

PROCEEDINGS

of the

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

POST-CONVENTION

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Sunday
August 26, 2018
2:00 PM**

Minneapolis Convention Center
Ballroom A - Street Level
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Reported by: Denise L. Hinxman

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... At 2:00 p.m., August 26, 2018, the Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of Sons of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs, New York, and the following proceedings were had:

CALL TO ORDER and SALUTE TO COLORS
Greg "Doc" Gibbs, New York
National Commander

The colors of our country being in place, please render a hand salute by the numbers. One. Two.

... The National Executive Committee rendered a right-hand salute to the Colors.

Past National Chaplain Jim Noble, if you would come and invoke the blessing of God. Please uncover.

INVOCATION
James Noble, New Jersey
Past National Chaplain

Thank you, Commander.

Dear Lord, as we begin a new year of service, we thank You for all our past accomplishments.

As we gather for this meeting today, give us all Your gifts of peace and understanding that we may approach

the matters at hand with sincerity and just hearts for the betterment of our organization.

Keep us always true to the foundation upon which the Sons of The American Legion was founded. Amen.

... Chorus of amen.

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

. . . At this time, the National Executive Committee observed a Moment of silence.

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
Greg "Doc" Gibbs
National Commander

To maintain a high awareness for a constant vigil should be maintained so that no POW or MIA would be left unaccounted for, the Sons of The American Legion designate a POW/MIA empty chair at all meetings.

This is a symbol of the thousands of American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for, as a reminder for us all 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 that vital endeavor.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair. I see we are.

We're going to have our National Vice Commander Pete Sierminski lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Pete Sierminski, Colorado
National Vice Commander

... At this time, the National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Recover, please.

National Vice Commander Steve Gower is going to lead us in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE S.A.L.
Steve Gower, Virginia
National Vice Commander

... At this time, the National Executive Committee recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.

BLUE STAR BANNER CEREMONY
Greg "Doc" Gibbs, National Commander

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 to serve as a symbol of our support for all military personnel serving this great country.

Let us never forget that every day these individuals are protecting our liberty.

The Blue Star Banner is in place.

National Adjutant Anthony Wright, will you please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

... The National Adjutant, Anthony W. Wright, called the Roll, and the following members were present:

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander

Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs (NY)

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDERS

Michael S. Cotten (DE)

Steve A. Gower, Sr. (VA)

Matthew T. Christie (IL)

Peter J. Sierminski (CO)

Edward M. Cleary (AZ)

National Adjutant

Anthony W. Wright (PA)

National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus
 Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE) - EXCUSED

Past National Commanders

Danny J. Smith (NE)
 Michael K. Seaton (CA)
 Robert A. McBride (OH) - EXCUSED
 J.R. Stillwell (IL)
 John J. Smolinsky (MA) - ABSENT
 Robert H. Faust (CA)
 James R. Hartman (MD) - ABSENT
 Gregory D. Reis (IL) - ABSENT
 Grant M. Jamieson (MI) - ABSENT
 Charles E. Gannon (MD)
 John M. Sherrard (CA) - ABSENT
 David P. Stephens (IN)
 Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)
 Frederick L. Hartline (OH) - EXCUSED
 Douglas P. Bible (MN)
 Richard L. League (MD) - ABSENT
 David R. Faust (WI)
 Robert A. Worrel (IN) - ABSENT
 Eugene L. Sacco (CA)
 Roland D. Matteson (AZ) - ABSENT
 Joseph M. Mayne (MN)
 John T. Dietz (KY) - ABSENT
 Jack E. Jordan (TX) - ABSENT
 William E. Matoska (MD) - ABSENT
 Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
 Richard L. Cook (OK) - ABSENT
 Kevin N. Winkelmann (TX) - ABSENT
 Clifford A. Smith (MA)
 Steven C. Laws (NC) - ABSENT
 Neal C. Warnken (KS) - ABSENT
 Michael J. Deacon (IA)
 William L. Sparwasser (MD) - ABSENT
 Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI) - ABSENT
 Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
 Thomas E. Cisna (IL) - EXCUSED
 Mark E. Arneson (GA) - ABSENT
 David L. Dew (TX) - ABSENT
 James K. Roberts, III (FL)
 Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)

Joseph W. Gladden (MD) - ABSENT
 Michael W. Moss (CO)
 Kevin L. Collier (AK)
 Jeffrey C. Frain (AZ) - EXCUSED
 Brian J. O'Hearne (MA) - ABSENT

Roll Call of Detachments

Alabama, BOTH
 Alaska, NEC
 Arizona, BOTH
 Arkansas - ABSENT
 California, ALTERNATE
 Colorado, BOTH
 Connecticut, NEC
 Delaware, BOTH
 Florida, BOTH
 France, NEC
 Georgia, BOTH
 Hawaii - ABSENT
 Idaho - ABSENT
 Illinois, NEC
 Indiana, BOTH
 Iowa - ABSENT
 Kansas, BOTH
 Kentucky, BOTH
 Louisiana, ALTERNATE
 Maine - ABSENT
 Maryland, ALTERNATE
 Massachusetts - ABSENT
 Michigan, BOTH
 Minnesota, NEC
 Mississippi, NEC
 Missouri, NEC
 Montana, ALTERNATE
 Nebraska, BOTH
 Nevada, ALTERNATE
 New Hampshire, BOTH
 New Jersey, BOTH
 New Mexico, BOTH
 New York, NEC
 North Carolina, NEC
 North Dakota - ABSENT
 Ohio, BOTH

Oklahoma, NEC
 Oregon, NEC
 Pennsylvania, BOTH
 Rhode Island, NEC
 South Carolina, NEC
 South Dakota, BOTH
 Tennessee - ABSENT
 Texas, NEC
 Utah, ALTERNATE
 Vermont, NEC
 Virginia, NEC
 Washington, NEC
 West Virginia - ABSENT
 Wisconsin, BOTH
 Wyoming, BOTH

Commander, that completes roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you. I now declare this Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee regularly convened.

Will all National Executive Committeemen and Alternates please rise.

INSTALLATION OF COMITTEEMEN

Gentlemen, this is the installation of the National Executive Committeemen. Will you please raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine.

"I, Greg Gibbs, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office in the

Sons of The American Legion I am about to assume. And I do further pledge I'm not a member of, and do not subscribe to, the principles of any group opposed to our form of government."

Lower your hands, gentlemen, and be seated. We're all set.

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: The next part of our agenda is confirmation of appointed national officers. So I'd like to read the selections that we have for the 2018-2019 administrative year:

National Adjutant: Anthony Wright, Pennsylvania

Assistant National Adjutants:

Robert Avery, New York

Ed Sheubrooks, Florida

David Ridenour, Indiana

Scott Williams, Virginia

Jeffrey Hicks, New Jersey

Scott Thornton, Ohio

National Chaplain: David Rippe, Nebraska

National Historian: Timothy Van Patten, II, New York

National Judge Advocate: Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Sergeant-at-Arms: Greg Falco, New York

Assistant National Sergeant-at-Arms:

Lyle Larson, Kansas
Brian Waters, Pennsylvania
Raymond Giehll III, Indiana
Augustine Diaz, Alaska
Charles Curtis, California.

The Aide to the National Commander, you've seen him running around this morning, Gary Denmon from New York.

The editor of our newsletter remains Mike Pfeiffer from Indiana.

And we currently have a vacancy for webmaster; is that correct?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good.

Our event coordinator is going to be Clifford Hall from Massachusetts --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Georgia.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: He moved? Just kidding. Let me correct that. Clifford Hall from Georgia.

I will entertain a motion to accept these national officer appointments.

DENNIS HENKEMEYER: Dennis Henkemeyer, National Executive Committeeman, Detachment of Minnesota, so move.

BOB BROWN: NEC, I'll second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: We have a motion and a second. Any question on the motion? All those in favor please signify by saying aye.

Opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

You have in front of you, I hope, the selections for national commissions and committee members for the 2018-2019 year.

So take a look at those. There's been a few minor changes since we last met. But I will also -- no, you don't have copies of them.

They don't have copies of committee and commission people. They should have been passed out by Sergeant-at-Arms.

Are there extra copies back there? I apologize, guys. It's really difficult to see here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander, if you're an NECman and you didn't get a copy, raise your hand right now.

Do you have enough? If he runs out and you're not an NECman and you got a copy, you'll have to give it up.

Or a Past National Commander, they were supposed to get them, too.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Keep your hands up. We still have a few folks that don't have them yet. When you get them, please take a minute to look them over.

Just a reminder, please use the microphone whenever possible for speaking so we know we can identify you. Again, it's very difficult to see up here with the lights.

Anybody else still need those? Looks like we're good. Look them over. I'll give you a few seconds to take a look at that.

And then we will entertain a motion to accept those national commission and committee appointments.

The list is extensive. I'm going to let you take a peek at those commission and committee things for a few moments.

**INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL HISTORIAN,
NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS and NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AIDE**

While you're doing that, we're going to call up the National Historian and my aide to receive their new caps for the year.

Tim Van Patten, Greg Falco and Gary Denmon, if you would three step up, we'd appreciate it. Get that taken care of.

Thank you again.

Moving on. Any questions -- yes.

BOB BROWN: Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia. Under the Legislative Commission, with a term to expire the year 2020 at the convention of 2020, Mr. Zeste Debro has requested his name be removed and resign due to his taking over as department adjutant.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Duly noted. Thank you. Anyone else?

CLIFFORD SMITH: Mr. Commander, Cliff Smith. Under Public & Media Communications Commission, down near the bottom, Mark McCue, for his email address you have mbrianmc. It's not at charter.net. It's at gmail.net. If that could be changed. He's tried to change it a few times. Gmail.com. Sorry. It's not my email.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Everybody got that. Mark McCue, Public & Media Communications Commissions, email is wrong. It should be gmail.com.

Any comments or questions? Go ahead, Ray.

RAYMOND GIEHLL: In MT&D, Tom Marsden pointed out to me, Member Training and Development, that his address is 151, not 159.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Very good. Everybody have that?

Any other comments? Questions? Mike.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COTTEN: Under my email address -- I was highly anticipating filling in for Ken Warner so much that they gave me his email address under Membership Committee, National Vice Commander East, it is not papdc10kw@yahoo. It is mscotten83@aol.com.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Say that again.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COTTEN: M-s, as in Sam, c-o-t-t-e-n, the number 8, the number 3, @aol.com.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: And, please, I've already learned through mistakes several different things, but one of them -- your computer likes to correct Mike Cotten's name. So sometimes you punch it in and it automatically changes it to o-n, not e-n. And be aware of that and be cautious as you're using Mike's email.

Any other changes or comments?

PHILLIP COOK: Commander, Phillip Cook, NEC
Detachment of New Hampshire, center mic.

Under the Finance Commission, Keith Murdough, his
email address is murdoughbill. There's no S.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Everybody got that?
Under Finance Commission, Keith Murdough's email, there's
no S in his email.

Any other changes, comments, corrections?

(No response.)

Very good. Again, we will entertain a motion at
this time to accept those appointments.

DAVE CURRY: Dave Curry, NEC from Kentucky, makes a
motion to accept it with the changes being made.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Thank you, Dave Curry
from Kentucky.

PHILLIP COOK: Phillip Cook, NEC Detachment of New
Hampshire, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Phil Cook, New Hampshire,
seconds. Motion and a second. Any questions?

Hearing none, all in favor signify by saying aye.
All opposed, same sign.

Carried. Thank you, gentlemen.

At this time, I'd really entertain opening the mic up here on the stage to any of the commission, committee chairmen that might have brief, brief remarks about the coming year.

Just make yourself identified either from down on the floor, if you have anything.

We certainly will have a transition meeting tomorrow morning, and we will get into a lot more details about goals, committee and commission work, et cetera, et cetera.

Anyone?

(No response.)

Hearing none, we're going to move into unfinished business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Is there any unfinished business to bring before us at this time?

Any unfinished business to bring before us at this time?

(No response.)

Third and last time, is there any unfinished business to bring before us?

(No response.)

Hearing none, we'll move on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Any new business to bring before us? Any new business for this new NEC meeting.

MATT PARSONS: Comrade Commander, Matt Parsons, Alternate NEC, California. In the past, the Color Guard was awarded a stipend under the administrative manual. In the past they were not awarded a stipend.

And I would just ask the Chair to look into that. The reasoning behind it was that previously there was no contest. Now there is a contest.

They are the victors of the whole ball of wax. And they also may end up getting a stipend from The American Legion side. And I just would like to ask the Chair to look into that. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. Duly noted.

Anything else? Any other new business at this time?

Any other new business at this time?

Center mic there. Yes, sir, just standing? Very good. If there's no other new business at this time, any other announcements? I have one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

The transition meeting tomorrow morning will be at 8:00 in the morning. It will be casual dress code. And it will be at the Minneapolis Convention Room M101, Mezzanine Level, A+B+C, Mezzanine, together.

The fall NEC room reservation requests have been mailed from department headquarters, detachment headquarters. It's important that you get these back as soon as possible. I have September 4th on here.

But Anthony -- I think it's been corrected to the 7th of September. But that's very quickly after we get back. So please attend to that as soon as possible.

Any other announcements for the good of the Sons at this time?

I don't need any new updates for the parade. Anybody have any new updates worth sharing at this time? I understand the parade will be in this building.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Commander, I did see a message on the application, the 100th anniversary application or app, indicating that the outdoor parade had been canceled and that it was going to be held indoors.

It's my understanding that the staging area will be Hall E, as in echo.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Hall E, as in echo, staging area.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: I can tell you the reviewing stand will be in Hall B. The reviewing stand will be in Hall B.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Okay. Yes, I have a hot-off-the-press newsflash:

"With the impending inclement weather, and to ensure the safety of our attendees and the community, the National Commander has directed The American Legion parade to be held indoors inside the Minneapolis Convention Center."

Again, just like Dennis had mentioned, staging will be taking place in Hall E of the convention center. For those departments still utilizing the Lew White Tours for your department, parade staging will be located at loading dock E, as in echo.

You'll need to check in with the security guard on East 16th street if you're unloading, between First and Third Avenue on 16th Street.

Let's see, you'll march to and through Hall B. The reviewing stand, like you just heard earlier, will be on Hall B, be on the stage. And then back out of the hall.

A team will be there directing where to march. If you're going to the post-parade party, it will still take place in Ballroom B next to the Grant Street skywalk to the Hilton Hotel.

If you're not attending the post-parade party, please make your way back and around to Hall B where all buses will be staged. This is a marching parade.

Obviously no vehicles in the building.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No riders.

NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: No vehicles, no golf carts, et cetera. You'll need to connect with the tours for bussing needs, if you have those needs -- and I have that number here should you need it -- Marc Johnson at Area Code 317-252-7600. And he'll help you with any bussing needs you might have. That's the latest update I have on the parade.

I had also heard that maybe numbers of allowed people might change, but I've not seen anything on that yet. So I'd just be aware of that.

Any other announcements for the good of the order before we close today?

(No response.)

All right, gentlemen, if there are no other further business to come before this NEC, I'm going to ask the National Chaplain to lead us in the closing prayer.

BENEDICTION

**David Rippe, Nebraska
National Chaplain**

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN RIPPE: Heavenly Father, as we depart this convention, grant us a safe passage home. Protect the men and women in our Armed Forces who are in harm's way.

Provide comfort to our veterans who are in hospitals and VA homes. Lastly, Lord, bless the leaders of The American Legion family. In Your name we pray, amen.

... Chorus of amen.

CLOSING REMARKS

Greg "Doc" Gibbs, National Commander

Thank you, Chaplain.

Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our community can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let

service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of the Sons of The American Legion.

Let us be watchful to the honor of our country, The American Legion, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy.

RETIREMENT OF THE COLORS and ADJOURNMENT

With the colors being in place, hand salute by the numbers. One. Two.

. . . At this time, the National Executive Committee rendered a right-hand salute to the Colors.

I now declare this post convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adjourned.

... At 2:30 p.m., the Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting of the Sons of The American Legion adjourned.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

I, DENISE HINXMAN, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify;

That on Sunday, August 26, 2018, I was present and took verbatim stenotype notes of the Meeting entitled herein, and thereafter transcribed the same into typewriting as herein appears;

That said meeting was taken in stenotype notes by me, a Certified Court Reporter, and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction as herein appears;

That the foregoing transcript is a full, true and correct transcription of my stenotype notes of said meeting.

Dated at Reno, Nevada, this 6th day of September 2018.

DENISE HINXMAN, CSR, RDR, CRC