MINUTES
OF THE
45th NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Cincinnati, Ohio
August 26 – 28, 2016
The Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion was called to order by National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) at 10:00 am, Friday, August 26, 2016 at the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.

With colors being in place a right-hand salute was rendered. National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) was called for the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander Steve R. Curry (KY) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander Steve Ward (KS) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) then called for National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

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Past National Commanders

Michael Moss (CO)  Joseph M. Mayne (MN)
Michael Seaton (CA) Richard L. Cook (OK)
J. R. Stillwell (IL) Neal C. Warnken (KS)
David P. Stephens (IN) Michael Deacon (IA)
Fred L. Hartline (OH) Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas Bible (MN) Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
David R. Faust (WI) Thomas Cisna (IL)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA) Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)

National Executive Committeemen

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

At this time National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) declared the 2016 Pre-Convention of the National Executive Committee regularly convened. National Adjutant O’Hearne was called for the reading of the April 30 – May 1, 2016 minutes. Motion made by Milton Chatham (TX) to accept, motion 2nd by Robert L. Turner (CT).

At this time John Kerestan, SAL Liaison, was called to the podium.

Mr. Kerestan welcomed everyone to Cincinnati to the Pre-Convention Meeting. Congratulations was given to the SAL leadership for 100% membership for 2016. Membership is roughly around 364,000+ members with 100.4%. The conference calls and working with your leadership worked well and enabled you to reach 100%. You did a fantastic job. Mr. Kerestan thanked everyone for all their hard work and to keep it going for the years to follow.

The Fall SAL NEC call announcement has been mailed and I need the reservations submitted to National by September 2nd. Due to convention meeting space issues the band contest will be next door to us on Saturday afternoon. We will be able to hear them somewhat and hopefully minimal. Mr. Kerestan said it has been a great year and it was good to work with Commander Collier.

Mr. Kerestan wished them the best for their meetings. This concluded his remarks.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called for any Chairmen Reports, no reports were presented.

Old Business
Commander Collier (AK) called for any old business; no old business was presented at this time.

New Business
Commander Collier (AK) called for any new business; no new business was presented at this time.
For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion

Commander Collier (AK) called for Good of The Sons. W L Foster called for a caucus with the Western Region. This concluded any Good of the Sons.

In closing, National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) gave the benediction.

Following a right-hand salute, National Commander Collier (AK) declared the Pre-NEC Meeting adjourned.

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SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
45TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 26, 2016

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called the 45th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion to order at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, August 26, 2016, at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.

With the Colors in place, a right hand salute was rendered.

The National Color Guard team from the Detachment of California posted the colors of our Country. The colors were posted.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called on National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Brian K. Waters (PA) led in reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

National Vice Commander William Hill (MD) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

Commander Collier recited Resolution NC02-03 from the 32nd National Convention that calls for the displaying of the Blue Star Banner.

At this time, National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) conducted the reading of the call to National Convention.

The National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion hereby called by the National Commander the 45th National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion held August 26-28, 2016 in the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. The purpose is for the National Convention Session in accordance with the uniform code of procedure for National Convention will convene at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2016. The 45th National Convention will be convened for the following purposes:

- To complete all business for the Sons of The American Legion for the fiscal year 2015-2016.
- To vote on all Resolutions which are properly presented to the National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion.
- To consider and/or make amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.
- To elect a National Commander and Five (5) National Vice Commanders in that sequence for the ensuing year 2016-2017. Elections will take place on Sunday, August 28, 2016.
- Representation in the National Convention shall be allotted in accordance with provision of Article V of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion, which is stated in Article V, Section 3 and Section 4.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) then called for National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

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Commander Collier (AK) declared the 45th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion Convened.

Commander Collier called on PNC Michael Seaton (CA) in which he made National Commander Kevin Collier a Distinguished Guest.

At this time The American Legion Leading National Commander Charles Schmidt (OR) was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Schmidt said it’s an honor to be with the Sons today and it has been 30 years since National Convention was in Cincinnati. The Sons have had a great year with Commander Kevin Collier. I look forward to working with the incoming Sons Commander and Auxiliary President this year. My campaign for the last two years has been “Carry the Legacy Forward”. You’ve had a great year with your programs and have really exceeded your membership. I want you to share your secrets with the Legionnaires.

We all have a membership cards comes a voice but also a responsibility. That responsibility is to get involved with our communities and America. We need to help get out the vote for a most important election this year. I wish you all well and a great convention. This concluded his speech.

At this time Commander Collier made Mr. Schmidt (OR) a Distinguished Guest and gave him a challenge coin.

At this time Jason Kees (IN), CWF Director and Dennis Boland (FL), CWF President were escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Boland said the Sons inspire him for what you do for our children and youth. There was $653,969 donated to CWF and $360,299 was just from the Sons. We have given over $14.3 million in grants. Mr. Boland said he’s proud to be an SAL member in honor of his father.

At this time Dennis Boland (FL), President of CWF and Jason Kees (IN) presented the following CWF Awards:

Detachment of Nevada for Excellence and Achieving the Highest Per-Capita for 2015-2016
Detachment of Nevada received the CWF Meritorious Achievement Award for Highest Increase Per-Capita 2015-2016

Detachment of Ohio received the Garland Murphy Award for 2015-2016

Detachment of Florida received the US Udie Grant Legacy Award for 2015-2016

Commander Collier was presented with a Diamond Lapel Pin. This concluded Mr. Boland’s remarks and awards. Commander Collier made Mr. Boland and Mr. Kees Distinguished Guests and a Commander’s coin.

Mr. Jason Kees said the Sons comprise about 60% of the CWF contributions and that’s fantastic. I’ve heard Dennis say many times when he speaks it’s from the bottom of his heart. Your donations go to about twenty-five organizations for children.

At this time 2nd Leading Candidate for National Commander, Denise Rohan (WI) was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mrs. Rohan (WI) thanked the Sons for their time. She said she is a dual member but for Legion and Auxiliary. She stated she started a Squadron and successfully completed the 5-Star 10 Idea Program. Mrs. Rohan has been a member of the Legion for 32 years.

I have a sense of pride for the Sons work around this nation. I hope each one of you have a mentor and taking time to pass your knowledge. We need to carry our legacy forward. Keep your spark and light burning because you are a beacon of hope for this nation? This concluded her speech.

Commander Collier made Denise Rohan (WI) a Distinguished Guest and presented her with a Commander coin.

Commander Collier (AK) welcomed everyone to Cincinnati. Asked all veterans to stand and thanked them for their military service. This concluded his remarks.

At this time Commander Collier called Jon Coakley (OH), Chairman, National Convention Committee to the stage.

Mr. Coakley (OH) said our golf outing yesterday was a great experience and went off without a hitch with the help of Rob Brewer (OH). We will have a bus tour this evening and have wrist bands. The bus will leave at 5pm & 5:30pm in front of the Hyatt and will return at 9pm & 10pm. This concluded his report.

At this time Commander Collier called David Lee (NY) to the stage for the Legislative and Rules Convention Committee.

Mr. Lee (NY) reported, the Legislative and Rules Convention Committee met on Friday, August 26, 2016 for the purpose of reviewing the standing rules of the Convention. As a delegate to the 45th National Convention, Mr. Lee (NY) made a motion for the acceptance of the Standing Rules of the National Convention and is accepted as published, motion was seconded by John Wright, Connecticut. Motion carried.
(Short music break waiting in Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) for the Credentials Report, which was not given during this session).

Commander Collier (AK) made the National Vice Commanders and National Chaplain Distinguished Guests.

At this time George West (NH), Vice Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission and Jack Querfeld, Director, Internal Affairs were escorted to the stage.

At this time George West (NH) spoke on behalf of Mr. Larry Besson, Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission. The SAL membership stands at 364,236+ members and at 100.5% membership with more coming and an all-time high for 2016. You have chartered 6,100 Squadrons nation-wide. The Sons have donated $360,299 to CWF just this year which brings a total of over $6.9 million to date since the SAL have donated. This coming 2017 the Sons will have donated and contributed over $7 million to CWF.

Mr. West thanked the Sons for all their hard work. The Sub-Committee meets at the Spring and Fall NEC Meetings to review SAL Resolutions, meet with the incoming candidates to listen to their goals and objectives and meet with the outgoing Commander to his report of the year and his recommendations and wish list for the upcoming year. We also review the recommendations from your Committees on Committees and Sons of The American Legion Advisory Committee. We in turn report our recommendations to the entire American Legion Internal Affairs Commission who either accepts, amends or rejects our report. The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission in turn present the report to The American Legion National Executive Committee for final deposition. I want to point out that this Sub-Committee in no way chooses or decides who your new officers will be. That of course is decided by your delegates at this convention.

I want to commend the Sons for everything the SAL has done for this organization. This concluded his speech.

Commander Collier thanked Mr. George West (NH) and Mr. Jack Querfeld (IL). Commander Collier made George West and Jack Querfeld Distinguished Guests and presented them with his challenge coin.

At this time National Auxiliary President, Sharon Conatser (IL) was escorted to the stage.

President Conatser (IL) thanked the SAL for giving her a kind, passionate and caring man to service as National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. This year we shared the stage on many thoughts this year. This year started out “Keeping The Promise” not only to our American Legion Family but to each other and ourselves. Our years or organization don’t start and stop. Kevin and I may not have our title when we go home after convention but we will always be Unit, Squadron and Post members first which is why we will stay strong to take care of the veterans of today. Mrs. Conatser thanked the Sons for what they do. This concluded her speech.

Commander Collier made President Sharon Conatser (IL) a Distinguished Guest, presented her with a Citation of Appreciation Award and challenge coin.

At this time National Auxiliary Secretary, Dubbie Buckler (IN) was escorted to the stage.
Madam Secretary, Dubbie Buckler said we’ve mapped out where we’ve been and where we’re going in membership. The trend lines where going in the wrong directions. So we adopted our 5-year Centennial Strategic Plan and we are getting serious about it.

The Centennial Strategic Plan identifies the effectiveness of our organization. We have five goals that we must strengthen to grow The American Legion – 5.) with The American Legion Build Grand Loyalty 4.) Strengthen our Departments and Units 3.) Build Leadership at all levels 2.) Foster an eternal cultural good will 1.) By doing all these we will enhance membership strength. The Auxiliary has revised our convention standing rules and developed a department operations guide. We are the voices of our veterans and we should take care of. We need to grow, bring younger blood into our organization and understand why we matter. This concluded her speech.

Commander Collier made Dubbie Buckler (IN) a Distinguished Guest, presented her with a Citation of Appreciation Award and challenge coin.

At this time the National Commander of The American Legion Dale Barnett (GA) was escorted to the stage.

Commander Barnett (GA) said it’s good to be here with the Sons of The American Legion. Commander Barnett presented Commander Collier with a present for him and his mother. Commander Barnett said he’s so proud of the Sons and just finished the Legion Rider Run. I know you’ve had some incredible turn in for the CWF as always the largest contributors. I’m proud to be a dual member and serve with your National Commander Kevin Collier. Commander Barnett thanked the SAL for who they are and what they do. This concluded his speech.

Commander Collier made Commander Dale Barnett (GA) a Distinguished Guest, presented him with a Citation of Appreciation Award and challenge coin.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) declared the 45th National Convention recessed until Saturday, August 27, 2016 to begin at 9:00 am.

The 45th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander Kevin L. Collier (AK) declared the Convention in session.

Commander Collier called on Dante Diaz (AK) to sing the National Anthem.

National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) gave the invocation.

National Vice Commander William Foster (AZ) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Vice Commander Jeff Evans (VA) then called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders and Detachments.
Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

Kevin L. Collier (AK)  
National Commander

William G. Hill (MD)  
National Vice Commander – East

Steve R. Curry (KY)  
National Vice Commander – South

Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN)  
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Steve Ward (KS)  
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National Vice Commander – West

Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)  
National Adjutant

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

James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL)  
National Assistant Adjutant

Robert Avery (NY)  
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Byron J. Robichaux (LA)

J.R. Stillwell (IL)  
Steve Laws (NC)

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James K. Roberts, III (FL)

Roland D. Matteson (AZ)  
Christopher Huntzinger (PA)

Joseph M. Mayne (MN)  
Joseph W. Gladden (MD)

John T. Dietz (KY)  
Michael Moss (CO)

William E. Matoska (MI)

**National Convention Delegations**

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire,

National Vice Commander William Hill (MD) called on National Commander Kevin L. Collier (AK) for his final report.

Commander Collier (AK) said it’s hard to believe it’s been a year already and the time has flown by so quick and so fast but has enjoyed every single moment to represent every single one of you. No matter where I traveled, whether it be Maryland to jump into the Chesapeake Bay for their annual Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics or a Boys State Function. I couldn’t have asked for a better year or reception from the Detachments and I felt like I was at home and part of their family.

When you travel to the different Detachments you see how hard they work to raise money for The American Legion Programs. Membership this year has been anywhere from 2,000-15,000 higher than the year before and that’s from your hard work and I thank you.

No matter where I traveled I saw the youth being educated and that’s what it’s all about. We have to train our future and it’s evident that it’s being done. This year wouldn’t be as great as it was without you the Sons. In closing, Commander Collier thanks each and every person. This concluded his report.

NVC Hill (MD) entertained a motion to accept National Commander Kevin Collier’s report, seconded by Colorado.

National Commander Collier called National Assistant Adjutant Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) to give the Credentials Report.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

*Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE), Chairman*

Mr. Thompson, Jr. (NE) reported the following: There is a possible of 883 Delegates and 45 Delegates-At-Large for a total of 928 possible Delegate votes from 54 Detachments. We had 42 Detachments pre-registered with 852 Delegates, 25 Alternates and 77 Guests. On Thursday we had 45 Detachments with 895 Delegates, 27 Alternates and 90 Guests. On Friday we had 46 Detachments with 901 Delegates, 27 Alternates and 90 Guests. At the close of registration on Saturday we had 46 Detachments with 904 Delegates, 27 Alternates and 93 Guests.

Mr. Thompson asked that the names being submitted be typed or printed clearly so the name tags can be done right the first time and if you have guests please add those names on the guest registration sheet. Please make sure you get you registrants in on time, we had 13 Detachments that came in late.

There were 7 Detachments that did not register. They were Arkansas, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Philippines, Puerto Rico and South Dakota.
Mr. Thompson, Jr. (NE) reported the following registered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detachment</th>
<th>Membership as of 7/26/2016</th>
<th># Delegates</th>
<th># At-Large</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total Registered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>1,652</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
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This concluded Mr. Thompson’s report.

At this time George Flasinski (PA) was called to give the National Membership Committee Report.

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

George Flasinski (PA), Chairman

Mr. Flasinski reported we had 31 Detachments that hit 100% with 17 Detachments hit All-Time High. SAL Resolution 8 from 2015 Convention has been tabled and requested that the Detachments of California and Minnesota come up with a program in their Detachments then report back to us. At this point we have no further update so there is no further discussion until we receive updates from them.

The following awards were given:

**Arthur D. Houghton Trophy Awards**
- Category I: Oklahoma
- Category II: Wyoming
- Category III: Massachusetts
- Category IV: Minnesota
- Category V: Florida

**Hartline Award (Detachment with the most newly chartered Squadrons)**
Minnesota, Missouri and Ohio

**Triple Nickel Award** – None Awarded

**Largest Squadron Award** – Newport Harbor, Squadron 291, Newport Beach, California – 1,751 Members
Regional Renewal Awards
East  France
South  Mississippi
Central  Minnesota
Mid-West  North Dakota
West  Idaho

90% Renewal Awards
Delaware, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin

Regional 100% Awards
East  France
South  North Carolina
Mid-West  South Dakota
Central  Wisconsin
West  Nevada

This concluded the Membership Report. Mr. Flasinski (PA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Minnesota, Shawn Davis. Motion carried.

Shawn Davis, Minnesota asked, in light of the presentation of the Auxiliary yesterday regarding their membership, is there a plan for the Sons to develop a similar plan to reach 500,000 in the next few years?

Commander Collier, replied, there currently isn’t a plan but we do have Strategic Initiative Committee that is looking into how to grow this organization and move it forward so if you have any thoughts or suggestions please see the Committee they will be meeting at the Fall NEC Meeting. They will be open to all and any suggestions. Concluded discussion.

At this time Peter Sierminski (CO) was called to give his report for the Child Welfare Foundation.

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE
Peter Sierminski (CO), Chairman

Mr. Sierminski began by saying what a great year. The total in donations was $360,299.13 which is over $1 per member. There were 26 Detachments with over $1 per member in per capita and 8 Detachments that donated over $10,000. SAL had given almost $7 million to help with grants. Last October over $640,000 in grants went out to 24 Non-profit organizations. Nevada did some great things this year. We are only $75,000 away from reaching the $7 million mark.

Mr. Sierminski (CO) presented the following awards:

Per Capita Awards Largest in the Nation – Nevada - $25.87 per member
Per Capita Awards in the Mid-West Region – Colorado - $5.54 per member
Per Capita Awards in the Central Region – Missouri - $2.64 per member
Per Capita Awards in the South Region – **Mississippi** - $4.10 per member  
Per Capita Awards in the East Region – **Vermont** - $1.63 per member

**Largest Monetary Donation in the Nation** – **Ohio** - $50,966.30

**Largest Monetary Donation in the East Region** – **Pennsylvania** - $31,754.50  
**Largest Monetary Donation in the South Region** – **Florida** - $25,600.00  
**Largest Monetary Donation in the Mid-West Region** – **Colorado** - $17,162.34  
**Largest Monetary Donation in the West Region** – **Arizona** - $23,820.00

Detachments over $2.00 per member that were **not** Regional winners were:  
Alaska, Arizona, Oregon and Wyoming

Detachments over $1.00 per member that were **not** Regional winners were:  
Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, France, Indiana, Kansas, Montana, North Carolina,  
Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and West Virginia

Indiana was on Ohio’s heels with $42,000 in donations this year.

Mr. Sierminski (CO) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.

At this time Thomas Marsden (NJ) was called to give his report on the History Book Awards.

**HISTORY BOOK AWARDS**  
**Thomas Marsden (NJ), National Historian**

Mr. Marsden (NJ) stated there were 10 History Books submitted this year.

Mr. Marsden presented the History Book Award Winners:

- **Squadron** – **Dalton-La Vallee Squadron 224, Easthampton, Massachusetts**  
- **District** – **Florida, 6th District**  
- **Detachment** – **Vermont**

Mr. Marsden (NJ) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Massachusetts. Motion carried.

At this time Ronnie Wright (MD) from USAA was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Wright said USAA was established in 1922 by military members for military members and their families. USAA’s mission is to facilitate and the financial securities of our members, associates and their families by providing a full array of financial products and services. USAA has remained true to their founding values of service, loyalty, honesty and integrity.

USAA has been in a relationship with The American Legion Family since 2010. We also help sponsor programs such as Legion Baseball, Legacy Run and Boys Nation. We share a common goal to support our United States Armed Forces and their families.
We are currently transitioning from Visa to Master Card but you don’t have to do anything if you have our card because it will be done automatically. Mr. Wright invited everyone to stop by the USAA booth for information. This concluded his speech.

Commander Collier made Mr. Wright (MD) a Distinguished Guest and gave him a challenge coin.

At this time PNC Earl Ruttkofsky (MI) was called to the stage. PNC Ruttkofsky gave a brief introduction of the Richard Lynch Band. The Richard Lynch Band raised funds for the “Love Tattoo Foundation” in which a portion of the proceeds go towards the Wilwin Lodge in Michigan.

The Richard Lynch Band provided musical entertainment at this time.

At this time Clint Bolt (VA) was called to give the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Report.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMITTEE
Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman

Mr. Bolt said, Convention is a fun time to see our totals for the year and receive awards. Mr. Bolt said Ruth Wheeler (MA) Auxiliary member is the longest serving volunteer in the VA Voluntary Service with over 65 years continuous service. She has logged in over 26,500 hours and is still serving the VAVS. We want to encourage our young members to volunteer. To qualify for the VA Scholarship they have to be under the age of 19, beyond 10th grade and volunteer at the VA.

We currently have 66 Reps and Deps at 48 VA Facilities 12,676 regular hours and 2,977 occasional hours with a total of 15,653 volunteer hours. This calculates to $22 an hour for a total of $344,000.

The American Legion has NEVER said NO to any legitimate request for a donation upon the charities.

Our year end totals for 2016 accomplishments are: Family Support Network - $69,244 in donations; National Veterans Assistance Day – 38,563 hours, $57,057 donations, 5,380 veterans assisted which is an increase of 1,863; Fisher House – $89,525 donations; Support for Our Troops - 68,879 hours, $260,171 donations; Other VA Projects – 89,404 hours, $582,793 donations; Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) – $66,532 which is a $10,757 increase over last year. Our VA&R totals are: 455,656 hours with an increase of 25% from last year and $1.6 million in donations that’s a 23% increase from last year.

The following Awards were presented:

Kirby Kepler Memorial (Squadron): Colton Squadron 155, Colton, California

1st Place: Mid-West – Kerrville Memorial Squadron 208, Kerrville, Texas
South – Cleburne Squadron 19, Heflin, Alabama
Central – Rantoul Squadron 287, Rantoul, Illinois
East – John Handte Squadron 89, Vestal, New York
Allen I. O’Brian Memorial (District): 1st District, Detachment of Georgia

Earl Webster Memorial (Detachment): Georgia

Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year: Gabe Cinquegrana from Squadron 256, Canandaigua, New York (Made a Distinguished Guest)

The following members didn’t win the Volunteer of the Year but are being recognized:
Richard Trzcinski (TX – Squadron 208), Carvin Chapman (MI – Squadron 377) and Danny Smith (NE – Squadron 32)

This concluded his report.

Mr. Bolt (VA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by California. Motion carried.

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the 2016 American Legion Youth Champions and Shayne Abrahams (IN), Assistant Director, C&Y to the stage.

Benjamin Crosby (WA), 2016 Oratorical Champion introduced Joshua Wasilewski (VT), 2015 American Legion Baseball Team Captain.

Joshua Wasilewski (VT) thanked Commander Collier and the Sons for inviting him. He’s honored to stand before those that tirelessly work to preserve the freedom we sometimes forget to cherish. Those that sacrificed and served our country are the true distinguished guests. This concluded his remarks.

Benjamin Crosby (WA), 2016 Oratorical Champion introduced Taylor Gibson (OR), 2016 Precision Shooting Champion.

Taylor Gibson (OR) thanked the Sons and Commander Collier for their support. She said it’s always important to have goals in mind. The generous scholarship will put her one step closer to her goal for college to continue to grow her knowledge and skills. This concluded her remarks.

Benjamin Crosby (WA), 2016 Oratorical Champion introduced Emma Thompson (IL), 2016 Sporter Shooting Champion.

Emma Thompson (IL) thanked Commander Collier and the Sons for the wonderful experience and inviting her to speak. She thanked the Sons for the very generous scholarship that will help with her college tuition. This concluded his remarks.

Benjamin Crosby (WA), 2016 Oratorical Champion introduced Anighya Crocker (TN), 2016 Boys Nation President.

Anighya Crocker (TN) told a brief story about the black bird and the wise man. The future of this nation is in our hands. The Sons play an active role in this nation and my life. This concluded his remarks.

Anighya Crocker (TN), 2016 Boys Nation President introduced Benjamin Crosby (WA), 2016 Oratorical Champion.
Benjamin Crosby (WA) said for years The American Legion Family has helped young Americans find themselves through the services you provide. Participating in the Oratorical Program benefited on an individual level by narrowing it down to the kind of lawyer I want to be. I now know I want to be a lawyer specializing in Constitutional Law and hope to defend the people of this United States in front of The US Supreme Court. This concluded his speech.

Benjamin Crosby (WA), 2016 Oratorical Champion announced that Jacob Kelly (WI) was the 2016 Eagle Scout of The Year. Benjamin Crosby spoke briefly about Jacob Kelly (WI) on his behalf.

Commander Kevin Collier (AK) made all the Youth Champions and Mr. Abrahams Distinguished Guests and gave them all challenge coins.

At this time Daniel S. Dayton (MD), Executive Director, World War 1 Centennial Commission was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Dayton (MD) said we owe so much to the “dough boys” who served 100 years ago. Congress in 2013 decided to establish a Commission without funding which made it a little more of a challenge. The Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, Illinois, stepped up to the plate and became our founding sponsor. They are the reason we are here with you today.

All four former US Presidents have signed on as Honorary Chairmen. There are 12 Commissioners in which 6 are appointed by Congress, 3 appointed by the President, 1 appointed by the VFW, 1 appointed by WWI Museum in Kansas City and 1 appointed by The American Legion whom is James Whitfield (MO).

Our mission is to plan, develop, and execute programs, projects and activities to commemorate the Centennial of World War I (WWI). This concluded his speech.

Commander Collier (AK) made Mr. Dayton (MD) a Distinguished Guest and gave him a challenge coin.

At this time PNC William Detweiler (LA), President, Endowment Fund and Meagan Sweet, Assistant Director, C&Y were escorted to the stage.

PNC Detweiler (LA) said to thank Commander Collier and members of the Sons for all your fundraising efforts. PNC Detweiler spoke about how the funds are used and are for short term help. The Detachment of Florida was presented with the Harry W. Colmery Legacy Award and The Detachment of Nevada was presented with the James A. Drain Founder’s Award. This concluded his presentations and speech.

Commander Collier made PNC William Detweiler a Distinguished Guest and gave him a challenge coin.

At this time Mark Tansel (IN) was called to give the Internal Affairs Committee Report.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman**

Mr. Tansel stated there were two (2) Resolutions submitted. They are as follows:
SAL 2-CONV 2016 – Titled: Endorsement of Jay Marsden (MO) for National Vice Commander. This Resolution was received and filed.

SAL 3- CONV 2016 – Titled: Sons of The American Legion Everlasting. Mr. Tansel (IN) returned it to the Detachment of New York for not being in proper form. Therefore, it was rejected and returned to the originating Detachment of New York.

Mr. Tansel reminded the NECmen the Commander school is coming up and to get signed up for NMI1 to contact Don Culver. The recommendations must come from the NECman ONLY and they are a first come first serve basis.

We are still trying to find out where the CSRs being submitted to Mysal.org are going. The article in the Legion Magazine are still in discussion. This concluded his report.

Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.

Robert Stover (CA) asked what was the discussion and what efforts are being done with the two Resolutions regarding Sons of The Year Award and the magazine article?

Mr. Tansel said the Resolution for the magazine article has been referred back to the PR Commission. The Resolution for the Sons of The Year was rejected by The Legion Internal Affairs and he didn’t have the final disposition with him.

Robert Stover (CA) asked for a basis for the rejection of the Sons of The Year Award and has any effort been made to resolve the issue? Mr. Tansel said he didn’t have the answer and he called upon the National Judge Advocate, Joseph Paviglianti.

NJA Paviglianti didn’t have any further information.

Robert Stover (CA) again asked what will be done to resolve those issues? The National Judge Advocate, Joseph Paviglianti, said, obviously they both have been turned into the NEC so I recommend that the NEC of the particular state, California in this case, take action at the Fall NEC to follow up asking for disposition and discussion on that subject. Convention cannot address that as they are sitting in the NEC itself. Robert Stover (CA) said he appreciated his direction and will take action accordingly. Discussion has concluded.

John C. Whitman (IN) said the NMI is a popularity contest for choosing who goes to the NMI classes and shouldn’t be done on a first come first serve basis. Mr. Tansel (IN) said that’s the way it has been done and the procedure for several years.

David Faust (WI) said we aren’t getting the information from the Squadrons that are submitting their CSR’s through mysal.org. The Detachments are not getting the information the Squadrons are submitting through mysal.org and the Squadrons are being robbed of their chance in getting recognition so I’d like to ask the leadership to make it a priority. I sadly say that I have stopped promoting mysal.org because I’m not going to put a Squadron in the position of doing what we ask them to do and then getting “screwed” out of what they got coming to them. Mr. Tansel said, his comments are duly noted by the Assistant Adjutant. A motion and 2nd was made. Discussion closed.
At this time Greg “Doc” Gibbs (NY) was called to give the Americanism Committee Report.

**AMERICANISM COMMITTEE**  
**Greg Gibbs (NY), Chairman**

Mr. Gibbs said we’ve had another outstanding year with Americanism. Past National Americanism Chairman Danny Smith (NE) left us a smooth pathway to success with all the things he put into place the last few years.

Mr. Gibbs said our Americanism website gets over 600-700 hits a week on an average and many positive comments from all over the US.

We have a new role in the Samsung Scholarship and a greater presence in the Oratorical Contest as well. We’ve collected the following data collected from the CSR’s just this year. We collected $4,931,000 around Americanism issues and events just this year; donated $127,000 to NEF; accumulated over 1,562,900 hours in Americanism Programs; Sponsored over 8,900 Scout Troops; Over 18,300 Color Guard appearances; over $858,000 in Scholarships awarded; over 600,081 flags placed on grave sites; over 76,900 flags presented at ceremonies; 2,082 flag etiquette programs presented; over 2,700 shooting sports events and over 11,600 pints of blood donated. Those are just from the CSR’s that were submitted to us.

Mr. Gibbs (NY) presented the following awards:

The following Community Service Scrapbook Awards were presented:

- **Community Service Squadron Scrapbook Award** – *Harry White Wilmer, Squadron 82, La Plata, Maryland*
- **Community Service District Scrapbook Award** – *3rd District, Minnesota*
- **Community Service Detachment Scrapbook Award** – *Maryland*

The winners for the Gerald Atwood-Edward Beyea-Raymond York Memorial Award are:

- **#1 Detachment in the Nation** – Georgia
- **#1 District in the Nation** – 9th District, Georgia
- **#1 Squadron of the Year** – *John Handte, Squadron 89, Vestal, New York*

The following National Emergency Fund Awards were presented:

- **Largest Donation Per Capita in the Nation** – Oregon
- **Largest Donation Per Capita in the Central Region** – Michigan
- **Largest Donation Per Capita in the East Region** – Connecticut
- **Largest Donation Per Capita in the Midwest Region** – Montana
- **Largest Donation Per Capita in the South Region** – Arkansas

The following Legacy Scholarship Fund Awards were presented:
Largest Donation in the Nation – Michigan ($3,750.00)

Largest Donation in the South Region – Florida
Largest Donation in the East Region – New York
Largest Donation in the Midwest Region – Nebraska
Largest Donation in the West Region - Arizona

At this time a slide was shown. This concluded his report.

Mr. Gibbs (NY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Indiana. Motion carried.

At this time Randy Eicher (OH) was called to give his report on Children and Youth.

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMITTEE
Randall L. Eicher (OH), Chairman

Mr. Eicher (OH) said Commander Collier wanted us to continue focusing on The American Legion Endowment Fund with a goal of 25 cents a member. Unfortunately we didn’t hit that goal but we donated almost $24,000 to the fund.

Improving communication was also another goal for the Children & Youth Commission. We conducted bi-monthly conference calls and midway through the year we established and published a quarterly electronic newsletter which we distributed with the help from the National Vice Commanders distributing it to the Detachments within their regions.

There were only 1,658 Squadron Report Forms received by the due date of July 31st which is a 3% increase from last year. The CSR’s reported the following: Special Olympics - $396,904 with 47,414 service hours; CMN - $133,508 with 14,242 service hours; Josh Dogs - $62,500 with 2,626 Josh Dogs distributed; OMK - $40,720 with 7,250 service hours; Other Children & Youth Programs/Projects - $1,264,000 with 260,780 service hours.

The following Children & Youth Awards were announced:

East Region – Leonardo Memorial of Middletown Township Squadron 338, Leonardo, New Jersey
Central Region – Trier-Puddy Squadron 75, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
West Region – Earl E. Mitchell Squadron 29, Glendale, Arizona
South Region – Arlington Squadron 283, Arlington, Florida
Midwest Region – Richard Gilbert Squadron 256, Wichita, Kansas

Detachment – Florida
District – 4th District, Georgia
Overall Squadron – Colton Squadron 155, Colton, CA

Mr. Eicher (OH) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Indiana. Motion carried.

At this time David Lee (NY) was called to give the Legislative & Rules Convention Committee Report.
Mr. Lee (NY) said we encourage everyone to sign up to receive information from the National Legislative Commission. We have current information daily or weekly and we need to stay on top of it. There’s a huge back log with the VA and we shouldn’t have a back log. VA is a wonderful program if it’s working properly. The way The American Legion fixed it we reduced the back logs by 90%. There shouldn’t be a back log so we need to get the blue cappers involved and get the information out.

The Washington Conference for 2017 will be February 26 – March 6, 2017. Wreath laying ceremony on February 26th at 9:15 am at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. We may also go to the Pentagon where the plane crashed on 9/11 for a wreath laying as well as the Korean War Memorial.

George B. Evans Grassroot Veterans’ Advocate of The Year Award –
Roy A. Santiago, Scranton & Qualle Squadron 872, Hughson, California

This concluded his report.

Mr. Lee (NY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by California. Motion carried.

Milton Chatham, Texas, asked why are we donation to OMK when the program ended in March 2015. Commander Collier replied, I can’t answer for the Detachments. You’ll have to check with the Detachments that are donating to the program.

Mr. Chatham (TX) said maybe there should be a correction made to the Consolidated Squadron Report. Commander Collier said we would review it and make sure it’s not on there. This concluded this discussion.

At this time Dennis Blue (MN) was called to the stage for the Finance Committee Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Dennis Blue (MN), Vice Chairman

Mr. Blue (MN) wanted to thank “Doc” for what he had done for the Commission and without him it wouldn’t be what it is today.

The group asked me for a handout but I didn’t have one to give them. It was discussed to budget money to the PR Program so they would advertise and promote us somewhere.

Everyone said they liked what we did last Fall with reimbursement but not sure if we will continue with it.

Mr. Blue (MN) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.

Robert Stover (CA) asked if there’s a budget posted anywhere. Mr. Blue (MN) said not that I know of. Robert Stover (CA) asked was there a budget provided to any member of this Convention? Mr. Blue (MN) said not an updated one, no. Mr. Stover (CA) asked what are our projected gross revenues for next year. Mr. Blue (MN) said it will go from $2 off our total
Mr. Stover (CA) asked if he knew what that number was. Mr. Blue (MN) said it wasn’t given to him yet. Mr. Stover (CA) said, so the Finance Commission reviewed no budget and has no recommendations for this body. Is this correct? Mr. Blue (MN) said that is correct and we most of our work at the Fall Conference for the ending of this year and beginning next year. Mr. Stover (CA) stated so this body is to work in the blind with no report or statement as to what our budget is or whether our prior budget was meet or exceeded?

National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) said, for the Finance Commission of the Convention, they do not handle the budget. All the finances are handled through the National Executive Committee. Every NECman received the budget before it was submitted. Mr. Stover (CA) asked what date was it done? National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) said it was sent in the October for the following year. Mr. Stover (CA) asked, there was no review by the Finance Committee of the budget. National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) said, yes, they prepare the budget and submit it to the NEC. The Convention can’t act on any fiscal year items. It has to be done through the NEC and the Constitution to the Rules of the NEC. Mr. Stover (CA) said, I understand that, but is there not an obligation into this body to make a basic report as to what the projected revenues are and whether we’re in the red or in the black so that this body knows so they can talk to their NECmen or otherwise we’re simply moving forward in the blind? National Adjutant O’Hearne said, your NECman is your representative to us and they receive the information at every NEC meeting the Finance Committee Reports. So, if they aren’t reporting back to you then that’s an issue you have with your NEC. Mr. Stover (CA) said the Chairman of the Committee has done nothing to report to us. National Adjutant O’Hearne said the purpose for this meeting (Convention) is to act on any fiscal recommendations presented by Detachments. Mr. Stover (CA) said, in reality, if there’s no budget how can the Detachment make that recommendation? Adjutant O’Hearne said, but there is a budget, your NEC received it last fall. We do not publish the budget here (Convention), you are correct, because your Detachment has already had it since October. Mr. Stover (CA) said publishing the budget at the Convention is a requirement. This is a body of the Detachment and it’s at this body the National Convention we’re entitled to see those things just like a Detachment Convention for each state there is a basis for each of the Delegates to have the opportunity to review those issues otherwise they have no ability to go forward to any committee or commission to make requests. Adjutant O’Hearne said, but in your Detachment Convention they are approving your budget and for us it goes through the NEC to approve the budget. That’s where all the fiscal responsibility lies with the Finance Commission of the National Executive Committee not the Convention Committee. Mr. Stover (CA) said, I understand your position, sir, but it’s not available anywhere on any site, thank you.

Ned Fox (CA) wanted to expand on the report regarding Public Relations. Commander Collier asked he hold his question(s) for “Under the Good of The Sons” because we are discussing the Finance Report. This concluded the discussion.

At this time John Jennings (FL) was called to give the Constitution and By-Laws report.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE
John Jennings (FL), Chairman

Mr. Jennings (FL) reported there was one (1) Resolution submitted and read.

SAL 1 – CONV 2016 Titled: Constitutional Change to Eligibility Wording. Mr. Brown (GA) said it was read at the committee meeting some discussions and comments and the decision was to recommend approval.
Mr. Jennings (FL) made a motion to accept Resolution SAL 1 – CONV 2016 as read, seconded by Ohio. Motion carried.

**Robert Manzo (MD) is this intended to bring the National Constitution and By-Laws in line with the verbiage of The National American Legion Constitution or if this does not exist I don’t understand the purpose of adding the verbiage. Only because the eligibility dates are open since the Persian Gulf War of 1990 and Congress, if I’m correct, opens and closes dates. So I’m not sure what this Resolutions amendment will actually do other than to put verbiage in to the Constitution.** John Jennings (FL) said, to answer your question, you are absolutely correct in one aspect that the dates are in The American Legion National Constitution but there is one part to it, the August 2, 1990 deration, which is the War on Terrorism. The Gulf War is dated July 1 to 1990 with the War on Terrorism starts August 2 to 1992. Mr. Jennings also said, “War on Terrorism” is being added to our eligibility. **Robert Manzo (MD) said so there are two separate delaminating periods, one for the Gulf War and a month later it opens up again for the War on Terrorism? I’m not sure if that’s accurate.** National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) said, you are correct there aren’t two delaminating periods. It’s simply to add “War on Terrorism” into our Constitution. We cannot change the dates as it says in there, they are determined by The American Legion whatever Article it is. They have the actual dates, so ours is just adding the verbiage “War on Terrorism” eligibility statement into our Constitution. **Robert Manzo (MD) asked, that will bring us in line with National’s verbiage or are we violating the National Constitution of The American Legion by changing this?** National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) said, I don’t believe the National Constitution of The Legion has WWI and those. I think they just have the dates themselves. O’Hearne said a lot of the publications list them separately and the War on Terrorism is listed on a separate line. **William Towns (OH) spoke and said, the intent of this Resolution was not to cause arguments on the dates or when the wars were actually eligibility. The intent was the National organization was publishing the War on Terrorism as membership eligibility on several areas of the website, handouts, flyers and our applications. We’re basically having the Constitution in line with what is currently being published. It’s not changing anything other than putting it in line with what is currently being published, changing any dates or eligibility. It’s just cleaning up language on what we are currently publishing.**

**Kenneth Warner (PA) asked, can a Delegate from Ohio 2nd the nomination since they are the author of this Resolution?** Commander Collier (AK) said, yes, they have paid Delegates for this Convention. This concluded this discussion.

At this time Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called for the National Vice Commander’s Final Reports.

National Vice Commander William Hill (MD) was called for his final report from the Eastern Region.

NVC William Hill (MD) said there’s not a lot more about the “Beast of the East”. It’s been a fantastic year and an honor beyond belief. I’ve had the opportunity to visit several states and watch them fall right in line with Commander Collier’s concept of R.O.C.K.E.D.

I had the honor to meet with a man that served with General Patton. I also met a 90 year old female veteran during my travels. I had a great opportunity to travel around the states. It’s been a pleasure and honor to serve with Commander Collier and all the NVC’s. This concluded his report.
NVC Hill (MD) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by California. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Dennis Henkemeyer (MN) was called for his final report from the Central Region.

NVC Dennis Henkemeyer (MN) said thank you to the Detachment of Minnesota for allowing me to run for this high office as well as PNC Doug Bible and PNC Joe Mayne for their knowledge. I also thank my wife and was just elected Department Commander for Minnesota, Denise Milton. I want to thank my father for his service.

The Central Region was the first to hit 100% in membership, the first to hit 101% in membership and have lead in first place since the beginning of the year. Your combined efforts on working the renewals gave us over 90% in renewals. Finally, through your hard work and dedication we had every Detachment of this region in excess of 100%. Thank you for your hospitality and a great year. This concluded his report.

NVC Henkemeyer (MN) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Illinois. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Steve Curry (KY) was called for his final report from the Southern Region.

NVC Steve Curry (KY) thanked Commander Collier and the NVC’s for a good year and allowing him to serve. I hope the South rises again next year. This concluded his report.

NVC Curry (KY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Florida. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Steve Ward (KS) was called for his final report from the Midwest Region.

NVC Steve Ward (KS) said it’s been a great year and working with all the NVC’s. I had the privilege of visiting four Detachments and attend the Oratorical Contest. It was a special privilege to witness the swearing in over 100 Army Recruits. I want to thank everyone for all their hospitality and teamwork from the Midwest Region and for your donations to CWF. This concluded his report.

NVC Ward (KS) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Colorado. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander William Foster (AZ) was called for his final report from the Western Region.

NVC William Foster (AZ) said thank you for the opportunity to serve as the NVC. He thanked the state of Arizona for having the confidence in him to serve as the NVC this year. I want to thank my wife, Terri, and Joe Roberts for all their help. The Western Region came in 2nd place and had the top three Detachments in the Nation. All of Nevada’s Squadrons had 100% in membership. It’s been a please and honor to serve each and every one of you. This concluded his report.

NVC Foster (AZ) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Oregon. Motion carried.
At this time National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) presented the Detachment of Ohio with a Citation of Appreciation for their outstanding service to CWF.

National Commander Collier (AK) called National Historian, Tom Marsden (NJ) and National Commander’s Aide Austin Diaz (AK) to the stage. Commander Collier made them Distinguished Guests.

At this time Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called on Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) for the Credentials Committee Final Report.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

**Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE), Chairman**

Mr. Thompson (NE) reported at the close of registration we had 46 Detachments, 904 Delegates, 27 Alternates and 93 Guests. There have been no changes since the report from early this morning. This concluded his report.

Mr. Thompson (NE) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called for all donations. Following donations the National Vice Commanders announced their caucuses.

Commander Collier (AK) recessed the meeting until Sunday, August 28, 2016 at 8:00 am, following a rendering right-hand salute to the colors.

The 45th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 8:00 am on Sunday, August 28, 2016, at the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) declared the Convention in session.

National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) was called to invoke the blessing of God. National Vice Commander Steve Curry (KY) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) then called for National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin L. Collier (AK)</td>
<td>National Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William G. Hill (MD)</td>
<td>National Vice Commander – East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve R. Curry (KY)</td>
<td>National Vice Commander – South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN)</td>
<td>National Vice Commander – Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Ward (KS)</td>
<td>National Vice Commander – Midwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William L. Foster (AZ)</td>
<td>National Vice Commander – West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)</td>
<td>National Adjutant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)</td>
<td>National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL)  National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)  National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)  National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)  National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)  National Assistant Adjutant
Scott J. Thornton (OH)  National Assistant Adjutant
Michael L. Lawler (WI)  National Chaplain
Thomas E. Marsden (NJ)  National Historian
Joseph Pavligianti (NY)  National Judge Advocate
Kyle A. Parkerson (AK) – E  National Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)  National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)  National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond P. Giehll, III (IN)  National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)  National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Matthew Chebro (GA)  National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Austin R. Diaz (AK)  Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders
Michael Seaton (CA)  Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
J.R. Stillwell (IL)  Steve Laws (NC)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)  Neal Warnken (KS)
David P. Stephens (IN)  Michael Deacon (IA)
Christopher Cerullo (NY)  Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas Bible (MN)  Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
David R. Faust (WI)  Thomas Cisna (IL)
Eugene Sacco (CA)  James K. Roberts, III (FL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)  Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)  Joseph W. Gladden (MD)
John T. Dietz (KY)  Michael Moss (CO)
William E. Matoska (MI)

National Convention Delegations
Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France
Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,
Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire,
New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania,
South Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia,
Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

At this time donation totals were announced:
Endowment Fund – $3,165.75
Legacy Fund – $6,336
OCW – $22,615
NEF – $10,297.86
CWF – $109,912.25

The donations from CWF put us over the $7 million mark.

At this time the 2016 Color Guard Champions from California were presented with their award
and made Distinguished Guests by National Commander Kevin Collier (AK).
At this time the Sons of The American Legion National Memorial Service will be conducted.

National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to secure the door and to uncover for the duration of the Memorial Service. Randy Cash, Past National Chaplain, Bird Derrick, Auxiliary National Chaplain and Bernie Kessler, Detachment Chaplain (OH) conducted the invocation.

*Memorial candles were lit at this time. (Music played during the lighting ceremony)*

At this time National Commander Collier (AK) and National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) placed Memorial Wreaths. At this time the National Vice Commanders, William G. Hill (MD) from the East, Steve R. Curry (KY) from the South, Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN) from the Central, Steve Ward (KS) from the Mid-West and William L. Foster (AZ) from the West placed the Regional Memorial Wreaths.

Bernie Kessler (OH), Detachment Chaplain read “For Everything There is a Season” scripture.

*(All sang “Battle Hymn of The Republic” at this time)*

National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) said a prayer followed by the Memorial Service.

At this time was the Poppy Seed Placement in memory of The American Legion Post National Commander Thomas Cadmus (MI), Past National Auxiliary President Kris Nelson (MN) and Jerry “Doc” Leopold (KS), Finance Chairman.

*(All sang “Amazing Grace” at this time)*

National Chaplain Lawler paid honor and memory to those in Squadron Everlasting.

At this time Bernie Kessler (OH), Detachment Chaplain conducted the Benediction followed by Taps. This concluded the Memorial Service.

**Special Order of Business**

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY) to read the rules of the convention governing the nomination and election of Officers.

National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) read the roll call for nominations of the *Office of National Commander*.

The Detachment of Alabama yielded to Michigan, Michigan requested permission for PNC Earl Ruttkofsky (MI) to approach the podium for the purpose of nomination. Alaska yielded to the Detachment of Minnesota, Minnesota requested PNC Joseph Mayne (MN) permission to approach the podium to give a seconding speech. All Detachments represented, seconded the nomination.

The roll call was completed and National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) announced that there was one candidate for National Commander, Jeff Frain (AZ). PNC Michael Seaton (CA) moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Jeff Frain (AZ) for the Office of National Commander 2016-2017, seconded PNC J. R. Stillwell (IL). Motion carried.
The Sergeant-At-Arms and all Past National Commanders escorted Jeff Frain (AZ) to the podium. Following a brief speech by newly elected Commander Frain, Kevin Collier (AK) made Mr. Frain (AZ) a Distinguished Guest of the National Convention.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the roll call for nomination for the Office of National Vice Commander.

At this time nominations for Office of National Vice Commander for the East Region was conducted.

The Detachment of Connecticut yielded to Massachusetts, Massachusetts requested permission for PNVC Mark Avis (MA) to give a nomination speech. Delaware passes, France seconded the nomination. Joseph Korba (NJ) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region for the year 2016-2017. The nomination for Joseph Korba (NJ) was seconded by all Eastern Region Detachments.

At this time nominations for Office of National Vice Commander for the South Region was conducted.

The Detachment of Alabama yielded to Florida, Florida requested permission for PNC James Roberts, III (FL) to give a nomination speech. The Detachment of Georgia yielded to North Carolina, North Carolina requested permission for PNC Steve Laws (NC) to give a seconding speech. William Kelly, Jr. (FL) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Southern Region for the year 2016-2017. The nomination for William Kelly, Jr. (FL) was seconded by all Southern Region Detachments.

At this time nominations for Office of National Vice Commander for the Central Region was conducted.

The Detachment of Illinois yielded to Wisconsin, Wisconsin requested permission for PNC David Faust (WI) to give a nomination speech. Indiana yielded to the Detachment of Illinois, Illinois requested PNC Thomas Cisna (IL) permission to approach the podium to give a seconding speech. Michael L. Lawler (WI) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Central Region for the year 2016-2017. The nomination for Michael L. Lawler (WI) was seconded by all Central Region Detachments.

At this time nominations for Office of National Vice Commander for the Mid-West Region was conducted.

The Detachment of Colorado requested permission for PNC Michael Moss (CO) to give a nomination speech. Kansas yielded to Oklahoma, Oklahoma requested permission for PNC Richard Cook (OK) to give a seconding speech. Kenneth Yanke (CO) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Mid-Western Region for the year 2016-2017. The nomination for Kenneth Yanke (CO) was seconded by all Mid-Western Region Detachments.

At this time nominations for Office of National Vice Commander for the West Region was conducted.
The Detachment of Alaska yielded to Nevada, Nevada requested permission for PDC Mitch Roach (NV) to give a nomination speech. Arizona seconded, California requested permission for PNC Michael Seaton (CA) for a seconding speech. Joseph Keiser (NV) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Western Region for the year 2016-2017. The nomination for Joseph Keiser (NV) was seconded by all Western Region Detachments.

Following the completion of roll call, National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) announced the five nominations. Robert Brown (GA) moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for all five National Vice Commander candidates, seconded by John Lawrence, Louisiana. Motion carried.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to bring forth the newly elected 2016-2017 National Vice Commanders to the stage.

The Sons of The American Legion National Convention stood in recess for the Joint Memorial Service until 12:30 pm.

The Sons of the American Legion National Convention reconvened at 12:30 pm.

With the colors being in place, rendered a right-hand salute.

National Commander Collier (AK) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort the installing Officer NVC George Cushing (AZ) to the stage. NVC Cushing asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort the newly elected National Officers, with the exception of the National Commander, to the stage for installation.

The newly elected National Officers were installed by NVC George Cushing (AZ), National Vice Commander of The American Legion.

NVC Cushing (AZ) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Jeff Frain (AZ) and his family to the stage.

NVC George Cushing (AZ) called for the newly elected National Commander of the Son of The American Legion, Jeff Frain (AZ) for installation.

At this time NVC George Cushing (AZ) called for the Outgoing National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) to release him from his duties as the National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion.

At this time NVC George Cushing (AZ) handed the gavel to the newly installed National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ). NVC Cushing and his wife were made Distinguished Guests.

At this time Jeff Frain’s father placed his name tag and Jeff’s son, William, placed his cap.

At this time National Commander Collier made his mother, Lavonne Collier a Distinguished Guest. Commander Collier’s mother did the changing of the cap and name tag.

The newly elected National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ) called on his granddaughter, Kianna, to welcome everyone the American Legion Family and asked if they are ready. Commander Frain
thanked his family for their sacrifice in allowing him to become the National Commander for the Sons of The American Legion. Mr. Frain (AZ) made Chuck Treat (AZ) and several other people Distinguished Guests. He also thanked the blue cappers and their wives. This concluded his speech.

At this time all the newly elected National Vice Commanders, Mike Lawler (WI), William Kelly, Jr. (FL), Kenneth Yanke (CO), Joseph Korba (NJ) and Joseph Keiser (NV) all gave brief speeches and thanked everyone for nominating them (All NVC’s were made Distinguished Guests).

PNC Willie Williams (OR) presented the incoming National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ) with a LARGE gavel.

National Commander Frain (AZ) said, I look out there and see all of you are here because of our veterans and want to say thank you again and, Are you ready? Think about why you joined the American Legion Family because a lot of a have a passion and we recognize what it is and utilize it to move it forward.

My theme this year is “Knowledge Is Power”. Just imagine if we all knew what the programs of The American Legion are and how to implement them. Educate the people while we are here. I want to start an Educational Program.

The Membership theme is “Be A Super Hero – Sign Up Three American Hero’s”. Chuck Treat (AZ) will be handing out a book after this meeting called “Power of Knowledge” which as twelve chapters on membership. Membership is the life line of this organization so find three veterans to sign up.

At this time a power point presentation was shown.

One of my programs will be American Legion Baseball so we can get out there and them who we are. We need to get out there and sponsor their baseball team and promote this program.

My number one program will be Child Welfare Foundation. $109,00.00 was donated yesterday putting us over the $7 million mark, “Make no debate we will hit eight”. Dennis Boland was challenged to shave his head by May 31st if the American Legion Family hit $1 million donation this year you will see Dennis Boland bald!

In closing, Mr. Frain thanked all for their support and dedication to the veterans and thank you to the veterans for being members and spending time with us. Final question, Are you ready for the “Knowledge of Power Tour”?

At this time the podium was turned back over to National Commander Kevin Collier (AK).

PNC Chris Cerullo (NY) presented the outgoing National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) with his flag from his year.

At this time PNC Joe Gladden (MD) presented Jeff Frain (AZ) with his colors.

At this time National Commander Collier (AK) called for any Old Business.
**Old Business:**

National Historian Tom Marsden (NJ) asked for pictures.

Rob Brewer (OH) announced a recap of the weekend activities and donations. Mr. Brewer (OH) thanked Ohio Squadron 194 and everyone that participated in the success of the weekend activities. We raised $130 in memory of Pat Shea (OH); $2,980.26 from Golf Outage; $2,039.42 raised from dinner with a total of $5,019.68 for CWF. Commander Collier thanked Mr. Brewer and the Detachment of Ohio. This concluded the old business.

At this time National Commander Collier (AK) called for any New Business.

**New Business:**

No new business. This concluded the new business.

At this time National Commander Collier (AK) called For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion.

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

Ned Fox (CA) asked why does the Finance Committee meet at Convention? What is our value at convention but we have no input if expenses are paid by the Legion? Our incoming Commander Jeff Frain has thrown the challenge out now that our NEC need to seriously think when they get into the budget process to pump some money in to promote this organization on the outside at Legion Baseball and Youth Sports…all that is great and I will leave it at that. This concluded his comment.

PNC Jim Roberts (FL) asked were the Sons will meet for the parade.

Commander Collier (AK) called Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Brian Waters (PA) to announce the parade schedule and meeting information. Mr. Waters (PA) provided the parade information and the Division placements.

Bill Geary (IL) asked to approach the stage along with Paul Hayes and Jimmy Hunter for a presentation. Paul Hayes (IL) presented $9 to Commander Collier for SAL members not having any membership applications on them. Jimmy Hunter (IL) also presented Commander $20 in which $10 of it from him for his phone going off during a meeting and the other $10 for SAL members not having membership applications with them.

Father Gary Hammerschmidt announced that Chuck Belles is not in very good shape and to keep him in our prayers and thoughts.

*Michael Fox (CA) said, I know for a fact that three Detachments turned in the paperwork for the only individual recruitment award that National has. What happened to that paperwork and why were those members not recognized? Commander Collier said, I will have to ask because I have not seen those forms. Commander Collier asked which forms are you talking about? Michael Fox (CA) said, Blue Brigade. Commander Collier said those would have come through membership and I don’t know what happened to the applications but I will find out. Mr. Fox (CA) said, it was stated on the Membership Report that nothing was turned in and I can*
guarantee you for a fact that California did submit theirs to the National Liaison, John Kerestan, and copied the Membership Chairman, George Flasinski. George stated he never received anything back so I would like to know what transpired in the communication? You have one reward to recognize individuals for recruitment and yet we’re doing nothing to honor those individuals. Commander Collier, again, I was not aware any were turned in or missing but I will find out and we will get a message back to you. We will make sure those that are due we will have them at the Fall NEC. George Flasinski, Membership Chairman, said, in the meeting we said there were no Blue Brigades but there were Blue Brigade Recipients. We do not bring the jackets to the meeting because the jackets seem to disappear before they get to the recipients. They will be sent from National Headquarters but I do not have the official head count. This concluded this discussion.

PNC Douglas Bible (MN) announced the 2017-2018 Leading Candidate is Danny Smith (NE) for National Commander; 2nd Leading Candidate is Greg “Doc” Gibbs (NY).

Commander Collier (AK) called all the Sergeant-At-Arms to the stage to make them Distinguished Guests. (Brian Water (PA), Matt Chebro (GA), Ray Giehll, III (IN), Lyle Larson (KS) and Danny Poole (MI)).

Commander Collier presented Raymond Giehll, III (IL), Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms with The American Flag from the Sons Cincinnati Convention.

Robert Stover (CA) said as a point of order there was a question posed to you by Mr. Ned Fox (CA) that there was no response from the chair, please state your intent. National Judge Advocate, Joseph Paviglianti (NY) stated, there’s a degree of confusion around the Finance Commission. I hope to clarify and answer the questions that were posed to the National Commander and will ask that what I say will be accepted as an answer for the National Commander. The Finance Committee of the National Conventions purpose as defined in our Uniform Code of Procedure for the National Convention is to formulate and recommend matters of policy to the Convention concerning the financial affairs of The Sons of The American Legion that is guided by the Finance Commission of the National Executive Committee who has fiscal responsibility directed through the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion that all matters of business affecting the financial policy of The Sons of The American Legion may be given the recommendation by the National Executive Committee Finance Commission who in turn takes the matters up with Internal Affairs. This concluded NJA Paviglianti’s explanation. Mr. Ned Fox (CA), said for the purpose of moving this Convention on, I will accept this answer. This concluded this discussion.

Commander Kevin Collier (AK) said this year has been fantastic and wonderful. I want to thank everyone for making it such a wonderful year and will cherish every moment of it. I am very proud of everyone for hitting the $7 million mark, again thank you and stand proud of what you’ve done this year.

This concluded the Good of the Sons.

The Post NEC Meeting will begin in fifteen minutes after we adjourn.
With no further business to come before the National Convention, National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) turned the podium over to National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) to end the meeting in prayer.

The Sergeant-At-Arms was called to retrieve and retire the POW/MIA Flag. The National Color Guard Champions were called to retrieve and retire the National Colors.

Commander Kevin Collier (AK) declared the 45th National Convention adjourned.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
POST CONVENTION MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2016

The Post Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion was held on Sunday, August 28, 2016, at the Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The colors being in place, render a right hand salute.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AK) asked Past National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander Joseph Korba (NJ) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander Joseph Keiser (NV) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past Commanders and Detachments.

National Officers
Jeff C. Frain (AZ) National Commander
Joseph A. Korba (NJ) National Vice Commander
William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL) National Vice Commander
Michael L. Lawler (WI) National Vice Commander
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO) National Vice Commander
Joseph B. Keiser (NV) National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA) National Adjutant
Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus

Past National Commanders
Kevin Collier (AK) Byron Robichaux (LA)
J. R. Stillwell (IL) Michael Deacon (IA)
David Stephens (IN) Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Christopher Cerullo (NY) Thomas Cisna (IL)
Douglas Bible (MN) James Roberts, III (FL)
David Faust (WI) Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
Roland Matteson (AZ) Joseph Gladden (MD)
Joseph Mayne (MN) Michael Moss (CO)
National Executive Committeemen Delegations
Alabama (N), Alaska (N), Arizona (B), California (N), Colorado (B), Connecticut (B), Delaware (B), Florida (N), France (N), Georgia (N), Illinois (B), Indiana (B), Iowa (N), Kansas (A), Louisiana (N), Massachusetts (A), Michigan (A), Minnesota (A), Missouri (N), Montana (N), Nebraska (A), Nevada (N), New Hampshire (A), New Jersey (N), New Mexico (N), New York (N), Ohio (B), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (B), South Carolina (N), Vermont (B), Washington (N), West Virginia (N), Wisconsin (B) and Wyoming (N).

National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) stated that there was a quorum present.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) declared the Post Convention National Executive Committee meeting convened.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) then installed the National Executive Committeemen and Alternates who were present.

National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ) read the list of National Officer appointments for 2016-2017 are as follows:

- Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)     National Adjutant
- Robert J. Avery (NY)       National Assistant Adjutant
- Ed Sheubrooks (FL)         National Assistant Adjutant
- David M. Ridenour (IN)     National Assistant Adjutant
- Scott Williams (VA)        National Assistant Adjutant
- Anthony W. Wright (PA)     National Assistant Adjutant
- Scott Thornton (OH)        National Assistant Adjutant
- Richard A. Ellwein (MT)    National Chaplain
- Michael Kane (PA)          National Historian
- Joseph Paviglianti (NY)    National Judge Advocate
- Danny Poole (MI)           National Sergeant-At-Arms
- Lyle G. Larson (KS)        National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
- Brian K. Waters (PA)       National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
- Raymond Giehll, III (IN)   National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
- Wes Fulton (NE)            National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
- Matthew Chebro (GA)        National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
- Charles E. Treat, II (AZ)  Aide to the National Commander
- Mike Pipher (IN)           Editor, SAL Newsletter
- Clifford E. Hall (GA)      Event Coordinator
- Wes Wills (KS)             Webmaster

A motion was made, accepted by Bob Brown, Georgia, seconded by Tom Glander, Alabama accept the Officer appointments. Motion carried.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) indicated that the Commission/Committee appointments had been distributed.

A motion was made by Commander Frain to accept the appointments by Alabama, seconded by Pennsylvania. Motion carried.

The Commission/Committee Chairmen were called to stand for recognition.
Commander Frain (AZ) called for any *Unfinished Business* – There was none.

Commander Frain (AZ) called for any *New Business* – There was none.

Commander Frain (AZ) announced the transition meeting will be at 8:00 am, Room 238. The Fall NEC Room reservation forms have been mailed and e-mailed out. They need to be returned by September 4th.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee Meeting, National Chaplain Richard A. Ellwein (MT) gave the benediction.

With the colors being in place and a right hand salute, Commander Frain declared the Post Convention of the NEC of the SAL adjourned.