

# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

## Internal Affairs Sub-Committee Report Spring 2021

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission convened at 7:00 PM on April 26, 2021.

Members present:

George V. West (NH)	Chairman
Paul W. Gardner (IL)	Member
Herbert W. O'Dell (TX)	Member
Robert K. Burke (MA)	Member
Michael K. Seaton (CA)	Member
William H. Lienhop, Jr. (GA)	Member
Don Hayden (MN)	Member (absent)
James A. Chaney (KY)	Member
Ken George (FR)	National SAL Liaison
Brian Compton (IN)	Special Assistant

Special Guests:

Clint Bolt	Sons of The American Legion National Commander
Anthony Wright	Sons of The American Legion National Adjutant
Douglas Bible	Sons of The American Legion Commander's Advisory Committee
Mark Tansel	Sons of The American Legion Internal Affairs Chairman
Michael Fox	Sons of The American Legion National Commander Leading Candidate

### Commander Bolt's Report

Commander Bolt gave his report summarizing the Spring SAL NEC meeting on April 24, 2021, hosted virtually from the national headquarters national executive committee room. Overall, he was pleased with the meeting. Some notables the commander wanted to highlight that made the meeting "*feel more like a meeting.*" Those notables were; 1) the commission and committee chairman gave a summary of their reports, then made themselves available for questions and answers from the NEC. 2) The Child Welfare Fund President Dennis Boland (FL) submitted a pre-recorded message to the NEC with his appreciation for the efforts to support CWF and shared a personal story. The commander noted it had been over 18 months when Mr. Boland has spoken to the NEC. The commander believes Mr. Boland's message will motivate SAL members to drive CWF and collect donations for this charity the SAL has championed. 3) The last notable that made the meeting more personal was allowing members to announce pledged donations to various American Legion Charities. In a face-face meeting, members can get on stage and present their donations to the commander. With virtual meetings, that small touch has been lost. For the good of the order, donations were pledged to CWF, OCW, NEF & VCF, which totaled \$35,734. The idea was a first and the commander feels this will improve if we are destined for more virtual meetings. Commander Bolt closed his remarks by thanking his team, headquarters staff, and Markey's for their dedication and hard work to present a good meeting. The sub-committee accepted the commander's report through unanimous consent.

## **Committee on Committees Report**

The Committee on Committees reported two vacancies. One in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and one in Public Media & Communication Commission. Robert Manzo (MD) was appointed to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and Douglas Heiser (IN) was appointed to the Public Media Communications Commission.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Convention Commemorative Committee**

The 2022 National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Sons of The American Legion National Convention. The first convention took place in 1972, Chicago, IL. Resolution 2 was presented to the 2021 Spring SAL-NEC asking to approve a 5-9 member Ad-hoc Committee. When appointed by Commander Bolt, the committee is "charged with the responsibility to formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition, honoring, and celebrating of our 50th National Convention." Upon passing SAL Resolution 2, Commander Bolt made the following appointments:

Joseph Gladden (MD), chairman - PNC (2014)  
Charles Treat, II (AZ), vice-chairman – Phoenix Convention Chairman  
Robert McBride (OH), member - PNC (1969)  
Christopher Cerullo (NY), member - PNC (1983)  
J. R. Stilwell (IL), member - PNC (1970)  
Robert Avery (NY), member - Asst. Nat. ADJ  
William Towns, Jr. (OH), member  
David Faust (WI), member - PNC (1989)

The national executive committee approved the commander's appointments, and the sub-committee also approved those appointments. The ad-hoc committee will start immediately and conclude their duties on August 16, 2022, upon closing the National Convention. The sub-committee accepted the full slate of commission and committee appointments through unanimous consent.

## **SAL Commander's Advisory Committee**

The Commander's Advisory Chairman, PNC Douglas Bible, addressed the committee with his report. The chairman stated the committee interviewed all interested candidates in becoming the Sons of The American Legion National Commander. The committee unanimously approved that Donald J.R. Hall (MD) would be a candidate for SAL national commander after Christopher Carlson (IN) for the 2022-24 year.

Chairman Bible also reported the Commander's Advisory Committee and the Committee on Committees began coordinating and creating a path for national commander candidates to follow. Leading candidates before their campaign year will be appointed to chair various commissions and committees designed to challenge, develop, observe, and evaluate the candidate's performance. The committee believes the change will develop stronger commanders while waiting to campaign for national commander.

## Past National Commanders Panel Report

The Past National Commanders Panel submitted their report directly to the sub-committee and gave a brief overview to the SAL-NEC. The following was contained in their report to the sub-committee.

**Strategic Plan update** - The Strategic Plan was reviewed item by item with the updated version indicating the status of each item. Overall, the Commissions & Committees have completed their specific items; however, some have reported "in process," meaning not implemented or completed their tasks. Other items are awaiting approval from various divisions of The American Legion.

**Training Materials** - A proposal was presented to the PNCP requesting approval and implementation of the commission/committee basics training modules. It was agreed the following steps should be as follows: Continue to review new presentations for correct content, grammar & spelling and assemble training material on a memory device. Then forward to the Media Training & Development (MT&D) Committee, who would create a training template. Release forms will have to be obtained on certain content containing pictures, clip art and copyrighted logos before final review and general release for use.

## SAL Resolutions - Accepted by the 2021 SAL Spring NEC

The disposition of SAL resolutions are as follows below:

Number	Origin	Title	Result	Sub-Com
SAL Res 1 – Spring NEC 2021	Mississippi	Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee	Approved	Accept
SAL Res 2 – Spring NEC 2021	Internal Affairs Comm. / National Commander	Creation of 50th Convention Commemoration Committee	Approved as corrected	Accept
SAL Res 4 – Spring NEC 2021	Child Welfare Foundation Committee	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2021 Budget	Approved	Accept
SAL Res 5 – Spring NEC 2021	Massachusetts	Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions	Approved as amended	Accept
SAL Res 6 – Spring NEC 2021	Internal Affairs Comm.	Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader	Approved as amended	Accept

## National SAL Liaison Report

The National SAL Liaison addressed the sub-committee summarizing the last six months since the 2020 fall meeting. The virtual Spring NEC Meeting was well attended, with a steady 170 members logged in via the NEC meeting link, the viewing link, or the SAL Facebook live page. After the meeting concluded, the SAL Facebook page has more than 1,400 views of the NEC meetings and that number is increasing. Technology upgrades have been the focus for both the SAL and The American Legion. The Personify software will enable many requested capabilities such as member online renewal, enhanced reports, and access to a database the surpasses the old software. However, with the implementation of new software, the transition can be painful due to frustration and unfamiliarity. The headquarters staff understands these frustrations and asked that everyone be patient with the transition, and the mission is to create a better user experience. The Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) was introduced as a new annual form. Like the "Annual Post Data Report" (PDR), the SDR was created so that individual squadron per capita can be recorded. With the addition of this per capita reporting to national, the individual member will have the ability to renew their membership online.

The SAL Liaison reported that more forms and publications are being moved to the [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) website. He provided an example with the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). Each year national sends out 6,500 three-part CSR forms. In 2020 the return rate was just over 1,300 or 12%. Of those returns, less than 800 returned were the actual CSR form itself. That means more than 5,700 CSR forms were not returned, and more than 5,200 CSR forms were not completed. After reviewing these statistics, it was determined the CSR and the new SDR would be made available at the [www.legion.org/sons](http://www.legion.org/sons) website. Moving these forms online will provide wider access to our members.

The leading candidate for SAL National Commander and National Vice Commanders attended the first virtual ambassador training on April 25, 2021. The candidates were instructed on how to conduct themselves as a national SAL officer. The training covered duties and responsibilities, effective communication, public image, as well as some dos and don'ts while attending functions as a representative of the organization. The candidates were engaged, asked a lot of questions, and provided positive participation and feedback.

Other projects discussed were the "Outline of Authorization" for the SAL and the continued review of the National SAL Constitution & Bylaws, The Rules of the NEC and The Rules of The SAL National Convention. These publications will continue to be reviewed and screened by the SAL Liaison and the SAL national judge advocate. Changes will be brought forth via resolution, with the overall goal being to get the SAL more in line with the actions and processes of The American Legion.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,



George V. West, Chairman  
Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee  
Internal Affairs Commission