

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



**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
October 11-12, 2014**

**MINUTES OF THE  
FALL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
OCTOBER 11-12, 2014**

National Commander Michael W. Moss (CO) called the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, October 11, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Chaplain Harl “Butch” Ray (IL) gave the invocation.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) 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 Greg Gibbs (NY) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander David Swafford (UT).

National Commander Moss (CO) 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**

Michael W. Moss (MD)	National Commander
Greg K. Gibbs (NY)	National Vice Commander – East
Jeffrey C. Evans (VA)	National Vice Commander – South
Ronald R. Wyatt (MI )	National Vice Commander – Central
Charles R. Keith (WY)	National Vice Commander – Midwest
David L. Swafford (UT)	National Vice Commander – West
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL) – E	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA) – E	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott J. Thornton (OH)	National Assistant Adjutant
Harl D. Ray (IL)	National Chaplain
Mark A. Kilstrom (CO)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Michael L. Kirschner (CO)	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
Kyle A. Parkerson (AK)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Michael Seaton (CA)	Richard L. Cook (OK)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
James Hartman (MD)	Steve C. Laws (NC)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Neal C. Warnken (KS)
David P. Stephens (IN)	Michael J. Deacon (IA)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	William L. Sparwasser (MD)
Douglas P. Bible (MN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Thomas E. Cisna (IL)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)	David L. Dew (TX)
John T. Dietz (KY)	James K. Roberts, III (FL)
William E. Matoska (MD)	Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)

### **Detachment Delegates**

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

Commander Moss (CO) then called upon National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the reading of the minutes from 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Jim Gelwicks (CO) pointed out the following corrections:

*Page 5 – The title “National Executive Committee Delegations” should be Detachment Delegations or Delegates.*

*Page 9 – The CWF Chairman, Dennis Boland’s name was misspelled when it’s mentioned he’s made a Distinguished Guest. It was spelled Bolen instead of Boland.*

*Page 27 – Where it mentions PNC Bock called for the newly elected National Commander it states “Son” instead of “Sons”.*

*Comment: When a chairman has completed their report to have a different Detachment acknowledge his report instead of the state the chairman is from.*

Commander Moss (CO) entertained a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. A motion was made as amended, seconded by Texas.

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) welcomed all the Detachment Commanders and asked first time attendees of the Fall NEC Meeting to stand for recognition.

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

Mr. Kerestan began by welcoming everyone to Indianapolis. Anyone needing check entitlement to please see Harold Thompson, Assistant Adjutant in the SAL office. I want to thank Jim Gelwicks and Rob Brewer for reviewing the minutes.

I want to talk to you about the “Good”, the “Bad” and the “Ugly”.

## **Good**

*Renewal Cards* - September 30<sup>th</sup> we mailed out 311,633 SAL renewal post cards nationwide. I’m hearing comments that people are starting to receive them. Notify your other Detachment Leadership Officers that they have been mailed.

*Reservations* - The reservations went well for the second meeting time in a row. Thank you for e-mailing them to me which works out well. There were a few glitches and we are using three hotels.

*Membership Meeting* – George Flasiniski did a very good job. I even learned a few things and a lot more people out there working renewals and membership than I thought. We need to continue to work hard and work with your Squadrons.

*National Directory* – In your packet is the national directory. “It’s okay for you to look at this.” I put this out after National Convention and we had many changes plus one NEC pass away from Rhode Island. We were not notified that he passed away. We need to be notified of any changes.

## **Bad**

*Renewal Report* – We have lost 42,000-43,000 members this year. Where are they?

*Visitation Forms* – The forms are due into our office by the end of October. If they are late a couple of weeks that’s fine. If you wait until January/February don’t expect a visitation.

*MYSAL.org* – MYSAL.org is a good tool. I overheard a conversation that some Squadrons are being denied by the Post. You need to let us know if this happens so we can try to fix it. However, we need this in writing through your Detachment before we can attempt to resolve these kinds of issues.

## **Ugly**

*Membership* – There’s a report in your packet that shows the net gain over the last 20/30 years. We need 302-303 more members for 100%. Commander Moss will report to the Internal Affairs Commission on Monday and for the first time in 39 years he will have to report that we did not make 100%. We need to reach 100% by the end of the year.

*Several Issues* – We are continuing to address issues with the IRS. We need a federal statute to change the law so the IRS can change the IRS code. The other issue is Lois Lerner who’s running the IRS.

In your packet is a current 2015 membership report. It shows we are running about 1,800 members behind last year. We need to stay in contact with the Squadrons.

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

Commander Moss thanked everyone for electing him as National Commander. We will be building bridges and a construction stage to build our membership. We are going to have a great productive weekend.

At 2:30 pm we will have a special presentation by National VA&R Chairman, Ralph Bozella (CO) to discuss Veteran Affairs.

At 3:00 pm we will have a special presentation by American Legion Endowment Fund President and Past National Commander of The American Legion Mr. William Detweiler (LA). The Endowment Fund is also one of my projects this year.

Commander Moss said spread the word about “building bridges to the future”. It will be a tough process but we will make it.

At this time the National Leading Candidate meeting was announced. Announcement for pictures to be taken. National Chaplain announced the Sunday morning service for Sunday morning.

Joe Gladden announced he had copies of his DVD. He also commented that he was disappointed that we didn't reach the membership goal last year and he was trying to implement a letter with the final renewal notice. Will this be implemented this year?

Commander Moss announced there are packets available about his homecoming.

At this time the General Session was adjourned at 8:48 am with a right hand salute to the colors and resumed at 2:30 pm.

**The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 2:30 pm, Saturday, October 11, 2014 for a special presentation from Ralph Bozella (CO), National VA&R Chairman and William Detweiler (LA), President, American Legion Endowment Fund.**

At this time Ralph Bozella (CO) and Clint Bolt (VA) were escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Commander Moss introduced Ralph Bozella as the National VA&R Chairman, a great friend, a SAL member of Colorado Squadron 32 and a former middle school teacher.

Mr. Bozella began by thanking everyone for inviting him to speak to the Sons about VA&R issues.

Mr. Bozella started by saying, why are we here? What motivates you to be here and what are your priorities for this year?

Think about one word that describes why you are here and why do you work so hard to be a leader for this organization:

Serve, Veterans, Commitment, Respect, Honor, Pride, Dedication, Love, Fundraising, Achievement, Service, Leadership, Family, Membership and Friendship and Eligibility.

Our values are our driving forces in our lives. Our shared values are what we do together and make a difference in others lives.

Commander's theme this year “Building Bridges To The Future”. What does that mean to you? Making it a family, letting your communities know what the SAL is all about, passing on what we know to our youth and tying it all together. We are an American Legion Family with a strong foundation in the Four

Pillars and working together to link and support programs and activities at every level, post, district, squadron and national – we do it now and for the future.

I remember Commander Helm’s talking about the 4 x 4 program – 4 million dollars for vital programs and 4 million members. Commander Mike Moss has his priorities to help with this plan:

370,00 Membership Goal

\$400,000 CWF Goal

\$50,000 NEF Goal

\$90,000 Endowment Fund Goal

Involvement by the Departments in local programs such as Oratorical and Boys State

Children & Youth – Where are you with it? We need to include Sons and Auxiliary

Americanism

VA&R

National Security

Nation Defense – POW/MIA is part of National Defense

VA&R is a place where we can utilize your vital resources. We need more Representatives and Deputy Representatives. We are our greatest asset to help our veterans. Once we set our sights on a vision our hearts and minds on a goal there is nothing that can stop us from achieving it.

Mr. Bozella thanked everyone for appearing before you. This concluded his presentation.

Commander Moss called for all donations. Donations were put on hold for PNC William Detweiler’s (LA) presentation.

PNC Detweiler (LA) began by saying, What is the Endowment Fund?

The Endowment Fund was established in 1925. Since its creation by World War I veterans in 1925, The American Legion Endowment Fund has delivered nearly \$25 million in financial assistance for disabled veterans, military families and young people who lost parents in service to our nation. Income from Endowment Fund investments is used to fund Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs and troop-support efforts such as Temporary Financial Assistance, which provides funds to military families with minor children at home.

The Endowment Fund assists families with children and their needs. No application is turned down that has needs. The Applications are well screened by the Department and the National Headquarters level.

Other parts of the fund are to help with education. This is a great fund that has almost reached \$10 million. All the funds are given to the fund and not used for anything else.

What is an Endowment? If you see our ads they will always be with a child and Legionnaire. I am pleased and honored to work with the Sons. There have been attempts in the past to do direct mail soliciting but I am opposed to doing them because that takes money from the fund.

PNC Detweiler (LA) thanked the Sons for having him and looks forward to working with Commander Moss this year. This concluded his presentation.

Commander Moss called for donations to resume.

Commander Moss reminded everyone about the religious service for Sunday morning.

Total donations collected: CWF - \$5,334; NEF - \$650; Endowment Fund - \$100

PNC Raymond Giehll announced their will be a Committees on Committees meeting after this meeting adjourns.

Caucuses announced at this time and will meet after the Committees on Committees meeting.

General Session Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

**The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, October 12, 2014.**

With colors being in place and following a right hand salute, National Commander Michael Moss (CO) declared the National Executive Committee Fall Meeting reconvened.

National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Charles Keith (WY) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Jeff Evans (VA).

National Commander Moss (CO) 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**

Michael W. Moss (MD)	National Commander
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Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL) – E	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY) – E	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA) – E	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott J. Thornton (OH)	National Assistant Adjutant
Harl D. Ray (IL)	National Chaplain
Mark A. Kilstrom (CO)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Michael L. Kirschner (CO)	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
Kyle A. Parkerson (AK)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)  
J. R. Stillwell (IL)  
James Hartman (MD)  
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Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)  
Douglas P. Bible (MN)  
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)  
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)  
John T. Dietz (KY)  
William E. Matoska (MD)  
Byron J. Robichaux (LA)

Richard L. Cook (OK)  
Clifford A. Smith (MA)  
Steve C. Laws (NC)  
Neal C. Warnken (KS)  
Michael J. Deacon (IA)  
Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)  
Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)  
Thomas E. Cisna (IL)  
David L. Dew (TX)  
James K. Roberts, III (FL)  
Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

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

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

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

Mr. Lee (NY) announced there were three new members on the commission, Alan C. Owen (TN), Zeste C. Debro (GA) and Joseph Keiser (NV).

When I was at convention I was very disappointed to make a statement that we had NO applications for the George B. Evans Grass Roots Lobbyist of the Year Award.

We can't elect officials as a non-profit organization. Remember to remove your cap if you represent politics.

Mr. Lee spoke about himself, saying he works for the state of New York but I'm a political action chairman and I represent over 70,000 members. If you want to get elected you talk to me. We just ran a report for the state of New York and we have 79% registered but only 39% voted. If I can't get them to vote how can I get others for their own future for their own lives.

We need talk to the blue cappers and ask them why they joined. Find out why they want to be apart of the SAL. We need to get them involved.

Washington Conference will be February 21-25, 2015. We have a bus scheduled to depart at 9 am on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will lay wreaths at Korean Memorial, Vietnam Wall and Arlington National Cemetery. The wreaths are \$150 and box lunches will be available for \$7.00. This concluded his report.

At this time Raymond Jarvis (NY) gave his report.

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

**Raymond Jarvis (NY), Chairman**

Mr. Jarvis said we need to get the word out via the Vice Commanders, Adjutants and Commanders. We're going to put an e-mail list together and put articles on the website to get more people involved.

We also discussed doing some PSA to get the word out to everybody along with material being readily available through FEMA, ready.gov and the Department of Homeland Security. This concluded his report.

***A motion was made by Commander Moss (CO) to accept the report, accepted by Texas, seconded by Wisconsin. Motion carried.***

*Gary Swandland (WY) asked the Legislative minutes be corrected, Santiago Betancourt (TX) was not at the meeting. So noted.*

At this time Public Relations gave their report.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

**Joseph Korba (NJ), Chairman**

Mr. Korba (NJ) reported we've been doing the "Snapshots of Service" for the past 1 ½ years. This year we received 32 entries. Squadrons from eight Detachments will receive awards they are New Jersey, Ohio, New York, California, Washington, Michigan, Illinois and Maryland these will be posted on the website. Please keep sending the photos in because they are a big help for getting the word out of the work we're doing.

Our Facebook Page statistics are a little disappointing with only 2,195 likes and 2,460 downloads and approximately 5,900-7,300 website hits per month. With the size of this organization we need to do a lot better. We need to get the word out. This concluded his report.

***A motion was made by Arizona to accept the report, seconded by Pennsylvania. Motion carried.***

At this time VA&R gave their report.

## **VA&R COMMISSION**

**Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman**

Mr. Bolt (VA) began by making a correction to the VA&R Commission meeting minutes. There were over 435,229 volunteer hours not 4,000 hours and \$1,092,399 not \$1,000,000 as indicated on the minutes.

We had the honor of having PNC Dan Dellinger (VA) address our meeting in describing to us the hour by hour and day by day of all the events that lead up to his decision to ask for the resignation of the VA Secretary Shinseki. He said it wasn't an easy decision but the Secretary was disconnected from the organization. The American Legion had to stand alone, he said, no other VSO's were with him. PNC Dellinger said it was apparent when the news came out in Phoenix that a possible 40 deaths came out of the VA Facility in Phoenix. There was no choice. He knew what he had to do. PNC Dellinger appreciates everything the SAL does.

Commander Moss's goal for the Endowment Fund is \$90,000 since this is our first year in promoting this program let's really get behind this project.

Last year we only had one applicant for the Charles B. Rigsby Award and that is not good. You are allowed one applicant per Detachment. I want to see more applicants for next summer.

We need volunteers for our VA Hospitals. We need your support to become Reps and Deps.

At this time Mr. Bolt asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Bruno Williamson to the stage for presentation of his 2014 VAVS Cap. Bruno thanked the 51 other Detachments that didn't submit a volunteer. This concluded Mr. Bolt's report.

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

At this time Janet Jefford, National Auxiliary President and Michael Helm, National Commander of The American Legion were escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

President Jefford spoke and said the SAL could teach us all a lesson on how to get members and raise money for CWF and NEF. I can't tell you how awed I am in the amount of money you donate for CWF. My theme this year is "Faith, Family and Freedom" because those are the three words that really exemplify our organizations.

One person can make a difference but imagine what we can do together as an organization. I wish Commander Moss a great year this year. This concluded her speech.

TAL National Commander Mike Helm was introduced at this time. Commander Helm thanked the SAL for inviting him to their meeting to speak. He stated he was a dual member. He also thanked the SAL for all they have done. The SAL is a very important part of The American Legion.

Commander Helm said it's important to go to Capital Hill and promote veterans legislation. We need your voice to move things along. We need to get out and volunteer in homes and fill the void. Commander Helm said to keep up the good work. This concluded his speech.

At this time Children & Youth gave their report.

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION**

**Randall L. Eicher (OH), Chairman**

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

Mr. Sierminski began by mentioning Commander Moss setting the goal of \$400,000 for CWF. We have raised \$72,000 so far this year.

We have been busy reviewing all the grants submitted this year. We received 141 grants with 11 grants recommend by the Sons.

We will recommend the following grant recommendations to:

Alexander Graham Bell Foundation for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - \$28,400  
American Liver Foundation - \$25,000  
Beads of Courage, Inc. - \$40,000  
Children's Institute, Inc. - \$7,580  
Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) - \$43,595  
CureSearch for Children's Cancer - \$31,500  
Hands and Voices, Inc. - \$13,750  
Mercy Medical Airlift - \$44,000  
National Autism Association - \$58,075  
Our Military Kids (OMK) - \$31,350

Every dollar that's raised goes directly towards CWF. There are no administrative costs. Last year there were 21 grants given for over \$644,000. The grants address child abuse, autism, teen suicide, leukemia and these are just a few that these donations help.

The per capita award is on the website. It's a dollar per member with the banner being blue this year.

Go on your Facebook page and add The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Less than a month ago there were only 299 likes. We have over 350,000 members so get on there and "like" it.

Mr. Sierminski thanked the Sons for their hard work and dedication to CWF. This concluded his report.

Randy Eicher (OH) reported they reviewed the 2014-2015 budget request from finance in the amount of \$4,170 with a reduction of \$1,000.

The program we will highlight this year will be on the website. Again The Endowment Fund goal from Commander Moss is \$90,000. We want to keep this challenge going each year and increase the goal by 3-4% in our support of the Endowment Fund.

Ronnie Grist read Resolution 3-2014 regarding a common format that Commissions will use for determining the annual award winners. The recommendation is to add the clause:

*"whereas, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the consolidated report forms, to qualify for District and Detachment awards, a consolidated report has to be physically submitted; and"*

This concluded his report.

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

*Milton Chatham (TX) – typo on the minutes under the CWF minutes, Our Military Kids (\$31,350) was typed twice. So noted.*

At this time Americanism gave their report.

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION**  
**Danny Smith (NE), Chairman**

Mr. Smith (NE) asked for Detachments to submit their contact information so we can send important information and keep you updated.

We are going to prioritize the number one priority which is the National Commander's projects:

The American Legion Endowment Fund - \$90,000 Goal

The American Legion National Emergency Fund - \$50,000 Goal

The Commission will be promoting both of these projects. There has already been one article sent out to members and posted on the webpage.

National Commander Helm's 4 x 4 Project will also be a priority. It's 4 million dollars to TAL charities and 4 million members in TAL Family.

The second most import project, to me, is the "Spotlight" on Americanism. Americanism is a huge program with a lot of different projects and programs. We will continue to add articles to the webpage.

CPR's are not a contest it's a way to let our organization report to Congress. Last year we had 738,304 hours of service and \$2,033,159 invested in Americanism Programs.

There was one (1) Resolution: *SAL Res 3 – Fall 2014 Titled: Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards.*

National Commander Moss, National Chaplain Ray and myself attended the American Legion Americanism Conference in which the Sons were well received. They spoke about how to get the Squadrons more involved. This concluded his report.

***A motion was made by Pennsylvania to accept the report, minus the resolution, seconded by Nevada. Motion carried.***

***Resolution Chairman Robert Brown (GA) read resolution SAL Res 3 - Fall 2014 Titled "Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards". A motion was made by Robert Brown (GA) to accept the resolution, seconded by Colorado. Motion carried.***

*National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne (MA) made note from the minutes it stated there were no candidates for National Chaplain. Even though religious emphasis falls under Americanism the actual interviews and selection for National Chaplain fall under Committees on Committees. There were three candidates submitted. So noted.*

At this time Internal Affairs gave their report.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman**

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

**Convention** – reported by Jeff Seiler (MD)

The Convention Committee is still in the planning phase for our National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. The site visit is scheduled for December. There will be a golf tournament with a sponsorship flyer. I want to see all the Detachments be a sponsor for all the holes. There will be a dinner and it's critical that the dinner tickets are purchased in advance. We are looking into several site seeing trips. This concluded his report

**Member Training & Development** – reported by Kevin Ivery (PA) for Mike Sawicki (IL)

We talked about getting more time for the Commanders class. We are also looking at the Religious class and plan for the Spring NEC. We also discussed a NMI 4 as a refresher course.

If you need any material contact your NECman so they can ship them to you through National Headquarters. This concluded his report.

**Membership** – reported by George Flasiński (PA)

There's a new ribbon out for our Squadrons that hit 100%. The due date for membership is October 20<sup>th</sup> but that's not the date they shut you down you still have a 72 day grace period.

We sent out 311,400 renewal notices yesterday. We had a big discussion about MYSAL.ORG and the post adjutants not allowing them to sign on. We will work on getting that resolved because it's a valuable tool.

Commander Moss's membership goal is 370,000 members by the May meeting. We can do it. I will be pushing conference calls. This concluded his report.

Mr. Tansel (IN) stated there were two (2) Resolutions:

*SAL Res 1 – Fall 2014 Titled: “Endorsement of Kenneth L. Yanke (CO) for National Vice Commander”.*

*SAL Res 2 – Fall 2014 Titled: “Endorsement of Steve Ward (KS) for National Vice Commander”.*

A motion was made to receive and file the two resolutions. This concluded his report.

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

At this time the Finance gave their report.

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

Dr. Leopold (KS) reported we spent a majority of our time on the 2015 budget and the call-in structure that should take effect within the next year. The printing budget has changed since 2013 and recommend a slight increase for the printing budget for 2015. The largest change has been in travel and increased almost \$100,000. The call-in increases will be addressed at the Spring NEC in 2015.

This concluded his report.

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

*National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne stated that “Doc” went through the call-ins pretty quick. I’ve seen the work they’ve done over the year. They went back to Spring 2013 Meeting and looked up their address, closest airport and got flight amounts for every person and all the details. I wanted to mention the Committee did an outstanding job and to commend them for it.*

Commander Moss (CO) called for the Sub-Committee Report on Resolutions.

## **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

**Robert Brown (GA), Chairman**

Mr. Brown (GA) stated we had three (3) Resolutions read and acted upon. Next year I want to receive five Resolution for National Vice Commanders. This concluded his report.

***A motion was made by Robert Brown (GA) to accept the report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.***

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Commander Mike Moss (CO) called for old business. There was no old business to discuss. This concluded the old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commander Mike Moss (CO) called for new business. There was no new business to discuss. This concluded the new business.

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

Commander Mike Moss (CO) called For The Good of the Sons.

Commander Moss welcomed back Damon Bradtmueller (IN) from being in the hospital.

David Lee (NY) thanked everyone for the warm wishes and Josh Dog they gave to his 12 year daughter while being treated for seizures.

Mark Kilstrom announced he needed a picture of the Commander with all PNC’s.

Jeff Frain (AZ) announced there is only one Commander pin left.

Jim Gelwicks (CO) wanted to call our attention as an organization to the fact that we are approaching it’s 15<sup>th</sup> year for the Afghanistan War. We need to do more than the Blue Star Banner and visit the Pentagon Memorial to take it back to our Detachments.

National Chaplain Harl Ray announced if you need prayer or know of a death to contact him.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee, National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) gave the benediction.

Following a right-hand salute, Commander Moss (CO) declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Convention**  
**August 22 - 24, 2014**

**No.:** SAL Res 1 – Convention 2014  
**Title:** Homeland Security Border Patrol  
**Origin:** Homeland Security Committee

**WHEREAS**, America shares 7,000 miles of land border with Canada and Mexico, as well as rivers, lakes and coastal waters around the country. These borders are vital economic gateways that account for trillions of dollars in trade and travel each year. They are also home to some of our nation’s largest – and safest – cities and communities. Protecting our borders from the illegal movement of weapons, drugs, contraband, and people, while promoting lawful entry and exit, is essential to homeland security, economic prosperity, and national sovereignty. And;

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Department of Homeland Security Border Patrol works to secure our borders through the deployment of personnel, technology, and infrastructure; as well as working closely with our neighbors in Canada and Mexico, and our many federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners. And;

**WHEREAS**, Border Patrol agents, agriculture specialists, Air and Marine agents, and officers guard America’s front lines. These men and women prevent terrorists and their weapons from entering the United States while continuing their mission of seizing contraband and apprehending criminals and others who illegally attempt to enter the United States. And;

**WHEREAS**, Through increases in Border Patrol staffing; construction of new infrastructure and fencing; use of advanced technology—including sensors, radar, and aerial assets –investments to modernize the ports of entry; and stronger partnerships and information sharing, we are creating a safer, more secure, and more efficient border environment, and;

**WHEREAS**, Protecting the nation’s borders—land, air, and sea—from the illegal entry of people, weapons, drugs, and contraband is vital to our homeland security, as well as economic prosperity. The Federal Department of Homeland Security Border Patrol has deployed unprecedented levels of personnel, technology, and resources and made has made critical security improvements to secure and manage our borders, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014 that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to the Department of Homeland Security Border patrol for all of their efforts to secure our nation’s safety as an example of a true National Defense as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands.

Convention Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

Mark Tansel, Chairman  
Internal Affaris Convention Committee

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Convention**  
**August 22 - 24, 2014**

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**No.:** SAL Res 2 – Convention 2014  
**Title:** Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)  
**Origin:** Homeland Security Committee

**WHEREAS**, The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985 because the Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees and;

**WHEREAS**, Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs. And;

**WHEREAS**, One also expects that under these kinds of conditions, family members, fellow employees and neighbors will spontaneously try to help each other. This was the case following the Mexico City earthquake where untrained, spontaneous volunteers saved 800 people. However, 100 people lost their lives while attempting to save others. This is a high price to pay and is preventable through training. And;

**WHEREAS**, The CERT training program makes good sense and furthers the process of citizens understanding their responsibility in preparing for disaster; also increasing their ability to safely help themselves, their family and their neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the importance of preparing citizens. The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and the National Fire Academy adopted and expanded the CERT materials believing them applicable to all hazards, and;

**WHEREAS**, The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster that, in essence, make them auxiliary responders. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 states and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training. Training them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014 that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to the Community Emergency Response Team concept as an example of true Community Service as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands and that the Homeland Security & Civil Preparedness Committee urges all Sons of The American Legion members take part in CERT training in their local communities as a way to be better prepared in the event of a disaster.

Convention Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

Mark Tansel, Chairman  
Internal Affaris Convention Committee

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Convention**  
**August 22 - 24, 2014**

**No.:** SAL Res 3 – Convention 2014  
**Title:** Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**Origin:** Homeland Security Committee

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes that it takes all aspects of a community (volunteer, faith, and community-based organizations, the private sector, and the public, including survivors themselves) – not just the government – to effectively prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against any disaster. And;

**WHEREAS**, It is therefore critical that we work together to enable communities to develop collective, mutually supporting local capabilities to withstand the potential initial impacts of these events, respond quickly, and recover in a way that sustains or improves the community’s overall well-being, and;

**WHEREAS**, Over the last two years, FEMA has made significant progress in fostering a whole community approach to emergency management. Through the Maximum of Maximums initiative, national dialogue and outreach efforts, the whole community approach is now prevalent in the emergency management community. Across the country, we are seeing FEMA and others begin to exercise and implement the whole community approach and principles in their day-to-day activities, and;

**WHEREAS**, The FEMA Mitigation and Insurance Strategic Plan for 2012–2013, embodies the concept of whole community engagement. The plan identifies specific goals, objectives, and strategies to help them better engage federal, state, tribal, territorial, and community partners in advancing mitigation activities. It embraces the reality that it takes all aspects of a community, not just the government, to truly reduce the devastating impact of disasters, and;

**WHEREAS**, To encourage a whole community approach at the state, local, tribal and territorial levels, FEMA wrote explicit language into the 2011 Homeland Security, Emergency Management, and tribal grant programs referencing the use of funds for private sector engagement. And;

**WHEREAS**, From 2011-2013, FEMA responded to more disasters than any year in its history. The variety and magnitude of each event testing their capabilities, as well as the capabilities of communities across this country, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014 that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for all of their efforts to minimize the affect of all disasters to the communities and citizens of these Untied States of America as an example of true Community Service as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands.

Convention Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

Mark Tansel, Chairman  
Internal Affaris Convention Committee

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Convention**  
August 22 - 24, 2014

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**No.:** SAL Res 4 – Convention 2014  
**Title:** Endorsement of Steve Curry (KY) for National Vice Commander  
**Origin:** Detachment of Kentucky

**WHEREAS**, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Steve Curry has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Kentucky as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 22-24, 2014, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kentucky hereby endorses Steve Curry for the high office of National Vice Commander South at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Kentucky and the Department of Kentucky with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Bob Fulkerson and Department Adjutant Ted Austin are on the submitted resolution.

Convention Committee Recommendation

Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

Mark Tansel, Chairman  
Internal Affaris Convention Committee

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Executive Committee**  
**October 11 & 12, 2014**

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**No.: SAL Res 1 – Fall 2014**

**Title: Endorsement of Kenneth L. Yanke (CO) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

**WHEREAS**, The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Kenneth L. Yanke has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Colorado as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 11-12, 2014, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Colorado hereby endorses Kenneth L. Yanke for the high office of National Vice Commander Midwest at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Colorado and the Department of Colorado with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Mark Kilstrom and Department Adjutant Charles “Pat” Smith are on the submitted resolution.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*Bob Brown*

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Bob Brown, Chairman, Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

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Mark Tansel, Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Executive Committee**  
**October 11 & 12, 2014**

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**No.:** SAL Res 2 – Fall 2014  
**Title:** Endorsement of Steve Ward (KS) for National Vice Commander  
**Origin:** Internal Affairs Commission

**WHEREAS,** The Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of descendents of Veterans; and

**WHEREAS,** The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion requires that candidates for national elective office in the Sons of The American Legion be presented to the National body by resolution; and

**WHEREAS,** Steve Ward has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Kansas as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 11-12, 2014, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Kansas hereby endorses Steve Ward for the high office of National Vice Commander Midwest at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Kansas and the Department of Kansas with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Sam Sparks and Department Adjutant Charles Yunker are on the submitted resolution.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee  
*Bob Brown*

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Bob Brown, Chairman, Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

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Mark Tansel, Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution**  
**National Executive Committee**  
**October 11 & 12, 2014**

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**No.:** SAL Res 3 – Fall 2014

**Title:** Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards

**Origin:** VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth Commissions

**WHEREAS**, the National organization of the Sons of The American Legion presents annual awards to Detachments, Districts and Squadrons that perform outstanding service to the Sons The American Legion programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Americanism, Children and Youth and VA&R Commissions annually presents the awards to Squadrons, Districts and Detachments; and

**WHEREAS**, the selection of these recipients is based on the information submitted on the Consolidated Squadron Report forms as submitted by the various Squadrons; and

**WHEREAS**, the data on these report forms, to qualify for District or Detachment awards, a consolidated report has to be physically submitted must be reviewed and selections made based on a process which will be impartial and objective; and

**WHEREAS** , there are currently no adopted guidelines recorded to facilitate the selection process; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session, assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana October 11-12, 2014, that the guidelines for selection of awards herein contained be the standard for the VA&R, Americanism and Children & Youth Commissions until amended by the National Executive Committee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the selection be based upon a well-rounded report that contains service in the majority of standing listed programs of The American Legion; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the criteria be calculated on per capita, of membership as recorded by the National organization, for dollars invested and hours of service for each column heading, reflecting such, in the respective sections of the consolidated report form; and be it further

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*Bob Brown*

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Bob Brown, Chairman, Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Clint Bolt*

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Clint Bolt, Chairman, VA&R Commission

*Danny J. Smith*

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Danny J. Smith, Chairman, Americanism Commission

*Randall L. Eicher*

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Randall L. Eicher, Chairman, Children & Youth Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

October 11 & 12, 2014

Page 21 of 23

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**No.: SAL Res 3 – Fall 2014**

**Title: Judging Criteria for VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth National Awards**

**Origin: VA&R, Americanism and Children and Youth Commissions**

**RESOLVED, that a point value be assigned to the top 40, per capita reports, with the top report receiving 40 points and descending in order to the 40th report receiving 1 point, with any one showing any service receiving 1 point, with the exception of those that have recorded no service receiving no points; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that these point values are then totaled after all columns have been calculated, to determine a squadron, district and detachment with a highest grand total point value; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, that in event of a tie only the two that have the same highest total point value be subjected to further review and selection made by a simple majority vote of those members present at the respective convention committee meeting held immediately prior to the convention at which the award is to be presented.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*Bob Brown*

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Bob Brown, Chairman, Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Clint Bolt*

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Clint Bolt, Chairman, VA&R Commission

*Danny J. Smith*

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Danny J. Smith, Chairman, Americanism Commission

*Randall L. Eicher*

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Randall L. Eicher, Chairman, Children & Youth Commission

**ADDENDUM B**

***Internal Affairs Commission Report to  
National Executive Committee  
The American Legion  
October 15-16, 2014***

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 October 11-12, 2014.

	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>SAL NC 1-14</b>	<b>Homeland Security Border Patrol</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NC 2-14</b>	<b>Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NC 3-14</b>	<b>Federal Emergency Management Agency</b>	<b>Approved</b>
<b>SAL NC 4-14</b>	<b>Endorsement of Steve Curry (KY) for National Vice Commander</b>	<b>Received and Filed</b>
<b>SAL NEC 1-F14</b>	<b>Endorsement of Kenneth L. Yanke (CO) for National Vice Commander</b>	<b>Received and Filed</b>
<b>SAL NEC 2-F14</b>	<b>Endorsement of Steve Ward (KS) for National Vice Commander</b>	<b>Received and Filed</b>
<b>SAL NEC 3-F14</b>	<b>Judging Criteria for VA&amp;R, Americanism and Children &amp; Youth National Awards</b>	<b>Approved</b>