

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Internal Affairs Sub-Committee Report Fall 2019

The Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee of the Internal Affairs Commission met at 1:30 P.M. on October 14, 2019.

Members present:

George V. West (NH)	Chairman
Robert L. Morrill (NY)	Vice Chairman
Paul W. Gardner (IL)	Member (not called in)
Herbert W. O'Dell (TX)	Member (excused)
Robert K. Burke (MA)	Member
Michael K. Seaton (CA)	Member
William H. Lienhop, Jr. (GA)	Member (not called in)
Don Hayden (MN)	Member
Jim Brehio (MA)	NEC Liaison to SAL Sub-Committee
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 (excused)
Mark Tansel	Sons of The American Legion Internal Affairs Chairman
Michael Fox	Sons of The American Legion Commander Leading (excused)
Autry James (CA)	Guest
Louis Brault (MA)	Guest

Commander Bolt's Report

Commander Bolt briefed the sub-committee on his goals for the year and charities he intends to support. He stated his membership goal for the year 2020-21 is 400,000 members and to raise \$500,000 to support the Child Welfare Foundation and the Children and Veterans Endowment Fund. This past weekend the SAL Fall NEC Meeting took place, and there were a total of 199 attendees, with 27 graduating the detachment commanders training. A motion with a second was made to accept the Commander's report, motion carried.

Committee on Committees Report

The Committee on Committees report was distributed to the sub-committee members to read, and highlights from the report were discussed. The committee interviewed six candidates for the National Chaplain for the year 2020-21 and 1 candidate for Editor of The National Update Newsletter. The committee recommended Matt Parsons (CA) to be The National Update Newsletter. A motion with a second was made to accept Mr. Parsons as the newsletter editor, motion carried. This appointment will be effective immediately.

Commanders Advisory Committee report was distributed to the sub-committee members to read, and highlights from the report were discussed. The committee interviewed six candidates who showed interest in running the SAL National Commander. No election running order was established in the report. The committee also met with Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA) and Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN) to reaffirm their commitment and discuss their duties and protocols as leading candidates. Finally, the committee met with SAL National Commander Bolt to discuss the status of his term and to reinforce the importance of communication between him and headquarters staff.

Past National Commanders Panel Report

Past National Commander Panel (PNCP) report was submitted to the sub-committee for review and discussion. Before the SAL Fall Meetings, Chairman Newman issued a memo to the PNCP Chairman Danny Smith, empowering the PNCP with oversight and implementation of the Strategic Plan accepted and released at the 2018 Fall Meeting. Chairman Smith met with PNCP, and they developed an aggressive approach and plan by assigning commission and committee liaisons that will address each of the points in the plan. They will work with their prospective chairman by creating a two-way flow of recommendations and implementations. At the Fall and Spring Meetings, Chairman Smith will provide a detailed report of the status and progress of the plan.

Past National SAL Commander Jeff Frain tendered his resignation from the PNCP. As a replacement to PNC Frain, the members of the panel recommend Horary Past National Commander Brian O’Hearne (MA) and PNC James Hartman (MD). This appointment is a one year term with the ability to be re-appoint for a three-year term next year. Based on considerations by the Internal Affairs Commission, PNC James Hartman is the accepted choice. A motion and a second were made, motion carried. The PNCP Chairman will receive notification of the appointment approval.

2019 National Convention Resolutions

The sub-committee reviewed all resolutions from the 2019 National Sons of The American Legion Convention and Fall meetings. They are as follows:

Resolution 1 - Amendments to the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution

SAL Action: Not passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 2 - Amendment to the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, Article X, Section 2

SAL Action: Passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 6 – Support House of Representatives Resolution H.R. 5674 and Senate Resolution S. 2372 Veterans Affairs M.I.S.S.I.O.N. (Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks) Act.

SAL Action: Passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 7 – Support House of Representatives Resolution H.R. 1259 and Senate Resolution S. 1094 Veterans Affairs Accountability Act.

SAL Action: Passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

2019 Fall Meetings Resolutions

Resolution 1 - Endorsement of Michael Fox (CA) for SAL National Commander

SAL Action: Received and filed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 2 - NEC Approval of National Commander's Appointments at the Post-National Convention Meeting.

SAL Action: Not passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 3 - Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) for Revision – Americanism, Children in Youth, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Sections – Amended to SAL Resolution 5 – Spring 2018.

SAL Action: Passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 4 - National Officer, NEC Representative and Chairman Certification of Membership Eligibility.

SAL Action: Passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 5 - Revision to Article IV (Eligibility)

SAL Action: Not passed

Committee Recommendation: Set aside for discussion

Resolution 6 - Revision to Article X, Section 2 (Finances)

SAL Action: Passed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

Resolution 7 - Endorsement of Jason Roberts (GA) National Vice Commander

SAL Action: Received and filed

Sub-Committee Recommendation: Accept their action

A motion and second were made to accept all resolutions except Resolution 5 which was set aside for further discussion by the sub-committee. Motion carried.

Resolution 5 Discussion

Chairman West asked Commander Bolt for more detailed information on resolution 5, which was a resolution to address SAL bylaw Article IV (eligibility). The bylaw was an attempt to modify and bring the eligibility clause more in line with the Legion Act and to adhere to the IRS Tax Code Part 7 - Rulings and Agreement, Chapter 25 – Exempt Organizations Determinations Manual, Section 19 – 7.25.19.1 – 4 (9-1-2005) Veterans' Organizations. The term "Stepson" has always been in the SAL bylaws dating back to 1971 when The American Legion accepted the bylaws. The resolution excluded "Stepson," and the membership was unclear as to why it was removed. Furthermore, the leadership was not able to clearly explain what would happen to the current stepsons that are members of the SAL. The discussions became very emotional for some members because they were under the impression their membership in the SAL would terminate. Ultimately, the SAL membership did not approve the resolution. The sub-committee made a motion with a second. Asking Chairman Newman to refer the resolution back to the SAL National Judge Advocate to coordinate with The American Legion National Judge Advocate, and together create an acceptable term that would include the stepsons that are currently members of the SAL and comply with the Legion Act and IRS Tax Codes. The motion was carried.

National SAL Liaison Report

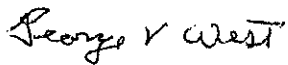
The National SAL Liaison, addressed the sub-committee with the current projects that have been in work for the last six months. The SAL Commander and National Vice Commanders attended the first media training course at National Headquarters. The course was mirrored after The American Legion orientation, and media course provided to the Commander and National Vice Commanders. The leadership learned interviewing techniques and later applied them to giving compelling interviews.

More focus has been placed on moving more report tasking to an online format. The Geiger Operations Center has been providing the ability for SAL Adjutants to submit online membership transmittals. Submitting online transmittals will save time, and members will show up on rosters faster than traditional means. This ability is being rolled out a few detachments at a time to manage the flow of information coming in. All detachments should have online transmittal capability by the end of January 2020. Other online capabilities that were enabled was the ability to submit detachment certification of officers, the commander's visitation requests, and the consolidated squadron report (CSR). Last year the return rate for the CSR was 21%. It is projected the CSR rate will increase with online submittals.

The convention had 1,039 registered attendees and for the first time, a room dedicated to junior SAL members where activities and events could take place. The junior members were invited on stage so they could be recognized as disguised guests to the convention by Commander Gibbs. It was also at the National Convention the membership voted to increase their per capita to \$5. This will generate enough revenue to make the SAL a self-funded and self-sustaining program.

Last week October 9, 2019, the membership target date was 25%; there were 21 detachments that achieved the projected target date. The SAL has had a 1% membership growth for 21 years straight. Projections show this will more than likely continue in the years ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George W. West".

George W. West
Chairman
Internal Affairs
Sons of The American Legion Sub-Committee