Jim Coates (NY), Sandy Lipman (MI), David Johnson (MA), John Waite (VT), Ernie LeBerge (MA), Thomas Glander (AL), Mike Cotton (DE), Cliff Boyer (PA), George Ken Fleming, Jr. (PA), Greg Falco (NY), Gary Denmon (NY), Mark Nade (PA), Willie Morgan (VA), Dellig Suiter (VA), Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Mike Boughner (MI), Clive Seydell (MI), Gary Gummersheimer (IL), Alan Scheyck (IN), Rich Kilby (CT), John Wright (CT), Bob Turner (CT), Lyle Chapman (GA), Patrick Kilby (CT), Charles Curtis (CA).

Roll Call was taken by the Secretary.

National Commander Greg Gibbs addressed the membership and reminded the group that we are pushing CWF, NEF, and greater involvement by our members in their 20’s and 30’s this year. The Commander would like us to hit the $8 million mark in CWF donations. A pin is available for a donation of $30.

Leading Candidate Clint Bolt spoke briefly, thanking the members for all of their hard work in support of our various Children & Youth projects. He introduced next year’s Vice Commander candidates.
**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**
There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring 2018 meeting were approved as published.

**Old Business:**
Chairman Korba recited last year’s Children & Youth accomplishments which included $190,000 and 28,000 hours to Special Olympics; $50,000 and 4,400 hours to CMN; $59,561 for 1,313 Josh Dogs; $12,300 and 3,900 hours to Operation Military Kids; and $332,845 in donations to CWF.

The Chairman reported on the National C & Y Conference held September 22-23, 2018 in Indianapolis. There were five SONS members in attendance, and ideas were exchanged from across the country. CWF grant recipients were in attendance to discuss how their funds were spent.

**New Business:**
Regional assignments were made. Phillip Shipley the Central region, Ken Warner the Midwest, John Mejia the West, William Clancy the East and Chairman Korba the South.

A newsletter will be issued in the Winter and in the Spring, with each member assigned to report on an individual Children and Youth program.

The teleconference calls will place on the third Tuesday of every other month with the first starting November 20th. The call in number is 563-999-2090, and the PIN is 415918. Any member can participate.

Our Facebook page needs more information on Squadron and Detachment activities that raise money for C & Y projects. Currently there are 420 likes for the page. We need to get more participation.

The Chairman opened the floor for members to talk about what their Detachments have been doing in support of C & Y projects. In Delaware they had a COTA pizza fundraiser which raised $2,500 with monies staying within the State. Kansas sponsored a visit by Santa to Ft. Riley with gifts for the children paid for by donations from Kansas Posts, Squadrons and Units. New York sold challenge coins which netted $7.00 per coin and raised a good total in a short period of time. Pennsylvania also has a CWF coin and t-shirt sale to raise funds. They also raffle off autographed sports memorabilia. Maine is holding a bowling tournament for CWF this year.

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
CWF Chairman Mark Nave gave an update on the grant applications for this year which will total $790.000. Final recipients will be announced this weekend.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph A. Korba (NJ) adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.

**COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL:** The meeting continued. We had three PowerPoints that we had put together from the commission. One of them was the trifold that had been talked about here for the last couple of meetings. I wanted to bring it to light with the commission.
Early, Ernie Laberge really worked hard on this. Anybody who wants a copy of the PowerPoint, we gave it out to anybody who wanted it yesterday. We also have it available by email. We showed that in the meeting.

We also showed a PowerPoint of the chaplains' training that's been worked on for a long time. It was about 80 slides, it was cut down to about half of that with some really good information on it.

The third PowerPoint that we had was our task by the Strategic Planning Committee, it was to work on the youth handbook with ideas. We came forward with the idea of making it more at the fingertips of our members and our youth members by trying to get it out there on the web, in the app, so it's more available. So those are available. If anybody would like to have the PowerPoints, we have them. All you have to do is contact one of the members of the commission and we'll get it to you.

Under new business, we discussed using the Americanism programs to get new members and to get the young people back into your posts. One of the ideas that was discussed was maybe giving a Friday night dinner to your local youth teams or whatever to get them in there. Those young millennial parents that are coaching will come in to support those children, and with that, that will also get those millennial veterans in there and maybe get them to sign up to become a member of The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion.

Doc Gibbs gave us a challenge. Me and him have been talking about it for a while so I have a question for everybody here. How many people have shaken our commander's hand and said, "Doc, anything you want, just let me and I'll do it for you"? Can you raise your hand if you did that?

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Let me check.
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: A lot hands were shook and all that, told Doc, "Anything you want, I'll do for you."

Well, yesterday Doc stood right here and said, "I want 20- to 30-year-old members here at our next convention," so that's your first task. Don't let Doc down. You just raised your hands and said you're going to do with whatever he asks you to do.

As Americanism Commission, we send that challenge out to everybody, to make sure we bring those young members in next year. And also next year in Indy, we'd really like to see the children come. How about getting some of our detachments to sponsor kids to bring them in here?

One of the last things we discussed was the scrapbook and the history book. We'd like to see more and more participation in that.

It was asked about having some of the kids actually do a scrapbook, and we said why not. As long as they keep a title page in there and bring it in. But let's see their interpretation of what we're teaching them. Maybe we see some stick figures saluting flags or whatever. It's real easy to make certificates. Any child that puts in a scrapbook or history book, we'll make sure gets awarded for their efforts.

But if we want to get younger folks, this is the way we've got to do it, by starting to do things to get these young people here and award them for coming and letting them be part of these meetings.

I want to thank all my commission that were here and worked: Ernie Laberge, Gerald Hammerschmidt, Jim Borgman, and Scott Merrill.
I was going to say something about Donny. Please do keep Donny in your prayers, he's going through a very hard time. He works hard with our commission. We are having conference calls every month, and he's been on every month. We continue to work even when we're not in Indy, we want to work every month. So thank you very much.

Doc, that is my report.

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

**Opening:**
The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am on October 13, 2018 in the Circle West Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Donald “J.R.” Hall (MD).

**Roll Call:**
Chairman: Donald “J.R.” Hall (MD)  
Vice Chairman: Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)  
Secretary: Scott J. Thornton (OH)  
National Assistant Adjutant: Scott Merrill (NH)  
Liaison: Steve C. Laws (NC)  
Past National Commander: Ernest Laberge (MA)

**Guests:**  
Bill Towns, Jr. (OH); Joe Korba (NJ); Mark Nave (PA); John Lawrence (LA); Mark Fayer, Sr. (MD); Raymond Samko (MA); Camille LeJeune (LA); Mark Metcalf (NJ); John Waite (VT); Dickie Huntley (ME); Jeff Gibson, Sr. (AL); Toby Cullen (DE); Ken Rootholz (IA); PNC Bill Matoska (MD); Ray Jarvis (NY); Jason Roberts (GA); Ron Wyatt (MI); George Sevick (NE); Terry Pressley (NC); William Yeagy (MD); Martin Longeway (AR).

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**
The minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published. Ernie Laberge made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission’s conference calls. Scott Merrill seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Reports of Committees:**
**Children and Youth** – Chairman Joe Korba (NJ) reported that the committee will be working to coordinate activities in the various regions. He promoted the SAL Children & Youth Facebook page and encouraged everyone to share their information through the page to let the country know what is going on.

**Child Welfare Foundation** – Chairman Mark Nave (PA) reported on last night’s meeting and reviewed CWF as Commander Doc Gibbs project for the year. We are around 7.9 million dollars to date and we are pushing to 8. This year’s goal is $1.00 per member. There are a number of CWF events planned around the country. The CWF Committee is recommending 12 grants to the Foundation from the SAL this year.

**Old Business:**
**Religious Emphasis PowerPoint** – Chairman Hammerschmidt informed the Commission that the PowerPoint had been discovered in the archives. It had been developed back in 2013/14 by Bill Towns. The goal is to fine tune the PowerPoint over the summer and present it for approval at the Fall 2018 NEC. Jim Borgman and Ernie Laberge spoke about and showed the updated version of the PowerPoint slideshow. Chairman Hall reported that he can forward it to the national Americanism staff.
Trifold Pamphlet – Needs to be sent to National SAL Liaison Paul Brown for his review and feedback. The original pamphlet was developed by Sandy Lipman (MI). The pamphlet is about complete, it just needs to go through the proper channels for American Legion approval. Ernie Laberge reported that there has been work done to create some PowerPoint slides expanding on the content and he demonstrated that information for those present today.

Strategic Planning Committee – Chairman Hall spoke about the Commission’s efforts to update the Youth Handbook. Besides trying to keep the paper booklet updated we want to put a focus on developing it into a digital format to publish the content and make it more accessible, ideally as a mobile app.

New Business:
Chairman Hall announced that each of the Commission members will be promoting specific Americanism programs this year through a series of articles.

Gerald Hammerschmidt
- Junior Shooting Sports – The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program has provided rifle safety, marksmanship training and shoulder-to-shoulder competitions for young people through local post-affiliated clubs using .177 caliber air rifles. The American Legion Americanism division annually presents its Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Tournament. This world-class competition provides American Legion-affiliated youth competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.
- Consolidated Report Forms – What donations and hours can I put on the annual consolidated report form? This is a question that comes up when filling out the CSR form. This article will give you a guideline on what donations and hours you are able to put on the consolidated report to help you fill it out properly.

Don Allisot
- Flag Education – The Sons of The American Legion have a commitment to our parent organization and our eligible veterans to preserve those ideals of patriotism and to protect those icons, notably the American Flag. We can accomplish this through educating our communities, never relaxing our guard and providing Flag Education opportunities to anyone that requests that information. The first Flag Education program was taught to school children in 1889. Organizations such as ours need to promote this type of education annually to ensure that it is never forgotten and always of great importance to American citizens.
- American Legion Baseball – American Legion Baseball is a very important program of The American Legion. As a matter of fact, it first began in 1926 and continues today with District, State, Regional and National tournaments. It has been a major contributor of talent to Major League Baseball and remains so today. We as members of the Sons of The American Legion should consider assisting in this program that is 92 years old. Promote this in our communities so our sons and grandsons can participate in this highly-educational and competitive league.

Ernie Laberge
- Boys State and 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 State and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each state usually on a college campus within that state.
- 5-Star and 10-Ideals Programs – The 5-Star and 10-Ideals 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.
- Jeff Gibson (AL) asked about the American Legion Auxiliary’s Patch Program for younger members. Chairman Hall responded that it is open to SAL members as well.

Jim Borgman
- **National Emergency Fund** – The National Emergency Fund was originally started in 1969 solely for relief efforts from Hurricane Camille. It was then revived in 1989 with the devastation of Hurricane Hugo and with that resolution it was noted that any leftover funds would be saved for future natural disasters. Since then, the NEF has provided millions of dollars to all paid members of The American Legion Family who have experienced loss due to natural disasters and provided aid to help keep Posts from closing due to flooding, tornadoes, wildfires and any number of natural disasters.

- **Oratorical Contest** – Speech is a part of every high school curriculum in the U.S., as is the study of the U.S. Constitution. The American Legion has taken these two studies, public speaking and knowledge of the document that guides our country and defined a structure for our youth to express the various facets of the U.S. Constitution and American citizenship – a constitutional speech contest that provides scholarship funding.

Scott Merrill

- **Scouting** – In 1919 at its first National Convention, The American Legion endorsed the scouting movement. Almost a century later more than 2,000 American Legion Posts sponsor scouting units. Scouting is a tangible way to be a positive influence on young people. It offers opportunities to grow in character, citizenship and personal fitness.

Chairman Hall reported on ways to bring the various Americanism programs into our community posts as part of recruitment activities. Getting young people involved in our programs can help on getting their parents interested in joining The American Legion Family. As a challenge from Commander Gibbs, let’s try to get a new 20-something member to the 2019 National Convention with a child so we can have a big forum for new, younger members. Please try to have that commitment by the Spring, 2018 NEC so we’ll know the scope of what to plan.

Chairman Hall gave a brief overview of the recent Americanism and Children & Youth conferences. If you’d like more specific information please contact him, Gerald Hammerschmidt or Jim Borgman.

**Resolutions:**
None.

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Commission. He asked everyone to remember our young people and how our Americanism programs can be used to get them involved in our organization and expand our membership. Please continue on with the work you’ve been doing – don’t pause just because of a change in leadership.

Chairman Hall spoke about the importance of Team 100 this year for all of us. Commander Reistad will be speaking at the NEC meeting on Sunday. We are a part of the Legion’s 100th Anniversary and we need to help promote it in our communities and do something special in terms of the donations we make to the Legion programs Commander Gibbs has designated as his projects for the year, CWF and NEF. Don’t forget to report those activities on your CSR next year, and put them in your history and scrapbooks.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Donald “J.R.” Hall (MD) adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

NECMAN MARK CANNITO (SC): Commander, if I may? Mark Cannito, NEC,

South Carolina.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: You’re recognized.
NECMAN CANNITO: Over the last couple of years I've had the same mission as you: How do we get these younger vets to come in? Because more than often their fathers have served. And the problem is, and this is where we need to fix it, is they come home from service, they've got a family to take care of, they've got a job to go back to, and they consider themselves too busy, which they are, to be involved.

So we need to figure out a program or an incentive or some type of message to say, "This is what The Sons of The American Legion can do for you," to draw them in. And that would be my challenge.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Excellent. That's the challenge out there, truly. Thank you.

We'll entertain a motion to accept J.R.'s report.

NECMAN LEONARD FREE (NJ): Lenny Free, NEC from Detachment of New Jersey, makes a motion that we accept all the reports as read.

NECMAN LINWOOD MOORE (VA): Linwood Moore, NEC, Virginia, seconds it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the motion?

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Carried, thank you.

Bill Hill is next with the Finance Commission, and on deck would be Mark Tansel from the Internal Affairs Commission.
Janine, I'm going to put you on the spot. Before Bill comes up here, I would like you to come up to the podium and bring that little box you showed me earlier today. Would you do that? Please come on up.

When I came in this morning, Janine called me over and said, "I want to show you something. My mom passed away a little while ago. In going through her things," and she showed me this little American Legion medal that her mother received in 1949 when she was a young girl, for --

JANINE FERREN: The social studies award.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: The social studies award.

I just wanted you to appreciate the depth of the Legion family. This lady working for us, taking minutes of our notes, and yet she's got generations of Legion family in her own family. It's wonderful.

Thank you for sharing that with us.

(Applause)

Bill Hill.

**Oral Report of Finance Commission**

Bill Hill, Maryland, Chairman

All right. Good morning, gentlemen. Now for the most exciting part of our day, it's talking about finance. Same thing I mentioned yesterday to the detachment commander's class. This is the part you cannot wait there, you're just sitting there, you've all moved to the front of your seats, you're all ready to give us the information.
Here is the answer: My report is in your summary report, I'm not going to go over the
details of it. If you have any questions, now is your time. We don't have any money, move it
on.

(Laughter)

Next?

Just in general, gentlemen, it is part of your report. I'm not going to go over it.

Just the highlights of it. National Commander Gibbs did come in and give greetings.
We had a well-attended meeting. We discussed the review. But honestly, the numbers are in
your packages for the NECs.

We went over our reconciliation for 2018, confirmed. We have forwarded and
presented to you our 2019 budget with details. There's really not a lot more than that, other
than I would like to thank the Finance Commission for an outstanding job that they did Friday
and Saturday in assisting with the travel vouchers. I have been reassured that printers and other
equipment will be available to us in the springtime to actually help facilitate this process a little
faster. There's not much more than that to the Finance Committee report.

At this time, Commander, that is our report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am on October 13, 2018 in the Ohio Room
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William G. Hill (MD).

Roll Call:
Chairman: William G. Hill (MD) Members: Keith Murdough (NH)
Vice Chairman: Dennis M. Blue (MN) Steve Honigfort (OH)
Secretary: Robert J. Avery (NY) Bob Thompson (SC)
National Assistant Adjutant Greg Price (MI)
Liaison: Brian O'Hearne (MA) Past National Commander
Guests: Cliff Boyer (PA), Ken Warner (PA), PNC Kevin Winkelman (TX), Bob Turner (CT), Mark
Cannito (SC), Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN), Bob Phillips, Jr. (NJ), Mike Cotton (DE)
National Commander Greg Gibbs spoke, thanking the members for all of their hard work.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

Old Business:
The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2018 Year-to-Date Statement. The reconciliation report is through July 31st. A motion made Keith Murdough and seconded by Dennis Blue to accept the YTD report was carried.

The Draft 2019 Budget was discussed by the Commission, and was found to be in order. A motion made by Steve Honigfort to accept the 2019 Budget was seconded by Bob Thompson and was carried.

New Business
Ron Roberts (NEC – MS) questioned if the organization has considered a dues increase to assist in covering costs currently taken on by the parent organization. Chairman Hill indicated that this is a matter of consideration in the near future. The Commission hopes that between now and the Spring 2019 meetings that recommendations may come forwarded. Liaison Ken George spoke that by 2020, our organization needs to have a dues increase in place. This increase is overdue and will lift the financial burden from The American Legion.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman William G. Hill (MD) adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Bill.

We'll entertain a motion to accept the finance report.

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

I would move that we adopt the report of the Finance Commission.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion.

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

I second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Any discussion? We have a motion and a second.

NECMAN R. ROBERTS: I’d like to thank the Finance Commission for the first time in several years for providing a line-item budget for my fellow NECs. It fulfilled the purpose of
the resolution that I submitted to give us more knowledge when we are responsible for this
organization, fellow NECs. Now you have a line-item budget and you can track pretty much
where the money goes.

I want to thank you, gentlemen, for pushing that forward.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HILL: You're welcome. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Any other discussion?

All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you, gentlemen.

Mark Tansel, Internal Affairs, and on deck is Chairman Tom Deal from Legislative
Commission.

**Oral Report of Internal Affairs Commission**

**Mark Tansel, Indiana, Chairman**

Good morning, NEC. Internal Affairs Commission met yesterday, on Saturday, October
13th. All six members of the commission were in attendance. We had 20 guests that joined us
yesterday, including Past National Commander Rick Cook and Brian O'Hearne. We also had
with us our adjutant, Anthony Wright; judge advocate, Joe Paviglianti; and our national staff
liaison, Mr. Ken George.

All three of the committees that report to the commission came before us yesterday. Up
first, I would like to introduce to you our new National Convention Committee chairman from
the Detachment of Indiana, Mr. Greg Spaulding.

Greg?

(Applause)
Oral Report of Convention Committee

Greg Spaulding, Indiana, Chairman

Good morning, gentlemen. The Convention Committee met on Friday evening at 7:00 and the meeting lasted until 7:40, and it was well attended. We had some very good discussions, and we decided to expand the Convention Committee from one member to five. So a resolution was written up and that was sent on to the commission here.

Some of the things that we discussed, what we're looking at for this year, is try to find something to do in our down time. I know we don't have a lot to do after our meetings, there's not a lot of down time there.

But we're looking at getting a pamphlet made up showing the locations of the area Legions and how far they are away from the convention center. A possibility of getting a list of the war memorials in Indianapolis. Indianapolis has the second-most war memorials, only Washington, DC has more. So we're trying to get a list of those.

We're getting local museums, addresses and things for those. Checking in on sporting events, possibly looking in to the Indianapolis Colts pre-season game and possibly AAA baseball that's down here. Other possibilities: local wineries, microbreweries, getting out lists, things like that, their locations. If you're interested in that, going and seeing those places. For those of you who like to gamble, there are a couple of casinos that are pretty close.

One of the items that was brought up by Commander Gibbs was what do we do for the children that come to convention, and we don't do a whole lot. Commander Gibbs put it out there to say, "Let's see how many kids come."

So NECs, I'm asking you, get back to your states when you go to your conferences and things, see how many children are going to be coming to convention. That gives us an idea, if
we can get a room from The American Legion at the convention center, that maybe we can put on some kind of events for kids 16 and under, 12 and under or something like that. So I need some feedback on that one also, if you can get back to me by spring.

Also, in years past we had some golf outings. Last year, in Minnesota, there wasn't a lot of interest shown in that. We're going to see about it this year again. That would be on Thursday. Once again, NECs, if you would, see if there is any interest in your state to do this, and if so, we will set one up for Thursday afternoon and all proceeds, then, will go to the commander's project.

That concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 12, 2018 in the Board Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Greg A. Spaulding (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Greg A. Spaulding (IN) 
Secretary: Anthony W. Wright (PA)
National Adjutant Liaison: (none assigned)
Past National Commander 
Guests: Jim Stewart, Shawn Davis, Lenny Free, Doug Heiser, Chris Carlton, Cliff Hall, Mark Tansel, Gary Denmon, Tim Van Patten and Ken George.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Greg Spaulding reported on the preliminary plans for the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis. The Detachment Convention Committee consist of Steve Tansel, Chris Carlton, Ray Giehll, Jr and Ray Giehll, III.

- There are several American Legion Posts in the area. A list will be put together and be made available via email and on the website. A list of War Memorials and local museums is being put together that are in the vicinity of the convention center.
- The Indianapolis Indians are in town convention weekend with fireworks after the game. We’re looking at the schedules of the Indianapolis Colts to see if they’re in town during the convention.
- There are casinos located in Anderson and Shelbyville.
- The convention committee will be polling the NEC’s to see if there is an interest in having a golf outing.
- There is a possibility of and dinner with a comedian or setting up a party at the baseball game.
- The Detachment is currently in the process of designing a convention pin.

Old Business:
None.

**New Business:**
There was discussion about expanding the National Convention Committee to include the immediate past 2 National Convention Chairmen and incoming chairman.

**Resolutions:**
Resolution 6- Fall 2018

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Committee. Would like the committee to investigate options for children under 12.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Greg A. Spaulding (IN) adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.


Let the record state that in the written report for the Convention Committee, resolutions are listed as none. Please let the record show that they did have a resolution.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Yes. That was done after the meeting concluded. Thank you for that.

Next up is our Member Training and Development chairman from the Detachment of Arizona, Chuck Treat.

Chuck?

**Oral Report of Member Training and Development Committee**

Charles E. Treat, II, Arizona, Chairman

Good morning. The meeting minutes are available for your review, so I'll proceed with what happened after our meeting on Saturday.
Saturday's commanders training. First of all, I'd like to thank you all the detachment commanders that came out. We had a total of 27 detachment commanders graduate this morning. Additional materials left over from the meeting that were not consumed will be available in the back of the room. If anybody wants extra CD-ROMs or the training materials, please take them so I don't have to take them home with me.

We are preparing to start our NMI materials right now, we start tomorrow, in preparation for May. I would like to ask, if your detachment does not have anybody in NMI at this point, to please have your NEC review, see who could be put forward as a potential candidate, and contact Don Culver.

Again, I'd like to thank you, especially the two instructors, Joe Gladden and Mike Deacon. The instructors make a big difference, so do the students that were there. You learn from each other quite a bit. The questions asked and the questions answered, thank you very much. You did a good job and I appreciate it. And you finished early, I'm sure the students appreciated that as well.

Ron Roberts, parliamentary procedure, definitely a necessary item that we need to learn and probably polish up on. So we'll try and find more time and space for you in the future on some of our coursework.

That concludes my report, sir.

...Committee Chairman Treat submitted the report of the Member Training and Development Committee.

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on October 12, 2018 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Charles E. Treat (AZ).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Charles E. Treat (AZ)  Members: Joseph Schultis (IN)
Secretary: Scott J. Thornton (OH)  Patrick Kilby (CT)
Readers of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objection the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Treat reported that we are ready to go for tomorrow’s Detachment Commanders’ conference. A/V has been reviewed. Books are prepared for all the attendees. Mr. Treat gave an overview of the content included.

The Committee will work this year on updating all of the NMI course materials and the Ambassadors Training to have a consistent appearance of the content. They will also work on expanding the content in that program.

Mr. Treat announced that some cost savings in the Committee’s budget, such as a reduction in printing expenses can be used for other purposes, like providing some electronic content on CDs.

Old Business:
Ron Roberts (MS) previously addressed the Committee about a PowerPoint presentation he is developing on resolutions. He will provide a copy to the Committee for review. Chairman Treat reported that this is being included with the Commanders Conference tomorrow, along with Ron’s presentation on Implementing Change.

Jeff Hicks (NJ) asked about plans to resume the Adjutants Conference along with the Commanders Conference. I/A Vice Chairman Culver reported that the Committee needs to provide the content and justification to Liaison John Kerestan. Sandy Lipman (MI) suggested publishing some materials for use by the regional detachment meetings. This is still pending.

Ron Roberts asked about a previous request to get some sort of stipend for NMI attendees to assist those members who commit to come to Indianapolis for three years at their own expense. [Former Chairman] Sawicki replied that it was returned by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion for further study. Mr. Roberts stated that he was informed by some members of the Legion NEC that we need to provide a definite goal for the program and should re-word the resolution and try again. [This is still with the Finance Commission under SAL Resolution 6 – Fall, 2016.]

Joe Schultis (IN) reported on a potential award resolution to recognize those members who take MT&D knowledge and experience back to their detachments. The Committee will consider this in the next conference call.

New Business:
Internal Affairs Vice Chairman Don Culver reminded everyone that he is now accepting nominations for students in the 2019 NMI sessions. Please have your NECman submit the names to him directly. He encouraged those present to nominate up-and-coming leaders of your detachments to aid in their development.

The Committee will consider a plan to have a requisition form for detachments to reserve breakfast tickets in advance up to a limit, maybe one table of eight, so that some late-arriving attendees might still have an opportunity to purchase them when they arrive at the conference, rather than have the tickets all grabbed up by a few large groups that have someone check-in early. This would apply to both the Commanders’ Conference in the Fall and the NMI classes in the Spring.
Ron Roberts (MS) asked about the development of a training program for NECmen. Chairman Treat responded that the Committee is working on this, but it has been slow in coming.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Committee. He thanked everyone for attending the conference this weekend and encouraged all present to continue doing the work they have been.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Committee Chairman Charles E. Treat (AZ) adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Thank you, Chuck, appreciate it.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH MAYNE (MN): Mr. Chairman?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Mr. Mayne.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MAYNE: Joe Mayne, Detachment of Minnesota.

Mr. Treat, has there been any thought to moving the commanders school to convention rather than have it at fall NEC? Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: There has not been any thought formulated to that idea. However, we do have a lot of materials that go unused. So we are not adverse to the idea of bringing next year's potential candidate with this year's commander to use those extra materials; they would be at their own expense. But no, we have not considered that at this time, but we will take that into consideration.

Mr. Brown?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): I was just going to make a motion to accept your report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Actually, we will do that under the Internal Affairs. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Still have one more report plus a couple of others to add.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Mr. Roberts.

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): If I may, Mr. Treat -- Ron Roberts, NEC, Mississippi. I think it's time we brought forth the presentation on how to write a resolution. Maybe on a voluntary basis, attendees at the spring meeting or something like that. It's finalized, the PowerPoint is finalized. It appears some of us could use some more expertise in that area.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: At least some practice at it. Thank you very much.

Other questions?

NECMAN SCOTT GARRETT (CO): Scott Garrett, NEC, Colorado.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Yes, sir.

NECMAN GARRETT: Second paragraph under "Old Business: Jeff Hicks asked about plans to resume the Adjutants Conference along with the Commanders Conference."

I'm wondering if a correction is needed. The sentence says, "I/A Vice Chairman Culver reported that the committee needs to provide the content and justification to Liaison John Kerestan."

Is that correct or is that a typo?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Well, that's incorrect. I think that it's referencing two years back, so there was confusion on that. So we'll have that corrected.

NECMAN GARRETT: Thank you, sir.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: Any other questions?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Next report up is our national membership report. With that, please welcome Joseph Navarrete from the Detachment of New Mexico.
Joseph?

Oral Report of Membership Committee

Joseph R. Navarrette, New Mexico, Chairman

Good morning, gentlemen.

The Membership Committee meeting was called to order on Friday, October 12, at 7 p.m. All five national vice commanders were in attendance, and four of the five regional committeemen were in attendance, with the exception of Mike Monserud from Iowa who was excused. We had over 45 members that had signed in for the meeting, and we had a really great representation of everybody.

I'm sure you all have heard, but as a reminder, our theme, "Honoring the Past~... Continuing the Legacy." Membership has set from pretty aggressive goals this year: Reaching 400,000 total members; achieving a renewal rate of over 90 percent; contributing to the Team 100 concept to help their membership goals as well as ours, as we've just heard this morning; reaching out to younger members; and recognizing our own members in the way of awards.

I hope several of you have seen the 24-karat pin that we are now handing out to those members who sign up new members, three new members, along with also the individual recruitment award for the five new members. It's a great incentive for everybody.

Why do we do this? Excuse me. How do we do this? We need to build on what has been created in the past. Items like the elevator speech, the rejoin letter, the new member and renewal letters, a lot of the awards that we've already created, are just a few. But we can't stop there. We need to continue to come up with new and innovative ways to help our cause.

Thanks to the previous chairman, Seth Rippe, for making my transition into this chairmanship smooth and uneventful.
We have started off this year exceeding the first target date of 10 percent. However, we did fall a little short on our second target date by only reaching 21.28 percent. On a good note, we are 12,445 members ahead of where we were previous years, so we are definitely on the right track. Thank you.

Our regional reports were nothing short of amazing. The ideas brought forward by each region is proof that your Membership Committee is hard at work and committed to all of our success. Ideas of 100 percent membership by January 1st, motivating individuals not just to hit target dates but to look at exceeding those target dates, and also ensuring members are taken care of when we have squadrons that are closing down. These are just a few of the items that are detailed in the minutes that you have received.

With our 35 percent and 45 percent target dates coming up in the next few months, we look forward to having everybody help us exceed those goals.

The committee also mentioned upcoming work on the strategic ad hoc plan. The review of the handbook has been completed. And we will be working on a survey that will be sent out to the NECs and disseminated throughout all of our detachments. We look forward to everybody helping out, get that survey, so we can get some information to help better our communication as well as the items that are published in that document.

We are looking at new ways and ideas to get information to all of our members and hope to see changes made on online usage, postings, and as well, within the SAL mobile app.

Suggestions were taken from the floor on reports and information that others would like to see going forward, and we will take those into consideration and work throughout our year.
National Commander Greg Gibbs addressed the committee and stressed the importance of involving younger members and asking them how they are involved or how we can get them more involved.

Leading Candidate Clint Bolt also addressed the committee, expressing the importance of Team 100 and recruiting new members, and he also introduced his leadership team.

With no further business, we adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m., and that concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on Oct. 12, 2018 in the Circle Ctr. & West Rooms of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Joseph R. Navarrete (NM)  Members: Gary P. Nelson (NJ)
Secretary: David Ridenour (IN)  Jeffrey L. Gibson (AL)
National Assistant Adjutant: Mike Monsrud (IA) (EX)
Liaison: Thomas P. Skelley (TX)  Past National Commander: Nedley C. Fox (CA)
Guests: Dale Anderson II (OH), Steve Curry (KY), Rich Kilby (CT), John Jennings (FL), Jamey Holloway (GA), Byron Trantham (TN), Doug Evans (KS), Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA), Tom Klinger (FL), Richard S Pnsum (UT), Linwood Moore (VA), Richard Pfeiffer (IN), Bob Brown (GA), Michael Kirschner (CO), Seth Rippe (NE), David Rippe (NE), Scott Merril (NH), Marvin P. Nay (MA), Joseph Keiser (NV), Ken Yanke (CO), Bernie Kessler (OH), Phil Stander (IL), Willey Wilhim (OR), Ron Mitchell (OR), David Derdgemel (AK), Dave Hendee (VT), Alan Owen (TN), Bryan Hine (TN), Terry Harris (KS), Willie B. Morgan (VA), Dellir Suiter (VA), Cliff Boyer (PA), Scott Baker (PA), David Van Duijen (WA), Robert Manzo (MD), Brad Duduy (PA)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Joe Navarrete (NM) – Our membership theme is “Honoring the Past... Continuing he Legacy” We set some very aggressive goals for this year...

- Reach 400,000 total members
- Achieve a renewal rate above 90%
- Contribute to the Legion Team 100 concept to help their membership goals
- Reach out to our younger members

Chairman Navarrete (NM) went into how we plan to do this, we need to take what we have built on and continue to improve. I would like to thank the previous Membership Committee Chairman, Seth Rippe from Nebraska, for all hard work and mentorship making my transition as smooth as possible. The Membership Committee created several membership tools that I hope many of you have seen and used. We will be reviewing them and improving on them throughout the year, items like the elevator speech, rejoinder letter, new member, renewal letter, and awards, just to name a few. Some of the updates to our website have not been happening due to not having a webmaster however Chairman Navarrete (NM) said they are working on that and hopefully we might hear some good news this weekend. In the meantime, he has worked with the National Vice Commanders and Regional Committeemen to provide them access to any material that we will be using and sending out via a shared drive location that the National Vice Commanders and the committeemen have access to it and can share with each other. We have started off the year exceeding our first target date of 10% on September 12th by reaching 12% and having over 5,000 members from the previous year. We fell a little short on our second target date of 25% on October 11th by reaching 21.28%, however we did have 25 detachments exceed the goal and we more than doubled our numbers from the 10% target having 12,445 members more than the previous year.

NVC-East Mike Cotten (DE) – Stated that normally they start off slow, but they have some new initiatives and he introduced Gary Nelson (NJ) to describe them.

Gary Nelson (NJ) – The Eastern Region will have a 100% goal by January 31, 2019. He described that if you had a 2018 card on December 31 it would be no good. Most of us get our cards in July if you end up paying your car insurance or utility bill 6 to 7 months later you would not have car insurance or gas and lights. We have to change, change is good. We have to have an initiative. The first detachment that ends up getting 100% by January 31st will have $250.00 check that will be donated to one of the American Legion programs on behalf of that detachment plus the Commander and Membership Chairman will get a satin award jacket. Commander Gibbs, the Membership Chairman and Gary Nelson will coordinate. Second place will get $200.00 and jackets, Third Place $150.00. Fourth place through fourteen detachments will get $100.00. They are trying to change the way the East gets membership in and become “The Beast from the East.” They also sent out all the NECmen, Commanders, Adjutants and Membership Chairman in the East all the forms that you are going to need. The forms IRA (Individual Recruitment Award), The Blue Brigade Application and the forms for anyone who is fortunate enough to get the Blue Brigade five years in a row. They were sent out by email so please continue to send them out to your people.

Chairman Navarrete (NM) said the forms out of National has been a little slow so they have been creating the form themselves and sending them out. Some may be a little different, but they will accept them if the information is valid, He also made fillable forms that you can type into them and then print them out. You can also hand write them and send them in.

NVC-South Steve Gower, Sr. (VA) – They are number one, they are the top part of the bridge. Like a sandwich they are the top part and want to stay on top.

Jeff Gibson (AL) – Membership is fun you must be motivated to do what you do. The reason we do not get younger members is that we must motivate them. We must motivate them. There is nothing wrong with asking for help, but sometimes we are afraid to ask for help. When you cannot sell someone, ask for help his thoughts might be a little different. When you work as a team you can get him as a member. The street ridicules them that is why they do not come around. That is why he wears his light blue jacket. That is how he gets his numbers. He went outside the box. The next night Mr. Gibson what is that? Kids know you are sincere. They know if you have a good program or not. Let’s recruit our own members motivate them, find out why they are not coming to meetings. Do not look at 10% if you are supposed to be 10%, tell everybody you need to be at 30%, when you hit 30 you need to be at 60%. If you are at 60 you need to be at 90%, That is what it is all about it is motivation. If you
are walking around and you are dead, you are not enthused about it, you do not know what you are selling, you
do not know the four pillars, they are not going to join. Let’s get motivated! It is not just yourself, we are in this
together. What does TEAM mean? Together Everybody Achieves More. That is how we have to work. Let’s be
motivated. Let’s think outside the box.

NVC-Central Matt Christie (IL) – He was going to meet up with Mike, but Mike had to work and ask him to beat up
on the Detachments that did not meet goal. The Central Region is working to get up to speed. We have been
working alone in second place, but he just got the report today that they just missed it by .01% which is really
super close. We have seven new charters. He does not know if this report is correct because he knows his own
Detachment Illinois has five new charters this year. It’s amazing where you can find membership. One of the
Commanders in the hospitality room in Indiana said you might just be one of the persons he needed to talk to. He
said he was a post Commander and the Post across the river is closing and there is fourteen SAL guys and we
want them in our post, but we do not have a squadron. He then talked to the District Commander and put these
two guys together.

Can the fourteen members transfer over to a new post and start a new squadron and be officers or a charter
member of the new post? Or do the officers have to be new members?

Mike Monserud (IA) – (EX)

NVC-Midwest Pete Sierminski (CO) – Welcome to team 100. Everyone is team 100 it will strengthen our whole
organization and will strengthen the whole entire legion family by us all working together. The Midwest is in 2nd
place and are at 26%. Membership is what keeps this organization going without that this organization is just
going to die. Little by little slowly trickle down. We need to keep working the membership and need to get those
20-30-year-old members active. Find out what their interest are. Some of us a little older around the room it is a
little hard to figure out. What interest them and what would bring them in. Get them active in your squadron and
detachment.

Tom Skelley (TX) – x We are selling product. The product is membership. People buy things. How will it benefit me
to be a member? We buy things because we want it. We need it, it’s a great value to you. Or it’s a gift. One of the
things we are overlooking is gift of membership to our sons. It is something the grandparents can do very well.
We can set goals. The how is much more important than what.
Accountably, personal contact we need these phone numbers and email addresses. We need to contact them
directly. You send email to somebody, you do not know if they have read it. Talk to them one on one you can get
more done than sending just an email. Ask what they are doing and copy and share their successes in emails or
send out. We need to get it down to the blue caps, so they can use them too. Everyone needs to be accountable.
He is being held accountable, chairman is being held accountable, and they need to be held accountable too. He
would like to see more access to MYSAL.org. Right now, it is for the Detachment Adjutants. we should be able to
access each detachment MYSAL.org and be able to see what squadrons are doing what. And how we can help
them. Back to we need phone numbers and contact information. We need to supply a link to the DD214 Website
https://www.archives.gov/service-records
Yes, he wants to join, father is deceased, and mother does not know where his service records are and has no
idea where to get his DD214. This will give them a way to do it. They may or may not have it, but it gives them a
shot at trying to get the information. We need to improvise member discounts travel, insurance, movies, car
insurance. When your membership card expires December 31, and disaster strikes January 5th and you need to
ask for assistance and you are no longer a member. Your eligibility and benefits have expired. You need to focus
on that. Use the membership tools. It is out there and out there for a reason.
Try new things. We all know the difficulty of trying the same things over and over and expect a different result.
You need to think outside of the box. He would like to see something like the Auxiliary membership application
where all three applications are in a trifold application. We need to do this as a team they support us we need to
support them. He would like to see some new incentives it needs to go through the body and finance about new
awards. Whether be plaques or certificates. Most new members recruited by a detachment. You have to get your
renewals in and new members. We all lose membership every year and we have to recruit new. For detachment
of Texas based on their entire membership they turn over their entire membership every four years. Every year they recruit 1500 new members. Recruiter of the year.

For most new members that year. Coordinate a National Membership Drive. During a week or month. Create a National Renewal Month. Create a little shield “You’re a Valued Member” Designate the Month of November as National Renewal Membership Month. What better way to honor the service to veterans who provided you eligibility than to join The Sons of The American Legion and renewing your membership. To those who already have a huge thank you. We all pay our dues once a year. For some it is when the membership year starts. For others it may not be until late in the calendar year. Please consider renewing by November 11th Veterans Day. Possible online renewals. Steal other people’s ideas. Always have something on hand to show this is what the sons is all about.

NVC-West Ed Cleary (AZ) – Has been working with the Commanders in the West trying to get them in the loop with communication. He had 24 people on the last conference call.

Ned Fox (CA) – We need to get out and talk to people. March 15 wants to challenge each squadron to be 100% by Legion Birthday of March 15th. Come out with a ribbon to honor the squadrons that make it. They did hit 25% but it is calling people and talking to people. Every detachment should have a Blue Brigade person and should be recognized at National Convention whether there or not. Grow your membership. Be aware of what we have and can pass that out to people. That is when members find out who you are. Now National Chaplain is now a new sons member in California. Talk to people. Engagement let your new member know why they belong. Reinstatement is when those members what to stay with you as a member. Fraternities expose them to what we do. Dances, Picnics, CWF, get them involved.

Chairman Navarrete (NM) Said WOW all those reports amazing. Lots of great ideas and support. It shows in our numbers. He thanked all the Vice Commanders and Committeemen for a great job. Lots of different ideas coming together and we want to share these messages. We want to bring people in and continue to grow. He has no doubt we will be successful it is already showing in our numbers we are doing great let’s keep that work up. Next target date is November 15th is 35% followed by our 45% target date December 12th. He asks all our members to take this information back to there detachment and let them know what is available and work with them to bring their membership in.

Old Business:

Strategic Ad Hoc Committee Report – Update Squadron Handbook Publication
- Review current Squadron Handbook - Done
- Conduct survey to gather feedback from Squadrons
- Evaluate applicability of contents to members at the Squadron level
- Update relevant content to fill gaps in existing handbook
- Assess feasibility of creating version for mobile app

We have been holding a resolution #8 in the Committee since the 2015 Convention. California and Minnesota presented it. They are being asked to present a plan. Joe Roberts (AZ), original committee was set up to refer to committee. We need to have proof it works. Trace the membership. The membership Legion will not stop mailing the renewal post cards. Still holding; no report yet.

It has been asked to see the resolution in question, so they will have a more understanding of the problems and what it is about.

Camille LeJeune (LA) asked about using mySAL. As a squadron adjutant he has access to the consolidated reporting form, but as detachment adjutant he does not. He needs to know who submitted and what they submitted.

NVC-C Matthew T. Christie (IL) Made a motion to pursue the investigation of online membership handling.
New Business:

NVC East Mike Cotton (DE) When the Detachment Adjutants send all the forms with the new Chairman to National. Can that be publicized and sent back to the leading candidates? For they can put their communication networks together. Because it takes several months after National Convention to compile this information from the detachments. Possibly scanned as turned in or put on a spreadsheet.

David from Alaska would like a per capita. One out of every seven or so belong to the Legion or SAL or Auxiliary in Alaska.

Tom Skelley (TX) Motion that the National Membership Committee adopt November as National Renewal Month. Terry Nelson Eastern Region second the motion. Chairman Navarrete said we do not need a motion for that. We can adopt the letter and send that out through the committee. Discussion the committee will bring it up take a vote and make a resolution on it.

Resolutions:
None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Committee. Commander Gibbs (NY) Said he talked about his new 24 Karat Gold Pin for 3 new members. While in Massachusetts he visited the USS Massachusetts Battleship when a curator from the museum came out and started to show them around. He was an older man, so the Commander asked him if he served in the Navy sir. Oh no he did not serve, but his Dad served in Vietnam. Sir are you a Sons member? No, I would love to be a member. Commander Gibbs got his money and signed him up right there. He could not believe it because Massachusetts has been dealing with this gentleman for about ten to twelve years. The story is true You Just Have To ASK. We want to make this the best 100th Anniversary year present for the Legion Family. We are on a great roll if we can keep this momentum going we will have a great year. We want to do things to engage our 20-30-year-old members. You have a bunch in your own squadrons, where are they? They are not in your leadership rolls. Try to think what you can do to entice these 20-30 year old’s to be more active, they are already in our books. We know they have busy lives, they have young families, we all had that at one point. What can we do to engage them in our organization? We are going to ask that same question all year long. Hopefully by time we get to Indianapolis at next year’s Convention we have some answers. If we do not have some answers by then, Commander Gibbs is going to have a forum with a bunch of 20-30-year-old members in the audience and ask them what we can do to help you have a greater role in the Sons of The American Legion. What does the Sons of The American Legion need to do for you as a young man. How can we make that happen? They are going to be our leaders very soon. We need to start cultivating them.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. Leading Candidate Clint Bolt (VA) – Good enthusiasm. Great to hear about the new squadrons. Being from Virginia and home of National Commander Brett Reistad. He talked about Team 100. He said that we need the Sons to be a part of Team 100. He said you all do a great job recruiting new members and we need to learn from you and we need your help. To recruit new members. So, with that concept Team 100 stepping forward into the next 100 years, your sons are going to be asked to do a lot more things like that. So, when you do recruit for the Sons think able American Legion members we are trying to capture as many as we can for our organization can be much stronger. He then introduced his team for next year’s National Vice Commanders David Van Duisen from the West, from the South, Jerry Milton East, Doc Pfeiffer Central, and Chris Cook from Midwest. Keep up the great work and make all Commander Doc Gibbs goals this year.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We also had a visit yesterday from our national commander, Mr. Greg "Doc" Gibbs, and the aide to the national commander, Mr. Gary Denmon, who came by to give us a few words.

Commission held two conference calls since the beginning of this administrative year. The first was held in the middle of September where we had most of the commission and all of the committees. The second one was just kind of a follow-up to the first conference call that we had in mid-September, and that was just leading into this weekend.

We also have submitted our portion of the strategic plan to our new staff liaison, Mr. Ken George.

The commission had no new business come before this weekend. We did handle six resolutions over the weekend. We were the only commission to handle any resolutions this entire NEC.

The first resolution that came before us was SAL Resolution No. 1 Fall 2018, titled "Provide a Detailed Line Item Budget to the NEC." That resolution was withdrawn by its originator, Ron Roberts of Mississippi, after information was provided by Finance Commission Chairman Bill Hill.

S.A.L. Resolution 2 Fall 2018, "Recognition of the Detachment of the District of Columbia." That motion was approved and carried.

S.A.L. Resolution No. 3, with the endorsement of Richard Pfeiffer of Indiana for national vice commander, that resolution was received and filed.

S.A.L. Resolution 4, for endorsement of Blair Miles of Alabama for national vice commander, again, received and filed.
S.A.L. Resolution No. 5, "Male Spouse and Widower Eligibility." That resolution, a motion was made to reject and was carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 at Fall 2018, "National Convention Committee Expansion." This was the resolution that was brought forth after the Convention Committee meeting on Friday evening. That resolution was amended to strike the two final resolving clauses. A motion was then made to approve the amended resolution, and carried.

There was no further business to come before the Internal Affairs Commission meeting, and this concludes the Internal Affairs Commission report minus the resolutions.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am on October 13, 2018 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark A. Tansel (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Mark Tansel (IN) Members: Jay Cook (OK)
Vice Chairman: Don Culver (KS) Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL)
Secretary: Larry “Bear” Weinzirl (MD) Michael Kirschner (CO)
Liaison: National Assistant Adjutant Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD)
National Staff Liaison: Rick Cook (OK)
Past National Commander: Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD)

Introduction of National Commander: Chairman Tansel introduced National Commander Greg “Doc” Gibbs (NY). National Commander Gibbs brought greetings and said the fireside chats will continue building upon last year's accomplishments. National Commander Gibbs thanked the Commission for all we do.

Introduction of National Staff Liaison: Chairman Tansel recognized National Staff Liaison Ken George (CA). Liaison George will be working with each of the respective Chairmen on the Strategic Plan.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
Minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

Reports of Committee(s):
**Convention Committee** – Chairman Greg Spaulding (IN) gave his report. The Committee is developing a pamphlet on things to do while in Indianapolis. National Commander Gibbs requested to find something for the kids and the Committee is looking into it.

**Member Training & Development Committee** – Chairman Chuck Treat (AZ) gave his report. The 2018 Detachment Commander’s school is presently going on downstairs. His Committee continues to have regular conference calls and is working on preparing for the NMI classes next spring.

**Membership Committee** – Chairman Joe Navarrete (NM) gave his report. All National Vice Commanders were in attendance for the Committee meeting on Friday night. The Committee has asked the Regional Committeeen to be more involved. Reviewed goal for next year and discussed awards being presented. The national goal this year is 400,000 members. Exceeded the 10% target date and just missed the 25% target date. At this time, around 1,200 members ahead of last year. (see Membership Committee report for additional information)

Motion to accept the Committee Reports by: Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL); Seconded by: Larry “Bear” Weinzirl (MD), motion carried.

**Reports of Members:**
None.

**Old Business:**
Chairman Tansel stated Internal Affairs had Conference calls on September 19 and October 3, 2018 with all three Committee Chairmen on the September call and one Chairman on the October call (other Chairmen were excused.) Don Culver (KS) suggested Internal Affairs follow up with the National Liaison regarding actions needed to accomplish the Strategic Plan. A copy of the Strategic Plan was provided to the Internal Affairs Chairman on Friday, October 12, 2018. Internal Affairs is scheduled to receive information from the Finance Commission regarding NEC Call In at National Convention at the Spring 2019 NEC meeting on future funding availability to support this resolution.

**New Business:**
None

**Resolutions:**
S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2018 – “Provide a Detailed Line-Item Budget to the NEC”
- Finance Chairman Hill agreed to provide requested information to the NECman.
- Action: Resolution was withdrawn by the originator, NEC Ron Roberts (MS)

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2018 – “Recognition of the Detachment of District of Columbia”
- Motion to approve the Resolution made by Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Jay Cook (OK).
- Action: Motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2018 – “Endorsement of Richard Pfeiffer (IN) for National Vice Commander”
- Motion to receive and file by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL).
- Action: Motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2018 – “Endorsement of Blair Miles (AL) for National Vice Commander”
- Motion to receive and file by Jay Cook (OK); Seconded by: Mike Kirschner (CO).
- Action: Motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2018 – “Male Spouse and Widower Eligibility”
- Motion to Reject by Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Jay Cook (OK).
- Action: Motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2018- “National Convention Committee Expansion”
- Motion to amend the resolution by Don Culver (KS). (DELETE the last 2 resolved clauses regarding call in funding based upon input from Finance Committee Chairman). Seconded by Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL).
- Action: Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the amended resolution by Don Culver (KS). Seconded by: Larry Weinzirl (MD).
- Action: Motion carried.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
None

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) adjourned the meeting at 10:53 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Mark.

We'd entertain a motion to accept.

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

I make a motion that we accept the Internal Affairs Commission report minus the resolutions.

NECMAN JOHN CHANG (NY): Mr. Commander, John Chang, NEC from New York, seconds that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Do we have any discussion on the motion?

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, same sign.

Carried, thank you, gentlemen.

J.J., come on up.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: You got to do that different. She don't know me as J.J., Commander.
Good morning. I'm going to try to make this painless. With hearing no objections, I'm going to read the "resolved" clauses only with the titles. Hearing no objections, I will do the "resolved" clauses only with corrections.

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

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Resolution 1, for your record, the title or originator or origin needs to be changed on your paperwork for purpose of record. Ron Roberts, NEC, in parentheses, "(MS)" for Mississippi.

No: S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall 2018
TITLE: Provide a Detailed Line-Item Budget to the NEC
ORIGIN: National Executive Committeeman Rob Roberts (MS)

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion as provided by the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be a self governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and mandates of the National Convention; and


Rule 3
b. To determine the number of members of all National Commissions, National Committees, Board or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee created by the National Commander not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion or the National Executive Committee and to ratify the appointments made by the National Commander. Such National Commissions, National Committees, Boards or Subcommittees of the National Executive Committee shall receive full instructions from the National Executive Committee by resolution specifying their purpose, scope, function and authority.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Finance Committee of the Sons of The American Legion is instructed to provide to the National Executive Committee; for review prior to adoption by the National Executive Committee a detailed-line item budget. For confidentiality purposes this can be presented at an Executive Session of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion.
...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Jennings presented the following resolution:

No:  S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall 2018  
TITLE:  Recognition and approval of the Detachment of District of Columbia  
ORIGIN:  Internal Affairs Commission (received through The American Legion Internal Affairs Division)  

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion was established September 12-15, 1932 as a support program of The American Legion; and  

WHEREAS, Each Department of The American Legion has established a Sons of The American Legion Detachment and maintains oversight of their program; and  

WHEREAS, The District of Columbia has three Sons of The American Legion Squadrons, those being at George Washington Post 1, Kenneth H. Nash Post 8, and National Defence Post 46; and  

WHEREAS, The Department of the District of Columbia Executive Committee met on May 24, 2018 and unanimously approved a resolution to form a District of Columbia, Sons of The American Legion Detachment; now, therefore, be it  

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee recognizes and approves the establishment of the Detachment of the District of Columbia.  

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS:  As NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I move to accept this resolution as presented.  

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK):  Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma.  
I second the motion.  

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  We have a motion and a second.  Any more discussion on the matter?  

Hearing none, all in favor, signify by aye.  

Opposed, same sign.  

Carried.
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander.

(Applause)

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

No: S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall 2018  
TITLE: Endorsement of Richard Pfeiffer (IN) for National Vice Commander
ORIGIN: Detachment of Indiana

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

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Indiana hereby endorses Richard Pfeiffer 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 Indiana and the Department of Indiana with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, DeWayne Long, and Department Commander, Rodney Strong, are on the submitted resolution.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The Resolution Committee reviewed and recommended for approval as written. John Jennings as NEC, Detachment of Florida, moves for acceptance of that resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Mr. Commander, Mike Pipher, NEC, Indiana, would like to second that.
NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the matter?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Point of order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, sir.

NECMAN C. COOK: Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma.

This is just a candidate resolution. It has been received and filed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you. You go, Chris. You're the man.

(Laughter)

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

No: S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall 2018
TITLE: Endorsement of Blair Miles (AL) for National Vice Commander
ORIGIN: Detachment of Alabama (received through The American Legion Internal Affairs Division from the Department of Alabama National Convention Resolution 95)

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

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Alabama hereby endorses Blair Miles 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 Alabama and the Department of Alabama with indicated National action submitted for the local
resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Blair Miles, and Department Adjutant, William G. Akers, are on the submitted resolution.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: This resolution was reviewed by the Subcommittee on Resolutions and it was recommended to be received and filed. No action needed.

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

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Next, Resolution 5, "Male Spouse and Widower Eligibility." This is a correction of title for your records.

It was received through the American Legion IA or the TALIA division from Department of Texas National Convention Resolution No. 25.

That resolution was rejected by the Internal Affairs Commission.

No: S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall 2018
TITLE: Male Spouse and Widower Eligibility
ORIGIN: Detachment of Texas (received through The American Legion Internal Affairs Division from the Department of Texas National Convention Resolution 95)

WHEREAS, Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion; and,

WHEREAS, Sons of The American Legion is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion; and,

WHEREAS, 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, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who have died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion; and,

WHEREAS, The mission of the Sons of The American Legion is to serve veterans, the military and their families; and,

WHEREAS, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires; and,
WHEREAS, Sons of The American is not a separate entity; it is a program of The American Legion; and,

WHEREAS, Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million; and,

WHEREAS, Male spouses and widowers of female veterans who are not eligible for membership in The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary cannot become members of The American Legion Family; and,

WHEREAS, Eligible female veterans would be more likely to join The American Legion if their male spouses were afforded the same opportunity as female spouses of eligible male veterans; and.

WHEREAS, The eligibility requirements for Sons of The American Legion are not contained in The American Legion Congressional Charter, as amended, or contained in the National Constitution and By-Laws and can be determined by the delegates of the 2018 National Convention of The American Legion in Minneapolis; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 13-14, 2018, That the eligibility requirements for membership in Sons of The American Legion be amended by adding: …and the male spouses or widower of female veterans eligible for membership in The American Legion.

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

No:  S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall 2018
TITLE: National Convention Committee Expansion
ORIGIN: Convention Committee

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion, National Executive Committee, has a National Convention Committee which consists of only a chairman, and

WHEREAS, the work, purposes and functions of the National Convention has continued to expand and evolve as our organization has grown, and

WHEREAS, to accomplish the changing priorities and objectives set forth by the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee, and the membership of the organization as a whole, broader participation is required, and

WHEREAS, adding members to the National Convention Committee will provide improvements and continuity to this important event; now, therefore be it
RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana October 13-14, 2018, that the National Convention Committee of the Sons of The American Legion be structured to include 5 members of the Sons of The American Legion. The 5 members shall consist of the two previous National Convention Committee Chairmen, the current Convention Chairman (duly appointed by the National Commander), and 2 additional members (duly appointed by the National Commander) who will be from the host Detachments of the next 2 National Conventions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the change take effect in the 2019-2020 administrative year.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Subcommittee on Resolutions reviewed and accepted this for submittal. Detachment of Florida NECman John Jennings moved for acceptance of this resolution.

NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Mr. Commander, Mike Pipher, Indiana, would second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second.

Do you want to read that one more time?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: That's what I read.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I know. We're good?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the commander?

NECMAN PIPHER: Mr. Commander, yes, sir. Mike Pipher, NEC Indiana.

I would like to say a few words in support of this resolution.

The national convention of course, is, perhaps, one of the most publicly visible events that the SAL national organization puts on each year. I don't know if all the NECmen realize this, but we appoint a chairman to this committee. It's a one-man committee. We put all of the
responsibility on this one person's shoulder, and we sort of step back and hope that he'll go back
to his detachment and solicit enough support so that he puts on the adjunct events that surround
the conventions. We hope they do a good job of that.

What this resolution's trying to do is to give him some additional resources. We're
tapping the expertise of the two previous chairmen who probably woke up on Monday morning
and said, "Boy, I wish I'd had done this differently or I wish I had done this instead," or
whatever, and blend that with the two up-and-coming likely-to-be chairmen who were very
enthusiastic, and giving them some on-the-job training.

So it's a win-win situation all the way around. In a perfect world we would have
provided some call-in money for this to happen. But in the discussions yesterday, realized the
funding is just not there at this time. Hopefully we can come back to that, revisit it in the next
couple of years, see if we can't find those funds.

But the end result here is a win-win situation, probably a win-win-win because the SAL
winds up with an even better event because the chairman has more resources now at his
disposal.

So I would ask the NEC to join me this morning in supporting this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, you're recognized.

NECMAN R. ROBERTS: To my fellow NECmen, you all had a rules of the NEC book
given to you yesterday. Rule No. 3 gives you this power, and that's where we're being asked to
exercise it.
"To determine the number of members of all national commissions, national committees, board of subcommittees of the National Executive Committee created by the National Commander not in conflict with the Constitution and Bylaws." In other words, this is our job. Our job is to determine how many members are on there.

Our job is, it also says, "The National Executive Committee shall receive full instructions from the National Executive Committee by resolution, specifying their purpose, scope, function, and authority."

So that's our job, to help back up these committees, if you think that's the right number. It's our job to determine the number, our job to determine the scope and their authority, and grant them that.

Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

Any other discussion on the matter?

Hearing none, all in favor, say aye, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Gentlemen, please join me in welcoming our newest detachment, the Detachment of District of Columbia.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, gentlemen.

We will entertain a motion to accept the Internal Affairs --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We already did it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good. Let's move on.
Legislative Commission, Tom Deal, and on deck is Public & Media Communications, Seth Rippe.

While we're waiting for Tom to come up, how many people have seen the last fireside chat? Let's see the hands.

I'd want to thank Past Commander Danny Smith for providing me the opportunity to do that fireside chat with him in the state of Nebraska. You will see more.

Danny was gracious enough to do that because we do not have a commander's CD or information yet available to you. The Legion was going to do that over the summer; they didn't get to it. We were going to do it this weekend; we didn't get to it. So at least, if you see that fireside chat, you'll see that Danny did a little interview with me and then you do have some information to go by.

But we will, hopefully, with the American Legion's cooperation, we will still have some information to follow. Please stay tuned, there will be more fireside chats.

Tom.

**Oral Report of the Legislative Commission**

**Thomas Deal, Maryland, Chairman**

Good morning.

First off, we do have some unfinished business from the national convention in reference to the George B. Evans Grassroots Advocate of the Year Award. It's given yearly, but our recipient was not able to be at convention.

First, I'd like to tell you who the award was named for. George B. Evans was born in 1953 in Chicago, Illinois. He was a 1971 graduate of Harold L. Richards High School in Oak
Lawn, Illinois. George earned a paralegal degree from Harper College. He worked in Cook County court system as a court clerk for 20 years --

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Gentlemen. If you have conversations, please take them out in the hall. We can hear them all the way up front.

Go ahead, Tom.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DEAL: Thank you, Commander.

George joined The Sons of The American Legion in 1990 at Squadron 279 in Gary, Indiana. He obtained his eligibility from his father, a U.S. Navy World War II veteran and longtime Legionnaire. George had offices as the squadron commander, first district commander, detachment, ANEC, NEC, Detachment of Indiana commander. He was awarded the highest honor by the Detachment of Indiana, its Distinguished Service Award for his service.

At national he was appointed the Legislative Commission chairman, and in 2001 he was named chairman for the next eight years.

George worked tirelessly as an advocate for many years. His devotion and his passion was easily seen when he spoke. George was a strong advocate of the Washington conference and attended it many times, and he was a driving force behind the establishment of the legislative grassroots advocate of the year award, recognizing a member who had made significant contributions to The Sons of The American Legion legislative program.

This past convention, the award winner was not able to be here, as I stated. But I understand he is here today. So with that, the winner of the George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year Award is David Perry from Bath, New York, Charles E. Westcott Squadron 173. Please bring him forward.
(Standing ovation)

David, it is a pleasure to have you with us. And we have your cap, the National Legislative Veterans Advocate of the Year Award cap that will be presented to you. If you remove your cap, I will place this cap on your head.

(Applause)

DAVID PERRY (NY): Thank you. It has been a long journey for me while I've been going to Washington, and been honored to do so, and I will still continue the work. Thank you again, gentlemen.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DEAL: Thank you.

(Standing ovation)

The Legislative Commission met on Saturday, October 13th, at 9:30 a.m. All commission members were present, along with nine guests.

The commission members, I'd ask you to stand as I call your name. Vice Chairman Richard Pfeiffer, Bernie Kessler from Ohio, Bill Kelly from Florida, David Lee from New York, and Richard Humphrey from Colorado.

These members are working hard for the organization and appreciate all your help. It is a great commission, and I'm proud to lead this commission. Thank you.

(Applause)

We discussed changes to the George B. Evans grassroots award. We want to make it more friendly to fill out. We're trying to make it so we can have a fillable PDF and clean up some of the verbiage in it. So we are working on this and we expect some adoption later this year for the next administrative year.
We talked about the Washington conference. It is February 24th through the 27th, 2019, with the tours of Arlington, Iwo Jima, and the Vietnam Memorial being on Sunday, February 24th. Wreaths remain the same at 150, and the box lunches are $8.

We will again have two buses, which is a great thing, and we expect them to be full. We were almost full last year; we want them full this year. So send your forms in as soon as possible.

The bus will be leaving the Washington Hilton at 7:30 promptly. If you're late, you'll miss the bus. We will return back to the hotel by 1:30. A full accounting of the bus trip is published. We must receive those forms by February 10th with the checks.

We also distributed a sample news and radio announcement for you to put on a public service announcement.

Bill Kelly updated us on the suicide prevention and flag amendment bills still on the books.

We wanted to make sure we tell everyone, get out and vote, register to vote. The deadlines are coming up, some of them have already been there. But most of them, you still have time to get people registered to vote. We need to push for that and, again, get out and vote.

We're talking about hashtags and communications with your representatives. There is a flyer out there that has a lot of those and it is the legion.org website.

Please remember, when you're wearing the cap and the shield, you must remain nonpartisan and nonsectarian.

The agenda for the 115th legislative year was distributed, and recommend you learning all you can about one or two items on the list. Don't try to learn them all and talk to your
senators. Learn about one or two very well, and then speak and try to get through to your senators and congressmen why we need these things for our veterans.

The next legislative conference call will be November 5th at 7 Eastern time and the numbers will be published. If you would like to have an email on that, please email me, and I will send the itinerary out about a week before then.

We also had a visit from Commander Gibbs. He did address the meeting and talk to everyone about getting involved at home and through email, and suggesting working at the polls to learn a lot more about politics and the process. This would help.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27.

Mr. Commander, that’s my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:39 am on October 13, 2018 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Thomas G. Deal (MD) Members: Bernie Kessler (OH)
Vice Chairman: Richard M. Pfeiffer (IN) Bill Kelly, Jr. (FL)
Secretary: David Ridenour (IN) Richard L. Humphrey (CO)
National Assistant Adjutant: David Lee (NY)
Liaison: David P. Stephen (IN)
Past National Commander: 
Guests: William Murphy (MA), Phillio Cook (NH), David Mennel (MI), David Perry (NY), Valerie Brown-Debro (GA), Jimmy Hunter (IL), Scott Garrett (CO), Damon Bradtmueller (IN).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Tom Deal (MD) Introduced David Lee (NY) to talk about the George B Evans Grass Roots Veterans Advocate of The Year update.

David Lee (NY) Described changes to make it more streamline. He talked about the Criteria #9 What is National Informational Conference (NIC). Rules #2 about paper documentation only, change to possible send email. Create a fillable PDF. Possible have it go to a Commission Chairman. Application fill in your information. The 30-day deadline needs to be enforced. Remove the points awarded from the application. The Chairman will still have the points for judging. This could eliminate possibly one page. This will be an administrative change. This would start next year. Will try to finalize in the next conference call.
Washington Conference visit will be Feb 24 to visit the memorials. Arlington at 9:15am Iwo Jima then Vietnam Memorial. The wreathes will cost $150 per wreath. Box lunch are $8.00 each with water. Conference will be from February 24 through 27, 2019. We will return in time for the leading candidate reception at Post 136.

A question was asked are they requiring NEC to go to Washington DC?

We had 2 buses last year 93 people attended. We do need the form filled out with a check submitted. No check no reservation. Please print clearly. If bringing someone with you please give us their contact information in case something happens. The hotel will be the Washington Hilton. If you want to go a different memorial, you can buy the wreath and go at another time or on your own.

Sample news releases. There is an outline provided to help you do a news release or a public radio public announcement. Contact your post and get these PSA’s setup with your post and squadron. Check you state and if people are not registered they can get registered.

Veteran Suicide, Bill Kelly (FL) Suicide Information Week September 9 – 15th. Your departments should get the information they need. Make sure you partner with your department they should have the information needed and work with them. The biggest thing is to partner with your department liaison and get on his mailing list and the email from the Washington DC office.

Flag Amendment Bill Kelly (FL) The courts say it is freedom of speech. The American Legion believes that it is against all people and our military. Let your congressman know that you are a member of the American Legion. Make sure your congressman or senator know how you feel. Keep telling them about the Flag Amendment but be nice, we still need them for other bills to help our veterans, but keep bringing it up to them.

If you see something that is important to you let the people know, if it is not a concern for the American Legion take off you cap or shirt with the American Legion symbols on it.

Get legislative alerts. www.legion.org/legislative

If you are concerned about something on our Legislative Agenda pick a topic you know and learn everything you can about the topic so you can talk to your representative or senator. Online there is more information than on the legislative agenda pamphlet. Do not get discourage if you talk to a representative of the congressman they may be more informed about the subject.

RESONATE are to setup hash tags to contact your congressman or senator. www.legion.org/nalpa

Any other business:

Jimmy Hunter from Illinois talked about showing more Suicide Prevention PSA commercials. Today there are one suicide a day, so it is up to 30 a month from 22 a month.

Conference calls are Bi- monthly Dec 5th, Feb 6th, Apr 3rd June 5th and August 7th. Call in number is 712-775-7031 Access number is 988-284-103 at 7 pm Eastern Time.

Richard M. Pfeiffer (IN) Trying to get all legislative chairman from each state.

Bernie Kessler (OH)

Bill Kelly, Jr. (FL) He has 2 commission chairman and still trying to get more chairman.

Richard L. Humphrey (CO)

David Lee (NY)
Old Business:
None.

New Business:
None.

Resolutions:
None.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Commission. Commander Doc Gibbs (NY) Remind people that they can get involved at home through email. You can work at the polls and you will learn all kind of data from your area. You can learn about your community. You can also do your own politicking. Do not wait to see what Doc or Tom or Bill does, our mission is the same. Chairman’s change but the job is the same. Washington DC is what this is all about. Thank you for all your work.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD) adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Tom.

We will entertain a report -- yes, we certainly will. We'll entertain a motion to accept the report as read.

NECMAN JAMES HUNTER (IL): Mr. Commander, Jimmy Hunter, NEC from Illinois.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, Jimmy.

NECMAN HUNTER: Before I make the motion, just one thing.

Tom, you said the next call is November 5th, and in here it's listed as December 5th.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DEAL: You're correct, it's December.

NECMAN HUNTER: With that being said, I make a motion to accept the report as read.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: December 5th.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the matter?

Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you, gentlemen.

Seth Rippe, Public & Media Communications Commission, and Butch Ray on deck for VA&R.

**Oral Report of Public & Media Communications Commission**

**Seth A. Rippe, Nebraska, Chairman**

Commander, past national commanders, Legionnaires, NECmen, and fellow Sons.

I'd like to start by introducing the Public & Media Communications Commission for the 2018-2019 year. Damon Bradtmueller, vice chair Casey Lenort; Brandon Roberts; Doug Evans; Mark McCue. And of course, our national update editor, Mike Pipher.

Although I am new to this commission, we are very fortunate that every other member has served on this commission prior, so it's made a very smooth transition this year. I want to thank all of them, as well as Mr. Fox, for getting me up to speed.

It's going to be a great year, gentlemen, as we focus on the American Legion's 100th birthday, "Honoring the Past and Continuing the Legacy." You're going to hear us repeat that throughout the year.

We stand on the shoulders of many great individuals who have come before us, that not only made us who we are individually, but made us who we are as an organization. We are proud possessors of a priceless heritage, and we honor to serve the sacrifices of our forefathers.
One of the ways this commission is going to do that is by promoting the commander’s theme through a collection of photos of these individuals who have come before us, through whom our eligibility into this great organization comes. We're going to continue to pay tribute to them throughout the year.

Gentlemen, I was very pleased with the response we got. We have 100 photos. By spring NEC I'd love to have 200. By national convention I'd like to have 300 or more.

So please, go home, go through your pictures. Find a picture of whom your eligibility is through and send it to me. Gentlemen, I'm just looking for the name of the individual, the branch of the service they served in, the era, and who their relationship is to you, gentlemen. So please go through those photos and send me one. Of course we'd love to have them in their military attire, but that's not necessary.

But again, this isn't just for the individuals who are coming to this meeting; I'd love to have one from anybody back home. So take this back home with you. When you're meeting at your fall or midyear convention, please ask them to submit a photo as well. I'd love, like I said, to have at least double this next year.

In addition to working on this particular tribute, the commission has continued to work on the strategic plan this year. We're going to continue to work on that throughout the year with the help of national headquarters staff. We have a number of items that need financial assistance to make them happen, so we're going to be working with the Finance Committee.

We're also going to be focusing on engaging the 20- to 30-year-old members. This commission is going to work with the other committees and commissions to develop a strategy to get these members more active. We're going to be reaching out to the chairmen, asking to participate on their call, finding out how we, as a Public & Media Communications
Commission, can help them promote the ideas that they have for getting those 20- and 30-year-olds involved. In addition, we have assigned a commission member to each region with the intent of having representation on every monthly call to promote these themes and other focus throughout the year.

We've already set two challenges in our first two monthly regional calls. The first was for all squadrons to get in touch with their local paper, radio station, or TV station, and get at least one, just one of your events or programs in the news. We need to let our hometowns know what we are doing. It's easier to sign up and renew members when they know what we are doing locally.

The second challenge is for every squadron to submit at least one photo to Snapshots of Service. For anyone not familiar, the Snapshots of Service is a contest, a photo contest that's been around for quite some time, however, has historically had very low participation. So what we would like to see is that everyone goes back and just takes a photo of the events and programs you're already doing, gentlemen. You guys are already doing these things. Take a photo of it, fill out the form, and send it in. The form can be found on the website under "Publications and Forms," it's about six fields there, just a brief description of the photo, and send it in.

The only stipulations or criteria for Snapshots of Service is that the individual must be wearing their SAL cover or cap, or wearing SAL apparel. And they must be demonstrating one of the Four Pillars: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. All submissions will be judged at the national convention.
So gentlemen, I'd love to have at least double what we had last year. I'd love to have triple what we had. So please, just take a photo of the things you are already doing in your local squadrons.

In addition to these challenges, I want to address the NEC on two areas of responsibility that fall under the commission. The first, as you heard earlier, is the filling of our webmaster position. So I'd like to welcome Gene to the commission. We look forward to working with him to get the website updated. And gentlemen, I'm sure he's going to have a lot of work to do, but I know he'll do a great job.

Finally, I wanted to touch on the national update. I think the publication looks great. There was a couple of changes that were made to the newsletter last year; you may have noticed them. It was increased from 8 to 12 pages and now is being printed in full color. To offset the additional cost, it was decided to move the publication to two publications per year rather than three. So the submission dates for the articles will now be September 1st and March 1st.

I also wanted to call out an article looking for potential writers. If you have a passion to write about something that you're doing, please, reach out to Mr. Pipher, let him know that you're interested, and he'll work with you to work on some ideas for potential articles for the upcoming national update.

That's all I have today, gentlemen. I look forward to working with you to promote all the great programs and activities of The Sons of The American Legion.

Sir, this concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm on October 13, 2018 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE).
Roll Call:

Chairman: Seth A. Rippe (NE)  Members: Casey Lenort (MN)
Vice Chairman: Damon Bradtmueller (IN)  Brandon Roberts (GA)
Secretary: Robert J. Avery (NY)  Doug Evans (KS)
National Assistant Adjutant: Mark McCue (MA)
Liaison: Thomas Cisna (IL)  Past National Commander
Guests: Mike Kane (PA), Martin Longeway (AR), Dennis Henkemeyer (MN), Gabe Cinquegrana (NY),
Clice Seydell (MI), Dennis Albright (OH), PNC Tommie Cisna (IL), PNC Joe Mayne ((MN), William
Clancy (NY), Greg spaulding (IN), Bill Towns (OH), Mike Pipher (IN), David Rippe (NE), George
Sevick (NE), Carl Albern, Jr. (NJ), Phillip Cook (NH), David Lee (NY)

With the Colors in place, the membership saluted.

National Commander Greg Gibbs addressed the membership and thanked them for all of their hard work.

The invocation was provided by Casey Lenort, followed by Damon Bradtmueller leading the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mark B. McCue recited the POW/MIA Empty Chair ceremonial, followed by Doug Evans leading the recital Of The Preamble To The Constitution. Brandon Roberts recited the Blue Star Banner ceremonial.

Chairman Rippe noted this year’s theme is Honoring the Past... Continuing the Legacy”. We stand on the shoulders of many great individuals who have come before us that have not only made us who we are individually but made us who we are as an organization. We are proud possessors of a priceless heritage and we exist to honor the service and sacrifices of our forefathers. One of the ways this commission will be promoting the Commander’s theme is by collecting photos of those individuals who our eligibility into the Sons is through and paying tribute to them throughout this year.

But we can’t just stop there... we must continue the legacy by growing our existing programs. This commission aims to do just that by working closely with our National Officers and Committees/Commissions to promote their programs through various media platforms. We will also be celebrating The American Legion’s 100th year as a part of “Team 100” promoting their theme and goals for this historic year.

Commander Gibbs’ focus for the year is to engage the 20-30 year old members. This Commission will work with the other Committees/Commissions to develop a strategy to get these members more active. Commission members have been assigned to each Region with the intent of having representation on every monthly call to promote these themes and focus on specific areas to help reach our goals.

All Squadrons are challenged to get in touch with their local paper, radio, or TV station and get at least one of their events or programs in the NEWS. We need to let our home town’s know what we are doing. It’s easier to sign up and renew members when they see what we are doing locally.

The second challenge is for all squadrons to submit at least one photo to “Snapshots of Service”. For anyone who is not familiar with this contest you simply need to fill out the form found on the website under publications & forms then submit it along with a picture in a jpg or tiff format of Sons member in their cover or SAL apparel demonstrating one of the four pillars; Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, or Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. All submissions are then judged at the National Convention. Historically we have had very low participation in this contest gentlemen and I know it’s not because we aren’t doing things! We want to at least double the number of submissions from last year so next time you doing a community service project take a picture and send it in.
Old Business:
The Webmaster position has been vacant since the passing of Wes Wills, however, Chairman Rippe reported that there is a very qualified individual who is interested in the position that the Commission has been made aware of and he is being vetted by the Committee on Committees this weekend.

National Update
Editor Mike Pipher spoke. A couple of changes were made to the newsletter last year that you may have noticed. It was increased from 8 to 12 pages and printed in full color. To offset the additional cost of this it was decided to move to two publications a year rather than three. We will still have the Convention issue. The submission dates for articles is September 1st and March 1st. There was a suggestion to include a renewal notice piece in the Spring edition.

Strategic Plan
The Commission had a number of items assigned to it from the Strategic Plan and developed an action plan around each of those. They are as follows:

- 4.A Develop a marketing approach for SAL to attract corporate donations
  Put together email blasts to send out to all members. Some of the information we will be seeking is to gather information on events with lots of younger members involved. We would like to gather photos and videos of events that highlight the programs of The American Legion. These videos will be used for a direct marketing plan to attempt to gather unclaimed corporate funds for non-profit organizations for youth.
  ▪ Next Steps: Draft email to solicit events and photos from squadrons.

- 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.
  ▪ Next Steps: Create a second position to work in tandem with Web Master to administer Social Media accounts

- 4.C Develop campaign to promote SAL program to The American Legion family
  Create videos for the website (TAL & SAL) to show who we are and what we do. Place all videos on a thumb drive to hand to attendees at National Convention to kick start.
  ▪ Next Steps: Follow up with Mr. Fox to see if this was done.

- 4.D Develop SAL promotional videos*
  Have a professional company create videos (1 per quarter) to release on all social media sites as well as 15 second commercial spots to reach a broader audience.
  ▪ Next Steps: Seek funding from the Finance Commission

- 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: Follow up with Commander Gibbs on projects.

New Business:
PNC Mayne spoke and congratulated the Commission for their work.

Damon Bradtmueller made motion that Update editor and the Webmaster provide a formal report to the Commission at the NEC meetings. The motion was seconded by Doug Evans and carried.
With the Commission’s approval, Update editor Mike Pipher will put out a call to the membership to send copies of their newsletters to him so they may be displayed at next year’s National Convention.

Gabe Cinquegrana (NY) spoke on ways the Detachment of New York has reached out to encourage and promote PR.

Martin Longeway (AR) asked if there is a “Do’s and Don’t’s” publication available regarding PR. Chairman Rippe noted that is something the Commission can look into.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
It was brought up as a reminder that TAL and SAL do not endorse any political candidate and members should not wear caps or other regalia to political events.

Doug Evans suggested that we post the video of our veteran forbearers on our FB page or website.

Chairman Rippe reminded those in attendance to pick up the “Snapshots of Service” submittal form and the business card of our National Historian who would like to be sent any photos when Commander Gibbs visits their Detachment.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE) adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Seth.

We'll entertain a motion to accept the Public & Media Communication Commission's report.

ALTERNATE NECMAN RICHARD PREGNALL (VA): Richard Pregnall, alternate NEC, Virginia, I make a motion to accept the report as read.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you. We have a motion.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma, second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion on the matter?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH MAYNE (MN): Mr. Commander, Joe Mayne, Detachment of Minnesota.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes, Joe.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MAYNE: Through the commander to the chair, can I ask, through the chair, how many detachments here have a detachment newsletter that they email out once a month? Can you raise your hand? I know Wisconsin does, Arizona has one that comes out.

I'm asking this because, if I'm not on that, I'd sure love to be on your email distribution list. I know Ohio has a weekly email blast that goes out, that's not fancy, but it's very informative.

I'm just wondering, how many snapshots are on the website? How many pictures exist in these newsletters that, with a quick email, we could get permission to use? Just a thought. But some of these newsletters that are done in the detachment level are quite extensive. New York's Liberty is off the charts.

So just to let you know, there's a lot out there. Maybe if it can be funneled to Seth and his crew, it would move the needle. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RIPPE: Thank you, sir. Great idea.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any other discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you.

Butch Ray, VA&R. And on deck, Chris Carlton for VE&E.

Oral Report of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Harl "Butch" Ray, Illinois, Chairman

Commander Gibbs, national officers, NEC, fellow Sons and guests, good morning.
I, too, have a bit of old business left over from the convention, if I may, Commander. At our convention every year, we get the opportunity to award the Charles Rigsby award to the volunteer of the year for VA services. This year, the Detachment of Virginia was lucky enough to win that award.

With your permission, Commander, I would like to ask Past National Commander Danny Smith to come forward to present the cap to our Rigsby winner from the past year, Fred Vaccarella from Virginia.

*(Standing ovation)*

Now, I'm told that Mr. Vaccarella here is a man of many talents, and that he consistently, well, I guess we would call him the Tommy Cisna of Virginia. He's at the podium all the time.

*(Laughter)*

So with that being said, Commander, if you wouldn't mind capping our Rigsby winner.

*(Applause)*

FRED VACCARELLA: Thank you very much. But this is not for me; this is for the veterans that we help out. All we're doing is what we're doing for the people. So this is just a symbol. And I will wear it with honor, in honor of our veterans, the ones that we've helped, that we'll continue to help, and their families. Thank you very much, again.

*(Standing ovation)*

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RAY: The VA&R Commission met Saturday morning. Unfortunately, only half our commission was there, myself and two of my other members, because two of my members are active-duty and they tend to have busy weekends. I would like
to introduce the two members that are here of my commission, Gabe Cinquegrana from New York, please stand, and Michael Lawler from Wisconsin.

(Appplause)

I thank those gentlemen for their work this weekend. The rest of my committee is Joe Roberts from Arizona, he had to work this weekend and was excused; Steve Tansel from Indiana who was also excused; and Brandon Curry from Kentucky. That makes up my commission.

The mission statement for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: "As proud possessors of a priceless heritage, our mission to veterans is clear. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission starts, sponsors, and participates in programs and services that enhance the lives of our veterans and their families. Through our efforts, we must work to help those who need assistance and restore them to a normal functioning life, be it physically, mentally, socially, or vocationally."

To the NEC, I'm not going to read the report that you have in your packets; all the information is there. But I do want to invite all who would like, to participate in our monthly conference calls. The fourth Monday of each month, the VA&R Commission will hope to conduct a conference call at the following number at 7 p.m. Central time. That phone number is 1(218)339-8241. The access code is 1358. If you need that information later on, please see me.

Our goals and talking points for the year are clear, and one of the most important ones is, we must, I repeat, we must increase the number of VAVS representatives and deputy representatives at our VA hospitals. There's 158 hospitals nationwide, and currently we sit at 25. If we fall below 25, we may lose our seat on the National Advisory Council.
Next week, it will be my honor to represent you at the VAVS executive committee meeting in Washington DC. And I hope to ask some questions and get some answers from them that might make this process a little bit easier for all of us in the entire American Legion family, make the certifications last a little bit longer, and get some bureaucratic questions cleared up.

But in the meantime, if you know of anyone in your detachments, in your squadrons, in your districts, that is the one that could possibly win an award, like Virginia did, then please get that name to me. We need to get them as our reps and depts at our hospitals.

We are also going to continue to support the American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors program; to encourage continued support for the Fisher House foundation; to also encourage and challenge each of you to submit an application to me for the Charles Rigsby award, the Volunteer of the Year Award, for this coming year.

We hope to also post informational articles on the website, once it's back up and running, but we are going to also resurrect an old Facebook page for VA&R, so please keep an eye open for that. I will link it to the existing SAL Facebook page so that you'll be able to find it easily.

We are also going to complete an informational PowerPoint video, along with one that we already have completed, on volunteering through the VAVS system. That will be made available to each and every detachment.

Last year, with only 1,700 squadrons reporting, what you managed to do was phenomenal. Just in brief, 256,352 volunteer hours, and a total combined effort monetarily of $1,115,376. Way to go.

*(Applause)*
If you use the VA’s computation of $24 for every volunteer hour and do the math for that 256,000, you can see what kind of a benefit that we provide our veterans in our voluntary service.

For those of you that need to know or would like to know, rather, the following individuals will be taking care of these regions: Steve Tansel will be central region for VA&R; Michael Lawler for the Midwestern region; Gabe Cinquegrana for the Eastern region; Brandon Curry for the Southern region; and Joe Roberts for the Western region.

Gentlemen, we know what we do for veterans every day. I know that you know it. It’s always important to remember that they deserve what we do for them. More importantly, especially those of you here in the room who stood earlier as dual members, you have earned that.

So I'd like to close with a quote from U.S. Representative Dan Lipinski: "On the battlefield, the military pledge is to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, let it be our pledge that, when they return home, we leave no veteran behind."

Commander, that concludes my report.

(Applause)

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:41 am on October 13, 2018 in the Illinois Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Harl D. “Butch” Ray (IL).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Harl D. “Butch” Ray (IL) Members: Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY)
Vice Chairman: Joseph E. Roberts (AZ) - Excused Brandon Curry (KY) - Excused
Secretary: Scott A. Williams (VA) Steve Tansel (IN) - Excused
National Assistant Adjutant Jim Hartman (MD) Mike Lawler (WI)
Past National Commander
Guests: 14 guests present. Lenny Free (NJ), Doug Hancock (OH), Scott Baker (PA), Thomas Glander (AL), Russell Bayliss (MI), Patrick Gryskiewicz (WI), Robert Bristo (MN), Larry Ford (MD), Robert Jackson (IA).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published. The minutes of the conference call on 9/18 were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Harl “Butch” Ray – He talked about the VA & R Mission Plan. He thanked Past National VA & R Commission Chairman, Bruno Williamson for his help. He pointed out that the Mission Statement could involve our younger members through the Auxiliary Patch Program. He also talked about the VA Summer Volunteer programs. If a student volunteer works at least 200 hours in a Summer is eligible for the James Parkes Scholarship, through the Federal VA. Technology mentors, those who are technologically savvy, can set up a WIFI network or Internet Café at our posts. Talk to your 20 to 35-year-old members to find out how we can get them more involved in our programs.

Chairman Ray talked about the VA & R Informational presentation. He hopes that it will be approved by the Spring NEC. This should be a teaching tool for all of our Detachments and Squadrons.

There is a VA & R Facebook Page that will be used to distribute information until the SAL National Website is operational.

It was suggested that our National Commission Meetings to be done as conference calls or dial in. This could allow for greater participation for those commission and committee members that are excused from attending due work, family, or personal issues.

The main issue for this meeting is VAVS Reps and Deps. VA Voluntary Representatives are needed. The Sons need 25 or more representatives. We need to have at least 25 or we will lose our seat on the National Advisory Council. Our voice through our votes direct the Department of Veterans Affairs in their support of Veterans. Chairman Ray will attend the VAVS Executive Board Meeting later this month. He has several questions he hopes to address at this meeting. The major question is the process for which our SAL Members can become a Rep or a Deputy Representative – that the process takes too long. A volunteer hour equates to $18 to $24 per hour. Discussion followed on the process for adding Deps and Reps. It was also suggested that Reps and Deps are also needed at the VA Clinics. Volunteer work at the clinic should be included as part of the criteria for the Charles B Rigsby award. It was announced that Fred Vaccarella (VA) was the award winner for last year’s Charles B Rigsby Award. He will be submitted for the VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award. Suggestions were made that Detachments add a Volunteer of the Year Award similar to the Charles B Rigsby Award. Chairman Ray is encouraging all Detachments to send an application for the Rigsby award.

Chairman Ray shared the accomplishments from the previous year. VA & R Hours were 256,352 with $1,115,376 in donations based on 28% of the Squadrons reporting.

The Consolidated Report is being revised at the recommendation of the Commission. The new revised form will be released in Spring of 2019. If you report zero membership then you are disqualified for any national per capita awards. On line CSR reporting is being worked on. There will be a change in how District and Detachment reports are judged. Districts should report what events are run by the District and not both the District and Squadrons within that District. It will be the same for the Detachment.

Chairman Ray said that Fisher House and Operation Comfort Warriors programs will be promoted strongly this year.

Tom Gladden suggested that Detachments could support programs for disabled veterans – similar to Para Olympics.
Michael Lawler suggested that we could support more family readiness groups. Both of these can help increase our recruiting members to our organization.

Milestone awards were suggested for those who reach certain volunteer hour benchmarks where a donation is made in honor of a member who reaches these benchmarks.

A resolution may be formulated to establish a Volunteer position to concentrate specifically on all areas of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service processes. This would include certification and re-certification of Representatives and Deputy Representatives as well as tracking Volunteer Hours and Services for accuracy.

Chairman Ray talked about the yearly schedule for National VA & R Conference Calls. The VA & R call is the 4th Monday of the month at 7pm CST. The VA & R Conference Call dial in number is 1 (218) 339-8241 (Access Code is 1358#).

**Old Business:**
Chairman Ray talked about the Veterans National Assistance Day on the 3rd Saturday of May.

He also talked about promoting the Charles B Rigsby Awards.

He wants to publish articles on VA & R every month on the Facebook Page and on the Sons National Website.

We want to continue to promote the Kepler, O’Brien, Webster, Rigsby, and J. Parkes Scholarship Award. The SAL National VA & R Commission makes a $5,000 donation to the J. Parkes Scholarship Fund annually.

**New Business:**
There was none.

**Resolutions:**
There were none.

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
National Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) addressed the Commission. Thanked everyone for their support to VA & R. He asked everyone to keep the momentum rolling and focus on the 20 to 30-year-old members.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. Candidate Bolt talked about the repatriation of the POWs from North Korea. He introduced his Vice Commanders.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Harl D. “Butch” Ray (IL) adjourned the meeting at 10:52 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Butch.

We’d entertain a motion to accept Butch’s report as read.

NECMAN THOMAS GLANDER (AL): Mr. Commander, NEC, Alabama.

I make a motion we accept the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.
How about a second, gentlemen?

NECMAN DAVID VAN DUISEN (WA): David Van Duisen, NEC, Washington state.

I second it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Any discussion on the matter?

NECMAN GLANDER: Mr. Commander, Tom Glander, NEC, Alabama.

I'd like to make a correction. Second page, as much as Joe Gladden is a great guy, I don't share his last name. So it's Tom Glander, not Tom Gladden.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Noted.

Any other discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you, gentlemen.

Chris Carlton from Veterans Employment & Education Commission, and Subcommittee on Resolutions, J.J., on deck.

While we're waiting for Chris, I want to say thank you publicly to Brian Compton, who does so much work for us in a quiet manner, over here on my left side.

I asked Brian, the next time we meet, I'd like to have more room between the NEC tables. So hopefully, we'll have a little bit more aisleway, so that NECmen will be able to get up and easily get to the microphone to second and things like that. I hope that works out for us.

Thank you, Brian, for all you do.

Oral Report of Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Chris Carlton, Indiana, Chairman
Good morning. Veterans Employment & Education Commission is to assist 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. This is our mission statement.

As a newly appointed chairman to this commission, I've been going through some of the older reports and minutes of meetings, and most all of them start out with the mission statement. The VE&E Commission will continue to do this not to be redundant; instead, we always want to remind all detachments of this mission and its importance, and until every detachment has their own VE&E committee.

Now, a little information that you won't see in our committee meeting yesterday is, I had the opportunity yesterday to visit the detachment commanders school and get to present a little to them. This is not scientific evidence or hard numbers, but from what I understand, out of 27 detachment commanders, I asked, by a show of hands, how many had their own VE&E committee. Less than half.

We're doing something. It is nice to see that we do have committees out there, but it shows that we can do more; we need to do more.

But the thing that was a little more disturbing to me was my next question. Out of those that had a VE&E committee, how many of them have been getting information? Less than half had been getting information.

Gentlemen, we need to find and bridge this gap of communication and information failure. I believe it is up to the NEC, but not just the NEC. Everyone that is sitting in this room has the obligation to take the information that you receive, whether it's here at these
conferences, or emails, or conference calls, and take them back to your detachment. The only way that we can be successful in anything is if we continue to provide the information.

Our commission has divided itself between the regions so that each region will have a point of contact.

We will continue to send out information on Hiring Our Heroes. And the best way for you to help with this is by letting your veterans know when and where they are taking place, and reaching out to those job fairs and offering any assistance.

This past year, our commission has started looking into ways that we can help all the homeless veterans by finding programs to prepare them for jobs or furthering their education. And as we continue to promote these ideas and practices, we will also start exploring new and other opportunities that will benefit our veterans. We want to encourage all the detachments to provide us feedback on what they have been and are still doing in their own.

In closing, I would like for all of you to think of yourself as a veteran. You've been enlisted. You had a job. You worked every day. But you are no longer enlisted; you are a veteran. You're also a parent.

And it's very scary to come back home, knowing that you have the skills to do this, but there are no jobs or "I don't know how to find a job." Because the bills will continue to come, and your children will continue to grow, and you will look for help.

Well, their help is us.

That concludes my report, Commander.

...Commission Chairman Carlton submitted the report of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am on October 13, 2018 in the Circle Centre Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Chris A. Carlton (IN).
Roll Call:
Chairman: Chris A. Carlton (IN) Members: Blair M. Miles (AL)
Vice Chairman: Marvin P. Nay (MA) David L. Swafford (UT) – Excused
Secretary: David Ridenour (IN) Typed Doyle T. "Travis" Cummins (MO)
National Assistant Adjutant Ray Edwards, Jr. (DE)
PNC Raymond Giehll, Jr. Past National Commander
Liaison: Travis Cummins (MO) PNC Raymond Giehll, Jr.
Guests: Dennis Albright (OH) Ray Edwards, Jr. (DE)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
Minutes from the last meeting were not available. Did discuss topics regarding the Committee from last
year.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Chris Carlton (IN) – Spoke of Peers (Homeless Post and transition home for Veterans in Indy.
Vice Chairman Marvin Nay (MA) – Spoke about projects in (MA) and would provide minutes from last
spring NEC member –
Blair Miles (AL) – Present
David Swafford (UT) – Absent.
Travis Cummins (MO) – Cummins provided a flyer about SVO. (Student Veterans Organization) in (MO)
helps with school & education.
Ray Edwards, Jr. (DE) – Spoke about OWC (Operation We Care) and Homes for Heroes, both in (MD)
Guest Dennis Albright (OH) s Spoke of the Hooves Program in (OH) Vets w/ PTSD help tame Wild Horses.

Old Business:
Reviewed the Mission Statement
Chairman to contact past Chairman Bear (MD) regarding information on Hiring for Heroes.

New Business:
Assigned Regions
Blair Miles (AL) South
Marvin Nay (MA) East
Travis Cummins (MO) Central
Ray Edwards (MD) Midwest
Chris Carlton (IN) West
Starting point for each member – Contacts NVC in each Region as participate in Conference Calls.
Use list of contacts from last year for Detachments until new list is provided.
Guest Albright mentioned he would forward to the VE&E Chairman Robert Carson (OH).
PNC Giehll (IN) mentioned www.legion.org/careers for some information.
Bi-Monthly Conference Calls: Starting on November 8th @ 8 pm EST to continue on second Thursday of the
every other month. Motion by Nay (MA) second by Cummins (MO)

Resolutions: None
S.A.L. Resolution x – Fall, 2018 – “Title”
- Motion to approve by: ____ (__); seconded by: ____ (__) 
- Discussion: x
- Action: x

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
- Focus on job fairs (Volunteer if need be)
- Homeless Veterans
- Education
- Business Fairs
- Possible at next Convention / Spring NEC booth for Education/ Job Benefits.
- PNC Sacco (CA) to forward to Chairman Carlton (IN) the current SOP. Chairman Carlton to forward to Committee

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Chris A. Carlton (IN) adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Chris.

Chris, I'm going to take a point of privilege and share a brief story. I will make it brief.

When I was about eight years old, I was having dinner with my parents in a restaurant, which we didn't do too often. And a gentleman came up to our table. He had short, really short black hair for the 1960s; big, huge scar on his head, it was a big crescent covering half his head. Came up to our table, and my father's name is Richard.

And he goes, "Dick, Dick, how are you? Nice to see you. Dick, do you have any jobs?"

My dad was like -- he said, "Dick, I really need a job. I just lost my job. I got to have a job soon. You got anything, please give me a call."

My dad, I remember him saying, "Well, call me tomorrow, I'll see what I can do."

Then he walked away. I said to my dad, "Who was that guy?"

My dad said, "Oh, somebody I knew from the service."

I said, "What's with his head?" I was eight years old.

He said, "Oh, a grenade went off, he got injured, he got captured by the Japanese, and he was in a Japanese prison camp for a couple of years."
So I said, "Do you have a job for him?"

My dad said, "I don't know. We'll see."

I said, "Dad, do people come up to you and ask for jobs?"

He said, "No. That's what Marines do for fellow Marines."

About a week later -- I spent a lot of time at my dad's work because, when it was summer and I was home from school, I'd go to work with my dad. I walk in, and there's the guy washing dishes. I look at him and I said, "Hi."

And he goes, "Oh, hi. Your Dick's kid." He goes, "Your dad is great, your dad's the best. Thank you very much. He gave me this job. Tell your dad thanks, he's the best."

Okay. A week later he was gone. I asked, "Gee, what happened to John?"

He said, "Oh, he got a better job."

That was the VE&E in the 1960s, and we have come such a ways. So any help and all help to make that happen for today's veterans, instead of guys coming up to my dad while we're eating dinner and asking for a job. Those things are just tremendous and they make a huge difference. So please engage with that.

We will entertain a motion to accept the VE&E report at this time.

NECMAN LEONARD FREE (NJ): Yes, sir. Len Free, NEC, Detachment of New Jersey, makes a motion that we accept the VE&E report as read.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

Second?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Any discussion on the matter?
All those in favor, signify by saying -- I'm sorry, go ahead, sir.

COMMANDER JAMES FISCHER (CA): James Fischer, Detachment of California. I wanted to make a quick comment on the VE&E.

We have that emergency crisis handout that we can distribute to the fire departments and police departments, first responders. Gentlemen, it's free. You can print it cheap. Let's use it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Any other discussion on the matter?

Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Those opposed, same sign.

Carried, thank you.

John Jennings, Subcommittee on Resolutions.

Thank you, Chris.

**Oral Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions**

**John T. Jennings, Florida, Chairman**

Good morning, again.

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

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Oh, come on. Good morning, again.

...*The National Executive Council responded,* "Good morning again."

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: What are we?

...*The National Executive Council shouted,* "Team 100."

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: That was a test, Commander, and I just wanted to see if they were listening.
We'll make it short and sweet. You've got all the backup documentations in your handout.

The Subcommittee on Resolutions met yesterday afternoon at 1:00. Had a good meeting. Had a good turnout; had eight guests, and full accompaniment of the committee was present.

I would like to take at this time, and I'd like to thank Bob Brown, I'd like to thank Travis Cummins, I'd like to thank Andy Dadds, and Pete Sierminski, for all their work last year. The current committee is all new, but they, the group last year, last several years, Bob Brown being past chairman for several years, I want to thank each and every one of them personally for all the work that they provided for me for the past several years, so thank you.

The new committee. Joe Keiser, where are you at? Stand up, please. John Chang, where are you at? Stand up. David Blair, and Jay Marsden. Where are you at, Jay?

This is your new committee for Subcommittee on Resolutions, along with the standing officers of our national adjutant, Anthony Wright, and our national judge advocate, Joe P.

You all can sit down, thank you.

But there's one person in this room that I want to extend a great, great thanks to. Scott Thornton, would you please stand up?

I want you all to understand one thing that this man's done since, I think it started just before convention or just after convention. I know that past chairman Bob Brown and myself have worked diligently with different levels of our national staff to get some things done so you, the NEC and members, could search and understand where our resolutions are at, which we always continue to talk about the dark hole.
Scott Thornton, under direction and release by National Adjutant Wright, has got a Excel spreadsheet, it's over 1,170 line items long, of resolutions that date back to August of 1972. He's worked hard.

Thank you, Scott.

(Applause)

He's worked very hard putting the information together and he's done a lot of self-research. I asked him how things were coming with it right now. He said, "J.J.," he said, "the easy part's done."

I kind of looked at him with this shocked look. And I said, "What are you talking about? You got this Excel spreadsheets with the numbers and da, da, da, da, da."

That's the easy part. The documentation that we can put our hands on, we haven't found all of it. We're looking, he's working, he's a man on his mission. Our committee is here to help any way we can.

So understand that the Subcommittee on Resolutions is working hard for the committee and for the NECmen on the minutes handouts that you have. Make sure that you transcribe from the resolutions of the Internal Affairs Commission report, the changes in description for the resolutions that are on the Subcommittee on Resolutions report, just for your record.

But thank you for what you do. We are going to continue to work hard. We're even going to buy some copies of the Robert's Rules of Order and make sure that all of our committee has copies of them, and we'll make sure that we read them and try to understand them to the best of our ability. That's 68 pages that are pertinent to our organization. So appreciate what you do.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.
...Committee Chairman Jennings submitted the report of the Subcommittee on

Resolutions.

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm on October 13, 2018 in the Circle West of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel 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)
Liaison: National Adjutant David Blair, II (TX)
Liaison: (none assigned) John Chang (NY)
Past National Commander

Guests: Bill Sutterlin (OH), Travis Cummins (MO), Joe Pavigliani (NY), James A. Noble (NJ), John Waite (VT), John Lawrence (LA), Bob Brown (GA), Richard Pfeiffer (IN), Mike Boughner (MI) and Camille LeJeune (LA)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections the minutes of the Spring, 2018 meeting were approved as published. The minutes of the conference call on _____ were approved as published.

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

Training material is available at www.legion.org/sons.publications. The sub-committee on resolutions has a booklet that can be mailed out to members to show how to write a resolution.

The Committee will work with the development of an electronic data base for resolutions. John asked if we can publish the resolutions once a data base is established.

Resolutions:
The members reviewed the resolutions submitted.

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2018
Title: Provide a detailed line-item budget to NEC
Action: Withdrawn by the sponsor NEC Ron Robert (MS).

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2018
Title: Recognition of the Detachment of District of Columbia
Action: Joe Keiser made a motion to approve the resolution. Jay Marsden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Richard Pfeiffer (IN) for National Vice Commander
Action: Jay Marsden made a motion to approve the resolution. Joe Keiser seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Blair Miles (AL) for National Vice Commander
Action: John Chang made a motion to approve the resolution. David Blair seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2018
Title: Male Spouse and Widower Eligibility
Action: Rejected by Internal Affairs.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2018
Title: National Convention Committee Expansion
Action: John Chang made a motion to approve the resolution. Jay Marsden seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:
Chairman Jennings discussed the resolution process and the sub committee's job.

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 1:35 pm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, J.J.

We'll accept the motion -- do you want to make you own motion, John?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As the NEC from the Detachment of Florida, John Jennings makes a motion to accept the Subcommittee on Resolutions committee report.

Get it, Chris.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Mr. Commander, Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma, seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you. We have motion and a second.

Any discussion on the matter?

Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, same sign.

Carried, thank you.

Gentlemen, we're going to open up the meeting for donations at this time. Anyone having donations for any of our charities, please approach the stage at this time.
Jeff Hicks?

COMMANDER JEFFREY HICKS (NJ): Mr. Commander, on behalf of the Detachment of New Jersey, we come before you with deep sadness, but we know back on September 18th, you'll recall our dear friend and comrade and past national commander, Chris Huntzinger from the Detachment of Pennsylvania, left us in this earthly existence but went on to Squadron Everlasting.

On behalf of the Detachment of New Jersey, as a small token of our love for Chris's dedication to this organization and for his leadership, we're giving $1,000 to the Child Welfare Foundation in Chris's memory.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

(Applause)

COMMANDER BRADLEY DUDLEY (PA): Brad Dudley, commander, Detachment of Pennsylvania.

I have several donations for the Child Welfare Foundation. One donation is from Squadron 541, $280. And we have several donations in one check: Squadron 998, $100; Detachment of Pennsylvania, $500; Danville, PA, Squadron 40, $500. We have some phone fines from our July convention of $30. Squadron 665, Dickson City $2,600; and several private donations in the memory of Chris Huntzinger, for a total of $4,970 for Child Welfare.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Wow. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Come right up.

COMMANDER BRYAN HINE (TN): Bryan Hine, Detachment of Tennessee, Commander.
I have a check $1,311 for Child Welfare.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Toby.

NECMAN LAWRENCE CULLEN, JR. (DE): Toby Cullen, NEC from Delaware.

I have several checks here from Squadron 17: $250 for Fisher House; $250 for National Endowment Fund; $250 for Child Welfare; $250 for NEF fund; $250 for Legacy Scholarship fund. From the Detachment of Delaware, we have a $500 check for the Legacy Scholarship fund.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Wow. Thank you, Toby. Thank you, Delaware.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER HAROLD THOMPSON, JR. (NE): From Northport Squadron 16, $200 for the NEF; $200 for the Endowment Fund, $350 to child welfare. That's over a dollar per member for all three.

And I would like to thank all that sent something on Facebook, emails, birthday cards for my mother's 100th.

(Applause)

And after the meeting, all past national commanders, would you please meet over on this side? We'd like to have a photo of all of you with her. Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Harold. Pleasure to have her with us.
NECMAN LAWRENCE WADE (PI): I'm Lawrence Wade, the NECman from the Department of Philippines. I'm representing the Detachment of the Philippines.

I have a check for $500 for the Child Welfare Foundation.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

ALTERNATE NECMAN THOMAS SKELLEY (TX): Tom Skelley, Detachment of Texas.

Five years ago, Texas had the honor to host at the time National Commander Chris Huntzinger. As it so happened, Chris won a raffle for a liter bottle of Crown Royal. He promptly donated it back with instructions to raffle it off again for Child Welfare.

Well, Texas has since named that bottle "The Huntzinger Crown." It's auctioned off each year at your fall awards banquet. The highest bidder donates the bottle back for auction again the next year and receives a replica. To date, the Detachment of Texas has raised over $6,000 from this one bottle.

It is my absolute privilege and honor to present the Child Welfare check of $1,250 in the name of PNC Chris Huntzinger.

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: As you know, that quilt was silent-auctioned out there. The Detachment of Indiana was the lucky winner for only a $600 purchase to CWF, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very nice. Nice work, gentlemen.

(Applause)

Come on up, Joe.
NECMAN JOSEPH KEISER (NV): Good morning. On behalf of the Detachment of Nevada and our squadron in Sparks, I'd like to make a presentation of $500 to CWF. 

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, sir, very much.

Jim, go ahead.

COMMANDER JAMES COATES (NY): Commander, you know your home Detachment of New York, and indeed, the entire New York American Legion family is behind you 100 percent. We'd like to start things off this year, first of all, with a promise of more to come by presenting you with this check for $1,500 towards the National Emergency Fund. And again, with a promise of more to come, presenting you with this check for $22,500 toward the Child Welfare Foundation. 

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Would you read that again?

COMMANDER COATES: $22,500.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Wow. I'm from New York, but I'm impressed. Thank you, Jim.

Come on up. Go ahead, Dick.

NECMAN RICHARD ELLWEIN (MT): I'm Dick Ellwein, representing the Detachment of Montana.

From the Detachment, I give you a check for Child Welfare Foundation for $500, and also to NEF for 500 from Detachment of Montana. 

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you very much.
I'd like to present a check for $1,600 for the Child Welfare Foundation.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thanks. Very nice. Thank you.

NECMAN DAVID BLAIR (TX): David Blair, Detachment of Texas, NEC.
At our last meeting with the members that were in the meeting, we took a collection and we raised $665 to Child Welfare.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you very much, sir.

(Applause)

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER PETER SIERMINSKI (CO): Pete Sierminski, national vice commander from Colorado representing the Midwest.

Alternate NEC from Nebraska, Karl Frederickson, earlier this year, University of Colorado beat the University of Nebraska. So he's making a $50 donation towards CWF.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Pete.

COMMITTEE MEMBER LYLE CHAPMAN (GA): I'm Lyle Chapman from the Detachment of Georgia. I'm also on the CWF commission.

And my Squadron 29, Marietta, Georgia, would like to donate $450 to CWF.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you very much.

Come on up.

NECMAN PHILLIP COOK (NH): Good morning. I'm Phillip Cook from the Detachment of New Hampshire.
I have a couple of donations today for the Child Welfare Foundation. The first is a donation for $850. I have a second one here for $1,000.

And I have two personal donations from me. The first one is in the name of our detachment commander, Jim Woods, who completed the detachment commanders course this year; and the second is, again for $10, in the name of our detachment vice commander, John Hook, for also completing the course.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Phil, appreciate it very much.

(Applause)

Yes, Clive.

COMMANDER CLIVE SEYDELL (MI): Clive Seydell, Detachment of Michigan. Last night we formed the group of Doughboys of Michigan and Kansas, and we have $120 donation for Child Welfare.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you very much.

(Applause)

NECMAN GEORGE SEVICK, JR. (NE): George Sevick, Nebraska NEC.

I've got a check for CWF for $100 from Squadron 193, Ohiowa, Nebraska.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good. Thank you.

COMMANDER THOMAS LUCAS (AZ): My name is Tom Lucas, I'm with the Detachment of Arizona.

This is an FYI: We send our checks right in to the charities. So far to date we have put out over $32,200 to Child Welfare.

(Applause)
NECMAN ROBERT JACKSON (IA):  Bobby Jackson, Detachment of Iowa.

We would proudly like to give you $500 check for CWF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  Super.  Thank you very much.

(Applause)

DAVID PERRY (NY):  David Perry from Detachment of New York.

This is $200 for National Emergency Fund.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  Thank you very much, appreciate it.

COMMITTEE MEMBER SANFORD LIPMAN (MI):  Sandy Lipman, Detachment of Michigan.

From the 18th District Association, three of the squadrons, for the NEF $970; Child Welfare, $920.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  Excellent, thank you very much.

(Applause)

Old Business

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  Do we have any old business to bring before us at this time?

Any old business to bring before our group at this time?

Third time:  Any old business to bring before us at this time?

Okay.  Hearing none, we're going to move on to new business.

New Business

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS:  Any new business for the NEC at this time?

Any new business to bring before the NEC at this time?
Third time: Any new business to bring before the NEC at this time?

Hearing none, we're going to move on to the good of The Sons of The American Legion.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Any announcements for the good of The Sons of The American Legion?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER CLIFFORD SMITH (MA): Mr. Commander, Cliff Smith, past national commander from Massachusetts. I'm not making a motion.

(*Laughter*)

But gentlemen, you might have noticed there's a bunch of us running around with this little pink pinky that are out there. Everybody who got pinked, put your hand up.

This money all goes to breast cancer. We'll be doing it every year. It gets bigger and bigger every year. This is our fifth year to do it. We set an all-time 3 high. Thank you ladies and gentlemen who contributed; $2,500 we raised last night.

(*Applause*)

That puts us over the $10,000 mark. I want to thank everybody who was involved helping out. I know Maryland had a room over there and hustled everybody. We came back with the guys from California, a bunch of us, we were jumping on everybody in that bar. We raised over $660 in two hours in that bar last night, that's pretty good.

Thank you all, it's all for a great cause.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very nice. Thank you, Cliff.

(*Applause*)
COMMISSION MEMBER DAVID LEE (NY): Mr. Commander, David Lee from New York, chairman of the Committee to Elect Greg "Doc" Gibbs commander.

Well, we worked part of it through, but we're still working on things. I just want to remind everybody that Doc's homecoming is April 26 through 27th. Rooms are still available at the Adam's Mark, and we will be having the dinner at the Pearl Street Brewery.

We're currently setting up tours and setting up transportation. The goal is to go to the casino. People could possibly walk over to the falls, possibly going over to Doc's post. We also have a local naval park in the area; we're trying to make arrangements, and possibly some other locations.

I know a lot of you are interested in coming, so I just want to make you're aware that we still have plenty of space for everybody. But we would prefer people to get this information out to everybody and get it in as soon as possible.

If you're looking for the information, please, to the NEC, share this information down through. But you could find this also on the web page of the detachment with New York, with downloadable forms.

Finally, I want to take away some rumor. Greg "Doc" Gibbs will not be handing out snow shovels when you arrive. Okay?

(Laughter)

This is in April, okay, so we don't know what the weather will be like. But he will not be there with shovels, handing them out to each person.

So thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: BYOS, bring your own scraper?

Yes, thank you, Dave.

Gentlemen, for those of you that, at one time in your career, served as an aide, please see me. I'd love for you to join Club PANIC, Past Aides to National Commanders Club, for a $5 donation. We'll have a donation in the spring meeting to CWF. Please see me if you're interested.

Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

WILLIAM TOWNSEND (OH): Mr. Commander, Bill Townsend, Detachment of Ohio. I'd like to ask your permission to make a request of the members here.

Several years ago, many, many years ago, we had a national convention in Chicago. At that time I think it was the 65th or the 60th or somewhere around there; my math is terrible. But at that time, I remember we got together in the courtyard, and up on the balcony, someone took a picture of the entire group and they sold these pictures.

I bought one of those and donated it to a post that I was in. I was going through my photos the other day, and it happened to cross my mind about this photograph.

If anyone has a copy of that that they could scan and put out, I would love to have another copy of that to add to some of the photos that I have of this organization in my time with it. Like I say, it was, I'm thinking 60th or 65th, somewhere in that range; I know it was in Chicago. But it was something that was sold to the membership, and I would like to have another copy of it if I could get one. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Bill.

Anything else for the good of the order of the Sons?
I'm going to read you the donation totals from this morning.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER J.R. STILLWELL (IL): Mr. Commander, Past National Commander Stillwell.

Part of an answer to that one was, that was a picture taken in Chicago at the 50th anniversary of The Sons of The American Legion, not of our convention.

I would, too, like to see a picture of that after all these years. I haven't seen one for a long time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Great. If we locate that picture, that would be something that would be great in our newsletters and up on our web page as well, as a good reminder.

Our donation totals for today: CWF, $39,406.

(Cheers and applause)

Wow. Great way to start off the year.


Gentlemen, thank you. Great way to start the year.

(Applause)

Anything else for the good of the Sons?

Anything else for the good of the Sons?

Anything else for the good of the Sons?

Hearing none, we're going to call up our national chaplain.

I want to say thank you for a great meeting this weekend, gentlemen, and he's going to give us the benediction.
Benediction

David Rippe, Nebraska, National Chaplain

Heavenly Father, as we depart from this gathering, give us a safe journey home to family and friends. Keep us true to our principles and strong in our faith in You.

Grant peace and rest to our departed comrades. Give comfort and consolation to their family and friends. Keep us ever in Thy love and mercy, that we may carry on for God and country. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I'd like the sergeant-at-arms to undo our flag in memory of Chris Huntzinger.

However, as we do that, I'd certainly like you to keep Kat in your thoughts and prayers. We have others, Donny Allisot's family, others from the detachment who lost their commander recently. Keep those folks in your thoughts and prayers, please.

...The Sergeant-at-Arms undraped the flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Gentlemen, I'd like you to uncover for just a moment again, in Chris's honor.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you.

Gentlemen, please remove the POW/MIA flag.

...The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the POW/MIA flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the country, state, nation, and community be ever the main objective of The Sons of The American Legion.
Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, The American Legion, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing that will swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy.

The colors in place, hand salute by the numbers: One, two.

If there is no objection, the 2018 fall meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion shall be adjourned. Safe travels home, gentlemen.

(Applause)

...At 10:56 a.m., Sunday, October 14, 2018, the National Executive Committee meeting of The Sons of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.