PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Spring Meeting

Sheraton Hotel City Centre
Indianapolis, Indiana

May 5 - 6, 2018

Stenographic Record By:
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...At 8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 5, 2018, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Smith.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The colors of our country in place, join me in a hand salute: One, two.

National Chaplain Jim Noble will lead us with the invocation. Please uncover.

Invocation

James Noble, National Chaplain, New Jersey

Dear Lord, we'd like to thank you for our safe arrival here for this national meeting. As we gather for the meeting, we'd like to ask you for your gift of peace and understanding for the betterment of our organization. Let us always be true to the foundation of which The Sons of The American Legion have been founded. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Chaplain.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You may recover.

National Vice Commander Jay Marsden will lead us in the recital of the preamble to the constitution.

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: 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 Banner at all meetings to serve as a symbol of our support of all the military personnel serving this great country. Let us never forget that, every day, these individuals are protecting our liberties. The Blue Star service banner is in place.

National Adjutant Wright will now read the call to the spring meeting the National Executive Committee.

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 May 5th and May 6th, 2018, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: 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
Danny J. Smith, Nebraska

National Vice Commanders
East: Kenneth P. Warner, Pennsylvania
South: Mark A. Cannito, South Carolina
Central: Jay E. Marsden, Missouri
Midwest: Joseph R. Navarrete, New Mexico
West: Donald Ramirez, California

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

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

National Chaplain
James Noble, New Jersey

National Historian
Jerry Cole, Nebraska

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York
National Sergeant-at-Arms
George B. Sevick, Jr., Nebraska

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas
Raymond Giehl, III, Indiana
Gregory A. Falco, New York

National Commander's Aide
David L. Rippe, Nebraska

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
Robert H. Faust, California
James R. Hartman, Maryland
Gregory D. Reis, Illinois
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland
David P. Stephens, Indiana - EXCUSED
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota
David R. Faust, Wisconsin
Eugene L. Sacco, California - EXCUSED
Roland D. Matteson, Arizona - EXCUSED
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
John T. Dietz, Kentucky
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelman, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Steve C. Laws, North Carolina
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
William L. Sparwasser, Maryland
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehl, Jr., Indiana
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
James K. Roberts, III, Florida
Christopher J. Huntzinger, Pennsylvania
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland
Michael W. Moss, Colorado
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Alabama (B), Arizona (B), Arkansas (N), California (B), Colorado (N), Connecticut (B), Delaware (N), Florida (B), Georgia (B), Illinois (N), Indiana (N), Kansas (B), Kentucky (N), Maine (B), Maryland (N), Massachusetts (B), Michigan (B), Minnesota (N), Mississippi (N), Missouri (N), Montana (N), Nebraska (A), Nevada (A), New Hampshire (B), New Jersey (B), New Mexico (B), New York (B), North Carolina (N), Ohio (B), Oklahoma (B), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (N), Tennessee (B), Texas (B), Utah (N), Vermont (A), Virginia (B), Washington (N), Wisconsin (N), Wyoming (N)

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I now declare the 2018 spring meeting of the National Executive Committee regularly convened.

The minutes were distributed via email. There were corrections made and noted and redistributed. If there are no objections, the minutes will be accepted as published and corrected.

Hearing no objections, the corrections and the minutes are adopted.

Would any first-time attendees to this NEC please stand and be recognized. Any first-timers?

(Applause)

Great. Thank you for coming. Welcome to Indianapolis. You may be seated, gentlemen.

For the rest of you more mature individuals, welcome back. Glad to receive you all.
We also have another group of distinguished individuals with us this morning, in my mind definitely, and hopefully in your mind, those individuals that served this great country in the armed forces that belong to The American Legion and also our organization, those dual members. Dual members, please stand and be recognized.

(Applause)

Thank you for your service to this country, to The American Legion, and to the Sons of The American Legion. I know a lot of you may have served in a difficult time. And to those of you that served and never received the dignity and the respect that you surely deserved, I want to say thank you, God bless you, and welcome home, gentlemen.

Opening Remarks

Danny J. Smith
National Commander, Nebraska

It says in the script, "Remarks by the National Commander." I could talk for hours about what you guys have done this year. The evidence is out there. You've done some fantastic work.

I just want to remind you that we're not done yet. This administrative term has a few months to go; there's still work to do. And even when that administrative term comes to an end, there's a new beginning, a new group of leaders that come forward. So we never end; we continue to serve.

We just need to make sure that we finish this year in the manner that we have done so far, and that's continue to work on membership, which has been fantastic. I talked a little bit about that in the meeting last night. And your service and dedication to the programs, the principles, and ideals of The American Legion. This has been definitely a history-making year,
as our theme puts it. Following their footsteps, making history, and you guys have definitely done that this year.

But we're not done. We need to continue until national convention, get rejuvenated, recharged, and then go to work for the next group of leaders. And I know that you all have that within your powers to do so. I just encourage you to continue to serve this organization as you have in the past.

I don't believe we have any appointments to any commissions or committees that we need to take care of, Mr. Adjutant?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: No, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: So we'll move on with the greetings from our national liaison, Paul Brown. Would you please come forward?

Gentlemen, will you help us in welcoming our national liaison?

(Standing ovation)

PAUL BROWN

National SAL Staff Liaison, California

Well, thank you very much. As Commander Smith said, welcome to Indianapolis. You know, the last time I used up a lot of your time, so this time I'm just going to say glad to be here, glad to be part of the team. Glad you're here, and I look forward to what you guys are going to be producing today because you're all fine Americans, and I'll get out of the way of your agenda. Thank you.

(Standing ovation)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Looking around, are there any other distinguished guests I may have missed this morning? I know we're going to have a visitation
tomorrow morning by national Commander Roland for sure. I see no other distinguished guests at this time. Man, we are moving along.

Let's get into the part that we all like at our NECs, those donations to Child Welfare, National Emergency Fund, World War II Memorial Projects, NEF, endowment, all those good things. I kind of want to kick that off while you guys are getting lined up.

I have several donations that were given to me and several donations that I want to turn over that were presented at our homecoming. Some of these were given in cash and I wrote a check, but I want these individuals -- and I will turn these over -- on record so they get the credit that they definitely deserve.

From the Detachment of Indiana on a most recent visit, Doug Heiser, $50; Kellis Allen, $50; Charles Allen, $50; Damon Bradtmueller, $100; David Ridenour, $100; Robert Harris, $50; Rebecca and Daniel Allen, $50; and Jason Lecick, $50, all of those to the Endowment Fund.

From the Alaska visitation, Jim Scott, $50, the endowment fund. From the homecoming event, National President Diane Duscheck, $100, National Emergency Fund; Mark Nilius, $200, Endowment Fund; Karl Frederickson $100, the Endowment Fund.

Detachment of Colorado, Louisville Squadron No. 3, $250 to the Endowment Fund, $250 to NEF. From Detachment of Nebraska, Squadron 1, $1,000 and $500, both to the Child Welfare Foundation; South Omaha Squadron 331, $125, the Endowment Fund.

Other donations in cash that are in a check in here, personal check but these individuals need to get credit, and some of this money was presented to me and I'm making sure it goes to the Endowment Fund, all these donations. Friends from the Detachment of New York, $500.
George Sevick, $50; Jay Marsden, $50; Mark Cannito, $50; Ken Warner, $50; Joseph Navarrete, $50. As you know, those gentlemen are our national vice commanders.

Elizabeth Paes, $20; Doug and Mary Ann Boldt, $50; Gary Wooten, $25; Don and Marge Suchy, $50; Vicki Cyboron, $20; and the Douglas County Legion Fund, $100. All of those donations will be presented to the Endowment Fund.

Any other donations at this time, please line up and approach the podium. Any other donations?

Come on up, John. Announce who you are, where you are from, and where the money is going, for the record, please.

COMMITTEE MEMBER JOHN MEJIA (CA): John Mejia from California, for the Children and Youth chairman for the state of California.

I have here a donation from Squadron 365 out of Vista, California, for $100 for Child Welfare. I also have from Squadron 155 a $500 donation for the National Endowment Fund, Commander. And from Squadron 155, we have a donation for Child Welfare of $10,000.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, John.

Gentlemen, if we kind of hold it down a little bit, it's important that we hear these donations.


We have a $1,000 check from East Ridge Squadron 95, and an $807 check from the Detachment of Tennessee, for the Child Welfare Foundation.

(Applause)
ALTERNATE NECMAN DAVID RIPPE (NE): I'm David Rippe, alternate NECman for the Department of Nebraska.

I have two checks to Child Welfare Foundation. One is from Sons of The American Legion Squadron 32 for $500, and one is from the Detachment of Nebraska for $2,500.

(Applause)

NECMAN RICHARD ELLWEIN (NE): Dick Ellwein, NEC, Detachment of Montana.

I have two checks from the Detachment of Montana, CWF for $600. And also from the detachment, NEF for $500.

(Applause)

COMMANDER CHARLES D. PAGE (NJ): David Page, detachment commander for New Jersey. All our donations are for CW today. I have one here for $200 Squadron 232 out of Barnegat, New Jersey. I have another check for $200, for Ocean County SAL Executive Committee Board. From the Detachment of New Jersey I have $1,250. And for three officers that got caught with their covers on their heads while they were indulging in a little food, I have $15 cash here. I happen to be one of them.

(Applause)

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): I confuse the commander because I scratch off the A-L-D on the end of my name. The only people that are allowed to call me "Ronald" was my grandmother and my mother who are both deceased now.

Ron Roberts, NEC from Mississippi.

Donation to National Emergency Fund on behalf of our detachment for $500. Child Welfare contributions, the Detachment of Mississippi, Sons, $500; myself personally, $300; Squadron 74, my home squadron, $300; American Legion Post 69, $1,000; Squadron 69 of that
same post, $1,000; and American Legion Post 24, $1,000, for a total of $4,100 or 576 per capita. Thank you.

(Applause)

NECMAN DANIEL DAILY (WI): Dan Daily, NEC from Wisconsin.

I've got, for Child Welfare Foundation, a check from Squadron 449 for $636.

(Applause)

COMMANDER JOHN LAWRENCE (LA): John Lawrence, detachment commander for Louisiana.

I have a check for $133.50 for Child Welfare Foundation.

(Applause.)

PAST COMMANDER MARK TANSEL (IN): Mark Tansel, past detachment commander in Indiana.

On behalf of Indiana's 7th district, two donations: One to The American Legion National Emergency Fund for $100, and a second donation to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for another $100.

(Applause)

VICE COMMANDER MIKE MONSERUD (IA): Mike Monserud, vice commander, Detachment of Iowa.

I have four checks. First one is from Squadron 430, Durant, Iowa, for Child Welfare Fund for $200. Squadron 430 again, $200, National Emergency Fund. From the Detachment of Iowa we have a $500 check for the National Child Welfare Fund. Detachment of Iowa, National Emergency Fund, $500.

(Applause)
VICE COMMANDER JAMEY HOLLOWAY (GA): Jamey Holloway, senior vice commander, Detachment of Georgia.

We have, from to the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Georgia, $200 for NEF. And for the Child Welfare Foundation, we have $250 from Squadron 251, Duluth; Squadron 201, Alpharetta, $200; Squadron 333, Columbus, $50; SAL Detachment of Georgia, $1,000; SAL Squadron 29 Marietta, $300, for a total of $1,800 for the CWF.

(Applause)

NECMAN JOHN WRIGHT (CT): John Wright, Detachment of Connecticut, NEC.

I have two checks here today, one for National Emergency Fund and one for the Child Welfare fund, both for $500 --

(Applause)

ALTERNATE NECMAN HENRY CLEVELAND (VT): Henry Cleveland, alternate NEC for Detachment of Vermont.

I have a combination of all checks from our squadrons. I'll start first, Saint Albans Squadron 1, $1,000; Montpelier No. 3, $500; Brattleboro 5, $200; Hardwick 7, $500; Barre Squadron No. 10, $500; Vergennes 14 for 150; Bristol Squadron No. 19 for $1,500; Newport Squadron for $125; Orleans for $250; Windsor for $250; North Troy for $100; Readsboro for $100; Bellows Falls for a $500; Northland was 258. He did want me to let everybody know that was $3 per member, so I did that. And Saint Albans for $58; Harry Cutting 259 for $250; Chester 67 for $1,000; and Arlington 69 for 150. That gives us a total of $7,433 from the squadrons of Detachment of Vermont.

(Applause)

Included in that check is $1,000 from the Detachment of Vermont also. Total is $8,433.
NECMAN PHILLIP COOK (NH): Good morning. I am Phillip Cook, the NEC from the Detachment of New Hampshire.

Today I have the privilege of presenting a donation to the Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of $12,986.

COMMANDER WILLIE MORGAN (VA): Good morning, everyone. I'm Willie Morgan, detachment commander from the Great State of Virginia.

All right. For CMN, we have $200 donation from Squadron 284, Colonial Heights; Detachment of Virginia donated $750. So it's 950 for CMN.

For NEF, Squadron 284, $200 donation; Squadron 162 Lorton, $120; and Squadron 2 of Petersburg, $100, for a total of $420 for NEF.

For CWF, Detachment of Virginia, $750; Squadron 284, $200; Squadron 67, my home squadron, $100; Squadron 327, $1,500, Squadron of Norfolk, Steve Gower, his squadron. Squadron 2, Petersburg, $100; Squadron 53 in Front Royal, $100; and Squadron 190 of Portsmouth -- $2,810 is the total for that. They donated $60.

For OCW, Squadron 284, $200, Squadron 162 in Lorton, $500; Squadron 67, $50; Squadron 327, $7,800, and they're going to present it on Wednesday on the floor at American Legion, which gives Virginia a grand total of $12,730.


I'd like to present today a check for the Child Welfare Foundation for $5,906.
(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I don't know if you folks were informed of the fact that the Detachment of New York stepped up last fall at some point. And what kind of a donation did you give to the NEF at that time?

COMMANDER CLANCY: $10,000.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: There you go. Thank you.

(Applause)

COMMANDER DAVID HULLIHEN (MD): Dave Hullihen from Detachment of Maryland.

We actually had a meeting about a month or so ago, and a guy from CWF bought these little pigs here and said, "Fill them up the best you can." So I actually filled two of them up. Unfortunately, one of them died on the way here.

(Laughter)

I put it in an envelope. There's like 20 bucks in here, I'm not sure what's in this one. Here you go, Mr. Commander.

(Applause)

NECMAN DOYLE CUMMINS (MO): Doyle Cummins, the NEC from the Detachment of Missouri.

I have some checks here. I've got one from Squadron 312 for $80 for Endowment Fund; I've got one from the detachment for $1,000 for endowment; emergency fund from 312 is $80; and National Emergency Fund, $1,000 from detachment.

CWF, from Squadron 397, $300.

The Child Welfare Foundation, $1,000 from detachment.
(Applause)

NECMAN GARY SWANLUND (WY): Gary Swanlund, the NEC, Wyoming.
CWF, from the Detachment of Wyoming, $3,325.

(Applause)

NECMAN JOHN JENNINGS (FL): John Jennings, NEC, Detachment of Florida.
I've got two checks here, one to Child Welfare Foundation from the detachment for $1,825; another one for the National Emergency Fund for $2,313.50.

(Applause)

NECMAN GEORGE FLASINSKI (PA): Good morning, everybody. George Flasinski, Detachment of Pennsylvania.
I have a couple of checks here. I have one from our CWF chairman, Ken George Fleming, for all the work he does personally, for $500.

(Applause).
Thanks, Ken.

And then through the detachment we have, from our January DC, $140; Squad 177 in Newport, $600; 182 in Lewisburg, $100; 751 in Enola, $500; 968 in Philadelphia, $150; 564 in Millville, $300; 865 in Christiana, $323; 105 in Northeast, $500; 801 in Roscoe, $164.

From April DC we had two collections going on, one for $168, one for $100. And the commander was in town, so Danny and Donna Smith donated $100.

Thanks, Danny.

71 in Milton with $70; 185 in Mount Joy was $500; 470 in Bath was $1,500; 730 in Harrisburg was $1,500; 773 in Erie for $500; 26 in Dillsburg for $1,200, for a total of $9,015 all for CWF.
(Applause)

MEMBER MICHAEL COTTEN (DE): Good morning. Michael Cotten from the Detachment of Delaware with our 2,100-plus/minus members so far and 97 percent membership.

From Squadron 19, $250 for the National Emergency Fund. Again from Squadron 19, $250 for the Child Welfare.

From the Department of Delaware, who has our checkbook but it's from our detachment, $500 for Child Welfare. From the detachment again for the Endowment Fund, $350. And from Squadron 28 for the Child Welfare, $1,200. Thank you.

(Applause)

COMMANDER CHARLES PAGE (NJ): Sorry, guys, I was just handed a bunch of checks from my CWF chairman, showed up a little late today, but it's a good amount here.

All CWF right now: Post 286, $150; Squadron 328, $100; American Legion Post 254, $50; Squadron 82, $100; Gloucester Township Sons, $150; Squadron 338, $1,068; personal from Mike Arner, $500; Squadron 684, another $200; and I have a personal donation from Mr. Tom Marsden, it's $100 for NEF.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Awesome. On behalf of all those individuals that we help, I want to tell you guys, thank you. Every dollar, every donation, every investment in these programs makes a difference in somebody's life. I know that maybe they don't tell you or you can't be told by them, but I'm going to guarantee you that they appreciate it and they definitely would thank you if they had that opportunity. So on their behalf, I want to thank you for your support of the programs and your donations.
Any other donations at this time?

I see one individual that we failed to recognize earlier that's trying to blend in. He's doing a pretty good job, especially since you're sitting behind Doug Evans.

(Laughter)

Not that Doug would obscure the view. But Mr. John Kerestan, would you please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation)

John, thank you for your years of service to the organization, it's greatly appreciated. We're glad you've joined us this morning.

There are some changes to the agenda that I would like to point out at this time, and then I'll give you some other information here. These changes have been made to the agenda, so please correct them.

As soon as I make a couple of another announcements, we're going to excuse the commissions and committees to conduct their meetings. We will stay in session here as the NEC to start receiving reports.

We have a lot of business to attend to this weekend and we want to make sure that everyone is accommodated tomorrow with their travel plans. So rather than recess right away, we're going to go into some of the reports that can be given this morning.

So as a change on your schedule, there is no Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee this morning. That was something that got carried over. Rather than that, you will hear a report from them. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation that was scheduled for this room will be moved to the Ohio Room, on the 21st floor, at 9:30.
Internal Affairs meeting that was scheduled at 10:00 in the Michigan Room will now be at 11:00 this morning.

The religious service tomorrow morning, it's posted at 7 a.m.; that will take place at 6:45. Chaplain Noble has assured me he has a nice program put together for you gentlemen, so please think about attending.

Any other corrections to the schedule by the chairmen, that I may have missed? I think I received them all.

Commander Treat?

CHAIRMAN CHARLES TREAT (AZ): Commander, Charles Treat, MTD chairman.

One general announcement for our NMI graduates and instructors. The NMI classes for 2018 are scheduled to start at 12:40 p.m. in this room, the first 15 minutes of which we'll do here, conduct roll, then we move to the meeting rooms separately. So we start in this room at 12:40 for the instructors. It also gives an opportunity for the candidates to come before the audience and make their greetings.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That's instructors and NMI participants?

CHAIRMAN TREAT: Yes, I'm sorry, participants.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Instructors and participants in NMI meet in this room at 12:45 for 15 minutes, and then you'll be dismissed to your individual classes.

CHAIRMAN TREAT: That would work, sir. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Along with candidates?

CHAIRMAN TREAT: The leading candidates and yourself, if you'd like to have a few minutes before them. Thank you.
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Total donations this morning: Child Welfare Foundation, $76,534.50.

(Applause)

National Emergency Fund, $7,013.50.

(Applause)

Operation Comfort Warrior, $750.

(Applause)

Endowment Fund -- 3,800?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: $3,800, for a total of $88,098.50.

(Applause)

I guess I'm not in tune to this script.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's all right.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: But thank you again for your donations. If there's any other donations that would happen to show up this weekend, we'll be asking for those final donations tomorrow.

At this time, I would excuse the committees and commissions for their meetings. The NEC will stay in session here for the start of our reports.

Gentlemen, let's go. If you're leaving, please depart to the meetings and let's get back in order. NECs or the alternate that's sitting in for an NEC that may not be here, please take your position at the desk. Everyone else needs to come to order. We have a lot of business to get through this morning.
I'm not sure, I thought I said this but I may not have, on the donations. Operation Comfort Warrior, $750. If I omitted that, I apologize, but I want to make sure that that gets recognized.

Sergeant-at-Arms, pull the outside door shut to get the outside noise contained.

Before we get into the reports, I would remind that you Janine is here recording this meeting; please use the microphones. Unfortunately, we don't have one in the center aisle at this time. So you're going to have to go to the two outside aisles here on the outside of the NECs, where you're seated, to use the microphones. Please state your name, your position, and the detachment that you represent.

Voice in this meeting, just as a reminder, a friendly reminder; I'm sure you all know the rules. Voice is limited to NECs, past national commanders, an alternate is replacing an NEC that is not present this weekend, the national vice commanders. Hopefully we get through this in a timely manner.

Everyone deserves the right to speak. If you are granted the floor, and you are granted that right by our rules of the NEC, please treat everyone with the respect that they deserve. We're all adults and I know that you can conduct yourselves accordingly. But everyone deserves respect and they deserve the right to be heard on any questions that may come before this body.

With that, I'd like to call on Chairman Bill Sparwasser for a report from the Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee.

**Oral Report of Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee**

**Bill Sparwasser, Chairman, Maryland**
Good morning. I have asked the entire committee to come up this morning for a couple of reasons. I suspect we're going to field a lot of questions, and since this is not a one-man show, this is a ten-person show, I think it's important that we may want to direct the questions specific to those on the committee that handled certain aspects of our task.

First off, let me say this. In light of all the rumors of a final report, this is by far a final report; this is just the beginning of the next step. This task, taken on nearly 28 months ago-ish, has encompassed by far way more information than on the surface we believe we would have ever uncovered as well as pursued.

Let's just dispel the stress level in the room in that, what we have dispersed to the NEC and the past national commanders and I think, for the most part, members have gotten copies of this, this is an outline of the April 22nd meeting that was held here in Indianapolis. There was a lot of work accomplished in a 24-hour-or-less window. What was accomplished was the culmination of nearly 18 months of active research.

The most important thing that I need to convey to the NEC is that this is, by far, a larger task than just as the resolution dictated. The resolution, being all-encompassing, as we, a committee, found, there are certain things that we just cannot achieve within the frame that we were allotted to get the job done.

So that in mind, the committee met on the 22nd of April and one of the topics of discussion was: How do we carry this project forward to completion and entirety?

In the fall, I once again reported that we would meet here again in the spring to talk about the status of the committee. And the committee has, in fact, reached, I won't say 100 percent of the goals, probably 80 percent of the goals, if we use the original task list as a checklist to see where we stand.
That being said, the committee decided in general conversation to consider other options as to how we will reach this goal. Keep in mind, you've got ten men here trying to give some direction to 350, almost 360,000 members. The biggest problem we have as an organization is communication top to bottom. We looked at how we could conduct surveys, and I'm just going to take a second and talk about surveys.

We did not conduct a survey that started from the top to the bottom in this organization because, quite frankly, I don't know the success rate would be any bigger or larger than the success rates we had in two separate surveys, one that we conducted to the comm-comms, that took a far longer time to get done.

We understand the reasons. There are complexities that most comm-comms had to step back and think about for a while before they could efficiently respond.

We first tried an electronic process, which I commend Past National Commander Sacco for his initiatives, his efforts. He was the architect of the first survey. He spent a lot of time, 100-plus hours of his time. He spent money of his own, out of his pocket, to build a tool that we believed would be fairly easy to work through, to get the information as quickly as we could.

As you realize, that didn't completely reach the goal. And at the conclusion of the convention last year or during the transition meeting, we put out another survey, basically with 13 questions, on it and most folks got back with us within a reasonable period of time to confirm what they believed were the foundations by which they built their SOPs.

I bring this up only because, after we reviewed the SOPs, there was one clear understanding, clear understanding in the meeting: We could not do this alone. This is your
program. Your program. You govern this program. You dictate how this program is going to function, how this program is going to work, how it's going to get disseminated down.

You know, we're in an era where I feel the NEC has a fairly good handle on where we are, and we may even think we know where we're going to go. Here's what we don't know: How we're going to get there.

Just this morning, $88,000 in contributions is one strong significant point to keep in the back of your heads. You can't do that without a collective organization driving the bus. Okay?

We looked at every possible venue on how to develop a strategic plan that would become effective for you. But you know, as a business owner, I have to step back for a minute from my business, and I have a couple of them. In all my career, I've never ridden a forced plan on any of my employees. When I was national commander, I was not a proponent of forced plans on any of you members of this NEC. I was not a proponent of driving the bus by one or two people; I am a proponent and a supporter of a team approach to everything.

So here's where we're at with the Ad Hoc Committee. I promised in fall I'd bring you another report here in the spring. After this report got disseminated, questions were flying like, "Is it over?" "Is this the end?" "Is this the final report?"

This is just the beginning, and I'm going to say that a multitude of times. This is the beginning. This is the plan in very big brushstroke perspective. Understand that, big brushstroke perspective. Is it a complete plan? Not even close, not close. But given the time frames we have, we're as close as we're going to get based on the conditions we have right now.

It is the feeling of this committee that we now need to engage the NEC, Committee on Commissions, and all comm-comms within the SAL structure. It's your plan. We can give you big brushstrokes on what we see as deficiencies, and we've done that.
We can talk about how we think we can attack the issues with membership. Well, let's be realistic: The issues of membership far reach the Sons of The American Legion; it reaches our parent organization, The American Legion. So if we're not promoting that membership within the Legion and assisting them to grow their organization, our organization is going to become a bit stagnant. In fact, it may even recede, and that's not something we want to hear.

In the past national commanders meeting last night, the PNC panel was presented a report that was passed down from Internal Affairs on online renewal and online membership, and there was a lot of conversation had.

Here's the bottom line: What I saw happen in that meeting last night is exactly what we need to now do, and engage all of our members within the committees and commissions and make sure that they're a part of this next step, because the next step is the crucial part. You're writing your direction. You're creating your final plan.

Now, understand another thing. Plans change. This strategic plan that we have here -- and it's not a plan, I don't want to call it a plan. It's an outline. It's a big outline that required a ton load of research.

This plan will change again and again and again and again until finally, you reach the point that the building, if you will, is now ready for final design and blueprint by the architect, and you are the architects. You are the future of the plan. Why not make you involved?

And I don't use the word "make you involved." Get you involved. You want to be involved. I know that, I've heard that. When we put out the SOP questionnaire, I got resistance like there was no tomorrow. You know why? It's different. It's different. We're asking you, each member of the NEC, as well as comm-comms, to give us information, and it was a struggle.
Again, I can't say it enough, I commend Gene Sacco for his patience because he had, in some cases, far more patience in circumstances than I would have ever had, but it was his ball and he ran with it. We finally got to a point where we had to come up with answers that might become a little more streamlined.

Now, let's talk about surveys. We only had to survey 15, 16 people, and I got 13 survey responses in a fairly quick time. There were some that took longer because they're more involved. And they will continue to evolve.

Just so you don't think that we didn't do a whole lot of work, there's the SOPs, on average two pages per commission and committee for The Sons of The American Legion that you created, that have been passed off to Paul. And we're eventually going to put these in a binder and they're going to be managed through Paul as the archivist, if you will, and the repository for this information, so that we have a place to go with this information.

We even went a step further in a recommendation out to Internal Affairs, and Internal Affairs has really stepped up to the challenge. Again, Mr. Tansel, I want to commend you guys for a job well done on the trophies and awards. You took that challenge.

I'm pointing these out only because, you know, we talked about a strategic plan. There's a lot of things that go into the background of that strategic plan; from who the players are to how the programs are promoted, how the packages are put together, how the rules are written for specific competitions. It can go on and on and on.

Now, we were targeted to give what they call the "final report" in the fall. Well, I don't see a final report, not from the Ad Hoc Committee. I see a report that's going to come out from the NEC and all its comm-comms in providing a direction and a venue to get to where we need to be as an organization.
The bottom line is simply this: This is one huge undertaking that has not been done in the Sons of The American Legion for, I would say, almost ever. We have gone through the process. Mr. John Kerestan in the back has been the foundation by which we have gotten to where we are today. If it weren't for John Kerestan and prior leadership, we wouldn't be where we're at today, that's clear.

So now we need to take the next step as a group and move it on. It's our job to move it on, to carry on.

We talk about things like mission statements. Well, you know, the Ad Hoc Committee now has two mission statements. The first mission statement was a very simple mission statement, and I'm just going to summarize it. It was to develop plans for the future of the organization that would help carry on the foundations of our fathers and grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers, and allow us to stand behind the priceless heritage motto.

Well, obviously, we've outgrown that from probably the second time we met as a group, to the mission statement that was presented earlier. It's a little broader, it's not as focused, but it does have objectives in there that are going to be much accomplished by a concerted effort of all.

We believe that if this committee continues to give direction beyond where it's at right now, based on brushstroke scope, this plan is not going to be the plan of 369,000 members. You can meet in back room and you can muscle around and do what you need to do to influence the plan, but it stops here.

Your recommendation of this plan or this objective, let's call it an "objective," because it's supported by a brushstroke plan that the Ad Hoc Committee is presenting to you today for this step 2 review or the step 2 consideration. We're looking to get this group to recommend
that we present to Internal Affairs step 2. That is, we engage committee and commissions, we engage the NEC. You take control of your organization. Let’s not leave it to a few; leave it to all of us to take the future in our hands and make it happen. Make it happen.

You've got a series of timelines, and they're projected timelines and goals. You've got some short 30-day timelines in this process. The 30-day timeline, fellows, is just to get a big crayon out of the big crayon box and write your notes, your objectives, your thoughts. Once you get through that, the work really is going to begin, which could eventually take this into 2019 for final implementation.

You have the time now as an NEC to move this to another level that I believe will be more tailored to the use of this organization and not the direct result of a few. Not the direct result of a few. So we want to move it in the right direction as best we can.

So as the Ad Hoc Committee sat back and talked about this not just yesterday, the day before, the night before, the conference call that happened in the middle of the week, the meeting on the 22nd, the bottom line is that we all come back and concur. We believe that we have met the base objectives of a brushstroke plan to help our NEC and our comm-comms and our executive leadership move forward. And I'm talking about officers, I'm talking about vice commanders; I'm not talking about paid staff. Us, members of the Sons take this thing forward.

So the report's pretty simple. We're on par for where we believe we need to be. We're about as far as we believe we have been able to go without really starting to write things down that are going to probably ruffle a lot of feathers.

I think that you folks need to be the folks in charge now. You need to take this ball and you need to put it over the goalpost. And we, members of the team, will be here to continue to help you in other capacities, but we will help you along the way to get the job done.
And I know I'm speaking not just for myself and the nine fellows -- I see Gene up here, I know he couldn't be here because he's ill, but he's bought into what we're doing. This committee has agreed completely on moving this forward in the direction we're proposing. The bottom line is, is we're all going to be here to help you get through this.

But I think now is the time to pass it off to those who it really makes a difference, those who can really write the plan in its entirety.

When we look at things like membership, and I'm sure you're going to have questions about that, I know that we've got Seth on the committee for one reason, just to kind of look at membership, where it's been, where it's at now, where we think it's going to be, and potentially, how do we get there.

Well, I think that, once again, is a big issue that needs to be handled by more than just ten people. That's an issue that needs to be handled by all of us, because membership is all of our responsibility; we just need to build the right plan.

Let's talk about funneling down information. Seems to be the biggest concern everybody has in the organization, is how we funnel information down. Let me tell you, it doesn't get to the bottom like we would think it does or would expect it to. It doesn't happen. It doesn't happen. I'm going to give you an example.

I understand, from conversations I've had with Americanism, they put out a survey for the consolidated report form, and the number escapes me but it was something like 130 people were reached out to. Can anybody guess how many people responded to that survey? Eight, and you know because you're there. Eight, eight. Isn't that a little discouraging?
Now, let's take that whole process and put it across the table a little further. 369, 360,000-plus members of the Sons. Do you believe there's an efficient way to reach every blue cap member and get input realistically? No.

I think that the thought process that's in place right now -- and I'm looking at The American Legion side of the house for a minute. We're the leaders in education, first off, and that's to commend people like Chairman Treat and his predecessors. We do what we can to train our members here, and we do a pretty effective job at it. But the problem we've got is, with 360,000 members, we have to reach to the bottom of the house. We've got to get to the foundation to get that information out to everyone.

At one time, who all remembers the regional national leadership conferences? Well, they went away. They went away because they cost money, lots of money. Quite frankly, The Sons was in its infancy stages, I think, but we were doing the groundwork that need to be put in place to potentially get us to the point where we were outnumbering Legion and Auxiliary members at those national and regional leadership conferences, but it stopped before that matured.

So what we do now is we train future leaders up here. We're bringing folks in from detachments and we're teaching them, through NMI 1, 2, and 3, commanders and adjutants training and various other trainings.

Well, let's take a page out of the Legion's book for a minute. They've made a commitment to the departments to help the departments teach their membership. I experience it through Maryland. We, from Maryland, have every year a person who comes out of the department, sanctioned by our department as our representative to be part of The American Legion College.
He or she will bring that information back to the department and disseminate it down. I'm not talking about putting out flyers, I'm not talking about sending emails. I'm talking about real hands-on, one-on-one, face-to-face sessions with their membership.

Legion, Auxiliary, and The Sons have now started to get involved with that for one reason and one reason only: There's information on their side of the house that we really need to know. We need to understand what they're doing with their membership.

If we're going to carry on for God and country, and we're going to carry on that priceless heritage that of our parents and grandparents, we need to better understand what The American Legion is doing to train their members on membership. Don't you agree?

Do we have an understanding of it? I can tell you, we probably don't, because I've sat in some of those meetings. We need to learn from our parents for a minute so that we can go out and help recruit and continue to build the foundation of our organization. That's the important thing here.

So in order to do that, we need to get that training down to the bottom of the building. We need the grassroots guys to understand: How do you go get membership? Where do you get membership? You know, there might be something that's going to come out of that: Renewed relationships within the Legion posts.

First we're going to get resistance. Let's be realistic. We're going to get resistance and it's only because it's not the way they did things. We have to look at, what is it going to take to stop the decline of the parent organization? Which the numbers I've heard are really ugly; we're standing around 1.7 million in The American Legion right now, and it's projected out over the next three to five years, it could be 1.2. 1.2.
You know, when that number goes down, our opportunities get stable and can't basically go much further than where they are. So we need to promote The American Legion to help us build our organization.

When I was national commander, I said if you get one Legionnaire, you could potentially get three other members. But you've got to go and recruit. You've got to get those members and you've got to know when to get those members.

Mr. Fox brought together a keen idea about, you know, maybe we should be focusing on our deployed veterans, men and women; their families are left behind when they're deployed. I'm just giving you brushstrokes so that you guys understand, this isn't an easy process; we've had to look at a magnitude of things.

So when these guys and gals get deployed and they're gone for six, eight months, the family is left behind, we should be standing right next to that family and saying, "Come down to the post. Join our organization. Become a part of this. Because we know your husband or your wife is eligible, so let's get you involved with the organization."

Because we can be there to help them. Remember, we're the bearers of burden. Sons are the bearers of burden. We have been tasked at every level to carry the load. From donations to man-hours to volunteer time, we carry the load.

When you go to national convention, what do you hear? The American Legion is putting up X numbers of hours and dollars, The Sons of The American Legion is putting up X number of hours and dollars. When I look at the annual reports for the Sons and how many collective thousands of hours we put out there, and I look at the Legion side, they could take a page out of our book. But once again, we're the bearers of burden, we carry the load.
Once again, this committee is coming to you guys to say, we think you need to help us carry the load, because this is a far bigger load that you realize. Far bigger. Very outreaching, very broad ways to get things done. We should be and need to be on top of all of them, not just one specific thing, two specific things, not focused on a just survey.

I read Commander Jim's email and his letter. He's got a lot of validity in that document. But what he's saying to me is exactly what I'm saying to you. This needs to be a bigger tool, utilizing bigger people, greater people, a larger number of people.

You know, a philosophy that's always been ingrained in me is, you've got one guy who can do a whole lot, but when you've got ten guys, you can do ten times more. If you've got 360,000 members involved, or let's keep it here at the NEC. If I've got 110 NEC and ANECs, 30 or so past national commanders, several officers, we're now at a magnitude that's far reaching the ability of one, two, or ten.

Mr. Commander, that concludes our report. I would entertain a motion to accept the report.

...Past National Commander Sparwasser submitted the report of the Strategic Initiatives Ad Hoc Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Gentlemen, you've heard the report. What's your pleasure?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): I do have a question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: We have no motion on the floor.

NECMAN C. COOK: We have no motion on the floor yet.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That's correct. Motion would have to come from a voting member.
The chair recognizes the NEC from Montana.

NECMAN RICHARD ELLWEIN (MT): Commander, Dick Ellwein, NEC from Montana.

I make a motion to accept this report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved by the NEC from Montana to accept the report. Is there a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAYMOND GIEHLL, JR. (IN): Question, first, Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Is there a second?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL, JR.: A procedural question to the judge advocate, Commander, a procedural question to him. Before we make the motion, a procedural question to the judge advocate. I apologize.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Point of order?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL, JR.: Point of order, yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Go ahead.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL, JR.: I wanted to ask you this earlier, Joe.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I know who you are.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL, JR.: I'm sorry. Raymond Giehll, past national commander from Indiana. You're right, Commander. I'm screwing this up all around.

The question to you is, Joe, and Bill just did it, when we have a voice, the past national commander, does that voice include the ability to make or second a motion? I know we can't vote on one. I'm asking the judge advocate. Thank you.
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It does not except for the immediate past national commander.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL, JR.: Okay. So our voice doesn't include being able to make motions? I wondered about that. I'm sorry, Commander, I was curious about that. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: So it has been moved to accept the report by the NEC from Montana.

I'm going to recognize Mr. Cook. He rose first.

NECMAN PHILLIP COOK (NH): Phillip Cook, NEC, Detachment of New Hampshire. I second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Phillip Cook, NEC from New Hampshire, seconds the motion.

The motion has been duly moved to accept the report and seconded. Is there any discussion?

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

I do have a question. It was mentioned multiple times that they met two weeks ago here, about. Was this paid by national?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It was a call-in, correct.

NECMAN C. COOK: Was it a preapproved call-in?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You would have to direct that question to National Liaison Brown. I believe he's here to answer that.
NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON BROWN: The call-in authorizing the travel and expense involved with the hotels and the travel of the individuals on the committee was absorbed by the national organization, not part of the SAL budget.

Does that answer the question at hand?

NECMAN C. COOK: Yes, that does, Mr. Brown. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Mr. Brown -- or Roberts, excuse me, or Green or whoever. If I've got to scratch out your name, I can't see it.

(Laughter)

Ron Roberts.

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

I've only got a master's degree, so I'm confused. You call this an "outline," you call this "and/or an objective," but it's not a plan, but you want us to approve a report.

Is it an outline? Which it's a pretty good outline. Is it an objective? I don't know about that. But you said it's not a plan. So now we're down to an outline or a report.

If I got clarification, maybe I could ask a question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The motion has been made to accept the report.

NECMAN ROBERTS: But the chairman just said it was an outline. Anyhow, let's continue.

Couple of questions. Has anybody checked -- you know I'm a dual member -- with The American Legion on what happens when you use online sign-up? If you haven't, let me tell you. I know; it happens in all the departments.

You fill it out online or you can send in a card that you get in a magazine. You tell them you're eligible, there's no proof required. You send your dues to national. You're enrolled in
the national assembly, whatever you want to call it, I don't think there's a national post here, Paul?

Anyway, you'd be put in there for two years and they keep the dues for two years. Then they dump them on to the state if they can figure out which state they come from. Then you get them at your state holding post or squadron or detachment, then you'd have to assign them after they've taken the first two years' dues.

Guess what? Most of them don't, when you ask, "We want to put you into squadron so-and-so," they said, "Well, my dad paid my dues for two years. I know nothing about it because he joined me online. And, actually, Dad was never in the military."

You have no way to check their eligibility, so you might want to check with The Legion on how they handle those kind of things.

Online renewals. National keeps the money first, then a while later they send your portion back on to the post or the department, and then they disseminate it on down to your squadron. A lot more complex there.

My suggestion is, spend more time talking with the Legion, what they've tried and succeeded at and what they've tried and failed at.

The other question I have, we're all about training. You know me, I'm about training. I don't think we ever have enough training or dissemination of knowledge, especially after last year's National Commander Jeff said "knowledge is power"; I firmly believe that.

So according to this report -- we've got that defined now -- we've got training for NMI, we've got training for commanders and adjutants, we've even got training now for incoming national vice commanders or potential national vice commanders and even the national commanders. I don't know why, but there's something missing here.
I don't know about the rest of my fellow NECmen, but I don't know everything. I didn't hear any mention of anything in there about NEC training. Most of us are term limited, one year, two years, rotates in and out. Who trains the NECs? The previous one. That's what we do when one takes our place, we train them.

But I think on the national level, there should be something in our objective to train NECs. Contrary to what some people think, the NEC is the governing body of the organization, absent the convention. I would like to see that somewhere in your objective plan.

Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, sir.

The way I understand it, this is a work in progress, so I'm sure you'll see other things that come forward.

COMMITTEE MEMBER CHARLES GANNON (MD): Commander, may I address the convention?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Absolutely.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GANNON: Several points on this membership and what The American Legion called DMS for years. They have recently corrected, because the adjutants found they couldn't do it in the various departments, the way national thought it could be done.

So they developed a much better system. It doesn't stay here at national. It goes to the departments, and then it goes, it's for the departments to figure out how to get it in.

What that means is when somebody signs up, they're eventually going to end up in a squadron. It's up to the squadron to do as they do today. When somebody wants to become a member, you ask for all the particulars. How are you qualified? Who are you qualified for? That will continue.
But the main point we're trying to make here is, there's a lot of things that are not in there. But the idea is, we're giving them to you, to the chairmen of the commissions and committees to develop what we want to do and how.

Okay. If the online won't work, you need to tell us why. If it will work, you need to tell us how to implement it. We're not trying to tell you how to do it; we want you to come back and say, "Okay. We have these questions. We have these questions," and we have to look at it, like the chairman said. And it's not going to happen today or tomorrow.

You have to give us a plan, the plan. We're not going to give you the plan. Obviously, we don't have enough time; I won't live long enough to do that.

But the point is you need to take it to the chairmen, and it's up to you to make sure they do that. Commander Roberts has a very good point, because he's involved with The American Legion people that have implemented the DMS program in Florida, and it has some great problems. But they are resolving them.

I would expect we could do the same thing. I would dare to say, we will probably do it quicker and better than our parent organization, but we need to give it an opportunity. I'm not putting the question off.

What I'm saying is, the answers are not in the program that we're submitting to you with our report, but they will be when they get back there and we get that large crayon brushstroke of questions needing to be asked. Eventually, down the road after we get those questions, we get the answers.

We need to get, especially the membership thing. We need to do something online. We need to do something online. If you can't admit that, you're not thinking right.
There are probably many problems that we'll see, but we can see that we can fix them. This program, this report gives you an opportunity to fix them.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The chair recognizes the NEC from Indiana.

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

A couple of questions, I suspect I'll direct it to Past Commander Sparwasser. So we've been handed this document and we've been asked to vote to accept or reject the report. If we vote to accept the report, are we locking in these words as our mission statement? Are we locking in these core values?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: No, no. As I said before I gave the report in its entirety, the mission statement has already changed, from our perspective. That mission statement, if you want to hear the first mission statement that we had, which happened about 17, 18 months ago. Bear with me a second.

The mission statement back in the fall of '16, I believe it was: "Looking towards the future in an effort to continue the development of the plans to uphold, maintain, and improve the priceless heritage left behind by our parents and grandparents and to assist in carrying on all the great principles of The American Legion for future generations to come."

That was the first mission statement.

The second mission statement, as you can see we modified it greatly, was the result of how we far outreach to the various programs, to the community, to our organization.

Both are great mission statements. But as you can see, the mission statement will change. As you develop a plan to process through the information that needs to be disseminated back out, that mission statement is subject to change.
This whole document -- actually, I'm going to put up three documents. All three of these documents are subject to change. SOPs to operating procedures, to mission statements, to a strategic report plan, whatever, they're all subject to change.

None of this is cast in concrete. It's a living, breathing set of documents, which means, as an editor, you know they can be modified at the blink of an eye.

NECMAN PIPHER: When somebody hands me a document with words in it and says -- I felt like this is the report. And so I was a little ambivalent about whether I want to lock in what's on paper here.

Is there a way to, like, approve the report today, saying these are not the exact words?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: Certainly we could entertain an adjustment to the motion. And if that so --

NECMAN PIPHER: I don't want to focus just on the mission statement or the core values, that sort of ting. What if we wanted additional items added into --

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: You made a valid point, and I apologize for two things. One, we put out a document to you fellows with no cover. It just came to you as an email with no cover, and I apologize to you for that. That was an oversight on my part. It should have never happened that way, but it did.

However, I guess today I'm trying to explain and share with you gentlemen that this document is not a cast-in-stone document. This document is a perspective of 18 months of what we have researched, found, and gotten answers for.

The mission statement is certainly not set in stone. Nothing is set in stone. This is a working tool.
So when we pass these files off to the NEC, upon the wish of the NEC, they're editable, modifiable, and it's not your plan until you complete the next two phases of the plan: a short-term crayon development plan and then, of course, a detailed plan. Once that's completed, who knows what this thing's going to look like. I guarantee you, it will not look the same as it does today.

NECMAN PIPHER: Well, I want to thank you for the effort and the time, everything you all have put into this. I just want to make it clear that I'm not trying to be critical of anything; I just want to know if we were being locked into the document we were handed.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: No, sir. No, sir. And maybe you're right, we probably do need to modify that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The chair recognizes the PNC from Iowa.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER MICHAEL DEACON (IA): I hate to start this out by saying "correct me if I'm wrong," because I know it's going to happen, and several of the members up front will do that.

But is it my understanding that when PNC Sparwasser said this is his report, that this is the report, that what we would be approving or the NEC would be approving is his report of what the committee has done, not this piece of paper. That's all we're approving is what these guys have done to get to this point. We're not approving this piece of his paper, just his report. Or am I out of bounds?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That is my understanding.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DEACON: Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The motion is to accept the report as given to this point. I think he's made that mention several times, and this is a work in progress.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DEACON: Almost like minus the resolutions kind of thing?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: Just one comment, gentlemen. Understand, there are no resolutions to this, none, zero. You guys and comm-comms and comm-comm chair, they're going to be the tools to develop whatever resolutions are necessary to take us into the next hundred years.

So there are no resolutions to this thing; this is our report. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Chair recognizes the PNC from Texas.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER KEVIN WINKELMANN (TX): Thank you, Mr. Commander. Kevin Winkelmann, past national commander, Texas.

My questions and comments are going to be directed solely at the committee itself.

Item 1, you've answered one of them about what you're voting on. But don't you think it would be advantageous to the body that there is not a motion and vote to accept this document as published? Because you should know there's going to be changes. In our rules, once that motion's made, this goes into law, and you're going to have to have another motion to change this.

And I can show you this document, it's got notes every page. I've read the entire outline, document, report, whatever you want to call it. I've got concerns, I've got questions, I've got agreements. I think some of it is absolutely fantastic.

However, some of my questions in here, you had this little star by so much of it. Have you ever consulted finance to see if we're going to be able to afford all this? I mean, that is a major steppingstone of this document, is the money.
How many years have we talked about dues increases to raise and generate more funds? How many times have we talked about this thing y'all call the "black hole" where all these hundreds of thousands of dollars are lying? Are they going to release that, "they" being The American Legion, to let us do what we need to do in this report?

That should be the number one outline or goal, whatever you want to call it, for that committee right there standing against that wall. And I've seen nothing and heard nothing from anybody from about finances.

Second of all, again, if you make a motion to vote on this, in my opinion, this is what we're doing. I'm sorry, gentlemen, as much as I agree with some of it, I totally disagree with some of it.

The online membership that Commander Chuck talked about, heck, yes, I'm 100 percent for it; I think it's the best tool I ever heard of.

However, you talk here about getting together in Washington, DC for a conference. Who wants to travel from Oregon to DC for a conference? Why not have an area conference? But again, who is going to pay for that? Because that has to be a call-in. That needs to come out of finance.

The old slogan about putting the cart before the horse, as hard as you guys have worked on this, I think that's what we're doing.

I think it would be advantageous to send this report, outline, whatever, either out to the voting body and let them make connections, good comments, bad comments, send it back to the committee, let the committee review everything that they've got to say, and including the PNCs, and put another report together that suits everyone.
When I got this over the email, this was the first time I'd ever seen this. I know you guys have been working for two years on this and, yes, I wasn't in favor of this ad-hoc committee when Kevin Collier appointed y'all.

If this goes into effect and then you got to vote every time to change it, I'm going to still not be in support of it because it's not the right way to do things. That's not the way I was brought up in this American Legion family.

Do it the right way the first time and we won't have to go back and do it the right way the second time. Everybody should know that by now.

I grew up in this organization, I went to meetings when I wasn't even a member. That's how I learned how the thing works. We stand here because of our fathers' and mothers' service, and we're not doing what they taught us to do.

So I think the motion should come off the floor, present this as just a document to be read, put it back out, let us make our suggestions, and then come back maybe in the fall, maybe in another year from now.

Thank you, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: In the response to that, it's the opinion of the chair, based on your rules of the NEC, Rule 3D, I'm just going to give the excerpt here, "The receiving, accepting, or approval of such report shall not mean the adoption of such report or such recommendations, and each specific recommendation as to the future conduct or future policy shall be embodied in a separate resolution for the consideration and action of the executive committee."
It's the opinion of the chair that, seeing as how there are no resolutions embodied in this report, that this is just recommendations and we would need resolutions to enact anything further.

I'm not sure which one of you gentlemen were up first, but I believe it was the PNC from Indiana.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL, JR.: PNC Raymond Giehll, Indiana.

I'm going to read something read quick from Mr. Brown when he sent out the email. This isn't a matter of opinion or anything; it goes to what Kevin was talking about. So this is verbatim from the email:

"This spring NEC, the plan will be presented to the National Executive Committee, and you'll have the opportunity to vote to recommend or not recommend approval of the strategic plan to The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission.

"After your NEC meeting, The American Legion Internal Affairs SAL Subcommittee will review the plan, give their recommendation to The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission. If approved by The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission, it will be presented in the report to The American Legion National Executive Committee for their review.

"Upon approval of the Internal Affairs Commission report, this strategic plan will be implemented as approved upon the authority of The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission as the governing body of The Sons of The American Legion program."

Now, I read that as, if they accept this report, it's a done deal, we've got their strategic plan. I agree with Mr. Gannon that the plan is not theirs to implement; it is the committees and commissions to implement. I think he described that quite well and quite correctly.
But according to what Mr. Brown is saying, when we accept this report, The American Legion is going to accept it and it's a done deal.

Now, he can speak on that or -- Mr. Commander, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: National Liaison Brown, would you like to clarify that, please?

(Laughter)

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON BROWN: Would I like to?

(Laughter)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Let me rephrase that. You will clarify that?

(Laughter)

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON BROWN: Well, basically, as you guys see, this is an outline of the direction. The missing pieces of the plan would be the things that are developed based upon who is being tasked out to develop them with the resolutions and everything else that would come along with it. And those resolutions will be going through your NEC and going through Internal Affairs Commission.

But basically, the Internal Affairs Commission, if they approve this strategic plan, this outline, would be expecting the timelines in the outline to be followed. But you guys are the originators of what would be the planks on that platform, if you get what I'm saying.

Does that answer the question so I can sit down and avoid being a spectacle?

(Laughter)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Yes. We're going to clarify that one step further. Judge advocate?
NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So let me just add clarity to what Paul explained. Because it's all contained within the publication that was sent out as far as what occurs, how it occurs, and the path and, if you will, the dominoes that occur from this.

These gentlemen behind me created and were instructed to, by resolution of this NEC, to meet, discuss, do whatever is necessary, and if you recall the resolution, it had words in there "but not limited to." A lot of this falls into the category of "but not limited to," which is totally appropriate and accurate and the way to move forward.

Everything that's in this plan thereby, then, moves to a committee or commission, a national officer or, in many cases, also a headquarters staff. So there's direction and guidance.

They've established what the points are. The points are clearly listed on there as far as who is responsible for it, a timeline, you can debate whether the timeline is right or wrong, you can debate the inference of what that timeline means or should mean or doesn't mean or whatever the case may be.

But this is moving all of these action points from point A to point B. Point B is a National Executive Committee, the commissions and committees of that National Executive Committee. So you do all the work, which is exactly what Bill referenced.

Resolutions to enact this, whether they be financial aspects of resolutions, which Kevin is 100 percent right on, there needs to be financial consideration to a recommendation -- there's probably many financial recommendations to be done -- are then debated, discerned, processed through the committees and commissions supported, where necessary, by resolutions; acted on through further debate; and then, by the way, guys, again, approved by this organization and the national representatives for this organization.
That's the basis and the essence of where we're at on this. So understand this is not saying, "Okay. This is now done." This is saying, "This is the work to be done," which, by the way, is what a plan is about. All right?

So it's providing and turning over to you a template, a direction, a guidance, an action, a requirement to then take the next steps, which then will have to be fulfilled by the guidelines that we're all trying to debate. Talk about the plan, not necessarily the process, because the process is in place. It gets turned back over to you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You have a rebuttal to that?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON BROWN: I just want to make sure that there were no further questions for me. I'll be glad to sit down.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: PNC from Maryland.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JOSEPH GLADDEN (MD): PNC Joe Gladden from Maryland, as you said.

I guess my big problem with this whole situation is that I think the Ad Hoc Committee has done an incredible job, spent a lot of time. But I truly feel that if the Ad Hoc Committee goes away and it doesn't become a permanent part of our organization, that all the things that they've just spent the last two years on are going to go away. That if you turn this over to the NEC and the NECs work on their own little parts, where is it going to go back to to try to be all pulled together?

If we're running our organization like a business, there are many companies out there over the years that, when they failed to change with the changing times, were no longer in business. To me, that's where this committee, the strategic planning committee, we are going to be strategically planning for the rest of the organization's life, forever. And if they stop right
now, they go away, then I think all the work they've done right now is going to stop right now and it's going to go away.

I think that while we can pass this motion, I think it needs to be a resolution needs to go through that make them a permanent part of this organization so that their plan and their work can continue to go on so that they can then continue to administer and to receive information, like they've talked about, from the NEC and from the organization. So they can continue to fine-tune us, to make it better, to keep us current, to keep us relevant. So that's my thoughts.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you.

I'm going to recognize the NEC from Montana as he made the original motion. But before we do that.

NECMAN ELLWEIN: I would like to update and straighten anything out today. This is Dick Ellwein, NEC from Montana.

When I made the motion, I was only making a motion to accept the updated report from the ad-hoc term that they presented it just for today. It was not a final approval of the strategic ad hoc plan.

My motion was to accept today's updated report. That's what my motion was that I brought on the floor. It was not the final.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I believe that's way it was stated, to accept the report. The word "final" never came into the motion.

On clarification, PNC Gannon would like to address comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBER GANNON: Past Commander Gladden, you're basically talking about some oversight if this is implemented. To see that the things that are on this
report are carried through, that we get the reports or the resolutions that we're eventually hopeful for.

The ultimate oversight, as much as we don't want to admit it, has been here for 85 years. We're a program of The American Legion. The ultimate oversight for everything we do will be, shall be the Internal Affairs of The American Legion.

So we can have all the oversight we want; there's only one body going to be the oversight for us. And as much as some of us have had a hard time for a very long time accepting that, the ultimate oversight lies with the Internal Affairs of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC from Georgia.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Mr. Commander, I'm Bob Brown, NEC from the Detachment of Georgia.

I first off want to start off by saying thank you to the committee for their work and their efforts.

But I've been here quite a number of years and we've been down this path before, and the slope gets slippery. Because one thing in this report, and I know it's a preliminary report, but there's several things that I think are at least, if not glaringly inefficient or at least vague, there is no stated purpose for doing this and maybe no stated actual goal.

I know it's kind of maybe, can you understand it, but that's also been the thing that has caused this type of movement before to fail. I don't want to see this fail. I've been here a long time and it's long past due.

We do this at home and we do it in a proper manner. I know there's some adjustments to made, but there needed to be some specifics come out of this committee to place it in the
hands directly with specific goals and ideas and purpose for doing it to these committees and commissions so it actually gets done this time.

We're here representing those 300-plus thousand that we represent back home, and it would be belittling me and belittling the ancestry that I represent who gave me my eligibility to be in this organization, if we don't do it properly.

Some of us won't be here much longer. I know there's a major turnover in the NEC, some one year, some two years' term, in and out. We need programs to help teach us. Some of us have been here a long time and we understand our shortcomings.

But gentlemen, we have a long ways to go. I don't think there's a man in this room that doesn't want to succeed. And I don't mean just succeed; I mean excel. Gentlemen, we need to take this seriously. This is just a report, but I would suggest some fine-tunings as far as purposes, why we want to do it, when we want to get there, and at what time do we want to get there, and what are our ultimate goals.

Thank you, Commander, for your time.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you. I'm sure the committee would appreciate any input that you can give them to take this to the next level.

National Vice Commander?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CANNITO: Commander, NVC Mark Cannito representing Southern region. I got a real easy question for the chairman.

I believe you sent out an email on April 26th with the outline that everybody has here. I did not receive it. Are the NECs on your email list? Because I don't have an NEC at this point, so I don't have that information. I think we need to be on your email list.
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's my understanding that that email came from the national headquarters office, not from the committee itself, so that could have been an oversight.

(Laughter)

We definitely apologize; those things happen.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON BROWN: That email came at the request of the committee to send it out to the NEC and to the PNCs of the organization. Had the request been included to send it to the NVCs or all voting members of the NVC, I would have done it that way. But the request came, it was submitted as requested.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The national vice commanders that are members of the NEC. Maybe --

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON BROWN: I apologize.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC from Minnesota.

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

I, too, like a number of others, have got a lot of questions that I wrote on my form. First of all, I would like to commend the commission for the time that they have put into this. However, they just got done with an entire weekend hashing this out. I got this on or about the 25th of April, and now I'm expected to vote on it.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, we don't have two days, as NEC, to sit around and hash this over. You're wanting us to approve it. Some of the things I applaud that I see in here. Some of the things I wonder how in the heck we're going to be able to afford it. So I guess I'm at a loss right now. I'm confused.
When I take a look at, for example, the training or the implementation of fundraising, you know, are we that short of funds where we need to go out and look for corporate donations and probably be in conflict with our parent organization? They might be looking at the same ones.

Like I say, there's just questions that I have that I guess I need answered before I can vote on the issue. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Once again, it was never stated that this was their final report and that they were done, by the chairman. The motion was made to accept the report as presented this morning.

Sir, I'm not sure where you're from.

NECMAN DANIEL DAILY (WI): Wisconsin. NEC Wisconsin, Dan Daily.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC Wisconsin.

NECMAN DAILY: I guess I'm a lot easier to confuse than other people. But it's my understanding what's going on, we're not voting on this paper. We're only voting on the gentleman's report that they made the paper and did their work. We're not even ready to discuss the outline or what it is in this motion that's on the floor right now.

Isn't it a motion to say, what he had to say to us we accept? That's my question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That would be my interpretation.

(Applause)

Have you spoke to the question previously, NEC? I'm just curious, because there's nobody else, and if you have, it's your turn again, if you've already spoke to the question. Otherwise, it's your first time.

NECMAN JOHN JENNINGS (FL): My first time, Commander.
(Laughter)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Everybody's got to have a first.

NECMAN JENNINGS: John Jennings, NEC, Detachment of Florida.

I'd like to direct a question to Chairman Bill, please. I'd like to direct a question to the chair, please.

Bill, first thing I want to say, there's been a lot of work went into this and I know that there's been a lot of fire throwing and this and that. But I want to say thank you for what you're trying to accomplish.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: You're welcome.

NECMAN JENNINGS: Because I do know that we have some things that we do need to address. I do understand, after listening to some of this, that we are approving a report. But I have a question of clarification, and it comes out of the operational plan assignments.

Big plan, and we said earlier that the report was being accepted. In this report, the operational plan assignments, for one, it gives time frames. It gives an intent of a question or an observation by the committee which would inform leading national commander candidate of appointments to committee-commissions in advance of official announcement at national convention. Totally agree with it; gives the intent of what is there.

Here's one of my concerns approving the plan. "Operational plan outline due June 11, 2018. Operational plan due, July 11th, 2018." A lot of those have been sent, and operational plan responsibility is the Committee on Commissions -- or Committee on Committees.

Plans have to be achievable with ability to perform and make things happen. Are these going to be something that The American Legion Internal Affairs, we've already heard that they
are the governing body, we all understand that. If we accept these time frames, what's going to be the leniency if we cannot achieve those dates?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: Again, there are objectives, John, that were established based on the importance of the information that needs to be gathered in order to go to what the final version of the document, the plan would look like.

Once again, you're talking about -- and this is conceptual from the committee's perspective. The very first timeline that you have on there should be nothing more, and I hate to use it as simplistic as it is, but I'm going to go to my granddaughter's big crayon box and I'm going to get that big crayon out, and it's about that big around, and I'm going to write my generalized plan process or plan thoughts down. And from those, you should build off of those to get to your final plan. Okay?

I would be remiss if I didn't make one point of clarification. We are recommending that -- Ray, you're still in the room -- Chairman Giehl on comm-comms, who ultimately should see that this information is disseminated out to committees and commissions. We're recommending that comm-comms now fully engage the next phase here of where we need to go, so that all the debate, all the discussion, all the thoughts can then happen in committee and commissions, make its way to comm-comms, ultimately it into Internal Affairs, ultimately to Paul, ultimately to headquarters. So there is a chain in there that we should be following.

I'm just trying to make a point that we're stressing over debating a set of circumstances that I don't believe for one minute that the Ad Hoc Committee is in a position to effectively debate.
First, it should be your plan; that was the beginning of my report. This is your plan. You need to take ownership of your plan. Success or failure to any plan is how it's bought in by those who are endorsing and embracing the plan.

So again, debate, discussion, building, construction should happen, will happen, and has to happen at the committee-commission level in order for it to make its way back to the NEC, which is our ultimate reporting body, and present.

NECMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC from Nevada.

ALTERNATE NECMAN JAMES STEWART (NV): Jim Stewart from Detachment of Nevada.

Call the question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved that we call the question.

Motion on the floor is to accept the report that was given this morning, it was duly seconded.

All in favor, say signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Ayes have it.

If you want a roll call, you can request it, but there was no doubt in my mind.

PNC Cook?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICHARD COOK (OK): Point of clarification.

Past National Commander Rick Cook of Oklahoma.

The motion that was approved was for the report to be approved. Does this give the authorization for that report to go to IA and them to force us to comply with all the things in the report?
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You're talking about American Legion Internal Affairs?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COOK: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You know, I would say yes, any directive that comes from them, we're going to have to implement. Now, I will have, I believe, the opportunity to address any concerns by the subcommittee on this report.

And I will definitely, from what I'm hearing as your commander, what I'm hearing, that you're not happy with this final product, and I don't think it was ever -- excuse me, I should have never said "final." You're not happy with the report, necessarily, that was given today that may have been taken as a final product. I heard several times, "This is a work in progress."

And I want to be clear on that, when I have that opportunity to the subcommittee on the Sons of The American Legion, to let them know that we feel this is still a work in process.

Yes, we have guidelines that are outlined, we have deadlines. I'm going to ask for a little latitude there to help us work through some of these challenges. I call them challenges but really, they're opportunities. They're opportunities for us to get better, they're opportunities for us to grow this organization.

So I will definitely represent you at that meeting, letting them know that we feel we still need time to further develop this report that has been given to this point. We have been requested to give the report, the chairman, to the Internal Affairs; that will be done.

Now, we can debate all day whether we approve that it's the final report or not; it is not. I never heard the chairman say this is the final report. I'm going to go to bat for you guys and express your concerns over this report that it is not final, we need to continue our work, we need to continue to build on our strategic plan.
I don't believe, and I could be way off base here, I don't believe this is a strategic plan for changing the organization as a whole. We're not changing our mission as an organization. Our mission is always going to be our preamble to our constitution.

We're changing the mission of the national organization, how we structure ourselves, how we educate this group and our future leaders. I don't think they're trying to restructure the whole organization. That was never the intent.

This is a restructuring of how we conduct ourselves and do business as a national organization, improving on your knowledge, your experience, and our goals at the national level. I don't think it was ever intended to restructure the way we do business as an organization as a whole. Some of that will trickle down, it will trickle down. I hope everything works out for the good of the organization.

We have an opportunity to take it to the next level, and I think that's what this is. I'm definitely going to let the subcommittee know that, in my opinion, you guys are not satisfied with this and we want to continue to work on it and build on it and make it better.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COOK: Mr. Commander, what I suggest or would like for you to do is, when you go to IA, is to tell them, with this program, you will see the changes come through our committees and commissions, and it should be a direction from the NEC back to Internal Affairs and not a directive from Internal Affairs back to our NEC to action.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It is hopeful that they will let us do our process and not dictate to us. I would really like to see the process work itself out. They like the chain of command; so do I.
And this needs to start here and we need to work it up through the process. I really hope they give us the opportunity to take it through the process, work it out, get that perfect plan that some day, and hopefully it won't take too long, that some day we will have that perfect plan, that perfect strategic plan that will take us into the future.

I definitely am going to bat for you folks at those meetings, and I'm going to let them know that we want to continue to work this and we want to continue to make it better.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COOK: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: The chairman would like a couple of comments to wrap up the report.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SPARWASSER: I just think it's important to reiterate something that Past Commander Cook brought to the table again.

If you look at the operational plan assignments and timelines, recommendations in this report, you'll see there's an operational plan responsibility. I just want to take a minute and remind everyone to follow the thought process here.

Ultimately, Committees on Committees is going to take all this information and disseminate it down to the committees and commissions. You're going to be tasked with meeting the objectives as outlined. Then you're going to report back to this body. There's going to be a report that comes back to this NEC.

At that point in time, this NEC will then either deny or approve such objectives and such policies and such plan. Because remember now, if you're making changes to operations, we need resolutions and we need documentation to support it.

Once that business is done here at this level, it then needs to go to Internal Affairs of The American Legion and the subcommittee for its ratification. It is a ratification process.
If we present the right package, and I can tell from you my experiences in meeting with Internal Affairs and the subcommittee, they don't want to control how we operate. They don't want to dictate how we do business. They want it to be our plan so that we can embrace it, take it forward, and charge home with it. They do not want to dictate to us how we do business.

We're mature enough, as they've identified, to understand how we function as an organization. We've been doing it for 85 years. And now it's time for us to change our direction a little bit in how we do business. We're becoming more responsible, but it's time for us to prove responsibility again.

So just keep in mind, it sounds complicated, but it really comes back to the national grassroots construction team, if you will, of how we're going to go forward. I think that's the important thing you take away.

Your discussions, your communications, your dialogue, that needs to happen in committees and commissions because that's where that's going to be built. That's where you're going to come up with resolution to enforce policy and build demand plans and move things forward.

That's where it will come from. That's how you will get the approval process at least in your hands to look at, review it, then approve or deny such a venture.

Mr. Commander, that's my comment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Chairman.

The motion has been disposed of. I thank the committee for their work, I thank the chairman for his report. Gentlemen, I hope you continue to have dialogue on this subject and work through the issues at hand. Thank you.

Any other comments this morning? PNC from Florida.
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES ROBERTS III (FL): Jim Roberts, past national commander from the Detachment of Florida.

I'd like to thank the gentleman for making the motion to move along for the question. It probably saved me from getting into a little trouble.

(Laughter)

I have my remarks; I'd like to submit them for the record to the adjutant. Most of the NEC has seen my response. We voted to pass whatever we have decided to pass today.

In my opinion, that the timelines that are on here, if they're held to, we have done ourselves a disservice because we are going to be held accountable to those. There are outside influences in this organization, that are a few influences that are influencing many. I put that in my response to this, because it started with just a few little documents to get to where we are.

You've made the decision today to move forward. I applaud you for that. I applaud the committee for doing the work they have done up to this point. But we have got to really take a hard look at what we're going to do for the future, what our goals and our objectives are going to be.

The list, as Chairman Sparwasser has said, is not the plan, and that is right. Because a list is not a plan. We have to take this and now move forward with that plan.

So Mr. Commander, the gentleman from Nevada, thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you. So one comment on the --

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Not a comment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I have one comment before I'm going to turn it over to you.
One comment on the deadlines. Having worked construction for 45-plus years, every task is assigned a deadline, and a lot of times those deadlines are outrageous, I guess is the word I'm looking for. But if we don't have some type of a deadline, a date to shoot for, the work will never begin.

So yes, it's a tight schedule. I will ask, when I have that opportunity on The American Legion side, whether it be the subcommittee or Internal Affairs, "Is there going to be any leniency on these deadlines?" You all or most of you all have jobs. This is not a paying job; you're volunteers.

We just want you to know that we're shooting for these deadlines. We ask you to do the best possible job given the time frame that you have and your ability to work it into your schedule. Your family and your life and your job needs to come first.

That's the way I'm going to present it, that you folks have other responsibilities outside of this organization. I'm going to ask for a little leniency. Hopefully I'm able to report to you folks what comes out of that meeting and we can move forward.

NEC from Georgia.

NECMAN BROWN: Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia.

Post the voice vote, we immediately went into some further conversation from the microphones towards the podium and that hindered my ability to come up.

I found the vote to be vague in its interpretation of who was -- whether it was yea or nay. I would, as an NEC, request a roll call, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been requested for a roll call on the vote.

Any others?
NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Yes, Mr. Commander. NEC Oklahoma, Chris Cook, I second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You're requesting a roll call?

NECMAN COOK: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Ron? She's not going to get it without going to the microphone, so please use the microphone.

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): Ron Roberts, NEC from Mississippi. I will make the third required request to have a roll call vote, since it does require three members of the NEC.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: We had a third call for roll call vote. We're going to get clarification back here real quick. It is three?

There was a little discussion going on back here, three or five. We wanted to clarify that.

So we have had the three calls for roll call vote. Those voting, just as a refresher will be the NECmen themselves or the alternate that is duly authorized to vote at this meeting in the absence of the NECmen; the five national vice commanders; the immediate past national commander; and the national commander himself if called upon by a tie vote. Okay?

So I'll call on the adjutant to conduct the roll.

Roll Call Vote

...National Adjutant Wright conducted the roll call vote of the National Executive Committee as follows:

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: National Vice Commander Ken Warner.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WARNER: I vote yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: National Vice Commander Mark Cannito.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Gentlemen, the recorder cannot hear, Janine cannot hear the vote, so you are going to have to use the microphone. It will be, I'm presuming, in alphabetical order. So if you would please line up to the best of your ability in alphabetical order, NECmen, the vice commanders.

Do we need the vice commanders to go back through their vote to get it recorded?

We're going to go back to the vice commanders on your vote. Please, you're going to have to restate your vote for the recorder, for Janine. She did not get it.

We're going to restart it and Anthony will do the roll. Please use the microphone.

Once again, this is only the individuals that were stated as voting members of the NEC.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: All right. We're going to resume again.

National Vice Commander Ken Warner.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WARNER: I vote yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Yea.

National Vice Commander Mark Cannito.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER CANNITO: I vote nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: National vice Commander Jay Marsden.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER MARSDEN: I vote yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Yea.

National Vice Commander Don Ramirez.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER RAMIREZ: I vote yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: National Vice Commander Joe Navarrete.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER NAVARRETE: Yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Immediate Past National Commander Jeff Frain.

Detachments: Alabama.

ALABAMA: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: A nay.

Alaska.

Arizona.

Arkansas.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Arizona is coming now.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Oh, I'm sorry.

ARIZONA: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Arkansas.

ARKANSAS: I say yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: California.

CALIFORNIA: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Colorado.

COLORADO: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Connecticut.

CONNECTICUT: Abstain.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Delaware.

DELAWARE: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Florida.

FLORIDA: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: France.
FRANCE: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Georgia.

GEORGIA: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Hawaii.

Idaho.

Illinois.

ILLINOIS: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Indiana.

INDIANA: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Iowa.

Kansas.

KANSAS: Kansas, yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Louisiana -- I'm sorry, Kentucky.

KENTUCKY: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Kentucky was a yea?

KENTUCKY: Yes.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Okay.

Louisiana.

Maine.

MAINE: Yea

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Maryland.

MARYLAND: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Massachusetts.
MASSACHUSETTS: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Michigan.

MICHIGAN: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Minnesota.

MINNESOTA: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Mississippi.

MISSISSIPPI: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Missouri.

MISSOURI: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Montana.

MONTANA: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Nebraska.

NEBRASKA: Yeah.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Nevada.

NEVADA: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: New Hampshire.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: New Hampshire, yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: New Jersey was nay.

New Mexico.

NEW MEXICO: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: New York.
NEW YORK: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: North Dakota.

Ohio.

OHIO: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Oklahoma.

OKLAHOMA: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Oregon.

OREGON: Yea.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA: I'm going to abstain.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Philippines.

Puerto Rico.

Rhode Island.

South Carolina.

South Dakota.

Tennessee.

TENNESSEE: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Texas.

TEXAS: Nay.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Utah.

UTAH: Yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Vermont.
VERMONT: Yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Virginia.
VIRGINIA: Yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Washington.
WASHINGTON: Yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: West Virginia.
Wisconsin.
WISCONSIN: Yea.
NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Wyoming.
WYOMING: Nay.

Is Immediate Past National Commander Frain in the room?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He is not, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: On the question of approving the report, 32 in favor, 13 nos, two abstained. Motion carries.

Any announcements?

No one from New York? I would just -- NEC from New York, would you like to make an announcement on a little get-together this afternoon? Otherwise I'll do it on your behalf.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The leading candidate luncheon will start at 11:00.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Leading candidate reception next door, 11:00.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 11:00 to 2:00.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: 11:00 to 2:00. Please stop by, wish those individuals well, and have a little something to eat. I don't want to put you on the spot.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have some chicken wings -- Buffalo wings.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Any other announcements?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER WARNER: Mr. Commander, Kenneth Warner, national vice commander representing the East. I would like anybody left from the Eastern region, upon conclusion, a brief caucus in the right-hand corner.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Any other announcements?

Gentlemen, I would like to thank you for conducting yourselves professionally this morning. I know there was a lot of individuals that thought it was going to get out of hand. But I'm going to tell you something: You proved that you are professionals and you conducted yourselves as such this morning. And this individual appreciates it. Maybe I can sleep tonight.

(Laughter)

Just a reminder that the religious service will be tomorrow morning at 6:45 in this room.

If there's no further business to come before this session, we will recess.

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

We will now stand in recess until 8:45 tomorrow morning.

...At 10:45 a.m., Saturday, May 5, 2018, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, May 6, 2018.
SECOND DAY

Sunday, May 6, 2018

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: With the colors of our country in place, join me in a hand salute: Two.

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

Invocation

James Noble, National Chaplain, New Jersey

Good morning, Lord. Thank you for a wonderful day that you have given us. As we continue to do our work in this meeting, we ask you for a guiding hand in all that we say and do. Let us serve side by side for the good of The Sons of The American Legion and the entire American Legion family. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: National Vice Commander Ken Warner will lead us in the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: National Vice Commander Joseph Navarrete will lead us in the recital of the Preamble to our Constitution.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER NAVARRETE: Please cover.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: 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
Danny J. Smith, Nebraska

National Vice Commanders
East: Kenneth P. Warner, Pennsylvania
South: Mark A. Cannito, South Carolina
Central: Jay E. Marsden, Missouri
Midwest: Joseph R. Navarrete, New Mexico
West: Donald Ramirez, California

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

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

National Chaplain
James Noble, New Jersey

National Historian
Jerry Cole, Nebraska

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York
National Sergeant-at-Arms
George B. Sevick, Jr., Nebraska

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas
Raymond Giehll, III, Indiana
Gregory A. Falco, New York

National Commander's Aide
David L. Rippe, Nebraska

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - EXCUSED

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
Robert H. Faust, California
James R. Hartman, Maryland
Charles E. Gannon, Maryland
David P. Stephens, Indiana
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota
David R. Faust, Wisconsin
Eugene L. Sacco, California - EXCUSED
Roland D. Matteson, Arizona - EXCUSED
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
John T. Dietz, Kentucky
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelman, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Steve C. Laws, North Carolina
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
William L. Sparwasser, Maryland
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
James K. Roberts, III, Florida
Christopher J. Huntzinger, Pennsylvania
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland
Michael W. Moss, Colorado

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Alabama (B), Arizona (B), Arkansas (N), California (B), Colorado (N), Connecticut (B), Delaware (N), Florida (B), France (N), Georgia (B), Illinois (N), Indiana (N), Kansas (B), Kentucky (N), Maine (B), Maryland (N), Massachusetts (B), Michigan (B), Minnesota (N), Mississippi (N), Missouri (N), Montana (N), Nebraska (A), Nevada (A), New Hampshire (B), New Jersey (B), New Mexico (B), New York (B), North Carolina (N), Ohio (B), Oklahoma (B), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (N), Tennessee (A), Texas (B), Utah (N), Vermont (A), Virginia (B), Washington (N), Wisconsin (N), Wyoming (N)

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Adjutant Wright.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DEACON: Mr. Commander, I'm Past National Commander Deacon. Mr. Commander, as Iowa has neither an alternate or an NEC here this meeting, I request permission for our detachment vice commander Mike Monserud to sit at the NEC seat with voice but no vote so that he may receive the NEC material.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Permission granted, voice but no vote.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DEACON: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Before we get started with this morning's order of business, I would ask that you all please rise and join me in a moment of silence. We've lost some very dear comrades this past year, and some of our comrades continue to suffer with cancer and other illnesses.

So I ask that you uncover and join me in a moment of silence in remembrance of those individuals; continue to keep their families in your prayers.

...The National Executive Committee observed a moment of silence.
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you.

I now declare this Sunday morning session of the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee session reconvened.

Get into the order of business. Americanism Commission report which will include Children and Youth Committee, Child Welfare Foundation Committee, Gerald Hammerschmidt commission chairman; John Waite, Children and Youth chairman; and Christopher Carlton, Child Welfare Foundation.

Following them will be the Finance Commission report.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HAMMERSCHMIDT: Good morning. At this time, I will call on John Waite, Children and Youth chairman, to give his report.

Oral Report of Children and Youth Committee

John Waite, Chairman, New Hampshire

Good morning. How y'all doing?

As everybody knows, the Children and Youth Committee this year has been working hard to raise personal donations for The American Legion Endowment Fund. Oh, and did I mention, I still have some of those coins with me this weekend? And July 1st is the cutoff for the donation year for the 2017-2018.

This year's Children and Youth conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 21st through the 23rd. Please return to your detachments, consider sending your Children and Youth chairman or a representative. The information that you gain there will be invaluable.

Several members in attendance at the meeting Friday night shared various projects held in their own detachments for Children and Youth month. We look forward to including this
informing in the quarterly e-newsletter. I encourage all detachments to please send us any information that you have on Children and Youth so that we can include that in that quarterly e-newsletter.

We also have the Children and Youth Facebook page. That page is not just for the Children and Youth Committee, that page is for The Sons of The American Legion. I encourage you all to use it.

Reports were given by each member of the committee. The entire report will be on Facebook or I could email it to you, as I have Doug Heiser from the Detachment of Indiana.

Under new business, we spoke of the need to involve younger members, as we always do. If we involve youth as partners in decision-making that affects them, it increases the likelihood that those decisions will be accepted and they will stay involved. If we develop programs, projects, and activities with youth rather than for youth, we will be successful.

Remember, a positive experience, positive interaction, and positive environment will equal positive youth development.

That concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on May 4, 2018 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman John Waite (VT).

Roll Call:
Chairman: John Waite (VT)  Members: Greg Price (MI)  Robert Avery (NY)  John Lawrence (LA)  National Assistant Adjutant (none assigned)  John Mejia (CA)  Past National Commander Joe Korba (NJ)  Guests: Jay Cook (OK), Bill Geary (IL), Ike Bosford (NY), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Jeff Gibson (AL), Ed Gossett (DE), Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Bob Manzo (MD), Scott Underkoffler (DE), Don Allisot (ME), Mike Kline (PA), Jimmy Martin (IN), David Johnson (MA), Phil Stonder
With Colors in place, the membership saluted and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Blue Star Service Banner was presented.

Chairman John Waite recited the Committee's Mission Statement: "The mission of the Sons of The American Legion Committee on Children & Youth is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs, and activities of The American Legion. The Committee's responsibility is to promote the care and protection of the children of veterans; improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home; prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth; maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs; and such other purposes as maybe assigned to it by The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; and to assist The American Legion Children and Youth Program in carrying on for God and Country."

The 2017-2018 Children & Youth Goals are to support Commander Smith's projects; The American Legion Endowment Fund .50 per member; donate $180,000 to NEF at $0.50 cents per member, and for CWF to continue to raise $1 per member.

This year’s C&Y Conference is September 21-23, 2018 in Indianapolis. Each Detachment is encouraged to send their C&Y Chairman or a representative. The information you will gain is invaluable.

Members in attendance spoke on various projects held in their own Detachments during Children & Youth month including fundraisers for Make-a-Wish Foundation and Special Olympics.

**Reports of Members:**

**John Waite – Endowment Fund** — A worthy cause and our committee has been accepting personal donations all year collecting around $8,000. Can you imagine that with all our technology we have at our hands we have trouble raising .50 per member, imagine in 1925 900,000 Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and American citizens joined a campaign to raise money for struggling Veterans, widows and their children. They were able to raise $5 million, which today would be estimated at $60 million. Please go back to your Detachments and try to get a donation for this all important fund as a TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More).

**John Lawrence – Drug Awareness,** The National Institute on Drug Abuse advocates principles that adults should follow in raising their children in regards to drug awareness.

Principle 1: Intervening early in childhood can alter the life course trajectory in a positive direction. Substance abuse and other problem behaviors that manifest during adolescence tend to have their roots in the early developmental stages.

Principle 2: Intervening early in childhood can both increase protective factors and reduce risk factors. Risk factors are qualities of children and their environments that place children at greater risk. On the other hand protective factors are qualities that promote successful coping and adaptation and thereby reduce those risks.

Principle 3: Intervening early in childhood can have positive long-term effects. Focusing on settings and behaviors that may not appear relevant for adjustment later in childhood or in adolescence help set the stage for positive self-regulation and other protective factors that ultimately reduce the risk of drug use.
Principle 4: Intervening in early childhood can have effects on a wide array of behaviors. Because behaviors (both positive and negative) are linked to each other, risk factors for substance use may simultaneously put a child at risk for other problems such as mental illness or difficulties at school.

Principle 5: Early childhood interventions can positively affect children’s biological functioning. The benefits of intervention are not limited to behavioral or psychological outcomes—research has shown they can also affect physical health. For example, one intervention for young children in the foster care system looked at cortisol level, a biological measure of the stress response. Over time, the stress response of children receiving the intervention showed better regulation and became similar to that of children in the general population.

Principle 6: Early childhood prevention interventions should target the proximal environments of the child. The family environment is the most important context across all periods of early child development, and thus parents are a major target of many early childhood interventions. Interventions for different age groups and targeting different types of problems should focus on the most relevant context(s)—the home, school, day care, or a combination since the child grows older he will spend less time in the home.

Principle 7: Positively affecting a child’s behavior through early intervention can elicit positive behaviors in adult caregivers and in other children, improving the overall social environment. Behavioral changes in children and the adults who interact with them can be mutually self-reinforcing. Improving the child’s family or school environment can, over time, cause the child’s social behavior to become more positive and healthy (or pro-social); this, in turn, can elicit more positive interactions with others and improve the social environment as a result.

Joe Korba — Children’s Organ Transplant Association (C.O.T.A)
The American Legion NEC adopted Resolution #23 in May 2014 supporting COTA. COTA assists the families of patients 21 years old and younger with organ transplants so that these children can lead normal productive lives.

Each day 15,000 children are awaiting organ transplants and another 5,000 are in need of bone marrow transplants. The cost of a transplant can range from $100,000 to $800,000. This can leave a family in financial ruin. With insurance shortfalls and travel expenses COTA helps bridge these financial gaps families have.

The Children’s Organ Transplant Association has been assisting families for more than 30 years. They had $6,000,000 in donations last year and assisted 225 patients and families. 182 patients had successful transplants last year.

I have the COTA impact report for 2016-17 to share. This gives an overview financially of the program and also some of the personal stories of families the received help for COTA. COTA’s website is www.cota.org, this will provide you with additional information and families stories. Please consider donating to the COTA program. It has a strong impact of families and these young lives.

Greg Price: Family Support Network
The American Legion founded the Family Support Network to aid families of American servicemen and women called up to active duty worldwide.

Since September 11, 2001, the active military, National Guard, and Reserve units have been activated in record numbers and duration. As a result, the families of these men and women often find themselves unable to meet normal monthly household obligations. The American Legion recognizes that families of deployed and activated military personnel face special difficulties and hardships. With the help of the Family Support Network, and other Support Groups, these families do not have to shoulder this burden alone.
One of those support groups is Temporary Financial Assistance. Money for Temporary Financial Assistance comes through the American Legion Endowment Fund. Families can request assistance from local American Legion Family members by calling the toll-free number or filling out an online application. The contact information of the veteran's family member and the reason for the Family Support Network request is collected. The request is referred to the local American Legion Department in which the call originated. The Department refers the collected information to a local American Legion Post. The local post contacts the service member or family to see how assistance can be provided, if the resources are available, or refers the family to other local agencies.

In case of financial need, the post provides the necessary funds or assists the family in applying for Temporary Financial Assistance if minor children are in the home. Posts are reminded that families in financial need with minor children are encouraged to call on the Temporary Financial Assistance program at National Headquarters to assist.

The Family Support Network only works if Legion family members at the Post level respond to the increasing needs of our comrades and their families. As the nation's largest veteran's organization, our commitment to our military and their families is steadfast. Together, we must act to ensure that no family endures unnecessary hardships caused by military service alone.

John Meija - Ronald McDonald House
When a child cries out that he or she is in pain, the entire household is turned upside down. The search begins to find answers, to find a cure and a place to gather the family together. The Ronald McDonald house provides families with such a place to help them through these difficult times, “a place to call home”. Many families must divide their time between home and hospital, RMH will provide the housing they need at little or no cost. Keeping the family together is the goal and that child and parent remain together.

RMH provides the following services:
Home cooked meals, private bedrooms, recreational activities, support services for siblings as well as playrooms. The best medicine is "Family", this is what RMH is all about. DVDs and newspaper articles were distributed.

Chairman Waite outlined the Committee's remaining work for the year:
The release date of the Spring edition of the E newsletter is on May 11th and the Summer Edition will be August 10th. June 12, 2018 and August 7, 2018 will be committee conference calls. Donations for 2017-2018 year for the Endowment Fund need to be in by July 1st.

Constant communications with Detachments with a focus on importance of involving younger members. There are a lot of Conventions upcoming with new officers and chairmen taking over let's make sure we are getting new contact information as it is happening. Use the tools we have (the Committee, Publications, NVC's, Public Relations share what we all do).

Old Business:
The SAL Children & Youth Facebook page is averaging 800 to 1500 views. Remember it's everyone's site so please use it. What better a way to promote what we do and share ideas. If any Detachment has anything they would like to include in our electronic C&Y quarterly newsletter please get this to any of the committee members or email them to me at waiteiohn@comcast.net.

New Business:
We need to involve Youth in our programs.
Youth Involvement will benefit not only us but the youth themselves. Programs/projects that are developed in partnership with youth will be more effective at engaging that population having a greater impact. Involving youth as partners in decision making that affects them increases the likelihood that those decision will be adopted. Programs, projects, activities are developed with youth, rather than for youth.

Considerations for the S.A.L to consider for involving youth:
Assess- where your program currently is, organizational infrastructure and support for involving youth are concerns for sustainability of youth involvement.

Plan- based on purpose of youth involvement, determine how to engage youth and the appropriate level of involvement. Collaborate with other organizations that already involve youth, this could help to avoid challenges that others have faced.

Implement- Identify how we will recruit youth, how we will keep them engaged, what skills & capabilities do our youth need, what training should be provided.

Evaluate- develop a plan to review youth involvement, engage youth & adults to evaluate effectiveness and impact of involving youth in the SAL as well as impact on the youth themselves. Share successes and challenges with others.

Remember a Positive Experience + Positive Interaction + Positive Environment = Positive Youth Development

**Resolutions:**


- Motion to Approve by: John Lawrence; Seconded by: Joe Korba
- Discussion: Ronnie Grist (GA) asked for clarification of wording within the resolution regarding District reporting.
- Action: Motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring 2018 – “Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision was read. The Committee had provided input on the resolution.

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

National Commander Danny Smith (NE) addressed the Committee.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman John Waite (VT) adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HAMMERSCHMIDT: Thank you, John.

At this time, I will call upon Christopher Carlton, Child Welfare Foundation chairman, to give his report.

**Oral Report of Child Welfare Foundation Committee**

Christopher Carlton, Chairman, Indiana

Good morning. Commander, first off, the Detachment of Indiana went to dinner, just as I'm sure everybody did. But we were told by Mr. Brown that if we all would wear our hats that we received, he would make a donation.
We appreciate it, Mr. Brown.

Commander, if you don't mind, I would like to do this real quick. I'm going to take a panoramic, so everybody smile. Oh, man. I don't know which one of you was, but one of you guys just broke my camera on my phone.

Seriously, how many of us have one of these? Everybody saw what I was just doing, right, taking a picture? I'm bringing this up because this is something I heard not just from my committee, but other committees as well.

We're always looking for pictures, and it's interesting how we have this technology but we don't take the opportunity to take the picture of the moment. And I think sometimes that's because we're wrapped up in the moment. So please, you know, as we go forward throughout the rest of the year, I know the national commander has asked us to make PowerPoints and pictures to help the convention along, to make the experience even better for all of our members. So please, these pictures are very important that we get them for whatever reason.

If you notice, today I'm wearing a black suit, and there's two reasons. One, my other ones were dirty and this is all I had left. But also, I've been kind of feeling down a little bit about the CWF. I don't think it's anyone in particular's fault, but I felt kind of like Johnny Cash in that movie "Walk the Line" when he was getting ready for his big audition and his wife comes up and says, "Johnny, you realize you're wearing all black. What are you going, going to a funeral?"

He said, "Well, maybe I am."
That's kind of how I felt coming up to this spring NEC. Because at the beginning of the year, you know, you feel like, well CWF donations are kind of starting off sluggish. Here it is, we're at spring and you start to panic.

As of May 3rd, we have raised $175,000. That's a big difference from last year. But because of the donations we had yesterday, we're up to, I wrote it down, we are up to $252,303. And I started thinking, too, something I've heard before, and that is: You can't let your past experiences dictate your future, good or bad. Every year is a new year, and we can't expect every year to be the best, even though we try.

So as a good chairman, I did what they should do, and that was go back to my good committee. And we've talked about this. And at our meeting on Friday night, what we discussed and what we kind of found out was, you know, the economy is good, so why such a lack? And one of the things that was brought up was that maybe there's some detachments out there that feel like, well, that money's not coming back to our detachment, why should we give?

So we've developed this plan to inform all the detachments. I mean, we like to raise money. That's what I'd like to be: Hey, I raised money. It hasn't been that way this year.

But what we want to do is, we like to raise money. We raise money for a good cause. But how about this? How about all of you go back to your detachments and look for that other nonprofit organization that could probably put in an application to receive a grant. Because there are other organizations that the CWF are going to give money to. All you have to do is fill out the application, it's right there online.

So the big day for CWF is May 31st, that's coming up real quick. And the reason why, I'm sure all of you know but I'll remind those that who don't. May 31st is the last day for
donations for the fiscal year for CWF. I don't think we're going to make $509,000 again, but we are close to making $300,000. I think we could do it.

And also, what I would like for you guys to take back to your detachments is to remind them, your squadrons, about the dollar-per-member banner. A banner for their colors. That form, I handed out a few in our meeting. That form is online too. If you go to the CWF website, it's right there, you click it, print it out, fill it out, send it in, and they get a banner.

So I don't know, I'm not sure how many of your detachments out there or your squadrons are so close to being a dollar per member, but that could also help raise a little more money.

One of the other things that we have talked about and we're going to start looking into doing, and that's going to build a criteria. The American Legion CWF gives out the award to the detachment who raises the most money. Not our committee, not our organization; we give out certificates.

What our committee would like to do is come up with a criteria to be able to give the detachments to look for that one person, that one blue cap member that went above and beyond. And not just raising money, but how he has helped and how he has helped CWF. And they send that name back to us, back to our committee, and then we will choose a winner to recognize at national convention.

That won't be this year, but this will be in the works. As we come up, we hope to have something by fall, at least a rough draft that you guys may be able to vote on, if not the final draft.
With that, as I conclude, everybody has seen us out there in the hallway selling things. I believe I have about $700 right here. I didn't get the last count. But Commander, I'd like to donate this to the CWF.

We had two things this time to raffle off, one was a guitar, one was a nice travel mug, one of a kind, both donated. There wasn't that many tickets on the guitar, you should have bought one. I'm going to let Commander draw for that.

All right. I have a phone number on the back so this will make it easier. The phone number is (620)242-7588. If that's your phone number, please see me after the meeting.

(Laughter)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: While the chairman's doing that, there may be some more donations. So if you want to line up here while we're doing the rest of this raffle stuff, just come on around and get yourself lined up.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARLTON: While we're doing this, Mr. Chairman, will you draw for the travel mug.

(Committee Chairperson Carlton placed a phone call.)

I'm sorry, who is this? Lyle.

Lyle, I'm here giving my report, standing at the podium, and we just drew for the guitar. I'm calling to let you know you won it. So at your convenience, if you don't mind coming down and taking it off my hands, I'd be happy to give it to you. No, no. All right, thank you. Bye.

(Applause)

And we have Jimmy Hunter won the travel mug. So Jimmy, excellent. We'll make sure you get that. Thank you.

(Applause)
Remember, everybody, we do a good thing, all of us, not just CWF. Keep up the good work. I appreciate all that you do for CWF, though.

Commander, that concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on May 4, 2018 in the Illinois Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Christopher A. Carlton (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Christopher A. Carlton (IN) Members: Lyle D. Chapman (GA)
Secretary: Scott Williams (VA) Lyle Ford (MD)
Liaison: National Assistant Adjutant George K. Fleming, Jr. (PA)
(none assigned) Jon Coakley, II (OH)
Past National Commander

Guests: Willie Williams (OR), Paul Hayse (IL), Scott Merrill (NH), Philip Shipley (IL), Robert Bascou (NJ), Richard Pregnall (VA), William Murphy (MA), Gary Gummersheimer (IL), Nick Arceo (CO), Raymond Giehl (IN – PNC), Jeff Frain (AZ – PNC)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring, 2017 meeting were approved as published. The Committee did not meet during the Fall, 2017 session of the National Executive Committee.

Reports of Members: Discussed results and productivity of the regional conference calls. Chairman Carlton talked about how to use the conference calls as a tool to raise funds for Child Welfare Foundation. These calls are a good way to promote the $1 per member donations and snapshots of those who raise funds for Child Welfare Foundation. We need feedback from all of the Detachments on their efforts to support Child Welfare Foundation. He also stressed the importance of communicating information on the Grants awarded by Child Welfare Foundation. He suggested that we encourage Detachments to find organizations that are dedicated to the betterment of children who can apply for grants and give them CWF Grant Applications. The Committee needs to continue to educate and promote the Child Welfare Foundation. Chairman Carlton challenged the committee to establish criteria to recognize a SAL Member for service above and beyond for Child Welfare Foundation and recognize that SAL Member at the National Convention. Detachments will be asked to determine who will be selected for this award. $7.4 Million has been raised in donations by the Sons of The American Legion through this year. George Fleming from the Midwest Region is selling CWF T-shirts to promote Child Welfare Foundation for $20 per shirt.

Old Business:
There was none.

New Business:
There was none.

Resolutions:
SAL Resolution 9 – Spring 2018 – “Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2018 Budget.”
- Motion to Approve by: Larry Ford; Seconded by: Jon Coakley
- Discussion: There was none.
Action: Motion carried on voice vote.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion: Chairman Carlton asked for help selling CWF Merchandise at the Spring NEC.

National Commander Danny Smith (NE) addressed the Committee. Thanked everyone for their dedication and support of the Organization and the Child Welfare Foundation.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Christopher A. Carlton (IN) adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Stick around, there might be some more money they want to present you.

I know this is deviating from the program a bit, but we have some anxious people that want to donate some money. I'm going to start it off. I was handed $50 from Thom Skelley from Detachment of Kansas, $50 donation to the Endowment Fund.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Texas.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Did I not say Texas? I'm sorry. I definitely apologize, Texas. I was told I need a visa to get into Kansas.

(Laughter)

COMMISSION MEMBER LYLE CHAPMAN (GA): There's another $130 from the CWF Committee and change. Thank you.

(Applause)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CARLTON: And that's just been in 15 minutes. He's a seller.

COMMISSION MEMBER CHAPMAN: Thanks to Mejia.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Here's the Kansas money.

(Applause)


(Applause)

NECMAN JAMES DENNIS (FR): James Dennis, Department of France NEC. I have a $200 check for Child Welfare Foundation from detachment, and a $200 donation from Squadron GR42 out of Germany. Thank you.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAYMOND GIEHLL, JR. (IN): Would you guys believe this is $100 from Paul Brown? It says, "I owe CWF $100 on behalf of the Detachment of Indiana." So thank you, Paul.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you. Definitely worth the deviation from the program.

While we're between the reports here, we have a distinguished guest. Actually, there's a few. But the most distinguished guest, it is my indeed honor and pleasure to introduce to you, our national commander of The American Legion, Denise Rohan from the Department of Wisconsin.

(Standing ovation)

Denise Rohan

American Legion National Commander, Wisconsin
Good morning. I really didn't want to interrupt a whole bunch of people making donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. We just got in from -- where were we -- Louisville. What a great day.

So hopefully all you guys are doing wonderful and your meetings are going well; I hope so. I want to congratulate you on being ahead of where you've been in membership last year, and ask again for your help. The Legion, we're under 2 million members right now and we really need as much help as possible.

My theme this year is Family First, and it's all about taking care of one another. We have a lot of Legion members and I'm sure you have some SAL members who are part of the family who, for one reason or another, has not renewed their dues yet this year. I'm encouraging all Legionnaires to go knock on doors and make phone calls and find out what's going on and ask for your help whenever possible, to find out what's going on, why some of our family members who have been members for so many years, for some reason have not renewed their dues.

I know there's lots of stuff going on in the world, a lot of different political views. We just need to find out, get our family back, get our family together where they belong.

The work that you are doing with the Child Welfare Foundation, I can't thank you enough for that. There are going to be meetings later today regarding some of those grants being given and awarded. The Temporary Financial Assistance funds and the National Emergency funds, you are all being so helpful with that.

During my travels to Texas, Florida, California, and even to Puerto Rico, I keep hearing how thankful our Legion family members are for each and every one of you. And the fact that they are members of a fantastic family who cares so much, cares so much about one another
that, when there is an emergency in one place in the country, they all understand that, even though we're not blood brothers and sisters, how much we really do care about each other and want to make sure that that need is fulfilled whenever it's possible.

Because we never know when it's going to hit ourselves and be a personal issue in our own community and our own states. So I thank you for all of that work.

But I really just want to thank you for everything. Everything, absolutely everything you do for this country. And as you hear me say quite often, each of you have something really special in your heart. Somebody planted that inside of you.

And I hope that you do take the time to teach and mentor and train someone else so that they can take your place as you continue to move forward in this great organization and this great family. And no matter who that is, who it is that you may teach and train and mentor, if they for some reason or somehow surpass you, to be so proud of them. Because it's kind of like a parental thing. You want your children to do well. You always want anyone who you mentor and train to do well also.

And a lot of times, things get stymied because you're afraid somebody is going to do better than you did yourself and you don't want them to do better than you. But as a trainer and mentor, what a fantastic thing to happen, to have someone actually surpass you that you've helped along the trail, along the path.

So as I look out at all of these gold hats and see how proud each and every one of you are to be where you're at, and I know that you're working hard to make sure that those who follow in your footsteps get to be on those same paths that you are also.
Again, thank you for everything that you do. Thank you for your mentoring. Thank you for caring so much that you're here this week, learning again, and supporting these guys that are behind me. I hope you have a great weekend.

Don't forget that whatever you learn here in Indianapolis goes back home with you and gets spread out. It doesn't stay here; it gets transferred on to whoever you can possibly transfer it on to.

So again, good luck. Have great meetings, and we'll see you around later. Thanks.

*(Standing ovation)*

**NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH:** A couple other individuals that, as I was looking around the room, I noticed that I would like to introduce. Once again, our past national liaison, John Kerestan has joined us this morning.

*(Applause)*

Also our current liaison at the national headquarters, Paul Brown is here.

*(Applause)*

Another individual that I worked a couple of years with that, since we're under Americanism, I'd like to introduce. On The American Legion side, the national chairman for Americanism, Richard Anderson.

*(Applause)*

Would you like to approach the podium, Chairman? Would you like to come forward? Do you have a couple of words you'd like to share? We would sure give you that opportunity.

*(Standing ovation)*

**Richard Anderson**

*American Legion Americanism Commission Chairman, Connecticut*
Thank you, Commander. Mr. Adjutant, those at the dais, my cohort Jerry, thank you for the opportunity to come in and say hello for just a moment.

As the commander said, thank you. I stand before you on behalf of the commission to thank you. It seems that sometimes the SAL goes unnoticed until you come up with your money and the gratitude that you show and the support you give to The American Legion goes unrewarded at times.

I want to take this opportunity, from the bottom of my heart and from the commission, to thank you for what you do.

We're in some very difficult times, some very challenging times in our country right now. And particularly, The American Legion is being affected by changes that are taking place in our society, as you're all well aware of.

We're dealing with a Boy Scouts of America issue now; they just made a recent name change to Scouts from Boy Scouts of America. We received some numerous phone calls from our membership throughout the country regarding the issue. Some are very disappointed.

We met with the Boy Scouts of America headquarters last fall, and all our chairmen from across the country were in support of this new vision that the Boy Scouts of America has, to include girls.

However, we are being challenged now from our membership as to where we stand on this issue, and I can tell you that it is under study right now. We have been in contact with the Boy Scouts of America. They've been very reluctant. They've made some changes out at their national headquarters, old staff changed. So some of the people that we've dealt with are not there any longer. Some of our calls are going unanswered and not called back on.
But our position on it is this as we stand here today, that we will be coming out after the fall meetings with a formal statement as to where we stand on it. Mr. Abrams, our director from the national headquarters, will be meeting with the staff and Boy Scouts of America at the end of this month and perhaps come out of there with a better direction as to where we're going.

Some people have said we should sever our relationships with the scouting program. We have 2,500 troops across the country that represent about 60 to 65,000 young men, so we're reluctant to do that. Being traditionalists, most of us, we don't want to give that up since it was the first program we undertook back in 1919.

So there's some challenges. Gay rights and so forth are being challenged. We've got girls now that are going to Boys State. We've got a resolution in the works that will be presented to the NEC on Thursday that addresses these issues.

But the challenges are great. If we want to survive in today's society with our membership and grow with it, I think we have to realize that it's time for us to make some changes. We've got to think back our thinking a little bit different, bring it up to the 21st century, and perhaps look back at some of the traditional thinking that we've had over the years, so many, many years.

I think of people from World War I that I was associated with when I joined the Legion, what their thoughts would be if they were with us today.

I'm not going to stand here long because I know a lot of you are catching planes to get out of here. But I just want to leave you with this: That we really do appreciate the SAL. I know what you do back in your respective units and posts throughout the country. And I wonder when the day there's going to be some girls sitting out in this room. I don't know. You
know, it's a possibility, I guess. So we have to look at everything that's taken place in this country today.

    God bless you for all you do, what you do for your respective posts, and above all, what you do for The American Legion, not only financially, but in the support you give us back at your local communities. You're just a tremendous bunch of people, God-loving people.

    We will stick with the tradition that we have held for so many, many years, that as the commander said, we are family and we're going to go through this whole thing together and accept some of the changes, perhaps contradict some of them, but so be it. That's what life is all about.

    So thank you so much for who you are, what you represent, and God bless you and this wonderful nation that we live in. Thank you so much.

    *(Standing ovation)*

    NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: One other individual, quick, my lovely wife, Donna, was here, maybe she departed, joining us this morning, and I thank her for everything.

    I'm going to impose a $50 fine on myself for saying "Kansas" instead of "Texas," to the Endowment Fund.

    *(Applause)*

    Back on track. Gerald Hammerschmidt, chairman of Americanism Commission. Do you have anything?

    **Oral Report of Americanism Commission**

    **Gerald Hammerschmidt, Chairman, Kansas**

    Thank you. I've got a few things just to touch on real quick. We had some old business that we are working on.
The religious emphasis PowerPoint, we found it. We had to do some digging, it was way back in the archives; we found it. We're going to go through it and rework it and bring it to the NEC hopefully next fall, that's our plan. We're going to make it shorter. Right now it's 70, 80 slides long. So if you would want to use it as a training, it would be an hour, good hour, if not longer. So we're going to go back in and rework it and bring it back to you.

Next thing is the pamphlet that we brought to the spring last year, we're going to move forward with it. We voted on it again. It's the Boys State and baseball pamphlet for The Sons. We're going to push it through. We're going to send it after the votes, after it gets passed this day, we'll send it to Paul and have him send it to the Legion and go see what we need to do with that.

Consolidated report forms, guys, the time is coming. Last year we had around 1,700, a little over 1,700 squadron reports. Go back to your detachments and pass the word. Let's see if we can get 1,800 this year. Yeah, that's a lot more work for us judging, but the more we get, the better off the numbers are going to be for the Legion and Congress. So go back.

One other thing with them: Make sure they are filled out correctly. Make sure the squadrons know that they have to have a number of people in their squadron. We need a count, otherwise we can't do the per capita. If there's zero, if there's nothing in that, what your membership is, if they don't fill it out, they can't be judged. So make sure that you go back and put down, have them put down the membership for this year and last year.

Last thing. Pictures, photos, stories. Ernie had a good story out of Pennsylvania -- or Massachusetts, Nolan's story. I don't know who's all saw it; it's on Facebook. We sent it out as an article also. Hopefully you saw it.
We need some more of those feel-good stories, guys, for Facebook, for the website, for us, for the youth. Show them what the youth, so we can show people what the youth of our organization are doing. So if you have any, get them to the chairman, get them to me, get them to John. Let's get some good feel-good stories out there.

I do want to thank my commission this weekend, too, Jim, Ernie, Don, and Scott for all the hard work that they did.

That concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am on May 5, 2018 in the Circle West Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS).

Invocation: Given by James Borgman (IL).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) – Pres.
Vice Chairman: James Borgman (IL) – Pres.
Secretary: Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ) – Pres.
Liaison: Chuck Gannon (MD) – Exc.
Members: Ernest Laberge (MA) – Pres.
          Gary Lang (OH) – Resigned/Unexcused
          Donald Allisot (ME) – Pres.
          Scott Merrill (NH) – Pres.

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the September 19, 2017, conference call were approved as published. The Commission did not meet during the Fall 2017 session of the National Executive Committee.

Reports of Committees:
Children and Youth – Chairman John Waite (VT) reported on last night’s meeting. For details, refer to the Committee’s minutes of Friday, May 4, 2018.

Child Welfare Foundation – Chairman Christopher Carlton (IN) reported on last night’s meeting. For details, refer to the Committee’s minutes of Friday, May 4, 2018.

Old Business:
With the resignation of Gary Lang (OH), Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS) announced that he was filling in for the South regional assignment.
Religious Emphasis PowerPoint – Chairman 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.

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. **Motion by Donald Allisot (ME) to urge The American Legion to approve the SAL Americanism Trifold Pamphlet for publication and distribution to the membership.** Seconded by Scott Merrill (NH). Discussion – The hope is to have the Pamphlet be in a fillable PDF format, so the Detachments can customize it to their liking, but The American Legion will have the final say on the format. Vote: All in favor; none opposed. **Motion carried.**

New Business:
Chairman Hammerschmidt discussed the following items:

Consolidated Squadron Reports – 2017-18 CSRs will still have 40 categories for Americanism, hopefully next year that number will be reduced to 33 categories. Squadrons and Detachments encouraged to submit CSRs. Although you can access CSRs online, you still MUST print them and mail the completed form to National to receive credit. Ronnie Grist (GA) noted squadrons have confusion with the membership category on the CSR. Often, squadrons will indicate the membership YEAR as opposed to the total membership numbers. This confusion makes it challenging for Detachment Adjutants to keep the membership numbers correct for judging. Something to consider for future revamps to the CSR form.

Scrapbook Contest – Need volunteers to help judge scrapbooks at National Convention. Judging will occur immediately after the Americanism Commission meeting. Let Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS) know if interested in judging.

Table for Scrapbooks at National Convention – As done in the past, there will be a table at National Convention to showcase the various scrapbooks submitted for judging.

Facebook and Video for National Convention – Need Americanism pictures for posting onto Facebook. Send pictures to Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS).

Assignments of programs and months assigned to the Commission Members – April: Cadet Law (James Borgman (IL)); May: 5-Star / 10 Ideals (Ernest Laberge (MA)); and, June: Consolidated Squadron Report Form (Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)).

Ideas for improving the Americanism Commission – James Borgman (IL) would like to see more “feel good” stories submitted from across the country for publication. Examples included Oratorical Contest winners and scholarship recipients. Greg Spaulding (IN) noted that volunteers are always needed and welcome to help with the National Oratorical Contest. Donald Allisot (ME) remarked that the Strategic Planning Adhoc Committee’s Report, if passed, will hopefully provide this Commission with a future direction/plan going forward with assistance from the Youth Handbook. Ronnie Grist (GA) encouraged the membership to really think about the substance of Americanism, Children & Youth, and CWF, and make an earnest effort to capture Detachment activities that embrace these principles. Hopefully this self-reflection will boost the enthusiasm for Americanism across the country.

Resolutions:
- Motion to Approve by: Scott Merrill (NH); Seconded by: James Borgman (IL)
- Discussion: James Borgman (IL) noted that the resolution still leaves some questions unanswered based on the survey, but it is an improvement. Bill Geary (IL) remarked that the resolution begins by referring to Children & Youth as a Committee but towards the end refers to it as a Commission. Ronnie Grist (GA) stated the resolution wording will be corrected by the Resolutions Subcommittee.
- Action: **Motion carried.**

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2018 – “Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections”
- Motion to Approve by: Ernest Laberge (MA); Seconded by: Scott Merrill (NH)
- Discussion: Ronnie Grist (GA) expressed his satisfaction with the Resolution.
- Action: **Motion carried.**

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS) expressed his desire to have a POW/MIA chair cover displayed at all future Commission meetings. Commission needs to acquire a chair cover. A Blue Star Banner was displayed at the head table.

**Benediction:** Given by James Borgman (IL).

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) adjourned the meeting at 10:31 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: There was a joint resolution that was presented, and we're going to have the resolutions chairman deal with that and talk to you folks about that here shortly.

But on the Americanism Commission reports which included Children and Youth and Child Welfare committees, what's your pleasure, NEC? You've heard the reports.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Pardon, Mr. Commander, most of us are asleep.

NEC Chris Cook. I make a motion to accept the report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved to accept the Americanism Commission reports.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved and seconded to accept the Americanism Commission reports. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.
Motion carried.

Resolutions Chairman Jennings, would you like to present the resolution, the joint resolution?

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


No.: S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring 2018
Title: Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards
Origin: Children & Youth Committee, Americanism Commission, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion presents annual awards to Detachments, Districts and Squadrons that perform outstanding service to the Sons of The American Legion programs; and

WHEREAS, the Children & Youth Committee, the Americanism and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commissions, annually present the awards to Squadrons, Districts and Detachments; and

WHEREAS, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the Consolidated Squadron Report form as submitted by the various Squadrons, Districts and Detachments; and

WHEREAS, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the Consolidated Squadron Report form as submitted by the various Squadrons; based on per-capita for each category calculated by the current year membership divided by the number in each reporting category, then points values are given based on the placement of the per-capita: 40 points for first place down to 1 point for having any per-capita, then the points added and the winners will be the one with the most cumulative total points; and

WHEREAS, there are currently no adopted guidelines to determine a District or Detachment report; now therefore be it
RESOLVED, to qualify for a Squadron, District or Detachment award, a Consolidated Squadron Report must be physically submitted, then reviewed and selections made based on a process which will be impartial and objective with Districts and Detachments being an additional line under each category for hours and money donated directly by a District or Detachment, but not included on any Consolidated Squadron Report, only the additional monies/hours directly from the District/Detachment will be reported on the District/Detachment Report; the District/Detachment will be marked as such, the Detachment Report will be submitted as Detachment “XYZ #9999”; and be it further

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the guidelines for selection of awards herein contained be the standard for the VA&R, Americanism and Children & Youth Commissions until amended by the National Executive Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the selection be based upon a well-rounded report that contains service in the majority of standing listed programs of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the criteria be calculated on per capita, of membership as recorded by the National organization, for dollars invested and hours of service for each column heading, reflecting such, in the respective sections of the consolidated report form; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a point value be assigned to the top 40 per capita reports, with the top report receiving 40 points and descending in order to the 40th report receiving 1 point, with any one showing any service receiving 1 point, with the exception of those that have recorded no service receiving no points; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these point values are then totalled after all columns have been calculated, to determine a Squadron, District and Detachment with a highest grand total point value; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that in the event of a tie only the two that have the same highest total point value be subjected to further review and selection made by a simple majority vote of those members present at the respective convention committee meeting held immediately prior to the convention at which the award is to be presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Resolution Committee reviewed this resolution yesterday, found it to be in order and ready for the approval of the NEC.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You’ve heard the resolution. What's your pleasure? NEC from Georgia.
NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, I would like to make a motion to amend the resolution. The "whereas" clause that refers to the "well-rounded report" would open ourselves up to interpretation just as we've had in the past before this resolution was written. I make a motion we strike that one "whereas" -- I mean resolve, excuse me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: There's a motion on the floor to strike the "well-rounded" portion that's in the "resolved" section of the resolution.

Is there a section on the amendment?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Yes. NEC Chris Cook seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC Chris Cook from Oklahoma seconds.

NECMAN C. COOK: Oklahoma. I apologize.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Discussion on the amendment?

Hearing none, all in favor of the amendment of striking the "well-rounded" portion in the "resolved" clause from the resolution, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Ayes have it. The resolution has now been amended, striking the "well-rounded resolved" clause.

I would entertain a motion at this time to adopt the resolution.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): NEC Chris Cook, Oklahoma. I make a motion to accept the resolution as amended.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: There's been a motion made to accept the resolution as amended.


NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.
The question is adopting the resolution as amended and has been duly seconded. Is there any discussion?

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

Opposed, no.

Resolution is adopted, thank you.

Moving forward, Finance Commission report. Chairman Hill has been asked to be excused for personal family business. The report will be given by Dennis Blue, vice chairman.

Internal affairs is on deck, which will include Convention, Member Training and Development, and Membership.

**Oral Report of the Finance Commission**

**Dennis Blue, Vice Chairman, Minnesota**

Good morning to the family. My report is as printed, the minutes.

We had 118 come through our line on Friday. On Saturday we had 21. We really need you people to come on the posted times. There was a few late, and our computers are down and we've got to do it handwritten, and national doesn't like that.

There may be a little bit of change on some of the vouchers. The taxicab, $35 was the max; some of them didn't reflect that.

2018 budget was reviewed in our meeting. 2017 was put abed. 2019 is on work of. We had a resolution which you'll hear.

I'd like to thank all the members of the committee, especially Bob Rosenboom. He's leaving us, so thank you, Bob.

...Commission Vice Chairman Blue submitted the report of the Finance Commission.

**Opening:**
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am on May 5, 2018 in the Library Room.
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Vice Chairman Dennis Blue (MN).

Roll Call:

Chairman: William G. Hill (MD) - Excused
Vice Chairman: Dennis M. Blue (MN)
Secretary: Robert Avery (NY)
Liaison: Byron Robichaux - Excused
Guests: Mark Nave (PA), Robert Turner (CT), C. David Page (NJ)

Members: Robert W. Rosenboom (IA)
Keith Murdough (NH)
National Assistant Adjutant
Robert E. Thompson (SC)
Past National Commander

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
A motion made by Keith Murdough and seconded by Robert Rosenboom to accept the minutes of the Fall, 2017 meeting was carried.

Old Business:
The Commission reviewed the current year 2017 Final Report.
The Commission then reviewed the Fiscal Year 2017 Year-to-Date Statement

New Business
The Draft 2019 Budget was discussed by the Commission, and was found to be in order. The Final 2019 Budget is to be reviewed again at the Fall 2018 meeting.

Resolutions:
S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Spring, 2018 – “NEC Meeting Call-In Revision”
  - Motion to Approve by: Keith Murdough Seconded by: Robert Rosenboom.
  - Discussion: None
  - Action: Carried

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
Keith Murdough congratulated Vice Chairman Dennis Blue for doing a fine job this weekend.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Vice Chairman Dennis Blue (MN) adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you for that report.

I want to thank the gentlemen that serve on that commission. They did a fantastic job.

So you heard the report less a resolution that will be read here shortly. What's your pleasure?

NECMAN DAVID BISHOP, SR. (NY): Dave Bishop, NEC New York, makes a motion to accept the Finance Commission report minus the resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you. It's been moved to accept the report less the resolution.
NECMAN LINWOOD MOORE (VA): Linwood Moore, NEC Virginia, seconds it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report less the resolution.

Any debate?

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

We'll hear the resolution.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Good morning again. In your packet titled, "NEC Meeting Call-In Revision" out of the Finance Commission. As you can tell, it's like the last one, it's a little lengthy. So I'm going to go through the resolved section with one explanation on the second "whereas" clause. There's a typo there that states 2006, that should be 2016.

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Spring 2018
Title: NEC Meeting Call-In Revision
Origin: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion is the governing body of the organization between conventions; and

WHEREAS, the current monetary call-in rate structure for the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee meetings was revised in 2006; and

WHEREAS, that resolution reduced the call-in structure for the Fall NEC meeting; and

WHEREAS, the allowed call-in structure has been revised to include the Fall NEC; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion adopt the following monetary call-in allowance for the National
Executive Committeeman (or the Alternate National Executive Committeeman), Past National Commanders, National Officers (elected and appointed), National Commission and Committee members attending the annual Spring and Fall National Executive Committee meetings:

1) The cost of an airline ticket (Coach Class), purchased twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting.
   a. In case of a cancellation, the individual must notify the National Headquarters prior to the day of departure so that the airline ticket can be used within one year of the date specified. Any cost of a subsequent change fee will be paid provided proper notification of cancellation was made as indicated above.
   b. If a National Executive Committeeman cancels his trip subsequent to the airline ticket being purchased, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman will receive per diem and baggage fees only. No travel or mileage will be allowed.

2) Baggage fees if applicable. Receipt required.

3) Mileage, at the current American Legion rate, to and from home to the airport.

4) Parking fees at the airport are not applicable.

5) Transportation from the Indianapolis International Airport will be reimbursed up to the allowance as determined by The American Legion.

6) Individuals that drive to the meeting will receive a mileage allowance based on the rate per mile as used by The American Legion. The maximum allowable reimbursement shall be the same as the rate set forth by The American Legion. Parking at the meeting hotel will be covered up to the maximum allowances as determined by The American Legion.

7) Per Diem for two days, plus the travel per diem, at the rate allowed for meetings in Indianapolis unless otherwise authorized by the Legion’s Internal Affairs.

8) The National Commander, National Adjutant, Commission/Committee Chairmen and any other Officer that has obligations to attend Legion meetings on Sunday or Monday will be allowed additional per diem as determined by the National Adjutant and The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission.

9) If any person entitled to air transportation needs to cancel their flight, the S.A.L. Liaison must be notified in advance of the flight. The ticket will need to be re-issued prior to the one-year expiration period. If the ticket is not used and the National Organization is billed for the flight, the host Detachment will be responsible for the cost of the ticket to the National Organization of The American Legion.

10) The call-ins for the annual Spring and Fall National Executive Committee meetings will include all National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Past National Commanders and Commission/Committee members. No more than six members will be called in for any Commission.

11) Call-ins for the Washington Conference and National Convention remain unchanged; and be it further
RESOLVED, that this resolution become effective with the Fall, 2018 National Executive Committee meeting of the Sons of The American Legion.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Subcommittee on Resolutions met, reviewed, and accepted the format of this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC, you heard the resolution. What's your pleasure?

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC Minnesota. I move for the approval of Resolution No. 1.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved for the approval of Resolution No. 1.


NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And duly seconded.

The motion is to accept Resolution 1, duly seconded. Any discussion?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Yes. NEC Chris Cook, Oklahoma. There was a correction to be had. Was that correction made?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And it would be? What's the correction?

NECMAN C. COOK: The chairman said there was a correction.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: It was a date on the second "whereas" sentence, the 2006 was a typo.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: There was a typo on the date.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: 2016.

NECMAN C. COOK: So is the motion to accept it as corrected or accept the resolution?

Just clarification, please.
NECMAN HENKEMEYER: As corrected.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC from Minnesota says with correction as noted, and New Jersey accepts the correction.

NECMAN NELSON: Correct.

NECMAN C. COOK: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES ROBERTS (FL): Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: PNC.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTS: Jim Roberts, past national commander from Detachment of Florida.

Did I hear correctly that the alternate NECs that are representing their NEC or representing their detachment are not afforded the opportunity for airfare?

If the NEC is not here, the alternate has all the rights and privileges of that NECman; is that correct?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That is my interpretation.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTS: According to that resolution, the alternate NEC does not receive the benefit of air travel? According to that resolution. I just want to see if I heard that correctly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I don't have the copy in front of me, so I can't answer that question.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBERTS: It says in Section 1b, "If the National Executive Committeeman cancels his trip subsequent to the airline ticket being purchased, the
Alternate National Executive Committeemen will receive per diem and baggage fees only. No travel or mileage will be allowed."

The alternate NEC representing the NEC that is not here should get the full rights and privileges of the National Executive Committeeman he is representing in his detachment.

Secondly, this probably should have come through Internal Affairs Commission as well, and it did not.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: So you are correct in what the statement is, and if we adopt this, they will not. So if you don't like that, you need to amend it.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia. In the first resolve it indicates that if a National Executive Committeeman is not able to attend the meeting, the alternate will stand in the same place and get the appropriate call-in. Part of that "resolved" clause indicating on the airline ticket that was purchased. And now, because it's already been expended, then he would only get the others if it wasn't canceled properly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I believe I heard something about the host detachment picking up some of that cost; is that correct?

NECMAN BROWN: That's if it's never refunded, yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Okay. Any further discussion? Any further discussion?

Hearing none, it's been moved to accept the resolution.

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.
Internal Affairs Commission including Convention Committee, Member Training and Development, and Membership.

Legislative Commission will be on deck.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Good morning. I was getting ready to say what a productive weekend, but it hasn't been so much of a productive weekend as it's been a productive last seven months.

Since the last NEC meeting in October, your Internal Affairs Commission has been busy working behind the scenes on a lot of issues. I'm going to get to that part of the report in a few moments.

We'll start this morning's report off with the report from our Convention Committee, and with that report I call on Shawn Davis from the Detachment of Minnesota.

Oral Report of Convention Committee

Shawn David, Chairman, Minnesota

Good morning, everyone. That's nice and cheerful there.

All right. As I give forth my report, I'm going to make a point of privilege for purposes of presentation. I would ask the national sergeant-at-arms to bring forward to the stage the national vice commanders, our national historian, our national SAL liaison, and our Internal Affairs Brian Compton to the stage, please.

Now, while he's doing that, thank you, some points of correction and clarification from the minutes that are in your report.

The golf outing has been something of a work in progress, and I would like to ask of the membership here, a show of hands, please, if you would be interested in having an actual golf outing at national convention, please raise your hand.
Okay. That answers my question. That helps. Thank you. We anticipated that.

We are considering doing a mini golf outing in change of that place, because of the problems of bringing in the golf clubs. Also because of the challenge of we would like to see our younger members be able to participate. So we are still looking at doing a mini golf outing of some sort in the area there.

The party, there are changes, things are being confirmed, there's been some last-minute issues. I'm calling it the "Super Bowl Effect." Ever since the Super Bowl has been in Minneapolis, the price for everything went up; we're trying to find a good price point. Past National Commander Doug Bible was able to find something at the last minute, we are trying to do some final negotiation on it.

But we are looking at an outing at a comedy club which would include transportation for a price point of $50. It's the location we've been able to find that actually allowed us to include it in that price point.

The convention pin is pending with emblem sales, getting approvals there. There was an outstanding item from the meeting regarding the centennial convention ribbon. I was able to confirm with my American Legion counterparts that each department will be given a supply of the centennial ribbons to be distributed as however each department does the process for their ribbons, for bringing the flags, banners to the parade. So those centennial ribbons will be given out to departments for distribution, however they are handled appropriately within your organizations.

Regarding Christmas ornaments, they are also pending for emblem sales, but we will have two of them, an SAL and American Legion family. They will be for sale at the appropriate time during convention, ideally before as well.
There are two other things, one on the report. The centennial paver is available through our department. I'm still waiting for the sign-up form. Unfortunately, we had some changes with our leadership at Legionville school patrol camp, so I haven't received the actual form yet. But as soon as that is available, I will get that out to everyone that would like to buy a paver in support of the centennial of The American Legion.

Lastly, the Detachment of Minnesota purchased for The American Legion a centennial coin for the centennial convention. So on behalf of the membership of the Detachment of Minnesota, Past National Commanders Bible and Mayne, and all the members of the detachment, including myself, I'd like to present to the national officers here on stage the centennial American Legion coin that The Sons of The American Legion bought for The American Legion for their centennial convention here.

This upcoming convention coin has been purchased by us. We have some available for sale out front if you're interested in purchasing for your own detachments. They make great gifts to your officers. The cost is $10 apiece. You can buy one, buy ten, buy a hundred. We've actually had people buying them a hundred at a time. We have plenty available.

So again, that really concludes my report other than handing out these coins to the national officers, and I thank you for your time.

...Committee Chairman Davis submitted the report of the Convention Committee.
Richard Peffiffer (IN), Bob Phillips (NJ), Doug Heiser (IN), Don Hall (MD), David Rippe (NE), Michael Kirschner (CO), Jeff Evans (VA),

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**
There being no objections, the minutes of the Fall, 2017 meeting were approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**
Chairman Shawn Davis reported on the preliminary plans for the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis.

- **Thursday – Golf**
  - Miniature Golf will replace a golf tournament

- **Friday – Minnesota Party**
  - There will now be a comedy night instead of previous planned events. Cost of the comedy show will be $50.00 and will include travel to and from the event.

- **Convention Pin**
  - Looking to firm up designs by Detachment of MN Fall Conference (October 27-28)
    - Costs after that
  - Thinking of 2 pins
    - One for the SAL recognizing The American Legion Centennial
    - One for the SAL convention
  - Prices TBD
  - Available TBD

- **Parade Ribbon**
  - Every Post, Unit, Squadron, or Chapter, that has its colors registered with their department, and in the parade, will receive a Centennial ribbon.
  - So bring your colors and fly them in the parade!
  - A concern is that the Minnesota Twins will be in town for a game which could affect the parade.

- **SAL Christmas Ornament**
  - There will be 2 ornaments: one with a Legion Family theme and the other with the convention theme

- **Centennial Paver**
  - Available for purchase by individuals or Squadron through Detachment
  - A paver to benefit Legionville School Patrol Camp in celebration of The American Legion Centennial
  - Cost $100
  - Available TBD

**Old Business:**
None.

**New Business:**
None.

**Resolutions:**
None.

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**
National Commander Danny Smith (NE) addressed the Committee.

**Closing:**
With no further business to consider, Chairman Shawn Davis (MN) adjourned the meeting.
at 7:18 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: While the chairman is finishing giving his awards, I'm going to go ahead and I'm going proceed with the report.

Chairman Davis, thank you, and our pledge to you for working towards your convention in Minneapolis.

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

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

**Charles Treat II, Chairman, Arizona**

Thank you. First of all, I'd like to thank the instructors, Past National Commanders Cook, Faust, Laws, Winkelmann, Robichaux, and Stephens for their instruction this weekend. For all the work that MTD does, without you to deliver it, thank you very much, that makes it happen.

We had 60 students, 20 graduated this morning. We changed some processes on the front side of NMI for the publishing of the books. It resulted in some savings in cost and made things easier for the students. We also changed a few things on the process on checking in students; that saved time.

Beyond that, what we have in store next is, we have three months to prepare and package materials. We plan on opening up all the materials for all the detachments to use for their own purposes as they see fit. If they need any guidance from MTD, we can help them with that. We put a lot of effort in this year. We want that material to go out to the detachments and our work effort will show through the material they have on hand.

Besides that, that concludes my report, Commander.
...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 May 4, 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)  Matt Parsons (CA)
National Assistant Adjutant: Gary Denmon (NY)
Liaison: xxx (xx)  Jim Stewart (NV)
Past National Commander: Bernie Kessler (OH); Mike Monsero (IA); Phillip Cook (NH); PNC Rick Cook (OK); Don Culver (KS); Mark McCue (MA); Thomas Marsden (NJ); Michael Lawler (WI); PNC Chris Huntzinger (PA); Andy Newman (PA); PNC Cliff Smith (MA); George Flasinski (PA)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
Chairman Treat read the minutes of the Fall, 2017 meeting. There being no objection, the minutes were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
None.

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. [Former Chairman Mike] Sawicki (IL) said that the Committee will then present it to Internal Affairs for approval and future use.

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. [Former Chairman] Sawicki replied that the Committee will work on this. Mr. Culver reminded everyone of the need to publish material in read-only formats to protect the integrity of the Legion / S.A.L. brand.

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.

New Business:
Chairman Treat reported that the Ambassador’s training planned for today has been postponed to Saturday at 2:30 due to one of the candidates not arriving in time. It was agreed it would be better to reschedule it when all the candidates are together.

Mr. Treat announced that some of the Committee’s budget savings might be available in the future for other projects.

Joe Schultis reported on a potential award resolution to recognize those members who take MT&D knowledge and experience back to their detachments.
For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Danny Smith (NE) addressed the Committee and recognized the Committee’s part in the changes happening to our organization this year and in the future. He encouraged everyone to continue their efforts to help our members develop and grow by sharing what is learned here at the national conferences with the members back home.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Charles E. Treat (AZ) adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Chuck. The commission thanks you and your committee for all the hard work that you have put in to NMI this year.

Membership is the core of our organization, and with the next report, I call on Seth Rippe from the Detachment of Nebraska for the national membership report.

Oral Report of Membership Committee

Seth Rippe, Chairman, Nebraska

Thank you, Mr. Tansel.

Commander, past national commanders, NEC, I'd like to say thank you for the job that you've done with membership this year. That's right, thank all of you, because all of you are part of our membership team. It's just not our national vice commanders and our regional committeemen; it's all of you, it's all the blue cappers back home. Thank you for a phenomenal year.

Our Membership Committee met Friday night; those minutes have been published. We met for a little over an hour. I'm going to spare you and just give you the highlights of those.

Our membership theme for the year: "Pioneering Spirit: Courage, Faith, Teamwork, Perseverance."

Like the early pioneers, we've had many challenges throughout the year, but those four nouns have allowed us to overcome them.
We set some very aggressive goals: Reach 400,000 total members; achieve a renewal rate of 95 percent; and recruit 50,000 new members. But we didn't stop there. We weren't just going to set goals and wish you well.

We as a committee decided that we were going to create a membership toolbox for you this year. We introduced these tools on your regional conference calls and then disseminated them for you to use.

I would have been happy if just one squadron would have found value in just one tool. I would have said we would have done our job. However, I received an overwhelming response from gentlemen in this room and people back home, thanking us for the tool, telling us about how they had adapted the tool to meet their squadron's needs. I received even more communication requesting additional tools.

Gentlemen, we all have tools that work for us, that make membership easier back home. Please share those with the committee so we can share those with everyone.

Along with these tools, the Membership Committee sought approval and guidance from the Internal Affairs Commission yesterday for creating a new recruiter's guide. With me I have a recruiter's guide from The American Legion; not sure when it was published, it's definitely dated. I received this from Mr. Culver from Kansas.

That is an inward-facing tool, gentlemen. We already have the "Why Belong" pamphlet, which is an outward-facing tool designed to capture of interest of prospective members. But this would be a tool to help you go out and solicit membership.

We the committee felt that it was important, that it was something that could slip inside your suit coat pocket, and we discussed the contents for that guide. We discussed it containing the preamble; who we are in terms of eligibility, eligibility for The American Legion; the
programs of the Legion; the five stars, the ten ideals, the Four Pillars; educational opportunities; and other important numbers and websites.

We, the committee, will begin working on this recruiter's guide and provide a prototype to the Internal Affairs Commission for the fall NEC. We are also going to explore how to make this digital, maybe provide it on the mySAL app. Everybody carries a cell phone; it would be nice to just have it right on that app for you to reference.

In years past we have recognized the recruiting efforts of anyone who has signed up five new members to this organization. We've awarded them an individual recruitment award. Unfortunately, over the past few years, we've given out a declining number of these awards every year.

I am, however, happy to report to this committee this morning that this year we have already surpassed the number of IRAs that we handed out all of last year, and we still have a few months to go, gentlemen.

We've increased the awareness of the IRA. We've made sure that we are publicizing it on all of our conference calls. We've created a new fillable PDF to make it easier to submit. We've also increased the awareness by publishing an individual recruitment award honor roll that comes out with the target memo.

So gentlemen, thank you for filling out this form, for getting some recognition. As we discussed in the committee meeting the other night, don't think of this as recognition for yourself. There's a lot of people in this organization who think that's just part of being in this organization, to recruit new members.

However, think of it like this: Somebody is going to ask you how you got that pin, and you're going to tell them, "It's because I signed up five new members of this organization." So
they, too, will go out and sign up five new members to this organization so they can get a pin, and so on and so forth.

So I know there's a lot of people who sign up people every year who don't fill out the form, who don't want the credit. But don't think of it as credit for yourself, gentleman. Think of it as another tool to help build this organization.

Of course, I wouldn't be doing my job if I didn't touch on our numbers. We started off the year a little sluggish, fall NEC. We weren't having the best year. However, I am happy to report that since then -- and there's been a lot of "howevers" in today's speech. However, we have, since then, rebounded nicely, meeting five of our eight target dates, and have consistently been ahead of where we were the same time last year. So thank you for all your hard work.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my report.

...Committee Chairman Rippe submitted the report of the Membership Committee.
Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the Fall, 2017 meeting were approved as published.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Seth Rippe (NE) - Started out saying for those who have been participating in the region’s monthly conference calls he will not be covering anything new. Our membership this year is... Pioneering Spirit: Courage, Faith, Teamwork, Perseverance
The early pioneers faced opposition in many forms, but these four nouns allowed them to overcome adversity. We too have had challenges this year and you have all responded to those challenges relying on these words... Courage, Faith, Teamwork, Perseverance.
We set some very aggressive goals for this year...

Reach 400,000 Total Members
Achieve a Renewal Rate of 95%
Recruit 50,000 New Members

Setting goals is something easy to do, but we did not want to just stop there. We wanted to set you up for success, set our squadrons up for success. So we as a committee created membership tools to help meet these challenges. We introduced these tools on your conference calls every month for you to disseminated them for you to put into action. Chairman Seth Rippe (NE) has been overwhelmingly surprised about the response he has had. It would have worth the effort to just have one squadron find value in just a single tool. However, he received feedback from several individuals from across the country about how they were using tool or adapting the tool to meet their individual needs. That is what it is about gentlemen. He received request from other individuals about creating tools to meet a need that they have. This is what the national organization is about. Helping our members reach their goals and achieve success. It’s about sharing information. We all have these tools that we use that have worked for us. Why not share those with other individuals. Now you are going to hear more about these tools from your vice commanders and membership committee. Chairman Rippe (NE) stated we started off slow but we rebounded nicely and are ahead of last year, we are now at 92.21% and more than 3300 members more than we were at last year.

Chairman Rippe (NE) got ready to introduce our National Commander Danny Smith and talked about his tool the fire side chats that the Commander has done throughout the year. Thank everyone for creating these cards and for using these tools. The IRAs are up this year. We have already passed last year numbers and hopes to double them. What is an IRA? You sign up five new members and fill out the IRA form and send it to the regional committee. They will send you a pin. Do not think of it as a recognition for yourself but as another recruiting tool. Why because someone is going to see that pin and ask you what you got that pins for. You will tell them you got that pins for signing up five new members to this organization. What are they going to do? Hopefully they will go out and sign up five new members so they can get a pin for themselves. They have also been reporting an IRA Honor Roll on the Target Memo. Another tool that we will be starting with Mr Tansel (IN) Commission on Internal Affairs is the recruiters guide, the American Legion Recruiters Guide. It is a pocket handbook that is designed to fit in your suit. It gives you all the references you need to hopefully be an effective recruiter. It also has a spot in the back to hold all the families applications. The membership committee has been talking about how they can update it and use it as a good membership tool and present it to the Internal Affairs Commission. If you think this will help you or your detachment, please come and talk to Chairman Rippe (NE) or Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) and express your interest. The current flyer is an outward tool. This tool as the recruiter can reference guide. Talking guide. We have hit five of our target dates this year.

Up coming target dates:
May 9 - 100% target and cutoff for pre-printed cards. If you do not think your detachment has sent in all the membership cards, ask them and overnight them to National.
May 10th is Blue Brigade deadline. You earn Blue Brigade for recruiting 30 new members and you get a jacket. The application needs to be at National by May 10th. They are going to try and recognizes all the Blue Brigade members this year, last year they could not report them.

July 25th at 105% which is the date that determines your delegate strength for the National Convention. If you do not think your detachment has sent in all the membership cards, ask them and overnight them to National. PNC Cook (OK) asked the committee to look at the cutoff date of the Blue Brigade and see if they could be changed to July 25 the last date for 105% members. He would like to have July 25th as the last date for recruitments that would also be able to include Boys State, he gets a lot of new members with candidates in Boys State.

Mark Nave (PA) – Eastern start off slow, but they got really quick and got great numbers. Especially congratulations to Maryland and Vermont they hit every membership goal this year. Also there are four other detachments that did not make all the goals but were close, they are Delaware, France, Rhode Island and New Jersey. He has ten detachments that are over 90%. They use a lot of membership roundups in the eastern region. Delaware is a very small detachment, he went on a membership drive that they hit all the squadron in about 24 to 36 hours. This can be done anywhere. On larger detachments send out leadership at different times through out the year or go with the legion family.

Brian Kessler (IA) – Central. He started out thanking all the members he has given Individual Recruitment Awards. He had five out of Illinois, eleven from Indiana, fourteen Minnesota, two Missouri, three Wisconsin and two guys that were not in his region. One from Maryland and one from Nebraska.

Joseph Roberts (AZ) – West They were number one last year, they are taking a little rest. We are giving you a chance this year and they are still working hard this year, they are only a couple percentage points behind. Good point is the Philippines they have spent half the year or most of the year near the bottom and now midyear they are now doing 94%. Two detachments over 80% in renewals and six that exceed 70%. They have given out thirteen Individual Recruitment Awards. He believes that this is more pins than they have given out in the last three years. Three to Alaska, four to Arizona, four to California and two to Idaho. These awards are for the whole legion family. The Tool, Education he took the basis training course. It is a tremendous course and urges anyone who has not taken it to take it. Not only take it but use that knowledge and if you sign up new members encourage them to take the course. Once they take that course they will be enthused about the organization. They are going to sign up new members and renew their own membership. It can really feed off itself. You can do a lot on your own. Do not forget about our youth take them out to place flags on Memorial Day and answer questions about the sacrifices these veterans have given for country. Get them interested and educated about what they are doing and what we do about this organization.

NVC-E Kenneth Warner (PA) – He had the Eastern Region stand up and he salute them for work that they did this year. A lot of members have been on the conference calls. As a reminder the conference calls were moved to the 4th Tuesday at 7:30pm. Nine Detachments at 90% and above. Thanks to you and never give up. He gave a story, he is a forty-year member of this organization and he started looking for his grandfather’s paperwork twenty years ago and could never find it. His daughter accidently found it buried in a file his grandfather’s paperwork and now at 90 years old his father is now a member of the Sons of The American Legion. Keep going “never give up.”

NVC-S Mark Cannito (SC) – South. He recognized for the tools that Chairman Rippe (NE) and said they were very helpful. The South has only 4 detachments not over 90% and one being Puerto Rico. They have only been undone on one target date. He talked about how to motivate people with challenges, so he has reached out all his detachments. He challenged them if you can reach this I’ll reward you with this. Or do not let the detachment dive, when you are head to head you must motivate them to get them to stay there. He concentrates on motivation.

NVC-C Jay Marsden (MO) – He started out recognize Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan all making the 90%. We only have one detachment under 90% Missouri. The easy ones we have already got the hard ones are what we must work on now. He likes one of the tools “We want you back.” This is a way
you can ask him privately and tell him that you want him back. You do not have to try and embarrass him. We have the 100% goal coming up shortly. Even if we do not make the 100% goal the year is not over. It is still a chase to the end.

NVC-M Joseph Navarrete (NM) – Midwest region. Thanked Chairman Rippe (NE) on the great leadership this year. He recognizes several Individual Recruitment Award Winners. They had eight for the region and six came from Kansas. Over half of the detachments hit their goals. Seven out of the last ten targets have been hit by the region. Three detachments have hit all targets, Montana, Kansas, and Colorado. He talked about how the membership tools recruit, retain and energize. He likes the elevator speech the best. How many times have we been asked when we are on a plane or store and someone sees a pin or shirt and asks what that is. He described when sitting on the bus in Washington DC someone asked what you are doing, where are you going, and the PR Chairman happened to be on the bus and started to describe what we were doing. He then handed him a membership card and information and asked him to join us. One of our important themes are perseverance. We do have some hard months left to do but we need to persevere. The convention is a celebration, but it is a time to recharge and get ready for the start of another year. We need everyone support on an ongoing basis.

NVC-W Donald Ramirez (CA) – Western. He thanked everyone for being here this evening. The west is not lost yet, they are doing a great job. They are still going to get another 105% this year.

Old Business:
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 Legion will not stop mailing the renewal post cards. Still holding; no report yet.

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 Michael Lawler (WI) made a motion to pursue the investigation of online membership handling.

New Business:
None.

Resolutions:
None.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
National Commander Danny Smith (NE) addressed the Committee. We need to get enthusiastic about what we do. Some of us age a little bit and slow down get complacent, we need to get reenergized. He is a confirmed believer that if we are enthused and energetic the energy is going to spread. If we get out in our communities, we are going to find out that recruiting those members will start to get easier the more we are out there. Hopefully if we build that enthused and energy that people will start to come to us and asks us if they can join. Enthusiasm builds enthusiasm and that energy will build on itself. It will help us build this organization. You are doing a fantastic job this year. At one time this year you had 20,000 members over last year. You are doing the work, whatever is happening, you are doing it right, keep doing the work. We still have three months left, we still have time to make this a history making year. We will hit that 400,000 mark, it may not be this year, but we will hit it. It will happen in the near future. We will hit it a lot quicker if we can get our renewals up. We cannot continue to lose 30,000 to 40,000 members. Find a way to keep our members enthused and we can do that by communication and letting them know all the good things we do. Thank you for giving up a weekend of your life. You are here for a couple of reasons you believe in what we do, and we definitely believe in the American Legion. If you are like the Commander, you feel that you can make a difference in a child or in the community. Thank you for taking time out of your life to help others.
Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) thanked all the Vice Commanders this year for the hospitality on the conference calls. Also to the regional membership committee chairman for their hospitality it has been fantastic this year, he has appreciated everyone who participated this year. Chairman Tansel (IN) asked for how many IRA’s were left and there are several maybe 20 to 30 left.

New Hampshire. Two post at the Prisons. National does not take a stance. It is a detachment concern. If you would like more information please see Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) as Indiana has 8-10 legion post and 5-6 squadrons.

The contact person in the prison is the chaplain of the prison.

Ron Roberts (MS) Membership in Mississippi. How they do their cards. If the member paid last year at national, they paid their card. They send the card to the squadron with a letter do not send these cards out without receiving payment, the dues have already been paid at national. However, these other cards are ones that did not pay last year so you need to collect from them. By the way here is a packet of renewal certificates these certificates have a big red void on the cards with a note. You can correct this certificate in a hurry by sending last year’s dues and this year’s dues to keep your continuous years. Some members said the members would never pay but they only have 8 members who have not. They also have 108% renewal rate. How is this? Last few years there was Katrina some of the squadrons were three or four members they went out and found the lost members and reinstated them.

MAGIC RENEWAL. Think outside the box. All you have ideas. How many legiionnaires have fathers have fathers give out dual pins.

Martin Longeway (AR) Alt NEC is dual member he asked the bellhops everywhere you go, sometimes you can get a sense they are military.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE) adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for all your hard work and for the work of the Membership Committee as well.

Also, there’s five individuals that are sitting down here in the front row that I would also like to thank, and that is our national vice commanders and also your regional Membership Committeemen for all the work that you guys have done. I’ve participated in over 20 of your conference calls this year, and I thank each and every one of you for allowing me some time and get on your calls and talk about Internal Affairs.

Oral Report of Internal Affairs Commission

Mark Tansel, Chairman, Indiana
Our commission recently completed the new SAL Trophies and Awards Manual and it was sent out to the NEC and the PNCs this past week. It's a 64-page document that is a living document that will be updated annually. There are some corrections that need to be made to that document already, and those corrections will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks, hopefully. But a new revised document probably will not be released until after the national convention in Minneapolis.

But there are three individuals that I believe need to be recognized. Number one is vice chairman of Internal Affairs Don Culver. And Don has already left this morning, I believe, to get ready for his trip back to Kansas.

Past National Commander Rick Cook, if you'd stand up, please, I'd like to recognize Rick. Rick helped Don put a lot of this together on the front side of it.

And also another gentleman in the back of the room somewhere, I don't know if he's still back there or not, Bob Avery, our national assistant adjutant. Bob put together the information that was derived from the 2007 75th anniversary.

Gentlemen, thank both of you for your hard work.

(Applause)

As you heard me say at the start, it's been seven long months since we met in Indianapolis last October. Over those seven long months, the Internal Affairs Commission along with VA&R, Americanism, and the Children and Youth Committee chairmen have been meeting via conference calls and going over different things for the consolidated squadron report. The updated form will be released in 2018-2019.

There's been some information out of that report that's been deleted. I know the Americanism portion is being taken down, the VA&R portion is being taken down, Children
and Youth is staying the same. But many hours that we spent, either emails or on the phone with each other, talking, and to John Waite, Gerald Hammerschmidt, Butch Ray, thank you to each and every one of you. I appreciate your friendships as well.

Seven resolutions this weekend came before the Internal Affairs Commission. Five of those resolutions were candidate resolutions; those were just received and filed. One resolution was taken and sent back to the SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions for their final action. And one resolution, which was the resolution for the consolidated squadron report form, was approved.

Mr. Commander, this concludes the Internal Affairs Commission report. Thank you for allowing us to continue to serve.

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

Opening.
The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am on May 5, 2018 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark Tansel (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Mark Tansel (IN) Members: Donald "J.R." Hall, Jr. (MD)
Vice Chairman: Don Culver (KS) Lyle Larson (KS) Michael L. Kirschner (CO) Jay Cook (OK)
Secretary: National Assistant Adjutant National Assistant Adjutant
Liaison: Rick Cook (OK) Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL)
Past National Commander
Guests: PNC William Matoska (MD), David Page (NJ), Brian Kessler (IA), Ron Roberts (MS), Jim Stewart (NV), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Ned Fox (CO) Chris Cook (OK), Joe Roberts (AZ), Chuck Treat (AZ), Thomas Marsden (NJ), Shawn Davis (MN), Butch Ray (IL), David Lee (NY), Seth Rippe (NE).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
Motion to approve the Minutes from Fall 2017 meeting as published.
- Motion by Don Culver (KS); Second by Donald Hall (MD).
- Discussion: None
- Action: Accepted

Reports of Committee(s):
Convention Committee – Chairman Shawn Davis (MN) gave the report. They are working on a mini golf outing and a comedy club show. More details to follow.
Member Training & Development Committee – Chairman Chuck Treat (AZ) gave the report. The continuing business was reviewed from the Fall NEC Committee meeting. Discussion was had to formulate a plan for a S.A.L. award for eligible member’s separate of the National efforts. MTD will be continuing work in preparation of Materials for the 2019 membership year.

Membership Committee – Chairman Seth Rippe (NE) gave the report. They are stressing Renewal Rate efforts and would like to reach a goal of 95%. A recruitment goal of 50,000 members has been set. The Internal Affairs Commission tasked the Membership Committee to come up with a rough draft of a Recruiters Guide Flyer.

Chairman Tansel entertained a motion to accept all the Committee reports as given to the Commission.
- Motion to Accept the Committee Reports by: Donald Hall (MD); Second by: Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL).
- Discussion: None
- Action: Accepted

Reports of Members:
None.

Old Business:
SAL Res-4 – Pre-Convention NEC 2017 National Convention travel reimbursement for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion
Discussion about this resolution preceded the vote on a Motion to approve this resolution as presented to Internal Affairs and to forward this resolution to the Sub-Committee on Resolutions for final action.
- Motion by Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Donald Hall (MD).
- Discussion: Completed
- Action: Accepted

Following the Membership Committee’s report to the Commission at the Fall, 2017 meeting a motion was made and approved to investigate the feasibility of an online membership renewal program. This project is being worked on.

The S.A.L. Trophies, Awards & Ceremonials Manual has been completed.

New Business:
Resolution 5 was discussed and voted upon.
S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2018 – “Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections”
- Motion to Approve by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL)
- Discussion: Completed
- Action: Approved

Resolutions:
S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2018 – “Endorsement of Steve A. Gower (VA) for National Vice Commander”
- Motion to Receive and File by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Mike Kirschner (CO).
- Discussion: None
- Action: Approved

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring, 2018 – “Endorsement of Matthew T. Christie (IL) for National Vice Commander”
- Motion to Receive and File by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Mike Kirschner (CO).
- Discussion: None
- Action: Approved
S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring, 2018 – “Endorsement of Christopher L. Cook (OK) for National Vice Commander”
- Motion to Receive and File by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Mike Kirschner (CO).
- Discussion: None
- Action: Approved

S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Spring, 2018 – “Endorsement of Clint D. Bolt (VA) for National Commander”
- Motion to Receive and File by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Mike Kirschner (CO)
- Discussion: None
- Action: Approved

S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring, 2018 – “Endorsement of Thomas P. Skelly (TX) for National Vice Commander”
- Motion to Receive and File by: Don Culver (KS); Seconded by: Mike Kirschner (CO)
- Discussion: None
- Action: Approved

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 12:14 pm.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I'd like to thank all the chairmen for their hard work --

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Minus the resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Minus the resolutions, I thought you said.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to your jobs.

What's your pleasure? We're looking at accepting the Internal Affairs report minus the resolutions.

NECMAN JAMES HUNTER (IL): Jimmy Hunter, NEC Illinois. I make a motion that we accept the Internal Affairs report minus the resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved to accept the report minus the resolutions.
NECMAN DAVID JOHNSON, JR. (MA): Dave Johnson, NEC Massachusetts, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.

The motion is to accept the report minus the resolutions. Any discussion?

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

Now we'll hear the resolutions.

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

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring 2018
Title: Endorsement of Steve A. Gower (VA) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

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, Steve A. Gower has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Virginia 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, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia hereby endorses Steve A. Gower 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 Virginia and the Department of Virginia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Willie Morgan, and Department Adjutant, Dale Chapman, are on the submitted resolution.
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The Resolution Committee reviewed this and recommended to be received and filed.

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

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring 2018
Title: Endorsement of Matthew T. Christie (IL) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

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, Matthew T. Christie has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Illinois 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, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Illinois hereby endorses Matthew T. Christie 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 Illinois and the Department of Illinois with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Paul Hayse, and Department Adjutant, Marty Conatser, are on the submitted resolution.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The committee reviewed and it was received and filed.

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

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring 2018
Title: Endorsement of Christopher L. Cook (OK) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

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, Christopher L. Cook has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Oklahoma 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, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Oklahoma hereby endorses Christopher L. Cook 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 Oklahoma and the Department of Oklahoma with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Sam McPherson, and Department Commander, John Bloxom, are on the submitted resolution.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The resolution was received, reviewed, and recommended to be filed.

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

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Spring 2018
Title: Endorsement of Clint D. Bolt (VA) for National Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

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, Clint D. Bolt has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Virginia 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, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia hereby endorses Clint D. Bolt for the high office of National Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Virginia and the Department of Virginia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Willie Morgan, and Department Adjutant, Dale Chapman, are on the submitted resolution.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The Subcommittee on Resolutions reviewed, recommended, and the resolution was received and filed.

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

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring 2018
Title: Endorsement of Thomas P. Skelley (TX) for National Vice Commander
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

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, Thomas P. Skelly has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Texas 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, May 5-6, 2018, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Texas hereby endorses Thomas P. Skelly 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 Texas and the Department of Texas with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander, Henry Creech, and Department Adjutant, William West, are on the submitted resolution.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The Subcommittee on Resolutions reviewed and recommended it be received and filed.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Jennings presented the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adopted guidelines/rules, by resolution, during the Spring 2018 NEC meeting regarding the selection process of annual National award recipients; and

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

WHEREAS, the current Sons of The American Legion Consolidated Squadron Report Form Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections contain information blocks that do not relate to the new section criteria guidelines, therefore making this information unnecessary and redundant; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5-6, 2018, that the Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation sections of the Consolidated Squadron Report Form be restructured as presented and approved by the National Internal Affairs Commission of the Sons of The American Legion; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, that these changes be expedited so as to be included in the 2018-2019 year Consolidated Squadron Report Form.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: The Subcommittee on Resolutions reviewed this resolution and found it to be in order.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I would ask for action on Resolution 5 only at this time. What's your pleasure?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Mr. Commander, NEC, Chris Cook, Oklahoma. I make a motion to accept the resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved to accept Resolution No. 5.
NECMAN WILLIAM SUTTERLIN (OH): Bill Sutterlin, NEC Ohio, seconds that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.

It's been moved and seconded to accept Resolution No. 5. Any debate?

All in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

On the candidate resolutions, recommendation was to receive and file all candidate resolutions. Would you like to make a motion on that so we can approve the recommendation? Not necessary? Okay. That's not what they're telling me, but that's fine with me.

We'll move on to the next resolution.

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


"RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular session in Reno, Nevada, August 18, 2017, that travel expense reimbursement equal to the current one for the national officers, PNCs, and national staff be established for The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeemen to the National Convention; and be it finally

"RESOLVED that this call-in take effect with the 2018 National Convention."

This came through Internal Affairs yesterday to the Subcommittee on Resolutions. The Subcommittee on Resolutions reviewed the structure of this resolution to find it to be a little
void and vacant in some aspects of what needs to be described before we could push this resolution to the NEC for approval.

Action recommendation from the Subcommittee on Resolutions, that this resolution be returned back to Internal Affairs so they could work with Finance to come up with a financial scheme for this resolution.

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You've heard the Internal Affairs reports and the resolutions that pertain to that. What's your pleasure?

NECMAN ROBERTS: Mr. Commander, Ron Roberts, NEC from Mississippi.

The ambiguity of some voids and things missing causes me pause. If we could detail that a little bit, maybe we could resolve it.

After that comment, I would like to offer an amendment at this time. After the semicolon in national convention on the "resolved" clause, insert immediately after the semicolon that, "This travel expense reimbursement be allocated to the current year's NEC, as per the practice of The American Legion."

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That's an amendment?

NECMAN ROBERTS: That's an amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Amendment to the last resolution that was read on the NEC?

NECMAN ROBERTS: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Was that recorded?

Okay. The official recorder says that she has the amendment and the corrections.
We're still looking for a motion to accept the Internal Affairs report.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We already accepted that report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: We need a motion to amend and also send that resolution back.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN (GA): Bob Brown, NEC. I second that motion on the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You second the motion on the amendment?

NECMAN BROWN: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved and seconded to amend the resolution that was just read on the NEC call-in. Any further discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor of the said amendment, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

The recommendation was to send that back to Internal Affairs, and it sounded like it needed some further study. There was a question of some ambiguity and what they're asking for.

NECMAN ROBERTS: The question is, Commander, if I may, what the further study is. We've been to Internal Affairs three times now for further study.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That's what I was looking for clarification on.

NECMAN ROBERTS: Yes, sir, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Chairman?

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Ron, would you mind repeating your question, please?
NECMAN ROBERTS: You said this is to be referred back to Internal Affairs for some clarification of ambiguity and further study.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Ron, after reviewing the resolution, the resolution is a little vague as written. And it was the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Resolutions that this resolution go back to Internal Affairs --

NECMAN ROBERTS: I got that.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: -- to where Internal Affairs could get some body placed into it through the Finance Committee.

That if you look at the time frames -- I know you're saying that this resolution has been in place for two years, we've been working on it for two years. The time frame that this resolution actually hit the floor was national convention last year.

At our fall meeting, there was no committee meeting held to where this could be reviewed. This was the first meeting that action actually could have been taken on this after it was sent back from national convention.

NECMAN ROBERTS: I understand all that, Mr. Jennings, and appreciate your response.

My response to that is, if some of us in the NEC, the governing body absent the convention, knew what questions had to be answered, maybe we could offer some research and help you get those answers in a timely manner, rather than wait for another Internal Affairs committee meeting. They are very busy doing other things.

That's what I was wondering what your questions are, what Internal Affairs would need, some help maybe finding answers from the Legion perhaps.
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: It's going to have to go to Finance because we just approved a resolution to deal with. I know that you are thinking that, yes, it's already been through Finance.

NECMAN ROBERTS: And approved.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: But in the structure of this resolution, there is no guidelines to what that cost could be. Is it still available?

NECMAN BROWN: Mr. Chairman? Bob.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, sir.

NECMAN BROWN: Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia, and also a member of the Resolutions Subcommittee.

It is my understanding that our biggest problem in that meeting was, was it those NECs that are incoming or outgoing. My understanding also would be that the amendment we just made to that resolution would cover that and, therefore, should be pretty well satisfied.

Because Finance has already passed off on it, the money is there. Internal Affairs reviewed it, but they hadn't noticed that small discrepancy. I believe that was the contingent that we had when we voted to have it sent back through.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: See, it was a recommendation only, and that does not mean that that's going to happen. So if you're not happy with what the status is, I would say let's move on with a different motion, such as vote the recommendation down and bring it before the body. But that's your call, folks.

Any other discussion?

NECMAN MICHAEL PIPHER (IN): Procedural question, Mr. Judge Advocate. Is there a motion pending at this point?
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: So there is no motion pending.

NECMAN PIPHER: Mr. Commander, Mike Pipher, NEC from Indiana. I understand a recommendation has been made, but that is a recommendation only.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Correct.

NECMAN PIPHER: Therefore, I would move the adoption of this resolution with the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved to adopt the resolution as amended. We have a motion on the floor to adopt the resolution as amended.

NECMAN WILLIAM SUTTERLIN (OH): Mr. Commander, Bill Sutterlin, Ohio NEC. I second that with the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved and seconded by the NEC from Ohio.

We have a motion on the floor to adopt the resolution as amended, it's been duly seconded. Is there any further debate?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Yes, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Chris Cook.

NECMAN C. COOK: Chris Cook, NEC Oklahoma. I just want to make a comment that Finance is probably unsure if we can still fund this one because we just passed a call-in for all commissions and committees for NEC. So please do note that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: That's correct. We have just earlier passed another resolution that takes some of that funding.

Any further debate? Any further comments on the motion to accept the resolution as amended?
Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye.

Those opposed, no.

Motion carried.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Before Chairman Mark gets off the podium real quick, Mark Tansel, Mr. Chairman, come here, sir. How you doing, sir?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Yes, sir.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: You okay this morning?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Yeah, I'm good.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Cool. I had the opportunity to meet a wonderful lady last evening. She went to explaining how wonderful this person is.

(Laughter)

I brought her nine drinks and she wouldn't drink none of them.

(Laughter)

But anyway, I did get a chance to meet his sister over at 103 last night, and she was a wonderful woman. But the biggest thing about it is, I want everybody to put their hands together. Mark had his 52nd birthday yesterday and he got away with it, so happy birthday.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, gentlemen.

Legislative Commission report, William Kelly, chairman.

Public and Media Communications on deck, followed by Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

Oral Report of Legislative Commission

William Kelly, Jr., Chairman, Florida
Commander Smith, national officers, PNCs, NECmen and fellow members, good morning.

I'm our Legislative Commission chairman, Bill Kelly, and our commission meeting yesterday, May 5th, at 0930. I'd like to take a moment to recognize our commission men. Please stand.

Vice chairman Tom Deal from Maryland. Our other commission men are David Lee from New York, Richard Pfeiffer from Indiana, Bernie Kessler from Ohio, and Zeste Debro, Z, from Georgia. Please give them a hand.

(Applause)

Thank you, gentlemen, for your hard work and for your support this year. Job well done.

I'd also like to thank our national staff, Paul and Brian. Thank you very much for all your help this year.

We started out this year introducing to everyone of The Sons of The American Legion the four-point legislative agenda. Point one was to increase the active legislative commissions in every detachment. We have tried to do so this year, and we will continue in the future.

Please encourage, as you go back to your attachments with the upcoming conventions, to appoint a legislative chairman to become active in the legislative process this upcoming year.

Point two, The American Legion email updates. We all talked about the smartphones earlier, everybody's got one. I'm going to repeat this a couple of times so you can put it in, but this information that I'm giving you is online already. So you can go there at legion.org and get it at any time. But mobile.legion.org/takeaction. That's mobile.legion.org/takeaction.
You can receive all The American Legion national take action updates on your cell phone. It's very simple. The Legion take action is the easiest way of keeping up with The American Legion Legislative Commission and communicating with our Washington legislators.

You say how? Legion.org/legislative, right in there. All you have to do to get in touch with your legislator is go into the legion.org/legislative. Arrow down to the Legislative Action Center, click on that. Go over to the side bar, "Elected Officials." This will give you an asking box for your ZIP Code. You put your ZIP Code in, and right there in front of you, your House of Representatives and your two senators.

You go down a little bit further, it will ask what kind of correspondence do you want to send them. Do you want to send it by email or letter?

What we'd like you to do is, to your Congressmen, support House Joint Resolution 61, and your senators, Joint Resolution 46. Ask them to be co-sponsors of this legislation. What is it? It's the flag protection amendment.

They should not have any problems, as employees of the United States Government, saying that they do not want to protect our American flag. Some may, but you'll just have to convince them.

How? Your talking points right here. Everyone should have gotten your handout in here; this is your talking points when you talk to a legislator. It's all right in here. You follow this, you can't go wrong.

Number three, the Washington conference. Our successful hashtag, "LegionStormsTheHill." As we shared on social media with all of you around the country, our national commander, Danny Smith, and 96 members raised awareness of The Sons of The American Legion by memorializing the veterans by placing wreaths at Arlington National
Cemetery, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Korean War Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. I'd like to thank all of you for participating this year.

Arrangements for next year's Washington conference as Arlington National Cemetery have been confirmed. At your upcoming detachment conventions, please consider making arrangements, budget line items for the Washington conference. It's important that you come out and support the 2019 Washington conference.

Point four, by getting as many of you and all the detachments. I just spoke about the handouts that you received in your registration packet. One of the most important things this year that is yet to come is the George B. Evans Veterans Advocate of the Year Award. These guidelines and the application are all on one sheet. We'd like for you to take these back to your detachments and find a deserving individual who is worthy to be nominated, and we would like to present them with a cover at the national convention.

Finally, we would like to encourage all the Sons of The American Legion, as veterans advocates, to get more active with your Legislative Commission at your detachment. And partner with your legislative department commissions and let them know how you would like to make sure that our legislators know The American Legion program through legislative affairs.

The most important thing is, like I said, the pamphlet. If you want to talk to your legislators, make sure you talk using the points in your pamphlet.

Commander, thank you very much.

Gentlemen, thank you.

...Commission Chairman Kelly submitted the report of the Legislative Committee.
Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring, 2017 meeting were approved as published. The Commission did not meet during the Fall, 2017 session of the National Executive Committee.

Meeting was opened in regular meeting mode.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Bill Kelly (FL) Commander Danny Smith (NE) has asked that all meetings be opened in regular meeting format starting with hand salute, prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion an empty chair for the POW/MIA and Blue Star banner that is to be show at all American Legion and all Sons of The American Legion meetings. He then introduced the members of the Legislative Commission. They introduced themselves and gave a brief welcome.

Chairman Bill Kelly (FL) – He thanked everyone for coming today and introduced himself to the Legislative Commission meeting. Things have changed from our format that we envisioned but we will continue the best that we can. We will try and get this meeting done so you can get back on the floor to listen on over there which is very important for all of us.

S.A.L. National Legislative Four Point Agenda. When you were here in the fall you got a copy of it. We are doing our best to make sure we approve everything on it. As far as we know right now. We have completed 3 of the 4 points. The fourth point is coming up and is due at the end of the year.

1st point is to take back to our detachment that we have an active and viable legislative commission at the detachment level. Who gets the reports from us and disseminates to your members in the detachment. That is the most important thing is to get the information out.

2nd point is instead of us giving you the information we want you to have direct access to the information from our legion take action available at the www.legion.org/legislative website. You can get direct emails when the legion has something up, they will email you. Then all you have to do in click on that email from the legislative affairs, they have a pre-written letter for you. You can either have it mailed or emailed, that is USPS mail. Its important that we get as many people signed up for that as possible. Detachment Conventions are coming up soon, please let your members know. Talk to them at convention and get as many signed up as possible to the Legislative Take Action Program as possible.

3rd Washington Conference.
Chairman Bill Kelly (FL) would like to thank this committee for all the work they did. Everything came off very well. We had 29 wreathes presented, one at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the Commander and the rest at the Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial. Our hash tag that we used to the media this year was #legionstormshill. An old legionnaire told him a long time ago. There is no reason to do anything if you are not going to tell anybody on social media. Social Media is very important to us because we can hit people that we really do not think we are hitting.

4th The commission decided that we are going to support the George B. Evans Grassroot of the Year Award. We put it together with the rules and guidelines on one side and the application on the other side. We would like to see as many detachments as possible. At Washington Conference we had 28 detachment there we should have 28 applications. If they came to Washington they did something significate for the legislative affair task.

Chairman Kelly (FL) ask if everyone is getting email from the TAL legislative commission. Ask your NEC to put you on his list for the Legislative. It is supposed to go to the Vice Commanders then the NEC.

One of the great things about the Washington Conference besides the bus trip is partnering up with your Department and go with them to visit your Representatives and Senators. Partner up with your department legislative chairman and go with them. It is better in a group, but the legion has a
responsibility to cover all the representatives and senators. Don't know what to say look at the legislative agenda it has all your talking points. We have just as much impact on the representatives and senators as the Legion because we are part of the American Legion and they see our caps also. You can go to the representative or senator and say Hi I am from the Sons of The American Legion we are a program of The American Legion and present our legislative goals. One of the things we are really promoting is the Flag Amendment. Two things we are counting on this year is HJR-61 and SJR-46 The Flag Protection Amendment. Those are the talking points. Go into the Take Action put in your zip code it brings up your representative and senator let them know which one you like to contact. It asks if you want a letter or email. You can fill it out or send one of the legions premade letters. You want to impress upon them to become a co-sponsor. Like the bill on the stage at National Convention. That was not voted on, if they have 60 co-sponsors in the senate the bill is already moves. They do not have to have it read, have a proposal and read on the floor if they are all joint sponsors. When talking to a representative or senator ask them how they cannot support a flag amendment? When you are talking to the legislative aid always thank them for their support. They will relay the information to the Representative or Senator. They are your eyes and ears with the legislator. You can always thank them for their support on the veteran act that was passed for the VA Modernization, and for the American Legion Coin for our 100th Anniversary. Those are two things you can thank them for right off the bat. You can even call them on the phone.

Chairman Kelly (FL) There will be a resolution to support a Spring and Fall Call In, he asked the members how they would vote and asked them to get with their NEC for their support. It will be coming up on the floor. He is not sure the correct Resolution Number he believes it is SAL Res. 1 – Spring, 2018. One of the reasons is that 2/3 of the work by the commission is done before the Spring Conference. He has had nine conference calls in seven months. Our next meeting will be at the National Convention on August 24th. The Commission does not meet it will be a committee at that time, Called the Legislative Rules and Regulations Committee. It’s responsibility to make sure the rules and regulations of the convention are intact and being ahealr to. Plus, we will also be meeting to award a George B. Evans Grassroots Award. He thanked everybody for all their work this year. We are the protectors of the flag and are chartered by Congress.

Thomas Deal (MD) – Welcome everyone and hopes that you get information here that you can take back to your detachments. He gave an overview of the Washington Conference. It worked very well it was a rainy day, but it worked. We were there we got around to the monuments and the main thing is the public sees us there. They see us doing something and they are looking. They are also taking notes of what we are doing. It is a great day if you have not been there, try to get there next year. We do have two buses now, we hope we do not go back to one. Two buses are what we are planning on for now on. We had 97 people signed up for the buses and still have a little room for more. All you have to do is show up at the hotel, we pick you up and bring you back. You get to see all the monuments and it is a great day. You even get a box lunch.

David Lee (NY) – (EX)

Richard Pfeiffer (IN) – He also said that we need the information filled out on the CSR’s that is the only way our legislatives know what we are doing.

Bernie Kessler (OH) – Welcome and he asked that everybody fills out their CSR so that we can tell Washington what we have been doing.

Zeste Debro (GA) –

**Old Business:**
None.

**New Business:**
None.

**Resolutions:**
S.A.L. Resolution 10 – Spring, 2017 – “Funding Request for Busing at the National Wreath Laying Ceremony”
- Approved by the Commission at the Spring, 2017 meeting of the National Executive Committee.
- Referred back to the Commission for re-evaluation.
- Money was appropriated through finance.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL) adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You've heard the Legislative Commission report by Chairman Kelly. What's your pleasure?

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER RAMIREZ: Commander, NVC Don Ramirez from California. Before you go and ask for the questions, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for what you gentlemen did when we went to the Washington conference. It's living a dream. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Don. National Vice Commander Ramirez's remarks.

We're looking for a motion.

NECMAN DAVID BISHOP, SR. (NY): Dave Bishop, NEC New York, makes a motion to accept the Legislative Commission report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved to accept the Legislative Commission report.

Is there a second?

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Moved and seconded.
Motion is to accept the Legislative Commission report. It's been duly seconded. Any discussion?

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

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

Public and Media Communications Commission report, Michael Fox, chairman.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation on deck.

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

**Michael Fox, Chairman, California**

Good morning, everybody.

First and foremost, the gentlemen that are on the commission this year have done one heck of a job. We've got a lot accomplished so far, and we're not yet done.

Gentlemen, can you please stand and be recognized? Vice Chairman Damon; members Mark, Casey, Brandon, and Doug; along with Mike Pipher, our editor. Where are you at? I know you're in here somewhere. Mike's done a fantastic job along with all these guys coming in this year, and we keep moving forward.

One of those things you guys have seen a lot, everybody come up here with, is one of these. Just about everybody in this room has one; right? Everybody talks about photos and submitting them, sending that stuff in. The commission has made it real easy for you, gentlemen. "Snapshots of Service." Everybody can remember that; right?

When you get home, I know everybody has photos. If you've been to an event this year, you've taken at least one. Go to the website, snapshotsofservice.org, you'll find it. You can
submit your photos right online, fill out the form, and it's automatically going to be submitted. Please submit them.

One of the things that you guys tasked us with earlier in the year was creating a do-and-don't list for social media guidelines. With the help of Mark, who took that task on, that has been completed, and you'll see the list of that in your packet. You'll also get an email, I'll send that to everybody after I get back home, so you can have that list so you can start distributing at your will.

One of the other things that we're working on this year, that's going to be new at convention, as requested by the national commander, something different, something new, something fresh. Everything that goes on in Public and Media Communications this year, everybody that shows up to national convention is going to get a thumb drive. On that thumb drive is going to have all the videos that have been produced, the PowerPoint presentations, the dos and don'ts, to get them started in their detachments, to help them out.

At the Washington conference, two videos have been created. One of those videos is ready for release. So as a reminder, as I always tell you guys, if you're not a friend of mine on Facebook, please look me up, send me a message. Get on there; they're going to get distributed.

With the passing of one of our dear members, it's created a void. When we get back home, we're going to put together a list, because we need some assistance with the website. Wes was a master and he was the only member in The Sons organization that had access to the website.

In the short term, I'm going to be asking national staff to assist us so that we can get things updated on that website for you guys. But please be patient with us. Let me remind you, Wes was the only one that had any access to that website. So in moving forward, we hope to
rectify that issue that we’ve had, and it will be corrected. But once again, please be patient with us.

Once again, guys, remember, please submit your photos. You’re going to be in for some surprises at national convention.

Other than that, Commander, that completes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am on May 5, 2018 in the Pano B Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Vice-Chairman Damon Bradtmueller (IN).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Michael C. Fox (CA) – Excused
Vice Chairman: Damon Bradtmueller (IN)
Secretary: Scott J. Thornton (OH)
Liaison: (none assigned)
Past National Commander
Guests: Evan Mahlman (OH); Carl Albern, Jr. (NJ); Mike Kane (PA)

Members: Mark B. McCue (MA)
Casey D. Lenort (MN)
Brandon Roberts (GA)
Doug Evans (KS)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
Mark McCue made a motion to accept the minutes of the Commission’s conference call on 2/5/18; seconded by Brandon Roberts. The motion carried without objection.

Doug Evans made a motion to accept the minutes of the Fall, 2017 Chairman’s report as published. (The Commission did not meet during the Fall, 2017 session of the National Executive Committee.) Casey Lenort seconded the motion. The motion carried without objection.

Reports of Members:
Damon Bradtmueller – Reported on the Commission’s new website, snapshotsofservice.org, and a description of its functionality.

SNAPSHOTS OF SERVICE

Go to snapshotsofservice.org for all the information you need.

Submit your photos.

Fill out your submittal form.

It’s a one-stop shop from the ease of your computer.

snapshotsofservice.org
We have received four submissions so far. The deadline for entries is 60 days prior to the National Convention to allow enough time to judge them and get the trophy ordered before the convention.

Mark McCue – Reviewed the Do’s and Don’ts of social media handout available during the meeting.

We know how important it is to conduct ourselves in a positive manner while dressed in the uniform, wearing the cap or even just the emblem of our organization. Likewise, we must also conduct ourselves in a certain manner while promoting our organization through online and social media platforms – this is called social media etiquette. Posting online has real consequence that can affect the future of our organization; whether that is a positive or a negative is up to us. Social media is a wonderful way to promote and market ourselves and the programs we support; unfortunately, one inappropriate post may undo all the hard work that you and other members have done to further our goals. Following are some etiquette tips and guidelines to determine the difference between appropriate and inappropriate posts, and always let common sense be your guide.

**Do**

- Do create websites, Facebook pages and other social media presences for your squadrons.
- Do post frequently and be as consistent as possible in spreading your posts out.
- Do promote the Sons of The American Legion and affiliated American Legion organizations and charities; post pictures when possible.
- Do post events to let the public know how they may support our programs and your events.
- Do create posts to let people know how to join The American Legion Family.
- Do highlight the accomplishments of the Sons of The American Legion on the national, detachment, and squadron level.
- Do share other detachment or squadron posts when appropriate.
- Do promote all patriotic holidays and activities, Legion milestones, and significant days related to our military branches of service.
- Do inform national and detachment of your websites and social media presence.

**Don’t**

- Don’t over post or annoy your audience.
- Don’t post, share or tweet any inappropriate content such as vulgar jokes, pornographic images, etc.
- Don’t post or share any content or photo that will portray the Sons of The American Legion or The American Legion Family in a bad light. (Photos or posts promoting containing alcohol, tobacco use, nudity or un-American activities would be examples of such content.)
- Don’t post or share any political advertisements, statements, jokes or photos. Remember: we are a non-political organization.
- Don’t link to any site from a Sons of The American Legion site or page that is not affiliated with our organization and may have inappropriate content.
- Don’t smear, besmirch, or otherwise impugn the character or reputation of any Sons of The American Legion member, individual, public figure or other organization.

**Old Business:**
None.

**New Business:**
Vice Chairman Bradtmueller reviewed the ideas of changing the frequency and format (color) of the National Update newsletter. Basically, we would be looking to have a Fall and Spring issue with deadlines of early September for a November issue. The Spring issue deadline is still to be determined.
Mr. Bradtmueller acknowledged the passing of National Webmaster Wes Wills of Kansas and some discussions he has had with Chairman Fox about some qualifications desired in a successor and the relationship of that person with the Legion’s national staff. Further discussions will happen in the Commission’s next conference call.

Mr. Bradtmueller spoke about an idea to prepare a USB thumb drive containing videos and some other content for each detachment at the National Convention using some available funds for the Commission. Brandon Roberts made a motion to purchase the USB drives; seconded by Mark McCue. The motion carried without objection.

Brandon Roberts pointed out the need for the Commission and the organization as a whole to come up with ways to engage younger members and potential members across the country.

Resolutions:
None.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
What to do for the Media...
As Sons of The American Legion it is time for us as members to step up to the plate and get our message out. If we work together as a team, we can get our message out to one city at a time. We need to start using the media to our advantage.

As an example, some of you will be having a national officer visiting at your convention. That is a fantastic opportunity for your detachment to contact the media and set up an interview. There are not many local media stations that will turn down an opportunity to interview a representative from the largest veterans’ advocate organization in the world; use that to your advantage. We have put together a simple list to help you and your detachment along the way.

Step 1 – Contact your department headquarters. As a program we need to get permission before we contact the media. Make sure that your department is on board. Your department may already have some contacts and / or a staff member that can assist you.

Step 2 – Contact your local media station and let them know who we are, what we represent, and what we stand for. Tell them who will be in from out of town representing the national organization and what activities will be taking place while they are here. Give them as many different activities and days as possible so they can choose what best fits for them. The more information you give them the better your chances are for getting a cameraman to show up.

Step 3 – Once you have secured an interview it is time to prepare. Make sure you contact the national officer that will be involved and give them all of the details. Contact all squadrons and posts in the area and inform them of what will be going on. The more members wearing covers to show support will not only look good for you, it will show the general public we are strong and united for our cause. Pick a venue that will show the best support. A smaller filled-up room will look better on camera than a larger sparsely-filled room.

Step 4 – Get yourself ready for the interview. Know your national officer that will be interviewed. Are they the best speaker? Can they represent the organization to the max? You want to have the person being interviewed able to handle themselves in front of the camera. You want to have a well-versed speaker any time you have an interview. Also make sure the speaker knows the programs with a few interesting facts that will catch the general public’s ear. Remember, this is to get our message out to non-members and attract new members.

Step 5 – It’s interview time, so make sure you are dressed appropriately. Be aware of your posture. Stay still and stand tall or sit still with your hands in front of you. Keep eye contact with the person doing the interview, not the camera. Stay upbeat, show your passion for the program and always be positive. Keep a smile on your face to show you are happy.
Step 6 – After the interview make sure you send a thank you to the reporter. This will help build a relationship for future interviews. Show your appreciation for them in supporting the program.

This Commission is always available to assist you if you have any questions. Please feel free to contact me (Chairman Fox) anytime.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Vice-Chairman Damon Bradtmueller (IN) adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You've just heard the Public and Media Communications report. What's your pleasure?

NECMAN MARK SEVERANCE (CA): Mark Severance, Detachment of California, would like to speak in regards to Michael Fox. It says "from CA" and then it says "excused." He's here speaking, so can we get that corrected, please?

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): No, that was for the meeting.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN FOX: Just to clarify, during the commission meeting, I was in this room. So Vice Chairman Damon actually ran the commission meeting and I was excused, because as soon as I left and I ran upstairs, they had already finished.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Okay. You have the explanation.

Still could entertain a motion at this time.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Mr. Commander, Chris Cook, NEC Oklahoma. I'll make a motion to accept the report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you. I'm glad you showed up today.

(Laughter)

NECMAN C. COOK: I'm sorry, I just got here.

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC Minnesota. I second that motion.
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved and seconded to accept the report. Any discussion?

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

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Butch Ray, chairman.

And as he's working his way up, I'll make a couple of comments. I think the days of one-and-a-half-hour or two-hours-or-less meetings on Sundays are long over. As we grow this organization, you need to start planning accordingly in the future. You're going to see a lot more resolutions come down. It's something that's going to happen.

So in the future, when you start making your travel plans, for the NECs, be looking at the Sunday morning lasting maybe two to three hours. That's just the way we're going to start doing business, it's just a fact.

Oral Report of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Harl "Butch" Ray, Chairman, Illinois

Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Good morning, everyone. Before I start, Commander Smith took care of it a little bit earlier this morning, but I would like to send my personal heartfelt condolences to the Detachment of Georgia. We lost, I lost my vice chairman, Doug Murphy, in December after complications from a fall.

Doug is a past Rigsby award winner. His being gone is a void that is going to be very difficult to fill. As a brand-new chairman to this commission, I relied on him heavily, and he is really, really missed. May he rest in peace, and I offer my condolences.
Would all past Rigsby winners that are currently in the room please stand. I know we've got at least two, three.

(Applause)

Thank you, gentlemen. For those of you that don't know, that's our big award. The Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award is given every year at our national convention, based on the activities of one person from their detachment convention to their next detachment convention, for everything they do volunteering at a VA or veterans facility.

So I challenge each of you. In your packet, NEC, on the very last page you will find a memorandum from the VA&R Commission. This memo is a direct challenge from our commission to each one of you, asking you to do your best to submit a Charles B. Rigsby VA Volunteer of the Year Award applicant to us.

I know that every detachment has that one guy, you know, that guy who's always at the VA. It's time that that guy gets recognized. So I'm hoping that each of you will fill out an application and get it sent in.

Please keep in mind that we would love to receive an application from every detachment, but it needs to be on Paul Brown's desk no later than July 23rd. So I'll tell you July 1st, that will give you a few weeks to get it all handled. July 1, please have your application sent to Indianapolis, to Mr. Paul Brown, so we can have many of those to get judged.

Last year and years before, we actually have had applications that we've had to send back, unopened, because they came in past the deadline. So I appreciate your cooperation with that and I look forward to judging many, many applications at the national convention.
On April 12th, just a few weeks ago, I had the distinct honor and pleasure of presenting a $1,000 check to the James H. Parke Scholarship Foundation during the 72nd Annual VAVS NAC meeting in Tampa.

Now, for those of you that who work around federal government, you know they're really fond of their acronyms. VAVS, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee, of which The Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are members of that executive committee. In fact, of the 20 main members, we make up 15 percent of that committee, The American Legion family. That's because of your hard work. Because we have more than 25 registered representatives or deputy representatives in federal facilities, medical centers, and clinics, we have that honor, and that's thanks to all of your hard work.

This $1,000 check is something that we do on a national level from The Sons of The American Legion every year, and it's in support of our youth that volunteer a minimum of 100 hours in VA medical centers and clinics. This donation is in support of over $20,000 of youth scholarships that's handed out by the Parke Scholarship board.

Don't forget that Saturday, May 19th is the date for the national veterans assistance day this year. This is a program that was created during the term of Past National Commander Ray Giehl of Indiana, and we look forward to hearing about everything that you guys set aside to do on that day for our nation's veterans.

Also keep in mind Operation Comfort Warrior. Indiana seems to have a stronghold on creating programs. Past National Commander of The American Legion Jimmy Koutz started Operation Comfort Warrior and that's another big program that the VA&R Commission supports.
And one last item. You've heard it up here on this podium many times today. I am requesting from all of you to send me photographs of VA&R activities. I'd like to see what you guys are doing in your detachment dealing with VA&R. It can be anything from a cookout to a bus ride, a ballgame. Whatever you do for veterans, we need photographs. Those will be included in a slide show that will play behind me when I give my comments during the national convention this coming August in Minnesota.

You can see me after the meeting to get my contact information. I'll give you one of my business cards and you'll be able to get those photos to me.

Also, I invite everybody in this room to join us on the last Wednesday of each month when we have our national VA&R Commission conference call. See me after the meeting and I will give you my contact information, but I would really like to send you an email inviting you to that call. That's where we get a lot of our work done.

Gentlemen, please continue to do everything you do for our nation's veterans. They deserve it, but more importantly, they have earned it.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am on May 5, 2018 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Harl "Butch" Ray (IL).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Harl "Butch" Ray (IL)  Members: Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY)
Vice Chairman: Vacant  Daniel M. O'Rourke (NM)
Secretary: Scott Williams (VA)  Steve Tansel (IN)
National Assistant Adjutant: Steve Laws (NC)  Steve Gower (VA) - Excused
Liaison: Past National Commander
Guests: Raymond Samko (MA), Richard Pond, Jr. (NH), Samuel Aaron (AL), Fred Ruttkofsky (MI), Jamey Holloway (GA), Doug Hancock (OH), Matthew Thalgrisson (NJ Sp??).
**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**
Remembering Vice Chairman, Doug Murphy, who passed away in December.

Chairman Ray reminded everyone of the monthly conference call on the last Wednesday each month.

There being no objection, the minutes of the Spring, 2017 meeting were approved as published. The Commission did not meet during the Fall, 2017 session of the National Executive Committee.

**Reports of Members:**
Chairman Harl “Butch” Ray – talked about the VA Volunteer Cards handed out at the Spring NEC Meeting. Talked about the Volunteering PowerPoint Presentation that will be shown at the National Convention in August. The informational PowerPoint presentation is in process. Chairman Ray is looking for photos of volunteering to help veterans that can be used in the final report for the National Convention. Photos need to have consent from the veteran to be used for these presentations or videos. The goal is to have a training video available to every ‘Blue Cap’ Member. The second goal is to have these completed during the next administrative year. There is a resolution to change how the Consolidated Report will be judged on an annual basis. The report form by a District or Detachment can only cover activities done by that District or Detachment.

Chairman Ray discussed the VA & R portion of the Squadron Consolidated Report. He talked about the accomplishments of the Sons for VA & R for last year. The reporting that is done is what keeps the charter with Congress renewed annually. He said that VA & R is working to streamline the Consolidated Report Form for VA & R.

Motion by from Gabe and seconded by Steve to accept the proposed revised changes to the Squadron Consolidated Report Form. Motion carried on voice vote.

Chairman Ray also promoted the National Veteran’s Assistance Day that is on May 19, 2018.

Chairman Ray talked about the Detachment Challenge for each Detachment to submit a Charles B Rigsby Volunteer of the Year application. The volunteer effort should cover the period from Detachment Convention to Detachment Convention.

Kessler, Webster, and O’Brien Memorial awards to recognize Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments for their work on VA & R at the national level. These awards are presented at the National Convention each year.

Chairman Ray talked about the VAVS National Advisory Committee and the recent meeting he attended. The Sons have a seat due to having the required number of registered VAVS Reps and Deps in Federal VA Facilities. This Committee is having an impact on the Veterans Administration. They are working to have the Reps and Deps report back to their sponsoring organizations on volunteer efforts.

Chairman Ray talked about the recipient of the James H Parke Scholarship for VA Voluntary Service, Leanna Edward, the 2018 recipient. Due to her volunteer efforts at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, she won the $20,000 Scholarship.

Gabriel Cinquegrana – Mr. Cinquerana talked about the VAVS Rep and Deps in New York and made suggestions on how to make sure the Sons of The American Legion has Reps and Deps in the VA facilities in each Detachment.

Chairman Ray encouraged those who are attending the National Convention to attend the VA & R Convention Committee Meeting to help judge the Rigsby Applications.
Old Business:
There was none.

New Business:
There was none.

Resolutions:
- There was none.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Harl “Butch” Ray (IL) adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Chairman.

You’ve heard the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation report. What’s your pleasure?

NECMAN JAMES HUNTER (IL): Commander, Jimmy Hunter, NEC Illinois. I make a motion that we accept the VA&R report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It’s been moved to accept the report.

NECMAN DAVID BISHOP (NY): Dave Bishop, NEC New York, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.

Motion on the floor is to accept the report. Any discussion?

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

No?

Motion carried.

Veterans Employment & Education Commission, Chairman Bear.

Oral Report of Veterans Employment & Education Commission

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl, Chairman, Maryland

Good morning. Prior to my report, I'd like to provide you with a brief update on our VE&E Commission member and Past National Vice Commander David Swafford.

Dave was recently diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, and he is presently at home in Utah after undergoing an extremely serious and dangerous operation. He has a very long and challenging recovery ahead of him, and your thoughts and prayers for Dave and his family would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

The spring meeting of the national Veterans Employment & Education Commission was called to order yesterday morning. Our mission statement was reiterated, which 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."

Our commission is once again utilizing the national vice commanders, NECs, and detachment adjutants this year to distribute the dates and locations of Hiring Our Heroes job fairs nationwide, to the detachments where they are being held. The detachments are then distributing this info down to their districts and squadrons, who are sharing this info with their posts and the veterans that need this employment.

Sons are also providing volunteer assistance at these fairs as it is requested. Our commission has already distributed out information on over 200 of those job fairs and will continue to do so.

This year we are also continuing to encourage every detachment to form their own VE&E commission or committee. Each of our commission members has been assigned a
region, and they are participating in their assigned region's conference calls to push this initiative. If your detachment has not done so yet, please consider forming your own VE&E commission or committee and then encourage your squadrons and districts to do the same.

Another focus of our commission this year is Military to Civilian Credentialing. It's a scary job market right now, but the training and experience that our veterans received in the military makes them highly marketable. The Department of Defense provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel, and there are many occupational career fields in the armed forces that can easily translate to a civilian counterpart.

However, there are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a license or certification. Every year, skilled service members leaving the armed forces miss out on a chance to quickly move into good, high-paying jobs because they must undergo lengthy and expensive retraining in order to meet civilian licensure and certification requirements, often for the same type of job they held in the military.

Our VE&E Commission continues to actively investigate and support credentialing initiative in the individual states.

Another focus of our commission this year is ending veterans' homelessness. At our meeting yesterday, I once again presented the PowerPoint program that we created, outlining some suggestions on how detachments, districts, and squadrons can assist us with this initiative. I have placed this PowerPoint on the website for you to download and use back in your detachments, so please take advantage of it.

Just a few things outlined that you can do are: Promote veteran employment; encourage property owners and landlords to house veterans exiting homelessness; collect and distribute move-in essentials; and support emergency shelters with donations.
I have also placed on the SAL national website a brochure created by the VA for first responders. These emergency workers are many times in contact with homeless veterans on a daily basis. This brochure gives these first responders information that they can provide to those down-on-their-luck veterans, including a 24-hour phone number which offers them assistance.

I personally printed out some of these brochures and approached the local police and fire departments in my hometown. Not only did they agree to put these brochures in all of their vehicles, but we received front-page coverage in our county newspaper for doing so. So please consider trying this in your neighborhood.

You can also research organizations in your state that assist with veterans' homelessness and throw your support behind them. After our PowerPoint presentation yesterday, each member of our commission presented examples of organizations in their assigned region that they had identified as ones possibly deserving of the SAL support. A breakdown of our commission members' findings can be found in your published minutes.

With no further business, our meeting was adjourned.

In conclusion, I'm sure you will agree with me that no veteran should ever be unemployed or homeless. So please consider assisting the SAL National Veterans Employment & Education Commission toward this end.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my report. Thank you.

...Commission Chairman Weinzirl submitted the report of the Veterans Employment &

Education Commission.

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am on May 5, 2018 in the Circle Centre Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Larry C. "Bear" Weinzirl (MD).

Roll Call:
Chairman: Larry C. “Bear” Weinzirl (MD)  
Vice Chairman: Jeffrey C. Evans (VA)  
Secretary: Ed Sheubrooks (FL)  
Liaison: Past National Commander

Members: Blair M. Miles (AL)  
National Assistant Adjutant Marvin P. Nay (MA)  
J. Scott Garrett (CO) – Excused

Guests: Robert Bascou (NJ), Mike Monserud (IA), Dale Anderson II (OH)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objection, the minutes of the Spring, 2017 meeting were approved as published. The Commission did not meet during the Fall, 2017 session of the National Executive Committee.

Reports of Members:
Chairman Larry “Bear” Weinzirl called the meeting of the SAL National Veterans Employment and Education Commission to order.

When this Commission came into existence for the first time at the close of the National Convention in Baltimore, we started with a blank sheet of paper. We are now completing our 3rd year and I feel that we have progressed nicely to this point.

The Mission Statement of the SAL National Veterans Employment and 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.”

The American Legion sponsors dozens of “Hiring Our Heroes” job fairs each year, and their employment experts also provide tips for writing resumes, networking and making a strong impression in the interview process.

Our Commission is utilizing the National Vice-Commanders, NECs and Detachment Adjutants this year to assist us in distributing the dates and locations of these hiring fairs. Our Commission has now distributed out info on over 200 of these Job Fairs down to the Detachments where they are being held.

The Detachments are then distributing this info down to the Districts and Squadrons who share this info with their Posts and the Veterans that need this employment. The SAL also provides volunteers for these fairs as requested.

The SAL Veterans Employment and Education Commission is also once again this year concentrating on getting information out on Military to Civilian Credentialing.

When you leave the military, the biggest question is "what's next?" It's a scary job market right now, but the training and experience that our Veterans received in the military makes them highly marketable.

The Department of Defense provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel and there are many occupational career fields in the armed forces that can easily translate to a civilian counterpart.

However, many occupations in the civilian workforce require a license or certification.

Every year, skilled service members leaving the armed forces miss out on the chance to quickly move into good, high-paying, career-building jobs because they must undergo lengthy and expensive re-training in order to meet civilian licensure and certification requirements, often for the same type of jobs they held in the military.

This time-consuming and costly waste of valuable human resources costs the Veteran through forced underemployment, costs business because skilled workers are unavailable, and costs the economy due to delayed job creation, consumer spending, and unnecessary unemployment compensation insurance payments.

The federal government only plays a limited role in the certification and licensing arena; State and local governments as well as the private sector play a much larger role in issuing far more worker credentials, affecting far more occupations and workers, than the federal government.
To make the largest impact possible for Veterans, all parties involved in credentialing must be included, which means the federal government, all branches of the military / 50 states and the District of Columbia/ professional associations/ certifying entities/ unions/ the business community/ community colleges/ and technical schools.

Nevertheless, the federal government is uniquely situated and obligated to take the lead on this, not only to overcome old attitudes, but to set an example for state and local government agencies which grant occupational licenses and set certain professional standards.

Done right, these new initiatives will help ensure former servicemen and women’s specialized military training meets civilian standards for credentialing and licensing, which will save the government money and provide industry with a fully qualified and job-ready workforce.

The American Legion encourages continued initiatives to build upon and help accelerate efforts to put returning veterans to work using skills developed in the military and stands ready to assist all parties in this process.

The American Legion also continues its efforts to bridge the gap between military training and civilian licensing and credentialing through support of legislation, as well as roundtable meetings in which various sectors are able to gather and discuss coordination in this regard.

The American Legion continues to lobby members of Congress and work with other agencies to break down the credentialing barriers and further reduce that veteran unemployment rate. The SAL VE&E Commission is working closely with the Legislative Commission again this year in pushing for the approval of Credentialing legislation nationwide.

Another issue being tackled by our Commission is Veterans Homelessness. At last year’s National Convention in Reno, I presented a brief Power Point program that we developed titled “Ending Veterans Homelessness- How you can help”. We feel there is a lot of good information in it and I’d like to take a few minutes and present it again at this time.

Please keep in mind that this Power Point is now available on our website for you to download and use back in your Detachments.

As you can see, there are many ways that you can assist us with this initiative. As stated in the slide show, there are many organizations nationwide assisting our Homeless Veterans that your Detachment, Districts and Squadrons can throw your support behind?

I have requested that each of our Commission members research and identify some of these organizations in their assigned Region and briefly report on their findings.

Vice Chairman Jeff Evans (Central Region) reported that Indiana has the Hoosiers Veterans Assistance Foundation, Inc or (HVAF). It was first formed in 1993 as the Far From Home Chapter. In 1998. The Organization adopted the HVAF name. In April 2000, HVAF developed its Veterans Service Center, extending support services to homeless veterans and their families. HVAF operates 13 distinct transitional housing properties including substance abuse and addiction counseling services.

Iowa City, IA has the Shelter House. It is a non-profit organization that has provided housing and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness since 1983. In 2010, they opened a new shelter 70 bed facility.

Marvin Nay (East Region) stated as reported by the Department of Veteran’s the majority of the homeless veterans are male with about 9% being female. The VA is committed to ending homelessness one community at a time. Three states have reported effectively ending veteran homelessness. Two are in the Eastern Region and include Connecticut and Delaware. Other states in our area have either towns or counties which have effectively ended veteran homelessness and include:

Vermont has a fairly unique way for a Veteran to find Emergency shelter or other services for its homeless Veteran’s. Calling 211 from any phone the call is toll free. This service is provided by the United Way of Vermont. They have four other programs as well. Canal Street Veteran Housing, The Dodge House, Veterans Inc. and The Veterans Place.

Massachusetts has the Statewide Advocacy for Veterans Empowerment (SAVE) program. The goal of the program is to advocate for Veterans who are not able to own their own. The program is designed to help Veterans transition back to civilian life. Massachusetts also has five transitional short stay Homeless Shelters across the state and 17 long term transitional and supportive housing services for Veteran’s across Massachusetts.

Blair Miles (South Region) reported that Florida has the Transition House in St. Cloud, FL. It offers services to both male and female Veterans who suffer from chronic mental illness, PTSD diagnosis and substance use disorders. Currently the facilities can host 88 men and 8 women veterans.

Huntsville, Alabama has the Homeless Veterans Only in a partnership with the United Way of Central Alabama, assist veterans who are homeless. The program offers homeless prevention services and links to needed services. This includes management and outreach, help obtaining VA benefits, and household item, bus passes, emergency financial assistance.

J. Scott Garrett (Midwest Region) report was given by Vice Chairman Jeff Evans (VA). State specific programs in the Midwest Region include, Colorado – Colorado Veterans Resource Coalition and Lakewood Housing Project. Kansas – The United Methodist Open Door Inc in Wichita operates a Homeless Resource center. Montana: The Montana Veterans Foundation operates the Willis Cruze House which provides shelter for homeless veterans with customized treatment programs. The Poverello Center in Missoula provides transitional housing and onsite support for 24 months. Nebraska: A public/private organization, the Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System. New Mexico operates the Veterans Integration Center. North Dakota, I found Community Action Partnership. Oklahoma, I found the Homeless Alliance in Oklahoma. South Dakota, the Housing for Homeless Consortium and the Homeless Management Information System.

Chairman Weinzirl thanked the Commission members for their hard work and dedication to the Commission.

Old Business:
None

New Business:
None

Resolutions:
None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:
In closing, I’d like to say that no Veteran should ever be unemployed or homeless. …..Please consider helping us towards this end. Please write down this number, 1-877-4AID-VET. This number is monitored seven days a week, twenty four hours a day.

Closing:
With no further business to consider, Chairman Larry C. “Bear” Weinzirl (MD) adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You’ve just heard the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report. What’s your pleasure?

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC Minnesota. I move for the approval of the report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It’s been moved for the approval of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report.

NECMAN DAVID BISHOP (NY): Dave Bishop, NEC New York, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.

Motion is to accept the report. Any discussion?

Hearing none, all in favor of accepting the report, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

Committee on Resolutions.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander. Good morning. First thing I want you to do is go into your pack of resolutions and go find SAL Resolution 9 spring 2018. We have got to go over it, I want to go over it before I do my committee report.

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

No.: S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring 2018
Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2018 Budget
Origin: Child Welfare Foundation Committee

WHEREAS, The Child Welfare Foundation is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion since its inception in 1987; and
WHEREAS, There is a constant and vital need for funding of many programs and grants that can assist children in need; and

WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to these children in our country; and

WHEREAS, The support and recognition provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has further established our organization as a true partner in the goals and principles of the “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, May 5-6, 2018 that a donation in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars ($5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the funds be taken from the 2018 Child Welfare Foundation Donation budget line.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved ■
Rejected □
Referred to: □ __________________________
Other Action: □ __________________________

Committee Chairman Name, Signature
Christopher Carlton

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature
John T. Jennings

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Finance Commission Recommendation
Dennis Blue

Dennis Blue (MN), Vice-Chairman
Finance Commission

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As NEC from the Detachment of Florida, I'd like to make a motion to accept this resolution.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You've heard the motion to accept Resolution 9.

NECMAN DAVID BISHOP (NY): Dave Bishop, NEC New York, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.

The motion is to accept Resolution 9. Any discussion?
Hearing none, all in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed, no.

Motion carried.

**Oral Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions**

**John Jennings, Chairman, Florida**

Okay. Now on the report. I'm not going to bore you with it because I've been up here talking way too much today.

*(Applause)*

Hey, I love y'all. But I do want to recognize my committee: Bob Brown from Georgia, Pete Sierminski out of Colorado, Travis Cummins out of Missouri, Andy Dadds out of Maryland. And Andy, I finally got your last name right, thank the Good Lord.

But one thing I would like to say at this time, I do know that I'm going to be losing Pete Sierminski next year or he will be coming off because of bigger, greater things he's looking forward to. So I know that Andy Dadds is not currently going to be NEC next year, so he probably will also be coming off. I'd like to thank both of them gentlemen for their hard work and contribution for the last several years with the committee. So thank y'all.

*(Applause)*

We had our meeting yesterday, we had a good turnout, all the committee was there. We had pretty much a full house of members, went over quite a few things.

Did ten resolutions, reviewed those, approved some, rejected some, bounced some around. But ultimately, we did our job and we brought what we thought was a quality product to the floor for you to review as NECmen and approve those resolutions, which I think you have done.
With that said, there's a couple of other items quickly. The database is being currently worked with resolutions. I know Bob Brown and I are going to be looking and discussing with the national headquarters about their capabilities of digital scanning. We have a book that has a pile of all of our past resolutions in it, that we're going to be working on a database that will be available to you for review in the future. It's not going to be something that's going to happen overnight, but it's something that we are actively working on.

I also know that Mr. Paul Brown, our national liaison, and I have been carrying on some communication in regard to some other issues. I would like to thank personally our national adjutant, Mr. Tony Wright, for Scott Thornton's efforts with what he's been working on, developing the register for the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

So we've got a lot of good things going on, a lot of things we still need to address. We understand that some of those addresses may start with me, but that's okay. I'm willing to learn if you're willing to teach. We will get through that.

So with that, thank you for what you do. Thank you for the support.

Commander, that concludes my report.

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

Opening:
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm on May 5, 2018 in the Pano B Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman John T. Jennings (FL).

Roll Call:
Chairman: John T. Jennings (FL) Members: Peter Sierminski (CO)
Secretary: Scott J. Thornton (OH) Robert S. Brown (GA)
Liaison: National Assistant Adjutant Doyle "Travis" Cummins (MO)
(none assigned) B. Andy Dadds, Jr. (MD)
Past National Commander

Guests:

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:
There being no objections, the minutes of the Fall, 2017 meeting were approved as published.
Old Business:
Training material is still available. Working with Paul Brown to get info published.

Resolutions:
The members reviewed the resolutions submitted.

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Spring, 2018
Title: NEC Meeting Call-In Revision
Action: Robert S. Brown (GA) made a motion to approve the resolution. Doyle “Travis” Cummins (MO) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Steve A. Gower (VA) for National Vice Commander
Action: xxx (Pete) made a motion to receive and file the resolution. Andy Dadds (MD) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Matthew T. Christie (IL) for National Vice Commander
Action: Pete (CO) made a motion to receive and file the resolution. Andy Dadds (MD) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring, 2018
Title: Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards
Action: Andy Dadds (MD) made a motion to approve the resolution. Pete (CO) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2018
Title: Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) Form Revision – Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Sections
Action: xxx (Pete) made a motion to approve the resolution. Bob Brown (GA) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Christopher L. Cook (OK) for National Vice Commander
Action: Andy Daddy (MD) made a motion to receive and file the resolution. Bob Brown (GA) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Clint D. Bolt (VA) for National Commander
Action: Andy Daddy (MD) made a motion to receive and file the resolution. Bob Brown (GA) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring, 2018
Title: Endorsement of Thomas P. Skelly (TX) for National Vice Commander
Action: Bob Brown (GA) made a motion to receive and file the resolution. Pete (CO) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring, 2018
Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2018 Budget
Action: Andy Daddy (MD) made a motion to receive and file the resolution. Pete (CO) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

S.A.L. Pre-Convention Resolution 4 – Pre-Convention, 2017
Title: National Convention Travel Reimbursement for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion

Action: Bob Brown (GA) made a motion that the Sub-Committee on Resolutions recommends that the NEC refers this resolution back to the originating commission to review, develop and include guidelines as appropriate. Pete (CO) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:
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.

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 2:15 pm.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: You've just heard the Subcommittee on Resolutions report.

Welcome back.

NECMAN CHRISTOPHER COOK (OK): Hi. Mr. Commander, NEC Chris Cook, Oklahoma, I think still. I make a motion to accept the report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved and seconded to accept the Subcommittee on Resolutions report. Any discussion?

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

Opposed, no.

Motion carried. Thank you.

Unfinished Business

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Unfinished business. Any unfinished business?

Unfinished business?

Hearing none, we'll move on to new business.
New Business

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Any new business?

New business? Ron, are you heading to the -- no? Okay.

Any new business?

Hearing none --

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RAYMOND GIEHLL, JR: Mr Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Yes, sir.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: I'm sorry, I guess I was waiting for something.

Past National Commander Raymond Giehll from Indiana addressing the chair as the chairman on the Committee on Committees.

During our meeting yesterday, we found that we had a couple members on commissions, two different commissions, that we feel were not performing their duties, lack of participation. We read a clause in the national rules of the NEC and we believe that they could be removed.

The two names I'm referring to would be on Americanism, Gary Lang from Ohio, who actually has written you and told you, and I saw, that he couldn't participate, and he was asked to resign and he didn't. And the other one would be on VA&R, it would be Daniel O'Rourke from New Mexico. It was the suggestion of the entire Committee on Committees that the NEC vote to remove those people for cause.

Mr. Commander we've given you recommendations to replace them if such does happen. Thank you, sir.
NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Knowing the background on what's taken place this past year, and haven taking part in contacting these individuals and not receiving any reply from one, the national commander, under Rule 3C of the rules of the National Executive Committee, can recommend for removal or replacement.

And I would recommend to you that, as the NEC, that we replace these individuals with those that were stated on the record. For Americanism, the replacement would be Donald Hall, Jr., correct, for Gary Lang; is that right?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Yes, sir, Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: So these are the recommendations. And the VA&R was Daniel O'Rourke being replaced with Brandon Curry; correct?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Yes, sir, from Kentucky.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: NEC, it's up to you.

Would you like to make --

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): Ron Roberts, NEC Mississippi, make a motion to accept the recommendations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: It's been moved to accept the recommendations to replace.

NECMAN GARY SWANLUND (WY): Gary Swanlund, NEC Wyoming, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: And seconded.

The motion is to replace the two individuals as stated. Any discussion?

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

Opposed, no.

Motion carried. Thank you.
Under the good of the Sons -- I think we were done with new business. I'll just check one more time. I think we're under good of the Sons; correct?

NECMAN RONALD ROBERTS (MS): Commander, permission to approach, please, and talk about the official American Legion coin to be issued by the U.S. Mint.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Permission granted.

While he's doing that, while he's coming forward, we talked about where you could get the photos. I'm going to ask the for the national historian to give his site real quick.

Where mine are at, it's all one word, imageevent/17_18SALCMDR. All of my photos are on there. You can download them, whatever you want, you can check them all out.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN COLE: Mr. Commander, Jay Cole, national historian, Detachment of Nebraska.

If you've got a pen or paper and want to write this down, mine is the same as the commander's: imageevent.com/JJCOLE. All my pictures are on there. If there's something that's not on there that you would like or request, just get ahold of me or see me afterwards, I'll give you a card, and I'll make anything available that I have. Thank you.

NECMAN ROBERTS: Thank you. My name is Ron Roberts, NEC from Mississippi. You've probably heard of me.

How many of you here are coin collectors? Quite a few. So you probably already know about The American Legion Centennial Coin that the U.S. Mint is going to issue; right?

You're aware that the legislative actions by The Sons and the Legion, because this has to be an act of Congress, a law authorized ahead of time. There are only two commemorative coins issued per year. We started three years ago on this and were approved with more
members of the House and more members of the Senate than any other commemorative coin in history to pass this. So it's now in the design process. Good work.

(Applause)

By the way, the major competition was the NBA. I don't know how they're a charity, but how they have a charity involved in there.

So the act was passed by the government, and we're going to be issuing coins for The American Legion through the United States Mint. Now, the law states the maximum of each, so I'm going to just quickly go over that.

50,000 $5 gold pieces are going to be issued, 24-karat gold, 90 percent.

400,000 $1 silver pieces, one ounce, .999 fine silver. That 400,000 includes both circulated and proof.

And 750,000 plated half-dollar pieces, both proof and uncirculated, no precious metals in those.

You add them up, you say, man, that's a lot of coins, 1,200,000. Well, let's look at the leadership in the Legion. Just under 2 million. Well, you haven't got a chance, then, if you don't get yours. 300-and-some thousand sons, 300-and-some thousand auxiliary. Then you have people that are coin collectors here, will probably get more than one. You have dealers like me who order bulk. So think of that if you want one.

Now, here's the unique thing. This is why the commander three years ago, when he was given a Boy Scout silver coin and was explained the benefit to the Legion. There is included in the price of the coin a $35 surcharge on each gold coin, a $10 surcharge on each silver dollar, and a $5 surcharge on each half dollar. So if they sell out, that's over $9 million will come to
the Legion for their programs. Quite a little fundraiser, isn't it? It wasn't hard to convince the national commander to proceed with this.

So when are they going to be issued? They're in the design phase now. Our national adjutant for the Legion, the director of the U.S. Mint, and the Fine Arts Commission, don't ask me why, has to approve the design. They're from out in D.C.

You say, well, it should be simple. You have to take the size of the coins, then you have to determine if the same design can be used on all of them. Because the $5 gold piece is tiny, a littler smaller than a dime. Pretty hard to put the whole emblem on there, Four Pillars, and be able to see it. The bald eagle commemorative, which is one of my favorites, had three different designs. This big silver dollar had this big, huge bald eagle with its chest puffed out, the gold had a little one in flight, and the half dollar had a couple little baby bald eagles.

They will be issuing sets composed out of these mints. You can get a three-coin set: silver dollar, gold $5 piece, and a half dollar. Everybody says, "How much are they?" I see everyone except the people in the back row, you can fall anytime when I tell you these suggested prices.

I just bought the Breast Cancer Awareness gold coin, which is made out of pink gold, and got it at a pre-subscription for only $435. Normally they aren't quite that expensive, but that was a very limited edition.

The sets will run you anywhere from $425 to $470, or if you pre-subscribe maybe $10, $15 less. The silver dollars have always been in the range of $49 to $55, depending on whether you want proof or uncirculated. The half dollars have always been around $20.

Now, just a suggestion. Due to the limited amount of coins being minted, and no, they cannot go back and mint more when they run out or sell out. This is actually a law; this is all
they're going to do. Go to the website usmint.gov. Don't just type "U.S. Mint," there are private sellers out there that use that, or "The Mint," there's a company called "The Mint" that sends out catalogs. Usmint.gov. Get familiar with the website.

Come around November, you should see invitations to subscribe. You can pull up and they'll probably have some designs out by then, because the first coins are going to be issued January 1st, 2019.

You can subscribe for releases. You have to give them your credit card number in order to hold the coin for you. You give them the final approval to ship, then your credit card is charged. Those reservation subscriptions will be sent first.

The U.S. Marshals coin set, I bought five of those, they were sold out in three days, 25,000 of them at $430 apiece. Limited subscriptions mean they're going to be gone.

The gold one is pretty pricey, the half dollar is not going to be bad. But 750,000 doesn't go very far when you consider all the members of The Legion, The Sons, the Auxiliary, and the Riders. These will be issued straight from the U.S. Mint.

No, you won't be able to get them over in emblem sales. You can get them from a coin dealer like myself later on, but guess what? There's a tendency for increases in prices, sometimes substantial.

To give you an idea, if you're thinking of it as an investment, the bald eagle three-piece set was $430; right now it goes for $790 on eBay. This could well happen to this too.

I just wanted to pass along that information and congratulate everybody for participating and getting ahold of your congressmen and your senators. This bill was passed by more than any other support that's ever happened on the commemorative series of the coins. Thank you.

(Appplause)
PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SEATON: Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Under the good.

For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SEATON: Mike Seaton, past national commander California.

As we're on the topic of the centennial, we'd like you to ask anyone interested or have never been to Pasadena on New Year's Day, that The American Legion will have a float in the 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade featuring the Legion family's leaders, and the Four Pillars will be a main centerpiece of that float. If you are interested, we will have a table at the national convention with information on activities that will be taking place during Rose Parade week.

So we hope that some of you will come out to California for the Rose Parade.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you.

Anything further for the good of the Sons?

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN NOBLE: Mr. Commander, as national chaplain, this past weekend I've been receiving quite a few names of members who have unfortunately passed on or have taken ill.

Proper protocol, gentlemen, is it has to come from your detachment adjutant or your department adjutant to national headquarters. So this way they have a record of it and they'll guide me in what I have to do. That's point one.

Number two, real quick, when you leave here today, everybody normally just turns around and shakes your hand, "I'll catch you later, take care," and that's the end of it.
Remember what you say before you leave, because sometimes some of us don't come back. It's a sad affair, and it's been in the past.

Today you've heard a couple of the chairmen get up and mention our people that have passed and were afforded their wont to do that. Gentlemen, please remember before we leave. I know we're in a rush, but time is there. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Anything else under the good of the Sons?

While the chaplain is working his way to the front for the benediction, I want to thank you all for your patience this morning, for your participation. It's been a long morning and I appreciate everyone being patient, your comments, and we're going to move into the future.

At this time, I would call on the chaplain for the benediction. Please uncover.

**Benediction**

**James Noble, National Chaplain, New Jersey**

Thank you, Commander.

May the Lord bless and keep you. As we prepare our journey home, guide and protect us. Let us each take new information gathered here today back to our organizations for growth and inspiration. We thank you, Lord, that we've taken the time to share together as an American Legion family. Again, please protect us on our journeys home. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: 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; that service to the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective for The Sons of The American Legion. Let us ever be watchful of the honor of our country, The American Legion, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy.
Sergeant-at-arms, please retire the POW/MIA flag.

...The Sergeant-at-Arms retired the POW/MIA flag.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Recover.

Join me in retiring the colors of our country.

Hand salute: Two.

Thank you, gentlemen. Safe travels.

If there's no objection, the 2018 spring meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion is adjourned.

...At 11:16 a.m., Sunday, May 6, 2018, the National Executive Committee meeting of The Sons of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.
INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REPORT TO
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
MAY 9, 2018
Disposition of Action of
Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the SAL National Executive Committee May 5 – 6, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 4 – Pre-Convention NEC 2017</td>
<td>National Convention travel reimbursement for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion</td>
<td>Rejected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 1 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>NEC Meeting Call-In Revision</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 2 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Steven Gower (VA) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Received and Filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 3 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Matthew Christie (IL) for National Vice Commander</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 4 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Judging Criteria for National Awards</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 5 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>CSR Form Revision</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAL Res 6 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Chris Cook (OK) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Received and Filed</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 7 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Clint Bolt (VA) for National Commander</td>
<td>Received and Filed</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 8 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Endorsement of Thomas Skelly (TX) for National Vice Commander</td>
<td>Received and Filed</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAL Res 9 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>Child Welfare Foundation Donation of $5,000 from the 2018 Budget</td>
<td>Recommend Approval</td>
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The above recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee were reviewed and approved by The American Legion Internal Affairs SAL Subcommittee and the Internal Affairs Commission.