

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**OF**  
**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**Charlotte, North Carolina**  
**August 22-24, 2014**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PRE-CONVENTION MEETING  
AUGUST 22, 2014**

The Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion was called to order by National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne at 10:00 am, Friday, August 22, 2014, at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.

With colors being in place a right-hand salute was rendered. National Chaplain Danny J. Poole (MI) was called for the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander William Lloyd (WA) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander Randy Eicher (OH) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) then called for National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Commander
Robert L. Turner (CT)	National Vice Commander
Thomas Chebro (GA)	National Vice Commander
Randall L. Eicher (OH)	National Vice Commander
Brad R. Schroenghamer (NM)	National Vice Commander
William J. Lloyd (WA)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Chaplain
Thomas E. Marsden (NJ)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
William G. Hill (MD)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Michael L. Kirschner (CO)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Bruce F. Paquin (MD)	Aide To The National Commander

**Past National Commanders**

Michael Seaton (CA)	Joseph M. Mayne (MN)
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Robert McBride (OH)  
J. R. Stillwell (IL)  
James Hartman (MD)  
Charles E. Gannon (MD)  
David P. Stephens (IN)  
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)  
Douglas Bible (MN)  
David R. Faust (WI)  
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)  
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)

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. Giehll, Jr. (IN)  
Thomas Cisna (IL)  
James K. Roberts, III (FL)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

At this time National Commander Joe Gladden (MD) declared the 2014 Pre-Convention of the National Executive Committee regularly convened. National Adjutant O’Hearne was called for the reading of the May 3-4, 2014 minutes.

A motion to accept the Spring 2014 Minutes was made and accepted by Bob Brown, Georgia, seconded by Camille LeJeune, Louisiana. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Kerestan welcomed everyone to Charlotte. The Fall NEC Meeting will be at the Sheraton, October 11-12, 2014. The call-in letter was mailed out therefore it should hit your mail box today or tomorrow and will be e-mailed on Sunday to all the Detachment Adjutants, NECmen and National Officers. I need your reservation forms by September 4<sup>th</sup> for the October Meeting.

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

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) called for any Chairmen Reports, no reports were presented.

### **Old Business**

Commander Gladden (MD) called for any old business; no old business was presented at this time.

### **New Business**

Commander Gladden (MD) called for any new business; no old business was presented at this time.

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

Commander Gladden (MD) called for Good of The Sons; nothing to come For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion.

In closing, National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) gave the benediction.

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

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**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
43<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION  
AUGUST 22, 2014**

**National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) called the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion to order at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, August 22, 2014, at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.**

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

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

National Commander Joe Gladden (MD) called on National Chaplain Danny J. Poole (MI) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Sergeant-at-Arms, William Hill (MD) led in reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance. National Vice Commander Thomas Chebro (GA) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

Commander Gladden recited Resolution NC02-03 from the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Convention that calls for the displaying of the Blue Star Banner.

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

The National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion hereby called by the National Commander the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion held August 22-24, 2014 in the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina. The purpose is for the National Convention Session in accordance with the uniform code of procedure for National Convention will convene at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22, 2014. The 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention will be convened for the following purposes:

- To complete all business for the Sons of The American Legion for the fiscal year 2013-2014.
- To vote on all Resolutions which are properly presented to the National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion.
- To consider and/or make amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.

- To elect a National Commander and Five (5) National Vice Commanders in that sequence for the ensuing year 2014-2015. Elections will take place on Sunday, August 24, 2014.
- Representation in the National Convention shall be allotted in accordance with provision of Article V of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion, which is stated in Article V, Section 3 and Section 4.

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

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Commander
Robert L. Turner (CT)	National Vice Commander
Thomas Chebro (GA)	National Vice Commander
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David R. Faust (WI)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	James K. Roberts, III (FL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	

## *National Executive Committee Delegations*

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

Commander Gladden (MD) welcomed everyone to Charlotte and said it's been an incredible year. I've enjoyed my travels and meeting with so many of you in this room and across the country. I just returned from my 2<sup>nd</sup> Legacy Run and what an incredible experience and when we pulled into Kings Mountain, North Carolina after 5 days and 1,336 miles later we had raised over \$420,000 collected on the Legacy Run. Unfortunately after day one I broke down but had my bike up and running in 4 hours.

At this time 2013-2014 Honorary Jr. Auxiliary President, India Archer (NM) was escorted to the stage by the National Sergeant-At-Arms.

Ms. Archer wished everyone well and said it was a privilege and honor to come before the Sons to bring you personal greetings. This has been a truly amazing year and have been presented with many incredible opportunities. A portion of my term was spent in Spain giving me the rare opportunity to come in contact with an American Legion Post in Madrid, Spain. However, I wasn't able to meet with any members, I was in contact with Post Commander Donald D. Dunkle, Jr. and he will keep us posted about current events within their post.

I was asked to sing the National Anthem at the 2014 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Albuquerque Veterans Park. I want to personally thank each and everyone of you for all the incredible things you do for our veterans, their families, our country and this incredible organization. It is because of you the American Legion Family is possible. This concluded her speech.

Commander Gladden made Ms. Archer a Distinguished Guest and presented her with a Citation of Appreciation Award.

Commander Gladden had candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, Mr. Dale Barnett (GA) and National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler (VA) escorted to the stage by the National Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Bob Brown (GA) introduced Mr. Dale Barnett and spoke of his background of his personal and his military life.

Mr. Barnett (GA) said it has been a privilege traveling around with you. I'm proud to stand up here as a "Son" with The American Legion and we've had a tremendous Commander that has served us well this year. We have so much to be proud of and the work we've done on behalf of our veterans. I'm looking forward to the future of this organization and hopefully being your Commander at our National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland. If I'm elected my motto will be "Duty – Honor – Country". I served in the military and the first day of basic training something was ingrained in me. That I needed to know my job because my life and my buddies life depended on it. It's the same way with The American Legion. People everyday depend on us to know our job and do our duty. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Mr. Barnett a Distinguished Guest of this National Convention.

Commander brought forward National Adjutant Dan Wheeler (VA). Mr. Wheeler thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak and stated he is a proud member of PNC Tommie Cisna's Squadron in Mattoon, IL. My Legion cap has Virginia Post 137 in Richmond. Some ask why aren't you a member of the Sons in Virginia...because they didn't ask.

In Squadrons and Detachments through out the nation and beyond you complete our great American Legion Family. I say beyond because I know the Sons are not only making a difference in the United States but around the world like France where 16 year old Joshua Settle serves at the Detachment Commander.

The Sons play a big part in honoring the Fallen Heroes of WWII each year at the Lorraine American Cemetery in France. Josh is the son of Department Commander and Auxiliary President of France. I'm not sure if this has happened before where all in office at the same time. I do know that the Settle Family is a macrocosm of what makes the entire American Legion Family so effective everywhere at that is a shared sense of purpose.

I thank Commander Gladden for making the Legacy Scholarship his fundraiser program for the past year. We are growing closer to reaching our \$20 million dollar goal so the fund will be able to broaden the pool of recipients to any child that has served honorably or still serving in the military. I feel blessed to call you family. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Mr. Wheeler a Distinguished Guest of this National Convention.

Commander Gladden had the National Sergeant-At-Arms escort Leading Candidate, Mr. Mike Helm (NE) to the stage.

Mr. Helm (NE) placed his SAL cap on his head at this time. Mr. Helm stated he has four sons that are members of this organization. His oldest son graduated from West Point and is finishing up his first tour of duty in Kuwait and will be home the first part of September. I have a son that will graduate from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and another son that is in the ROCT Program at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. My youngest son will graduate from High School this year.

I am a "Son" through my father's military service and proud that my sons follow behind me. You are all an important part of The American Legion and thank you very much for it. We are an American Legion Family and as my year as Commander and Mike Moss will bring one more step to The American Legion Family and make it work better. I believe that the Sons are ready to assume more responsibilities and have more recognition within The American Legion Family but not only for what you do but for what your officers do.

When I first got started in the Legion the Sons was a fundraising tool for the CWF but over the years I've watched you become a more important part of the Family. Mr. Helm thanked the Sons for everything they've done. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Mr. Helm a Distinguished Guest of this National Convention.

At this time Commander Gladden had PNC Bob Turner (GA) escorted to the stage. Commander Gladden said the Boys State/Boys Nation is so dear to his heart and wanted Mr. Turner to talk to us about this program.

Mr. Turner said he's a proud member of the Sons and honored to bring greetings to the Sons. Mr. Turner said he's had the pleasure of serving as Treasurer for CWF and have seen the big bucks that have rolled in year after year. Thank you for what you've done for CWF. Last year we gave over \$500,000 in grants to about 17 different organizations that needed our help with several of those organizations set up in the exhibit hall.

The Boys State/Boys Nation is the premiere youth program in the country not just with the American Legion Family but throughout the country. The Boys State/Boys Nation has two young men from each state, excluding Hawaii, flown in on Legion's expense to Washington, DC. It's a program like you've never seen before. They assume the title of Boys Nation Senator and sworn in, debate Legislation and elect a President and Vice President.

The Sons give Scholarships of \$1,000 to two of those young men. Commander Gladden was with us for Boys Nation and we signed up 17 new members during the week of Boys Nation. Mr. Turner thanked Commander Gladden. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Mr. Turner a Distinguished Guest.

Commander Gladden had Jonathan Villela (TX), Account Manager, Military Affinity from USAA escorted to the stage.

Mr. Villela spoke about the USAA and the Legacy Program. Once your parent(s) get insurance products such as auto/homeowners insurance then their children become eligible for our products we offer. We want to bring the USAA closure to the Sons as we did to the Legion so come by and visit our booth in the exhibit hall. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Mr. Villela a Distinguished Guest.

*(At this time a Josh Dog video was shown.)*

Commander Gladden said as he was traveling he was talking about the Legacy Scholarship Fund. I was talking about how there was a soldier that left home and was planning to come back to his family but never did. Then my story changed when I met a young man named Myles Eckert from Ohio. Myles was going to be here with us but had some family problems and wasn't able to make it. Myles found \$20 in a parking lot of a Cracker Barrel, wrapped a note around the it and handed it to a soldier dining with his family. The note read, "My dad was a soldier. He's in heaven now. We like to pay it forward in my family. It's your lucky day" Thank you for your service."

The soldier, a LTC in the Air Force National Guard, was so impressed that he tracked down Myles and the story hit the local news then from there it hit the national news. When we heard about what this young man had done we decided to give Myles a plaque and Life Membership in the Sons of The American Legion. When I was in Ohio I had the great honor of meeting Myles, his mom Tiffany and sister Marlee and present him with the plaque that said "Gold Star Son".



I have 100 gold coins for a donation of \$20 each with 100% of the money going to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Detachment of Florida donated \$4,500 for a coin and the Detachment of Illinois donated \$2,100 for a coin. This concluded Commander Gladden's story.

At this time Commander Gladden called PNC Steve Laws (NC) to the podium. PNC Laws welcomed everyone to Charlotte and invited everyone to get out and explore the city and visit the NASCAR Facility. This concluded his speech.

At this time the National Sergeant-At-Arms escorted National Commander Daniel Dellinger (VA). Commander Gladden read Commander Dellinger's biography prior to Commander Dellinger's speech.

Commander Dellinger began with his motto "Building for Tomorrow Today". Commander Dellinger said it's great being here and has been a member of the Sons for 28 years and thank you for giving me a great man to work with this year.

I want to thank you for what you do everyday and being a part of The American Legion Family because you are with us hand and hand as we take care of our veterans. I congratulate you on expanding your membership and growing your organization. At this time Commander Dellinger presented Commander Gladden with a Harley Davidson Gift Card. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden presented Commander Dellinger with Certificate of Appreciation and made him a Distinguished Guest. Commander Gladden gave Commander Dellinger a vest on Sunday for the Legacy Ride.

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

Mr. Besson (IL) began by saying what a great job you've done with 99% in membership. I know you will be 100% by October. The Sons have donated almost \$6 million since the beginning of the CWF Program which is fantastic. Just this year you have already donated almost \$350,000 to CWF. Your donations to NEF and the Legacy Scholarship Fund that you, me and the Internal Affairs Commission can be proud of and say that we are a part of that. I am a Squadron member, my two sons, four grandsons and brother are also Son members and we are very proud to be members.

The Legacy Scholarship Fund was the Commander's project this year and you've done a fantastic job in supporting the Commander. The VAVS is another program you do well at with almost 473,000 volunteer hours with almost \$1.2 million in donations. Mr. Besson thanked the Sons. This concluded his speech.

At this time George West spoke. Mr. West said he was honored that he was able to share some brief remarks. Mr. West said this was his 34<sup>th</sup> National Convention he's attended. I'm ecstatic to see new faces at our Conventions. That is a good sign that we are growing and encouraging more volunteers to roll up their sleeves to further the accomplishments of this great organization.

Commander Gladden has ignited the spark needed to launch his ship and congratulations to the Sons and keep up the great work.

At this time Jack Querfeld spoke. Mr. Querfeld welcomed everyone to Charlotte and thanked the Sons for everything they do for The American Legion because the Sons are a foundation of this organization. Mr. Querfeld again thanked the Sons for all they do. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Larry Besson, George West and Jack Querfeld Distinguished Guests.

At time Commander Gladden asked all Sons PNC's to the stage. PNC Michael Seaton spoke and made Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) a Distinguished Guest.

At this time Dennis Boland (FL), President, CWF and Jason Kees (IN) was escorted to the stage.

The following CWF Awards were presented:

*Detachment of Mississippi for Excellence and Achieving the Highest Per-Capita for 2013-2014*

*Detachment of France received the CWF Meritorious Achievement Award for Highest Increase Per-Capita 2013-2014*

*Detachment of Ohio received the Garland Murphy Award for 2013-2014*

*Detachment of Florida received the US Udie Grant Legacy Award for 2013-2014*

A check from the Detachment of Ohio for \$500 was presented to Mr. Boland. Mr. Bolen presented Commander Gladden with a Diamond Lapel Pin. This concluded Mr. Boland remarks and awards. Commander Gladden made Mr. Bolen and Mr. Kees Distinguished Guests.

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

Mr. Lee (NY) reported, the Legislative and Rules Convention Committee met on Friday, August 22, 2014 for the purpose of reviewing the standing rules of the Convention. As a delegate to the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention, Mr. Lee (NY) made a motion for the acceptance of the Standing Rules of the National Convention is accepted as published, motion was seconded by New Jersey. Motion carried.

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) declared the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention recessed until Saturday, August 23, 2014 to begin at 9:00 am.

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**The 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 23, 2014, at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.**

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) declared the Convention in session.

National Chaplain Danny J. Poole (MI) gave the invocation.

National Vice Commander Robert Turner (CT) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) then called on National Assistant Anthony Wright (PA) for National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders and Detachments.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Commander
Robert L. Turner (CT)	National Vice Commander
Thomas Chebro (GA)	National Vice Commander
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David R. Faust (WI)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	James K. Roberts, III (FL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	

**National Executive Committeemen Delegations**

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

New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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

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

Mr. Thompson, Jr. (NE) reported the following: There were a possible 861 Delegates and 43 Delegates At Large for a total of 900 possible Delegate votes from 52 Detachments. There were 34 Detachments pre-registered with 549 Delegates, 22 Alternates and 53 Guests. On Thursday, we had 44 Detachments with 804 Delegates, 32 Alternates and 71 Guests registered. On Friday, we had 47 Detachments with 882 Delegates, 33 Alternates and 106 Guests registered. At the close of registration Saturday there were 47 Detachments, 882 Delegates, 33 Alternates and 106 Guests.

Mr. Thompson asked that the names being submitted be typed or printed clearly so the name tags can be done right the first time and if you have guest please add those names on the guest registration sheet.

There was a concern raised that the registration time on Friday begins at 8:00 am while Convention Committee meetings start at 8:30 am.

Mr. Thompson, Jr. (NE) reported the following registered:

<b><u>Detachment</u></b>	<b><u># Delegates</u></b>	<b><u># At-Large</u></b>	<b><u>Total Registered</u></b>
Alabama	7	0	7
Alaska	6	0	6
Arizona	16	1	17
Arkansas	0	0	0
California	24	4	28
Colorado	9	0	9
Connecticut	6	1	7
Delaware	8	0	8
DC	0	0	0
Florida	35	1	36
France	4	0	4
Georgia	12	2	14
Hawaii	3	0	3
Idaho	0	0	0
Illinois	31	3	34
Indiana	77	3	80
Iowa	11	1	12
Kansas	16	1	17
Kentucky	10	1	11
Louisiana	7	1	8
Maine	8	0	8

Maryland	34	6	40
Massachusetts	14	1	15
Mexico	0	0	0
Michigan	44	2	46
Minnesota	24	2	26
Mississippi	4	0	4
Missouri	10	0	10
Montana	5	0	5
Nebraska	15	0	15
Nevada	4	0	4
New Hampshire	14	0	14
New Jersey	22	0	22
New Mexico	7	1	8
New York	60	1	61
North Carolina	7	1	8
North Dakota	4	0	4
Ohio	64	3	67
Oklahoma	0	0	0
Oregon	7	0	7
Pennsylvania	121	1	122
Philippines	0	0	0
Puerto Rico	0	0	0
Rhode Island	3	0	3
South Carolina	5	0	5
South Dakota	0	0	0
Tennessee	7	0	7
Texas	15	3	18
Utah	4	0	4
Vermont	11	0	11
Virginia	12	1	13
Washington	8	1	9
West Virginia	9	0	9
Wisconsin	10	1	11
Wyoming	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>882</b>

This concluded Mr. Thompson's report.

*(Commander Joe Gladden's membership video was shown at this time.)*

At this time Raymond Jarvis (NY) was called to give the National Membership Committee Report.

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Raymond Jarvis (NY), Chairman**

Mr. Jarvis reported that we didn't make our membership goal. We had ended up with 99.079% missing it by 3,281 members. We had 24 Detachments make 100% Membership with our Renewal Rate at 88%. We need to get our renewal rate up to get our 100% membership.

The following awards were given:

***Arthur D. Houghton Trophy Awards***

Category I	Rhode Island
Category II	Colorado
Category III	Iowa
Category IV	Arizona
Category V	Florida

***Hartline Award (Detachment with the most newly chartered Squadrons) - Pennsylvania***

***Highest Renewal Percentage by Region***

East	New Hampshire
South	Virginia
Central	Iowa
Mid-West	Not Presented (Oklahoma)
West	Nevada

***90% Renewal Awards***

Ohio  
Wisconsin  
New York  
North Dakota  
Maryland  
New Jersey  
Nebraska

***Largest Squadron Award*** – Newport Harbor, Squadron 291, Newport Beach, California – 1,528 Members

***Regional 100% Awards***

East	France
South	Georgia
Mid-West	South Dakota
Central	Iowa
West	Utah

***Triple Nickel Award*** – None Awarded

*(At this time the final installment video of "Shooting to the Moon" was shown)*

There were 7 Blue Brigade Jackets issued this year.

This concluded the Membership Report. Mr. Jarvis (NY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Montana. Motion carried.

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

*(At this time a video was shown)*

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**  
**Peter Sierminski (CO), Chairman**

Mr. Sierminski began by saying what a great year. The total in donations was \$334,699.16 which is 97 cents per member. The Detachment of Florida was our “Six Million Dollar Man”. There were 7 Detachments with over \$3 a member in per capita; 11 Detachments with over \$2 a member in per capita; 29 Detachments with \$1 a member in per capita.

The Foundation awarded \$644,000 to 21 Child Serving Non-Profit Organizations. Your CWF Committee recommended 11 grants with 10 awarded. Mr. Sierminski read a thank you letter he received from Children’s Hospital & Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska that received one of the grants.

Mr. Sierminski (CO) presented the following awards:

*Per Capita Awards Largest in the Nation – **MISSISSIPPI***

*Per Capita Awards in the Mid-West Region – **COLORADO***

*Per Capita Awards in the Central Region – **ILLINOIS***

*Per Capita Awards in the West Region – **OREGON***

*Per Capita Awards in the East Region – **FRANCE***

*Largest Monetary Donation in the Nation – **OHIO (\$37,272.78)***

*Largest Monetary Donation in the East Region – **PENNSYLVANIA (\$27,174)***

*Largest Monetary Donation in the South Region – **FLORIDA (\$25,962)***

*Largest Monetary Donation in the Mid-West Region – **COLORADO (\$23,584)***

*Largest Monetary Donation in the West Region – **ARIZONA (\$24,874)***

Detachments over \$2.00 per member that were **not** Regional winners were:

*Alabama, Arizona, Nevada, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming*

Detachments over \$1.00 per member that were **not** Regional winners were:

*Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Vermont*

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

At this time National Vice Commander Robert Turner (CT) was called for his final report from the East Region.

NVC Turner thanked the team that worked together this year. I got the opportunity to speak with an American Legion Family at Three Children’s Hospital in Massachusetts and it was a wonderful experience. I apologize to the Detachments that I didn’t get to visit this year but your hard work is greatly appreciated.

I also got the opportunity to visit one of the oldest Fisher Houses in the country. I've never seen one before and was truly impressed by what they do. I visited a place called "The Veterans Place". It's like a transitional housing for homeless vets where my wife and I had the privilege of eating with the faculty and some of the veterans. I was really impressed how this facility was ran. I was able to go to the National Commanders Homecoming and Washington Conference. In closing, I want to say I've had a wonderful year and want to thank my wife for everything she's done. This concluded his speech.

Mr. Turner (CT) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Pennsylvania. Motion carried.

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

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

Mr. Marsden (NJ) stated he was very disappointed that we only had four (4) history books to judge. We need to get more history books in as well as scrap books. The Detachment of Maryland sent in their history book late therefore it did not get judged.

Mr. Marsden presented the History Book Award Winners:

*Squadron – Harry White Wilmer, Squadron 82, La Plata, Maryland*  
*District - None*  
*Detachment – Vermont*

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

*(A video was shown at this time.)*

At this time Jeff Frain (AZ) was called to give the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Report.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION**  
**Jeff Frain (AZ), Chairman**

Mr. Frain began by saying for the "Missing In America Project" the total funeral homes visited was 1,629 homes and 9,499 cremations found. We did our job by finding them and laying them to rest so thank you. Another project was Fisher House and we only got about 1/3 of Consolidated Squadron Reports and out of that was total donations was \$77,000. That will go a long way in helping.

Reps and Deps - If we can get every one of our 350,000 members to donate just 10 hours out of the year can you imagine the numbers we can do the help our veterans at the hospitals. Please sign up to be a volunteer or become a Rep and Dep.

The following Awards were presented:

*Kirby Kepler Memorial (Squadron): Squadron 22, Johnson-Wiggins, Corsicana, Texas*



At this time the VA&R Awards were placed on hold for Nancy Brown-Park, National Auxiliary President, PNC Jake Comer and Dubbie Buckler, National Auxiliary Secretary.

President Brown-Park began by saying thank you to the Sons for all you have done this year. Commander Joe and I have had an incredible year together. I have challenged the Junior Auxiliary this year to get involved more this year. I encourage you to sign up the younger sons and get them involved for our future.

In Oregon I met a veteran who was in a veterans home that wanted to meet me. He looked at me and said there were too many dead people. I asked what he did, he said, I worked in the morgue. He was a Vietnam Veteran that was drafted right after high school in 1965. I look at his life then look at my life and that is why I do what I do every day. I just want to thank you all again. This concluded her speech.

Commander Gladden presented Madam President Brown-Park a gift, Certificate of Appreciation and made her a Distinguished Guest.

PNC Jake Comer (MA) was escorted to the stage.

Mr. Comer said Commander Gladden is very special and have been with him on a few occasions when I had the opportunity to address some of the Department Conventions. This past year I was singularly honored by the Sons of The American Legion in California to be inducted into the California Hall of Fame.

What you have done with CWF is now over \$6 million since 1988 is amazing. I come back every year because the Sons take the challenge and raise the money. When watching the parade it's the Sons that are caring the flags down the parade. Keep up the good work. This concluded his speech.

Commander Gladden made Mr. Comer a Distinguished Guest.

Dubbie Buckler, National Auxiliary Secretary was escorted to the stage.

Secretary Buckler said it's a delight to be here and that you are all here. Thanked the Sons for all they do and we are all family. Why does The American Legion Family matter? 22 million veterans in the United States need us to matter. This past year if you put a dollar value to our volunteer service our impact in the United States of America is worth \$2.1 Billion. That is our value to service to veterans, veteran medical facilities and communities. We volunteered over 9 million hours and raised over \$38 Million to support veterans and their families.

I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. This concluded her speech.

Commander Gladden made Madam Secretary Buckler a Distinguished Guest.

At this time the VA&R Awards with Jeff Frain (AZ) continued.

*Allen I. O'Brian Memorial (District): 9<sup>th</sup> District, Detachment of Georgia*

*Earl Webster Memorial (Detachment): Georgia*

*Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year: Bruno T. Williamson from Squadron 287, Rantoul, Illinois (Made a Distinguished Guest)*

This concluded his report.

Mr. Frain (AZ) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by New Mexico. Motion carried

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the 2014 American Legion Youth Champions and Shayne Abrahams (IN), Assistant Director, C&Y to the stage.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Andre Gross (NY, Jr. Shooting Champion.

Andre began by thanking the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion for the generous college scholarship and all the support I received. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Michael Steinel (OH), Precision Shooting Champion.

Michael thanked The American Legion and the Sons for his college scholarship. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Joseph Blaisse (PA), Eagle Scout of The Year.

Joseph thanks the Sons, the Department of Pennsylvania and his hometown Post 926 which sponsored me for the Eagle Scout of The Year Award. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Matthew Ellow (AL), Boys Nation President.

Matthew thanked The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion for acknowledge all our hard work of the year. I must thank my mother, a disabled Army Veteran, and my father for their support. I would like to also thank my home Post 15 in Decatur, Alabama. I will hold with me forever the honor of being elected Boys Nation President and thank you for the college scholarship. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams thanked the Sons for all they have done for the youth and veterans and what the Sons do for the United States. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Gladden made all the Youth Champions and Mr. Abrahams Distinguished Guests.

At this time National Vice Commander William Lloyd (WA) was called for his final report from the West Region.

NVC Lloyd said during the past year the West Region has been the last to come up and speak to you. Now I know the reason why, the first Region to land on the moon and the only Region to reach 101% so far. The number one Detachment was Utah with over 120% and 2<sup>nd</sup> was Philippines with 115%. The West region knew what they had to do and got it done.

The west excelled and did a great job with CWF. During my year as NVC I visited five Detachments – Maryland, Oregon, California and Utah and New Mexico. I was the first NVC to travel outside their region and New Mexico works great as a Legion Family.

I want to thank my wife, Barb, for supporting me this year as NVC. This concluded his report.

Mr. Lloyd (WA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Oregon. Motion carried.

*(At this time a video was shown)*

At this time Donald “Jr” Hall (MD), Acting Chairman was called to give the Internal Affairs Committee Report.

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Donald Hall (MD), Acting Chairman**

Mr. Hall stated there were three (3) Resolutions submitted. They are as follows:

*SAL 1-CONV 2014 – Titled: Homeland Security Border Patrol. Mr. Hall (MD) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by New Jersey.*

*SAL 2- CONV 2014 – Titled: Community Emergency Team. Mr. Hall (MD) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by Oregon.*

*SAL 3-CONV 2014 Titled: Federal Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Hall (MD) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by New York.*

*(Resolutions to be submitted to the Legion’s Internal Affairs Commission in October and will be included with the fall SAL NEC Report).*

This concluded his report.

Mr. Hall (MD) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by New Hampshire. Motion carried.

At this time National Vice Commander Brad Schroenghamer (NM) was called for his final report from the Mid West Region.

NVC Schroenghamer said the Mid West worked membership programs very well this year. We were just getting into position to land but we couldn’t quite get there but we are well over 99% of goal. We think you have confidence in ourselves to get the 200 members we need. We have 6 Detachments that are at an All-Time High. We have \$1.64 in per capita for CWF and you know very well that Colorado is primarily responsible for that with there 791% and #2 Nationally.

I had the privilege to visit several Detachments this year – South Dakota, Colorado and Kansas. There were several conference calls throughout the year. Working together can make a difference. This concluded his report.

Mr. Schroenghamer (NM) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by France. Motion carried.

At this time National Vice Commander Thomas Chebro (GA) was called for his final report from the South Region.

NVC Chebro said congratulations to the Southern Region for being #1. If it wasn't for your hard work we wouldn't be number one and I appreciate the work you've done. I had the honor and privilege of traveling this year to Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana and Florida.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your National Vice Commander this year. This concluded his report.

Mr. Chebro (GA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Louisiana. Motion carried.

At this time National Vice Commander Randy Eicher (OH) was called for his final report from the Central Region.

NVC Eicher said it's been fantastic to work with the National Officers and Staff this year and thank you. I want to also thank the membership for not misunderstanding Commander Gladden when he said his membership program is going to be "Shoot for the Moon" instead of everyone shooting at the moon. "Commander said, leave the jokes to me"!

Commander Gladden unveiled an action plan for his administrative year. Questions arose on how to obtain his goals but Commander Gladden provided simple answers with a brief description of how it can be done – "United in Service" which turned out to be the theme for the 2013-2014 Membership Year.

We had set two goals that were separate from Commander Gladden's. They were to establish solid lines of communication and to strengthen the bond between our eight Detachments. The eight Detachments shared information among each other on a monthly basis. NVC Eicher thanked his Detachments for their service and leading their Detachments. This concluded his report.

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

At this time Danny Smith (NE) was called to give the Americanism Report.

*(A video was shown at this time.)*

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

Mr. Smith (NE) reported that from the CPR's submitted: Over 1,200 Squadron Reports, 43 Detachment Reports, 27 District Reports with over \$2.3 Million Dollars and over 738,300 Service Hours. Commander Gladden asked us to increase our Boys State participation. We increased our sponsorship from 941 to 1,165 Boys with the dollar amount increasing from \$163,366 to \$193,469.

Mr. Smith (NE) presented the following awards:

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

*#1 Detachment in the Nation – Georgia*

*#1 District in the Nation – 10<sup>th</sup> District, Georgia*

*#1 Squadron of the Year – John B. Handte, Squadron 89, Vestal, New York*

The following Legacy Scholarship Fund Awards were presented:

*Largest Donation in the Nation – Maryland*

*Largest Donation in the Southern Region – Tennessee*

*Largest Donation in the Central Region – Indiana*

*Largest Donation in the Mid-Western Region – Nebraska*

*Largest Donation in the Western Region - Arizona*

The following Community Service Scrapbook Awards were presented:

*Community Service Detachment Scrapbook Award – Louisiana*

*Community Service District Scrapbook Award – None*

*Community Service Squadron Scrapbook Award – Harry White Wilmer, Squadron 82, La Plata, Maryland*

The following National Emergency Fund Awards were presented:

*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Nation – Arkansas*

*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Central Region – Iowa*

*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Eastern Region – Connecticut*

*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Mid-Western Region – Montana*

*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Western Region – Oregon*

*(At this time several Americanism videos were shown)*

Mr. Smith (NE) thanked everyone that helped. This concluded his report.

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

At this time NVC Tom Chebro (GA) called Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) to give his final report.

Commander Gladden said as he traveled this year the first thing I did was bring greeting on behalf of the 352,000 Sons. I never thought about today being the last day to bring those greetings. It's been such an honor to serve as National Commander. My theme this year was "United in Service" and working together as an American Legion Family we can accomplish anything.

The project I picked this year was the Legacy Scholarship Fund. I was thinking of who needed our help the most and it's our children of fallen soldiers. So I went out got a motorcycle so I can participate in my project. This year unfortunately my motorcycle's voltage regulator decided to give out but was able to get it back on the road again.

I've shared my story about the card I received in Colorado at the Americanism Breakfast for Veterans Day and I still carry the card with me. This card represents what we do for our veterans. As National Commander you have to come up with a membership theme and I like to dream big so I "Shot for the Moon". I still challenge you to go out and find someone that's not a

member and get them signed up or more importantly get those 45,000 members that failed to renew.

This year I had many opportunities when I traveled. I was able to visit 25 Detachments and traveled 2,138 miles car, 7,866 by motorcycle and 58,492 miles by air totaling 68,000 miles. One of the hardest things to do while traveling was leaving because it was like going home. I am so thankful for all the memories as being National Commander. Commander Dellinger and Auxiliary President Brown-Park have been great to work with this year. I want to thank my wife and sons for all their support without them I wouldn't be able to do this. In closing, I just want to say we truly are a part of an organization that allows us to great things. I want thank you for all your services for this organization. This concluded his remarks.

*(At this time Commander Gladden showed pictures of his year as National Commander)*

NVC Tom Chebro (GA) made a motion to accept National Commander Joseph Gladden's Final Report, seconded by California. Motion carried.

At this time Clint Bolt (VA) was called to give his report on Children and Youth.

*(At this time a video was shown)*

### **CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION** **Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman**

Mr. Bolt (VA) began by saying the American Legion since it's beginning has always realized the need for the care of our children. The Children & Youth Commission has three principles:

1. To strengthen the family unit
2. To extend support for organizations that provide services for our children
3. To maintain a well rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people

The Sons, united in service, meets the needs of these principles and each of you work hard year after year to support these programs for the betterment of our children. The Youth Handbook has been updated and thanks to John Kerestan for getting copies to us for this meeting.

We want to see an increase of attendance of Sons to the Children & Youth Conference in September and we will be presenters at this conference for the third year.

The following programs had an increase this year:

Special Olympics - \$48,301; CMN - \$1,346; OMK - \$3,857; Total increase of all programs this year is over \$1.1 Million Dollar which is a 15% increase from last year.

The Josh Dogs was just a hair short of our goal but we delivered 2,222 which is 118 more than last year.

The following Children & Youth Awards were announced:

*Eastern Region – Leonard Memorial of Middletown Township Squadron 338,  
Leonardo, New Jersey*  
*Central Region – Morris Snuggerud Squadron 284, Holmen, Wisconsin*  
*Western Region – Arlington Squadron 76, Arlington, Washington*

*Southern Region – Clayton E. Moneymaker Squadron 237, Huntsville, Alabama*  
*Mid-Western Region – George Johns Squadron 447, Round Rock, Texas*

*Detachment – Georgia*  
*District – 4<sup>th</sup> District, Georgia*  
*Overall Squadron – Colton Squadron 155, Colton, CA*

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

At this David Lee (NY) was called to give his report on Legislative & Rules Convention.

*(A video was shown at this time.)*

**LEGISLATIVE & RULES CONVENTION COMMITTEE**  
**David Lee (NY), Chairman**

Mr. Lee (NY) said we are here to help our nation and our veterans. We encourage every member to go through the Legislative process. We need to get the information to our blue cappers so they know what we need them to do. Go to the Legislative website for important and informative information. President Obama will be speaking at The American Legion National Convention this year.

*George B. Evans Grassroot Veterans' Advocate of The Year Award – None Submitted*

This concluded his report.

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

At this time Dr. Jerry Leopold (KS) was called to the stage for the Finance Committee Report.

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

Dr. Leopold reported with your \$2 seed money your National Organization is able to present and develop a lot of programs that your local Squadrons and Detachments can buy into and work with to help our veterans.

The following is the total in donations and volunteer hours:

VA&R - \$1.2 Million in donations with 333,000 volunteer hours  
C&Y - \$1.1 Million in donations with 147,000 volunteer hours  
Americanism - \$1.9 Million in donations with 763,000 volunteer hours  
Totaling: \$4.4 Million in donations with 1.2 million volunteer hours and an investment totaling 625%.

Last years income was \$738,000 less \$606,000 in expenditures leaving and excess of \$132,000 after administrative fees the remainder went into a reserve account. This concluded his report.

Dr. Leopold (KS) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Kansas. Motion carried.

At this time Bob Brown (GA) was called to give the Constitution and By-Laws report.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

**Bob Brown (GA), Chairman**

Mr. Brown reported there were no amendments to the Constitution. This concluded his report.

Mr. Brown (GA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Alabama. Motion carried.

At this time the podium was turned back over to National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD).

Commander Gladden (MD) called for the Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) for the Final Report of the Credentials Committee.

**CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

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

Mr. Thompson (NE) reported there were no changes since the first report. This concluded his report.

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

National Commander Gladden called for all donations also National Commander made all the National Vice Commander's Distinguished Guests.

Caucuses were announced at this time. Leading Candidate Mike Moss's reception was announced. National Vice Commander's presented National Commander Gladden with gifts. This concluded the announcements.

The total in donations are: NEF \$2,893; CWF \$49,639; Legacy Scholarship Fund \$16,956; Endowment Fund \$250; Fisher House \$6,120; OCW \$16,363

Commander Joe Gladden (MD) recessed the meeting until Sunday, August 24, 2014 at 8:00 am, following a rendering right-hand salute to the colors.

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**The 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 8:00 am on Sunday, August 24, 2014, at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina**

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) declared the Convention in session.

National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) was called to invoke the blessing of God.

National Vice Commander William Lloyd (WA) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) then called for National Adjutant Brian J. O'Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)



### **National Officers**

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Commander
Robert L. Turner (CT)	National Vice Commander
Thomas Chebro (GA)	National Vice Commander
Randall L. Eicher (OH)	National Vice Commander
Brad R. Schroenghamer (NM)	National Vice Commander
William J. Lloyd (WA)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Chaplain
Thomas E. Marsden (NJ)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
William G. Hill (MD)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Michael L. Kirschner (CO)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Bruce F. Paquin (MD)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Michael Seaton (CA)	Joseph M. Mayne (MN)
Robert McBride (OH)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
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 Deacon (IA)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
David R. Faust (WI)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	James K. Roberts, III (FL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	

### **National Executive Committeemen Delegations**

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

At this time the California Color Guard Champions were presented with their award and made Distinguished Guests by National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD).

At this time the SAL National Memorial Service will be conducted.

National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to secure the door and to uncover for the duration of the Memorial Service. National Chaplain conducted the invocation.

*(Music played at this time)*

PNC Bill Towns, Jr. (OH) read the first scripture; PNC Cliff Smith (MA) read the second scripture.

*(Music played at this time)*

National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) said a prayer followed by the Memorial Service.

At this time the National Vice Commanders, Bob Turner (CT) from the East, Tom Chebro (GA) from the South, Randy Eicher (OH) from the Central, Brad Schroenghamer (NM) from the Mid-West and Bill Lloyd (WA) from the West placed the Memorial Wreaths; Lighting the Candles of Remembrance was done by National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) and National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA).

*(Music played at this time followed by Taps.)*

At this time Chaplain Poole conducted the Benediction. Chaplain Poole gave special recognition to everyone that participated in the Memorial Service. This concluded the Memorial Service.

### **Special Order of Business**

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

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

The Detachment of Alabama yielded to Colorado, Colorado requested permission for Department Adjutant Pat Smith (CO) to approach the podium for the purpose of nomination. Alaska yielded to the Detachment of Michigan, Michigan requested PNC Earl Ruttkofsky (MI) permission to approach the podium to give a seconding speech. All Detachments represented, seconded the nomination.

The roll call was completed and National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) announced that there was one candidate for National Commander, Michael Moss (CO). Michael Seaton (CA) moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Michael Moss (CO) for the Office of National Commander 2014-2015, seconded Bob McBride (OH). Motion carried.

The Sergeant-At-Arms and all Past National Commanders escorted Michael Moss (CO) to the podium. Following a brief speech by newly elected Commander Moss, Commander Joe Gladden (MD) made Mr. Moss (CO) a Distinguished Guest of the National Convention.

National Commander Joe Gladden (MD) called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the roll call for nomination for the *Office of National Vice Commander*.

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

The Detachment of Connecticut yielded to New York, New York requested permission for PNC Chris Cerrullo ((NY) to give a nomination speech. Delaware seconded nomination. Greg Gibbs (NY) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region for the year 2014-2015. The nomination for Greg Gibbs (NY) was seconded by all Eastern Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Alabama yielded to Virginia, Virginia requested permission for PNVC Clint Bolt (VA) to give a nomination speech. Florida seconded nomination. Jeff Evans (VA) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Southern Region for the year 2014-2015. The nomination for Jeff Evans (VA) was seconded by all Southern Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Illinois requested permission for PNC Tommie Cisna (IL) to give a nomination speech. Indiana seconded nomination. Ron Wyatt (MI) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Central Region for the year 2014-2015. The nomination for Ron Wyatt (MI) was seconded by all Central Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Colorado yielded to Wyoming, Wyoming requested permission for NEC Gary Swanlund (WY) to give a nomination speech. Kansas seconded nomination. Charles Keith (WY) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Mid-Western Region for the year 2014-2015. The nomination for Charles Keith (WY) was seconded by all Mid-Western Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Alaska yielded to Utah, Utah requested permission for Glen Bradford (UT) to give a nomination speech. California seconded nomination. David Swafford (UT) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Western Region for the year 2014-2015. The nomination for David Swafford (UT) was seconded by all Western Region Detachments.

Following the completion of roll call, National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) announced the five nominations. NVC Randy Eicher (OH) moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for all five National Vice Commander candidates, seconded. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to bring forth the newly elected 2014-2015 National Vice Commanders to the stage.

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

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

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

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the installing Officers and Guests to the stage.

The newly elected National Officers were installed by Mr. Thomas Bock (CO), Past National Commander of The American Legion.

PNC Bock (CO) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Michael Moss (CO) and his family to the stage.

PNC Tom Bock (CO) called for the newly elected National Commander of the Son of The American Legion, Michael Moss (CO) for installation.

At this time National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) offered prayer.

PNC Bock (CO) handed the gavel to the newly installed National Commander Michel Moss (CO).

The newly elected National Commander Mike Moss (CO) began by thanking each and every member for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your National Commander of this great organization. There are so many people that made this possible but I'd like to start by introducing my family whose been a great part of this for the last few years – my wife, Linda of 38 years, oldest daughter CariAnne and her husband, our twins Jessica and Jerad and our seven grandchildren back home in Colorado. Along with several other family members, friends and The American Legion of Colorado Family.

Commander Moss said his father was a Korean War Veteran from the United States Air Force. He served 54 years to The American Legion before passing away. Today I will continue to honor his service to this organization. I will continue to wear his 50 year pin throughout my year. His 50 year pin was presented to him as his dedication toward The American Legion and values.

In 2014-2015 were going to be in construction, we've been in construction since 1932. We're going to start some new construction and continue on. We're going to be building bridges to the future and our youth is our future of our country. Our membership is going to continue to grow and we do it by building our bridges. Our bridge links our American Legion Family together.

Our goal this year for membership is 370,000. One of our largest promoters is YOU. A bridge without publicity – no one uses it. My programs this year will be the National Emergency Fund and The American Legion Endowment Fund. The American Legion Endowment Fund has been in existence for 90 years and I want to raise \$1,000 for ever year it's existed - \$90,000 is our goal. The National Emergency Fund was chosen because our devotion to mutual helpfulness. My goal is \$50,000 for the National Emergency Fund and my goal this year for CWF will be \$400,000.

Our organization is depending upon you and the local Squadrons for their success. Every turn of the wrench makes the bridge more secure. So let's get our there and do our best – I know you can. Lets build our bridges together and make the Sons lead them into the bright future of our Country. This concluded his speech.

Linda Moss, Mike's wife was called to present the newly elected National Commander his cap and name badge

Bobbie Gladden was called to the podium, where Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) received his Immediate Past National Commander cap and name badge. Commander Gladden made his wife and son Distinguished Guests.

Bobbie Gladden presented Linda Moss with the 1<sup>st</sup> Lady name badge. Newly elected Commander Mike Moss thanked PNC Thomas Bock and made his family Distinguished Guests.

PNC Charles Gannon presented the outgoing National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) with his flag from his year.

PNC Chris Huntzinger (PA) presented the incoming National Commander Michael Moss (CO) with his flag to have it placed in the stand by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

At this time Commander Gladden made his National Sergeant-At-Arms, Aide to the National Commander, National Historian and National Adjutant were all made Distinguished Guests.

At this time National Commander Gladden called for any Old Business.

**Old Business:**

No old business. This concluded the old business.

At this time National Commander Gladden called for any New Business.

**New Business:**

PNC Douglas Bible (MN) announced the Leading Candidate for National Commander for the 2015-2016 year is Kevin Collier (AK) and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Leading Candidate for National Commander is Jeff Frain (AZ).

There was no other new business to come before the Convention. Commander Gladden called For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion.

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

Jim Gelwicks (CO) announced newly elected National Commander Mike Moss's Homecoming information will be available at the Post NEC Meeting.

Commander Gladden thanked his wife, sons, Maryland Family and all of you for allowing him to become the National Commander and invited me to your Detachments to speak. I look forward

to supporting all the Officers moving forward and this organization any way possible. This concluded his remarks.

This concluded the Good of the Sons.

With no further business to come before the National Convention, National Commander Joe Gladden (MD) turned the podium over to National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) to end the meeting in prayer.

Commander Gladden (MD) announced the Post Convention NEC Meeting will begin in fifteen minutes in this room after this meeting.

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

Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) declared the 43<sup>rd</sup> National Convention adjourned.

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**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
POST CONVENTION MEETING  
AUGUST 24, 2014**

The Post Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion was held on Sunday, August 24, 2014, at the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) asked Past National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander Charles Keith (WY) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past Commanders and Detachments.

**National Officers**

Michael Moss (CO)	National Commander
Greg Gibbs (NY)	National Vice Commander
Jeffrey Evans (VA)	National Vice Commander
Ronald Wyatt (MI)	National Vice Commander
Charles Keith (WY)	National Vice Commander
David Swafford (UT)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus

**Past National Commanders**

Joseph Gladden (MD)	Clifford Smith (MA)
Robert McBride (OH)	Michael Deacon (IA)

Charles Gannon (MD)  
David Stephens (IN)  
Christopher Cerullo (NY)  
Douglas Bible (MN)  
David Faust (WI)  
Roland Matteson (AZ)  
Joseph Mayne (MN)  
Byron Robichaux (LA)

William Sparwasser (MD)  
Earl Ruttkofsky (MI)  
Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)  
Thomas Cisna (IL)  
Mark Arneson (GA)  
James Roberts (FL)  
Christopher Huntzinger (PA)

**National Executive Committeemen Delegations**

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

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

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) declared the Post Convention National Executive Committee meeting convened.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) then installed the National Executive Committeemen and Alternates who were present.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) read the list of National Officer appointments for 2014-2015 are as follows:

Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Robert J. Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
David M. Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Thornton (OH)	National Assistant Adjutant
Harl D. Ray (IL)	National Chaplain
Mark A. Kilstrom (CO)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Michael Kirschner (CO)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kyle A. Parkerson (AK)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond Giehll, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	Aide to the National Commander
Mike Pipher (IN)	Editor, SAL Newsletter
Clifford E. Hall (MA)	Event Coordinator
Wes Wills (KS)	Webmaster

A motion was made, accepted by Georgia, seconded by Pennsylvania to accept the Officer appointments. Motion carried.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) indicated that the Commission/Committee appointments had been distributed.

A motion was made by Commander Moss to accept the appointments by New York, seconded by New Jersey. Motion carried.

Commander Moss (CO) called for George Flasinski (PA), Membership Chairman to the podium.

Mr. Flasinski (PA) announced the “Wrench Lapel Pins” will be handed out after this meeting. At tomorrow’s meeting I will have paperwork and we will talk about the goals set by Commander Moss. The membership goal is September 10<sup>th</sup> and this is going to be a great year. This concluded his remarks.

Pete Sierminski (CO) said Commander set a goal of \$400,000 for CWF. We hit the \$6 million mark this year – a little part of heaven when we get to 7. This concluded his remarks.

Randy Eicher (OH) announced there will be a plan of action for tomorrow’s Children & Youth meeting. The e-mail address listed for me is incorrect on the appointment listing but as soon as I get home I will send the correct e-mail address to everyone. This concluded his remarks.

Clint Bolt (VA) announced we will work hard for the Endowment Fund goal of \$90,000. Mr. Bolt also called for a brief meeting when adjourned. This concluded his remarks.

Danny Smith (NE) thanked Commander Moss for allowing him to serve once again. We will continue with the spot light on Americanism. My e-mail is listed on the website. The National Emergency Fund is another project of Commander Moss and we will be pushing it this year. This concluded his remarks.

Joe Korba (NJ) thanked everyone for sending in picture for Snap Shots of Service. Please keep sending them in. We’re going to work in streamline the Facebook website. This concluded his remarks.

Bob Brown (GA) said I wanted all the other Commission Chairmen to come first because I want to challenge them to submit Resolutions. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Moss called for any *Unfinished Business* – **None**.

Commander Moss called for any *New Business* – **None**.

Commander Moss announced the transition meeting will be at 8:00 am in the Charlotte Convention Center in Room 201 & 202 2<sup>nd</sup> Level. Handouts are currently being passed out so please be sure to get one.

Mark Kilstrom asked for officers to stay for pictures.

Ray Giehl, Jr. made an announcement to be in the proper uniform when getting pictures taken. Commander also announced to get your Fall Meeting Reservations in by September 4<sup>th</sup>.



Commander Moss announced there will not be a training session but a membership meeting at 4:30 pm as well as the Chairmen meeting at 6:00 pm.

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

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