

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**OF**  
**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**  
**May 5 – 6, 2012**

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPRING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
May 5 – 6, 2012**

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) called the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, May 5, 2012 at the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Chaplain William Towns, Jr. (OH) gave the invocation.

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) called for the Sergeant-At-Arms to place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Bob Fulkerson (KY) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander John Sansoucie (MO).

Commander Roberts (FL) then asked National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to read the call of the National Executive Committee.

Commander Roberts (FL) instructed National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne to read the roll call.

Present were: E (excused)

**National Officers**

James K. Roberts, III (FL)	National Commander
James A. Noble (NJ)	National Vice Commander
Bob Fulkerson (KY)	National Vice Commander
John A. Sansoucie (MO)	National Vice Commander
Danny J. Smith (NE)	National Vice Commander
Steven A. Blank (AZ)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert J. Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Lyle Larson (KS) - E	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
William L. Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Chaplain
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
James L. Brennan (FL) - E	National Historian
Michael W. Dooley (FL)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Fifield (MA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

David Dew (TX)

Robert McBride (SC)

J. R. Stillwell (IL)

James Hartman (MD)

Charles E. Gannon (MD)

David P. Stephens (IN)

Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)

Douglas Bible (MN)

Roland D. Matteson (AZ)

Joseph M. Mayne (MN)

William E. Matoska (MD)

Byron J. Robichaux (LA)

Clifford A. Smith (MA)

Steve C. Laws (NC)

Neal C. Warnken (KS)

Michael Deacon (IA)

Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)

Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)

Thomas Cisna (IL)

Mark E. Arneson (GA)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

Commander Roberts (FL) then called upon National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the reading of the minutes from the last meeting.

***A motion was made by Ohio to accept the minutes, seconded by Illinois. Motion carried.***

At this time National Commander Roberts (FL) welcomed all the Detachment Commanders and asked first time attendees of the Spring NEC Meeting to stand for recognition.

Commander Roberts thanked everyone for attending and to remember to stand, speak loud and state your name.

Be sure the information is getting back to your Detachments from these meetings.

Commander Roberts called for Mr. Robert Caudell (IN), Executive Director, Child Welfare Foundation to be escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Caudell said he is honored and humbled to be here today and thank you for the great work you’ve done to benefit the Child Welfare Foundation.

As of right now the SAL has donated \$261,949.56 for a total over \$474,000 with \$37,000 ahead from last year.

This weekend CWF will debut a new video that has been produced. It will highlight three organizations that benefit from your grants; Our Military Kids, TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) and COTA (Children Organ Transplant Association). This will be available on the Legion and SAL websites along with 2,000 DVD’s available for mailing.

We will have shirts, mugs and coins available at the booth at National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

When you send a check in for CWF be sure to specify where it came from and break down the donations so the credit will be correct. Mr. Caudell thanked everyone for all their hard work. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Roberts (FL) called for all donations.

***Total Donations Received: CWF \$121,322; NEF \$8,675; Legacy Fund \$150; Operation Military Kids \$200 and CMN \$4,518. We are only \$17,000 away from our CWF goal.***

Commander Roberts called on National Liaison John Kerestan (IN) for remarks.

Mr. Kerestan began by welcoming everyone to the Spring NEC Meeting and the Detachment Commanders Conference. He announced that anyone needing check entitlement to please see Harold Thompson, National Assistant Adjutant in the SAL office.

Starting with the October Fall Meeting you'll see a new block of information asking for your 9-digit SAL member ID number. Finance is requiring your number for reimbursement purposes. Also, make sure you're talking to each other about your hotel reservations.

Working with our National Headquarters Fund Raising Division on an SAL mailing label program. This program is voluntary and optional if you desire it. If you are interested, you will need to work with your department for approvals. It will be up to the department where the proceeds will go.

Mr. Dan Fastenau was called to the stage to answer questions about the SAL mailing label program. Mr. Fastenau said none of the departments are losing money on this program.

*Question: David Lee (NY) – is there a way to insert a card asking for DOB?*

*Answer: Yes, with no additional cost.*

*Question: Joe Monti (MO) – we don't want to send labels to infants. Is there a way that this won't happen?*

*Answer: There is a date of birth field that will be used to extract the information using specific criteria so minors will not receive labels. In order for this to work there would have to be a birth date on their record. This concluded the questions.*

Mr. Kerestan said we only have approximately 10% of DOBs. Make sure you check with your state if your department wants to do an insert and check with your state laws. Some state laws won't allow you to ask for birth dates if they are under 18.

Mr. Kerestan again, thanked everyone for their attendance this weekend. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Roberts (FL) called for announcements.

Announcement of the leading candidate reception and Caucuses to meet after the meeting.

There was an additional \$840 in cash collected for NEF.

At this time the General Session was adjourned at 9:30 am with a right hand salute to the colors and to resume at 8:45 am, Sunday, May 6, 2012.

**The Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 am, Sunday May 6, 2012.**

With colors being in place and following a right hand salute, National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) declared the National Executive Committee Spring Meeting reconvened.

National Chaplain William Towns, Jr. (OH) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Danny Smith (NE) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Steve Blank (AZ).

National Commander Roberts (FL) then called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders, NECmen, and Alternate NECmen.

Present were: E (excused)

**National Officers**

James K. Roberts, III (FL)	National Commander
James A. Noble (NJ)	National Vice Commander
Bob Fulkerson (KY)	National Vice Commander
John A. Sansoucie (MO)	National Vice Commander
Danny J. Smith (NE)	National Vice Commander
Steven A. Blank (AZ)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL) - E	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert J. Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Lyle Larson (KS)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
William L. Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Chaplain
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
James L. Brennan (FL) - E	National Historian
Michael W. Dooley (FL)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Fifield (MA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL)	Aide To The National Commander

**Past National Commanders**

David Dew (TX)	William E. Matoska (MD)
Robert McBride (SC)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
James Hartman (MD)	Steve C. Laws (NC)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Michael Deacon (IA)
David P. Stephens (IN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Mark E. Arneson (GA)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)	

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

Represented by Camille A. LeJeune, Jr., Detachment Commander, asked for voice only.

Commander Roberts wanted to recognize Benjamin Gwen and Jonathan Alexander from the US Navy that are in attendance. Commander Roberts also asked the NMI graduates to stand for recognition.

At this time, the Commission/Committee Reports were given.

At this time Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness gave their report.

### **HOMELAND SECURITY and CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

#### **Harl "Butch" D. Ray (IL), Chairman**

Mr. Ray (IL) asked, Are you ready? All members should be ready to deal with all natural and man-made disasters that have been tossed our way. Your membership helps you to be prepared. Recent tornadoes in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana were devastated. One Post in Southern Illinois was heavily damaged and another completely destroyed. Applications for NEF relief were sought by both Legion and SAL members. Some of these applications were denied because their 2012 dues were not paid.

This Committee is continually working on a relationship with FEMA that we established at the Fall NEC by the October meeting we hope to have youth preparedness workshops available to each Detachment. We also hope to submit support Resolutions at the next NEC meeting to mirror those of the American Legion in regards to Homeland Security, Civil Preparedness and National Security. Those of you that already have names for Homeland Security, Civil Preparedness and National Security to please send them to us. This concluded his report.

At this time Legislative gave their report.

### **LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

#### **David W. Lee (NY), Chairman**

Mr. Lee (NY) reported, at the Washington Conference the SAL laid 20 wreaths, last year we had 17. We also had a 55 passenger bus and 64 people. Thank you to the 14 that found alternate transportation.

In New York, they had over 23,000 bills go through our Legislature this last year. They cannot read everything so that's why we need to stress the issues we have and tell them about the Legion and what we're all about.

The 2013 Washington Conference will be held, February 24-27, 2013 at the Washington Hilton with the tour on February 24<sup>th</sup>. This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by New York to accept the report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.*

At this time Leading Candidate Jim Koutz (IN) and National Commander Fang Wong (NY) were escorted to the stage.

Mr. Koutz began by saying the Legion can take a lesson from the SAL in membership on how to get membership. I don't know what the answer is but I think The American Legion is going to have to start advertising...we are a business.

I appreciate what the SAL has done for CWF and the National Oratorical Contest. If it wasn't for the Sons, I don't know what would happen to it. This concluded his speech.

National Commander Fang Wong (NY) began by saying, it's great that your family concept is out there working and always present with SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders. Commander Wong thanked the SAL for their CWF support. Each year the SAL ups there goal and achieves it.

*National Commander Wong presented SAL, National Commander Jim Roberts (FL) with his American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) Completion Certificate and Pin.*

Commander Wong also encouraged everyone to take the ALEI course online. This concluded his speech.

At this time Public Relations gave their report.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

### **Damon Bradtmueller (IN), Chairman**

Mr. Bradtmueller (IN) stated we continue to promote the growth and accomplishments of the Sons of The American Legion. It was suggested we keep a monthly total of the Consolidated Report Forms, therefore, at the end of the year it would be easier to total it up. It was also suggested you post it at your post home. This lets the American Legion Family and any guests that visit your post see what you're doing in hopes to encourage membership.

We discussed the use of correct media. The newspapers are always looking for an interesting story to publish. Let them know by sending in articles and pictures. We also discussed the use of social media via websites, facebook and twitter. Larry Weinzirl (MD) offered to set aside time at the Fall NEC meeting to assist Squadrons and Detachments to build websites and facebook pages.

Commander Wong elaborated on the American Legion Extension Institute (ALEI) and you are encouraged to take the course.

We are looking into a photo contest based on the 4 Pillars of The American Legion. The name of the contest will be called "Snapshots of Service". We will have another PR Fair at the 2012 National Convention.

Commission would like to see both the Adjutant Manual and Consolidated Report Forms as fill able forms online that can be downloaded, printed and mailed/e-mailed.

PNC David Stephens (IN) asked if we could put together a DVD explaining the Committee and Commissions that can be given to Detachments, Districts and Squadrons.

Mr. Bradtmueller said PR is everyone's responsibility. This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by Indiana to accept the report, seconded by Idaho. Motion carried.*

At this time VA&R gave their report.

**VA&R COMMISSION**  
**Thomas E. Kurk (NY), Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Kurk reported for Bruno Williamson (IL) the following:

Commander Roberts spoke briefly to the Commission and stressed the importance of his three points of focus for the year; Communication – Commitment – Recognition. He also challenged our Commission to have representatives from the SAL in every hospital across our Nation.

Volunteer Service hours that are being donated by SAL members are not being counted into the VSS. All those volunteering should make sure the Chief of Volunteer Services is recording the hours into their system. Currently the SAL has representation in 50 hospitals.

The Wounded Warrior Project continues to foster the most successful, well adjusted generation of wounded service members in our nations history. The purpose is to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members.

The Ride 2 Recovery (R2R) partnered with the military and VAVS Office. This program is to benefit the mental and physical rehabilitation programs for our wounded veterans with cycling as the core activity. The Detachment of Illinois had the Illinois Honor Ride April 28<sup>th</sup> and the Detachment of Indiana will have an Honor Ride on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Females make up 14-15% of the US active duty force and 14% of veterans and the percentage of women in the military has doubled in the last 30 years. As the female veterans population grows so will the number that will be at risk of becoming homeless. 8% of our active duty personal are female and even though they face many of the same challenges that their male counterparts do they have some issues that need to be addressed and brought to light. Homeless Women Veterans have nearly doubled topping out at approximately 3,300 per night even though homeless veterans had gone down 12% in the past year. Brochures are available through the Washington Office of The American Legion titled "Guide for Women Veterans". Contact their office to obtain these brochures. This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by Tennessee to accept the report, seconded by New York. Motion carried.*

At this time Children & Youth gave their report.

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION**  
**Michael Moss (CO), Chairman**

**Child Welfare Foundation Committee - reported by Peter Sierminski (CO)**

We are less than \$25,000 away from our goal of \$400,000. We only have 25 days left to make our goal which is \$1,000 a day to make goal. We currently have 540 CAT members in which we want to try to get it up to 1,000 by the end of this year.



The CWF will continue the 100% Per Capita Banner Program and the forms are on the website. Only 178 Units, Posts and Squadrons have submitted for the Per Capita Banner. There have been 285 applications submitted with 165 of those from SAL.

Mr. Caudell mentioned a new CD/DVD that will be available for CWF about 11 minutes long that provides a brief overview of the history and objective of The American Legion CWF. Squadron 24 in Colorado has 25 members and has donated \$10,000 to CWF.

We had one (1) Resolutions submitted –

- 1.) NEC 2-S12 Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2012 budget.*

This concluded his report.

Mr. Mike Moss (CO) reported:

Mr. Moss thanked everyone for what they do for the children of our Country. Please get your reports back to National so your hard work can be reported. Remember April was Children and Youth month. Report those activities and get them back to your Detachments.

There were five (5) Resolutions submitted –

- 1.) NEC 4-S12 Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 45 (NEC October 2006): Children's Miracle Network.*
- 2.) NEC 5-S12 Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 33 (NEC May 2009): Children's Organ Transplant Association.*
- 3.) NEC 6-S12 Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 294 (2010 National Convention): Support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities.*
- 4.) NEC 7-S12 Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 30 (NEC May 2005): Operation Military Kids.*
- 5.) NEC 8-S12 Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 33 (NEC October 2007): Support for Special Olympics.*

This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by Colorado to accept his report, minus the Resolutions, seconded by Delaware. Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 2-S12 titled "Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2012 Budget". A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by Missouri (Joe Monti). Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 4-S12 titled "Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 45 (NEC October 2006): Children's Miracle Network". A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by Connecticut (Bob Turner). Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 5-S12 titled "Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 33 (NEC May 2009): Children's Organ Transplant Association". A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by California (Mark Severance). Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 6-S12 titled “Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 294 (2010 National Convention): Support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by Kentucky (Jim Effner). Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 7-S12 titled “Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 30 (NEC May 2005): Operation Military Kids”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by Michigan (Ronald Wyatt). Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 8-S12 titled “Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 33 (NEC October 2007): Support for Special Olympics”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by Wisconsin (Kelly Powers). Motion carried.*

Commander Roberts called for the Americanism Report.

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION**  
**Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Chairman**

Mr. Hammerschmidt (KS) reported the Committee Reports which are in your packet as well as on the website. When you send in your Consolidated Report Forms please be sure they are filled out completely especially how many members, your Detachment or Squadron in case there's a tie by not having this information you will not be included.

We need to get scrapbooks submitted this year. Last year we only had two Detachments and five Squadrons. Let's get this bumped up this year.

Veteran's Assistance Day is May 19<sup>th</sup> so get your articles to me of what you have done.

There was one (1) Resolution submitted –

- 1.) NEC 3-S12 Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 48 (NEC October 2011): Star Spangled Banner.*

This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by Ohio to accept the report, minus the Resolution, seconded by Minnesota. Motion carried.*

*Resolution Chairman Jeff Frain (AZ) read Resolution NEC 3-S12 titled “Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 48 (NEC October 2011): Star Spangled Banner”. A motion was made by Jeff Frain (AZ) to accept the Resolution, seconded by Mississippi (Ron Roberts). Motion carried.*

Commander Roberts called for the Internal Affairs Report.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

### **Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman**

Mr. Tansel (IN) called for the following to be given:

#### **Convention – reported by Raymond Giehll, III (IN)**

The 41<sup>st</sup> National Convention will be in Indianapolis from August 24-26, 2012 using Hyatt Regency Hotel. A golf tournament will be held on Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> and a dinner at Post 500 for \$25 per person on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds from the golf tournament and dinner will go to CWF.

There will be a parade in The American Legion Mall area with a variety of food and drinks for sale provided by the Department of Indiana. We are also working on a bus trip to our two local casinos as well as information on our local War Memorials.

From Thursday to Thursday you'll be able to park at Post 64 or Post 500 for \$30 for the whole week and they will take you straight to your hotel. This concluded his report.

#### **Membership – reported by Thomas Wigmore (MA)**

Our membership team have done outstanding...keep up the good work. The renewal rate is 80%. We have a little work to do but I know it will get done. We are currently at 92% and did not make the 90% Target Date, but I know this too will get done.

The convention season is approaching all of us. Go back to your Detachments and challenge your Squadron members to bring the renewals to convention. Give them special certificates who brings in the most membership.

The 100% Target Date is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Let's get out there and get those memberships in. This concluded his report.

#### **Member Training & Development – reported by Scott Thornton (OH) for Mike Sawicki (IL)**

NMI class will be held on Saturday. Kevin Ivery will work with PNC's Joe Mayne and Robert McBride in the first class; Lloyd Schaeffer will work with PNC's Steve Laws and Neal Warnken on session two; I (Scott Thornton) would take session three with PNC's Byron Robichaux and Mark Arneson.

We continue to have conference calls on a regular basis to discuss the projects we have going on. We also talked about the "Pre-Flight" training that will be presented at National Convention this year for all Delegates and Guest of the Legion Family. This is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> that will be open to everyone to learn about the National Organization.

NMI 1 – 18 in class with a waiting list; NMI 2 – 22 in class; NMI 3 – 17 in class that also graduated. NECmen, if you have people you want to attend NMI classes please get those names into Mr. Culver because as I said there is a waiting list to attend. The Fall NEC meeting features the Commander's Conference so please plan for the incoming Commander's to attend to get information to take back to their Detachment. This concluded his report.

Mr. Tansel (IN) stated there was one (1) Resolution submitted:

- 1.) NEC 1-S12 – Endorsement of Harrell R. Sorrells (IN) for National Vice Commander – Central Region, 2012-2013. Motion was made and accepted to receive and file this Resolution.***

Vice Chairman Don Culver (KS) relayed concerns that have been expressed by National Liaison John Kerestan (IN) regarding the slow rate of growth in our membership. We do great at bringing in new members, but we still lose about 20% annually who do not renew. We really need to focus on keeping our existing members. This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by New Jersey to accept the report, seconded by Missouri. Motion carried.*

Commander Roberts called for the Finance Report.

**FINANCE COMMISSION**  
**Jerry Leopold (KS), Chairman**

Dr. Leopold (KS) reported the NEC has given us the charge to monitor the finances of the Sons. We've had a total income of approximately \$700,000, spent about \$660,000 which leaves an excess of \$40,000 that will be put into reserves or programs of The American Legion that need Sons support.

We are working to make the process of monitoring SAL funds much better. We are adopting a new accounting system. We have also started on the 2013 budget comparing it to the 2012 budget. The final budget for 2013 will be presented at the Fall Conference.

We had one (1) Resolution that was already read and approved – *NEC 2-S12 Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2012 Budget.*

When you spend an X number of dollars for printing of brochures and such. That may be \$178,000 versus \$170,000 that was budgeted. So we take that into account for the budget for the coming year and make those adjustments accordingly. No, we didn't over spend, we had money there. This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by Virginia to accept the report, seconded by Maryland. Motion carried.*

*Question: Jim Gelwicks (CO) – What area was the overages in on the budget?*

*Answer: The overage was with printing and a small amount in travel. We had dollars from the NEC Call-Ins that we could move into travel for Officers. The main overage was due to printing.*

This concluded the discussion. At this time Commander Roberts called for the Resolutions Report.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Jeff Frain (AZ), Chairman**

Mr. Frain (AZ) stated we had seven (7) Resolutions submitted and passed on the floor. We need more Resolutions from some of the other Committees. This concluded his report.

*A motion was made by Georgia to accept the report, seconded by Kentucky. Motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commander Jim Roberts (FL) called for old business. No old business to discuss.

Damon Bradtmueller (IN) stated he missed announcing the SAL now has an app for the iPhone and Android.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commander Jim Roberts (FL) called for new business.

Raymond Giehl, Jr. (IN) stated, with the recommendation of the Committee on Committees that NO NECman serve on any Committee, Commission or any other position appointed or otherwise in the National Organization. They already have a job to do. Should that come in conflict as an elected NECman they should resign as the NECman or resign the position they have in the National Organization. That concluded his comment.

National Judge Advocate and National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne stated this is already a policy in place.

Commander Roberts read: In preparation for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, the following are my appointments as Convention Committee Chairmen:

Americanism – Gerald Hamerschmidt (KS); Children & Youth – Mike Moss (CO);  
Constitutional Amendments – Jeff Frain (AZ); Credentials – Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE);  
Finance – Jerry Leopold (KS); Internal Affairs – Mark Tansel (IN);  
Membership – Thomas Wigmore (MA); VA&R – Bruno Williamson (IL);  
and Legislative and Rules – David Lee (NY)

*A motion was made by Commander Jim Roberts (FL) to accept his appointments, accepted by Colorado, seconded by Georgia. Motion carried.*

## **FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Commander Jim Roberts (FL) called For The Good of the Sons.

John Odom (FR) presented four checks totaling \$1,100 to CWF.

Brian O’Hearne (MA) announced May 9<sup>th</sup> is the Target Date as well as the cut-off for renewal cards. Also, those that attended the Friday night session, PNC Joe Mayne and Judge Advocate Joe Paviglianti put on a seminar for the Convention Committee Chairmen and Vice Commanders called “Showtime”. Thank you to both Joe’s for the outstanding work they did.

For all the people that remember that night there were “buzz words” that you need to look for and get out there, so the “buzz” for Convention is, there will be a session Saturday afternoon that will be instructive and illustrative called “Pre-Flight” open to everyone.

Ron Roberts (MS) commented that we are doing a lot better at our conferences in conducting business, however, there is one area we still need to improve on is to stand, be recognized, state name and state.

Ken Warner (PA) thanked everyone for the overwhelming responses for his speedy recovery.

Commander Roberts stated the marching orders are not done after we rap the gavel after this meeting. You as NECman need to take information to your Detachment and Squadron leadership back home.

Also we’ve done some pretty cool things with public relations and have all the videos on “You Tube”. We have been a “You Tube” success.

Commander Roberts thanked Jonathan and Benjamin from the US Navy for their service to our Country and their attendance at the Sons meeting.

This concluded the Good of The Sons.

***A motion was made by Commander Jim Roberts (FL) to adjourn, accepted by Pennsylvania (Jim Brown), seconded by New Jersey (Kent Hehl). Motion carried.***

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee, National Chaplain William Towns, Jr. (OH) gave the benediction.

Sergeant-At-Arms retired the colors. Following a right-hand salute, National Commander Roberts declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 2 – S12

**Title:** Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2012 Budget

**Origin:** Child Welfare Committee

WHEREAS, The Child Welfare Foundation is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion since its inception in 1987; and

WHEREAS, There is a constant and vital need for funding of many programs and grants that can assist children in need; and

WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to these children in our country; and

WHEREAS, The support and recognition provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has further established our organization as a true partner in the goals and principles of the "Legion Family"; now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 5 - 6, 2012 that a donation in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars, (\$5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. And be it further;

**RESOLVED**, That the funds be taken from the 2012 Child Welfare Foundation Donation budgeted line.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 3 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 48 (NEC October 2011): Star Spangled Banner

**Origin:** Americanism Commission

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion encourage and recommend the playing of the National Anthem at all sporting events and that it be performed in its original customary and traditional rendition; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion urge radio and television networks and stations to desist from preempting with commercial advertisements the singing and playing of our National Anthem and the raising and/or lowering of our Flag; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion is opposed to any changes in the words and music of the National Anthem as adopted under Public Law 823 of the 71st Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion promotes the establishment of March 3 of each year as a national day of observance for “The Star Spangled Banner” and that the patriotic observance of this day stress the origin of The Star Spangled Banner: now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2012, that the Sons of The American Legion support the American Legion Resolution No. 48 (NEC October 2011): Star Spangled Banner.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION





# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 4 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 45 (NEC October 2006):  
Children's Miracle Network

**Origin:** Children and Youth Commission

**WHEREAS**, It is the position of The American Legion that all children should have quality health services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being; and

**WHEREAS**, Children's Miracle Network – the alliance of premier hospitals for children – is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children by raising funds for children's hospitals across North American; and

**WHEREAS**, The 170 Children's Miracle Network hospitals provide service 24 hours a day to help children of all ages and backgrounds overcome every disease and injury imaginable – from asthmas and broken bones to cancer, heart defects, pediatric AIDS, muscular dystrophy and serious injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, These children's hospitals are also on the front lines of preventing disease and injury through research, education and outreach programs that keep millions of children out of the hospital each year; and

**WHEREAS**, Every year, Children's miracle Network hospitals treat 17 million children based on need regardless of the family's ability to pay, impacting the lives of more children out of the hospitals each year, and

**WHEREAS**, Thousands of special events and grassroots fundraisers are conducted year-round through a collation of premier children's hospitals, media partners and corporate volunteers working together to ensure healthy children in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion adopted Fall NEC 2006 Resolution #45 to adopt and support the Children's Miracle network as a program endorsed by The American Legion; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sons of The American Legion, being a program of the American Legion and support their adopted programs; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 5-6, 2012, endorses American Legion Fall NEC – 2006 Resolution #45, and adopt and participate in the programs of the Children's Miracle Network to ensure that all children receive the life saving and crucial treatment services they need; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion encourages its Detachments and Squadrons to work with and support their local Children's Miracle Network affiliated children's hospitals to benefit the health and well being of our nation's children.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 5 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 33 (NEC May 2009):  
Children’s Organ Transplant Association

**Origin:** Children and Youth Commission

**WHEREAS**, It is the position of The American Legion that all children should have access to quality medical services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well being; and

**WHEREAS**, Children’s Organ Transplant Association exists to assist patients who require life-saving organ, bone marrow, cord blood or stem cell transplant; and

**WHEREAS**, Children’s Organ Transplant Association seeks to assist all patients 21 years of age and younger in need of organ transplant; and

**WHEREAS**, Each day 15, 000 children are waiting for an organ transplant and another 5,000 are in need of bone marrow transplant; and

**WHEREAS**, Children’s Organ Transplant Association assists families from across the nation with local fundraising efforts and matching grant to meet transplant related expenses that are not typically covered by health insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, Support of Children’s Organ Transplant Association will improve the lives of children and families in need of organ transplants and increase public awareness of their plight; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Children and Youth Commission of The Sons of The American Legion, recommends the support of American Legion Spring NEC-2009 Resolution #33; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2012, that The Sons of The American Legion adopt and participate in the programs of Children’s Organ Transplant Association to ensure that children receive the life-saving organ transplants they need; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion encourages its Detachments and Squadrons to work with and support the fund raising efforts of Children’s Organ Transplant Association to benefit the health and well being of our nation’s children in need of organ transplants.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 6 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No.294 (2010 National Convention):  
Support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities

**Origin:** Children and Youth Commission

**WHEREAS**, historically, it has been The American Legion’s position that all children should have quality services to assure their physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, it is estimated that between 7 and 8 million Americans of all ages, or three percent of the general population experience intellectual disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Intellectual disabilities cuts across the lines of racial, ethnic, educational, social and economic backgrounds and one in ten families in the United States are directly affected by a person with intellectual disability at some point in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, Intellectual Disabilities in children is a complex problem with educational, medical, social, cultural and vocational aspects, and presents a major challenge to the social, educational, health, and economic systems within the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, About 87 percent of those children with intellectual disabilities are mildly affected and may not be identified until they enter school, and as adults many will be able to lead independent lives in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, The remaining 13 percent of people with intellectual disabilities will have serious limitations in functioning, but with early intervention, a functional education and appropriate support as adults, can lead satisfying lives in the community; and

**WHEREAS**, During the past 30 years, significant advances in research have prevented many cases of intellectual disabilities, and other early intervention and prevention strategies have reduced the chance of intellectual disabilities in children; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sons of The American Legion, as a program of The American Legion, supports and encourages the participation in all supported American Legion programs, and

**WHEREAS**, The National Children and Youth Commission of The Sons of The American Legion recommends the support for the following American Legion Resolutions:

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 6 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No.294 (2010 National Convention):  
Support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities

**Origin:** Children and Youth Commission

*Resolution No. 335 2006 National Convention*

*Resolution No. 333 2008 National Convention*

*Resolution No. 294 2010 National Convention; now therefore be it*

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2012,, That the Sons of The American Legion recognize and support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities to enjoy a quality of life that promotes independence, self-determination, and participation as productive members of society; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion supports continuing research, and preventive and early intervention efforts to prevent intellectual disabilities, to include research on the development and function of the nervous system, fetal treatments, and gene therapy to correct the abnormality produced by defective genes; and early intervention programs with high-risk infants and children; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That whenever possible, the Sons of The American Legion is encouraged to help alert the public through awareness and education programs designed to change the negative attitudes and prejudices concerning our nation's intellectually disabled children.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 7 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No.30 (NEC May 2005):  
Operation Military Kids

**Origin:** Children and Youth Commission

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion, since its inception, has advocated for the interest of the children of veterans and improve conditions for all children; and

**WHEREAS**, The children of activated or deployed military personnel face unique family situations and would benefit by connecting to other children in similar circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, Children of military personnel are especially vulnerable to being socially isolated and in need of a structured program that helps them cope with the hardships associated with military family life; and

**WHEREAS**, Operation Military Kids seeks to enhance the lives of these children through community based volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion currently has active children and youth programs in Departments and Posts; and

**WHEREAS**, Support of Operation Military Kids will improve the lives of children and greatly increase the visibility of existing children and youth programs of The American Legion; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion has adopted Spring NEC - 2005 Resolution #30 adopting and encouraging the participation in the programs of Operation Military Kids; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the National Children and Youth Commission of the Sons of The American Legion, recommends the adoption of American Legion Spring NEC – 2005 Resolution #30; and therefore be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 2012, that the Sons of The American Legion encourages its Detachments and Squadrons to work with and support their local Operation Military Kids efforts to contribute to the well being of children of military personnel.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION



# Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on May 5 - 6, 2012

## Resolution

**No.:** NEC 8 – S12

**Title:** Support of The American Legion Resolution No.33 (NEC October 2007):  
Support for Special Olympics

**Origin:** Children and Youth Commission

**WHEREAS**, Intellectual disabilities affect about one in ten families in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion since 1919 has advocated on behalf of our nation’s children to ensure “A Square Deal for Every Child;” and

**WHEREAS**, Special Olympics, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition, seeks to change negative attitudes and misperceptions about people with intellectual disabilities, replacing stigma and rejection with an emphasis on potential, ability and acceptance; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion family, through our volunteer involvement and financial contributions at the department and community levels, has helped support the mission of Special Olympics for over 30 years, and continues to pursue ways to assist Special Olympics in their worthwhile endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, Support of Special Olympics programs will enhance the lives of children with intellectual disabilities and combat negative attitudes about the intellectually disabled through public awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Children & Youth Commission of The Sons of The American Legion recommends support of The American Legion resolution No. 33 “Support for Special Olympics”, Fall NEC-2007; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 5-6, 2012, that the Sons of The American Legion supports the Special Olympics, who assist in providing year-round sports training and athletic competition to millions of children and adults with intellectual disabilities in the United States and around the world; and, be it finally

**RESOLVED**, The Sons of The American Legion urge all its Squadrons, Districts and Detachments to work with and support the Special Olympics programs in whatever capacity that they so choose to increase quality of life opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Jeff Frain

JEFF FRAIN (AZ), CHAIRMAN  
RESOLUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Peter Sierminski

PETER SIERMINSKI (CO), CHAIRMAN  
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Jerry Leopold

JERRY LEOPOLD (KS), CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE COMMISSION

**ADDENDUM B**

***Internal Affairs Commission Report to  
National Executive Committee  
The American Legion  
May 9-10, 2012***

Disposition of Action of  
Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee May 5-6, 2012.

<b>RESOLUTION NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>SAL NEC 1-S12</b>	<b>Endorsement of Harrell R. Sorrels (IN) for National Vice Commander</b>	<b>Received and filed</b>
<b>SAL NEC 2-S12</b>	<b>Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the SAL Budget Line Item</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NEC 3-S12</b>	<b>Support of American Legion Resolution #48, October 2011, Star Spangled Banner</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NEC 4-S12</b>	<b>Support of American Legion Resolution #45, October 2006, Children’s Miracle Network</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NEC 5-S12</b>	<b>Support American Legion Resolution #33, May 2009, Children’s Organ Transplant Association</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NEC 6-S12</b>	<b>Support of The American Legion Resolution #294, 2010 National Convention, Support the rights of all people with intellectual disabilities</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NEC 7-S12</b>	<b>Support of The American Legion Resolution 30, May 2005, Operation Military Kids</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NEC 8-S12</b>	<b>Support of The American Legion Resolution No. 33, October 2007, Support for Special Olympics</b>	<b>Approved</b>