

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



**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
April 30 – May 1, 2016**

**MINUTES OF THE
SPRING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
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National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, April 30, 2016 at the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Chaplain Michael L. Lawler (WI) gave the invocation.

National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called for the Sergeant-At-Arms to place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Steve R. Curry (KY) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Steve Ward (KS).

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

Present were: E (excused)

National Officers

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

Past National Commanders

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

National Executive Committeemen

Alabama (B), Alaska (A), Arizona (B), California (N), Colorado (B), Connecticut (B), Delaware (B), Florida (B), France (NE), Georgia (B), Idaho (Detch Cmdr Wayne Foster – voice w/o vote), Illinois (B), Indiana (B), Iowa (B), Kansas (A), Kentucky (A), Louisiana (N), Maine (A), Maryland (B), Massachusetts (B), Michigan (B), Minnesota, B), Mississippi (N), Missouri (A), Montana (N), Nebraska (B), Nevada (B), New Hampshire (B), New Jersey (B), New Mexico (B), New York (B), North Carolina (N), Ohio (B), Oklahoma (A), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (B), South Carolina (B), Tennessee (B), Texas (B), Utah (N), Vermont (B), Virginia (B), Washington (N), Wisconsin (N), and Wyoming (B).

Commander Collier (AK) then called upon National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the reading of the minutes from the 2015 Fall Meeting.

Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) entertained a motion to accept the minutes noting the error of Commander Collier (AK) making a motion to accept the report for all the commissions, Commander Collier entertained a motion. These changes will be made to the minutes and sent out electronically. A motion was made with the corrections accepted by Illinois and seconded by Texas. The minutes were approved with corrections.

Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA) made note from page 19 on SAL Res 10 – Convention 2015 to correct National Commander to National Vice Commander in the first Resolved clause, so noted.

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

Commander Collier (AK) said this is a great time for us to meet this weekend. Our membership is up and everything is going great. Donations are great and benefit our youth and veterans.

Commander Collier (AK) called for all donations at this time.

Commander Collier announced the following donation totals:

- \$92,042 – Child Welfare Foundation
- \$4,757 – National Emergency Fund
- \$3,891 – Endowment Fund
- \$200 – Legacy Fund
- \$1,784 – Children’s Miracle Network

Totaling: \$102,674.00

Commander Collier called for announcements.

PNC Ray Giehll, Jr. (IN) thanked everyone for all the condolences sent to his son, Raymond Giehll, III.

NEC Jim Gelwicks (CO) read a letter from PNC Mike Moss (CO) thanking everyone for all the well wishes. Mr. Gelwicks said Mike Moss has officially retired from work and to send him cards or a phone call.

PNC John Dietz (OH) announced PNC Chuck Belles (VA) is having some medical procedures and there is a card for everyone to sign.

PNC Christopher R. Cerullo (NY) presented National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti with a plaque to honor his father, Joseph E. Paviglianti. The Detachment of New York dedicated their convention to him as well.

JA Joseph Paviglianti spoke and thanked everyone for honoring his father, Joseph E. Paviglianti.

Caucus meetings were announced as well as the Leading Candidate's luncheon.

At this time the General Session was adjourned at 9:25 am with a right hand salute to the colors.

The Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, May 1, 2016.

With colors being in place and following a right hand salute, National Commander Kevin Collier (AK) declared the National Executive Committee Spring Meeting reconvened.

National Chaplain Michael Lawler (WI) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Dennis J. Henkemeyer (MN) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander William G. Hill (MD).

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

Present were: E (excused)

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Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)

James "Ed" Sheubrooks (FL)

Robert Avery (NY)

David Ridenour (IN)

Anthony W. Wright (PA)

Scott Williams (VA)

Scott J. Thornton (OH)

Michael L. Lawler (WI)

National Commander

National Vice Commander – East

National Vice Commander – South

National Vice Commander – Central

National Vice Commander – Midwest

National Vice Commander – West

National Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Chaplain

Thomas E. Marsden (NJ)
 Joseph Paviglianti (NY)
 Kyle A. Parkerson (AK) – E
 Lyle G. Larson (KS)
 Danny J. Poole (MI)
 Raymond P. Giehl, III (IN) – E
 Brian K. Waters (PA)
 Matthew Chebro (GA)
 Austin R. Diaz (AK) – E

National Historian
 National Judge Advocate
 National Sergeant-At-Arms
 National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
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At this time second leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion, Denise Rohan (WI) was escorted to the stage.

Mrs. Rohan (WI) began by saying she’s a big supporter of the Sons and her son, grandson and husband are all SAL members.

My theme as Department Commander in Wisconsin was “Knowledge is Power”. As I move up in the organization and became a candidate for National Commander it dawned on me that I really don’t know much about the Sons. I know they are a big part of our organization and support the Legion activities, but I need to learn more. That’s where your National Chaplain, Mike Lawler (WI) comes in. We spent the whole day with Mike being drilled on the 5-Star Program and 10 Ideas.

I commend the Sons for all you do and all your hard work for our Child Welfare Programs. This concluded her comments.

At this time George West (NH) and Larry Sheets (FL) where recognized in the audience by Commander Collier (AK).

A few donations were announced by Commander Collier (AK).

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

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Greg K. Gibbs (NY), Chairman

Mr. Gibbs (NY) reported this is our first full year where our Americanism Commission is serving as the umbrella to the Children & Youth Committee and Child Welfare Foundation.

Children & Youth Committee - reported by Randall L. Eicher (OH), Chairman

The Children & Youth Conference was held in Indianapolis on September 18-20, 2015. We encourage you to send your Detachment Representatives to this conference. The registration form is available online.

Make sure you are tracking your C&Y activities and forward that information along with any photos to myself or Mr. Gibbs.

We have raised \$22,500 to date for the National Endowment Fund also note in the memo line on your check that donations are from the SAL. We are promoting the Family Support Network and Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) in which Michael Cotten is your contact for these two programs.

There will be thirteen (13) resolutions brought to National Convention 2016 in correlation with The American Legion. This concluded his report.

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

Mr. Sierminski reported there were 24 grants awarded for over \$648,000. The Sons sponsored American Legion Post 133, Fort Kent, Maine which was awarded \$1,630 for their project "*Children Sharing Fishing Stories with Veterans*". This project provides a fun-filled wholesome day for at risk kids that facilitate interactive sharing of experiences between children and veterans and reinforce classroom learning. The Sons also sponsored Joe Foss Institute, Scottsdale, Arizona which was awarded \$20,000 for their project "*Veterans Inspiring Patriotism in Youth*". This project assists children and youth by increasing their knowledge of American History, increase their understanding of civics, and prepare them to become active, engaged citizens.

The per capita banner program is available with \$1 per member for eligibility. We will have new items available for sale at National Convention. Mr. Sierminski thanked everyone for all they do and it doesn't go unnoticed. You make a difference. The cut-off to get donations in to count towards Commander Collier's year is May 31st. Donations for CWF were accepted at this time. The Detachment of Nevada presented a \$500 donation; California Squadron 155 donation of \$15,000 to CWF hit our \$100,000 mark for 2016 Spring Meeting.

There was one (1) Resolution - *SAL Res 5-Spring 2016 Titled: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2016 Budget*. This concluded his report.

Mr. Gibbs (NY) said the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Patch Program is open to all Junior Auxiliary members and Sons members that are under 18. The handbook has been updated again this year and is available online. The town of Cohasset, Massachusetts is renaming their Veterans Field in Tom Wigmore's honor.

There were two (2) Resolutions – *SAL Res 3 – Spring 2016 Titled: Support for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) and SAL Res 4 – Spring 2016 Titled: Support for the Family Support Network*. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Illinois to accept the report, minus the Resolutions, seconded by Alabama. Motion carried.

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) asked how many have gone through the 5-Star/10 Ideas Program? When was the last time anyone reviewed and updated the current standards and policies? National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne said it was updated about five years ago. This concluded the discussion.

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted National Commander Dale Barnett (GA) to the podium.

Commander Barnett (GA) said it was a pleasure to be here among family. I had a great visit to Alaska with Commander Collier (AK). The Sons have been very generous with donations and the SAL is a value to this organization. Don’t forget you can make a difference and impact your community. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Collier (AK) made recognition to Jack Querfeld, Director, Internal Affairs in the audience.

At this time John T. Jennings (FL), Resolutions Chairman read the following:

Resolution Chairman John Jennings (FL) read resolution SAL Res 3-Spring 2016 titled “Support for Get Out the Vote (GOTV)”. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the resolution, seconded by Texas, Milton Chatham. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman John Jennings (FL) read resolution SAL Res 4-Spring 2016 titled “Support for The Family Support Network”. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the resolution, seconded by New Hampshire, Phillip Cook. Motion carried.

Resolution Chairman John Jennings (FL) read resolution SAL Res 5-Spring 2016 titled “Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2016 Budget”. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the resolution, seconded by Vermont, Harold Tromley. Motion carried.

At this time Finance Vice Chairman, Dennis Blue (MN) was called for his report.

FINANCE COMMISSION
Dennis M. Blue (MN), Vice Chairman

Mr. Blue (MN) asked if they appreciated the ease of the vouchers? Mr. Blue said if you have any suggestions for the procedures to pass those suggestions on to him. We are currently under budget for this year so far.

There were two (2) Resolutions – *SAL Res 5 – Spring 2016 Titled: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2016 Budget, which has already been voted on and passed. SAL Res 6 – Spring 2016 Titled: Recognizing Recipients for the “George B. Evans Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award”*. This concluded his report.

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

(Resolution 6 will be voted and approved/disapproved under the Legislative Commission)

PNC Michael Deacon (IA) commented that the finance has done a fine job this weekend. Then said, I understand the Assistant Adjutant's get a three (3) day call-in. The Finance Commission up until this last year has been basically a commission of getting the numbers together. Starting at the Fall Meeting they were the guys that made sure we got our money back. They're not getting anything for coming in on Friday, is there any discussion on getting them an extra call-in day? Commander Collier (AK) said we will have Internal Affairs Commission review it. Discussion concluded.

At this time Internal Affairs Chairman, Mark Tansel (IN) was called for their reports.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman

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

Convention – reported by Jon W. Coakley, II (OH), Chairman

A golf tournament will be held on Thursday, August 25th in which Mason Squadron 194 will provide transportation to and from the Convention Center to the Post at 8:30 am for breakfast. The Golf cost will be \$40 per golfer which includes transportation, breakfast, golf and lunch at the course. Following the tournament, players return back to Post 194 for a pizza dinner and entertainment (at individual cost). The cost will be \$150 for Hole Sponsorship with all proceeds going to CWF.

There will be a dinner/dance on Friday, August 26th at Milford Post 450 for a cost of \$25. This concluded his report.

Member Training & Development – reported by Mike Sawicki (IN), Chairman

NMI classes have concluded and were very successful thanks to our instructors. The NECmen need to get candidates in now to Don Culver for next year's NMI classes. We are working on a Commander's School for the Fall. This concluded his report.

Membership – reported by George Flasinski (PA), Chairman

The Central Region is currently in the lead with 93.09% membership. I believe in the 5 P's taken from the Moose Lodge Magazine from March 2016: 1. PLAN actives 2. PROMOTE those activities 3. PARTICIPATE in those activities 4. PUBLISH an article about those activities 5. PROSPER from those activities. This concluded his report.

Mr. Tansel (IN) said we carefully gathered participation data to find out how the new call-in structure is affecting the organization. We also discussed the Legion's stand on being nonpolitical and all present should be careful this weekend with all of the Candidates in town this weekend.

We will also be working on issuing receipts for IRS purposes for donations and taxes.

There were three (3) Resolutions – SAL Res 1–Spring 2016 Titled: Endorsement of Danny J. Smith (NE) for National Commander; SAL Res 2–Spring 2016 Titled: Endorsement of Michael L. Lawler (WI) for National Vice Commander and SAL Res 8 – Spring 2016 Titled: Endorsement of Mark A. Cannito (SC) for National Vice Commander. All three Resolutions were received and filed. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by New York to accept the report, minus the Resolutions, seconded by France. Motion carried.

At this time Legislative Chairman, David Lee (NY) gave his report.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

David Lee (NY), Chairman

Mr. Lee reported, The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. You must remove your cap when campaigning – we DO NOT endorse ANY party.

There was one (1) suggestion for a revision to Resolution SAL Res 6–Spring 2016 Titled: *Recognizing Recipients of the “George B. Evans Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award”*. The revision is to present the recipient(s) with a Sons of The American Legion Uniform Cap.

We need to reach out to the Legislative Representatives and talk to them about our process and ask to speak at one of their meetings.

I want to thank John Kerestan for his help with the Washington Conference. We will be changing the time for the Washington Conference to 8:30 am for loading on the bus and the start time at Arlington Cemetery will be 9:00 am instead of 9:45 am which allows more time to support the Leading Candidate. Last year we laid 19 wreaths with 62 people participating.

Leading Candidate, Jeff Frain (AZ) has chosen Arlington National Cemetery, Korean Memorial and Vietnam Memorial for laying of wreaths at next year’s Washington Conference. The Washington Conference will be held February 26 – March 1, 2017 at the same hotel.

The application for the George B. Evans Advocate of the Year Award is available online. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Colorado to accept the report, minus the Resolution, seconded by Indiana. Motion carried.

At this time John T. Jennings (FL), Resolutions Chairman read the following:

Resolution Chairman John Jennings (FL) read resolution SAL Res 6-Spring 2016 titled “Recognizing Recipients of the George B. Evans Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award”. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the resolution, seconded by Virginia, Linwood Moore. Motion carried.

At this time Public and Media Communications Chairman, Joseph Korba (NJ) gave his report.

PUBLIC AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Joseph A. Korba (NJ), Chairman

Mr. Korba said we need your stories for the Snapshots in Service Program. They can be sent to Sandy Lipman (MI).

We have a PR Fair scheduled for the Cincinnati Convention. We have been given the opportunity to put an article in the Legion Magazine and to date haven’t received anything.

The scrapbooks are now going digital and we will be coming up with a way to judge electronic/digital scrapbooks as more squadrons are creating them instead of paper ones. Please keep sending in your pictures. This concluded his report.

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

NECmen Ken Warner (PA) asked if the scrapbooks are currently digital. Mr. Korba said, it hasn't gone into effect yet but we are looking into it. This concluded the discussion from the floor.

At this time VA&R Chairman, Clint Bolt (VA) gave his report.

VA&R COMMISSION
Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman

Mr. Bolt reported that two Sons were recognized for the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, which is the highest of all of the Presidential Service Awards. The two individuals that received this award are Doug Murphy (GA), VA&R Vice Chairman and last year's Charles B. Rigsby Award recipient, Bob Filippi (MD). They received their award from President Obama.

On May 5th we will be going to Albuquerque, New Mexico to represent the Sons at the National Advisory Committee (NAC). This trip will be very special this year because the President of the James H Parke Scholarship Foundation sent me letter saying there will be two board vacancies. We will be nominating Bruno Williamson (IL) for a position on the board for a three year commitment. This will give the Sons increased visibility and input at the NAC.

I'm also happy to report that a year ago we had 41 reps at 44 VA facilities. As of today we have 65 Reps and Deps at 48 VA facilities but we still have a long way to go.

Last year we had a good number of submissions for The Charles Rigby Volunteer of the Year Award but we want to see more this year. The form and guidelines are available online so get Squadrons to make their selections and get names submitted. These are due in to the National Adjutant O'Heerne 30 days prior to convention. The VAVS handbook is also available online. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by New Hampshire to accept the report, seconded by Maryland. Motion carried.

PNC Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN) asked Mr. Bolt to explain what the James H. Parke Scholarship is. Mr. Bolt replied, every year the Sons give \$1,000 to the scholarship. The James H. Parke Scholarship Foundation gives \$35,000 each year. 1st place receives \$20,000; 2nd place receives \$5,000 and there are ten (10) \$2,000 scholarships. The recipients are Junior Volunteers at VA Hospitals and they are nominated by the Medical Center Director. This concluded the discussion.

At this time VE&E Chairman, Larry Weinzirl (MD) gave his report.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION
Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD), Chairman

Mr. Weinzirl reported that our mission statement was reiterated which is, "Assisting The American Legion and assuring that American Veterans the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families".

Information on over 60 job fairs has been sent to the National Vice Commanders for distribution to their local Detachments and Squadrons. We are also requesting that Sons provide volunteers for assisting at job fairs.

We encourage all the Detachments, Districts and Squadrons to form their own VE&E Sub-Committees on the VAVS as a first step to eventually form their own VE&E stand-alone committee.

One of the major focuses of our meeting was the veterans preference initiative and its success or lack of success in getting our veterans jobs at the federal government including the VA.

We will be adding 2-3 programs that we will concentrate our efforts on in an attempt to get all Detachments involved. This concluded his report.

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

Commander Collier (AK) called for the Sub-Committee Report on Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
John Jennings (FL), Chairman

Mr. Jennings stated we had eight (8) Resolutions submitted with seven (7) read and acted upon. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the report, minus the resolution, seconded by France. Motion carried.

At this time John T. Jennings (FL), Resolutions Chairman read the following:

Resolution Chairman John Jennings (FL) read resolution SAL Res 7-Spring 2016 titled “Creation of the Strategic Initiative Committee”. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the resolution, seconded by Indiana. Motion carried.

Fr Gary Gummersheimer (IL) asked, what’s the difference between the Commander’s Advisory Committee and this committee?

Commander Collier replied, this committee will be developing a strategic plan to identify where our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are. They will be working on a 5-year plan in moving this organization forward. The Commander’s Advisory Committee helps select the next candidates for National Commander and advise the sitting commander in his duties and those who want to run for National Commander.

Fr Gummersheimer (IL), again what’s the difference between this committee and the Committees on Committees? Commander Collier replied, Committees on Committees makes the selection and recommendations for those members that have been recommended by their NEC to this organization to sit on Committees or Commissions at the national office.

Fr Gummersheimer (IL) asked, aren’t both of those committees comprised of solely PNC’s? Commander Collier replied, No they are not. The Committees on Committees has three (3) NEC’s and three (3) PNC’s. Fr Gummersheimer said, meaning no disrespect to Past National Commanders, I understand what you’re trying to do and I’m not opposed to the concept but I’m concerned in the fact that PNC’s are not GOD. I was just wondering about the guy in the trenches, the blue caps, doesn’t he have a vision of where this organization might need to go? I’m concerned with the make-up of the committee.

PNC Kevin Winkelmann (TX) asked, who are the five (5) that will be appointed? Commander Collier, said they will be appointed under “New Business” of this meeting. PNC Winkelmann asked, who will vote on the appointed? Commander Collier said the NEC but we have to pass the resolution to form the committee before we can vote. PNC Winkelmann asked, will there be a Chairman? Collier said, yes,

there will a Chairman and four (4) members of the committee. Winkelmann (TX) said, so you'll have a committee that's in place for two years, no changes, then you'll have a committee that will be dissolved

in two years but you'll have a five year plan? Collier said the committee comes up with the 5-year plan. Winkelmann (TX) said don't you think this committee should stay in tack for 5 years and who's going to monitor that plan for the next spring? Collier said, the NEC. Winkelmann (TX) said Good Luck. Commander Collier said with our PNC's and NEC's they will be writing the resolutions to meet those goals with the 5-year plan. We will be successful. This discussion has concluded.

OLD BUSINESS

Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called for old business.

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called for new business.

NEC Milton Chatham (TX) stated, under the Americanism Committee, Rick Trzcinski (TX) has resigned and has not been replaced so Mr. Chatham stated he would like to recommend himself as the replacement. Commander Collier (AK) referred Mr. Chatham to talk to PNC Ray Giehll, Jr. (IN). PNC Giehll, Jr. (IN) said the recommendations where due in by March 31st but was extended to June 4th and we did receive a number of suggestions for this position.

Commander Collier (AK) announced the following members to be appointed for the newly created Strategic Initiative Ad Hoc Committee:

Chairman: PNC James K. Roberts, III (FL)
Members: PNC Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
PNC Eugene L. Sacco (CA)
PNC William L. Sparwasser (MD)
PNC Thomas E. Cisna (IL)

A motion was entertained by Commander Kevin Collier (AK) to accept the appointments, accepted by Texas, Milton Chatham, seconded by Pennsylvania, Kenneth P. Warner. Motion carried.

NEC Jim Gelwicks (CO) said, I know this is the first year to go through the cycle of the call-in procedure and we are still feeling our way through it. I hope between now and the adoption of next years' budget making some things work better for us. For example, it's difficult to have a membership meeting in the spring if we're sitting at 80% right now unless we're developing a plan for next year. Also, we should approve grants during the Fall in lieu of the Spring meeting. This would be a more effective way – just a couple of thoughts. Commander Collier (AK) said our membership is at 92.4% and renewals are at 84%. Mr. Gelwicks said his membership percent was hypothetical.

John Pelligrini (MT) wanted to inform the SAL that Merv Gunderson (MT) was in a terrible motorcycle accident and would like to keep him in our prayers.

Tom Marsden (NJ), National Historian, announced to get pictures in to him from the visits to your Detachment so they can be put in his book along with any NVC that has visited.

PNC Joe Gladden (MD) commented that Doc Leopold was the best chairman and would like to ask for a moment of silence on his behalf.

PNC Jim Roberts (FL) thanked everyone for PNP Kris Nelson condolences.

Commander Collier (AK) asked all the veterans in the room to stand for recognition.

Mike Lawler (WI), National Chaplain asked that if you have deceased members to get them to John Kerestan so they can be included in the memorial service at convention.

Commander Collier (AK) announced there was a card for PNC Chuck Belles on the table for people to sign and to keep him in our prayers. Commander Collier also asked the Detachments to get signed up for mysal.org so we can capture the dates of birth. Also, consolidated squadron reports are due in by convention. There was no other new business to discuss.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Kevin Collier (AK) called For The Good of the Sons.

No Good of the Sons business to discuss.

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

Following a right-hand salute, National Commander Collier (AK) declared the meeting adjourned at 10:44 am.

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 1

Title: Endorsement of Danny J. Smith (NE) for National Commander

Origin: Detachment of Nebraska

Page 1 of 1

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

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

WHEREAS, Danny J. Smith has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Nebraska as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 30 – May 1, 2016, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Nebraska hereby endorses Danny J. Smith for the high office of National Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Nebraska and the Department of Nebraska with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Harold E. Thompson Jr. and Department Adjutant David W. Salak are on the submitted resolution.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:
Rejected:
Referred to:

Other Action: Received and
Filed

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Mark Tansel

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 2

Title: Endorsement of Michael L. Lawler (WI) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Wisconsin

Page 1 of 1

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

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

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

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 30 – May 1, 2016, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Wisconsin hereby endorses Michael L. Lawler for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Wisconsin and the Department of Wisconsin with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant David R. Faust and Department Adjutant David A. Kurtz are on the submitted resolution.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved:
- Rejected:
- Referred to:

Other Action: Received and
Filed

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Mark Tansel

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 3

Title: Support for Get Out the Vote (GOTV)

Origin: Americanism Commission

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion has always promoted an active involvement in the voting process in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the year 2016 will be an especially important year as a new President of the United States will be elected; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 136, at the 1952 National American Legion Convention, Get Out the Vote, established an American Legion voter education and participation program by the same name; and

WHEREAS, our Democracy is ill-served by far too many apathetic and disenfranchised voters who choose not to participate in the election process; and

WHEREAS, the Legion Family members, who typically vote in numbers that exceed the national average, have the opportunity to participate in the election process and encourage others to do so as well; and

WHEREAS, the Get Out the Vote program is non-partisan and has as its purpose the encouragement of all eligible voters to register and participate in all elections; federal, state, and local; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 30-May 1, 2016 that the Sons of The American Legion reiterates its longstanding commitment of service to the United States of America by promoting the truest form of Americanism and personal responsibility to our government, the act of voting on Election Day; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion, through the Get Out the Vote program, encourage its members, squadrons, districts, and detachments to fully involve themselves in the election process by serving as poll volunteers, poll workers, by voting, and by encouraging and assisting others to register and to vote in the upcoming Presidential election.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:

Rejected:

Referred to:

Other Action:

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Greg K. Gibbs

Greg K. Gibbs (NY), Chairman
Americanism Commission

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 4

Title: Support for the Family Support Network

Origin: Americanism Commission

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion has traditionally supported services for our active military and returning veterans; and

WHEREAS, since 2001 there are a greater number of returning veterans than in past years due to large scale deployments in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Reserves and National Guard have been deployed in large numbers these past years and they are seldom located near military bases to get appropriate services and; and

WHEREAS, these returning veterans may find it difficult to meet normal monthly expenses, families with minor children may find themselves in financial need, and they simply may need help doing regular everyday chores; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has set up the Family Support Network to help military families deal with reintegrating into civilian life and the associated issues; and

WHEREAS, The Legion Family members, including the Sons, seek to respond to our men and women in uniform's needs as they return home; and

WHEREAS, The Family Support Network has as its purpose the support and aid of military and their families in times of need as they return home to a grateful nation; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on April 30-May 1, 2016 that the Sons of The American Legion reiterates its support and active engagement with the promotion of a high level of Americanism and personal responsibility to our men and women in uniform; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion, through the Family Support Network program, encourage its members, squadrons, districts, and detachments to fully involve themselves in the ability to help our returning service members by encouraging them to connect with The Family Support Network, and get the help they need during, perhaps a difficult, transition period.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:
Rejected:
Referred to:

Other Action:

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Greg K. Gibbs

Greg K. Gibbs (NY), Chairman
Americanism Commission

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 5

Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2016 Budget

Origin: Child Welfare Committee

Page 1 of 1

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 30-May 1, 2016 that a donation in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars, (\$5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. And be it finally;

RESOLVED, that the funds be taken from the 2016 Child Welfare Foundation Donation budgeted line.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:

Rejected:

Referred to:

Other Action:

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Peter Sierminski

Peter Sierminski (CO), Chairman
Child Welfare Foundation Commission

Dennis Blue

Dennis Blue (MN), Chairman
Finance Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 6

Title: Recognizing Recipients of the “George B. Evans Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award”

Origin: Detachment of Maryland

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The “George B. Evans, Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award” was established at the 39th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of this prestigious award have demonstrated exemplary devotion to the promotion of Legislative initiatives that benefit Veterans in the Local Community as well as the State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Recipients of the “George B. Evans, Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award “deserve to be recognized by all with an awarded Sons of The American Legion Uniform Cap, for their Grassroots work; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Maryland, Detachment Executive Committee assembled on April 3, 2016 in Rockville, Maryland, reviewed this resolution and approved its intentions and objectives; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 30-May 1, 2016 that a Sons of The American Legion Uniform Cap, that appropriately recognizes the Annual recipient of the “George B. Evans, Grassroots Veterans’ Advocate of Year Award”; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, that this would take effect with the 45th National Convention to be held August 26, 27, 28, 2016.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:
Rejected:
Referred to:

Other Action:

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

David Lee

David Lee (NY), Chairman
Legislative Commission

Dennis Blue

Dennis Blue (MN), Chairman
Finance Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 7

Title: Creation of the Strategic Initiative Committee

Origin: National Commander Kevin Collier

Page 1 of 1

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion has experienced significant growth over the past two decades as evidenced not only by its membership doubling from 180,000 in 1995 to over 362,000 in 2015, but also from the rapid expansion and depth and degrees of its support of The American Legion priorities and programs; and

WHEREAS, It is essential for organizations to review their current platform and direction and augment itself based on these findings to ensure future growth and stability is properly supported; and

WHEREAS, these findings and discoveries need to be detailed, understandable and attainable, as well as positioned so as to provide forward looking guidance and direction for all aspects of the organization; and

WHEREAS, this objective can be best achieved through a strategic, determined and focused effort, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 30-May 1, 2016 that a special committee be established entitled “Strategic Initiative Committee”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the committee be comprised of five Past National Commanders who shall serve until the close of the Fall 2018 meeting of the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the scope of this special committee shall be, but not limited to, conducting S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and recommendations, 5-year strategic plan (inclusive of financial impact) and development of organizational vision; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this committee will report to the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission at each NEC meeting with its final report in October 2018.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:
Rejected:
Referred to: _____
Other Action: _____

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Kevin Collier

Kevin Collier (AK), National Commander
Sons of The American Legion

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
Held on April 30 – May 1, 2016**

No.: 8

Title: Endorsement of Mark A. Cannito (SC) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of South Carolina
of 1

Page 1

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

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

WHEREAS, Mark A. Cannito has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of South Carolina as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 30 – May 1, 2016, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of South Carolina hereby endorses Mark A. Cannito for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of South Carolina and the Department of South Carolina with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander Robert Thompson and Department Adjutant Lloyd Woods are on the submitted resolution.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:
Rejected:
Referred to:

Other Action: Received and
Filed

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

John T. Jennings

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

Mark Tansel

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

ADDENDUM B

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REPORT TO NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THE AMERICAN LEGION APRIL 30 – MAY 1, 2016

Disposition of Action of **Sons of The American Legion**

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30 – May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee April 30 – May 1, 2016.

SOURCE	TITLE	ACTION
SAL Res 1 - Spring 2016	Endorsement of Danny J. Smith (NE) for National Commander	Received and Filed
SAL Res 2 - Spring 2016	Endorsement of Michael L. Lawler (WI) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
SAL Res 3 - Spring 2016	Support for Get Out the Vote (GOTV)	Approved
SAL Res 4 - Spring 2016	Support for the Family Support Network	Approved
SAL Res 5 - Spring 2016	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2016 Budget	Approved
SAL Res 6 - Spring 2016	Recognizing recipients of the “George B. Evans Veterans’ Advocate of the Year Award”	Approved
SAL Res 7 - Spring 2016	Creation of the Strategic Initiative Committee	Approved
SAL Res 8 - Spring 2016	Endorsement of Mark A. Cannito (SC) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed