

MINUTES
OF THE
44th NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



Baltimore, Maryland
August 28 – 30, 2015

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PRE-CONVENTION MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2015**

The Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion was called to order by National Assistant Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA) at 10:00 am, Friday, August 28, 2015 at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland.

With colors being in place a right-hand salute was rendered. National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) was called for the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander David Swafford (UT) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander Ronald Wyatt (MI) 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 Michael Moss (CO) then called for National Assistant Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

National Officers

Michael Moss (CO)	National Commander
Greg K. Gibbs (NY)	National Vice Commander
Jeffrey C. Evans (VA)	National Vice Commander
Ronald R. Wyatt (MI)	National Vice Commander
Charles R. Keith (WY)	National Vice Commander
David L. Swafford (UT)	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
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 Kirschner (CO)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond Giehll, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kyle Parkerson (AK)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders

Michael Seaton (CA)
Robert McBride (OH)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)
David P. Stephens (IN)
Douglas Bible (MN)
David R. Faust (WI)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)

Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Michael Deacon (IA)
Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)
Thomas Cisna (IL)
Joseph Gladden (MD)

National Executive Committeemen

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

At this time National Commander Michael Moss (CO) declared the 2015 Pre-Convention of the National Executive Committee regularly convened. National Assistant Adjutant Wright was called for the reading of the May 2-3, 2015 minutes.

A motion to accept the Spring 2015 Minutes was made and accepted by Milton Chatham (TX) and passed.

Ronald Roberts (MS) stated the *Rules of the National Executive Committee* state in Rule 7 line 4 reads "Read the minutes of the former meeting". Since the chair did not have a unanimous consent wouldn't that motion be out of order? *National Judge Advocate, Joseph Paviglianti, said "No" because it's the decision of the chair at this point and time. The chair can make a motion and accept as he chooses. So this is not out of order.*

Joseph Mayne (MN) said he'd like to have someone help him understand, knowing there was some technical issues with the last minutes, is that correct? I don't know if we have all the minutes and would like to have someone explain the process to me. We have the technology and six assistant adjutants so what has been put in place for this meeting and going forward so these minutes will not be lost due to technological failures? What's been put in place and who's accountable? *This will be addressed by John Kerestan, SAL Staff Liaison.*

A motion on the floor to accept the minutes as published.

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

Mr. Kerestan said, Joe, in answer to your question. What are we going to do to ensure it doesn't happen again? We're going to pray a lot since this is something unusual out of our control. An unfortunate mishap. The plug came out of the outlet and someone may have moved a foot and the plug came out of the outlet. Mr. Kerestan welcomed everyone to Baltimore. The Fall NEC Meeting will be at the Sheraton, October 10-11, 2015. 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 4th for the October Meeting. The form is also on the SAL website.

I will be sending out a memorandum with a breakdown of the new procedures of the call-ins. When you come to register for the fall meeting you will check your packet for the information. Our SAL Finance Commission will fill out the voucher for you downstairs so be sure to have the proper information. Roll call will be used to base your per diem.

Yesterday our membership was at 99.999%. We only need 61 members to reach our 100% goal. I received word that Pennsylvania overnighted a transmittal for over 100 members so, as far as I'm concerned you are at 100%.

I want to thank you for your support for your charities to CWF, Legacy Fund, Endowment Fund and the NEF. If you have any questions come and find me I will be around.

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

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) called for any Chairmen Reports, no reports were presented.

Old Business

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

New Business

Commander Moss (CO) called for any new business; Jim Gelwicks (CO) asked if a line for the Endowment Fund can be added on the CSR form for next year. This concluded any new business.

For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion

Commander Moss (CO) called for Good of The Sons. PNC Robert McBride (OH) said when we met last in Indianapolis, the subject of leadership was brought to the floor. I find it ironic that we lack leadership to fill committees. We are sitting in a room full of leaders and everyone in this room is a good quality leader. We're elected by our people at home and expect us to lead. I ask you to show your leadership and that we are up for the task. Commander Moss also said the leaders are out there. We lack at getting the information back to National. It is up to our Detachments to get the names to National and it will benefit our organization.

PNC Joseph Gladden (MD) stated he wanted to thank Ohio Post 164, Rob Brewer and Jon Coakley for providing us with a wonderful steak dinner and a check for \$300 for the Legacy Fund.

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) mentioned that PNC Bob Turner's wife, Betty has had a health set back and to keep them in your prayers.

PNC Michael Deacon (IA) approached the podium asked the NEC and Alt NEC from Indiana to stand. PNC Deacon found an 8th District Commander cap on the floor and gave to Detachment of Indiana to take care of it.

PNC Joseph Gladden (MD) and David Lee (NY) had a weight loss competition to raise money for NEF and the results will be announced later.

Michael Kirschner (CO), Sergeant-At-Arms announced water will not be provided in the meetings to provide your own. This concluded any Good of the Sons.
In closing, National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) gave the benediction.

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

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
44TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 28, 2015**

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) called the 44th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion to order at 1:00 p.m., on Friday, August 28, 2015, at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

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 Mike Moss (CO) called on National Chaplain Harl D. Ray (IL) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael L. Kirschner (CO) led in reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance.

PNC Joseph Gladden (MD) and Robert Trueblood (MD) sang the National Anthem.

National Vice Commander Greg K. Gibbs (NY) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

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

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

The National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion hereby called by the National Commander the 44th National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion held August 28-30, 2015 in the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. 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 28, 2015. The 44th National Convention will be convened for the following purposes:

- To complete all business for the Sons of The American Legion for the fiscal year 2014-2015.
- 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 2015-2016. Elections will take place on Sunday, August 30, 2015.
- 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 Michael Moss (CO) then called for National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

National Officers

Michael Moss (CO)	National Commander
Greg K. Gibbs (NY)	National Vice Commander
Jeffrey C. Evans (VA)	National Vice Commander
Ronald R. Wyatt (MI)	National Vice Commander
Charles R. Keith (WY)	National Vice Commander
David L. Swafford (UT)	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
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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
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond Giehll, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kyle Parkerson (AK)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders

Michael Seaton (CA)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Robert McBride (OH)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Steve C. Laws (NC)
David P. Stephens (IN)	Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
David R. Faust (WI)	Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Christopher Huntzinger (PA)

Joseph M. Mayne (MN)

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)

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, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Commander Moss (CO) had declared this 44th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion Convened.

Commander Moss said it seems like we just left Charlotte, North Carolina and has been a fantastic year. We have accomplished a lot of things this year. Everyone in this room and across this country built that bridge. Introduce yourself to the person sitting in front or behind you and continue your hard work. Thank you for all you have done.

At this time Commander Moss had the Sergeant-At-Arms escort Robert Brown (GA) and Ronald Grist (GA) to the stage. Commander Moss recognize Bob and Ronnie for helping J. R. Stillwell (IL) at their own expense getting J. R. to his cousin's house in Louisiana from Colorado.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Grist were presented with Citations of Appreciation and made Distinguished Guests. Mr. Brown gave a brief speech and thanked everyone for their generosity. This concluded their presentations.

At this time National Auxiliary President, Janet Jefford (CT) was escorted to the stage.

President Jefford thanked the SAL for giving her the best year ever. One of the most emotional times of the year for me was when Josh Dogs where handed out at the Children's Hospital. The highlight of the year for me was being at Pearl Harbor for Pearl Harbor Day. President Jefford thanked the SAL for taking care of her and their friendship and wished them a great convention. This concluded her speech.

Commander Moss made President Jefford a Distinguished Guest and presented her with a Citation of Appreciation Award.

Commander Moss had Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, Mr. Dale Barnett (GA) escorted to the stage by the National Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Barnett (GA) said it's great to be here (switched to his SAL Cap). Mr. Barnett said he wants to thank this organization to continue the legacy and all your fundraising efforts. He's honored and proud that he served in the military and to continue serving The American Legion Family. He wished the SAL a wonderful convention. This concluded his speech.

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

Commander Moss had the National Sergeant-At-Arms escort Don Hall, Jr. (MD), Detachment Commander to the stage.

Detachment Commander Hall brought greetings to the SAL Convention and welcomed everyone to Baltimore. Commander Hall stated they had over 16,000 members with an All-Time High. In January, Commander Moss came to Maryland to take a nice dip in the ocean for Special Olympics raising \$30,000. This concluded his speech.

Commander Moss made Commander Hall a Distinguished Guest of this National Convention.

Commander Moss had the National Sergeant-At-Arms escort John Kerestan (IN), SAL Staff Liaison to the stage.

Commander Mike Moss (CO) said Mr. Kerestan is a vital asset to our organization and is the superintendent for building bridges for the future. Commander Moss presented Mr. Kerestan with a Building Bridges Gold Crescent Wrench Plaque and made him a Distinguished Guest.

Mr. Kerestan said, thank you, it's been an honor and privilege to serve as your Liaison. Mr. Kerestan thanked Commander Moss for everything he's done and wished him the best. This concluded his speech.

At this time Commander Moss 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 28, 2015 for the purpose of reviewing the standing rules of the Convention. As a delegate to the 44th National Convention, Mr. Lee (NY) made a motion for the acceptance of the Standing Rules of the National Convention and is accepted as published, motion was seconded by California. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Besson (IL) began by saying the SAL has had so many accomplishments that he couldn't remember them all. Your membership is currently over 357,000 and about 99.9% and if you get in your transmittal today that should make you 100%. Congratulations to all of you that have worked so diligently on membership this year. Membership is not the only program you excel in but in other programs you take part in. The Sons have raised \$360,000 for CWF which brings your total over \$6.5 million dollars raised.

Your hours to VA Homes and Hospitals is outstanding with 84,000+ hours with over \$478,000 in donations. The SAL is a vital part of The American Legion Family. That is why we "Thank You" and salute the SAL for your fantastic job. This concluded his speech.

At this time George West spoke. Mr. West brings greetings from the SAL Sub-Committee and thanked the SAL for all they've done and continue to do. Thanks from us Legionnaires and thank you Commander Moss and Delegates for a great year. This concluded his speech.

Commander Moss thanked Mr. Larry Besson, Mr. George West (NH) and Mr. Jack Querfeld (IL). Commander Moss made Larry Besson, George West and Jack Querfeld Distinguished Guests.

Commander Moss had the Sergeant-At-Arms escort National Commander Michael Helm (NE) to the stage.

Mr. Helm (NE) began by saying it's going to be a great convention. It's been a great year and the donations from the SAL have been outstanding as well as your membership renewals. I'm going to try to push in getting the Legion and SAL Commanders to Europe.

Commander Helm and his wife Debbie Helm and Commander Moss exchanged gifts with each other. Commander Moss presented Commander Helm with a Citation of Appreciation and made Commander Helm and his wife Distinguished Guests.

At this time National Auxiliary Secretary, Dubbie Buckler and the 2014-2015 Honorary Jr. Auxiliary President, Graci Huddleston (TX) were escorted to the stage by the National Sergeant-At-Arms.

Ms. Huddleston (TX) said how honored she was to be invited to the SAL meeting and thanked the Sons for the invitation. She said she was proud to show her patriotism across this nation as Junior President. My special project this year was the Fisher House. The pins on my sash has it's own story and memories. It starts with my home unit ending with today and everything in between. Ms. Huddleston thanked the Sons for all they do. This concluded her speech.

Madam Secretary, Dubbie Buckler spoke about the big thing this year is our Centennial Strategic Plan. My challenge to you is to make this a stronger organization by helping our military when they come home from serving. We have four goals – 1.) with The American Legion Build Grand Loyalty 2.) Strengthen our Departments and Units 3.) Build Leadership at all levels 4.) Foster an eternal cultural good will. This concluded her speech.

Commander Moss made Graci Huddleston and Dubbie Buckler Distinguished Guests and presented them with a Citation of Appreciation Awards.

Commander Moss had Thaddeus Figueroa (TX), Lead Account Manager from USAA escorted to the stage.

Mr. Figueroa began by saying they start every USAA meeting with their mission statement "*To facilitate financial security of those who have served and their families*". USAA has had a relationship with The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion for five years. We have a booth set up in the exhibit hall so please stop by and we will answer any questions you may have. Mr. Figueroa was signed up as a new member. This concluded his speech.

Commander Moss made Mr. Figueroa a Distinguished Guest.

At this time Dennis Boland (FL), President, CWF, Jason Kees (IN), National Staff, and PNC William Detweiler (LA), President, Endowment Fund were escorted to the stage.

PNC Detweiler (LA) said to thank Commander Moss and members of the Sons in taking on the Endowment Fund as your project. PNC Detweiler spoke about how the funds are used and are for short term help. *The Detachment of Nevada was presented with the James A. Drain Founder's Award and The Detachment of Florida was presented with the Harry W. Colmery Legacy Award.* This concluded his presentations and speech.

Commander Moss made PNC Bill Detweiler a Distinguished Guest.

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

Detachment of Hawaii for Excellence and Achieving the Highest Per-Capita for 2014-2015

Detachment of Hawaii received the CWF Meritorious Achievement Award for Highest Increase Per-Capita 2014-2015

Detachment of Ohio received the Garland Murphy Award for 2014-2015

Detachment of Florida received the US Udie Grant Legacy Award for 2014-2015

Mr. Boland stated to date the SAL has donated \$360,510 which is 58% of the donations. Commander Moss was presented with a Diamond Lapel Pin. This concluded Mr. Boland's remarks and awards. Commander Moss made Mr. Boland and Mr. Kees Distinguished Guests.

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) declared the 44th National Convention recessed until Saturday, August 29, 2015 to begin at 9:00 am.

The 44th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 29, 2015, at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland.

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Vice Commander Jeff Evans (VA) declared the Convention in session.

National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) gave the invocation.

National Vice Commander Charles Keith (WY) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Vice Commander Jeff Evans (VA) then called on National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders and Detachments.

Present were: (E=Excused)

National Officers

Michael Moss (CO)

Greg K. Gibbs (NY)

Jeffrey C. Evans (VA)

Ronald R. Wyatt (MI)

Charles R. Keith (WY)

David L. Swafford (UT)

Brian J. O'Hearne (MA)

Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)

James "Ed" Sheubrooks (FL)

National Commander

National Vice Commander

National Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

Anthony Wright (PA)
Robert Avery (NY)
David Ridenour (IN)
Scott Williams (VA)
Scott J. Thornton (OH)
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National Assistant Adjutant
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Roland D. Matteson (AZ)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)

Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Steve Laws (NC)
Neal Warnken (KS)
Michael Deacon (IA)
Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Thomas Cisna (IL)
Christopher Huntzinger (PA)

National Convention Delegations

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France
Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, 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, Tennessee, Texas Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West
Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

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

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

Mr. Thompson, Jr. (NE) reported the following: There is a possible of 871 Delegates and 45
Delegates-At-Large for a total of 916 possible Delegate votes from 54 Detachments. We had 39
Detachments pre-registered with 802 Delegates, 45 Alternates and 74 Guests. On Thursday we
had 45 Detachments with 869 Delegates, 49 Alternates and 83 Guests. On Friday we had 48
Detachments with 894 Delegates, 49 Alternates and 94 Guests. At the close of registration on
Saturday we had 48 Detachments with 894 Delegates, 49 Alternates and 94 Guests.

Mr. Thompson asked that the names being submitted be typed or printed clearly so the name tags can be done right the first time and if you have guests please add those names on the guest registration sheet. The Detachment of Puerto Rico is with new membership for 2015.

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

<u>Detachment</u>	<u>Membership as of 7/23/2015</u>	<u># Delegates</u>	<u># At-Large</u>	<u>Total Registered</u>
Alabama	1,679	6	0	6
Alaska	1,278	6	0	6
Arizona	6,513	16	1	17
Arkansas	451	4	0	4
California	10,897	25	3	28
Colorado	3,045	9	1	10
Connecticut	1,728	6	0	6
Delaware	2,331	8	0	8
DC	290	4	0	4
Florida	17,161	37	1	38
France	204	3	0	3
Georgia	4,789	13	1	14
Hawaii	18	3	0	3
Idaho	491	4	0	4
Illinois	14,581	32	3	35
Indiana	37,374	78	3	81
Iowa	3,916	11	1	12
Kansas	6,408	16	1	17
Kentucky	3,511	10	1	11
Louisiana	2,152	7	1	8
Maine	2,534	8	0	8
Maryland	16,036	35	6	41
Massachusetts	5,376	14	2	16
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Michigan	21,394	46	3	49
Minnesota	11,349	26	2	28
Mississippi	709	4	0	4
Missouri	3,470	10	0	10
Montana	967	5	0	5
Nebraska	6,218	15	0	15
Nevada	349	4	0	4
New Hampshire	5,579	14	0	14
New Jersey	9,311	22	0	22
New Mexico	1,802	7	0	7
New York	28,178	59	2	61
North Carolina	1,940	7	1	8
North Dakota	693	4	0	4
Ohio	29,804	63	2	65
Oklahoma	1,012	5	1	6
Oregon	1,606	6	0	6

Pennsylvania	58,748	120	1	121
Philippines	27	3	0	3
Puerto Rico	35	3	0	3
Rhode Island	260	4	0	4
South Carolina	1,070	5	0	5
South Dakota	600	4	0	4
Tennessee	1,707	6	0	6
Texas	6,124	15	3	18
Utah	523	4	1	5
Vermont	3,805	11	0	11
Virginia	4,500	12	2	14
Washington	2,441	8	0	8
West Virginia	2,661	8	0	8
Wisconsin	3,600	10	1	11
Wyoming	1,285	6	1	7
Total	354,530	871	45	916

This concluded Mr. Thompson's report.

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

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
George Flasiński (PA), Chairman

Mr. Flasiński reported that we are at 100% membership. We distributed 132 Individual Recruitment Lapel Pins. The renewals are still a big factor and we are still missing over 30,000 renewals. Mr. Flasiński also said, if you didn't receive your All-Time-High Ribbon to see him.

The following awards were given:

Arthur D. Houghton Trophy Awards

Category I Utah
Category II Oregon
Category III Iowa
Category IV Arizona
Category V Florida

Hartline Award (Detachment with the most newly chartered Squadrons)

California, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi and Pennsylvania

Highest Renewal Percentage by Region

East France
South Louisiana
Central Minnesota
Mid-West Oklahoma
West Nevada

At this time the awards were paused for 2nd Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, Charles Schmidt (OR). Mr. Schmidt was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Schmidt said it's an honor to be with the Sons at their convention. The Sons have been once again very successful with raising money for CWF. Commander Moss you and the Sons have been building bridges with \$360,000 in donations and 39,000 hours of community service. You are having a banner year in membership and I commend you for all you do for the Sons and The Legion. Mr. Schmidt again thanked the Sons and wished them a good convention. This concluded his speech. Commander Moss made Mr. Schmidt a Distinguished Guest.

At this time George Flasinski continued with the membership awards.

Triple Nickel Award – Florida and Mississippi

Largest Squadron Award – Newport Harbor, Squadron 291, Newport Beach, California – 1,750 Members

Regional Renewal Awards

East	France
South	Louisiana
Mid-West	South Dakota
Central	Minnesota
West	Utah

90% Renewal Awards

Delaware, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York and Vermont

Regional 100% Awards

East	District of Columbia
South	Mississippi
Mid-West	Oklahoma
Central	Minnesota
West	Nevada

There were 14 Blue Brigade Jackets issued this year. This concluded the Membership Report. Mr. Flasinski (PA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by New Jersey. Motion carried.

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

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Peter Sierminski (CO), Chairman

Mr. Sierminski began by saying what a great year. The total in donations was \$360,510.73 which is over \$1 per member. There were 10 Detachments with over \$3 a member in per capita and 26 Detachments with \$1 a member in per capita. Squadron 7 in New Hampshire with a little over 400 members donated \$15,000. Hawaii Squadron had \$19 per capita.

The Foundation awarded \$566,691 to 18 Child Serving Non-Profit Organizations. Your CWF Committee recommended 11 grants with 9 awarded.

Mr. Sierminski (CO) presented the following awards:

*Largest Monetary Donation in the Nation – **Ohio** - \$50,039.⁹⁹*

*Largest Monetary Donation in the East Region – **Pennsylvania** - \$21,493.²⁶*

*Largest Monetary Donation in the South Region – **Florida** - \$29,155.⁰⁰*

*Largest Monetary Donation in the Mid-West Region – **Colorado** - \$27,274.³³*

*Largest Monetary Donation in the West Region – **Arizona** - \$25,493.⁷⁷*

*Per Capita Awards Largest in the Nation – **Mississippi** - \$14.¹⁸ per member*

*Per Capita Awards in the Mid-West Region – **Colorado** - \$9.⁰¹ per member*

*Per Capita Awards in the Central Region – **Missouri** - \$2.⁰¹ per member*

*Per Capita Awards in the West Region – **Nevada** - \$8.⁴² per member*

*Per Capita Awards in the East Region – **France** - \$2.⁰⁴ per member*

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

Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia

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

Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming

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

At this time National Commander Moss (CO) had the Sergeant-At-Arms escort Linda Moss, Commander Moss's wife and daughter CariAnne to the stage. Commander Moss made them both Distinguished Guests.

At this time National Vice Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) called National Commander Michael Moss (CO) to give his final report.

At this time a video was shown.

Commander Moss said we have built our bridge and constructed it with 100% membership. Commander Moss said PNC Tom Bock jokingly said it's going to be a long year during my installation but it's not...don't blink because it is far from that. Moss thanked Linda his wife, family, The American Legion and the Detachment of Colorado for all their support he couldn't succeed if it wasn't for all their support.

The bridge wouldn't have been built without everyone's hard work and dedication. I was the first Commander to visit the Detachment of Nevada and Montana and between the two Detachments they have 1,400 members. I did the "Polar Plunge" with the Detachment of Maryland and we raised \$25,000 for Special Olympics.

Every visit this year was focused on the youth of America and The Youth of The American Legion Family. All across this nation our youth is very actively involved. Our youth were selling raffle tickets, helping with the Commander Projects, selling Josh Dogs and helping with breakfast. This is just an example of what our youth is doing. They are being mentored and taught by us as members and it's up to us to continue that.

We must not forget our greatest generation. My projects this year were a stellar year. We raised \$365,000 for CWF; \$29,436 for NEF; \$35,000 for the Endowment Fund; Membership was at 100% before convention. We set goals and accomplished them. I would like to send a shout-out to the Mid-West Region for achieving 100% before convention.

I'm sorry I couldn't visit all the Detachment during my year. Commander Moss read a letter from Justin and Lane Miller Sons members of Montana Squadron 135. In close, Commander Moss said God Bless The American Legion Family and God Bless America. This concluded his report.

Commander Mike Moss (CO) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Colorado, seconded by Nebraska. Motion carried.

At this time PNC Jake Comer (MA) was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

PNC Comer (MA) said for 28 years here I am back again. I pride myself that I'm the only PNC that comes back each year since going out of office and why not. It was sad with the loss of PNVC Tom Wigmore. Congratulations on reaching 100% membership this year. I have to say "thank you" to the SAL for raising \$1.6 million for CWF. Keep up the good work. "*When we hear we forget - When see we remember - It's when we do we understand.*" God Bless. This concluded his speech.

Commander Moss made PNC Comer a Distinguished Guest.

Commander Moss asked all the SAL PNC's to assemble in the back of the room and then were escorted to the stage. Commander Moss made all the SAL PNC's Distinguished Guests of the 44th SAL National Convention.

At this time Mark Kilstrom (CO) was called to give his report on the History Book Awards.

HISTORY BOOK AWARDS
Mark Kilstrom (CO), National Historian

Mr. Kilstrom (CO) stated there were 7 Squadrons, 3 Detachments and 1 District that submitted History Books.

Mr. Kilstrom presented the History Book Award Winners:

Squadron – Veterans Memorial Squadron 347, Lady Lake, Florida
Detachment – Kansas
District – Florida, 6th District

Mr. Kilstrom (CO) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Nebraska. Motion carried. Commander Moss made Mark Kilstrom a Distinguished Guest.

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

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

Mr. Bolt said, a year ago, when Commander Moss announced his goal for the Endowment Fund I felt there were a lot of people that didn't know what that Fund was for. So not only did we have a goal of \$90,000 but a job to educate about the Endowment Fund and we did a good job of educating this organization about the Fund.

Since this time last year we are over 400 visits to VA Homes; over \$21,949 has been donated; for Field Service over \$17,294; 685 hours with \$29,678 for Family Support Network; over 800 hours for National Veterans Assistance Day; over \$30,766 for Support for Our Troops; \$49,668 for Other VA Projects; \$10,986 for Operation Comfort Warriors – overall VA totals is 340,126 in hours with over \$1.2 million in donations. We currently have 64 Reps and 45 VA Facilities that have representation. This is four more than last fall.

The following Awards were presented:

*Kirby Kepler Memorial (Squadron): **Kerrville Memorial Squadron 208, Kerrville, Texas***

*2nd Place: East – Michael A. Rawley, Jr. Squadron 1636, Brooklyn, New York
West – Colton Squadron 155, Colton, California
South – Tybee Island Squadron 154, Tybee Island, Georgia
Central – Rantoul Squadron 287, Rantoul, Illinois*

*Allen I. O'Brian Memorial (District): **1st District, Detachment of Georgia***

*Earl Webster Memorial (Detachment): **Georgia***

*Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year: **Robert Filippi from Squadron 183, Parkville, Maryland*** (Made a Distinguished Guest) – his award was accepted on his behalf by Don Hall, Jr., Detachment of Maryland.

*The following members didn't win the Volunteer of the Year but are being recognized:
Bobby Jackson (IA – Squadron 96), Danny Smith (NE – Squadron 32) and
Gabe Cinquegrana (NY – Squadron 256)*

This concluded his report.

Mr. Bolt (VA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Nebraska. Motion carried. Commander Moss made Mr. Bolt a Distinguished Guest.

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the 2015 American Legion Youth Champions and Shayne Abrahams (IN), Assistant Director, C&Y to the stage.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Ethan Cople (NE), Eagle Scout of The Year.

Ethan thanked the Legion for supporting him and the Sons for inviting him to their convention. He will us the scholarship for college. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Rhiann Travis (TX), Precision Shooting Champion.

Rhiann thanked her Squadron, the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion for all their support. She thanked everyone for their service and sacrifice. This concluded her remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Adam McClintock (AZ), Junior Shooting Champion.

Adam thanked The American Legion and the Sons for his college scholarship and the amazing opportunities. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Matthew Walsh (MA), 2014 American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team Captain.

Matthew thanked the Sons for having him here today. He said The American Legion is very important to him as well as the scholarship he received. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Abrahams introduced Aravind Byju (FL), Boys Nation President.

Aravind thanked his father and the SAL for their support. I learned an appreciation for this country and what makes it great. 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 Moss made all the Youth Champions and Mr. Abrahams Distinguished Guests.

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

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman

Mr. Tansel stated there were Eleven (11) Resolutions submitted. They are as follows:

SAL 1-CONV 2015 – Titled: Support of Religious Freedom. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by Wisconsin.

SAL 2- CONV 2015 – Titled: Reaffirming “In God We Trust” as the official motto of The United States. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by Illinois.

Discussion – A question from the audience of what is meant by the term “accept” Resolution SAL 2 – CONV 2015. Commander Moss stated the term “accept” is referred to as “adopt”, so a member says, you’re moving to “adopt” this Resolution by the convention? Commander said, yes. So, again Commander Moss reconfirmed it is moved to “adopt” this Resolution.

Point of order – Resolutions pertaining to reaffirming or reiterating a present policy of The Sons of The American Legion should be received and recorded.

Michael Lawler (WI) for a point of order in the rules on pages 16 and 17 the term received and reported shall be applied to resolutions that reiterate and reaffirm a present policy position of the Sons of The American Legion.

National Judge Advocate, Joe Paviglianti, said, in the resolution the resolve clause does indeed expressly say we will reaffirm so in fact through adoption it does reaffirm and supports the adoption of this resolution. All we are doing is reaffirming so we are following the pre-admissions of that action so adoption simply means we are reaffirming that action not recreating nor establishing new guidelines. Discussion concluded.

SAL 3-CONV 2015 Titled: Reiterate Commitment to The American Legion “Service to God and Country” Program. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by Illinois.

SAL 4-CONV 2015 Titled: Sons of The American Legion National Member of the Year. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by California.

Discussion – Milton Chatham (TX), did I hear him say it starts with the membership year of 2016 before any guidelines are set-up? How can we have a person if we have no guidelines? Mark Tansel said, we will have to get the guidelines established and this will end up going into the 2017 membership year. Mr. Chatham made a motion that we set guidelines before we start selecting a member of the year.

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL), Commander Moss said one at a time. Commander Moss said there has been a motion on the floor to amend with Wisconsin seconding the motion to amend. PNC Gannon (MD) said, rather than amend the resolution, reject it and refer it back to the standing committee for further study. It would be referred back to Internal Affairs and that would make it go back to the committee for assignment after that.

Commander Moss asked, would the Delegate from Texas like to withdraw and/or change their motion? Milton Chatham (TX) said he would accept the motion that it be referred back to the committee for further study. Wisconsin also withdraws and that it be referred back for further study.

National Judge Advocate, Joe Paviglianti (NY), said, the Detachment of Texas and the Detachment of Wisconsin are withdrawing their motions. The suggestion from PNC Gannon (MD) to amend then the motion to accept it will refer it back to the committee, in this particular case, it would refer itself back to the NEC of the Internal Affairs Commission. So, if that is the action that is being suggested we need a motion to support that action. Mr. Chatham stated when he withdrew his motion that the motion be done, Mr. Paviglianti said we did not hear that motion so please make your motion again. Mr. Chatham re-stated that he move the amended suggestion to refer it back to the committee for further study, Wisconsin has second.

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL) added, that he recommend this resolution go back to committee that they also decide which committee will be judging the criteria and put it to a specific committee and/or commission that will be responsible for it.

PNC Gene Sacco (CA) said, as I understand, since the resolution is not read as far as the “Whereas”, if I’m wrong, but the resolution from Georgia is to merely establish the approval from this body to create an award with all the guidelines for the award and to establish a

small committee or commission for judging as Father Gary has stated. I think this is something that should take place, if and when, the resolution in its original form to take it back to the committee, assuming this award has been approved, which it hasn't at this point. If I approve this resolution directly this resolution's primary goal is to establish a member of the year award. I suggest it be taken back to the committee to talk about guidelines through the Detachment.

PNC Deacon (IA), said, Commander, didn't I hear to establish this award in 2016 year? Commander Moss said that was said. PNC Deacon said by the time the guidelines are established the 2016 membership will be over that's why it needs to be referred back.

National Judge Advocate, Joe Paviglianti said that is absolutely correct. The direction from the Delegate of Texas was for it to begin the guidelines with the 2016 membership year which begins after this convention. The criteria for the judging has not been established so that's why Texas made their recommendation.

PNC Deacon (IA), asked, is it possible to amend the motion for the resolution to change the date to 2017? That would allow for a vote on the floor, I will offer and make a motion to vote to amend to change the date to 2016-2017 that if this body wants to recognize a member of our organization each year for the outstanding work they've done. NJA Paviglianti said, the answer is "yes". Paviglianti said, we have an action on the floor by this convention. That action would be to refer it back to the committee. A motion needs to be exercised on that or changed by the delegate with a seconding. I suggest we act on that motion in such manner as to adopt or reject. If we reject we continue on with the discussion of the resolution. *(Someone couldn't hear so Joe reiterated)* - So there's a motion on the floor from the state of Texas that is to refer it back to the committee or commission in the case of the NEC. That motion is on the floor that can either be withdrawn by the members or acted upon by this body to approve or reject it. If it's rejected, then the continued discussion of the resolution by the Internal Affairs Committee takes place whereas then it would be appropriate for you to make a motion.

Jim Gelwicks (CO) asked to call question on Texas motion. Yes, Commander Moss motioned to signify by saying I, all opposed. Someone stated they think it's necessary to explain what they are voting on. NJA Paviglianti reiterated if you are accepting the motion on the floor then you are referring the resolution back to Committee/Commission of the NEC. If you reject it your essentially continuing the discussion of the resolution that is being presented by the Internal Affairs Commission. So if you want to accept and refer the resolution back to the committee then that would be an "I". A "Nay" would return the discussion to the convention floor.

Commander Moss said all in favor to signify by saying "I" and all opposed "Nay". Commander Moss said the discussion is back on the floor. Mr. Tansel said the Chair seems to have some doubt about the "I's" and "Nay's". A roll call will be done at this point.

PNC Sacco (CA), asked, what's the decision? Was it rejected or approved? Commander Moss said it was rejected. PNC Sacco would like to make a motion that this body vote to either approve or not approve this new award with the 2016 date in the resolution changed to 2017. Alt NEC David Blair (TX) calls for a division...Texas is calling for a roll call.

PNC Ray Giehll, Jr. (IN) asked if the motion we just voted on was for the amendment to the original amendment to refer it back and that we have not voted on the resolution itself? Is that not correct? NJA Paviglianti said that is correct and the only action we are taking is to amend it. PNC Giehll said PNC Sacco attempted to make another motion but isn't there already a motion on the floor for the original resolution, so another motion can not be made at this time...is this correct? NJA Paviglianti said what Mr. Sacco was making was another

amendment to the original motion because the motion was to accept. PNC Giehl said, so what we've only voted on was the amendment itself? NJA Paviglianti said that would be correct.

Milton Chatham (TX) said a division of the vote has been called for and that we have a roll call of the Detachments present to vote yes or no on my amendment. NJA Paviglianti said, that's appropriate by rules of the standing convention so we will need three (3) Detachments to ask for a roll with Texas being one, Wisconsin calls for roll call as well as New York.

NJA Paviglianti said, again, to clarify what we are doing a roll call vote on is to accept or reject the amendment that was made. PNC Sacco made a motion to withdraw his motion to make the other amendment. Paviglianti said a roll call vote on the same issue you did a voice vote on and it has been asked for by three (3) Detachments, which is appropriate, so again, "Nay" is accept and "Yay" does not. A request has been made to recess for five (5) minutes for a caucus.

At this time a five minute recess was given by National Commander Moss.

At this time National Commander called on National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne. Adjutant O'Hearne said, right now we are going to do a roll call on Resolution Number 4 and the motion on the floor is to refer it back to the Committee of the NEC. A vote of "in favor" would send it back to Internal Affairs Commission and a vote "against" would open debate again on Resolution Number 4. Also, as a reminder ALL At-Large-Delegates must be in the hall for their vote to be counted with their Delegation.

Roll call is as follows:

<u>Detachment</u>	<u># of Delegates</u>	<u># At-Large</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Past Nat'l Cmdr</u>
Alabama	6	0	6	6		
Alaska	6	0	6		6	
Arizona	16	1	17		17	Matteson - present
Arkansas	0	0	0	-	-	
California	25	3	28 27		27	Seaton - present Faust - absent Sherrard - absent Sacco - present
Colorado	9	1	10	10		Moss - present
Connecticut	6	0	6	6		
Delaware	8	0	8		8	
Florida	37	1	38 37	37		Roberts - absent
France	3	0	3	3		
Georgia	13	1	14 13		13	Arneson - absent
Hawaii	3	0	3	-	-	
Idaho	0	0	0	-	-	
Illinois	31	3	34 33		33	Stillwell - present Reis - absent Cisna - present
Indiana	78	3	81 80	80		Stephens - present Worrel - absent Giehl, Jr. - present
Iowa	11	1	12		12	Deacon - present

Kansas	16	1	17	17		Warnken – present
Kentucky	10	1	11 10		10	Dietz – absent
Louisiana	7	1	8		8	Robichaux – present
Maine	8		8	8		

Maryland	35	6	41 37	37		Hartman – absent Gannon – present League – absent Matoska - present Sparwasser – absent Gladden – absent
Massachusetts	14	2	16 15	15		Smolinsky – absent Smith – present
Michigan	46	3	49 48	48		Jamison – absent Ruttkofsky – present NVC Wyatt – present
Minnesota	26	2	28		28	Bible – present Mayne – present
Mississippi	4		4		4	
Missouri	10		10	10		
Montana	5		5	5		
Nebraska	15		15	15		
Nevada	4		4		4	
New Hampshire	14		14		14	
New Jersey	22		22		22	
New Mexico	7		7	7		
New York	59	2	61	61		Cerullo – present NVC Gibbs – present
North Carolina	7	1	8	8		Laws – present
North Dakota	4		4	-	-	
Ohio	63	2	64		64	McBride – present Hartline – absent
Oklahoma	5	1	6 5		5	Cook – absent
Oregon	6		6		6	
Pennsylvania	120	1	121		121	Huntzinger – present
Philippines	0		0	-	-	
Puerto Rico	0		0	-	-	
Rhode Island	4		4		4	
South Carolina	5		5		5	
South Dakota	0		0	-	-	
Tennessee	6		6		6	
Texas	15	3	18 15	15		Jordan – absent Winkelmann – absent Dew – absent
Utah	4	1	5		5	NVC Swafford – present
Vermont	11		11	11		
Virginia	12	2	14 13		13	Belles – absent NVC Evans – present
Washington	8		8		8	
West Virginia	8		8	-	-	

Wisconsin	10	1	11	10	1	Faust – present
Wyoming	6	1	7	7		NVC Keith
			TOTAL:	416	444	

National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne announced the total votes were 416 in favor and 444 against therefore the motion is denied. Commander Moss stated we are still debating Resolution Number 4.

PNC Gene Sacco (CA) stated he would like to amend the Resolution to accept and for this body to approve and adopt this Resolution to create this new award but to amend the date from 2016 to 2017, Wisconsin seconds the motion. Commander Moss called for discussion.

Commander Bob Brown (GA) stated, we concur with that. When we wrote the Resolution we put that date so it wouldn’t lay in a desk drawer for 10 years. Georgia has no problem with the change and would like to see this award be implemented and if it takes an extra year for the guidelines were are fine with that.

PNC Doug Bible (MN) stated, this may be a good idea but is it really necessary for a National Award or should this be a Detachment Award? Will it be a nightmare to try to judge like some of the other issues we’ve had? Just a thought.

PNC Clifford Smith (MA) stated, I agree with the award that we’re going to put through but if we’re going to put it through in 2017 is there some kind of time period of when the actual guidelines and what the rules and regulations that are going to be sent out to the NEC so we really know what is going on? We can’t just have an award without having the criteria established.

Commander Moss said point well taken. Commander Moss said their vote is to adopt the Resolution with the amendment of changing the date from 2016 to 2017. Blair (TX) said he amends it with the guidelines.

National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne reiterated that the Resolution is to create the award, establish the guidelines and the only thing that got changed was to move it from 2016 year to the 2017 year to allow the Committee to establish the guidelines. So the guidelines is still part of the Resolution. Commander Moss called for any further discussion, hearing none. All in favor. The “Y’s” have it.

At this time Mr. Tansel (IN) continued with the Internal Affairs Report and Resolutions.

SAL 6-CONV 2015 Titled: Endorsement of Jeff Frain (AZ) for National Commander. Resolution has been received and filed.

SAL 7-CONV 2015 Titled: Electronic Copy of National Newsletter. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept this Resolution, second by California (PNC Sacco).

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL) - It says you have to “opt-in” to get a hard copy but the problem with that is for the people that don’t have computers. I think it should be the other way around to “opt-out” to not receive the hard copy instead of the person that doesn’t have the option to opt-in. I think we’re losing people by doing that.

Mike Lawler (WI) my issue with this is it says to stop immediately. We only have about 12,000 e-mail addresses. So anybody who doesn’t have an e-mail on file isn’t

going to get any notification of this. Grant it you can go to the website to get this but I recommend we don't do this.

PNC Mayne (MN) speaking to this Resolution I'd like the delegates to understand what we're trying to do is change the paradigm of how we communicate with our members. The enormous costs of the hard copy newsletter and the content that goes out in it are literally reaching a number of people. It's great to get a hard copy but in reality the cost savings in reducing the hard copy over time makes more sense than continuing with what we're doing. So the purpose of the resolution is to get the National organization to start thinking forward on how we're going to communicate with our members in the years to come and to attract those kinds of members we are looking that actually don't look at a hard copy of the newsletter.

Alt NEC Bill Kelly (FL) said, from what I understand, that we only have 13,000 e-mail addresses and we have 356,000 members. That seems a little bit short of reaching all of our membership. I think we would be doing a disservice at this time to just put out an electronic version to everyone of our members of this organization. Commander Moss – point well taken.

PNVC Dave Downey (NY) said my newsletter sits on my table and my 10 year old grandson reads it when he comes over because he doesn't get a copy. As well as my two granddaughters whom are members of the Auxiliary. If it comes out on my computer they probably wouldn't read it.

PNC Deacon (IA) said Mr. Lawler stated that it says to stop immediately. It says stop immediately upon successful testing and availability of an electronic version being online. We're not going to shut it down this very second as soon as it's voted on. It will be shut down after it's tested.

Mike Lawler (WI) said if I may rebut that. It says stop immediately after successful testing and availability of an electronic version being online. That is already out there and we know we can put it online. Stop immediately is going to stop the mailing. Keep our hard copy.

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL) asked for a show of hands of how many currently get a hard copy. I've been in my current location for 18 years. I know when I moved there I submitted at least 5 different change of addresses to National. To this day yet I haven't received a hard copy of the newsletter in those 18 years. The only way I read the newsletter is online. I belong to 20 other organizations that have done likewise and they have stopped printing because printing is expensive. If I could do it with my churches I would stop printing and put it all online because it is expensive. I understand and I believe what they are trying to do here is make more information available. Guys somewhere along the line we all have to get into the 21st Century and we're not going to do it by living in the 19th Century. Give it some thought. Thank you.

PNC Chris Cerrulo (NY) said to me we need to make the paper stronger, keep this paper on end tables, coffee tables and post bars so people can see it and spread the word. This paper is a strong thing and I have Squadron Commanders that asked

when are we going to get a good picture to get in that paper and get it mailed. Some things just can't be changed in this organization so keep this newsletter alive through the US mail so people can see the Sons of The American Legion. Scott Garrett (CO) asked, What would be the liability of doing a one time mailing requesting peoples e-mails or adding this information to the newsletter that is currently going out asking people to submit their e-mail address so they can receive it only electronic.

Michael Fox (CA) said, I think some of you are starting to get a little confused and a little clouded. Yes, the mailer would stop, however, you can still receive it if you wish and it's not going to completely go away. It will still be there if you make that request that you want to receive it.

Ronnie Grist (GA) said, I understand the logic behind getting rid of the newsletter but I don't agree with the logic. One of the benefits of being an SAL Member is getting a copy of this newsletter. My thirteen year old nephew has read it since he's been able to read and that's the only thing he gets as being a member of the SAL. We also have the other problem that's not being addressed. We've got mySAL.org that the Adjutant of the Squadron should be able to log on and add and correct the e-mail addresses. We did it backwards for the fact that the Squadrons got permission before the state did. The local level is not getting the data for us if we only have 12,000 e-mails. They aren't doing their job and we have to make sure we're doing our job by getting our Adjutants to get this information in before we even think about going completely electronic because again 12,000 is not even 1% of the 350,000+ members.

John Whitlock (AK) asked how much is spent from the budget on sending out the hard copies every year? Commander Moss asked for John Kerestan or Jerry Leopold. (Not in the room)

PNC Ray Giehl, Jr. (IN) said, I'm trying to understand this I guess. Isn't the national update currently online? Is Mike Pipher (IN) in the room? He does this on a regular basis, can he answer whether the current addition is online and where we are so I can understand what we are changing?

Mike Pipher (IN) said, yes, the National Update is available online – each edition.

PNC Giehl, Jr. (IN) asked so this resolution is to not mail it anymore? Because it's already online which one of the things it's asking us to do. The other question, the resolution suggests what we do with the financial savings which I don't think is within the right of this resolution. Should that not be up to the Finance Committee or the standing Finance Commission to decide what we do with savings in the way of money and not this resolution. (PNC Mayne (MN) yelled from the audience that it's the delegates that decide.)

Jerry Leopold (KS), Chairman, Finance Commission, said there was a question with the regard of the amount of money being spent on postage and printing of the newsletter. I can not give you a specific breakdown but there is a total of

approximately \$270,000 spent on all printing and all postage during the course of the year.

PNC Giehl, Jr. (IN) said, I'm not against this idea they were just questions of are we beating a dead horse or are we doing something that's already being done. I want us to come into the 21st Century and I'm not saying I'm against this resolution but there are questions that need to be answered about this resolution.

James Fisher (CA) said, we're not getting rid of the newsletter we're just going to cut down on the amount of mail. If we can take that \$270,000 and drop it to \$100,00 then there is \$170,000 we save.

Rob Brewer (OH) said, Ohio eliminated the mailing of our newsletter two years ago which cut our cost by 2/3. We use that money to support veteran programs. I know it's a little bit of a hassle but you can print this off and put it anywhere you want offline.

Dave Downey (NY) said, I remember a few times when we would get too much money in our account that we have to vote \$5,000 here or there to get rid of the excess amount. I don't think we need to get rid of the newsletter.

NJA Joe Paviglianti, said, we've got 30 minutes for debate and we are 10 minutes into it, which is fine. However, I want to clarify that two only delegates from any one delegation will be permitted on the floor with any one question except where there is a disagreement that exists then there will be one delegate aloud to speak on each side of the question. So, as the delegates from the detachment are counting their conversations make sure we understand only two delegates from each detachment can indeed speak on the floor. We've had New York three times with two different delegates. Please be guided by that rule.

PNVC Tom Marsden (NJ) made a motion to change it to "opt-in" that way anybody who opts not to get the hard copy can do so to save money in this organization.

National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne (MA) said the resolution says "opt-in" so what are you trying to amend?

PNVC Marsden said that you "opt-in" to get the electronic copy instead of "opt-in" to get the hard copy. National Adjutant O'Hearne said so you want to re-word the resolve clause? PNVC Marsden said, yes, I would like to make the motion that we "opt-in" to receive the electronic copy, seconded by Wisconsin (PNC David Faust).

National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne reiterated that PNVC Marsden wants the resolve clause to read, "that an "opt-in" option be made available to any member of The Sons of The American Legion wishing to receive an electronic copy of the National Update." Marsden said that was correct and to remove the immediately stop out of it as well because you can't immediately stop it. Commander Moss called for any other discussion.

PNC Robert McBride (OH) said I can see both sides of this argument but I think we have another issue that might impact your vote on the amendment that's on the floor. I was very surprised to hear that there are only 12,000 e-mails on file at our National Headquarters for members of the Sons of The American Legion. Gentlemen, if this is how we're going to communicate with our kids and their kids it's going to be by e-mail, text messages and etc. So as you contemplate whether you want to support or oppose the amendment to the motion that is on the floor there would be a benefit to what the original resolution proposes. That benefit would be us collecting many more e-mail addresses. If we follow the original plan that you "opt-in" to get a hard copy then everybody else gets and electronic copy we will have incentive to get these e-mail addresses. So put that in your thinking as you support this amendment.

PNC Gene Sacco (CA) said there's one point of information that the delegation needs to know before they vote. For years because of high cost of postage that the update is only sent to one household were there are more than one member that have one address. So, one of the benefits, I think, of this resolution and the forward thinking of the Detachment of Minnesota that since we've been concerned about the cost of postage for so long and only one update going to one household that has multiple members, we're already concerned about the cost of this update. This resolution is a way to bring us into the 21st Century. Look at the Auxiliary's strategic plan, it's moving towards electronic communication and yet we're worried about staying in the past. If we're worried about getting the word out and the update is not available as a hard copy after successful testing, the money we save from an update not being published, we can easily send out a post card or letter to every member of this organization saying the update is no longer going to be available or there's an option to receive it electronically and you do want to continue to receive it by mail. I see this resolution as a positive result.

Commander Moss said let me remind you, our membership data cards have been out for over 10-15 years and people are still trying to get those in. We're still unable to get that to work. It has all that information on it that we are trying to do and we still can't get it in to National Headquarters because our Detachment Adjutants and their Squadrons simply don't get those filled out and sent back in. We need to concentrate on getting that information and so far that hasn't happened.

PNV Gannon (MD) said several years ago we established a youth type leadership committee they were to reach the younger members. The problem here is the use of strategic plan, obviously we don't have a strategic plan to get these addresses. That's what we need to establish before we start doing it and as quickly as we can. We can't do this magically in six months it just isn't going to work.

National Historian Mark Kilstrom (CO) said one of the issues we're having with have such a small number of e-mail addresses is on the membership application is a place for the recruit to put his e-mail address on it. The card they fill out at the Squadron they send to National doesn't have a place for an e-mail address. We need some kind of device that allows us to capture e-mails from the members we have and the new members we recruit. We need to do that before we cut out mailing this newsletter.

Commander Brian Page, Post 408 said they've been working hard with our youth program. If you set a newspaper or an i-pad on the table what are the kids going to pick up? They will pick up the electronic device. If you want to communicate with our younger generation it will have to be electronically because they do not want to pick up that paper. Additionally we have to think about what it's going to take to get our younger generation involved and it's all moving towards the electronic age.

Ed Sheubrooks (FL) said I think we're losing sight that our membership is from birth to death. I personally have grandchildren that like to receive it because they're not allowed to go on the computer because of their age. We will disassociate some of our members by not getting this mailing out to them. We need to continue mailing this newsletter in its entirety.

Commander Moss said I need to remind you we are talking about the amendment not the resolution.

PNC Faust (WI) said I want to echo the comments of PNC Gannon (MD). I do believe we need to move into the 21st Century and get more electronic with all of this. I just don't think if we dropped this in the next six months we'd be doing ourselves any favors and will be hurting a lot of people. We need to get a strategic plan in place then move with something like this.

Carl Alber, Jr. (NJ) said he runs the Detachment website for New Jersey and while I'm all for getting us into the 21st Century and getting everything electronic but I do think we need to have something more of a plan in place to figure it out.

William Murphy (MA) asked to call the question. National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne (MA) reiterated, what you're voting on is the amendment to change the resolve clause to read "that the opt-in option be made to any member of the Sons of The American Legion wishing to receive an electronic copy of the National Update". Commander called for all in favor or all oppose. Someone said it was to also remove "effective immediately". This was not correct. It was stated and seconded (no one said who they were) to also remove effective immediately.

Bob Brown (GA) said the motion was already on the floor to change the opt-in before the motion was made a second time. You have to act on the motion the first time before you can entertain a second motion. NJA Paviglianti said we've already done it. Commander Moss already made a motion and the I's have the amendment. Commander Moss said we now have to make a motion to accept the resolution as amended. The motion was originally made by Commander Moss and seconded by California (PNC Sacco).

Mike Pipher (IN) said my role is that of the publisher not a policy maker. Although I would be eternally grateful to those Commanders I have served under who have given me a free hand to do the newsletter the best I felt I could. I have two thoughts to bring forward with regard to the Resolution. The first, anyone who does not believe and understand the future is in the cloud is not living in a real world. The future is in electronics but be careful of what you ask for. This is certainly a good

idea but if you lock yourself into this one resolution you're going to lock yourself out of other good ideas that are out there. We need to think about how we're going to move this thing forward and towards the future.

PNC Sacco (CA) said to Mike Piper's point I agree with him whole heartedly and I think the resolution does address that. It says, upon successful testing which does address Mr. Piper. Successful testing, in my opinion, that Mike and his committee would have the ability and authorization by this body to test different methods to do it. If Mike and his Committee or Commission take a year to find different ways and to report back to this body of what has or hasn't been successful.

Ron Roberts (MS) asked to have the Resolution re-read. National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne reread SAL Resolution 7 – Convention 2015 with the amendment that was made to change “that the opt-in option be made to any member of the Sons of The American Legion wishing to receive an electronic copy of the National Update”.

Lawler (WI) called for the vote. Commander called for the motion to accept the amended resolution. Motion carried. This concluded the discussion for SAL Resolution 7 – Convention 2015.

Mr. Tansel continued with the Resolutions.

SAL 8 – CONV 2015 Titled: Membership Resolution. Mr. Tansel (IN) recommends this resolution be referred to the Membership Committee for further study and review. Commander Moss made a motion of the recommendation, seconded by Michigan (PNC Earl Ruttkofsky). Motion carried.

SAL 9 – CONV 2015 Titled: Annual Article in The American Legion Magazine. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept this Resolution, seconded by Wisconsin. Motion carried.

SAL 10 – CONV 2015 Titled: Endorsement of Joseph Navarrete (NM) for National Vice Commander. This resolution has been received and filed.

SAL 11 – CONV 2015 Titled: Endorsement of Greg K. Gibbs (NY) for National Commander. This resolution has been received and filed.

SAL 12 – CONV 2015 Titled: Endorsement of William Kelly (FL) for National Vice Commander. This resolution has been received and filed.

This concluded his report. Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by New Jersey. Mr. Tansel was made Distinguished Guest.

At this time David Lee (NY) was called to give the Legislative & Rules Convention Committee Report.

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

Mr. Lee (NY) said we discussed the George B. Evans Grassroot Veterans' Advocate of The Year Award, pending Legislation for The American Legion, information on testimony the American Legion has done to Congress and Washington Conference for 2015.

The American Legion Legislative Division Director, Ian De Planque and Assistant Director, Jeff Steele, testified in front of Congress and one of the issues was exploring VA's Administration of Individual Unemployed Ability Benefits. Thus meaning if you have a 20% injury you may not be employed for the specific job you did or do prior to that injury. This is not unemployment this is Unemployed Ability. This was a fabulous testimony and Congress was very open on this discussion.

Another testimony in front of Congress was ending Homeless Veterans. This will continue and the numbers have come down. If you are going to support a Politician make sure you're representing as an individual not a Sons member.

Go online and check out the different Acts the Legislative Committee have as well as other information.

The Washington Conference for 2016 will be February 21st-24th. Wreath laying ceremony on February 21st at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier. We may also go to the Pentagon where the plane crashed on 9/11 for a wreath laying as well as the Korean War Memorial.

*George B. Evans Grassroot Veterans' Advocate of The Year Award –
Ralph Bozella (CO), Squadron 32, Longmont, Colorado*

Mr. Bozella was presented the George B. Evans Grassroot Veterans' Award by Commander Moss. Mr. Bozella gave a brief speech and was made a Distinguished Guest.

This concluded his report. Mr. Lee was made a Distinguished Guest. David Lee (NY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Connecticut. Motion carried.

William Murphy, III (MA), Detachment Commander, stated this meeting has been in session for 4 ½ hours without a break. Mr. Murphy is making a motion by asking for a 15 minute break. Commander Moss has denied the motion for a 15 minute break.

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

AMERICANISM COMMITTEE
Danny Smith (NE), Chairman

A slide show was shown was shown at this time.

Mr. Smith (NE) said you've heard me say we put smiles on individuals faces. **S**ons **M**aking **I**ndividual **L**ives **E**xtraordinary – SMILE. That's what you folks do and what we are all about. So how do you measure success – by the number of dollars we donate or the hours we invest in our programs. We do this with our CPR's but there's another way we can measure success and that is by the smiles we put on people's faces.

Mr. Smith reported the Sons have invested \$1.6+ million in donations and 613,050 in hours of service. Mr. Smith said the Gerald Atwood-Edward Beyea-Raymond York Memorial Award is

to honor the three Sons of The American Legion members that lost their lives to the tragic and horrendous attack on the World Trade Center on 9/11. They are more than names, they not only served their community, they also served our organization. Gerald Atwood was Sons member of Squadron 1060 in Brooklyn, New York and a New York Firefighter assigned to ladder number twenty-one and an eight year veteran with the New York City Fire Department. Edward Beyea was a life member of Sons Squadron 173 in Bath, New York and worked as a computer programmer for the Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield in the World Trade Center. Mr. Beyea was a quadriplegic from a diving accident from twenty-one years needing full time care. Mr. Beyea taught himself how to type using a pencil or a stick he operated with his mouth. Mr. Beyea and Abe Zelmanowitz both perished on the 27th floor because Mr. Zelmanowitz refused to leave his side. Raymond York was a member of Sons Squadron 1404 in Broad Channel, New York. Mr. York was one of New York's bravest and gave his life on 9/11/2001 while attempting to save his fellow citizens. Mr. York was a veteran firefighter with Engine Company 285 in Queens. He had been assigned to light duty due to an on the job accident. Mr. York hitched a ride from the Rockefeller Center with a television truck and ambulance.

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 – 9th District, Georgia
#1 Squadron of the Year – John B. Handte, Squadron 89, Vestal, New York

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

The following Community Service Scrapbook Awards were presented:

Community Service Detachment Scrapbook Award – South Carolina
Community Service District Scrapbook Award – None
*Community Service Squadron Scrapbook Award – Harry White Wilmer, Squadron 82,
La Plata, Maryland*

The following Legacy Scholarship Fund Awards were presented:

Largest Donation in the Nation – Maryland (\$25,250)
Largest Donation in the Southern Region – Florida
Largest Donation in the Central Region – Illinois
Largest Donation in the Mid-Western Region – Nebraska
Largest Donation in the Western Region - Oregon

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

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

Tom Skelley (TX) asked if the slide show was available online or the website. Mr. Smith will have it available online.

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

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

Mr. Eicher (OH) began by saying the Children & Youth Commission has had a busy year this year. Commander Moss had asked us to direct our attention towards American Legion's forgotten program – The American Legion Endowment Fund. Commander Moss established a goal of \$90,000 and unfortunately we only came up with \$35,000 but one undisputed fact is the American Legion Endowment Fund has been re-introduced because of our focus this past membership year.

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

There were only 1,489 Squadron Report Forms received by the due date of July 31st and only up slightly. We need to keep moving forward. The CSR's reported the following: Special Olympics - \$203,997 with 20,481 service hours; CMN - \$70,015 with 8,475 service hours; Josh Dogs - \$43,512 with 2,144 Josh Dogs distributed; OMK - \$2,215 with 10,318 service hours; Other Children & Youth Programs/Projects - \$620,738 with 109,277 service hours.

The following Children & Youth Awards were announced:

*Eastern Region – Leonard Memorial of Middletown Township Squadron 338,
Leonardo, New Jersey*

Central Region – Peebles-Vaughn-Wideman Squadron 253, Festus, Missouri

Western Region – Arlington Squadron 76, Arlington, Washington

Southern Region – East Point Squadron 51, East Point, Georgia

Mid-Western Region – George Johns Squadron 447, Round Rock, Texas

Detachment – Georgia

District – 9th District, Georgia

Overall Squadron – Colton Squadron 155, Colton, CA

Mr. Eicher (OH) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried. Mr. Eicher was made a Distinguished Guest.

At this time Commander Mike Moss (CO) called for the National Vice Commander's Final Reports.

National Vice Commander Greg K. Gibbs (NY) was called for his final report from the East Region.

NVC Gibbs (NY) said he visited eight different states for their Mid-Winter Conferences and Conventions was the highlight of my year. Spreading the Commander's message on building bridges for the future was an easy task and well received. John Waite shared a lot with us and very helpful. While traveling the hospitality was certainly second to none. Vermont supports a Homeless Veterans Home called "*Veterans Place*" located in Northfield, Vermont and has had a great success in turning around the lives of some of our most desperate veterans. Maine makes tremendous efforts in the Special Olympics and makes a big impact throughout their state. Maine also supports the Beals Hospitality House which is much like a Fisher House. They also passed a Resolution during their convention to begin the process of investigating in building the first physical SAL Detachment Headquarters building in Winslow, Maine.

While in New Hampshire a Squadron presented a \$15,000 check for CWF to their state commander. Likewise, Maryland does a tremendous job with Special Olympics and have taken over the complete bowling league tournament for Special Olympics and sponsors it 100%. Our largest Detachment in the East, Pennsylvania, is involved in so many initiatives is hard to know where to begin.

West Virginia had their Mid-Winter meeting with an informal BBQ with the whole Legion Family. A historic Post in New Jersey was the highlight in our travels while spending time in the "mole hole". A young New Jersey boy raised money to send out 130 Josh Dogs all on his own.

I was saddened to attend PNC Tom Wigmore's funeral. The South did rise again and the power of the East is on a roll and the sleeping giant is now awakened. This concluded his report.

NVC Greg Gibbs (NY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Connecticut. Motion carried. National Commander Moss made NVC Gibbs a Distinguished Guest.

At this time National Vice Commander Ronald R. Wyatt (MI) was called for his final report from the Central Region.

NVC Wyatt (MI) said one thing throughout the travel and places I went people were great. The comradeship was to start building the bridges and everyone was talking about it...and we built that bridge. Mr. Wyatt thanked the PNC's from the Central Region for their help and advice this year. Minnesota has leaders that do an excellent job and have hit every goal and on target.

Ohio has great leadership. Michigan's Legion Family has Wilwin Lodge for returning veterans coming back from war since 9/11. There are all kinds of great programs throughout the Central Region. Indiana has great leadership there with more leadership coming out. Iowa has outstanding things there throughout the different places. It's amazing to go to the different Detachments to see how the Legion Family brings forward what they like to do with the different programs. Everyone was great and met some new and old friends. One thing to remember is the conference calls work.

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

NVC Ronald Wyatt (MI) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Louisiana. Motion carried. National Commander Moss made NVC Wyatt a Distinguished Guest.

At this time National Vice Commander Jeffrey C. Evans (VA) was called for his final report from the South Region.

NVC Evans said it was an honor to serve with his fellow NVC's and National Commander Moss. NVC Evans said the bridge to the future is an endless and timeless message and can be used until eternity. Working together as an American Legion Family is how we build a strong organization. We were the first region to reach 101% and 102%. We did this by hard work, motivation and challenges. Communication and Education are the two main ingredients of being successful. We sent a lot of information out and shared it with the Detachments and they shared with their Squadrons and that's how we're going to build a better tomorrow. NVC Evans gave a special thank you to PNC Jim Roberts (FL) for all his help.

I traveled to Kentucky in October to address the Legion and Auxiliary, met and spoke with an 87 year-old WWII Veteran which was probably the highlight of my trip. Then to Louisiana where it was great to see how they work together and their comradery. I went to Tennessee to their Mid-Winter Conference where it snowed on us. The highlight of my trip to Tennessee was my visit to the Fisher House. I then went to the Washington, DC Conference along with the snow. It was a great tribute to our memorials and veterans.

I then went to Colorado for Commander Moss' homecoming and it was great. Went to Alabama for their Convention in June and it was great as well. I addressed the Legion Riders in Florida. One of my highlights of my year was I got to throw out the first pitch for Legion Baseball. NVC Evans thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as National Vice Commander. This concluded his report.

NVC Jeffrey Evans (VA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Florida. Motion carried. National Commander Moss made NVC Evans a Distinguished Guest.

At this time National Vice Commander Charles R. Keith (WY) was called for his final report from the Mid-West Region.

NVC Keith said when we left Charlotte last year, the Mid-West picked up their wrenches and worked together to reach their 100% membership goals. I'm honored to report that all ten Detachments in the Mid-West reached or passed their goal this year. I enjoyed my office visits with the Detachments of Colorado, Texas and Nebraska. I wish I had the opportunity to visit other Detachments. I encourage everyone to work towards their membership. Communication was the key this year so everyone keep up the good work. This concluded his report.

NVC Charles Keith (WY) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Kansas. Motion carried. National Commander Moss made NVC Keith a Distinguished Guest.

At this time National Vice Commander David L. Swafford (UT) was called for his final report from the West Region.

NVC Swafford (UT) thanked everyone for all they've done and that made his job easier. Communication was the key to our success throughout the nation. I started my year out with an

unofficial gathering from the west which included PNC's, Detachment Commander's and Detachment Adjutants. We had a round table that was tremendous.

I first went to Oregon and did a fantastic job for the CWF. Then to Washington for a "campout" with such great comradery for the children and youth. I then traveled to California, they are fantastic, they do a wonderful job for CWF. They developed a website for registration. I then went to Idaho. Idaho has an 8 year old boy as their Sergeant-At-Arms. This young man raised \$4,000 for the SAL and our veterans. NVC Swafford thanked the other Vice Commanders and Commander Moss for having him on his team. NVC Swafford also thanked everyone for all they do. This concluded his report.

NVC David Swafford (UT) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Nevada. Motion carried. National Commander Moss made NVC Swafford a Distinguished Guest.

At this time National Commander Mike Moss (CO) made Harl D. Ray (IL) a Distinguished Guest.

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 (KS) reported the National Finance Commission was created and designed to be a "watch dog" for your funds. We create a yearly budget to give guidance to the expenditure of your money, monitor all checks that are written and funds that are deposited on a monthly basis. We also provide recommendations for more efficient usage of your funds. This past year we were also able to develop a new reimbursement schedule for your National Leaders to attend meetings that are important to the functioning of our organization. Instead of paying for half their expenses from their own pocket, your leaders will be reimbursed with a more equitable manner making it easier for them to perform their duties. This was done without increasing the dues now or in the near future.

Each year \$2 of your dues goes to the National Organization to fund administrative costs associated with providing all the programming you have access to at the Detachment and Squadron level. These include Americanism, Boys Nation, Oratorical Contests, Junior Shooting Sports, Flag Etiquette, Scholarships and many more. These also include CWF, CMN, Josh Dogs, Special Olympics and many more. Funds also include service to our veterans, VA Hospitals, Fisher House, Family Support Network, Community Service, Legislative, Public Relations and National Officer travels.

The following is the total in donations and volunteer hours from 2014:

Dues - \$707,000
VA&R - \$1.2+ Million in donations with 485,000 volunteer hours
C&Y - \$1.1+ Million in donations with 167,000 volunteer hours
Americanism - \$2.3+ Million in donations with 738,000 volunteer hours
Totaling: \$4.4+ Million in donations with 1.3+ million volunteer hours and an investment totaling 611%.

Last years income was \$734,000 less \$656,000 in expenditures leaving and excess of \$78,000 after administrative fees the remainder went into a reserve account. The reserve account is absolutely necessary to protect against any major set back to our organization, which could devastate our program and allows us to support or parent organization. This concluded his report.

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

Robert McBride (OH) asked, was there any discussion about the possibility of making a rate increase. Dr. Leopold said there were some discussions but it wasn't an appropriate time because the reserve and income are where we don't need the increase at this time. We will see how things flow with the new reimbursement process and maybe in 2-3 years down the road we might need to increase the dues.

Michael Fox (CA) said, there was \$78,000 moved into the reserve account and asked do we have a total of the amount in the reserve account. Dr. Leopold said, I don't have the exact total but it is limited by what the IRS will allow us to accumulate, it's about the amount of one year's dues, around \$700,000 but it's not that high in the reserve. This concluded the discussion.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) made Dr. Jerry Leopold (KS) a Distinguished Guest.

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 (GA) reported there was one (1) Resolution submitted and read.

SAL 5 – CONV 2015 Titled: Election of National Sergeant-At-Arms. Mr. Brown (GA) said it was read at the committee meeting some discussions and comments and the decision was to recommend non-approval.

This concluded his report.

Mr. Brown (GA) made a motion to accept his report, minus the Resolution, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried. Mr. Brown said, he was informed by the National Judge Advocate, Joseph Paviglianti, that he needs to make a motion to include the Resolution as part of his report, seconded by Virginia.

David Lee (NY) said, if we accept this Resolution or accept his motion, we're accepting this resolution at the same time...correct? National Commander Moss (CO) said you would be accepting the recommendation to "reject" the resolution.

Robert McBride (OH) said I rise in opposition to the motion. The governing body of the SAL is the National Convention. The delegates are here and assembled and it's our responsibility to take on the decision of whether to approve the resolution or not. So, in opposition to the motion as it's currently presented. This amendment to the constitution was duly passed by a Detachment Convention. The delegates there had a right to expect and have a right to expect that the National Convention will bring it to the floor and vote on it. Since the resolution came from a Detachment

Convention it would be my opinion that it would not be changeable by the Internal Affairs Commission of the SAL or the National Executive Committee of the SAL. So, in this case if you vote “yes” the resolution will be returned to the committee. If you vote “no” the resolution will be brought to the floor for immediate disposition by this convention.

Bill Geary (IL) asked, can we not set aside this resolution for separate consideration to approve the report without the resolution. Commander Moss said this resolution is part of his report. Mr. Geary (IL) said, in other meetings I’ve seen people set aside resolutions. Commander Moss said, yes we can. Mr. Geary, moved to set aside the resolution for separate consideration.

Ronnie Grist (GA) said, correct me if I’m wrong, I’m going to throw an arrow at the Judge Advocate. The Judge Advocate just said, that the Chairman could not make the motion to accept his report minus the resolution and then he said yes you can. So would he like to clarify which way it is whether he can minus the resolution or cannot make a motion because he just told us both ways.

National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti said, the chairman’s motion on his report was to accept his report without the resolution. He needs to act on the resolution first, so he has no choice of acting on his report inclusive his resolution or act on the resolution. He cannot close on his report without acting on the resolution first. So, yes you can do it both ways but needs to be done properly both ways. So, if the chairman doesn’t want to act on his report and act on the resolution then come back and act on his report that is perfectly acceptable but they are two separate entities. He can wrap one into the other with his report but he cannot close out his report without first acting on the resolution.

PNC McBride (OH) stated the chairman attempted to do what you suggested, Mr. Judge Advocate, and was corrected. It seems he was trying to have his report approved minus the resolution and that he was corrected and told to put it in a different format. So, is my understanding correct, that what you are now saying is he could amend his motion and simply address the resolution first? Commander Moss said that is correct.

Bob Brown (GA) said, upon advise from the Judge Advocate, I withdraw my motion and move on the motion that we act on the resolution at this time, seconded by Ohio (PNC Robert McBride).

Gary Denmon (NY), said his question was on the amendment. Are we voting on the fact that we don’t want to push it forward or voting on approving it without the recommendation of the committee? Commander Moss said the motion is to act on the resolution.

Unknown Speaker – asked to have the motion repeated.

Bob Brown (GA) reiterated his motion. Mr. Brown moves to act on the resolution to approve the resolution prior to conclusion of his report.

Unknown Speaker – With that being said, and looking to pass this resolution, I want to express my dislike and that in years past we eliminated the election of the Chaplain so with that it was to fall in line with The American Legion. Now recently we aligned our committees and commissions to fall in line with The American Legion. Now going and doing this to electing a Sergeant-At-Arms falls in direct conflict with The American Legion. So, I don't believe this an amendment that should be passed in my opinion.

Jim Gelwicks (CO) has a question of interpretation of how this, if passed, would impact the rules governing this convention. Since that would become an elected office, Sergeant-At-Arms currently is not an extra delegate to their delegation. Would, if this was passed, in this case for this year, Colorado would be entitled to an extra delegate because of an elected office? That's my inquiry of interpretation. Commander Moss said that is correct.

PNC Gene Sacco (CA), said, as I understand the resolution the committee voted to not recommend it for approval. So, I believe that Mr. Brown's motion should include that his motion is to follow the direction of his committee which is to approve that the resolution be rejected, not be accepted. At this point if that is the correct motion then we could under discussion argue the pro's and con's of this decision. Is that correct Mr. Judge Advocate? NJA Joe Paviglianti (NY) said, yes, that's correct. So, does Mr. Brown need to adjust his motion?

Mr. Brown (GA) said, yes I did make that error and the Judge Advocate pointed that out. Mr. Brown moved that the recommendation of this committee is to reject the resolution, seconded by Massachusetts.

PNC Gene Sacco (CA) said the nature of the resolution, I completely understand and concur with the fact that The American Legion does not elect their Sergeant-At-Arms and I also concur that many times it is beneficial to model The American Legion. Given the fact that our conventions lately are historically, for the lack of a better word, mundane and boring, now this convention a little bit different with the resolutions and I applaud the delegations for taking part in that. I can see why the Detachment of Georgia wrote this resolution and brought it to convention for consideration. The fact remains and what we have to look at in voting on this resolution is what is best for our national convention. Would it be best to know that we would have at least one election every year for an office like a Sergeant-At-Arms to where people like a blue capper or member of the detachment could run for this office given the fact that we have numerous Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms? I don't think it would have that large of an impact but I think it would be beneficial and it may cause some Detachments to encourage more members of their detachment to attend the national convention if they knew that their could be some competition for an office like Sergeant-At-Arms. Finally, we all know in this room or in case we don't know, even if the recommendation to reject is turned down and therefore the resolution would go forward at the end of the day it would still have to be approved by The American Legion for the change. Let The American Legion decide if an election of Sergeant-At-Arms is detrimental to our organization. The fact is our delegation should have the right to vote on it and if it is found and chose this resolution be approved, not rejected, we should elect a Sergeant-At-Arms and at

least what we've done as delegation is sent a message to The American Legion that these are our wishes. I think this organization, if we choose to go that route, would benefit from that message that we send for trying to do things to increase our attendance at convention, increase the interest of what happens at our national conventions and what better way to do it then possibly by having a competition for an office for Sergeant-At-Arms.

Bob Turner (CT) said he has a question and would like this audience to sit there and think about the answer before they answer themselves. I believe, we as Sons of The American Legion are a program of The American Legion. I believe our primary purpose in life is to mirror image the American Legion's principals, programs and ideas. Do I believe we have the right to vote on issues? Yes, I do. However, we are a program and because I'm a proud person in this program and because of my fathers service I honor that man and to me to change the way The American Legion looks at things would be to dishonor him. I respect everyone else's views but I really wish we would make this a call to vote.

PNC Mike Seaton (CA) just one point. The American Legion at the National level does not elect their Sergeant-At-Arms. However, as a Past Department Sergeant-At-Arms is elected by the convention it is not consistent throughout The American Legion.

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer (IL) said, with all due respect Gene, I think you brought something up that is very vital to the health and life of this organization and that is the fact that, yes, we do need a floor fight every now and then. My question is changing how we select/elect the Sergeant-At-Arms going to give us that or is the elephant in the room what's not being talked about? What I'm saying is that our conventions are nice and neat and packaged. They are nicely packaged because that seems to be what everyone thinks it needs to be and therefore floor fights are thing of history. You and I, Gene, are old enough and been around to know and remember days we had two and three candidates for National Commander and had floor fights and I can't deny that they were kind of neat. But if that's what we want then what we're doing here, I think, is putting the cart before the horse. The horse is what do we do with the Committees on Committees? Let's put the elephant in the room and let's talk about the elephant but let's not do it by changing how we select/elect the Sergeant-At-Arms.

PNC Mike Deacon (IA) said we are also forgetting one thing. As a gentleman who ran for National Chaplain way back when against someone at that time, you spend a lot of money and these guys running for NVC are putting out money for travel and brochures and are pretty much locked in. If you're putting someone up for Sergeant-At-Arms they're going to put up a lot of money as well as someone else. Someone has to win, someone has to lose so where do we draw the line? The National Sergeant-At-Arms doesn't travel around with the National Commander so where will he go to promote himself and get the money to get the word out?

PNC Chuck Gannon (MD) said all these are wonderful points but we have forgotten one thing – What is the position of the Sergeant-At-Arms all about? It's not about an election but about someone that can be trusted by the National Commander. It's

someone he can go to and trust loyally and to have someone strange is doing it disservice to the incoming National Commander. We need to think hard about this, Fr. Gary hit the nose on the head, what's happened today and has been happening for several days and months has absolutely nothing to do with an election – it's all about power. We need to think about the position and the position of Sergeant-At-Arms is not a place to create a fight. I would ask some of the Past National Sergeant-At-Arms in this room to tell how they felt about the job.

Bill Hill (MD), Past National Sergeant-At-Arms, said it was a privilege and honor to have helped National Commander Gladden throughout his year and years before in fund raising and traveling and doing things. It was an honor when he said, Bill, I want you to represent me and be my National Sergeant-At-Arms and do what I need you to do because he knew I would have his back.

Raymond Giehll, III (IN), Past National Sergeant-At-Arms said it was an honor, especially since it was my father. It was an honor to serve and have that memory.

Byron Robichaux (LA) said for a thought, we talked about the need to go into the modern day age with the internet and all this great discussion about the newsletter. The modern day age of teaching is that students need to be engaged not just to hear the teacher talk for 60 minutes but to be involved. We come to our convention where we hear people talk for three days and not be involved so the mere thought of someone looking at something and the concept of maybe putting something out there that engages people here more because as we raise a generation of people who are going to be taught in school that they need to be involved you're going to bore the heck out of them when they come here.

William Murphy (MA), Past National Sergeant-At-Arms, said twenty years ago I got a call from PNC Richard League. He asked me because of my relationship with him in laying the wreath at the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier because he had faith in me as his National Sergeant-At-Arms. I was his choice and don't see any reason why the National Sergeant-At-Arms should be an elected position.

Brian Waters (PA), Past National Sergeant-At-Arms, said I'd like to echo the sentiments my fellow Sergeant-At-Arms. It was truly the best thing for me to service this great organization on a national level and it would behoove me to say let this resolution be rejected and let us move on to the business at hand.

Robert Robinson (MD), Past National Sergeant-At-Arms and Past National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, said, I believe it's a great honor to be promoted and asked to be a Sergeant-At-Arms for Steve Laws. What ever he needed we were there and it should stay as an appointed position.

PNC Robert McBride (OH) said before I make any additional comments I want to make sure I'm within the rules of the convention. I spoke earlier to this issue and I believe it was an incorrect motion and want to make sure my ability to speak a second time is in tack. Commander Moss said he was okay to speak as well as the National Judge Advocate. Mr. McBride said, I don't know if this about power but about progress. We've had more conversation and more ideas come to the

convention floor in this single day than I've seen in the last ten years. This is progress and this is what progress looks like. It's messy and not everyone is going to agree. We're going to argue our points as gentlemen and win or lose our points as gentlemen then go to the reception and shake each other hands. Part of this is progress and that is what's going on right now. Frankly, I don't care if this resolution passes or not and I did to begin with but my mind has been changed then what I thought originally. I am so glad to see the progress we are making with guys standing up from all over the country, from different states and detachments with different ranks, ages and back grounds. This is what we're all about and I'm so happy this has worked out this way and I assume the Commander will call for the Yay's and Nay's in a moment.

National Judge Advocate said we're going to add a little clarity to the mud. How we got to this constitution of this resolution was a little backwards so we're working backwards on the conversation. The motion on the floor submitted through the chairman by his committee is to reject the resolution, not approve the resolution, not adopt the resolution, to make sure it's clear that's what the motion on the floor from his committee. It is a constitutional resolution so therefore it requires 2/3 of the majority to bring it to reality. So, it would require 2/3 "No" to the resolution that would "adopt" the resolution. A "Yes" would accept the action of the committee which would "reject", not approve or bring forward, the resolution, thereby the resolution will change. "Yes" accepts the action of the committee which "rejects" the resolution. "No" adopts the resolution and requires 2/3 "no" vote to reject the action then have the resolution take place.

Commander Moss said, All in favor signify by saying "I". All in favor said "I" and the "I's" have it. Motion carried.

Bob Brown (GA) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Connecticut. National Commander Moss made Mr. Brown a Distinguished Guest.

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) called for all donations. Following donations the National Vice Commanders announced their cacusses.

National Commander Moss made National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne and Danny Smith (NE) Distinguished Guests.

Alaska announced Kevin Collier's reception will be at the Horseshoe Casino from 4:30pm – 6:30pm.

Commander Moss (CO) recessed the meeting until Sunday, August 30, 2015 at 8:00 am, following a rendering right-hand salute to the colors.

The 44th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 8:00 am on Sunday, August 30, 2015, at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander Michael Moss (CO) declared the Convention in session.

National Chaplain Harl D. Ray (IL) was called to invoke the blessing of God. National Vice Commander Greg Gibbs (NY) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) then called for National Assistant Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

National Officers

Michael Moss (CO)	National Commander
Greg K. Gibbs (NY)	National Vice Commander
Jeffrey C. Evans (VA)	National Vice Commander
Ronald R. Wyatt (MI)	National Vice Commander
Charles R. Keith (WY)	National Vice Commander
David L. Swafford (UT)	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
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 Kirschner (CO)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond Giehll, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kyle Parkerson (AK)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders

Michael Seaton (CA)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Robert McBride (OH)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Steve Laws (NC)
David P. Stephens (IN)	Neal Warnken (KS)
Christopher Cerullo (NY)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
David R. Faust (WI)	Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Eugene Sacco (CA)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)	

National Convention Delegations

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, France Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, 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, 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 Michael Moss (CO).

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

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

Mr. Thompson, Jr. (NE) reported the following: The ending totals are - 49 Detachments; 849 Delegates; 49 Alternates; and 94 Guests.

This concluded Mr. Thompson's report. Texas (Milton Chatham) made a motion to accept his report, seconded by Connecticut. Motion carried. Commander Moss made Mr. Thompson a Distinguished Guest.

National Commander Moss called Ken Yanke (CO), Mike Kirshner (CO), Scott Garrett (CO), Jim Gelwicks (CO), Brian O'Hearne (MA), Anthony Wright (PA), Ed Sheubrooks (FL), George Flasiński (PA) and Joseph Paviglianti (NY) to the stage and made them all Distinguished Guests.

Ken Yanke (CO) presented Commander Moss with \$20 for CWF for catching two people eating with their caps on.

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

National Chaplain Harl D. Ray (IL) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to secure the door and to uncover for the duration of the Memorial Service. Jerry Sykes (MD), Detachment Chaplain, conducted the invocation.

(Music played at this time)

Don Hall (MD), Detachment Commander read the first scripture; Jerry Sykes (MD), Detachment Chaplain read the second scripture.

(Music played at this time)

National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) said a prayer followed by the Memorial Service.

At this time the National Vice Commanders, Greg K. Gibbs (NY) from the East, Jeffrey C. Evans (VA) from the South, Ronald R. Wyatt (MI) from the Central, Charles R. Keith (WY) from the Mid-West and David L. Swafford (UT) from the West placed the Memorial Wreaths;

Lighting the Candles of Remembrance was done by National Commander Michael Moss (CO) and National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA).

(Music played at this time followed by Taps.)

At this time Chaplain Ray conducted the Benediction. This concluded the Memorial Service.

Special Order of Business

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) 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 Alaska, Alaska requested permission for Past National Commander Jimmie Foster (AK) to approach the podium for the purpose of nomination. Arizona yielded to the Detachment of Indiana, Indiana requested PNC David Stephens (IN) 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, Kevin Collier (AK). Michael Seaton (CA) moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for Kevin Collier (AK) for the Office of National Commander 2015-2016, seconded Bob McBride (OH). Motion carried.

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

National Commander Mike Moss (CO) called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the roll call for nomination for the *Office of National Vice Commander*.

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

The Detachment of Connecticut yielded to Massachusetts, Massachusetts requested permission for PNC Clifford Smith (MA) to give a nomination speech. Maryland requested permission to approach the podium for a seconding speech by PDC Don Hall (MD). William Hill (MD) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region for the year 2015-2016. The nomination for William Hill (MD) 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 Kentucky, Kentucky requested permission for PNVC Bob Fulkerson (KY) to give a nomination speech. Georgia requested permission to approach the podium for a seconding speech by NEC Bob Brown (GA). Steve Curry (KY) was nominated for

the Office of National Vice Commander for the Southern Region for the year 2015-2016. The nomination for Steve Curry (KY) was seconded by all Southern Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Illinois yielded to Minnesota, Minnesota requested permission for PNC Douglas Bible (MN) to give a nomination speech. Indiana yielded to the Detachment of Illinois, Illinois requested PNC Thomas Cisna (IL) permission to approach the podium to give a seconding speech. Dennis Henkemeyer (MN) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Central Region for the year 2015-2016. The nomination for Dennis Henkemeyer (MN) 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 Kansas, Kansas requested permission for PNC Neal Warnken (KS) to give a nomination speech. Colorado seconded nomination. Steve Ward (KS) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Mid-Western Region for the year 2015-2016. The nomination for Steve Ward (KS) 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 Arizona, Arizona requested permission for ANEC Joe Roberts (AZ) to give a nomination speech. Alaska seconded nomination. William L. Foster (AZ) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Western Region for the year 2015-2016. The nomination for William L. Foster (AZ) was seconded by all Western Region Detachments.

Following the completion of roll call, National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) announced the five nominations. PNC Joseph Mayne (WI) moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for all five National Vice Commander candidates, seconded by New Jersey. Motion carried.

National Commander Michael Moss (CO) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to bring forth the newly elected 2015-2016 National Vice Commanders to the stage.

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

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

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

National Commander Moss asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort his family to the stage.

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the installing Officer PNC Jimmie Foster (AK) to the stage. PNC Foster asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort the newly elected National Officers, with the exception of the National Commander, to the stage for installation.

The newly elected National Officers were installed by Jimmie Foster (AK), Past National Commander of The American Legion.

PNC Foster (AK) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Kevin Collier (AK) and his family to the stage.

PNC Jimmie Foster (AK) called for the newly elected National Commander of the Son of The American Legion, Kevin Collier (AK) for installation.

At this time PNC Jimmie Foster (AK) called for the *Outgoing* National Commander Michael Moss (CO).

Commander Moss said what a year and went by fast so don't blink because it will pass you by. Commander Moss thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as National Commander. We've accomplished a lot this year and will continue to accomplish with Kevin Collier as the National Commander and support him. We will continue to build the bridges and get ROCKED. Again, thank you and it has been a pleasure. This concluded Commander Moss's brief speech.

At this time PNC Jimmie Foster (AK) handed the gavel to the newly installed National Commander Kevin Collier (AK).

Newly elected Commander Kevin Collier called for Peggy Dettori, Past Department Commander from Alaska and PDC Dettori also offered prayer.

PDC Peggy Dettori (AK) presented Kevin Collier (AK) with his commander cap and badge.

Mr. Collier (AK) called for Commander Mike Moss (CO) and his wife, Linda, for cap exchange.

The newly elected National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) began by saying his theme this year is **Remembering Our Commitment Keeping it Every Day – **R.O.C.K.E.D.** Kevin came up that theme while reciting the Preamble to the Constitution it struck me just like our veterans raised their right hand making their commitment to serve the United States. We do the same thing because we are proud possessors of a priceless heritage. We are here to serve our veterans and help educate our youth which is basically our Four Pillars – Americanism, VA&R, Children and Youth and National Security.**

This years goals and challenges are to remember the NEF which will be 50 cents per member that will get us up to \$200,000. The Endowment Fund goal is 25 cents per member so I challenge each Squadron and member to just donate 25 cents per member. My membership goal is 400,000 and we can do this by focusing on renewals. Find out why they haven't renewed their membership so we can keep them active. These are achievable if we start right now. Mr. Collier thanked everyone for nominating him. This concluded his speech.

Kevin Collier (AK) presented the Installing Officer, Newly Elected National Vice Commanders and several guests with Distinguished Guest Badges.

At this time the podium was turned back over to National Commander Mike Moss (CO).

PNC Earl Ruttkofsky (MI) presented the outgoing National Commander Michael Moss (CO) with his flag from his year.

PNC Gene Sacco (CA) presented the incoming National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) with his flag to have it placed in the stand by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Old Business:

No old business. This concluded the old business.

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

New Business:

No new business. This concluded the new business

At this time National Commander Moss called For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

PNC Douglas Bible (MN) announced the 2016-2017 Leading Candidate is Jeff Frain (AZ) for National Commander; 2nd Leading Candidate is Danny Smith (NE).

PNC Cliff Smith (MA) asked to come to the stage with Steve Wigmore, Dee Wigmore and Beverly Ruttkofsky. PNC Smith said the bow ties everyone are wearing are in honor of Thomas W. Wigmore. PNC Smith spoke about Tom's fight with cancer and he passed away on July 4th. PNC Smith donated and presented Ms. Wigmore with \$500 to the "Wiggy Strong Fund".

Dee Wigmore thanked everyone and started a "Wiggy Fund" through their Post and Squadron Programs. We sent seven boys to Boys State with this fund this year because this was one of his programs he truly loved. Ms. Wigmore thanked Greg "Doc" Gibbs for all his support. This concluded her speech.

Commander Moss made Dee and Tom Wigmore Distinguished Guests.

PNC Tom Cisna (IL) approached the podium. PNC Cisna presented Bob Brown (GA), Ronnie Grist (GA) and Jim Gelwicks (CO) with Citations of Appreciation for helping J.R. Stillwell after his accident.

Bob Brown (GA) briefly spoke about his trip with J.R. from the hospital to his cousins house in Louisiana on a long three day trip. Mr. Brown said their food, fuel and travels were covered by everyone's generous donations towards their trip. Mr. Brown thanked everyone. This concluded his remarks.

PNC Joseph Gladden (MD) and David Lee (NY) approached the stage and announced they had a weight loss challenge and presented newly elected National Commander Kevin Collier with \$820 for NEF.

Bill Geary (IL), Detachment Commander presented the following donations from the Detachment of Illinois: \$810 CWF; \$500 OCW; \$1,350 NEF; \$986 Legacy Scholarship Fund in Honor of Terry Woodburn, Department Adjutant.

Commander Moss (CO) announced we had approximately \$65,000 donated yesterday.

Tom Marsden (NJ), National Historian asked to meet with the National Vice Commanders after the meeting convenes for pictures.

Commander Moss announced the Post NEC will begin in fifteen meetings after this meeting adjourns.

PNC Joe Mayne (MN) said in your registration packets you received The American Legion Auxiliary Guide and Annual Report. If every Sons of The American Legion member and especially the National Commission and Committee Chairmen would read this and we ever wanted a plan to hit a million members, it's already been done. I encourage everyone to read this because the strategic plan in this is valuable. Kevin if you could take a look at it for your administration. I was just blown away at all the work the Auxiliary had done and they are going to hit and succeed to hit that number. I think the SAL would do great to follow in their footsteps. This concluded his remarks.

This concluded the Good of the Sons.

With no further business to come before the National Convention, National Commander Michael Moss (CO) turned the podium over to National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL)) to end the meeting in prayer.

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

Commander Michael Moss (CO) declared the 44th National Convention adjourned.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
POST CONVENTION MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2015**

The Post Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion was held on Sunday, August 30, 2015, at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland.

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

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) asked Past National Chaplain Harl Ray (IL) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander William Hill (MD) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander William Foster (AZ) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

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

National Officers

Kevin L. Collier (AK)	National Commander
William G. Hill (MD)	National Vice Commander
Steve R. Curry (KY)	National Vice Commander
Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN)	National Vice Commander
Steve Ward (KS)	National Vice Commander
William L. Foster (AZ)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus

Past National Commanders

Michael W. Moss (CO)	Byron Robichaux (LA)
Micahel Seaton (CA)	Clifford Smith (MA)
Robert McBride (OH)	Neal Warnken (KS)
David Stephens (IN)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Christopher Cerullo (NY)	Earl Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Ryamond Giehll, Jr. (IN)
David Faust (WI)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Eugene Sacco (CA)	Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
Joseph Mayne (MN)	Joseph Gladden (MD)

National Executive Committeemen Delegations

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

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

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) declared the Post Convention National Executive Committee meeting convened.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) then installed the National Executive Committeemen and Alternates who were present.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) read the list of National Officer appointments for 2015-2016 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
Michael Lawler (WI)	National Chaplain
Thomas Marsden (NJ)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Kyle A. Parkerson (AK)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond Giehll, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Matthew Chebro (GA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Austin R. Diaz (AK)	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 Minnesota to accept the Officer appointments. Motion carried.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) indicated that the Commission/Committee appointments had been distributed.

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

Commander Collier (AK) called for Larry Weinzirl (MD), Veterans Employment & Education Chairman to the podium. Mr. Weinzirl said to get the ball rolling and meet after the meeting.

Clint Bolt (VA), VA&R Chairman said we will continue with the positive movement. We will work on Fisher House and Operation Comfort Warriors to try to get more donations and fulfill those needs. We need to know who your new chairmen are for your Detachment.

Greg Gibbs (NY), Americanism Chairman said we will continue to focus on sending out information and encourage the distribution of all context, work with Public Relations to provide a more efficient way to have material on our webpage, provide on how to get schools involved in our American Legion programs and to develop a power point for Americanism training.

Randy Eicher (OH), Children & Youth Chairman said we will continue in the same direction with our quarterly newsletters through the NVC. I also encourage everyone to sign up for the Children & Youth Conference.

Pete Sierminski (CO), Child Welfare Chairman said the SAL has always been the leader for several years in donations and we're going to continue with that. We're approaching the \$7 million mark and it will be a little peace of heaven when we do get to that mark.

Mark Tansel (IN), Internal Affairs Chairman said get your NMI One Candidates into Don Culver as soon as possible, first come first serve. We look forward to having a great year.

Joseph Korba (NJ), Public Relations Chairman said we will continue to get information on the webpage and to submit your information as well.

David Lee (NY), Legislative Chairman said I need a list of your Legislative Chairmen from your Detachment. We need one from every Detachment. The Washington Conference is coming up.

Jerry Leopold (KS), Finance Chairman said we are here as a Finance Commission to help you with your call-in.

George Flasinski (PA), Membership Chairman said R.O.C.K.E.D. is Kevin's theme this year. We need to retain and renew our membership and is everyone's responsibility. Our goal for Kevin is 90% membership for everyone with 400,000 in membership. Conference calls work well and we will do it again so make sure we have your e-mail addresses.

Scott Thornton (OH) spoke on behalf of the Membership Training and Development, we are working on the power point presentation for the Commander's Conference at the Fall NEC.

Bob Brown (GA) spoke on behalf of the Resolution Chairman and said we all just experienced an exciting convention with the lively discussion on resolutions this year. Keep the resolutions coming and we will work with you if you need help writing them.

Tom Marsden (NJ), National Historian said, gentlemen, when the Commander comes to visit your state send me your pictures so we can put a good book together for the Commander. Also, if there were any Chairmen that were appointed today please see me after this meeting so I can get your picture taken for the website.

This concluded speeches from the Chairmen.

Commander Collier called for any *Unfinished Business* –

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) said, forgive me but I seem to have a problem counting. All the commission and committee members seem to have six members except VA&R which has eight. Is that not a nine person committee or six person committee? National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne stated it was originally a nine person committee but in the Spring it was moved down to a six person committee. We had people remaining with years on service so they will complete their term then it will go down to six person over time. This concluded the Unfinished Business.

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

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) said what I would like to ask is to have someone be responsible for is perhaps the people that do the scrapbooks and history books. We spent time talking and bringing ourselves into the 21st Century and I think still using an old fashioned paper scrapbook is still part of that old process but what about having them submitted electronically? That would also be in color instead of just black and white. This concluded the New Business.

Commander Collier announced the transition meeting will be at 8:00 am on Monday, August 31st in the Baltimore Convention Center in Room 307, Level 300. The Fall NEC Room reservation forms have been mailed and e-mailed out. They need to be returned by September 4th. Raise your hand if you did not get one of my CD's. The convention parade starts today at 4:00pm with the assembly at 3:00pm.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee Meeting, National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) gave the benediction.

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