

**VIRTUAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**OF**  
**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Spring Meeting

American Legion National Headquarters

Indianapolis, Indiana

Saturday, April 24, 2021

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Janine Ferren, RPR, CRR, CSR-IL No. 84-4852

Connor Reporting, A Veritext Company

111 Monument Circle

Suite 4350

Indianapolis, IN 46204

317.522.9600

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*...At 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Bolt.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: With the colors of our nation being in place, please join me in a right-hand salute. Two.

Please uncover. I will now call on National Chaplain Rodney Tolbert to deliver our invocation.

### **Invocation**

#### **Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan**

Gracious and blessed God, we place our work and ourselves into Your hands. Anoint our creativity, our ideas, our energy, so even the smallest task may bring You honor. God, when we are challenged, guide us. When we are weary, energize us. May the work that we do and the way we do it bring hope, life, and courage to all within our organization. Bless our administration with wisdom. In Your name, amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: In memory of our departed comrades and the comrades of all veterans, let us stand in silence.

*...The National Executive Committee observed a moment of silence.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I would particularly like to note the passing of Past National Commander Steve Laws from the Detachment of North Carolina, Past National Vice Commander Damon Bradtmueller from the Detachment of Indiana, Past National Vice Commander Ken Warner from the Detachment of Pennsylvania, and Past National Historian Mike Kane from the Detachment of Pennsylvania, since our fall 2020 meeting.

### **POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony**

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CHAPLAIN HARRIS: Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th annual national convention, requires the designation of a POW/MIA chair at all official meetings of The American Legion. This is a symbol of the thousands of American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving our nation.

With the POW/MIA flag positioned to my left, let it serve as a reminder for all of us to spare no efforts in securing the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who have been killed in action, and a full accounting of those who are still missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I want to thank the American Legion National Chaplain Ed Harris for the POW/MIA empty chair ceremony.

To maintain a high awareness that a constant vigil should be maintained so that no POW or MIA will be left unaccounted for, The Sons of The American Legion designate a POW/MIA empty chair at all meetings. This is a physical symbol of the thousands of American POWs and MIAs still unaccounted for, as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoner from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

The POW/MIA flag is in place.

We will now call on National Vice Commander Blair Miles for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

*...The National Executive Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.*

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Please recover.

I'll now call on the National Vice Commander Chris Cook to lead us in the preamble.

### **Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion**

*...The National Executive Committee recited the Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.*

### **Blue Star Banner Ceremony**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Serving as a constant reminder that servicemen and women, on a daily basis, are putting themselves at risk to ensure our freedoms, the Sons of The American Legion display a Corporate Blue Star Service Banner at all meetings, to serve as a symbol of our support of all military personnel serving this great country. Let us never forget that every day these individuals are protecting our liberty. The Blue Star Service Banner is displayed.

I will now call on our national adjutant, Anthony Wright, who will read the call to the Spring 2021 meeting.

### **Reading of the Call**

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: On February 3rd, 2021, the national commander of The American Legion, James W. Bill Oxford, announced that the Spring National Executive Committee of The American Legion would be conducted virtually.

As a result, The Sons of The American Legion, by the decision of National Commander Clint Bolt, followed that same guidance and announced on the same day that the Spring 2021 National Committee Meeting would be held virtually. Notice of this action was properly and formally distributed to all national officers, National Executive Committeemen, Alternate National Executive Committeemen, past National Commanders, Commission and Committee

chairmen, and Detachment representatives through the office of the National Liaison and reinforced by me as National Adjutant with other various communications.

These actions fulfill the requirement of Article VII, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Will the national adjutant, Tony Wright, now call the roll?

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Prior to calling roll, I would just like to make an announcement. Due to my employer placing restrictions on travel for essential employees, I was unable to attend the National Executive Committee meeting in person. I have asked and requested that National Assistant Adjutant Jeff Hicks handle the administrative duties and provide administrative support to Commander Bolt during this meeting.

### **Roll Call**

*...National Adjutant Wright called the roll of the National Executive Committee as follows:*

### **NATIONAL OFFICERS**

National Commander

Clint D. Bolt, Virginia

National Vice Commanders

East: Gary P. Nelson, New Jersey

South: Blair Miles, Alabama - EXCUSED

Central: Richard M. "Doc" Pfeiffer, Indiana

Midwest: Christopher L. "Chris" Cook, Oklahoma

West: Nedley C. "Ned" Fox, California

National Adjutant

Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Adjutants

Harold E. Thompson, Jr., Nebraska (Emeritus)

James E. "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida - EXCUSED

Robert J. Avery, New York

David M. Ridenour, Indiana - EXCUSED

Scott A. Williams, Virginia

Scott J. Thornton, Ohio

Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey

National Chaplain

Rodney J. Tolbert, Michigan - EXCUSED

National Historian

Thomas E. "Tom" Marsden, New Jersey - EXCUSED

National Judge Advocate

Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms

Gregory A. Falco, New York (East)

Raymond P. Giehll, III, Indiana (Central)

Charles Curtis, California (West)

National Commander's Aide

Jeffrey C. Evans, Virginia

## **PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS**

Immediate Past National Commander

Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs, New York

Past National Commanders

Michael K. Seaton, California

Robert A. McBride, Ohio

J.R. Stillwell, Illinois

Robert H. Faust, California

Charles E. Gannon, Maryland

David P. Stephens, Indiana

Frederick L. Hartline, Sr., Ohio - EXCUSED

Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota

David R. Faust, Wisconsin

Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota

William E. Matoska, Maryland

Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana

Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma

Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas - EXCUSED

Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts

Neal C. Warnken, Kansas

Earl Ruttkofsky, Michigan

Raymond P. Giehl, Jr., Indiana

Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois

James K. Roberts, III, Florida - EXCUSED

Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland

Michael W. Moss, Colorado - EXCUSED

Kevin L. Collier, Alaska

Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona

Brian J. O'Hearne, Massachusetts

Danny J. Smith, Colorado

## **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN**

Alabama, Both

Arizona, NEC

California, NEC

Colorado, NEC

Connecticut, NEC

Delaware, Alternate

Florida, Both

Georgia, NEC

Hawaii, NEC

Illinois, NEC

Indiana, Both

Kansas, Both

Kentucky, NEC

Louisiana, Alternate

Maryland, NEC

Massachusetts, NEC

Michigan, NEC

Minnesota, NEC

Mississippi, NEC

Missouri, NEC

Montana - EXCUSED

Nebraska, NEC

Nevada, Alternate

New Hampshire - EXCUSED

New Jersey, Both

New Mexico, NEC

New York, NEC

North Carolina, NEC

Ohio, NEC

Oklahoma, Alternate

Oregon, NEC

Pennsylvania, NEC

South Carolina, NEC

South Dakota, NEC

Vermont, NEC

Virginia, Both

Washington, NEC

Wyoming, NEC

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Commander, that completes roll call. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Mr. Adjutant, I appreciate that.

Announcement right now: John Wright, NEC from Connecticut, please mute yourself.

At this time, gentlemen, we have a very distinguished guest. James "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on August 29th, 2019, in Indianapolis, Indiana, during the organization's 101st National Convention. He has been a member of the nation's largest veterans' organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, North Carolina, Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011.

A veteran of the United States Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronics technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in the Vietnam era during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Commander Bill joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended Officer Candidate School and transferred to the United States Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Commander Bill has served at every level of the American Legion. A former mayor and city council of his home in Cahah's Mountain in North Carolina, he has worked since he was a high school student, most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in the environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Commander Bill has volunteered to coach, umpire, referee, and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Commander Bill is a member of the Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Commander Bill and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles, married to Deah Reid, and a daughter, Jackie, married to Mike Carr. They also have four grandsons: Isaiah, Micah, Jaggar, and Dawson.

It is my pleasure, and please let's give Commander Bill Oxford a very warm Sons welcome.

*(Applause)*

Commander Bill, you have the floor, sir.

### **Greetings**

**James W. "Bill" Oxford**

**American Legion National Commander, North Carolina**

Thank you. Commander Clint, thank you very much for that introduction.

Members of The Sons of The American Legion, I just want to say thanks for taking time this morning to be here online. I wanted to personally extend my wishes for you to have a safe, fruitful, and healthy NEC meeting.

Before we get too far along, Clint talked about my grandson. My oldest grandson is getting married this afternoon, so please be with him as he embarks on this new endeavor.

I think we can all agree that these virtual meetings are not the best, but it has told us a lot about still being able to do the business we need to.

We all know, a year ago in mid-March, the coronavirus took us all by surprise when the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a health emergency, and the world, the United States, and The American Legion basically closed and shut down. We've had American Legion posts, restaurants, canteens, social quarters closed and limit operations, and many posts, some have even lost their homes.

We had to make tough decisions about the cancellation of the NEC meetings, the national convention, our Children and Youth program, and things like Boys and Girls State, the oratorical contest, junior shooting, baseball, all of those were difficult decisions. But all of America faced the government regulations, CDC rules, and local laws, and the common sense that forced the separation, the isolation, the social distancing, the quarantines, and the many other sacrifices we all faced because of the pandemic. I know we've all had our own horror stories about them because of the virus. Last year no doubt presented an unprecedented challenge.

But on the other hand, we had and continue to have American Legion posts, auxiliary units, SAL squadrons across the country continue to find new ways to do what we do, and that's serve our members, our community, and our country.

Across the country in every department, holding food drives, drive-through meals, collecting and distributing PPE, pick up and deliver groceries, provide transportation to medical appointments, blood drives, pick up and deliver prescriptions, virtual job fairs, making those buddy checks. All of those things continue to happen.

At the national level, we continue to answer the call, still working through and despite the pandemic. Distributing help through the National Emergency Fund, our temporary financial assistance program, the Legacy Scholarship, and our Child Welfare Foundation awards.

But as we think about those things, we've also got to take time to remember those we lost to the virus: family members, friends, neighbors, relatives; post, unit, squadron members; and many other veterans known and unknown. We needed to realize the value of our time together and strengthen our camaraderie and comradeship. I think that's great examples of who we are and what we do.

But that was last year. My theme, like Clint mentioned, is "A Foundation for the Future." We, all of us, must realize that we -- I, you, me, we, us -- are the future of our organization. The things we did yesterday, the things we do today, and the things we will do or don't do tomorrow will determine the future of our organization for decades to come. We faced a tough year, no doubt, but we'll get through the pandemic and we'll be better, stronger, more resilient because of it. I think this could help us realize who we are and what we do. We adapt and we overcome.

But please remember, please think about this, The American Legion is still here. We're 102 years old but just as valuable, just as important, just as relevant as we've always been. This is a year of them. Meetings, conferences, conventions, events cancelled last year are returning in many places and restrictions are easing. Planning and preparation for our Children and Youth programs this year is gathering traction. We plan to hold our junior shooting finals, our baseball programs, our Boys State, Boys Nation across the country. Those things are going to happen as planned.

The COVID vaccine is being given in huge numbers, some even being administered at American Legion posts. We are on the way and we will prevail.

Let me just mention a few other things. Ask everybody to check out our Second Annual Hundred Miles for Hope Challenge. Last year was extremely successful, and we kicked off the new challenge this year on April the 1st. We're hoping to have 10,000 participants and raise \$300,000 for our Veterans and Children's Foundation. But if you haven't joined up, it's not too late. I'm about 15 miles into my 100 for the year, but we still have time.

That kind of follows on with my fundraising project, is the Veterans and Children's Foundation. If you're looking for a place to make a donation, our Veterans and Children's Foundation is a worthy cause, and we'd certainly appreciate that.

When we think about membership, we need everybody's help. We're asking every member of our Legion family, and that's Legionnaires, that's Auxiliary members, that's Sons, that's Riders, everybody. We need everybody to be a recruiter, a retainer, and inviter. Invite everybody we know, see, or meet, if they're eligible, to become members of our Legion family.

Clint, to you and every member of The Sons of The American Legion, it's truly an honor to be part of your team, and I'm really pleased and proud to have you all as a part of my team. As we review who we are and what we do, our ability to succeed is based on the great team we have, and we have a great team.

Thank you all for things you have done, will continue to do, be safe, keep healthy, hope to see everybody in Phoenix. The American Legion is open for business.

Thank you, Clint.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Mr. Commander. And we want to commend you on your leadership during this pandemic our country is in. You have steered the ship very well, sir.

Godspeed to you, and we will see you at your NEC meeting, sir. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER OXFORD: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I now declare the Spring 2021 meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion regularly convened virtually.

I will now call on our national judge advocate, Joe Paviglianti, who will now explain the use of unanimous consent in today's proceedings.

### **Remarks About Unanimous Consent**

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Thank you, Mr. Commander, and good morning everybody, at least everybody here virtually.

Generally, in a meeting of a deliberative assembly, there is a system that I've been using, a formal procedure of motion, debate, and vote. However, if there are no objections, action could be taken by unanimous consent. The procedure of asking for unanimous consent is used to expedite business by eliminating the need for formal votes on routine questions in which the existence of a consensus is highly likely. The principle behind it is that procedural safeguard that's designed to protect the minority can be waived when there is no minority to protect.

In non-legislative deliberative bodies operating under Robert's Rules of Order, unanimous consent is often used to expedite the consideration of uncontroversial motions. It is sometimes used as simple time-savings device especially at the end of a session. Sometimes members do not want a formal recorded vote on the issue or that that they would lose such a vote and do not feel that they need to take the time on it.

As we are both conscious, all of us are conscious of time savings as well as being able to execute it through a virtual manner, The American Legion, The Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, for the fall meetings that were conducted last year, all entered into unanimous consent and, thereby, we are following that same process for this spring meeting.

Additionally, a couple of quick housekeeping points that I want to make. Voting members of the NEC, please be sure to use the hand-raise function that we discussed yesterday, and that Ken also discussed this morning at the start of the NEC, when you wish to make a motion, second, or ask a question. There are several of us assembled in the room here today that will help the commander identify, as best as is possible, who it was that raised their hand and indicated a desire to speak first. But we will go through all individuals who have their hand raised and we will address any issues they might have.

Also, please wait to be recognized by the chair before you begin talking. Finally, be certain to state your name, position, and detachment when addressing the chair.

So, I was just notified that you could not hear me. Do I need to go back and start again?

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: You may want to. Bob Brown said he couldn't hear you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: No, sir, you couldn't hear me.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're coming through loud and clear.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: That's all you need to do. I know the commander's mic was on, mine was not, but I think I spoke loud enough for everyone to hear it.

I will reiterate the last piece, and that is please make sure you use your hand-raise function. In addition to that, before you are recognized or as you are recognized by the chair, provide your name, position, and detachment when addressing the chair and then moving forward with conversation.

That's all I have, Mr. Commander, regarding the particular commentary on unanimous consent.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, **sir**.

### **Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The minutes from the fall 2020 meetings were published on Wednesday, October 28th, 2020. If there is no objection, they will be accepted as published.

Since there is no objection, the minutes from the fall 2020 meeting will be accepted as published, subject to any corrections or additions submitted to the national adjutant in writing.

### **Opening Remarks**

**Clint D. Bolt, Virginia**

### **Sons of The American Legion National Commander**

At this time, I'd like to welcome each of you to the spring NEC meeting. I appreciate all of you taking time today to be on this meeting with us. We are here again today in the historic NEC room at national headquarters where you just heard Commander Bill talk about the existence of 102 years.

When you think about all the legislation that has been discussed in this room, the depression, the wars, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, Middle Eastern wars, and now this past year, the pandemic. Lots of debates, lots of discussions have taken place here. Lots of legislation to benefit America's veterans has been originated right here and presented to Congress. So, we are honored to be here today from this historic room, to add to the history of this magnificent organization.

I'd also like to welcome Past National Commanders J.R. Stillwell. Today is the first Zoom meeting that our distinguished past national commander has attended, and I just wanted to personally welcome him today to be on this meeting with us.

I want to thank all of the National Executive Committeemen for the work you've done since our fall meeting, making sure that your detachments are receiving all the information that is sent out to you. I also want to thank our committee and commission chairmen and committeemen. You've done an outstanding job, and I know you had to work hard to get everything ready to submit to the NEC prior to this meeting.

I feel in some ways that it has been good for us to get the information to you so that you can share it with your detachment prior to this meeting today, so that you can discuss the business that's going to come before us today. And so, in some ways, like I said, I just think this is somewhat better format, rather than receiving it on Sunday morning as we have in years past.

Joining me today is Jeff Hicks, the assistant national adjutant. He is assisting me. Tony could not physically be here, as you heard earlier. I want to thank Jeff for taking time to come this weekend to assist me.

And of course, our judge advocate, Joe P., thank you, sir, for assisting me this weekend. I really appreciate it.

Everything that I do this year has been a direct result of my team, and I'm surrounded by a great team of national vice commanders. They serve each one of you the best they can. They do an outstanding job with their monthly regional conference calls. They make sure that all of the committees and commissions have a few minutes on their calls to extend whatever information that needs to get out. And then they're emailing; every scrap of information they

get, they put out to you. And I want to commend our national vice commanders for all that they have done to represent the national organization. Thank you, gentlemen.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to be in several meetings here at the national headquarters, and one was with the leader of the mySAL. I know there's a lot of problems with it right now, and he acknowledged it yesterday. But the software issues are huge, and it's taking a lot of man-hours to get through it, more than they anticipated. They have addressed many problems already, but there are still many to go. And at this time, I'm going to ask for everybody to please just be patient. They are working through every single problem there is, and they're going to get it right. So please be patient.

The other thing, our chairmen of our commissions and committees will go over a lot of things. But there's a few things that, as national commander, that I need to touch on, and I'll leave all the details to our chairmen.

But right now, we have a feature on the American Legion website called VoterVOICE. As of this past week, the report out of national is that we only have 25,300 signed up for VoterVOICE. That's not doing The American Legion any good. We need to lend our voice with theirs and The American Legion Auxiliary in this platform, so that you will receive the legislative alerts that come from national headquarters. When they ask for you to send these alerts to your Congressmen, that you'll be able to do so through this VoterVOICE link. It only takes 30, 40 seconds to sign up for it.

I would like for us, by national convention, I'd like to tell Commander Bill Oxford that there's 100,000 Sons that have signed on to VoterVOICE. So, I'm asking you at this time, it's a very easy thing and it's one of the best ways that we can support The American Legion. So please sign up for that.

At this time of the year, renewals. Renewals are on the tip of everybody's tongue. It's when we need to close out our year's membership. And those renewals are there, we know who they are, we need to get in touch with them.

One thing we have learned about the ones that haven't renewed yet. The only way to get them to renew is person-to-person contact. You have to impress to your squadrons that they must personally contact these individuals and let them know just how valuable their membership is to our organization and how we want them back. And then ask them if there's anything that we can do for them. But we need them back. We know who they are; we need to try and get them.

You've heard a lot about the squadron data reports. I don't have an exact number as to how many have been turned in yet, but we have a long ways to go and a short time to get there. You'll hear more about that from my liaison, Ken George, a little later. Please reach out to your squadrons and please have them filled out. It is required of every squadron to do so.

Then to finish out the year is our consolidated squadron reports. Last year, the turn-in for Squadron reports, very, very dismal, somewhere around the 12 percent range. To contrast that, The American Legion routinely submits somewhere in the 70th percentile range. So, we have got to do a better job of reporting. I know all of our squadrons may not have done everything that they have done in the past, but every squadron has done something. They volunteered some hours towards something. They have donated some money, either in their community or with the American Legion charities.

But I have a goal for reporting this year, and that's 50 percent of our squadrons. That would be somewhere approximately 3,000 or a little more. I think that's an easy goal for us to

make if we put our minds to it. So, I ask each of you to reach out to those squadrons and see if they need help filling out those reports and get them in.

And then one other notice that came to my attention yesterday here at national headquarters is, I spoke with the director of Internal Affairs, Jack Querfeld. I've asked Jack to be on the meeting today; I hope he is watching. Jack announced to us yesterday of his retirement. After 25 years of serving The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion, next Friday will be his last day here. Like I said, it was off guard, I didn't know it was coming.

Hopefully, Jack, if you're listening, I clearly want you to be at our convention in Phoenix where we can properly show you our appreciation for everything that you have done for us down through the decades. We wish you Godspeed, sir, with everything you do and what retirement holds for you. We wish you the very best.

We will accept donating pledges under for the Good of The Sons of The American Legion later today. Due to the constraints of the virtual format, only those members of the NEC with a voice, namely the officers, the NECmen, the chairmen, and past national commanders, will be able to make such pledges during this session. Please contact one of them via text or email during the meeting and ask them to announce your donations during that time.

### **Appointments to National Commissions/Committees**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: At this time, we have two vacancies to fill this morning; Damon Bradtmueller, Detachment of Indiana, member of the Public & Media Communications Commission, due to his passing on October 6th; and Phil Cook, Detachment of New Hampshire, member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, due to his resignation on January 11th.

If there is no objection, I appoint Doug Heiser from the Detachment of Indiana as a member of the National Public & Media Communications Commission, fulfilling the unexpired term of Mr. Bradtmueller; and Robert Manzo from the Detachment of Maryland as a member of the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, fulfilling the unexpired term of Mr. Cook.

Are there any questions regarding these appointments?

PNC J.R. Stillwell?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER J.R. STILLWELL: No comment on that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

Hearing no objections, the resignation and new appointments of the aforementioned members are approved by unanimous consent.

At this time, gentlemen, coming before our meeting, we have national president of The American Legion Auxiliary, President Nicole Clapp.

Nicole is eligible for membership in The American Legion Auxiliary through the military service of her grandfather, Roger Schroeder, a United States Navy seaman in the central Pacific during World War II. She is a 44-year paid-up-for-life member of Unit 127, Gladbrook, Iowa.

She has been a dedicated member serving our nation's veterans, military, and their families in various roles since she was four years old.

President Nicole has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, department, and national levels. She served as 1987-1988 American Legion Auxiliary Honorary National and Iowa Junior auxiliary president and chaired many committees and served in several appointments, including National Finance, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs &

Rehabilitation, as Future Focus Committee member, and The American Legion Centennial Strategic Plan committee member. Nicole was a member of The American Legion Auxiliary Iowa Girls State board and staff for over 16 years.

She is also serving as a member of the Department and National 100th Anniversary Committee, in addition to the 75th Anniversary of The American Legion Auxiliary Iowa Girls State Committee.

At this time, gentlemen, let's please give a warm welcome to national President Nicole Clapp.

*(Applause)*

## **Greetings**

### **Nicole Clapp**

#### **American Legion Auxiliary National President**

Good morning. It is a pleasure to be with you, Commander Clint, national officers, past national commanders, members of the SAL NEC, staff, and guests.

I, along with National Commander Bill and Clint, would not be serving as the only two-year national leadership team of our great organizations if your collective resolve were not in play. Our duty is to serve and lead our members, no matter what this new normal entails, and that is what we have been trying to do each and every day since the pandemic began.

To be honest, serving as your national president during a pandemic feels a little bit like the Groundhog Day movie with Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell, where the same things keep happening day after day after day, and we're not really sure why or see an end in sight.

But those of you that know me would most likely say I'm a cup-half-full kind of girl with a smile and a farmer's get-'er-done attitude. And so, this extended term as your national president has taught me a few things.

I write everything down in pencil. I know that every department visit is a possibility and not a probability. I also know that I cross my fingers each and every day, just like this morning, that the internet connection out here on the farm is going to be strong enough for the next Zoom meeting. And I also know that flexibility is the name of the game, while adapt and overcome of course are the best strategies.

For me, though, probably the most important thing is not to get my hopes up too high for that next great adventure until the plane has landed and all those infamous COVID vaccine requirements, et cetera, have been met.

But while serving the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary, we have remained steadfast ever since our founding in 1919, which of course is to honor the sacrifice of those who served, and enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families.

It's hard to believe it's over 100 years ago, we entrusted our lives into the hands of the World War I soldiers. Today it is still our responsibility, because what is more important than entrusting the lives and the health and well-being of them now in our hands? Fulfilling our mission of "service, not self," I have to admit, has not been easy during the COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed so many lives, sickened others, led to unemployment and homelessness for some.

We are The American Legion family and we have pushed on and overcome challenges by putting our mission safely first to make positive impacts. I want to thank everyone for your ongoing dedication and commitment especially during this is unrelenting reminds.

I am very proud of our collective American Legion family efforts, be it membership, making face masks, buddy checks, swimming, biking, hiking, or running for Hundred Miles for Hope campaigns. The ongoing interactions with members aren't quite the same, but they are still very rewarding.

I have to admit, before the pandemic Zoom to me meant vroom, vroom. I had no idea about Zoom. I had heard of GoToMeetings and Teams, but not Zoom. But thank goodness for technology as of today.

The Auxiliary continues to be the co-presenter of the National Creative Arts Festival which was converted to a virtual at-home event where so many more individuals could participate safely and experience healing through the arts. Our own national headquarters staff of the ALA learned how to professionally produce events in-house to keep our members engaged. I would suggest checking out our newly designed website. Our web address remains the same, [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org).

There was tremendous interest by over 300 of our members who applied for two special committees that I established with NEC approval, one titled Inclusion and Diversity, and the other, Code of Ethical Review.

The American Legion family is made up of common-looking people dedicated to a mission of service. President Lincoln once said, "Common-looking people are the best in the world. That is the reason the Lord made so many of them."

I fast-forward that statement to today to mean The American Legion family, approximately three million members strong. We currently have 967 male spouse ALA members now in the organization.

We did not get a chance, though, to celebrate our big anniversary milestone. Some of you have heard me ask this before. How many businesses or organizations do you know get to celebrate their 100 birthday for two whole years straight? I am looking forward to Junior Shooting Sports, World Series of Baseball, Legacy Run, and more department visits before we end this two-year term of celebrating a century of service all the way to Phoenix.

So, in closing, Commander Clint, it is an honor and privilege to continue serving as your centennial national president. Now is the time for us to join together and work even harder to protect the health and well-being of everyone. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost a loved one due to this menacing virus or has been otherwise impacted.

We are The American Legion family strong because of our love of country and each other. Please be safe, take care of yourselves, wear your masks, and get vaccinated. Because I can't wait to see all of you at our long-awaited national convention in Phoenix, if not before.

So, I want to wish you, Commander Clint and the NEC, a great meeting in the next day, and I want to say thank you for spending a few minutes with you this morning.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Madam President. We really appreciate you taking time in your day to be with us today. You've done an outstanding job representing The American Legion Auxiliary, and we all look forward to seeing you in Phoenix together. Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

At this time, I call upon your national SAL liaison, Ken George, for remarks.

## **Greetings**

**Ken George**

**National SAL Staff Liaison, California**

Good morning, everybody. Welcome to our second virtual NEC hosted here in the National American Legion headquarters in the NEC room. This is actually pretty exciting. I know for some; we want to be faced to face. And I do too, quite frankly. However, we have proven that we can exist, and we can still conduct business, as Commander Oxford had said.

I want to give a thank you to President Clapp and Commander Oxford for joining our meeting today. Their remarks are always motivating, and that was appreciated.

One of the things I'd like to state, there are a lot of changes going on here at national headquarters. Some of them have been painful and some of you have called and voiced me that and I understand. I fully empathize with you, and it's painful for us too. However, when it's done, this will be a great product, and the capabilities you're going to have are just going to be phenomenal.

No software change and changeover go smooth. I've been involved in a few of them, including with the U.S. government and the U.S. Navy, and it was less than smooth. So just be patient and voice the problem you're having, not your opinion; it's always appreciated.

You may have known that the SDR is out, the annual squadron data report. That is going to allow the individual member to renew online, which is actually pretty exciting. Since I've been in this position for a little over two years, your call is finally being answered. The goal is to have that in place by July 1st. So, your squadrons need to get that SDR. If your squadron does not, your members in your squadron will not be able to renew online. And when you can't, you need to talk to your adjutant and say, "Why haven't you done it yet?"

And with that, later for the Good of the Legion, I've asked the commander to please ask me to come up and I'll actually field some questions and answer everything the best I can. I know there's a lot of changes, and I don't want address them now and take a lot of time.

However, I do want to welcome everybody. Thank you, we're always appreciative, and I'm only a phone call away. Thank you.

Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Ken, for those remarks.

We'll now proceed with the commission and committee reports.

I call on National Americanism Commission Chairman Don Hall for his report, along with National Children and Youth Committee Chairman Bill Clancy, and National Child Welfare Committee chairman Mark Nave, with finance on deck.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: Thank you, Commander. I would like to start off by calling our National Children and Youth Committee chairman, Bill Clancy, for his report.

### **Oral Report of Children and Youth Committee**

#### **William Clancy, III, Chairman, New York**

Thank you, Chairman Hall, and thank you, Commander. It's great to see all my fellow Sons. I wish we were with you guys in person, but we're making do.

The Children and Youth Committee had our meeting on March the 22nd. All of the committee members were in attendance. We had a great meeting. We reviewed what we've been doing for this past year as well as what we'll be doing for the remainder of my term, which is to promote all American Legion Children and Youth activities with two goals in mind. First, of course, is to help our nation's children. But second is to use those programs to energize squadrons to bring in new members, to attract and make us attractive as an organization to young veterans with young children who we would love to have come in our doors and for them to join The American Legion and their children to join The Sons.

We will continue to promote the idea of American Legion Family Day. It's an open-house concept where members of the community are invited into posts by The Sons or The American Legion family to partake in some festivities and learn a little bit about our organization.

We're continuing to ask every squadron across the nation to host an event in support of one of our Children and Youth-oriented funds, namely the CWF or the NEF or the Veterans and Children's Foundation.

We're also asking every squadron and every member to generate awareness of and participate in the Hundred Miles for Hope Challenge. My family and I signed up, we're looking forward to doing it, we've already started. And we're looking forward to that being an enormous program to raise money for the Veterans and Children's Foundation.

We talked about our upcoming national convention in Phoenix. And there will be the second annual Children and Youth room, and we look forward to seeing anyone there that can come with children, particularly people from the immediate area. Even if they would not normally be attending the convention, they could come by with their children and have some activities for the day.

And last, but perhaps of the highest importance, we encourage everybody, when they're doing all of these things that we're promoting, to make sure they include it in their CSR, to submit a consolidated report, which is a goal of Commander Bolt's and this committee.

That is my report, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking forward to the months ahead and I'm looking forward to the time when we can next see one another in person. Thank you.

*...Committee Chairman Clancy submitted the report of the Children and Youth Committee.*

## Children and Youth Committee

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 22, 2021 as a conference call  
 b Chairman William Clancy, III (NY) .  
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### Roll Call:

Chairman:	William Clancy, III (NY)	Members	John Lawrence (LA)
		:	
Secretary:	Robert J. Avery (NY) National Assistant Adjutant		James Noble (NJ) Christopher Sherman (WI)
Liaison:	(none assigned)		Phillip Shipley (IL)

Guests: National Commander Clint Bolt (VA), National Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA), National V/C Ned Fox (CA), National V/C Chris Cook (OK), PNC Joseph Mayne (MN), CWF Chairman Mark Nave (PA), Convention Chairman Charles Treat (AZ), Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA), Robert Bristo (MN), Terry Chatfield (NC), William Slater, Jr., Phillip Stander (IL), Patrick Gallagher (NJ), Stephen Villegas (CA), Kenneth George (National SAL Liaison), Brian Compton (IA/SAL National staff),

Chairman Clancy opened the conference call with the members joining him in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the reciting of the Preamble to the Constitution.

He then recognized National Commander Clint Bolt, who thanked the Committee for their efforts and encouraged them to participate between April 1 – September 6 in The American Legion’s “100 Miles for Hope” fundraising efforts which benefits the Veterans and Children Foundation. This year’s goal is \$300,000. For more information and to sign up, please visit the National website. It is important that we always involve our younger members in our efforts and activities.

### Reports of Members:

Chairman Clancy provided a year-to-date summary.

The Committee released a Newsletter which highlighted the top five Children and Youth events held across the Nation. It is hoped that this can be put together four times annually.

The Committee continues to urge Squadrons to consider supporting a Legion Family Day at their Post and invite the local community. It is an opportunity to inform the public what The American Legion Family is all about and possibly bring in new members.

Squadrons are reminded that April is Children and Youth month. Pick a Children and Youth program to support and don’t forget to promote it. The Committee has made available an easy do-it-yourself press release they can customize for their event.

Detachments should be sure to include Children and Youth topics in their conventions and meetings. The Committee is looking forward to holding the second annual Youth Activity Room at the upcoming National Convention in Phoenix.

John Lawrence reported that Louisiana is going ahead with their Spring meeting and Detachment Convention this year. Their Department is holding Boys State this summer at a college. Zoom meetings will be part of the program due to Covid-19 prevention measures. There was a recent Cornhole Tournament held in his state with proceeds going to Children and Youth programs.

James Noble spoke on the New Jersey event highlighted in the recent newsletter which was a fundraiser for disabled children.

Christopher Sherman noted that outdoor events are taking place or being planned in Wisconsin.

Phillip Shipley reported that Illinois will be holding its Spring DEC meeting. The Committee newsletter was emailed out Detachment-wide.

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

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Committee. He has seen the communications coming out from the Committee and he thanked the members for their hard work.

Convention Chairman Charles Treat indicated that a space has been secured for the Convention Youth Activity event.

National V/C Ned Fox provided an update from California, where they will be holding a virtual Boys State this year. American Legion baseball is active with 40 teams in place. The Western Region Detachments are holding or planning Children and Youth events including upcoming Easter Egg Hunts.

Phillip Stander, Detachment Commander of Illinois, made note of a Christmas drive-thru event for children that included Santa and goodie bags for the kids. 400 cars went through the line.

Robert Bristo thanked the Committee for providing some ideas that he will bring back to Minnesota.

CWF Chairman Mark Nave spoke. He thanked the members and reminded everyone that April is Children and Youth month.

National Commander Clint Bolt noted that the Detachments need to be reminded to send in their donations to CWF quickly. Also, Squadrons need to submit a Consolidated Report. Last year we went from 21% reporting down to 12%.

National Liaison Kenneth George noted that The American Legion typically sees at least a 70% reporting figure each year. The SAL need to improve in this area. Squadrons can report on-line.

Besides the activity report, a new Squadron Data Report is being made available for all Squadrons to report their contact information, dues structure and other information.

**Closing:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman William Clancy, III asked for a moment of silence in memory of all those we have lost to Covid-19. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: Are there any questions for our Children and Youth chairman? With no questions being asked, we'll move on.

I now call upon National Child Welfare Foundation Committee Chairman Mark Nave for his report.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I go on to my report, I believe we have recorded remarks from Dennis Boland, president of the Child Welfare Foundation.

## **Greetings**

### **Dennis Boland**

#### **American Legion Child Welfare Foundation President, Florida**

Good morning, my fellow Sons of the American Legions. It is an honor on behalf of the board of directors of the Child Welfare Foundation to be invited to this auspicious meeting.

As always, I am so impressed by what The Sons of The American Legion accomplished during their year. Many organizations have tried to duplicate what we at The American Legion family have in place. And I don't feel -- or I feel sad that they don't have the connection with The Sons of The American Legion, with their organizations, as we do.

With that being said, I'd like to congratulate you again as being the leaders in donations as far as the Child Welfare Foundation. Again, you're shooting for another milestone of 9 million-plus in donations. Right now, you sit at over \$8,500,000 in donations, so you're very close to attaining that \$9 million goal that you have set forth for yourself.

You know, as I travel around the country and also the state of Florida, I am impressed always by The Sons of The American Legion, how they are always at the forefront when it comes to meetings with the national commander or whomever I'm traveling with. They represent themselves so well.

With that being said, I'd like to tell you a story that relates to you, even though it is on the Legion side. Because as a part of the family, which you'll find out in this story, that this

person believes in The American Legion family and is very impressed with what she calls "her Sons."

We were touring with our national commander through the state of Florida back in January and we came upon a post, and there was a young lady talking to my wife. I finally walked up, and she introduced herself, and they both kind of had tears in their eyes.

I asked, "Is there a problem? Can I help?"

She says, "No, I've already been helped by The American Legion family, by the Auxiliary, and The Sons. They have done such a fantastic job in helping me survive."

I said, "What do you mean?"

She says, "Well, I served 12 years in the United States Marine Corps, two tours in Afghanistan, and I couldn't take it anymore. And I got out of the military and I became a drunk, a dope addict, and I just wanted to die." She said, "I called my mom and I said, 'Mama, I can't take life anymore. I want to commit suicide. It's just too much to bear.'"

Her mom said, "You stay where you're at, I am coming to get you."

Her mother drove nine hours, got her, and drove her back to Arkansas. When they got back to the house, her mother said, "I want three rules you have to abide by. The first rule is you can drink all day, you can do your drugs, and you can sleep all day. I don't care. I will take care of you.

"The second thing is, I will pay all your bills. I don't know where I'll get the money, but I will take care of all your bills.

"The third thing is, there is an American Legion post two blocks from here. You will go to that post."

She went to that post and met the whole American Legion family, because they heard about her story.

She was so impressed with The American Legion that it changed her life around. She now lives in Florida, and because of The American Legion family, which she explains that includes the Auxiliary and The Sons, she has a life to live. She is very active in department oratorical, the post oratorical, and Boys State programs. And she just can't give us enough gratitude for what we have done for her.

And when I say, "what we have done," it's what you, as The Sons of The American Legion, because every function I go to, you have always been at the forefront, like I have said before, of our programs. You are the leaders. You were intended to take over The American Legion because we didn't want any more wars. You have proven that you can handle any situation that comes along.

I am so impressed for what you have given to our organization, that you are a vital part of America. Thank you on behalf of The American Legion and thank you on behalf of the family of The American Legion. May God bless you, and I love you like a family because I hope you know, you are my family. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVE: I would like to thank Dennis Boland for that beautiful story and for his kind remarks for us.

### **Oral Report of Child Welfare Foundation**

#### **Mark Nave, Chairman, Pennsylvania**

Getting into my report, the Child Welfare Foundation Committee held its spring National Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 17. We had 13 individuals that were a part of that meeting.

We had each of our committeemen, including myself as chairman, give a report on the activities within our regions, the accomplishments that have been done so far by various detachments, and also the encouragements that were given to detachments that have yet to give, and encouraging detachments to give more donations, and also to purchase merchandise such as our CWF apron. Please get one. Supplies are going down, they're limited, so please order one as soon as possible.

Also in our meeting, we discussed about our new CWF merchandise coming up in the next year, which would be a pad folio which we'll be selling at the national convention in Arizona. We talked about the CWF aprons, they're \$20 apiece. And we also have CWF piggy banks at national headquarters. At last count we had well over 2,000 piggy banks available. So please contact Stacie Cope, order your banks. As your posts start to open back up, it's a great opportunity and an easy way to raise money at your posts.

Some of the new business we talked about was future merchandising, such as a CWF calendar which was discussed, and we're in the midst of trying to work one up and we hope to have something about that in the upcoming year.

We have a donation button now on the Sons of The American Legion national page. We thank National Adjutant Tony Wright and our National Liaison Ken George for that. So, individuals can go on the Sons national page, click on that donate button, and do donations individually or through the squadrons to CWF. We just ask that if you're in there, when it says, "in honor of" or "in memory of," just put in your squadron information, and The Sons of The American Legion will get full credit for that.

At your squadron, the dollar per member, we ask that the 100 percent per capita form on the CWF website please be filled out by the squadron and sent into national headquarters by no

later than May 31st, which is also the deadline date for all donations to be received for the donation year.

We're also encouraging for any grant, any foundation that you know of that works with youth, to have them apply for the CWF grant. Applications will be accepted between May 1st and July 15th. This is a great way for PR for The American Legion family, if it we can get a not-for-profit in you area who can get a grant through CWF.

In closing, we also have a resolution that we passed through our committee for \$5,000 from the CWF budget line to be donated to CWF. The motion was carried on a voice vote and will be discussed later on here in the NEC.

I just encourage everybody, as we finish up our year which ends on May 31st, to get our donations in. Our goal for the year was \$500,000. As you heard President Boland mention, that if we achieve that goal, we will be fine when we reach nine, that's \$9 million. We are the leaders as far as donations to CWF. I encourage you to keep up the great work, I know it's a tough time for everybody, but the Sons of The American Legion continue to stand strong with the CWF.

That concludes my report.

*...Committee Chairman Nave submitted the report of the Child Welfare Foundation*

*Committee.*

## **Child Welfare Foundation Committee**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 17, 2021 as a conference call  
by Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA).

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	Mark E. Nave (PA)	Members:	Lyle Chapman (GA)
		:	
Secretary:	<u>Scott A. Williams (VA)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Jon Coakley, II (OH)</u> <u>George Fleming, Jr. (PA)</u>

Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_ (none assigned) \_\_\_\_\_ Sanford Lipman (MI)  
 Past National Commander

Guests: National Commander Clint Bolt (VA); National Adjutant Tony Wright (PA); Brian Compton (IN); Jim Stewart (NV); PNC, Robert Faust (CA); Brian Ganote (WV); Robert Bristo (MN)

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Nave declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Nave – Chairman Nave reported that \$102,779 donated to CWF, to date this year. Donations to date are behind last year same time by \$22,000. He also said that we are dealing with challenging times due to COVID. Mid-West region top in donations and per capita to date this year. Central region is the only region where all of the detachments have donated. All but one detachment in the Southern region has donated to CWF. Our goal for this year is \$500,000. SAL is the largest contributor to CWF. Chairman Nave is confident that we can still get closer to our goal. SAL donated \$8.6 M inception to date to CWF as of the beginning of this year.

Chairman Nave (Western Region) – Chairman Nave reported \$9,692 donated by the western region. 7 out of 10 Detachments donated so far with Arizona leading the western region. Chairman Nave encouraged everyone to be creative. He also asked all detachments to get line-item budget donations into National. Chairman Nave is pushing CWF Aprons and is pushing all detachments to donate.

Jon Coakley (Southern Region) – Mr. Coakley, reported 11 out of 12 detachments have donated, to date. \$.55 per member donations in the Southern region. The southern region does great work. Through March 17, \$23,672.50 collected from the southern region detachments. Goal for the southern region is \$43,179. Mississippi leads the southern region donations at \$2.11 per member. South Carolina was at \$1.75 per member. Followed by Alabama at \$1.42. He was on the last southern region conference call and promoted the CWF Aprons on that call. He also talked to the southern region about upcoming fundraiser ideas including a calendar and a CWF Logo embossed folio. He reminded them to get their donations in to National before the May 31 deadline.

George Fleming (Eastern Region) – Mr. Fleming reported 12 out of 14 Detachments donated to CWF. He reported over \$24,000 raised by the Eastern Region. He has been pushing the \$1.00 per member banner program and the CWF Aprons.

Sanford Lipman (Central Region) – Mr. Lipman reported that 6 Detachments sent in donations from the Central Region. He also reported that the Central Region is up to \$.50 per person. Detachments with CWF Budget Line items, including Michigan, sent in their CWF line-item budget donations. Michigan and Indiana will be sending donations in soon as they both held CWF Fundraisers. Mr. Lipman is expecting a large jump in donations in the next month from the central region.

Lyle Chapman (Midwest Region) – Mr. Chapman reported that the Midwest region is at \$.93 per member. The midwestern region collected \$26,765.83 in donations. Colorado is majority of those donations with \$16,975. Nebraska donated \$3,593, Texas donated \$7,596, South Dakota donated \$1,000 and New Mexico contributed as well. Kansas and Oklahoma still have more donations to make and is expecting \$1.00 per member from both of those detachments. Mid-west region has done a great job this year.

**Old Business:**

Chairman Nave reported that there were 153 CWF aprons available at National Headquarters for sale, at \$20 per apron. CWF Piggy banks are also still available at National Headquarters.

Chairman Nave discussed the distribution of CWF awards at the National Convention. He is working with National Assistant Adjutants Bob Avery and Scott Thornton to get a certificate template to have certificates

for all detachments that donate to CWF. Chairman Nave will follow up with Brian Compton at National on the certificates.

**New Business:**

National Convention – Chairman Nave reported that there will be a CWF Pad Folio available at the National Convention this year, this will be sold for \$20 per folio. He will distribute pictures of the folio to members after this meeting. Will follow up with Stacie to determine quantity. The folios cost \$13 to \$17 to make based on the quantity ordered.

CWF Calendar – Chairman Nave talked about a potential CWF Calendar for 2022, that would feature some of the CWF grant recipients. It would be a 12- or 18-month calendar. The calendar would start July of one year followed by 12 months of following year. The calendar would recognize the top SAL Contributors for a given year.

Chairman Nave talked about the subject of individual donations that came up in recent months. There is a donate button on the American Legion webpage and the CWF webpage. Thanks to SAL National Adjutant Tony Wright, there is now a donate button on the National SAL Page where members and squadrons can make donations in honor of or in memory of someone and will be credited to the SAL. Mr Lipman pointed out that the green envelopes to CWF can make it easier for Squadrons to make donations. He suggested that the envelopes be distributed to membership or Squadrons. The envelopes can be purchased through Stacie Cope's division at National Headquarters.

Chairman Nave said that at the Spring NEC Virtual Meeting that CWF donations can be announced at a set time during that meeting.

Chairman Nave talked about the \$1.00 Per capita Banner program have the Squadrons complete the \$1.00 per member form by the May 31. This is open to all Legion Family members and 40 and 8.

Chairman Nave reported that CWF grant requests will be accepted between May 1 and July 15. Guidelines are available on the CWF Website and will be distributed accordingly. He asked everyone in attendance to encourage those nonprofits who work for children to submit a grant request. Funds raised by the Legion family are coming back to the local community through the grants awarded by CWF.

Please be creative in our efforts to raise funds for our children.

**Resolutions:**

SAL Resolution 4 – Spring 2021 NEC Meeting - \$5,000 from SAL CWF Budget line item to be donated to CWF. Jon Coakley motioned. Sandy Lipman seconded. Motion carried on voice vote.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. Great job to everyone. The amount raised impacts amount of grants awarded. Lower donations from last year meant fewer grants and lower awards. Each thing everyone does keeps those donations coming in for our children and youth.

PA will be donating more money to CWF and will be announced at Spring NEC. Robert Bristo from Minnesota will be donating \$3,000 at the Spring NEC. Various Squadrons will be donating to CWF this year.

Chairman Nave thanked all for their support and work through this year.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN HALL: Are there any questions for Child Welfare Foundation Committee Chair Mark Nave?

Hearing no questions, we'll move forward with the Americanism Commission meeting report.

### **Oral Report of Americanism Commission**

#### **Donald Hall Jr., Chairman, Maryland**

On April 1, 2021, the Americanism Commission held our spring meeting on a Zoom call. All six members of the commission were on the call, along with Commander Bolt, Vice Commanders Nelson and Cook, Leading Candidate Michael Fox, PNC Joe Mayne, Liaison Ken George, attended.

After starting the meeting with the pledge, we had a moment of silence for the loss of our PNC liaison, Steve Laws. We started the meeting with a report of what the Americanism Commission has been doing. Through our time apart, we have not been sitting idle but working hard to still promote the programs of The American Legion.

In the past year we have completed work on Five Star slide show, the Ten Ideal slide show, and the training on Americanism that we were asked to do by the PNC panel for the strategic plan.

I want to thank the commission for all the work that they put together to get this done. I want to give special thanks to Ernie Laberge who worked overtime for us to get the slides ready and complete so we can move them forward.

While working on this, we will also continue to write our articles and send out information on the program as assigned. Each member gave reports in our meeting of their programs, and they are assigned, and they are forwarded to you in your minutes.

We discussed the scrapbook competition and let everyone know we will be judging this year's and last year's scrapbooks in Phoenix at the national convention.

We discussed the consolidated reports and the new squadron data report form. Liaison Ken George explained a lot of this to us and also discussed briefly the new rollout of mySAL.

Commander Bolt addressed the members and thanked the commission along with the chairmen on the call for their work, and also asked everyone to remember to report their volunteer hours this year.

Vice Commander Nelson thanked the Americanism Commission for sending out information and also taking part in all the regional calls.

Vice Commander Cook echoed the thoughts of Vice Commander Nelson and thanked Chairman Hall for remembering PNC Laws.

Leading Candidate Fox addressed everyone on the call and wanted to thank the commission for its enthusiasm in all the work it does. He has a great deal of passion for Americanism and appreciates the work the commission is doing.

The minutes reflect all the reports from everyone during the meeting. With no further business to discuss we ended our meeting at 9:14.

Unless there are any questions, Commander, that is my report.

*...Commission Chairman Hall submitted the report of the Americanism Commission.*

## **Americanism Commission**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 pm EDT on April 1, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Donald "J.R." Hall (MD) .

**Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Donald "J.R." Hall (MD)</u>	Members: <u>James Borgman (IL)</u>
Vice Chairman: <u>Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)</u>	: <u>James Eubanks (CA)</u>
Secretary: <u>Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)</u>	<u>Ernest Laberge (MA)</u>

Liaison:	National Assistant Adjutant [vacant due to death of Steve Laws]	Casey Lenort (MN)
Guests:	Past National Commander Kenneth A. George, <i>SAL National Liaison</i> ; William Clancy, III (NY), <i>Chairman of SAL National Children &amp; Youth Committee</i> ; Mark E. Nave (PA), <i>Chairman of SAL National Child Welfare Foundation (CWF)</i> ; Sean Dieter (PA); Michael C. Fox (CA), <i>Leading Candidate for SAL National Commander</i> ; Jack Norwood (CA), <i>Detachment Americanism Chairman</i> ; Joseph Mayne, PNC (MN); Phil R. Stander (IL), <i>Detachment Commander</i> ; Chris L. Cook (OK), <i>SAL National Vice Commander (Midwest)</i> ; Thomas G. Deal (MD), <i>Chairman of SAL National Legislative Commission</i> ; Ronald R. Wyatt (MI), <i>Detachment Americanism Chairman</i> ; Clint D. Bolt (VA), <i>SAL National Commander</i> ; Michael A. Holley (MI), <i>Detachment Commander</i> ; Brian Massey (VT), <i>Detachment Americanism Chairman</i> ; Gary P. Nelson (NJ), <i>SAL National Vice Commander (East)</i>	

Due to a misunderstanding with the Zoom invitation, there was a delay to the start of tonight's meeting. Original start time was 8:00 pm EDT. Some attendees arrived late because of the mishap.

Chairman Hall (MD) asked the assemblage to join with him in a moment of silence in memory of the countless American Legion Family members that we have lost to the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, the SAL National Americanism Commission recently lost its PNC Liaison Steve C. Laws (NC) because of the virus.

#### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Hall declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

#### **Opening Remarks from Chairman:**

Chairman Hall (MD) welcomed everyone to the Americanism Commission's official meeting for the SAL Spring 2021 NEC Meeting. Don remarked how great it was to see and hear everyone's voices on tonight's Zoom meeting.

The Americanism Commission would provide an update tonight on what it has been working on and a status report of where it stood with projects the Commission had been assigned.

Chairman Hall made it clear that the Commission had not sat idle and did not wait to get busy during the pandemic. Commission member Ernie LaBerge (MA) had worked hard from an Information Technology (IT) perspective by development of new PowerPoint training presentations for the SAL 5-Star and 10-Ideals programs. This work has been completed and the Commission has received more guidance from The American Legion on how it would like slide shows to have a standardized design. As soon as the Commission received these guidelines, our Commission members reworked the projects started, removed items asked, and added some enhancements. Chairman Hall thanked Ernie for all his work and time spent making these changes. Chairman Hall went on to thank all members of the Commission for their participation to complete these projects. The Commission has these projects in draft form; they await official approval before they can be disseminated to the general SAL membership.

The Commission was also instructed by the PNC panel to make a slide show presentation for training about the Americanism Commission. The Commission had completed this work along with other assignments to help move the Strategic Plan forward.

While working through these items, the Commission had also continued to write articles on Legion programs to help promote them. All year, Vice Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS) has kept the Facebook page updated and did a great job doing so. Members of the Commission were assigned to regional conference calls, and from reports that the Commission had received, most calls did have coverage and information

was shared. Chairman Hall again thanked everyone for working hard to make the Americanism Commission strong!

The Commission looked forward to seeing everyone this August in Arizona for a great national convention.

#### **Reports of Committees:**

##### **National SAL Children & Youth Committee Remarks – Chairman William Clancy, III (NY)**

Chairman Clancy echoed the sympathies expressed for all the people that have been lost to the coronavirus. In such crazy times, it was even more important for the Committee to make a concerted effort to help nurture our children and youth to become strong productive citizens.

Chairman Clancy reported that the SAL National Children & Youth Committee held its official meeting for the Spring 2021 NEC Meeting on Monday, March 22, 2021. Twenty (20) plus people attended. The meeting began with a review of what the focus had been throughout the year with a push for an American Legion Family Day.

Shifting gears, the Committee changed its focus to a challenge for every squadron around the world to host a children and youth event and publicize that event locally via newspaper, TV station, radio, etc. The Committee developed a “do-it-yourself (DIY)” press release (Microsoft Word format) for squadrons to take advantage of in promoting their events. The release had fill-in the blanks to customize the what, when, where, and how to contact, particulars.

Ironically, the Committee had been pushing these squadron press releases during a time when most events throughout the year were being held virtually due to the pandemic. Realizing of this discrepancy and in direct consultation with National Commander Bolt, the Committee solicited a Top 5 List of interesting events and/or programs that had occurred and could work well in a Covid-19 environment, i.e., not inside a building. The solicitation had been released to the general SAL membership this past month. Positive feedback had been received. Lots of creativity was observed from the submittals of Covid-safe programs. Where there was a will, there was a way for squadrons to get things done even during a global pandemic! The Committee hoped to keep the List going, reissue it on a quarterly basis, and hopefully discover new safe events taking place at the squadron level. The next edition will have more of a newspaper or newsletter format.

The Committee rounded-out its meeting by discussing what was ahead for the foreseeable future. There was a new program entitled, “100 Miles for Hope” challenge. Although Chairman Clancy was not too familiar with the program, he planned to participate with his family. The concept involved signing-up to commit to exercise activities and a participant would log them throughout the year. The program was to officially kick off April 1, 2021. The Committee would be promoting the challenge around the world utilizing the remaining national SAL regional conference calls and using other opportunities as presented. April being The American Legion’s Children & Youth Month, the Committee would encourage all squadrons to make sure that they report their manhours and/or donations on the annual Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). Chairman Clancy revealed that the Committee had recently learned the SAL participation rate of CSR annual reporting was terribly low as compared to The American Legion and needed substantial improvement quickly. Commander Bolt had put out a challenge to get our numbers up, so the Committee planned to support that initiative.

SAL National Convention Committee Chairman Charles Treat (AZ) also attended the March 22nd meeting. He had provided an update on the Youth Room. Chairman Treat reported a space had been secured or was in the process of being secured inside the Phoenix Convention Center. Chairman Clancy was looking forward to the Second Annual or 2.0 SAL Youth Room since the 2020 Room had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

Since the March 22nd meeting, Chairman Clancy had the privilege to spend time with the Detachment of Illinois at their Spring meeting held via Zoom on Saturday, March 27th. All the above Children & Youth

topics were briefly discussed with their membership and the message was well received. The Detachment did very well with fundraising for CWF and Chairman Clancy commended them for that!

The March 22nd meeting concluded with a moment of silence for all those souls lost due to the pandemic. Chairman Clancy reminded all attendees to continue pushing hard for kids (boys and girls) despite this unprecedented time, especially with most schooling now offered virtually; kids are under lots of stress!

That was the extent of Chairman Clancy's report. He welcomed any feedback; there was none at this time.

Chairman Hall appreciated Chairman Clancy participating in tonight's Americanism Commission meeting.

**National SAL Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) Committee Remarks – Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA)**

The CWF's Spring NEC Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. The meeting was well attended. As of the March 19, 2021 National SAL CWF Donations Report, \$105,264.00 had been raised in total. Chairman Nave noted that considering the circumstances with the pandemic, many Posts shuttered, and many fundraiser activities cancelled, he was thankful to report that much money had been collected! \$105,264 represented 60% of the total donations that had been given this year by The American Legion Family worldwide. 44 out of 55 Detachments thus far have donated. Chairman Nave and members of the CWF Committee would be reaching out to the 11 Detachments that had yet to donate to encourage them to contribute between now and the end of May 2021, no matter what amount could be afforded.

As was mentioned by Children & Youth Chairman Clancy, the Detachment of Illinois at its Spring DEC Meeting raised over \$8,000 for CWF! Chairman Nave congratulated the Detachment of Illinois on a phenomenal job!

The CWF Committee had been encouraging Detachments to be creative in the pandemic, whether it be do fundraisers online, raise funds differently, and urging the Detachments and Districts to re-budget their funds. With the cancellation of numerous DEC meetings, travel reimbursements way down, extra money is undoubtedly sitting in budgets. Detachments have been asked, if possible, to re-budget their monies and donate to CWF. At the Detachment of Pennsylvania's last DEC meeting, the assembled membership made a motion to donate money, it was subsequently approved by the DEC, and now awaits the approval of the Department. If ultimately approved, Pennsylvania SAL will have an additional sizeable donation for CWF!

Chairman Nave informed the assemblage of a new way to donate to CWF via the National SAL webpage. This idea was suggested by SAL National Adjutant Anthony W. Wright (PA) and subsequently the donate button was authorized by SAL National Liaison Ken George. Chairman Nave thanked both gentlemen for bringing this new method of donating for CWF to fruition! Any SAL member can now go to the National SAL webpage and donate. It is that simple and convenient. The only caveat if you decide to donate online, there is an "In Honor" and "In Memoriam" section on the donate page. Indicate that you are a SAL member along with your Squadron details, and that will give the SAL credit for your donation.

The National SAL goal for the 2020-21 CWF administrative year is \$500,000. Chairman Nave admitted the goal was lofty, but being the last quarter of donations, this is when usually 70% of our national donations are submitted. So, the CWF Committee was anticipating a strong finish in donations from Detachments by the time May rolled around. If the \$500,000 year-end goal is met or exceeded, "the SAL would look fine when we reach nine (\$9 million in cumulative donations over the past 32 years)!" You may ask, why does the CWF Committee encourage this? First, it is the proud legacy of the SAL. Second, last year at the award meeting, and National Commander Bolt could attest to this, as awards were being made, funds had to be cut from certain awards because funding was limited. It is the CWF Committee's earnest hope that anybody applying for a grant this year, those entities will receive as much of the funding as their eligibility allows for, to help the children and their programs.

In addition, the Committee was continuing to ask all SAL members to purchase the CWF barbeque aprons. At last count, 153 aprons remained for sale. Aprons are \$20 each. So, buy an apron while supplies last! The Committee wants to move the existing inventory because at the 2021 SAL National Convention in Phoenix,

AZ, a new merchandise item (a CWF leather padfolio) will be unveiled for purchase. Padfolios will be \$20 each. All proceeds will go to CWF.

All squadrons that raise at least \$1.00 per member for CWF, were asked to please fill-out a 100% Per Capita Form and have it mailed to National SAL Headquarters by Monday, May 31, 2021. In that effort, the squadron will be properly recognized for its donation and receive its acknowledgment banner.

In closing, Chairman Nave inquired of the assemblage why do we do all this? Simply put, so the CWF can award its grants. This is the time of year if anybody knows of a non-profit in their local community that serves the youth, encourage them to apply for a grant from the Foundation. Applications will be accepted between Saturday, May 1, 2021 and Thursday, July 15, 2021. Chairman Nave has emailed the grant application along with the guidelines out to the general SAL membership. Interested parties could also go directly to the CWF website for more information.

Please continue to support the CWF, the SAL's signature charity! Our efforts over the years continues to be universally recognized by The American Legion Family!

Chairman Hall thanked Chairman Nave for his dedication and passion for the CWF.

Chairman Hall entertained any final questions for either Chairman Clancy and/or Chairman Nave in case they needed to exit the meeting. Hearing none, Chairman Hall moved on.

### **Regional Reports:**

**Eastern Region:** Ernie Laberge (MA) reported on the following topics:

#### **Boys and Girls State**

Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. Boys and Girls State programs both began in 1937 and are held in each state usually on a college campus, within that state. Massachusetts is one of the few states that hosts Boys and Girls State at the same college campus on the same week. This year Ernie will submit an interview with a Boys State and Boys Nation Counselor and Alumni.

#### **10-Ideals and 5-Star Programs**

The 10-Ideals and 5-Star programs help us to better understand what true Americanism is. Those individuals who complete the programs will also benefit in other ways, such as a better working knowledge of U.S. history, Legionism and the development of leadership skills. Every Sons member not just our junior members should consider taking part in these great programs.

The Americanism Team continues its work on these programs bringing them into the electronic age. With the hopes of moving both the 10 Ideals and the 5 Star Program to a format which allows our youth to access these materials on a smart phone or tablet; by doing so, the SAL will have the ability to reach more of our members.

Ernie noted that the Commission had received numerous status inquiries about the upgrades amid the Covid-19 outbreak. Many fathers who were members of the Sons wanted to teach their own sons about the programs and move forward with it. So, the changes requested thus far have been made. Hopefully, these improvements will be released in the near future.

#### **Americanism Training Materials**

Ernie was also asked by Chairman Hall to work on a presentation of training for the Commission. With the materials supplied by the entire Americanism team, Ernie was working on assembling a draft presentation for review and approval. He thanked the Commission members for their contributions and Chairman Hall for having faith in Ernie to develop the training materials.

#### **Eastern Region Calls**

Ernie reported that he had attended all the Eastern Regional calls. He thanked National Vice Commander Nelson (NJ) for allowing time for him to speak on the calls to deliver the messages of the National Americanism Commission.

Chairman Hall stated that Ernie was the IT guy on the Commission. He had done a great job in that role! Chairman Hall went on to encourage ALL SAL members (who are IT savvy) to offer their technical assistance to those less savvy Legionnaires and Auxiliary members to navigate virtual Boys and Girls State programs this year.

**Southern Region:** Casey Lenort (MN) reported on the following topic:

### **National Emergency Fund (NEF)**

Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has been actively involved in meeting the needs of both the community and individual Legion family members in the wake of disasters such as hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and wildfires.

The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, the fund has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

The fund helps those affected by well-known disasters or lesser-known tragedies (flooding in South Dakota or Illinois) or wildfires in the West (California, Oregon, or Arizona).

It provides up to \$3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for post home buildings.

The following are the requirements to be eligible:

1. The applicant must have been displaced from their primary residence due to damage that happened during a declared natural disaster.
2. The applicant must give copies of receipts of items needed to meet needs (temporary housing, food, water, clothing etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster.
3. The applicant's membership must be active at the time of the disaster and the time of the application.

You can find more information about this program at [www.legion.org/emergency](http://www.legion.org/emergency). At this site, you can also donate to the fund or apply for assistance.

Chairman Hall thanked Casey for a great report!

**Central Region:** Jim Borgman (IL) reported on the following topics:

### **The American Legion's Oratorical Contest**

The Annual Oratorical Contest first started as a National Contest in 1938 with 11 Departments advancing their finalists to National competition. Today there are approximately 30,000 contestants participating each year representing 52 Departments of The American Legion. Nationally there is \$138,000 in scholarships handed out, not to mention scholarship money that is generated on the District and Department levels, which will vary from Department to Department. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each Department winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance passed the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

Speech is a part of every high school curriculum in the U.S., as is the study of our U.S. Constitution. The American Legion has taken these two studies, public speaking and knowledge of the document that guides

our democracy and defined a structure for our youth to express the various facets of the US Constitution and American citizenship – a constitutional speech contest that provides scholarship funding.

Jim encouraged anybody on tonight's Zoom meeting who had never witnessed an Oratorical Contest before, to make plans to do so. They would not regret it! The experience is very impressive!

#### **Four Chaplains Ceremony**

The first Sunday of February is a Remembrance Day of the saga of the Four Chaplains. Many Posts, Squadrons, Districts, and Detachments will hold their own production of this ceremony; for those that have not attended one of these ceremonies, Jim would highly encourage you to find one nearby to first-hand witness this moving ceremony.

The story of the four chaplains, their message of unity, brotherly-love, and self-sacrifice is a profound message of true heroism that spans the stems of time, warms the heart, and embodies all that is Americanism. The memorial explains the circumstances of the sinking of the ship, the loss of life, and the emotions of survivors. The portrayal of the Four Chaplains Memorial uniquely brings to life the actions and stories of those involved in the demise of the Dorchester. It is our charge to see that this brief, but significant, portion of American history is not lost, and that the lessons of cooperation and selfless service are proclaimed.

Jim encouraged ALL SAL members to consider getting involved in this ceremony; it is not complicated and with minimal expense, this can be made a reality most anywhere, your Post, church, community center, Elks Lodge, etc.

Chairman Hall thanked Jim for his service to the Americanism Commission.

**Midwest Region:** Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) reported on the following topics:

#### **Junior Shooting Sports**

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program teaches youth rifle safety and procedure and lets children participate in an Olympic skill sport while fostering healthy competition. All interested youth under 18 years old (or high school seniors no older than 20) are welcome, regardless of gender or physical ability.

Junior Shooting Sports can be an effective and fun way to get youth and Legionnaires involved with your Post. Some of your goals for the program may include:

- Educate young people about firearm safety.
- Introduce the shooting sports to community members and educate them about shooting.
- Harness shooting sports to help young people develop leadership, discipline, concentration, sportsmanship, and responsibility.

For more information on Junior Shooting Sports, email [juniors shooting@legion.org](mailto:juniors shooting@legion.org), visit [www.legion.org/shooting](http://www.legion.org/shooting) or contact your Department chairperson.

Hammer hoped this year's Junior Shooting Sports would occur in Colorado Springs, but it hinged on the status of the pandemic.

#### **Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR)**

The Consolidated Squadron Report form is the basis by which the National Awards under the programs of Americanism, Children and Youth, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation are determined each year.

Although not every Squadron is able to participate in all aspects of Americanism, Children and Youth and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, the key is to report all that the Squadron, District, and Detachment has accomplished during the current membership year.

Make sure that community service hours and donations involved with helping survive the pandemic are fully reported to receive the proper credit.

Chairman Hall thanked Hammer for his report and help on the Commission.

**Western Region:** Jim Eubanks (CA) reported on the following topics:

**Flag Etiquette**

It has been difficult in the past months to pursue any kind of flag programs within the community due to the imposed restrictions. Our flag appreciation program and our flag retirement program had been put on hold. Now that some of the restrictions have been lifted and our schools are starting to re-open, we have once again, started to proceed with our programs. We have been promoting the flag appreciation program for some time, where we present those that fly our flag proudly and respectfully with a certificate of appreciation. They are always well received by the local businesses as well as homeowners. We also have a card that we drop off to remind those whose flags have become unserviceable. It is a friendly notice that their flag has served them honorably and should be replaced and we also let them know where they can drop off the old flag. Be mindful that this is only received well if you do not use this to sell a flag, the message then becomes that your only interest is to sell them a flag.

We have also started to promote performing a "Dignified Disposal of an Unserviceable Flag" at schools. If Jim sees a flag at one of his local schools, he will offer to put together the ceremony for the students. We have been able to perform one so far since the reopening of our schools, but now have several others in the works. What better way to display the reverence and care an American should have for their flag and educate our youth at the same time. We must not let Americanism die and if we continue to forego the education of our youth, it will be gone within a couple more generations.

Jim reported that the Detachment of California had 25 graduates of the SAL 5-Star Program, even though the pandemic had greatly restricted Detachment activities this year.

Jim anticipated 1,000 boys at the Department of California's 2021 Boys State program using a virtual platform. The Department of Nevada would have about 100 boys attending California's session.

**American Legion Baseball**

It looks as though Legion Baseball will be back this year. Posts are beginning to set up their teams and it will soon be upon us. The location for the World Series will change from Yountville this year to a location in southern California (Bakersville area). Jim believed that the location had been secured, but he was unable to confirm this prior to placing this report. There will be a lot more to put out in the coming months, so stay tuned.

Chairman Hall thanked Jim for all his help this year on the Americanism Commission.

Chairman Hall entertained any questions on the Commission members' reports. Hearing none, he moved on to Old Business.

**Old Business:**

**Scrap Books**

Chairman Hall revealed from the last Americanism Commission call that it was brought up about the Scrap Books. He did some research into them. The confusion stemmed from the fact that The American Legion has cancelled its Scrap Book Contest for this year. The Legion Contest is normally held during the Fall NEC Meeting. As of now, the SAL is still having its Scrap Book Competition. Chairman Hall stated that National SAL Liaison George had told him the SAL competition would be up to the National SAL Historian to coordinate the History Books. The Americanism Commission should be ready to judge the competition submittals at the National Convention in Arizona. Any Scrap Books that were received last year will also be

judged this year. Chairman Hall encouraged everyone on tonight's meeting to please promote Scrap Book entries for judging.

Chairman Hall entertained any other Old Business. Hearing none, he moved on to New Business.

### **New Business:**

Chairman Hall opened the floor to SAL National Liaison Ken George to share his remarks.

### **CSRs**

National Liaison George noted that National Commander Bolt briefly had touched upon the dismal CSR reporting from last year. For 2020, the SAL had 12% national reporting. In 2019, the national reporting was 21%. The SAL was regressing, not progressing. In comparison, The American Legion as a whole reports on average slightly over 70%. The CSRs are for more than just determining awards, the Legion compiles the data for providing an overall report to Congress. All the volunteer hours (in total) multiplied by \$21.00 per hour, that would be how much potential payroll has been offered up. To research the value of volunteer hours, you would discover that the value changes from year to year. So, you can see there is a sizable impact on your communities from your volunteerism!

### **Squadron Data Report (SDR)**

National Liaison George reported that SAL online renewals were on the horizon, but to launch that initiative, National Headquarters needed to know from each squadron certain information that would be annually reported on a new form called the Squadron Data Report or SDR. Dual members would be familiar with the Post Data Report (PDR). Posts fill it out every year. It asks for your per capita, it confirms contact information for the Post, point of contact for membership, and a few other items. National needs to know what squadrons are charging for their per capita to implement online renewals. If a squadron fails to submit an SDR, it will preclude the entire squadron from renewing online. The impact of one squadron officer has great impact on all the membership! **So, make sure your squadron adjutant submits an SDR annually.** SDRs can be located from multiple places on the National website, two locations on the SAL side (Publications and Adjutant documents) and on the Legion side (portal for publications and Internal Affairs). If you are an Adjutant, you can download the SDR directly from mySAL.org.

### **The New mySAL.org**

National Liaison George announced the new mySAL.org went live today, Thursday, April 1, 2021. You can no longer access the old version because National Headquarters disabled it. Several opportunities for training have been recently offered over multiple days. To sign-up for your personal account, you need to re-register. Dual members will now only have one (1) ID, your Legion ID. That same ID will also serve as your Squadron ID. SAL numbers over time will change, but both old and new numbers will be linked together. Do not panic, that will occur over a prolonged timeframe. It had to be done that way with the change of dual membership status. Please be patient with the rollout process. Offer your feedback in a constructive manner. Errors are being fixed as they are received.

### **PowerPoint Standardized Template**

National Liaison George clarified the Americanism Commission's PowerPoints were very good, we just need to develop a template that everybody can use. Not so much the structure or content. Simply create a template that is easily accessible for all. All SAL training will be populated on the same template. Just be specific to whatever is being taught.

Chairman Hall entertained any questions for National Liaison George. Jim Eubanks (CA) reiterated patience in attempting to access the new mySAL.org site while everybody tries to get on now. Ken agreed and stated that between now and Monday, April 5th, the Legion's IT Department would be migrating data files. So, features of the site will be changing over time. Chairman Hall noted that the training on mySAL.org offered the other night was recorded for those members who could not attend live. Just go to the site and locate the link for training, i.e., [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training), then go to Training Tuesday.

Chairman Hall entertained any further questions or comments for National Liaison George. Hearing none, he thanked Ken for participating in tonight's meeting and for his help coordinating the Zoom invite.

Chairman Hall entertained any other New Business. Hearing none, he moved on.

**Resolutions:**

None

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

**National Commander Clint D. Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission.** He warmly greeted Chairman Hall, members of the National Americanism Commission, and all the guests on tonight's virtual meeting. National Commander Bolt thanked the Commission for keeping the SAL organization informed throughout the year by utilizing the regional conference calls. He went on to thank the Commission for emphasizing at every meeting the need for our SAL membership to report out their volunteer manhours and donations using the annual Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR) form. A vitally important document, especially this year with the pandemic! There is definitely a need for improvement compared to last year's reporting. CSR reporting should be a priority for all national commissions and committees to promote.

National Commander Bolt thanked SAL National CWF Committee Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA) for all his reminders sent out to the general membership about the Monday, May 31, 2021, deadline to submit donations that would count towards the 2020-21 administrative year.

National Commander Bolt thanked SAL National Children & Youth Committee Chairman William Clancy, III (NY) for promotions during his meetings to donate toward CWF. His efforts were greatly appreciated! The Commander thanked both Chairman Clancy and Chairman Hall (MD) for all their work planning for our second youth room at the Phoenix, AZ, national convention. We are hoping for a great turnout this year! The Commander remarked that the entire SAL membership was "busting at the seams" to return to an in-person national convention! And with that, National Commander Bolt concluded his remarks.

**National Vice Commander (East) Gary P. Nelson (NJ) addressed the Commission.** He began by thanking the Americanism Commission for all the great work it has accomplished over the past eighteen (18) months. He was grateful for the Commission's promotion of Children & Youth and CWF activities, along with the support of our veterans. Gary was equally impressed with the educational initiatives (development of PowerPoint slides) of the Five-Star and Ten-Ideals programs. Even though the pandemic threw a monkey wrench into the SAL administrative year, the Americanism Commission never wavered from its mission and continuously worked towards its goals. On behalf of the Eastern Region, Gary thanked Chairman Hall and the Commission for their steadfast support of the SAL.

**National Vice Commander (Midwest) Chris L. Cook (OK) addressed the Commission.** He echoed the remarks of Commander Bolt and Vice Commander Nelson. Chris noted the passing of PNC Laws was a big loss for the SAL and he would be dearly missed by all that knew him. Chris appreciated Chairman Hall taking a moment at the beginning of the meeting to remember Steve.

**National Vice Commander (West) Ned C. Fox (CA) did not address the Commission.** In his absence, Chairman Hall reported that Ned could not attend tonight's meeting due to just arriving home from an extended vacation.

**National Vice Commander (Central) Richard "Doc" M. Pfeiffer (IN) did not address the Commission.** Chairman Hall noted that he had not heard from Doc lately. Doc was not on the Zoom meeting.

**National Vice Commander (South) Blair Miles (AL) did not address the Commission.** Chairman Hall noted that he had not heard from Blair lately. Blair was not on the Zoom meeting.

**Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael C. Fox (CA) addressed the Commission.** He began his remarks by acknowledging the extensive length of the SAL administrative year due to the

pandemic. Mike knew that everybody on tonight's meeting had been personally impacted (somehow, somehow) by the ravages of the virus. He was disappointed that yet again we were not able to meet face-to-face but had to resort to meeting virtually. Yet Mike was thankful we had the technology to continue transacting the business of the SAL. He appreciated all the hard work invested by the Americanism Commission and the committees that comprise it. Mike hoped the Commission's enthusiasm could be rubbed off onto the other SAL national commissions and committees to help motivate them. He looked forward to the potential accomplishments yet to be realized from the remainder of Commander Bolt's year. Mike offered his hand to assist wherever needed. Americanism is Mike's passion.

Comrade Fox exited the Commission meeting at 8:38 PM EDT.

Chairman Hall asked **National Assistant Adjutant Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)** if he had anything to report. Jeff replied no but appreciated the opportunity to speak. Chairman Hall was grateful for Jeff taking the notes during tonight's meeting and for eventually drafting the minutes.

Chairman Hall asked **Past National Commander Joseph Mayne (MN)** if he had anything to report. Joe had nothing to offer at this time but was grateful for the privilege to speak.

Chairman Hall inquired if **SAL National Legislative Commission Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD)** wished to speak. Chairman Deal replied that he would like to discuss a few important items from the legislative side. He pressed the need for SAL members to check out **Voter Voice**. Go onto the Legion's website, under Legislative, and sign-up for Voter Voice. We need to maximize exposure to the legislative alerts that come from Voter Voice so we can appropriately act on important matters to The American Legion. It is quite easy to contact your U.S. Senators and Representatives with a simple click of a button. Any issues signing up, contact Chairman Deal for assistance. The next item was the **George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year Award**. This is an annual award. The Legislative Commission was seeking nominations. Deadline to nominate would be 30 days prior to national convention. Let us be sure to properly recognize those members who have stepped-up to advocate for our veterans! The **2021 Washington Conference** was held virtually due to the pandemic. Organizers did distribute the Talking Point papers, Legislative Agenda, the 117th Congressional Priorities, so if you had not seen those documents, refer to the national website. Pick a piece of legislation that is important to you and help advocate for its passage or defeat. The Legislative Commission tried to promote Toxic Exposure and Burn Pits and Citizenship Probable Service. For more information on the legislative agenda, contact Chairman Deal. He thanked Chairman Hall for the opportunity to speak.

Chairman Hall replied that Chairman Deal sends his Legislative emails out weekly. He registered for Voter Voice, sent a message in favor of a piece of veteran legislation, and within a matter of days received a reply from his local congressman. So, Voter Voice does work!

Chairman Hall also encouraged ALL SAL members to routinely **visit The American Legion website** to learn what its priorities are and try to advocate for its causes. The SAL was established to support the Legion, so we should be mobilizing ourselves in that spirit, especially during these unprecedented times.

Chairman Hall offered one final opportunity for anybody attending tonight's meeting to have the privilege of the floor. Jim Eubanks (CA) **promoted the Legion School Award and ROTC Awards**. He also mentioned that **many SAL Squadrons are sponsoring Boys State delegates through their Posts**. SAL members should inquire of their Posts if they can be a part of the interview process. If the SAL is supporting a boy, the Post most likely will not stop them from participating.

Chairman Hall allowed National Commander Bolt to make any final remarks. Commander Bolt had nothing new to share and thanked the Americanism Commission for a great meeting this evening.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Donald "J.R." Hall (MD) adjourned the meeting

at 9:14 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

Are there any questions for the Americanism chairman, J.R. Hall? Are there any questions for Chairman J.R.?

I don't hear any. If there is no objection, the Americanism Commission report will be accepted by unanimous consent as published, minus the resolution.

We also want to take this time to thank President Dennis Boland for addressing The Sons of The American Legion.

It's been since October of 2019 since President Dennis has addressed a meeting of the Sons of The American Legion, and his thoughts and well wishes here today were welcome for all of us to hear. So, let's do all we can to help us get to that \$9 million mark for The Sons of The American Legion.

I now call on National Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman John Jennings.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Commander. NEC Subcommittee on Resolutions met on April 8th and reviewed resolutions. Resolution NEC2021-S4 was one of those resolutions reviewed and approved by the Subcommittee on Resolutions for presentation for consideration to the NEC.

*...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:*

**The Sons of The American Legion  
National Executive Committee  
Held on  
April 24, 2021  
Resolution**

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**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 4 - Spring, 2021  
**Title:** Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2021 Budget

**Origin: Child Welfare Foundation Committee**

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

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

WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to the 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 American Legion Family; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That a donation in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the funds be taken from the 2021 Child Welfare Foundation budget line.**

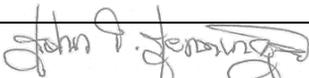
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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved   
 Rejected   
 Referred to:   
 Other Action

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
 Subcommittee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

**[Committee Meeting on 03/17/2021]**

MARK E. NAVE (PA), Chairman  
 Child Welfare Foundation Committee

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Finance Commission Chairman Signature

**[Commission Meeting on 03/30/2021]**

DENNIS M. BLUE (MN), Vice-Chairman  
 Finance Commission

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As a member of the NEC, I make a motion to adopt resolution NEC2021-S-4.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman John Jennings from Detachment of Florida makes a motion to adopt resolution NEC2021-S-4. Is there a second?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Please raise your hand. You'll be recognized by the chair.

We do not see any hands raised at this moment.

Dennis Henkemeyer is your first person.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair calls on Dennis Henkemeyer from Detachment of Minnesota.

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, Detachment of Minnesota. I second the motion of John Jennings that we adopt the resolution as stated.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The motion is seconded by the Detachment of Minnesota NECman Dennis Henkemeyer. Is there any discussion?

If there are no objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

I call on National Finance Commission Vice Chairman Dennis Blue for his report. Internal Affairs Commission is on deck.

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: Can Earl Thompson unmute himself, please? His hand is up.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Earl is on the phone.

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: Earl Thompson, hit star six.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: All right, Earl. Go ahead with your question, sir. Earl Thompson, your question.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: If you don't have a question, it may have been an inadvertent raise.

Commander, I think you may move on.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I call on National Finance Commission Vice Chair Dennis Blue for his report.

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: Dennis, press star six to unmute yourself, please.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Dennis, star six.

COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN BLUE: There we go. Thank you.

### **Oral Report of Finance Commission**

#### **Dennis Blue, Vice Chairman, Minnesota**

Finance Committee met March 30th, all members were present except Brad Dudley and excused was Bill Hill.

We discussed the finance of 2020, accepted it, and made a motion and it carried. We couldn't check off the 2021 because we didn't get all the numbers from the Legion yet. The commission reviewed the 2022 budget, made a motion, and it carried. We had some resolutions, they were all there and they were all carried.

I'd like to present this report as submitted minus resolutions.

*...Commission Vice Chairman Blue submitted the report of the Finance Commission.*

## **Finance Commission**

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 30, 2021 as a conference call  
by Vice Chairman Dennis M. Blue (MN).

Chairman: <u>William G. Hill (MD) - Excused</u>	Members: <u>Steve Honigfort (OH)</u>
Vice Chairman: <u>Dennis M. Blue (MN)</u>	: <u>Robert Thompson (SC)</u>
Secretary: <u>Robert J. Avery (NY)</u> National Assistant Adjutant	<u>Greg Price (MI)</u>
Liaison: <u>Brian O'Hearne (MA)</u>	<u>Brad Dudley (PA) - Excused</u>

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Past National Commander

Guests: National Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA), National V/C Chris Cook (OK), PNC Joseph Mayne (MN), PNC Byron Robichaux (LA), PNC Rick Cook (OK), Americanism Chairman Donald Hall (MD), IA Chairman Mark Tansel (IA), MTD Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN), Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA), Phillip Stander (IL), Kenneth George (National SAL Liaison), Brian Compton (IA/SAL National staff),

**Old Business:**

The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020 reconciliation through December 31, 2020. A motion was made by Steve Honigfort and seconded by Robert Thompson to accept the FY 2020 report; the motion carried.

The Commission was unable to review 2021 Year-to-Date, having not yet received report details from The American Legion.

**New Business:**

The Commission reviewed the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget. A motion was made by Steve Honigfort and seconded by Gregory Price to accept the FY 2022 Budget; the motion carried.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring, 2021 – “National Executive Committeeman Training”

- Motion to Approve the proposed funding amount by: Gregory Price
- Seconded by: Robert Thompson
- Discussion: With more business now being conducted virtually, National Liaison Kenneth George noted this proposal may be scrutinized by The American Legion. Vice Chairman Dennis Blue indicated that the Finance Commission is acting only on if there are budgeted monies to cover the training and not the proposal.
- Action: Carried

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring, 2021 – “Child Welfare Donation of \$5,000 from the 2021 Budget”

- Motion by: Steve Honigfort
- Seconded by: Robert Thompson
- Discussion: National Liaison Kenneth George will check with The American Legion to see if they would like us to continue with the CWF Resolution each year when it is already approved within the Budget.
- Action: Carried

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring, 2021 – “Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader”

- Motion by: Robert Thompson
- Seconded by: Steve Honigfort
- Discussion: None
- Action: Carried

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

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox thanked the Commission for their work. He questioned if the NEC could be provided with the actual dollar amount of surplus funds that is in the Restricted Reserve account. PNC Brian O’Hearne mentioned that any surplus dollars that are left at year’s end are required to be deposited in The American Legion account. National Liaison Kenneth George will confer with The American Legion on the matter.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Vice Chairman Dennis M. Blue (MN) adjourned the meeting

at 8:25 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Vice Chair Dennis Blue?

Okay. If there are no objections, the Finance Commission report will be accepted by unanimous consent.

COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN BLUE: Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Vice Chair.

I call on National Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel for his report, along with National Convention Committee Chairman Chuck Treat, National Member Training and Development Committee Chairman Joe Schultis, and national Membership Committee Chairman Joe Navarrete. Legislative Commission is on deck.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Good morning, everyone. I would like to begin by calling upon National Convention Committee Chairman Chuck Treat for his report.  
Chairman?

### **Oral Report of Convention Committee**

#### **Charles Treat II, Chairman, Arizona**

Thank you. Can you hear me?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: We can hear you. Go ahead.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TREAT: We have an update to the meeting minutes that have been presented to the NEC, so this is an addendum to the report to the NEC from the meeting minutes.

The Sons of The American Legion national convention in Phoenix, Arizona, is moving forward to an in-person convention. This is a starting point, returning to all national meetings

being held in person, business as usual, manner requires conditions are employed to ensure the convention is a starting point and safe for all participating.

Therefore, COVID-19 is not completely defeated. Mitigation is a requirement remaining in place until it is defeated. Public facilities, such as the Phoenix Convention Center, have strict parameters for all convention attendees to adhere to. The Legion family has agreed to these terms in order to hold the national convention. Compliance with the following protocols is expected of all who enter and participate. It applies to all Legion family members.

Conditions for entry into the facility: Self-monitor your temperature. You must be at 100.4 or below in order to enter. Due to the outside air temperature, a cool-down area may be available for a majority of the entry areas, because it is warm in Phoenix during August.

No food may be taken into the facility. All food is served by approved facility vendors. Food may not be given away; this includes bottled water and sodas.

At all designated entry points, a survey questionnaire will be performed by the facility staff. This will slow down the entry into the facility, and please arrive early. All are required to comply.

Masks must be worn properly at all times throughout the facility. The convention facility reserves the right to expel anyone not in compliance with the mask rule. The sole exception will be when you're speaking at the podium and it is set up in the large meeting hall with the appropriate distancing for the guest speaker to go without a mask.

Other notes regarding national convention. We will not have a parade at convention there year. There is no band competition this year. The Legion Commander's banquet is limited in size. Anybody who has attended remembers ten chairs per table; it is limited to three persons per table.

All convention activities may be cancelled by the Phoenix Convention Center with a 24-hour notice under COVID conditions.

If you're experiencing any of the following -- a fever, aches, pain, coughing -- please do not leave your accommodations for the convention center. Stay at home or remain in your hotel room. Notify your detachment or department of your situation and keep them informed.

That completes my report, sir. These were items taken from the Internal Affairs and also the latest meeting with the National Convention Committee on the Legion side. Thank you, sir.

*...Committee Chairman Treat submitted the report of the Convention Committee.*

## **Convention Committee**

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 pm EDT on March 8, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Charles Treat, II (AZ).

### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Charles Treat, II (AZ, 2021)</u>	Members:	<u>Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Brandon Curry (KY, 2020)</u>
			<u>Allen Watry (WI, 2022)</u>
Liaison:	<u>(none assigned)</u> Past National Commander		<u>(TBD) (NC, 2023)</u>
Guests:	National I/A Chairman Mark A. Tansel (IN); National S.A.L. Liaison Ken George (FR); National Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA); National Commander Clint Bolt (VA); Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA); NVC-W Ned Fox (CA); PNC David Faust (WI); Robert Sirovina, Jr. (WI); Christopher Dannenmann (WI); PNC Jeff Frain (AZ); Detachment Convention Chairman Dan Ashley (AZ); Joe Schultis (IN); Mike Bryant (AZ); Brian R. Compton (IN)		

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Treat (AZ) noted those minutes had already been approved by the Convention Committee and were placed into the official record of the SAL Fall 2020 NEC Meeting. Due to the short timeframe brought on by the pandemic, those committee minutes fulfilled both the 2020 National Convention and Fall NEC meetings. Chairman Treat entertained any final comments on the August 16, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes would remain as published.

### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Charles E. Treat, II (AZ) opened the floor to members of the National Convention Committee.

Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019) had nothing new to report. He acknowledged that committee members recently discussed **lapel pins**. Greg would wait to further discuss the subject until the appropriate time. Chairman Treat (AZ) asked Greg how many pins he would recommend ordering for Phoenix. Greg replied around 1,000 pins. Indiana had ordered 1,700 pins for 2019 and about 900 pins were left over. Pins were sold for \$5.00 each and Indiana still profited on the sale.

Brandon Curry (KY, 2020) had nothing new to report. He was simply glad to participate on the call. Brandon revealed that Kentucky was originally going to order 750 **lapel pins** for 2020, based on input from both Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019) and Shawn Davis (MN, 2018). Kentucky was going to sell its pins for \$5.00 each also. However, pins were never ordered for Kentucky since the 2020 National Convention was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Allen Watry (WI, 2022) reported that since Wisconsin will be after Arizona to host the SAL National Convention, the **Detachment of Wisconsin was beginning to prepare for 2022**. Allen thanked Chairman Treat for allowing several members of the Detachment of Wisconsin Convention Committee to participate on tonight's conference call. Chairman Treat responded that Wisconsin was most welcome to attend these National Convention Committee meetings, especially since he allowed the Detachment of Arizona Convention Committee members to attend. It is only fair to the SAL organization for detachments to share ideas and network with each other to make our upcoming national conventions the best possible.

Chairman Treat provided a recap of updates for the 2021 SAL National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona:

**Review of Phoenix Convention Center** – SAL National Liaison Ken George (FR) personally visited the site along with SAL National Events Coordinator Clifford Hall (GA). Chairman Treat (AZ) accompanied Ken and Cliff and they did a walk-through of the facility. Information had been received for the National Sons of The American Legion Children & Youth Room, however that room has not been assigned yet. Ken has transmitted those needs to the planners of The American Legion, National Convention. Once those needs have been processed and met, Ken will report back the status to the SAL National Convention Committee.

**Budget for SAL National Convention** – The budget that was approved by National does not include funds for the national convention itself. The rumored \$3,000 for lapel pins is self-generated funds by the host detachment. The sale of the lapel pins covers the cost to produce the pins and any profit made is donated to a charity of the detachment's choice.

**North Carolina Vacancy on SAL National Convention Committee** – Still awaiting an update as to who the representative will be. Hope to know by the SAL Spring 2021 NEC Meeting.

**SAL Children & Youth/Americanism Youth Room** – Location to be announced.

**Agenda & Programs (Children & Youth)** – To be developed by Chairman Bill Clancy (NY).

**Youth Activities in the Phoenix Area** – Still awaiting word from the U.S. Army Reserves and the U.S. Air Force on the availability of their drone trainers. They have equipment to promote drones at college campuses. Unfortunately, the Detachment of Arizona has not made in-roads with the military yet due to the pandemic restrictions. So, the drones are still a work in progress as well as other youth activities being researched for the national convention.

**Events on Friday Evening, August 27<sup>th</sup>** – Originally Chairman Treat had told everyone that night would be for the SAL Past National Commanders (PNC) Dinner. However, it was since suggested for good reason by Detachment Adjutant and PNC Jeff Frain that the date be switched to Saturday evening, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, Friday evening is now open for activities. The Detachment of Arizona will research SAL friendly social events that can be scheduled for Friday night.

**Events on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, after Close of Convention** - Chairman Treat noted that Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA) was looking for local downtown venues and sought the Detachment of Arizona's help with this task. Arizona would be happy to share this information with Michael and his committee. Leading Candidate Fox had no specific venue requests at this time and expressed his appreciation for any assistance that Arizona would provide.

**Welcome Banner/Convention Phoenix Artwork** – This task has been completed; however, it is subject to review by the Department of Arizona and National Headquarters. This banner will be at the Convention Center, available as a backdrop for photographs like that in Reno, Nevada.

Brian Compton (IN) of The American Legion National Staff, Internal Affairs/SAL & Membership, reminded Chairman Treat that the banner and any other **special requests for artwork** should be submitted to National Headquarters sooner rather than later. Special orders usually have a lead time of 6 to 8 weeks out. Brian noted that when Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019) ordered his banner for Indianapolis, they had to do a rush job to have the banner done in time for national convention. Just a heads-up!

Chairman Treat responded that since the SAL National Convention Committee does not have a budget, he was going to see if he could get somebody else (**a corporate sponsor**) to pay for the 2021 Phoenix banner.

Brian Compton further reminded Chairman Treat that **the use of any American Legion and SAL emblems must be approved first by National Headquarters** before they are printed on the banner and/or any other national convention artwork. Chairman Treat (AZ) acknowledged the emblem approval process, which is easy, just need to submit for review in a timely manner, and he agreed to abide by it.

Brian Compton remarked that the **Agenda for the 2021 SAL National Convention** was estimated to be published to the general membership in late June/early July. The SAL Agenda hinges on final room assignments, like the Children & Youth Room, at the Convention Center. Chairman Treat questioned if those room assignments would also include Legion assignments, i.e., a comprehensive list of room assignments for The American Legion Family. Brian replied that Legion Family room assignments at National Convention outside of those for the SAL are only made known to the staff at National Headquarters. They are not published to an external audience. SAL National Liaison Ken George interjected and stated he would clarify room assignments once he has a chance to speak on tonight's call.

That being the case, Chairman Treat asked SAL National Liaison Kenn George to provide his status report to the SAL National Convention Committee. Liaison George began by stating on Friday, March 5, 2021, he had a meeting with The American Legion, National Convention Division, to discuss changes that Chairman Treat may/may not be aware of. **The footprint of the Convention became a lot larger because Phoenix will attempt to practice social distancing throughout the Convention Center.** Liaison George surmised the Convention Center would place barriers on the convention floor and have people sit in separated groups that know each other or with those not afraid to social distance. Not exactly sure how all this will work, so it is just a **preliminary plan** for now.

**SAL National Liaison Kenneth A. George (IN) continued by noting:**

- The **SAL Pre-Convention NEC Meeting** will be housed in Room 122.
- The **SAL Post-Convention NEC Meeting** will be held in Hall 6 (immediately after convention).
- The **SAL National Convention** will be housed in Hall 6 (the entire Hall, which is a 4x enlargement). So, the floor plan will change greatly. Ken needs to work with stage tech to accommodate the larger space.
- The **SAL Head Table** will have a minimum of 8 people and capped at 12. It will need to be used for multiple meetings, so Ken will need to speak with the National Convention Division.
- The **Transition Room** will be 124.
- The **SAL Breakout Rooms** will be 121, 124, and 129 (if we need them). These rooms each have a capacity of 63 to 67 people.
- The **Junior Room** will be 123, but Ken needs to know how many people to expect. It has a capacity of 45 to 50. If more people are expected, then Ken will need to know that to plan accordingly.
- The **Legion National Commander's Banquet** will have round tables of 4 instead of rounds of 8 and 10.
- **Tourism for the City of Phoenix and the surrounding areas** will be published sometime in April 2021.

SAL National Liaison George finished his report by reminding everyone that all these details surrounding the national convention were accurate as of Friday, March 5, 2021. **It is likely these details will change (perhaps multiple times) between now and the convention in August.** So, flexibility is key!

Chairman Treat sincerely thanked SAL Liaison George for his update on national convention.

**49<sup>th</sup> Annual SAL National Convention** – This has been confirmed as the anniversary date for Phoenix, AZ.

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual SAL National Convention** – This will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in August of 2022.

Chairman Treat inquired if there was **anything else to come before this meeting** of the SAL National Convention Committee.

Detachment Adjutant and PNC Jeff Frain (AZ) noted that in 2007/2008, he and Jim Ashley helped with the national convention in Phoenix. At that time, National Headquarters asked that Arizona setup **information booths** at the Convention Center. Jeff knew the SAL must work with Department, but he heard SAL Liaison George speak earlier about the social distancing aspect. So, Adjutant Frain wanted to know if the Detachment of Arizona would still be expected to set up information booths and man them. **The Detachment of Arizona needs to know what Department and National expects from Detachment volunteers (both in quantity and work duties).** Chairman Treat underscored that Allen J. Watry (WI, 2022) should really pay attention to the answers to Detachment Adjutant Jeff Frain's questions, since Wisconsin will need to plan accordingly for 2022.

Chairman Treat inquired of both Brandon Curry (KY, 2020) and Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019) if they experienced **any requests for detachment manpower when they hosted national conventions in their states.** Greg replied that the Indianapolis Convention was manned mostly by the Department of Indiana. Brandon echoed Greg's remark in that the Department of Kentucky coordinated the manpower for the Louisville National Convention. To further address Detachment Adjutant Jeff Frain's question, Chairman Treat asked Brandon and Greg if they knew the total number of volunteers that were needed from their detachments to service the national convention in their respective states. Greg did not have an answer. Detachment Adjutant and PNC Jeff Frain recapped that it appeared the Departments of Indiana and Kentucky coordinated the local manpower needed to help run the national conventions in their states. So National Headquarters did not issue any guidelines or requests. **The Department of Arizona will spearhead the volunteers to help run the Phoenix national convention.** Brandon Curry confirmed Jeff's comments to be accurate and steered him to speak with the Department of Arizona's Committee Chairman for the National Convention. Greg Spaulding concurred with Brandon's advice.

Dan Ashley (AZ) noted that he had **already reached out to "Angel" and he told Dan he was waiting for a visit in mid-April 2021 to occur and would then circle back with the Detachment of Arizona regarding the information booths and the need for any SAL volunteers at the Phoenix National Convention.** Chairman Treat appreciated Dan's update and added that the number of volunteers will most likely hinge on the final layout of the rooms based on pandemic restrictions as we get closer to August.

Detachment Adjutant and PNC David Faust (WI) asked for **confirmation that the original social dinner scheduled on Friday evening, August 27<sup>th</sup> had been moved to Saturday evening, August 28<sup>th</sup>.**

Chairman Treat replied no, there will be a Friday evening social, and the PNC Dinner will now be held on Saturday night. The events have simply been flipflopped in terms of dates. David was confused as to what the PNC Dinner entailed. Chairman Treat would clarify the PNC Dinner with David offline.

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) was also **unfamiliar with the PNC Dinner being proposed for Saturday night.** Greg Spaulding (IN, 2019) could not speak of any such event held at the Indianapolis National Convention in 2019. Detachment Adjutant and PNC Jeff Frain explained that back in 2007/2008, when the national convention was held in Phoenix, the Detachment of Arizona held a PNC Dinner for the Past National Commanders and their guest to attend. Just a nice gesture to say "thank you" to all the PNCs for leading the SAL organization over the years. Since then, there has been a Friday evening

dinner open to ALL SAL members and PNCs to mix and mingle. Arizona has not yet decided if they will host a Friday night dinner open to everybody in addition to the PNC Dinner on Saturday evening. Arizona is trying to find a dinner venue large enough to host all the PNCs and their guests and whether the venue has the capability to accommodate all SAL members who would be interested. The pandemic and its restaurant restrictions has made it challenging to plan ahead. Therefore, the details of the dinner have not been broadcast to a wide audience, at least not yet anyway. The PNC Dinner is unique to Arizona and they would like to keep the tradition going, but they are also considering a Friday evening SAL social dinner open to all interested. Jeff's explanation about the PNC Dinner helped to eliminate David's and Mark's confusion.

Chairman Treat invited **anybody who may have a lingering question(s) or comment(s) about the 2021 SAL National Convention to feel free to contact him or any of the committee members.**

Obviously, there will be committee work going on behind the scenes between now and August.

SAL Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) reminded the Convention Committee that the **SAL Spring 2021 NEC Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.** The Internal Affairs Commission will virtually conduct its Spring NEC Meeting either sometime in late March or early April. Mark planned to finalize the Commission meeting date soon and would circle back with Chairman Treat for his awareness and so he could provide his Convention Report at that time. Mark noted that Chairman Treat and National Assistant Adjutant Hicks (NJ) would have ample time to develop the National Convention Committee Report for the Internal Affairs Commission meeting. Chairman Treat and National Assistant Adjutant Hicks concurred.

**Based on the Convention Committee's availability, Chairman Treat (AZ) scheduled the next committee meeting (conference call) for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 8:00 pm EDT.**

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Resolutions:**

None.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. He sincerely thanked everyone on the call for all the work they have done to plan for the 2021 SAL National Convention to be held in Phoenix, AZ. Commander Bolt looks forward to the opportunity to meet in-person once again to properly recognize our squadrons, detachments, and those individual SAL members that excelled this past year. He attended the 2021 Washington, DC Conference (March 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>) along with The American Legion, National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford (NC) and The American Legion Auxiliary, National President Nicole Clapp (IA). All three (3) national presiding officers are itching to get back to in-person meetings! Everyone has their eyes set on the National Convention in Phoenix to be our break-out from the pandemic and get somewhere back to normal. Commander Bolt thanked Chairman Treat for the opportunity to address the SAL National Convention Committee.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Committee. He began by giving kudos to Chairman Treat, members of the SAL National Convention Committee, along with members from the Detachment of Arizona and others from within the national organization for all the efforts put forth to overcome such a daunting task to produce a national convention! Not having a 2020 national convention due to the pandemic, Leading Candidate Fox knows that a lot of people will be anticipating the 2021 convention in Phoenix! The opportunity to meet again face-to-face and enjoy the festivities of national convention is exciting! Leading Candidate Fox ended his brief remarks by thanking Chairman Treat for the opportunity to speak with the SAL National Convention Committee.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Charles Treat, II (AZ) adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Chairman.

Are there any questions for Convention Chairman Chuck Treat?

Hearing no questions for Convention Chairman Treat, I now call upon Member Training and Development Committee Chairman Joe Schultis of Indiana for his report.

Chairman?

**Oral Report of Member Training and Development Committee****Joseph Schultis, Chairman, Indiana**

Thank you, Chairman Tansel.

The MTD committee met on March 3rd. The committee has been working on converting the NMI training to virtual training. The committee would like to thank PNC Greg "Doc" Gibbs and PNC David Faust for all their help in trying to get NMI-1 converted and training performed. Currently, right now we're looking like the end of June for this training to happen. Once this training happens, we're going to learn from it and then move right into NMI-2, follow up with NMI-3.

We are going to be performing the ambassador training virtually tomorrow.

Also, the committee will be revising the NEC training resolution that had been put forth and has since been sent back to the committee.

I would like to thank the committee for all their dedication and hard work over this last year.

That is the report of the MTD committee besides what you have in front of you. Again, thank you, Chairman Tansel.

...Committee Chairman Schultis submitted the report of the Member Training and Development Committee.

## **Member Training and Development Committee**

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 3, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN).

### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Joseph Schultis (IN)</u>	Members:	<u>Scott Baker (PA)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u>		<u>Michael Cotten (DE)</u>
	<u>National Assistant Adjutant</u>		<u>Jimmy Hunter (IL)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Richard L. Cook (OK) – Absent</u>		<u>Lowell Long, Jr. (MT)</u>
	<u>Past National Commander</u>		
Guests:	PNC Byron Robichaux (LA); PNC Tommie Cisna (IL); David Hendee (VT); Brian Compton (IN); Mark Fayer (MD); PNC David Faust (WI); NVC-C Doc Pfeiffer (IN); NC Clint Bolt (VA); LC2 Chris Carlton (IN); Frank Meraz, Jr. (CA); LC Michael Fox (CA); Mark Tansel (IN); PNC David Stephens (IN); Chuck Treat, II (AZ)		

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Schultis asked National Assistant Adjutant Thornton to read the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting. Jimmy Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Mike Cotten. The motion carried on a voice vote.

### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Schultis led a discussion of several topics.

NMI training – Everything was ready to go to print.... But here we are, so, we will do what is needed (go virtual).

- NMI-1
  - PNC Doc Gibbs and PNC David Faust are working to develop this session to be delivered virtually. Mr. Faust reported they are trying to work out how to keep the presentation interesting given the lack of in-person interaction. We may reduce the length of the program by shortening up some of the content – suggestions to be made back to the committee. We do NOT yet have a date to present this course virtually.
  - From there we will try to adapt NMI-2 and NMI-3 in a similar manner.
  - PNC Gibbs has prepared a study guide for the program
  - We are looking at using Microsoft Quiz after training to assess competency with the materials
- NMI-2
  - This training has the addition of the problem-solving section in it to address our open item from the Strategic Plan, We had it in the 2019 version before the Spring 2019 NEC meeting was cancelled.
- NMI-3
  - No updates at this time

Ambassador training – Mr. Schultis has been talking with Liaison Ken George about the Ambassadors training program regarding a possible virtual program instead of in-person.

Adjutant online training – Mr. Schultis reported we are working on this for publication by the national convention.

### **Old Business:**

**Stipend for NMI** – Past Chairman Chuck Treat (AZ) reported that this request originated as a question from the floor of a previous Committee meeting, and it was under consideration with the SAL National Finance Commission. Nothing new to report as there is still a question of the overall Committee budget. Chairman Schultis said he will speak with Finance about the issue to see if we can make any progress.

Chairman Schultis addressed the Strategic Plan for the Committee and the items to be handled, noting the only item that we were still showing open is what we have included in NMI-2 (problem solving).

**New Business:**

PNC David Faust relayed a concern from PNC David Stephens that the instructors really should be able to be present in Indianapolis to deliver the NMI sessions virtually. Committee member Jimmy Hunter echoed the opinion. Chairman Schultis asked if we want to pursue this, and how we might work with the Finance Commission to have the funds allocated to cover the expenses for that to happen. The committee all agreed that it is worth trying. Brian Compton didn't have the cost amounts from the Fall session for reference, but there is certainly some expense required to facilitate it. The Chairman will follow-up with Finance Chairman Bill Hill and Liaison Ken George.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring, 2021 [resubmission of NEC2020-S2]

Title: National Executive Committeeman Training  
 Origin: Member Training & Development Committee  
 Action: Motion to approve the resolution by Scott Baker (PA); seconded by Jimmy Hunter (IL).  
 Discussion: \$6,500.00 annually to fund a training program for NECmen at the Fall NEC Meetings  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote.  
 Status: NEC2020-S2 was returned to the Committee through the Internal Affairs Commission by the N.E.C. at the Fall, 2020 meeting for further description of the training involved and any alternatives to be considered. Chairman Schultis read the resolved clause of the updated resolution.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Committee. He thanked everyone on the call for taking time to participate in the meeting and he appreciates the work of the committee members and the NMI instructors.

National Vice Commander-Central Doc Pfeiffer echoed Cmdr. Bolt's comments and commended the committee for its work.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Committee. He appreciates the work of the members and looks forward to the results of their efforts. He spoke about his conversations with the chairman and some of the PNCs about the possibility of holding training sessions at the national conventions. Mr. Stephens and Mr. Faust both expressed support for the idea. Mr. Cisna recognized that some potential attendees may not be able to arrive a day earlier to do this on Thursday and Friday's schedule may not allow it that day. Mr. Compton noted that training at the convention would involve call-in letters and reimbursements we don't currently do. Mr. Robichaux suggested that we put out a request to potential attendees to determine their level of interest in having classes at the convention.

Second Leading Candidate Chris Carlton (IN) congratulated everyone for the good work being done around the country and encouraged them to keep up their efforts.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN) adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Chairman Schultis.

Are there any questions for the National Member Training and Development Committee?

Hearing no questions for the National Member Training and Development Committee, I now call upon National Membership Committee Chairman, Joseph Navarrete from the Detachment of New Mexico, for his report.

Chairman?

### **Oral Report of Membership Committee**

#### **Joseph Navarrete, Chairman, New Mexico**

Thank you, Chairman Tansel.

The Membership Committee was called to order on Tuesday, March 16th, at 6 p.m. Four national vice commanders were in attendance as well as all regional committeemen.

With this being our second virtual NEC committee meeting, there was great representation from all regions. Our theme for the year is "Serving Those Who Serve, Full Steam Ahead" with very aggressive goals on recruit, retain, and reinstate to reach 400,000 members, bring our renewal rate above 95 percent, obtain 105 percent of membership by national convention in Phoenix, and always remembering to recognize our achievements through rewards.

We have started off the year exceeding three target dates of 10 percent, 35 percent, and 45 percent. However, we fell a little short on our seventh target date of 80 percent by 76.15 percent. On a good note, we had 25 detachments meet or exceed that goal.

We are also starting to see the gap of members behind close. And one huge milestone that was just recently met is that we crossed the 300,000-membership mark.

One of the reasons behind all the recent decline in membership is due to states still being closed due to the pandemic. We are starting to see some states loosen those restrictions and opening up, and we hope to see our numbers increase in the coming months as we get back on track. The Membership Committee continues to take a different approach and focuses on renewals versus just the numbers due to the pandemic.

Our regional reports were nothing short of amazing. The ideas brought forth by each region is proof that your Membership Committee is hard at work and committed to success, motivating individuals not only to hit target dates, but to look to exceed those target dates, ensuring members of closing squadrons are taken care of, communication is kept up, holding members accountable, and making our process of becoming a member or renewing our membership easier for all.

The committee also mentioned upcoming work for the strategic ad hoc committee. The need for a paid-up-for-life program was discussed, and it was the recommendation of the committee to have the national commander create an ad hoc PUFL committee to review, design, and implement a national program.

There was also several discussions on the use of mySAL.org and collection of data. It has become imperative for us to gather more information to help with the deployment of the future enhancements like online renewals. A new squadron data report has been created, so that way we can get information on our squadron, be able to help use the online renewal function. A new fillable PDF form has been sent out and is available online and through all of our committee members.

National Adjutant Anthony Wright addressed the committee and stressed the importance of finding those good members, the ones willing to volunteer and do hard work. He

also mentioned reaching out to AmVets and reviewing their PUFL program. We need to make sure that it's affordable to our membership.

Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel addressed the committee and also thanked the committee for doing a wonderful job. He provided a story around thinking outside the box, approaching membership renewals from a different angle.

National Commander Clint Bolt addressed the committee and stressed the importance of membership and renewals during the challenging times of this pandemic. He also stressed the need to continue the buddy checks, as they are working.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox addressed the committee and looked at the committee to utilize the funds available to help with the retention and recruiting efforts.

Past National Commander Joseph Mayne addressed the committee and thanked them for all they have been doing. He stressed the need for communication and highlighted the Central Region Roundup as a great template that everyone should be using.

With no further business, we adjourned our meeting at 8:56 p.m., and that is my report. Thank you.

*...Committee Chairman Navarrete submitted the report of the Membership Committee.*

## **Membership Committee**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 16, 2021 as a zoom call  
 b Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) .  
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**Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Joseph R. Navarrete (NM)</u>	Members: <u>Richard Huntley, Sr. (ME)</u>
Secretary: <u>David Ridenour (IN)</u> National Assistant Adjutant	: <u>Jason Roberts (GA)</u> <u>Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH)</u>
Liaison: <u>Joseph Mayne (MN)</u> Past National Commander	<u>Juan Torres (TX)</u> <u>Jim Stewart (NV)</u>

National Vice Commanders:	East:	<u>Gary Nelson (NJ)</u>
	South:	<u>Blair Miles (AL)</u>
	Central:	<u>Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer (IN)</u>
	Midwest:	<u>Chris Cook (OK) - Excused</u>
	West:	<u>Ned Fox (CA)</u>

Guests: x

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Navarrete declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

### **Reports of Members:**

**Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM)** Good evening, for those that have been participating in the regions monthly calls I will not be covering anything that you have not already heard about or has been talked. As you are aware our membership theme has continued to be "Serving Those Who Serve and Full Steam Ahead". We set some very aggressive goals, and they continued throughout the pandemic. But the key is Recruiting, Retaining, and Reinstating to reach 400,000 members, bringing our renewal rates above 95% range and obtaining 105% and membership by our national convention. While we go along these, remembering to recognize our achievements through awards. Gentlemen, through all of these uncertain times surrounding the pandemic, we've had to come up with new and creative ways to meet our membership goals and targets. To date, we have met or exceeded three of our seven target dates, and continue to push forward despite all these obstacles, even as we meet, there are several states that have not reopened for over a year. Let us not forget how important our efforts are taking care of our family during these times is more important now than ever. As we have seen with the recent weather-related disasters. There are several in need, that is why it is imperative to reach out to each and every Squadron, and make sure your members have renewed their membership, remind them how important their membership is in our great organization, and why they should continue to belong. With only three more targets left in our membership year and still dealing with the COVID-19 conditions, our focus as an organization must be on retention. With just over 100,000 members that we have not yet renewed. It gives us an opportunity to close that gap, reach out through your attachments, and squadrons and urge them to make those calls to get in as many renewals as possible. As you are aware of the membership committee has created several membership tools that we hope many of you have seen and used. However, the most important tool right now, is the use of (mysal.org) this online tool has been proven to be very useful in today's current restrictions and closures. If you're not using (mysal.org), please reach out to your leadership and get on board, we need all hands-on deck. One item to note, shortly before the Spring NEC, the third and final renewal postcard mailing is scheduled to be sent out from national on March 26<sup>th</sup>. As you may or may not know that parts card is generic and does not have all of your squadrons contact information on it. I would encourage you to reach out to those members and let them know what their dues are, and to whom they can send dues to, he mentioned earlier we have created a customized customizable renewal letter to help this. If you have not seen it yet, please let your regional committee members know, or National Vice Commanders or me know. It can also be found on our website under resources. Moving into our membership report I would not be doing my job if I did not briefly touch on our numbers. We have started off the year exceeding three of our seven target dates, 10%, 35%, and 45%. We fell a little short on our seventh target date of 80% on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Just recently, reaching 76.15%. However, we did have 25 detachments exceed the goal and we are just over 30,000 members behind the previous year at the same time. We look forward to several states with restrictions, opening up.

### **Regional Reports**

**East: Richard Huntley, Sr. (ME)** What I would like to add to that is The Eastern Region, being the biggest one there is and going through the difficulties this year, the same as everybody across the country is gone through some ways of communicating with us and doing a great job, what difficulties I pulled up some numbers from where we were a year ago and are three days now actually and we are only off by about 8%, roughly 11,000 members down. With the work that these guys have done this past year, to only be where we are still third in the region in the country. Last year, we was a little bit better in percentage, but we

were also last. Everybody is having the problem it is not just us, everybody is doing great work. Renewals, we are about 4% off, where we were last year at this time. So, overall, everybody is doing what they can, communication as far as I know has been great. Keep up the good work. As you said Gary especially our region the communication between yourself and Membership Chairman Joe has been phenomenal, I have heard nothing but accolades from our members on everything that is going on.

**East: NVC Gary Nelson (NJ)** As I have mentioned in previous reports the Eastern Region. We are concentrating on renewals. We've found that you have no problem, acquiring new members but we allow so many to go out the back door. Since the Fall NEC we move up from 5<sup>th</sup> place to 3<sup>rd</sup> place in regional placement for membership. We are number one in size and number two in renewal rates percentages, we have right now over 100,000 plus members, paid today, which is larger than three regions combined. Eastern region has been creative and getting membership cards into National by doing everything from driving membership runs that includes detachment officers picking up cards from districts, counties, and squadrons, email alerts, snail mail, billing, buddy checks of course, just to name a few, and it has been a pleasure to work with you Chairman Joseph, and the support that you've given Richard Huntley our Regional Membership Chairman, and myself. In the future I think we need to follow the lead of the American Legion and give monetary rewards to detachments that are doing well, in membership. Maybe a fair and equitable program that can be established in the future by the committee.

**South: Jason Robert (GA)** Said to Mr. Nelson in the southern region we do have several detachments that do have an incentive program going on, which I think boost our membership, a good bit. Getting back to the detachments that are reusing the incentive program. I know Georgia has one Alabama's got one, they sort of took the one from Georgia and tweaked it to their liking, with what would work best for them. With that being said, there's all kinds of tricks and trades to boost the morale throughout the whole region, not just in the southern region, I will brag on the southern region and National Vice Commander Blair, for leading the way for almost nineteen months now. I hope myself can do the same. I feel that with their detachments in the southern region, it seems like everyone is close knitted as detachments. So, I feel they will carry on, just as Blair has this year.

**South: NVC Blair Miles (AL)** The Southern Region is doing well; we are still doing well. From our CWF donations to membership. We are tackling the challenges of a full year of the Coronavirus pandemic All while we all are navigating a dues increase this year. The pandemic has forced many posts through the southern region to close for extended period of time. Some posts opened up to be closed back down again. This not only affects the membership and renewals, but it affects our ability to hold the fundraisers that we do so we can support the SAL charities and the Legion charities. I would like to congratulate the following Detachments in the Southern Region for the CWF donations, Mississippi \$2.11 per member, South Carolina \$1.75 per member and Alabama \$1.42 per member. That's fantastic in these times I believe. As far as membership is concerned the southern region is in first place, since my very first day as National Vice Commander. We're all pretty, happy about that. About 19 – 20 months now. When the virus first hit, no one was sure just how long this thing was going to last or what impact it would have on the states that make up the Southern Region. I made a request that the Southern Region leadership do not let this virus be excuse for laziness our phones still work, we still have jobs to do. Then politics weighed in on different ways state governments handled the pandemic. The parent organization canceled NEC meetings the National Convention, and other forms of vital training that we needed to do our jobs. If the only thing we would have had to deal with would have been was the dues increase, we all would have succeed more than we are right now. But we had to endure a double whammy I am very proud of how the southern region responded to my request and I am very proud how the southern region fought through the pandemic in keeping us in 1<sup>st</sup> first place in membership the entire time. As of the March target of 80% the southern region was at 82.3%. With today's report we are probably just over 83%. The southern region has made every single target date this year and we do not foresee any problem making the last two. We ended the 2020 membership year as the only region to go over 100% in membership and we anticipate doing the same in 2021. Communication is the key. He tried to stay in touch with the detachment leadership in the southern region as fast as I could and they in turn kept in touch with the squadron leadership within their detachments. The results speak for themselves. I would like to thank the seven detachments in the southern region that has surpassed the 80% target ahead of time. Puerto Rico 120%, Mississippi 95%,

North Carolina 93%, South Carolina 90%, Florida 89%, Tennessee 84.5% Alabama 84%. That's fantastic and I am proud to be the National Vice Commander of the southern region, and everybody has been doing a great job!

**Central: Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH)** The central region continues its hard work to recruit, retain and reinstate members, as we as we cruise toward National Commander Clint Bolt's goal of 400,000 members, a renewal rate from above 95% and to obtain 105% membership by the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. I would like to congratulate the detachments of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ohio for reaching the March 10th National target date of 80%. Wisconsin has also met the April 14<sup>th</sup> goal of 90%. Currently, the central region is in second place with 103,776 members paid represents 78.2% of our membership. Thank you to everyone for their hard work during these difficult times, the central region also continues to impress, leading the organization in renewals at 74.62%, as of the March 15th renewal report. Congratulations to Central Region leaders of detachment of Ohio 79.13% renewed. We continue to work hard on renewals and hope to maintain our lead on the rest of the fleet. Round up Central Region newsletter continues to be sent out weekly, providing valuable information to our members, with an emphasis on items such as membership and renewals. The use of Mysal updates from the American Legion, various forms and applications and announcements from our detachments. Anyone who would like to receive our publication can send an email to me at [jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com](mailto:jeffvrabelsr@gmail.com). The central region currently has 18 applications for individual recruitment awards, additional applications will be submitted this week. We look forward to finishing 2021 strong as we continue serving those who serve full steam ahead.

**Central: NVC Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer (IN)** Congratulated Wisconsin in our region, membership with over 90% and Ohio leading in renewals at 77%. Central region bounced back and forth between third and fourth place membership, a few months to start before firing in second place, the position we currently hold. We continue to hold on to first place in renewals putting up with a strong charge from the people in the East. Our guys have worked hard this year doing all they could to overcome this problem the pandemic has caused. There has been a lot of thinking outside the box in how to improve our membership. While I am not a fan to buy membership just make goals. I am not opposed to helping members in need. We had some detachments that were able to help their members. This year has been strong for most detachments. We had to deal with posts and detachments closing at the end of last year and this entire year has been that way. Who would have thought when we started this year that we would have lose over 500,000 lives and how this organization would be affected? He feels that if we would have had all the membership tools in place that national has been working on for us, we might have been able to retain more members. We need to promote ([www.mysal.org](http://www.mysal.org)) the best way to check our membership in a timely manner. There is no excuse for cards being transferred only once a month. I think that when post start to reopen we'll see an increase in our membership. We can only hope it will help us get out of the hole we are in. I know if anyone can do this the Commander's Membership Chairman of the Central Region can do it.

**Midwest: Juan Torres (TX)** Unfortunately NVC Mr. Cook had a passing in his family and was unable to make the meeting today. On behalf of the Midwest our membership is moving fairly slow, we missed the 80% target date as of the March 15<sup>th</sup> report. We're at 74.77% with 70.5% of renewals. I want to congratulate South Dakota, sitting at 131.67% in membership. This year with 84% of that being renewals. Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, and North Dakota all reached 80% By March 10<sup>th</sup>. We did have Kansas who was very close missed it by half a percent, but with the new report it does show them over 80%. We're working hard on our membership with the pandemic, it's been fairly hard and moving fairly slow. Last year we maintained second place in all regions for a while. This year, we're sitting in fourth, which is probably where we get to around towards the end here, we start dropping. We do have some detachments that have some work to do. We have four of our detachments are sitting under 60%, which I know we need to work on plan on contacting three of those detachments to see what we can do, because under 60% isn't real good at this point here especially when we are moving on to the 90% target date. One detachment I am having issues with is Mexico, I have tried to make contact with several people for that detachment. They did come in with membership this year, but unfortunately there's no information on who the Detachment Commander or Adjutant is we have not received certifications which kind of hurts. I do send an email out to the Department Adjutant on file. He normally responds once, but I do not hear from him again, I will keep working on it. We are moving slowly we are still continuing our buddy checks as we

hear in our regional meeting. You know everybody's working hard. I'm hoping with the fact that some of the states in my region that are now opening up that we will see some membership coming in. Because of the fact that, especially like here in Texas. We've already, we're already getting inundated with events that squadrons are starting to hold now. Now that our governor has opened our state back up. So, hopefully that will be the precedent going on through the rest of this year, the state's opening up everybody's starting to do more functions, which in turn to bring in more membership.

**West: Jim Stewart (NV)** The western region is lagging behind everybody. But I also know that 50% of our detachments have met the target of 80%, or more, but we do have five of our detachments that are lagging behind. I know that attachment in Nevada is having some issues, particularly since most of our squadrons have to submit manually versus going through Mysal, because the situation we have with our local posts, we are trying to get our local posts to transmit these transmittals are hard, so we're having to do it manually with squadrons having to do personal checks, versus going to post accounts, because we're not allowed in Nevada to have their own checking account. But the western region, has a major challenge with a lot of our state's shutdowns, making it difficult for us to have meetings, have activities, to do fundraising. I know that several of us are anxious for our governors to start opening up, allowing us to meet more. And so, were just wait for that. And once we're hoping by May, that things will start trickling in and we can then open the floodgates and get everything going again.

**West: NVC Mr. Ned Fox (CA)** He said they are continuing to reach out to the detachments in the region. And this morning, our detachment in the Philippines sent information that the Philippines is going back down on lockdown. In the city of Angeles, they're going on curfew tomorrow night. Also, Mount Pinatubo volcano is at level one, on June 15<sup>th</sup> this year it will be 30 years since the last time that volcano erupted and prior to that it was 600 years so there is hope that maybe they'll hold off for another 570 years. Overall, obviously the western region is definitely challenged, with what is going on a lot of it. And you know we hate to talk about it, but it is politics and it's caused a lot of issues. Fortunately, Hawaii and the Philippines, the Hawaii leading nationally with 126%. The Philippines are at 98%. I had a visit with Idaho a year ago, and they're at 92%. Currently I'm on an unofficial travel throughout Arizona, and I had face to face with their leadership. These guys are really pushing hard. We're Arizona tipped over 80% on the report. And I think the most amazing thing was one of their squadrons in Apache Junction, despite everything that we're all going through that they had 682 members in their squadron that paid their dues and of that, 18 of them were new members, so hats off to the largest squad in Arizona. As for some of our other squadrons, that are not doing as well. I know. In June, when I was unofficially going through Oregon. They're doing some cleanup with their membership, Washington is doing the same, California, I know our membership Chairman gets beat up on a regular basis from myself and the commander. I'll let Jim talk about Nevada. One of the things that I am challenging the western region is by next target date of 90% that our detachments are all at 70% renewal rate. Because obviously, with a renewal rate of 64%, we're leaving a lot of members out there on the table. We are seeing some of the states are starting to open more hopefully in the next two months, we'll see a flood of membership. But our motto that I'm telling all of them is don't look back, with everybody in front of us, there's no reason to be looking in that rearview mirror. I know that one of the things I have witnessed as an adjutant at my own squadron. I am sure people see this all over the country. We have a tremendous amount of CFO's and a lot of that is they are only there because they want the cheap food. I think this is a good time where there is going to be a lot of cleanup of these members that have not renewed, they are only thinking about when is the bar going to open. I see that on my own squadron where we are based at right now. I think on one hand it is a good thing and for the members that belong really truly support what the organization does for our veterans.

**National Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA)** Thank you very much Chairman Joe and your membership committee. I commended like everyone else, I echoed the sentiment and commends everybody for the work that they're doing with membership, it is a big challenge. I do not know the answer to getting people to sign up. I echo definitely what National Vice Commander Fox said about, the true meaning of the members. I know in my own squadron that was always my big thing. We don't need more people to come in here and drink we need people in here to work. But that's my own problem within my own squadron that I have to worry about. I am sure everybody else does, throughout the nation, but I think that's a great idea, great comment that National Vice Commander Fox, did mention, I want to hit on just a quick subject. What a

great time for us to hit the subject of life membership. I know not a lot of people like talking about it, we don't have a formula, but I think I'm gonna reach out to you, Chairman Joe, I might have a little avenue and I'll just share it with you, everybody. He says it's best to be as transparent as possible. I think I want to reach out to the sons of AMVETS, he sees that they have a life membership program, just to kind of see what they do, how they do it. He personally don't think if we follow the model the American Legion has for life membership. I can't see people spending that kind of money for life membership they'll just be happy paying or squadron dues, whatever that might be. So, I think, Chairman Joe, you and I. I will get with you we will be able come up with a game plan to contact the leadership at the Sons of Amvets. I did do a quick Google search, and it looks like around 2018, their life membership was about \$320. I am not going to say that will be what ours will be and sustain future growth, but it would give us some type of a baseline and maybe we can present something. I think that is all that I am going to say. Again, I thank everybody for the work that they're doing, and look forward to meeting in person eventually.

**Chairman Navarrete (NM)** Thanked Adjutant Wright (PA) Chairman Joseph does have a few comments on that as we go further in our meeting under old business, so you'll hear a couple items on that as well to the life membership.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN)** Good evening to you Chairman, to the National Vice Commanders, the Regional Membership Chairmen, also to our Commander and Leading Candidate and our Adjutant. Just a few things to point out of what was stated earlier. It is hard to believe that we has been a year and a half in this administration what a remarkable job you have done getting through this pandemic. With this past year missing a fall, spring, this last convention, and spring again. Coming up on the virtual. It's just amazing that we are still out there. We are still rowing guys. I just want to say the numbers are down. To tell you on a personal note I was going through my members today for our squadron alone we are still 120 plus cards down. Our commander and a couple of our guys are busting their chops trying to get people to pay. On a call the other night a good friend of mine who took the chance of sending out five membership to individuals, thinking outside the box. We talked about the outside the box deal. Outside the box, all sizes of individuals are paying the \$75. There are things out for us to be looking into and looking at I love the unclaimed members the paid up for life program. I love the fact that being able to start doing memberships online instead of people getting to the post. Or whatever and can pay by using the debit card, credit card by whatever means their electronic funds payment they tend to bought. So, there is a big bright future ahead of us and we just continue as Commander Bolt (VA) said Full Steam Ahead. Keep rowing, towards the end of the year. We got about a little more than five months remaining in this year and then on to the next administration. We just keep living every day, stay safe, stay healthy, and hopefully hear each other when we are the virtual call on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month of April. Look forward to seeing everybody in Phoenix and at that point hopefully we will be in a point that we can all celebrate and get back together face to face. It's been a long-time guys. Thank each and every one of you for all that you do and continue to do and may God's Blessing be with each and every one of you.

**Chairman Navarrete (NM)** I would like to recognize the members of the committee, both our National Vice Commanders and our Regional Committee for the outstanding work that they've been doing continuously through these, these two seasons that we've been going through, especially through this pandemic era where it's very difficult on all of us. You guys are continuing to push, push, push, and we're seeing it in the numbers, you know, with the eastern and central region, breaking 100,000 members, each. You know it's tremendous amount of work, they're only. Both of them are less than 5%, from hitting the 80% mark which is a tremendous amount of job being done, we have the southern region, leading us in the percentage, meeting all of their target dates, definitely setting the bar for the regions. And then we have all of our regions that are above 70%, especially during these times where you know you heard some of the issues that are happening in the Midwest and what Mr. Juan Torres is having to deal with, one of my state's is his problem child. And it's very difficult in our side of the world because we're very rural. So, we're, spread out, and then all of our, our governor has mandated, we are completely closed down, not a single post is open, and the department office is barely operating so it's very difficult time that we're working through and trying to get this stuff in, so we look forward to, some relief here and to see some of these areas opening. Recently, our neighbor in Texas, they opened up. We're starting to see other areas like Arizona or other neighbors, opening up some more and so eventually we are going to get there with

everybody with the vaccine being rolled out everybody's getting more comfortable, we're starting to see some of this relief and hopefully we'll start to see those numbers start to kick back in, and we look forward to the future. So, I just want to thank each and every one of you for all of the hard work that you continue to do. Instead of sitting back and just say no, there's nothing we can do you continue to do a great job and continue the hard work that our organization needs, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. With that, I'm going to move on. We have our upcoming target dates; our next target date is just one month away. That's April 14, and it's our 90% target date, followed by our 100% target date on May 12 The last target date of the year is that target date that is what we consider one of our most important dates, and that's our delegate target strength date, and that's for our convention. And that's at 105% on July 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be all these target dates that will help define how successful our membership year has been, I'm asking all of you to go back to your detachments and your squadrons and see what you can do to help make that last push for membership happen. We've talked about that already when looking at you know, the easiest way for us to get some of those factors looking at that retention, looking at those renewals of people that we already have in our ranks, and seeing what we can do to just get them over the hump and get them renewed before the end of our membership.

### **Old Business:**

**Chairman Navarrete (NM)** Started with an update to our strategic plan priorities. So, the first priority that we have out of the strategic plan was a paid up for Life program. So many of you that have been on some of the calls throughout the year, have heard that we are working on this and you're actually looking into this. One of the big items was the collection of the date of birth, and the dues' structure that is associated with that, so that we can structure a program and that's currently in plans by national, and you'll hear a little bit more about that, under new business because we do have a new item that is going to be circulated that's going to help us get a lot of that information. We're hoping that that, lays the foundation so that we can institute a national paid up for life program. One of the recommendations that we're looking at, suggesting is having the National Commander appoint an ad hoc committee for developing a plan in state of national PUFLL program. And the reason why we're looking at this recommendation is because we'd like to see some committee members that are not just from the membership committee but also from the finance side, so that we can adequately plan, and provide a viable plan that is sustainable for our future. So, when we come in, we talk to you that you heard Mr. Wright talking about what's it going to cost is going to cost too much. Well, if we do the right planning, and we get the right information based upon interest bearing accounts all of that stuff. We can definitely ensure that we can make that cost as minimal as we can. And it'll be beneficial to all of our members, and we feel that if we institute an ad hoc committee. They will be charged with not only reviewing it.

But developing it, and then instituting it, very similar what the strategic ad hoc committee did a few years back with the strategic plan. So, we feel that'll probably be the best way we did have some feedback from the finance committee so again this is the feedback that we got from our several meetings so we look forward to pushing that along, then obviously we will definitely look into some of the more ideas that are coming up now. As Mr. Wright (PA) had mentioned, we're looking to the collection of email addresses. So, with the online transmittal. This is now available within mysal.org. It's driving the collection of email addresses, along with the newly created squadron data report. So, this is part of the information that will bridge that gap to get us all the information that we need to update our dues structure that we have within the different squadrons and detachments, and then it'll also provide us with that contact information that we're looking for a long time. So, with all of that information coming out this squadron data report is very similar, and I'll talk about this a little later. A report posts the data report that is done by the American Legion to get this information and this is how they provide that information, so this is one step in that right direction, to be able to provide our membership with those same type of capability. Then we have the membership overview presentation that was, that was requested from the PNC panel that has been completed and provided on as long with our standard operating procedures. So, they have reviewed that and they got over that and I'm sure we'll have some recommendations as we got through our NEC meeting. And with that, that is all I had on the strategic plan priority updates.

**NVC Ned Fox (CA)** Maybe you can find out, as more and more people are using online transmittal. And obviously there's a lot of dollars that are rolling in on the national level, but how about can we get some kind of a timeline on how long it takes the Detachment or Departments to see these funds come back to

their local places. I know how long it takes in California, but I was wondering how it is around the country for Detachments. It's kind of giving him concerns once people go to be able to move online. That means that we can grow more.

**Chairman Navarrete (NM)** One of the things that we have heard is it's anywhere from two weeks to four weeks and basically 15 to 30 days. And I know that is something that is in question from several areas. I'll speak even for my detachment itself. My father being the Department Adjutant and Adjutant has been very leery to go to it because they're used to getting their membership, right away. Now being a detachment that is small, and we don't have those larger numbers and membership money coming in. It's very difficult and since that drives everything that they do. They need that money on a more timely fashion. Now one thing that I've been trying to kind of persuade my father on, and that is that if we start doing this on a regular basis instead of waiting for the end of the month or waiting for a certain time or when we've done a bunch of membership in, if this is happening on a regular basis, you're going to start to see that cashflow will come in on a regular basis so you'll start to see, little pieces of money coming in on a regular basis. Now that is an assumption, because that's how it should be done from national, but I will get an updated information from them, to see if they're doing it the same way that we're anticipating it being done.

**Legion Internal Affairs / SAL & Membership Charters Clerk-Brian Compton (IN)** Just wanted to mention really quick. Some housekeeping updates in regard to the 100% target date that has been changed. That day will now be June 9th and not May 12th any longer so update that in your files. He just learned about that recently, and also in regard to National Vice Commander Fox in regard to Mylegion.org and Mysal.org membership processing, when the membership dues are submitted to national, those are those process and cycled out back to the Detachments and Squadrons at the end of each month, or at the end of each month they're finalized. Has everybody seen the Mylegion and Mysal squadron signup form to access to get onto that site? Everybody knows what that looks like. Is everybody aware that there was a new power plan with voice audio that shows you step by step instructions of how to maneuver and cross those items on Mysal? I will get a copy to Chairman Navarrete (NM) and ask you to distribute it. It is the same that they made for the Mylegion site.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN)** With a question for Mr. Compton. So, with that change, with that change of that date being moved from May 12<sup>th</sup> to June 9th. Does that mean that the 2022 cards will be pushed back as well is that, would that be my assumption being correct Sir?

**Brian Compton (IN)** No sir, that's just a physical target of date change only.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN)** Okay, so I've been asked a question by at least two or three individuals that when the last possible day turn in 2021 membership for pre-printed cards for 2022. Can you answer that?

**Brian Compton (IN)** Yes, sir. Actually, have that information now.

**Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN)** Because I have always, I have always went under the date of being the second Wednesday in the month of May, that's what it used to always be, and that's what I told those individuals.

**Brian Compton (IN)** They have an end of date that they provide us every year in the production side of the house, as far as when the last day to accept basically and then they also have an in turn a safety thing when it comes to an extraction date when they pull the next years membership cards from the actual system. So, we have that production schedule and that has been released probably about a month or so ago. They know that a long time in advance.

**Brian Compton (IN)** To answer your question Mr. Tansel. The cut on the to receive 2021 membership cards is May 12<sup>th</sup>. The extraction the for the 2022 membership cards will be the 15th of May, they then do a supplemental extraction, which is done both Sal and Legion side. And that is after maybe July August timeframe. I don't have an exact date. So that sorry.

**New Business:**

**Chairman Navarrete (NM)** Online renewals. So the time is coming when online renewals through the Mysal.org is almost here with the near completion of new software, which, in turn, you saw a report come out today that there is going to be an update to the software and the March 26<sup>th</sup> report will be the last report before they are back up and running on the new software. I don't have a time I did speak with Mr Compton right before this meeting, and we are waiting to get the official timeline on when that conversion will be completed but we're hoping that, obviously it doesn't drag out to very far, but that will be happening. That capability is projected to be functional later this year so this is the Online Renewal piece of it, to make this happen all squadrons must take the time to complete the newly created Squadron Data Report. This form confirms modern information such as the address dues and points of contact entered into the national database. This will also enable your squadron to receive any per capita, per capita collected online. Online renewals and mysal.org cannot be enabled without receiving this completed form from your squadrons. So, failure to complete SDR will prohibit all individual squadrons members from utilizing the online renewals when it's finally implemented. This form is a fillable PDF. It's easy to complete and only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and it will be available through not only online. Our online resources, but you'll also see this pushed out through your Vice Commanders your Regional Committeeman and will probably go around, time and time again, to ensure that we make sure that all of our squadrons are filling out this report, and we get it in in a timely fashion so that we can take advantage of these new online capabilities. With that, are there any comments or questions around online renewals.

**Brian Compton (IN)** So, I don't know if you were aware again. This squadron data report was again revised, as of last week, there were some minor adjustments done I believe solely to the instructions page part. And that was actually sent to the webmaster, last week from to be published on the SAL website, as well as the Legion.org/publications and then all squadron adjutants should have access as well on Mysal.org and then I have the forum here if you want that as well.

**Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM)** Can you send me that revised form? Yes, I know last time. Last time we spoke, George had mentioned that he would get the approved version out to us.

**NVC Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer (IN)** When is this SDR going to be required to be sent in by?

**Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM)** As soon as possible. So, one thing that we were waiting on was we were waiting on the approval from the national level to ensure that they went through the Legion site and it was approved for distribution. It sounds like that has already happened because they published it to the website. So, Mr. Compton (IN) we'll get that out us. I'll Make sure that you guys receive it, and you can start sending it out. The more information that we get the sooner the better we are going to be. So we keep sending it out, we'll keep trying to see, but one thing that we will ask of national, and I know you're Brian you're hearing it, but we'll ask that we get a report on squadron data reports that have not been received from whichever squadron that are out there, because we need to have a way to be able to track this information, we cannot be of help if we don't know who hasn't turned one in and I know a lot of the committee has been working with different detachments to ensure that they turn in those charters that are no longer in use. We talk very heavily about that. In regard to our CSRs and how they affect our numbers, because we have squadrons that aren't even active, and it's dropping down our numbers and our percentage and to help clear that up. Mr. Compton (IN) has also helped us with ensuring that if we do have a squadron or post that's going to revitalize that squadron. He will help us ensure that we get that up in a timely fashion so that we don't have to hold on to this. Hold on to that charter, especially when we have charters that have been held us for an active Squadron, multiple years. So, we are getting a lot of help from a national level. And we need to make sure that we're getting some information that will help us be more efficient in ensuring that we get this information out there. But is utilized by everybody.

**Adjutant Tony Wright (PA)** I just have a quick comment on this form, and there's a little bit of a stickler for me. I was on a call this weekend I believe it was a few individuals that are on the call on this zoom call right now have heard this and it might sound redundant, but for those that have access to be able to pull this form up on the legion.org/sons under the publications tab under the squadron data report I am all for

moving forward and allowing us to have our squadrons turn this form in, but as my fellow adjutant from the Detachment of California and our National Vice Commander will attest to this, I'm sure under the notice to Departments and Detachments to all annual SDRs must be received by National by April 15th In order to for it to be processed prior to printing for the first renewal notices. As a Detachment Adjutant I can tell you right now if I were to send this out to my detachment right now, I would probably get laughed at with an April 15th return date. I'm all for things moving forward. I think this was a little bit of a rush job. I think it would have been better to implement this in the beginning when Michael Fox's year when he is Commander. I know it's a little presumptive of me to say that but I'm just going to go on record as saying that it's out there now. I think there should have been a little more discussion about a cutoff date for sure that this needed to be received. I can only speak as a Detachment Adjutant and I'm not speaking as the National Adjutant one bit here. So, I think that's something that needs to be looked at, while too late now. But this kind of stuff we have to make sure we have very good discussion or dates because and I'm sure Ned can attest to it. I mean, in California, I mean, they have a large, large detachment as well and the same thing with Indiana, Ohio, I'm sure Jeff can attest to it. You know, it's just going to be a challenge getting these back and I think there's gonna be some conflicting things with some detachment forms that are already out here as well. So, I just wanted to meet again out there.

**Chairman Navarrete (NM)** That's a great comment Adjutant Wright (PA). I think one of the things that realistically that deadline, shouldn't even be in this form that we send out this time right now. And the main reason is, is that the function and capability is not available at this time, we're expecting it to be available at the end of the year, as what we've heard from our liaison Mr. George (IN). That's not going to happen until we're closer to the end of the year. So, to have a deadline of April, is just, I think that would be something that would be unrealistic for our membership to be able to provide. So, we definitely want to make sure that as we're sending these things out, we may even look at striking that, because we want to see how much information we can get and prepare for that upcoming year and for when that capability is there so that's well noted. Thank you.

**Ned Fox Detachment Adjutant (CA)**, and I wholeheartedly agreed with Detachment Adjutant Wright of Pennsylvania.

**Leading Candidate Michael Fox (CA)** Chairman Navarrete (NM) Just as a thought. Moving forward in this was something I believe Tony can attest to this, it was brought up in the PNC panel meeting that was held on Saturday, anytime, any committee or commission or the national organization wants to collect data or information from IE squadrons or members. A lot of the detachments out there are already collecting some of the information that us at national are now wanting to put together so we can do different projects, you know, a survey or a letter to the various detachment adjutants, letting them know hey this is the kind of information that we need from the squadrons, is that something that you're currently receiving from them, because I think we may find. There may be, you know, quite a few detachments that already had the information readily available that we need, where we could just receive a file from them, and be done with it might make it easier, you know, sending. I know in California when we get different forms over and over and my squadron, about the same information that we need to put in on several different forms. Some squadrons, you know hey I already sent this in what the detachment already has that collected, it may be easier for the membership committee to get that information to go straight to the Detachment Adjutant and say hey this is the information we need a push of the button, and problem solved.

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

**National Commander Clint Bolt (VA)** Thank you Chairman Joe, I appreciate this. Good evening gentlemen I appreciate all of you taking time this evening to participate in this zoom call tonight. Membership is the most important job we have. It is job one without membership. We have nothing. So, the work that you do is vitally important. Yes, we're faced with a lot of challenges right now our numbers bear that out, we have at this point in the year, I feel we need to concentrate all our efforts on renewal, such as what Gary Nelson talked about, they were concentrating on in the Eastern Region renewals, we know who they are. We know their contact information, we just need to remind them of why we all belong to Sons of The American Legion, and also remind them that their membership is important to us. Reaching out to all those members that haven't renewed for this year but also reaching back for those that did not renew for 2020. We have

their contact information also. And maybe with Ned's prediction there and maybe in the next 60 days, we'll get a snap back affect and get us back into more positive range to bring our membership up. Thank all of you for everything you do. Buddy checks work. Keep working the Buddy Checks. Full Steam Ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for everything that you've done for the organization this year.

**Leading Candidate for National Commander Mr. Michael Fox (CA)** It seems like something new gets thrown at us, and every part of the country is a little bit different. One thing I'd like to point out and maybe remind everybody, you know with Commander Bolts, goal, you know, on those retention, we never seem to have a problem recruiting members. We always do a great job of it. The problem with it is, is we lose almost as many current members, as new ones that we bring in, you know, so I'd like to just remind everybody on the membership committee to, you know, get in touch with that financial report, you know, what do we got, what can we utilize. I know membership currently has a line item for retention and recruiting \$4500. Let's see if we can come up with a good program to use, and on top of that \$4500. With membership being the lifeblood of our organization, maybe, membership could partner up with the Public and Media Communications Commission because they have a line item in their budget for SAL awareness and outreach, which that outreach could fall into new members in a line item of \$25,000. Those are some funds that are sitting there, that I think could be put to good use, to help change things up, you know, in the midst of a pandemic we were forced into adapting and changing our ways, dusting off some of those old ideas that we had before that didn't work. Now is that time where some of those things are coming to light in some of these squadrons, that they put those ideas on a shelf. Well, now it's time to bring them out and dust them off. Try new things. At this point, there's nothing that we can do that's gonna hurt us, we know where we're standing. He would like to commend you all on the work that you've done throughout the year to be in the place that we are, we could have been a whole heck of a lot worse than where we are standing, and he thinks with everybody moving forward and in putting in that effort. We are in a good place where we are right now.

But you know let's see what we can do to push us over the top. You know he thinks the group of guys that are on this membership committee is a great group of individuals very talented and knowledgeable in a wide spectrum. Let's see what we can do to help each other out and make this organization even that much better. Thank you for your time.

**PNC Joseph Mayne (MN)** I just wanted to add a couple of quick things. First of all, just a congratulations to you and your committee for all you're doing. Those of you that have not subscribed to the central roundup newsletter, need to do that, really, tip my hat to Central National Vice Commander Richard "Doc" Pfeiffer (IN) and Regional Membership Chairman Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) for what they're doing this newsletter is read, probably by 10 times the number of people that it's sent to, because it's reset and reset all over the country. And it's really a great template if anybody has something that their detachment, or their region is doing I'd sure like to get a copy.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) adjourned the meeting  
 at 8:56 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TANSEL: Thank you, Chairman.

Are there any other questions for National Membership Committee Chairman Joseph Navarrete?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir, the NEC from Washington, John Clark.

Do you have a question, sir?

NECMAN JOHN CLARK: No, I accidentally hit the raise button. No question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Scott Garrett, Detachment of Colorado?

NECMAN GARRETT: Scott Garrett, NEC, Colorado.

I have a question regarding membership. Is there anything in place that allows a detachment adjutant to verify that a Son who has become a Legion Rider continues to pay his SAL dues on a regular basis? And if not, why not?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: I'm sorry, Scott, can you repeat that question, please?

NECMAN GARRETT: Is there a way for a detachment adjutant to verify that a Son who has become a Legion Rider continues to pay his SAL dues after he has become a Rider? I firmly believe there are members in Colorado who, once they are Riders, no longer pay their Sons dues. And I would like to find out if there is a way to address this, a way for a detachment adjutant to verify this. And if not, how come?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: I believe we'll have to take that back to national, Scott, this way we can verify. I don't believe there's a way that those two databases cross-check each other at this time. However, with the new program that has been put in place, I would have to defer that to our liaison, Ken George, to validate if we are able to make that check. We would have to take that back and get that information for you.

NECMAN GARRETT: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: You're welcome.

Are there any other questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Ken, you want to make a remark?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Yeah. Chairman, do you mind if I chime in for a little bit?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: No.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Mr. Garrett, the answer to your question, I just want to clarify a little bit. Is this member a member of the SAL and then a member of another ALR chapter at another post or are they a member in the same post, same squadron -- I mean, the chapter and squadron, within the same post?

NECMAN GARRETT: I am not 100 percent sure. I have a squadron that is mostly made up of Riders who have not paid their squadron dues in several years. I know of no way that I can verify whether or not these Riders, once they -- I suspect that we've got people that, once they become Riders, think that they do not have to pay their SAL dues anymore. Theoretically, if a Rider does not pay his SAL dues, Legion dues, Auxiliary dues, he's not eligible to be a Rider.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's absolutely correct. You have to be a member of one of the family members, that comes first, and then you can join the Riders and maintain your membership in the Riders. If they don't want to pay one and be a member of the other, they're automatically, by default, not a member of the Riders.

So, the new myLegion will enable people to look at membership within their squadron. If they're out of your squadron and they're a member of your chapter, you may have to defer to your detachment adjutant, or you can email myself or Brian Compton and we can check that for you as well.

But just to clarify, to be a member of The American Legion Riders, you first have to be a member of The Sons, the Auxiliary, or The Legion. If you let that expire, you are automatically, by default, not a Rider.

Does that answer your question, sir?

NECMAN GARRETT: Okay, kind of. Part of the issue is, I am the detachment adjutant. Theoretically, I should be able to verify across the entire state.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Yes. When -- they are working on some of the reporting in the groupings that didn't translate over immediately, and I'll answer more of that in for the Good of the Legion. But for the interest of the time and get through the commissions and committees, let's move that down the road a little bit. If you have a further question, I'll be glad to address it.

NECMAN GARRETT: Thank you very much, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I call on Mark Cannito now for a question. Mark, you're muted.

NECMAN CANNITO: Mark Cannito, NEC South Carolina.

Joseph, can you just clarify for me where we are on lifetime membership? Is that coming up or we're not going to be able to do that? How is that working?

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: Yes. So, what we're looking at right now is we're looking at providing a committee that will then look at the program as a whole, because this is something that is not going to be done overnight. This is something that has to have coordination with various departments. We need to -- obviously, it needs to involve finance, it needs to involve membership, and it also needs to involve The American Legion.

So, this is a very complex program that we are going to have to put together. This is why the Membership Committee recommends an actual ad hoc committee be put together to look a plan, the design, and the implementation of that PUFL program so that way we can bring this to our membership. So, we feel that that will probably be the best function and use of our committee as well as the time of the organization. So, we are looking for that to move forward and that planning start to happen.

NECMAN CANNITO: Joseph, any kind of time frame? I know that's a hard question.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: Right now, we don't have a specific time frame and that's because we'd like to get that committee instated first. Once that happens, we can have the committee provide us a timeline with what they feel works best. So that's to be determined now. Sorry I don't have anything closer.

NECMAN CANNITO: Okay. On that note, I'd like to volunteer for that committee when it becomes.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: Appreciate it. That will be noted. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any other questions?

Chairman Mark, continue.

### **Oral Report of Internal Affairs Commission**

#### **Mark Tansel, Chairman, Indiana**

Thank you, sir.

The Internal Affairs Commission met via conference call Monday, April 5th, 2021, with five members in attendance, one member being absent, and ultimately excused. We had national Commander Clint Bolt, National Adjutant Anthony Wright, National Judge Advocate

Joseph Paviglianti, Convention Committee Chairman Chuck Treat, MTD Chairman Chuck Schultis, Membership Chairman Joseph Navarrete, and SAL Liaison Ken George on the call.

We reviewed the previous meeting minutes, took reports from the committees. There was no old business.

New business, we talked about the new PowerPoint presentation that has -- that we have recently finished, and that PowerPoint presentation was assisted by MTD Chairman Joe Schultis.

We did take into consideration, there were five resolutions that were brought before the commission, and those five resolutions are as follows:

SAL Resolution 1, Spring 2021. That was from the Detachment of Mississippi, it was motion to approve, and it was seconded, and it was carried on voice vote.

Resolution Number 2, Spring 2021 which is the creation of the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee from the Internal Affairs Commission and National Commander Bolt. The action was to approve as amended during the discussion and it was, again, motion was carried, voice vote.

SAL Resolution 3, Spring 2021, the National Executive Committeemen training. The origin was the National Training and Development Committee. The action was to return the resolution to the Member Training and Development Committee for further study and consideration. Again, motion carried on voice vote.

SAL Resolution 5, Spring 2021 was empowering the national adjutant to correct resolutions. Origin, attachment of Massachusetts. Motion was made to approve and seconded, and it was, again, motion carried on voice vote.

Resolution Number 6, Spring 2021 establishing the policy and procedure for a national representative to attend the funeral or memorial service of a past national commander of significant leader. The origin was National Internal Affairs Commission and again, disposition was motion was carried on voice vote.

We also had comments from National Commander Clint Bolt who addressed the commission and thanked the members and chairmen for all that has been done.

National Liaison George talked about the squadron data report form and the CSRs, as you have already heard, already mentioned during previous discussion.

Closing comments, I'd like to again thank the members of the Internal Affairs Commission. Yes, this has been a tough year, this has been a tough 14 months, and everybody knows it. To the members of the commission, I say thank you. Again, we've only met once since the fall, and we were able to accomplish everything within an hour and a half time frame.

To the committees, to Joe, Joseph, and also to Chuck, thank you and to your committees for everything that you guys have done as well. You guys have just been phenomenal in all that you have done, all your conference calls, all the behind-the-scenes work that you do for this organization.

To the national vice commanders, I want to say a special thank you to each of you for allowing me time on each of your conference calls. No, I don't get on every call every month, but I try to get on them as often as I can, and fantastic job by all of you guys and what you guys do as well.

In closing, I would like to thank Commander Bolt, National Adjutant Wright, National Judge Advocate Paviglianti, for all of your help, your insight, and everything that you have done for us. And one closing special thanks to Bob Avery for being our secretary for our

commission meeting. That was a last-minute replacement due to a death in the family of National Assistant Adjutant Lyle Larson.

Mr. Commander, that concludes my prepared remarks and I yield the floor.

...*Commission Chairman Tansel submitted the report of the Internal Affairs Commission.*

## **Internal Affairs Commission**

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on April 5, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Mark A. Tansel (IN).

### **Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Mark Tansel (IN)</u>	Members: <u>Jay Cook (OK)</u>
Vice Chairman: <u>Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD)</u>	: <u>Michael Kirschner (CO)</u>
Secretary: <u>Robert J. Avery (NY)</u>	<u>Steve Gower, Sr. (VA)</u>
	<u>Fr. G. Gummersheimer (IL) - Absent</u>
Liaison: <u>Rick Cook (OK)</u>	
	<u>Past National Commander</u>
Guests: <u>National Commander Clint Bolt (VA), National Adjutant Anthony Wright (PA), National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY), Convention Chairman Chuck Treat (AZ), MTD Chairman Joseph Schultis (IN), Membership Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM), Kenneth George (National SAL Liaison).</u>	

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Tansel declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

### **Reports of Committee(s):**

Member Training & Development Committee – Chairman Joe Schultis (IN) gave his report.

Membership Committee – Chairman Joseph Navarrete (NM) gave his report.

Convention Committee – Chairman Chuck Treat (AZ) gave his report.

A motion made by Larry "Bear" Weinzirl to accept the committee reports was seconded by Steve Gower, Sr. and carried.

### **Reports of Members:**

None

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

The Commission had reviewed and approved the PowerPoint presentation on the Internal Affairs Commission and the three reporting Committees: Member Training and Development, Membership and Convention. Chairman Mark Tansel thanked MTD Chairman Schultis for putting it together. The presentation can now be forwarded on to the presenters for their use.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Spring, 2021

Title: Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee  
 Origin: Detachment of Mississippi  
 Action: Motion to approve by Larry “Bear” Weinzirl; seconded by Steve Gower, Sr.  
 Discussion: Amend Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee to state, “Voting representation from 25 Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion shall constitute a quorum.” (The current Rule states, “Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum.”)  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2021

Title: Creation of 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Commemoration Committee  
 Origin: Internal Affairs Commission / National Commander Clint Bolt  
 Action: Motion to approve as amended during discussion made by Jay Cook; seconded by Michael Kirschner.  
 Discussion: Establish an ad-hoc committee [reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission] to formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition of the Sons of The American Legion’s 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Milwaukee, WI in 2022.  
 The Commission amended the resolution to define the number of members, remove the word “permanent”, and add a clause to include consultation with National Convention Division staff for any additional proposed activities requiring space or other needs.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring, 2021

Title: National Executive Committeeman Training  
 Origin: Member Training and Development Committee  
 Action: Motion to return the resolution to the Member Training and Development Committee for further study and consideration made by Jay Cook; seconded by Michael Kirschner.  
 Discussion: Initiate a training session for newly seated National Executive Committeemen to take place on Friday afternoon of the Fall NEC meetings.  
 A concern was voiced regarding the additional cost as some members travelling long distances may need to come in on Thursday to make the session. Another questioned the need for such a session, its goals, and what the success determination of the training is.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2021

Title: Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions  
 Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts  
 Action: Motion to approve by Steve Gower, Sr.; seconded by Larry “Bear” Weinzirl.  
 Discussion: To allow for the National Adjutant to make such changes in resolutions as may be necessary to eliminate factual misstatements or language inconsistent with the clear intent of the resolution when taken as a whole, and as evidenced by the deliberation of the body from which such resolution emanated.  
 A question arose on whether this action would result in too much authority to be held by the National Adjutant. It was noted that this is nearly identical to the resolution that the parent organization currently operates under.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 6– Spring, 2021

Title: Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader  
 Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
 Action: Motion to approve by Larry "Bear" Weinzirl.; seconded by Steve Gower, Sr  
 Discussion: To provide for the National Representative, selected by the standing National Commander and his advisors, and approved by the Subcommittee of the Sons of The American Legion, through the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, be allowed reasonable and appropriate travel expenses to attend certain funerals or memorial services for Past National Commanders and certain significant others.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission and thanked the members and Chairman Tansel for all they have done over this difficult year.

National Liaison Kenneth George thanked the Commission for their efforts. Squadrons are requested to send in the new Squadron Data Report (SDR) each year. It is hoped that members will have the ability to renew on-line by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Members of Squadrons not submitting an SDR will not be able to renew on-line. Speaking of forms, we need to do a better job of reporting our activities and donations by use of the Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR). Our reporting percentages fall way behind The American Legion. A question arose on if District reports will be tabulated this year. Ken indicated they would be. The MySAL site is undergoing a format change. Anyone having problems with logging on, or other issues should send an email to [cs2@legion.org](mailto:cs2@legion.org) describing the problem. Members are asked to be patient as we undergo this change to the site.

Chairman Mark Tansel and National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti both thanked the Commission members for their hard work and dedication.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) adjourned the meeting  
 at 9:50 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Internal Affairs

Chairman Mark Tansel?

Chair recognizes Doc Gibbs.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes. The past national commanders would like to make an amendment to Resolution 6. I don't know if we need to do that at this time or --

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: No. When J.J. comes up, we'll address the resolutions. Mark's report will be minus the resolutions.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: All right, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair calls on Mike Pipher.

NECMAN PIPHER: Thank you, Mr. Commander. This is Mark Pipher, NEC from the Detachment of Indiana.

Brother Mark, I know how painfully unwanted suggestions can be, especially unsolicited suggestions. But I'm going to make one and you can give it your due.

This has to do with the squadron data report, the form. At the top of that form page, it says "20 blank membership year." I think you would be saving a lot of people some grief, especially out here at our end of things and also with Ken, if you inserted the word "card," C-A-R-D, between "membership" and "year." Because I think a lot of squadron adjutants are going to pick that form up in April or March even, you know, especially new adjutants are just going to fill out this year's information and send it on, when in fact you're really trying to get next year's card cost -- dues cost in for next year.

So that's my suggestion. Do with it as you wish, and I yield the floor. Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any other questions for Chairman Mark?

If there are no objections, the Internal Affairs Commission report will be accepted by unanimous consent, minus resolutions.

I now call on National Subcommittee on Resolutions chairman John Jennings.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, Mr. Commander. And Internal Affairs Chairman Tansel, I appreciate it, instead of having 14 or 17, we've got it down to a workable level, so thank you to your committee.

Again, on April 8th, the committee met and reviewed all of the resolutions that were presented out of the Internal Affairs Commission.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:

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

**Held on  
April 24, 2021**

**Resolution**      Page 93 of 175

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**No.:      S.A.L. Resolution 1 - Spring, 2021**  
**Title:      Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee**  
**Origin:    Detachment of Mississippi**

WHEREAS, Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee states, "The National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, as provided by the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, shall be a self-governing committee and transact business in accordance with the rules hereinafter set forth, subject only to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of The American Legion and mandates of the National Convention. Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum;" and

WHEREAS, According to *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, the "requirement for a quorum is protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number or persons;" and

WHEREAS, Archive research of NEC meetings, including Fall, Spring, Pre-Convention and Post-Convention for a period including 2013 to date reveals that the minimum number attending was 28 at the Post-Convention meeting in 2015 and the highest number was 44 at the Fall meeting in 2018, the average over the years mentioned was 37 National Executive Committeemen attending meetings; now, therefore, be it

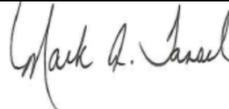
**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the quorum for the NEC meetings including Fall, Spring, Pre-Convention and Post-Convention be changed by amending Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee to state, "Voting representation from twenty-five (25) of the Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion of those elected, voting NEC or the Alternate NEC representing their Detachment at any NEC meeting, with quorum to be established by a roll call."**

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ■

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



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Rejected

Referred to:

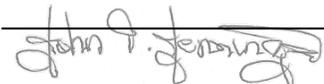
Other Action

MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

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Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

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JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

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SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As a member of the National Executive Committee, I make a motion to adopt resolution NEC2021-S-1.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman John Jennings makes a motion to adopt Resolution NEC2021-S-1. Is there a second?

Chair calls on Bob Brown, Georgia?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: Bob Brown, NEC Georgia. I second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any discussion?

If there are no objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

*...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:*

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

Held on  
April 24, 2021  
**Resolution**

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**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2021

**Title:** Creation of 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Commemoration Committee

**Origin:** Internal Affairs Commission / National Commander Clint Bolt

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion was first created by action of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of The American Legion, assembled in Portland, Oregon, in September 1932; and

WHEREAS, In 1968-1971, National Caucuses/Workshops were held to organize and structure a blueprint for a National Organization for the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, the first National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was held in Chicago, Illinois, with National Officers being formally elected, and operating processes being enacted, and desire and intent to maintain and proceed with annual Conventions, to be held in conjunction with The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Sons of The American Legion have continued to promote the principles of The American Legion throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, During 2022, the Sons of The American Legion will conduct its 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 26-28, and at that time it is fitting that special and significant recognition and celebration be conducted; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the National Executive Committee does hereby authorize the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion to appoint a “50<sup>th</sup> Convention Committee” as a Special Ad-hoc Committee of the National Executive Committee, reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission, and that the committee be comprised of an odd number of members, totaling not less than five (5) and not more than nine (9) members, one being appointed as the Chairman and one as Vice-Chairman, as determined by the National Commander; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the committee be charged with the responsibility to formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition, honoring, and celebrating of our 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention, with any budgeting requests and requirements to follow the established path of approval through the standing commissions of the NEC; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the Committee will coordinate with the Convention Division of The American Legion regarding proposed plans and activities at the site of the National Convention; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the National Commander’s selection of members to this committee be approved by the adoption of this resolution, so long as all appointees are members in good standing in the organization; and, be it finally**

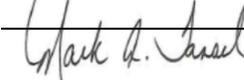
**RESOLVED, That said committee will begin their work immediately upon adoption of this resolution, and serve until the conclusion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion, scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26-28, 2022.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



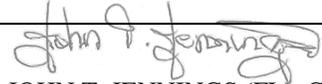
MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman

Referred to:

Internal Affairs Commission

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As a member of the National Executive Committee, I make a motion to accept NEC2021-S-2.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings makes a motion to adopt resolution NEC2021-S-2. Is there a second?

Chair recognizes Bob Brown.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: A couple questions on the resolution before second is made.

You mentioned the statement of permanent members. That was not written in the resolution. And I do have objection with the clause that had says that the committee be approved with the approval of this resolution. Without the approval of the NEC to approve whatever the commander's recommendations are. I think we need the final say-so on his recommendations, not this resolution.

That's my only comment, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Bob.

Chair calls Ned Fox.

I'm sorry, excuse me.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: We need a second before questions. If one of the people who has their hand raised is going to provide a second, then discussion on the resolution can pursue.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: All right. Jeff Shannon for a second? State your name.

NECMAN SHANNON: Jeff Shannon, NEC South Dakota. I second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you. Now, is there any other discussion on the matter?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHENS: Mr. Commander, Dave Stephens, past national commander.

The first national convention was held in Chicago, Illinois, in 1972. Houston was the caucus of 1971 -- or workshop, rather, I'm sorry.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Is there any other discussion? Any other discussion?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: So, I'd like to, I think NEC Brown brought up a question about a discussion of the appointees. That shall take place. The commander is going to present those for the approval of the NEC, and at that point in time you will be able to give any feedback relative to his appointments.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Call Bob Brown.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: Mr. Joe P., I appreciate what you had to say, but the resolution still stands as written and is presented by the subcommittee. Those changes need to be made before the approval is made.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Changed? You mean the appointments?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: Well, no. The fact that the resolution as stated as read that the positions will be agreed by the approval of this resolution, not after the commander make the appointments, but prior to the appointments, that whatever he appoints would be automatic members. And then also about them being a permanent member, that's not stated in the resolution either. They should not be permanent.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: The word "permanent" is coming up in the "resolved" clause.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: In the first "resolved" he said "permanent."  
"Permanent" was not printed, but "permanent" was spoken. And what is spoken is actually what we are voting on, not what is permanently written.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It should be that which is written in the "resolved" clause not said orally.

So J.J., I would have to correct your statement as far as the first "resolved" clause.

Then the second piece, the members of the committee cannot be appointed until the committee is approved. So, we do have to approve the resolution to get the members approved.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: That's correct. And then after they are appointed, then we approve the appointments?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Correct.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: That's correct. That will occur shortly. Somewhere in the next few minutes, I believe the commander is going to address that point.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: J.J., please restate for the record the correct "resolved" clause.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Mr. Commander, let me clarify.

"Resolved by," and I'm going to take it down to the "'50th Convention Committee' as a Special Ad Hoc Committee of the National Executive Committee, reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission, and that the committee be comprised of odd number, one being appointed as the Chair, one as Vice Chair, as determined by the National Commander."

That is in the actual wording of the resolution. I had the wrong resolution in front of me and not reading off the screen, I'm sorry.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Let the record reflect that the first "resolved" clause of that resolution has been corrected by the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Dave Faust.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER D. FAUST: I've been asked a couple of questions on the side here. This committee does not replace the standing National Convention Committee; is that correct?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Correct.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FAUST: This committee would work to complement them just for this convention? That's my understanding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Correct.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER FAUST: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other discussion? Any other discussion?

Okay. Gentlemen, if there is no objection, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

*...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:*

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

**Held on  
April 24, 2021**

**Resolution**

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**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 5 - Spring, 2021**  
**Title: Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions**  
**Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts**

WHEREAS, Resolutions adopted at National Conventions or by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion sometimes contain erroneous references, or the intent of the resolution is obscured by language inappropriate to the purpose of the action sought in the resolution, or by the erroneous application of facts or law; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that such a situation develops under conditions calling for immediate action at a National Executive Committee meeting, or at a National Convention; and

WHEREAS, Those charged with the responsibility of carrying out the action sought are frequently hampered by the imperfections of the resolution wording; and

WHEREAS, No officer, representative, or employee of the Sons of The American Legion or The American Legion is authorized to make any changes in, or additions or corrections to any resolution adopted at a National Executive Committee meeting or a National Convention; and

WHEREAS, The situation may warrant prompt and corrective action being taken; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the National Adjutant be, and hereby is empowered and directed to make such changes in resolutions as may be necessary to eliminate factual misstatements or language inconsistent with the clear intent of the resolution when taken as a whole, and as evidenced by the deliberation of the body from which such resolution emanates, and then publishing the corrected and original resolution, in an electronic form, to the body of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion.**

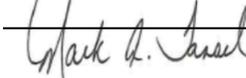
Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature


MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions


JOHN T. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As a member of the National Executive Committee, I make a motion to accept NEC2021-S-5.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings makes a motion to adopt Resolution NEC2021-S-5. Is there a second?

Mark Cannito, South Carolina. Mark, unmute.

NECMAN CANNITO: Mark Cannito, NEC South Carolina. I second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you. The motion is seconded by Mark Cannito, Detachment of South Carolina. Is there any discussion?

Mike Pipher.

NECMAN PIPHER: Thank you, Commander. This is Mike Pipher, NEC from the Detachment of Indiana.

I am unclear about something with this. Maybe you can help me, maybe Joe P. can chime in on this. The potential changes to be made, I assume the changes would be made prior to the NEC voting on any of these resolutions? That seems unclear to me. Joe, can you help us with that?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Sure. Let me back up. The origin of this resolution is from Massachusetts. However, the real origin of this resolution is a complementary if not an exact extract from The American Legion resolution that was approved in 1963, to allow the administrative individual of the organization, that being the national adjutant, to correct basic, simple, anything from grammatical issues to, you know, a word in there is not truly the intent, a typo, a miss, whatever it is, is not intended, nor it is allowed to be, changing the intention of whatever the topic of the resolution is.

Example, it can't go from, just the resolution we just talked about on the 50th commemoration, going from 9 members to 15 members arbitrarily. That would change the intention of the resolution. You couldn't change the length of time that they work, you couldn't change the reason why the committee, commission, or any action of the resolutions is being taken.

So, it is truly an innocent ability to provide the adjutant the ability to clean up, clarify, and address it. It has been taking place for years and years and years, and there is no change to the intent whatsoever. This is not a resolution authorizing the adjutant to change anything that the resolution was intended to address or the outcome of what that resolution is.

The instance of it occurring is going to minimal. But I will tell you, from my experience, there has been post review of a Subcommittee on Resolution, post review of a commission, that you read the resolution and you say, "Oh, wait a minute, that word is not correct, it's a typo. That paragraph is not correct. The grammar is not correct in there. Change it and improve it."

That's the entire intent of this resolution. Again, it reflects virtually fully the resolution adopted by The American Legion back in 1963 and which they've been operating on for the last 50 years.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COOK: Mr. Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Hold on. Chair recognizes Chris Cook.

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER COOK: Thank you, Commander. Chris Cook, national vice commander.

I make a motion to amend the resolution to be read as followed. The amendment would be an extension onto the "resolved." The final part would be "Resolution emanates," and then "the publishing the corrected and original resolution in electronic form to the body of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion."

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It is recorded someplace, but you have a perfect example there, I believe you spelled "emanate" wrong.

Nonetheless, yes. It's NEC's decision. You have a motion on the floor and a second, you have an amendment to the resolution to add to the final piece of it, which I believe was up on screen. I don't have it anymore so I can't reread it for anybody.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We have it over here.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: At this point we will vote on the amendment only. We have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second to pass this amendment?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: J.R. Stillwell's hand is still up.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The chair recognizes J.R. Stillwell.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STILLWELL: Mr. Commander, I was looking at what was said here with one slight correction which was made earlier in relation to the

reference of where the first national convention was and its year. We're still talking about correcting that without having the other -- because the first national convention was in Chicago rather than in Milwaukee, that they were talking about, and I believe that's the proper thing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is a different resolution, J.R.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: But he's using an example that would support the need for this. The "whereas" clause is not the "resolved" clause. The "resolved" clause are that which makes the action take place.

But we do not have a second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: I call on Ron Roberts, Detachment of Mississippi.

NECMAN R. ROBERTS: Yes, Mr. Commander. I'll second the motion of the amendment, and then would like to get involved in the discussion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chris Cook has made an amendment to our initial resolution. It is seconded by Ron Roberts, Detachment of Mississippi. Is there any discussion on the amendment?

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: On behalf of the commander, it's hard to read the screen up here. This is from Chris Cook, this is that he's suggesting for the amendment, Resolution, quote, "emanates, and then publishing the corrected and original in electronic form to the body of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion." That's the end of the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: The chair recognizes Jay Cook.

ANECMAN J. COOK: Yeah, sorry I had my hand up for the second. I'll put it back down.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Ron Roberts.

NECMAN R. ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. Commander. My comment is, according to this amendment, all we're asking for is the original and the corrected resolution be submitted to the NEC; is that correct?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: That would be my interpretation of what the amendment as written is saying, yes. I would personally write it differently than this, but yes, that is, I believe, the intent of the amendment.

NECMAN R. ROBERTS: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Is there any other discussion on the amendment? Any other discussion on the amendment?

Hearing no other questions, I'm going to call for a vote. All those in favor saying, signify by raising your hand aye.

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: We're going to do a roll call?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: He can do, indeed, a voice vote, which it looks like is being responded to very well with a lot of hands going up.

So, congratulations, NECmen, you did a great job.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Good job, NEC.

Do we have a count?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Commander, you are the one that makes a call of yea or nay. Looking down here, I see a lot of hands up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's 23 hands up. Now 25.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: We now have 25 votes, Mr. Commander, which we will recognize as ayes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any objections? Signify.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: You have to clear all your hands out.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, erase all your hands.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: If everybody will lower their hand, it takes time. It looks like we're clear.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Everybody is clear now. Those opposed to the amendment will now raise your hand.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: There appears to be no hands raised, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We see no objections to the inclusion of the passage of the amendment. So, moved.

Now we will read the original resolution with the amendment added.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Just the "resolved" clause, please, where the amendment was made.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Do you want me to read that, Commander?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes, sir, if you can.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, sir, got it.

**“RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That the National Adjutant be, and hereby is empowered and directed to make such changes in resolutions as may be necessary to eliminate factual misstatements or language inconsistent with the clear intent of the resolution when taken as a whole, and as evidenced by the deliberation**

**of the body from which such resolution emanates, and then publishing the corrected and original resolution, in an electronic form, to the body of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion.”**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings makes a motion to adopt Resolution NEC2021-S-5 as amended. Is there a second?

Mark Cannito, South Carolina.

NECMAN CANNITO: Marking Cannito, NEC, South Carolina. I second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

Is there any discussion on the resolution with the amendment added?

David Blair. Chair recognizes David Blair. Star six, David.

NECMAN BLAIR: Okay. Yeah, my hand didn't come back down. I was going to second it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

Is there any other discussion on this resolution?

If there is no objection, the resolution as amended is adopted by unanimous consent.

Thank you, gentlemen.

*...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Jennings read the following resolution:*

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

**Held on  
April 24, 2021  
Resolution**

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**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring, 2021  
**Title:** Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader

**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

WHEREAS, The remembrance and celebration of a Past National Commander, and other popular leaders of the organization, who pass into Squadron Everlasting draws many people who want to pay their respect, and it needs to be recognized with proper distinction; and

WHEREAS, There has been limited, and loosely defined guidance previously provided; and

WHEREAS, The lack of proper protocol and procedures have caused confusion and lessened the ability for proper and significant recognition of the contributions of the accomplishments of our Past National Commanders and other significant leaders of the organization; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion, in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24, 2021, That a National Policy and Procedure titled Significant Leader Funeral or Memorial Service, be adopted and placed in the Sons of The American Legion Administrative Manual; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, For a Past National Commander Funeral or Memorial Service, that the National Representative for a deceased Past National Commander shall be another Past National Commander selected in advance, if predetermined, by the deceased in order of preference and availability, and if there is none available, then the procedure for selecting a National Representative for other Significant Leaders shall be followed; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the sequence of representation selection for other Significant Leaders begin with the sitting National Commander. If he is unable to attend, he shall appoint a National Vice Commander or the closest Past National Commander (who is not from the same Detachment). If neither of those individuals is available, he may choose from other National Officers; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the National Representative for a deceased Significant Leader, selected by the standing National Commander and his advisors, or for a Past National Commander, selected in the manner previously described in this resolution and approved by the Subcommittee of the Sons of The American Legion, through the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, be allowed reasonable and appropriate travel expenses (travel per diem and potentially lodging), not to exceed standard guidance established by The American Legion's Travel Division; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That these revisions be implemented effective immediately, with record of the Policy and Procedure for Past National Commander Funeral or Memorial Service and the Policy and Procedure for Significant Leader Funeral or Memorial Service being filed**

**at National Headquarters and with the National Adjutant for placement into the National Administrative file.**

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

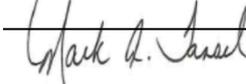
Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

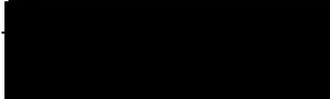
Other Action

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. TANSEL (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



JOHN F. JENNINGS (FL), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

Finance Commission Chairman Signature

**[Commission Meeting 03/30/2021]**

DENNIS M. BLUE (MN), Vice-Chairman  
Finance Commission

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: As a member of the National Executive Committee, I make a motion to adopt NEC2021-S-6.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Note that, J.J. read one word wrong, it is "potentially lodging," not "partial lodging."

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: John Jennings makes a motion to adopt Resolution NEC2021-S-6. Is there a second?

Chair recognizes Reverend Glander.

NECMAN GLANDER: Tom Glander, NEC Alabama, seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Tom.

Is there any discussion?

Chair recognizes Doc Gibbs.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes. We'd like to make an amendment to the "resolved" clause of this resolution.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: PNC, remember that you're not a voting member of the NEC, therefore you cannot make a motion to do an amendment. You can offer an amendment up, but we'll need that to be recorded and the formal motion come from a voting member of the NEC.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Certainly. It's rather lengthy, so if you can bear with me while I reread the "resolved" clauses.

**"RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on April 24th, 2021, that a National Policy and Procedure titled 'Significant Leader Funeral or Memorial Service' be adapted and placed in The Sons of The American Legion Administrative Manual; and, be it further**

**"RESOLVED, For a Past National Commander Funeral or Memorial Service, the National Representative for the deceased Past National Commander shall be another Past National Commander selected in advance by the deceased in order of preference and availability, and if there is none available, then the procedure for selecting a National Representative For other significant leaders shall be followed; and, be it further**

**"RESOLVED, That the sequence of representation selection for other Significant Leaders begin with the sitting National Commander. If he is unable to attend, he shall appoint a National Vice Commander or the closest Past National Commander (who is not from the same detachment). If neither of those individuals is available, he may choose from other National Officers; and, be it further**

**"RESOLVED, That the National Representative for the deceased Significant Leader, selected by the standing National Commander and his advisors, or for a Past National Commander, selected in the manner previously described in this resolution and**

**approved by the Subcommittee of The Sons of The American Legion, through the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, be allowed reasonable and appropriate travel expenses (travel per diem, and potentially lodging), not to exceed standard guidance established by The American Legion's Travel Division; and, be it finally**

**"RESOLVED, That these revisions be implemented effective immediately, with the record of the Policy and Procedure for the Past National Commander Funeral or Memorial Service and the Policy and Procedure for Significant Leader Funeral or Memorial Service being filed at National Headquarters and with the National Adjutant for placement into the National Administrative file."**

Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Before we move forward. It's been a while; it's been two years. So as the immediate past national commander, Doc, you, in fact, do have a voice and a vote. So, you may offer this up as an amendment. So that is appropriate.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I do offer this as an amendment to the resolution.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: And if I understand it from listening, primarily you are changing the first "resolved" clause and adding another "resolved" clause after the first "resolved" clause? Is that the action?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Yes.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Have those notes been delivered to us in some written form?

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: No.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Doc, are you able to deliver those to us in written form so we can make sure they get properly adjusted if so, the amendment is accounted for?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I can do that, yes.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: That needs to happen so they be submitted to the Internal Affairs subcommittee, which will take place faster than our court reporter will be able to get us our notes, I am certain.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Not a problem.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Immediate Past National Commander Doc Gibbs has offered an amendment to resolution NEC2021-S-6. Is there a second to Immediate Past National Commander Doc Gibbs' amendment?

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: Chris Cook, in the chat, has seconded.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: National Vice Commander Chris Cook has seconded.

Is there any discussion on the amendment? Chair recognizes Byron Robichaux.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBICHAUX: My thing is just to kind of discuss why this was brought up as such, is in looking at the old process that was kind of on file, but not written and put anywhere. The PNC passed away, instead of the sending the nearest PNC, it was always an effort to basically send a past national commander that would have a greater connection to the person who passed away. And the way the resolution was written, it says simply "the nearest PNC." The nearest PNC may not be the person who has the best knowledge or connection to the person who may have passed away.

And in the past, when people like Royce and others have died, even though it wasn't written, the policy as it existed simply said that, after the commander, would be a PNC, and then the vice commanders and so forth would come afterwards. So therefore, that's the reason for the adjustment and the change.

So, it's simply kind of reshuffling of words and kind of adding that "resolved" clause.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

Chair recognizes Earl Thompson. Star six, Earl.

NECMAN SUTTERLIN: I'm not Earl Thompson, but this is Bill Sutterlin, NEC Ohio. You keep calling Thompson every time I put my hand up.

Just a question on this here, when this amendment is made, is all NECs going to get a copy of this once it's redone?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: It will because it will become a permanent record of the minutes that get distributed, so yes. Doc proposed the change in amendment, so I'm going to leave it to the responsibility of PNC Gibbs to make sure that the adjutant and the commander and our liaison get a copy of the changes so they can properly get it presented come Monday.

It looks like a thumbs up from PNC Gibbs, so I think we're good.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes David Faust.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER D. FAUST: Commander, thank you. I was just wanting to acknowledge, and it has already been mentioned, that the proposed amendment has been emailed to everybody on this call. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you. Chair recognizes Tony Wright.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Commander, I just want to let everyone know that you did receive the new change of the wording into that particular resolution, and National Adjutant Hicks and National Judge Advocate Paviglianti have both been copied on it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

So, we have a motion and a second to approve the amendment offered by Past National Commander Doc Gibbs. Is there any other discussion?

The amendment has been offered. All those in favor signify by raising your hand aye.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: Unanimous consent. It needs to be adopted by unanimous consent.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Well, if there are no objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

John, you want to repeat the resolution with the amendment?

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: I don't have all of it in front of me. Commander, I would be glad to. I could read it to a point and then PNC Gibbs could pick it up from that point.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: I don't think there's a necessity for that. I believe everybody has the essence of what it is. We have received copies via email. Adjutant Wright has an email, and I trust that it reflects everything that Doc said. So, let's move on.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. John Jennings has made a motion to adopt the Resolution NEC2021-S-6 as amended. Is there a second?

Chair recognizes Bob Brown for a second.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: I believe, haven't we already voted on the resolution?

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: We voted on the amendment.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We voted on the amendment, Bob. This is on the resolution with the amendment added.

Are you seconding it, Bob?

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: I will second it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Bob Brown seconds the resolution, NEC2001-S-6 as amended.

Chair recognizes Dennis Henkemeyer.

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC Minnesota. My hand was up originally because I wanted to second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you. Is there any other discussion on this?

Chair calls on Bill Sutterlin. Star six, Bill.

NECMAN SUTTERLIN: That was from when my hand was up the last time. I was asking about, you know, once this was passed, if a copy would be sent out to NECs.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Bill.

Any other discussion?

If there are no objections, the resolution is adopted by unanimous consent.

### **Appointments to the 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Commemoration Committee**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: With the adoption of Resolution NEC2021-S-2, we have created 50th Convention Commemoration Committee, reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission. If there is no objection. I appoint the following members to serve on the committee:

As chairman will be PNC Joe Gladden. Vice chairman will be Chuck Treat.

Committeemen will be Past National Commander Robert McBride, Past National Commander Christopher Cerullo, Past National Commander J.R. Stillwell, Assistant Adjutant Robert Avery, Bill Towns from the Detachment of Ohio, and PNC David Faust from the Detachment of Wisconsin. That is an even number. There will be one other one. I spoke with Leading Candidate Michael Fox to fill these last few spots, and we are just awaiting confirmation back from those individuals.

At this time, those are my appointments for this committee so that they can get started on the work necessary to celebrate our 50th Convention Commemorative Convention in 2022 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Are there any discussions on those appointments?

Hearing no objections, the appointments of the members to serve on the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee in the positions designated are approved by unanimous consent.

I call on National Legislative Chairman Tom Deal for his report. Public Media and Communication Division is on deck.

### **Oral Report of Legislative Commission**

#### **Thomas Deal, Chairman, Maryland**

Thank you, Commander. The Legislative Commission met on March 15th on a Zoom call. The minutes are published for your review.

I do want to emphasize about the George B. Evans Veterans Advocate of the Year Award. It is now open for submissions from now until 30 days before the national convention. Please find someone in your state that's doing the work and submit them for this great award.

We need a lot of submissions. You guys need to make it hard for us to do our job in picking an award.

Also, as the commander stated, I am asking you to sign up for VoterVOICE by going to the legion.org website, under legislative, and sign up for these alerts. It's very important. And get your family members to sign up. Get your wife, your spouse, whoever, to sign up as well. We need more people to sign up. It's just not happening. I've been preaching it for a while, but for some reason you're not doing it. It's very easy. If you need help, call me, I'll walk you through it. It's very, very easy.

The next thing we talked about was the new legislative agenda was published, and two items that the Legislative Commission are supporting is addressing toxic exposure and burn pits, and citizenship for honorable service. If you want to support one of those two or if you pick one of your own, please do something. Okay? Find something that's dear to you and talk to your senators, your congressmen, and ask where they stand. See if you can get them to side with The American Legion and help our veterans with these issues.

There's about 11 issues on the legislative agenda, so pick one, find out about it. There's point papers available. If you can't find them, shoot me an email, I'll send them to you. They talk about all these items that are addressed in length. So, it's very good, and you need to support them.

I want to thank all the commission members in the legislative for their hard work. I do want to announce them. Vice Chairman Mike Monserud, Bernie Kessler from Ohio, Bill Kelly from Florida, David Lee from New York, and Richard Humphrey from Colorado. And Assistant Adjutant David Ridenour, we give him a great big thank you for all the work he does, the minutes and everything for our meetings. He does a very good job.

And with that, that's all I have, Mr. Commander, that's my report.

*...Commission Chairman Deal submitted the report of the Legislative Commission.*

## Legislative Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm EDT on March 15, 2020 as a conference call

by Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD)

### Roll Call:

Chairman: Thomas G. Deal (MD)

Vice: Mike Monserud (IA)

Chairman:

Secretary: David Ridenour (IN)  
National Assistant Adjutant

Liaison: Michael Moss (CO)  
Past National Commander

Guests:

Members: Bill Kelly, Jr. (FL)

Richard L. Humphrey (CO)

David Lee (NY)

Bernie Kessler (OH)

PR Liaison:

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Deal declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

### Reports of Members:

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) Started off by announcing our George B Evans Advocate of the Year Award is still going to happen every year. We need nominees and they have to be in 30 days before convention. They need to be sent to Chairman Tom Deal (MD) or Adjutant Wright. We would love to see a bunch of nominations. There are a lot of guys doing a lot of work behind the scenes right now. If you're doing it from home, let's get those guys recognized, we know there's a lot of people out there working hard for the legislative representatives. Please try to keep these individuals in mind. The American Legion Legislative Action Center is where you need to go to find out any information. He wants everybody to all get on voter voice you haven't signed up for voter voice already, go and sign up for voter voice at: <https://votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>. They will send you alerts as they need special bills or something coming up, so that we can get you to contact your representative and let them know that voter voice is very important. Washington conference was virtual this year and Commander Oxford did testify before Congress. We have received the legislative agenda with 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. This Commission has a resolution we wanted to work on. The resolution for the Legislative Commission to get a call in Washington conference was one that we did rewrite. Commission members had a conference call last week to iron out a few things. Since then, Chairman Tom Deal (MD) has discussed it with some of the SAL leaders and at this time he does not recommend that we submit this resolution. He feels that at this time it will not be received well, the way it is written. He believes we need more visibility. It is important that we do the Wreath Laying and he is very honored to do and hopes it does not go away. At this time, he wants to make the numbers, to not the submit this resolution.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) asked all the members on the Commission and they voted not to submit the resolution as written. You can get a copy of the Agenda online at

<https://www.legion.org/publications/226221/american-legions-legislative-agenda>

Point Papers at

[https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/2021%20Legislative%20Point%20Papers\\_0.pdf](https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/documents/2021%20Legislative%20Point%20Papers_0.pdf)

You can draw down a copy of the Agenda and Point Papers. They will give you a little more information about what these items are that we're prepared to talk about. He ask you to see the agenda and point paper find something you are interested in, learn about it, and then talk to your senators and try to get them on board with one of these items.

First up will be Vice Chairman Mike Monserud (IA) who will talk about the toxic exposure and burn pits.

Vice Chairman Mike Monserud (IA) He served overseas. He was over there, bring the last eight months to what these burn pits are. Everything we have for waste and that means from human waste to plastic to clothing that got damaged when we're out doing missions or anything that you can imagine, we basically put in these big pits that the engineers dug for us. We dumped JP five JP eight jet fuel on this stuff, we lit them on fire. Now, you're in a desert, where, you know, no trees and the stuff just travels, so we all breathe this stuff in. This isn't new. I mean they were doing this in the first Gulf War. I know they did in Vietnam because my uncle told me stories when he was in Vietnam and this happened. This is a problem. And unfortunately, we had to do it because it was the only way to get rid of this stuff other than packaging up and send it back to the States. And when you leave over there in the desert. You have to go through these things called agricultural warships and where they go through and they like a check for sand and dirt and critters and everything so the best way for us to get rid of everything before we came home was to burn it. We all took turns stirring the pot. We all breathe this nasty black tar stuff that just hung over our heads. It doesn't matter if you're in a pot or not, you breathe it, and it's there now to find the deal we're burning carcinogens and everything else and it's causing cancer. So, I think as a legislative commission. We need to push this agenda that we recognize. This is a problem, and it's been going on since Vietnam, and we need to help the veterans that have attracted cancer and every other side disease from this stuff. There's all sorts of issues that it's caused, and they are not just really apprehensive to jump on board and start treating it yet. Because they want to do more studies, so he thinks we need more help from the American Legion and the VA to get behind this and make a big push for it.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) We do appreciate your service and we hope we can help you get this passed. We ask all of you if this is something dear to you, please try to talk to your congressmen and senator to get something done about this issue. See if we can help Mike and all the veterans.

David Lee (NY) Talked about citizenship of our veterans. He quoted the American Legion Resolution No. 15: Expedited Citizenship Through Military Service; and he read a couple of the whereas, at the very beginning of it and it says,

Whereas, Between 2009 and 2016, the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest Program (MAVNI) allowed with approximately 10,400, non-citizens to join the military, in lend critical language and medical skills to our country's defense, and that's the key part of this discussion, We're talking to numbers of assistance for non-citizens that joined our military. And when you go into countries. You need to have people with the language to communicate, maybe with local people or to do whatever we need to do. It was extremely important, and they also brought medical skills to the military. Another whereas that I highlighted here is the overwhelming majority of deported veterans who have been interviewed, considered the US their home. These aren't people running from anywhere. They came here to fight for the US because they believe in the United States of America. They've dedicated themselves to promote the United States of America by joining the military. And then, two more I'm going to read here real quickly. Many deported veterans have said they believe that their service automatically conferred citizenship. So, there wasn't the understanding of the process that needed to be done. And when they left the military service, they were deported. For some of them, and they thought while they were in the service it was taken care of, which was not of the list of immigrants who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of their new country is long and distinguished. So, they even lies, that's what we have to recognize this is what this is about this process started all the way back, he made a little bit more research, it says the immigrants have enlisted branches of the US military beginning in the Revolutionary War for more than

half of all military recruits from 1840 and 20% in the Civil War. So, the numbers just kept growing. There's with between the veterans joining, and the other parts of the immigrants coming into the military service is bigger than 13% of all veterans that are in this category, which is, again, another extremely large number of immigrants thinking about the size of our military. There's three advantages for foreign born service members apply for US citizenship. Once you go into the military, number one it's a shorter residency requirement, only need one-year honorable service before they can apply. If you're doing it as just a normal person walking off the street, it takes three years. No state of residence requirements, eligible Foreign born Service members do not need to meet this requirement. And they also waived application fees with this process, which could be a total of around \$800 in fingerprinting and processing of everything. So, as you can see, with them joining the service, they were doing a duty for the United States of America, and we should recognize the service they did, and show respect to them, and push for them to get there and become citizens of the United States. And this needs to be set up on bases and locations around the country and around the world. When they're in the service when they're processing going to work. They can take these courses, and have it completed before they even leave the area. And that's a key part of this whole discussion is to make sure they have the ability to get the paperwork in the process completed before they get out.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) said this is just one of the items we think is very worthwhile cause. They all are very worthwhile causes. In some work and others, feel free to jump on. Look at the point papers, look at the legislative agenda. Read it. Absolutely, please contact your Senators and Congressmen talk to them about it and see where they stand a lot of these do not have a bill number yet they're still working. Once they do the American Legion does try to put that out. He has been sending out weekly legislative updates on every Friday. Now, like I said that's got it on information as to what bills are coming up and what they worked on this week.

Mr. David Lee (NY) also made a cheat sheet that can be sent to members that would like to read a little more on this subject.

Mr. Bill Kelly (FL) said he has been in touch with his representative Al Larsen, who is the Florida Fifth District also have spoken with Rick Scott and Marco Rubio, Senators both they all have their legislative assistants that find it's much easier to speak with the legislative assistant, than it is the representative. It's great to have your picture taken with the senator or the representative. But when it comes to getting down to brass tacks legislative representative is the one that the representative or senators going to listen to come time when the information comes up on the floor. Last year we had a very good talk with Dr. Dunn, he's in the second district of Florida. He's the one of the representatives, he's a military person, a former military doctor. He's on the VA committee. One of the things he found out this year was, as we all assume that our representatives are getting the legislative updates. He talked with the Legislative Update for Al Larson, the legislative representative for hours and they did not receive it, so I forwarded it on to them, and had a chance to discuss it with them personally. It's important that you follow up. When you send the representatives, even an email, so they understand what you're saying and who you're representing in the organization.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) said that was a very good point. You can send these drop sheets to your congressmen and senators. If you send any of your congressmen or senator email you will get some kind of email back saying we received this or they will send something later. But they do usually send some automatic receipt, you got to keep in mind. That if you don't get that automatic response on time again. Check with them and make sure they got your email it is very important. Sometimes the emails get lost.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) Did say Happy Birthday to the American Legion it is our 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday today.

Everybody if you want a whole lot of more information on certain bills you can go to [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) you can find out anything there any bill. If you type veterans issues it will get about two million hits. You have to kind of narrow it down to something you're looking for besides veterans issues. You can find any of your representatives, get their names, address, phone numbers, contact as well.

**Old Business:**

Discussion about slides they have some old ones that was submitted to strategic planning. David Lee (NY) said they have someone that was interested in updating them and asked if he could let the process get started and make it look new. Chairman Deal (MD) said that he was interested if he wanted to do it. He will get the old slides to him for he can change them, update them and add to them new them.

Chairman Deal (MD) said that S.A.L. Resolution 12 – Fall, 2020 regarding call-In approval for the S.A.L National Chaplain to the Washington Conference was returned to the Commission by the N.E.C. at the Fall Meeting, pending the outcome of The American Legion's call-ins review.

**New Business:**

None.

**Resolutions:**

Last year we submitted resolutions for National Chaplain and National Legislative Commission to get call-ins for Washington Conference and were rejected. We worked on revising them this year but have decided not to move forward on those resolutions at this time.

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

NVC Ned Fox, He wanted to thank you and all your members. He really appreciates all the hard work that you've been doing and is looking at some point when we can all get together.

NVC Chris Cook (OK) He wanted to thank all the Commission members all the hard work you have been doing this year and the previous year. Remember this has been two years running, I just want to thank you all for all the good work that you're doing.

Adjutant Tony Wright (PA) Thank you very much, Chairman to you and your commission. He thanks you guys for the work and dedication that you put in, year in, year out, especially during this year with our pandemic.

Americanism Chairman Donald Hall Thank you, Tommy and your commission for all the work you guys do, you do a great job and get that information weekly to everybody. And I want to thank each and every one for their comments tonight. Thanks for everyone for their service and happy birthday to the American League.

Mr. John Clark said last year when we could really go to Congress. He actually went and did while a legionnaire and actually talked to a representative from the state of Washington. And she was very knowledgeable about the burn pits, as well as when he served over there in 2006 so he knew exactly what was out there just like Mike and so she was very knowledgeable and that was my particular point with her. So, there are congressmen, and she's a strong advocate. So, we do have support over there I think all to do is to let them know that we out here are concerned about it and would like them to push a little bit more. Some of them do know what is going on. We'd like them to really push a little bit more. Some of them do know what's going on. And I think we just need to let them know.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) said he likes stories like that, and he hopes that you are still trying to get an appointment with your congressmen and senator wherever they are DC or back home to discuss items like that. You can even get a meeting with them in their office in your state.

Commander Bolt (VA) Thank you Chairman Tom, I appreciate it. Good evening, gentlemen. Was that the Washington conference, starting on Monday that week I hope all of you got to at least some of the Zoom meetings every day. There were great speakers a lot of information was presented was not like in person, but it still went on, we still got the information out important information. The new VA Secretary spoke. Great to hear him for the first time, and we look forward to working with him at the VA on all matters pertaining to our veterans. Wow, toxic exposure. Vice Chairman Mike would you describe it like that, exactly the way it was when you were stationed there that paints quite an indelible picture in my mind as

to what you and every one of your fellow service members went through and also NEC from Washington John Clark your service too, we thank you for your service. Mike is right that the American Legion is advocating for greater disability benefits. All those veterans that where in and around those pits and even in close proximity downwind it's an important issue. They are experiencing any health difficulties and they need our support. But I thank you Mike for being very graphic in your description tonight I appreciate that. The only other thing I would have with Mr. Chairman would be the 17-page point pages that you spoke about in your opening remarks. I would like for you if you could send that link out to everybody, so that we can all access that 17-page report for all the members. With that, thank you all for, for everything that you did. Planning this past Washington conference, we will be getting on track next year he feels certain of it. He feels confident that each one of you will do outstanding, with the Sons of The American Legion.

Chairman Tom Deal (MD) We appreciate every one's time tonight. It is very important to get a hold of our congressmen and senators and hold them accountable.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD) adjourned the meeting  
at 7:38 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Tom Deal?

Are there any questions for Chairman Tom Deal?

If there are no objections, the Legislative Commission report will be accepted by unanimous consent as published.

I call upon national Public & Media Communications Commission chairman Seth Rippe for his report. VA&R is on deck.

**Oral Report of the Public and Media Communications Commission**

**Seth Rippe, Chairman, Nebraska**

Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Mr. Commander, past national commanders, distinguished guests, and fellow Sons, I know it's been an unprecedented year, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and many of our states have relaxed our guidelines that will allow our squadrons to start doing traditional activities again.

I also want to commend those squadrons and individuals who have found new creative ways over the last year to promote the programs of The American Legion family. We need to recognize those individuals and thank them for their efforts. We also need to get back out into our communities and let them know that we're still here and remind them who we are.

I want to thank the members of the Public & Media Communications Commission: Brandon Roberts, Doug Evans, Ken Chaplin, Mark McCue, our webmaster Gene Theroux and National Update editor Matt Parsons. I also want to thank the national headquarters staff for their support this last year.

You have the minutes from the spring NEC commission call so I won't read those in the interest of time, but I do want to call attention to a couple of items the commission needs your help with.

The first is, we will be sending out an email asking for young members between the ages of 12 and 20 to volunteer to participate on a virtual panel this summer with the goal of soliciting ideas from them on how to attract younger members.

The second will be a survey to collect ideas on retaining younger members and put it together as best practice to be shared across the detachments.

Both of these are to assist in completing an action item assigned to the PMCC in the strategic plan.

Finally, I want to put a plug in for our electronic newsletter. If you have not signed up for it, you can do so under [legion.org/newsletters](http://legion.org/newsletters). I want to thank Mr. Parsons for his effort in moving this to an electronic format so it can be more widely distributed, more often, and with minimal cost to the national organization.

But he and national headquarter staff cannot put that publication together without your help. We need content. If you have ideas for articles or you want to share with the organization what you have been doing at your squadron, please send those details and pictures to Matt at Matt, M-A-T-T, .F.parsons, that's P-A-R-S-O-N-S @gmail.com (matt.f.parsons@gmail.com).

Sir, this concludes my remarks.

*...Commission Chairman Rippe submitted the report of the Public Media and Communications Commission.*

## **Public and Media Communications Commission**

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 23, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE) .

### **Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Seth A. Rippe (NE)</u> Vice Chairman: <u>Mark McCue (MA)</u> Secretary: <u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u> National Assistant Adjutant Liaison: <u>Thomas Cisna (IL)</u> Past National Commander Guests: National Liaison Ken George (FR); Mike Holley (MI); NC Clint Bolt (VA); NVC-M Chris Cook (OK); NVC-W Ned Fox (CA); LC Michael Fox (CA); Brian Compton (IN); LeRoy Gonzales (MN)	Members: <u>Brandon Roberts (GA)</u> <u>Doug Evans (KS)</u> <u>Kevin Chaplin (VA)</u> <u>[vacant]</u> <u>Matt Parsons (CA), Nat'l Update Editor</u> <u>Gene Theroux (MA), Webmaster</u>
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Chairman Rippe asked all to uncover and observe a moment of silence in memory of long-time Commission member and former chairman Damon Bradtmueller (IN) who transferred to Squadron Everlasting on October 6, 2020.

### **Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Rippe declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

### **Reports of Members:**

Chairman Rippe thanked all present for taking time to join the call. He noted that we are now finally seeing some states relax their guidelines for group activities and our squadrons should be able to start resuming more usual activities. He also commended those who have found creative ways to carry on the programs of The American Legion Family in these trying times and noted they should be recognized for their efforts. We all need to get back out into our communities and remind people of who we are.

***National Update*** – Editor Matt Parsons reported that things are moving along, we simply need content all the time. He is reaching out to some squadrons he knows of who are trying different things to share with our national audience. These ideas can help increase our visibility in our communities. Work is advancing

on the publication of the *National Update* electronically, and he particularly recognized Andy Profit of the national staff for his help.

**National Website** – Webmaster Gene Theroux stated he has been publishing all items to the website and Facebook quickly upon receipt from Brian Compton and Ken George. The new Annual Squadron Data Report (SDR) was just signed-off this afternoon and it will be published tonight or tomorrow, along with the fillable PDF version of the CSR form. He is working on getting links to older issues of the *National Update* posted to the website. We may need to work on a release form for the use of photos in our digital media postings. National Liaison Ken George noted that the existing release form for the Legion is acceptable for this purpose.

National Liaison Ken George directed everyone's attention to <https://legion.org/newsletters> as the main page to subscribe to any of the Legion or Sons electronic publications. Vice Chairman Mark McCue asked about the possibility of getting a more-direct URL to the Sons main page on the website, as it is somewhat difficult to find now unless you know where you're going already. Ken replied that we will see how things look after the launch of the new website in April.

Vice Chairman Mark McCue asked about the process on the website to search for a squadron near an interested member, along the lines of the post locator function. Ken replied that the staff is working on adding SAL and ALR attributes to the search tool, and more options will be available on the new website with the upgraded back-end system.

#### **Old Business:**

Chairman Rippe provided an update on the action items assigned to the Commission from the Strategic Plan.

- 4.A – Develop a marketing approach for SAL to attract corporate donations
  - Intent: Highlight youth activities to increase program awareness
  - Core Values Attested: Innovation; Positive Branding
  - Action: The SAL would identify corporations that have an interest in supporting their program. A proposal would be submitted to TAL Marketing Division to contact, evaluate and approve scope and parameters of the relationship. This commission did identify a list of eight potential companies who had a track record of supporting Veterans and Veterans organizations and sent those forward for review.
  - Update: Per Mike Rohan, The American Legion Marketing chairman, the Sons of The American Legion should not independently solicit corporate donates, rather refer any leads to The American Legion. In light of this we will no longer pursue corporate donations, only refer to The American Legion. -> **Remove from action plan.**
  
- 4.B – Develop a campaign to recruit and retain younger members (12-35)\*
  - Intent: Increase community impact and relevance of program
  - Core Values Attested: Innovation; Positive Branding; Membership Support
  - Action: Revamp the SAL phone app to include publications and promotional videos.
    - The SAL is putting development towards the current app on hold due to cost. The PMCC will develop a list of the top 5 features/functions that we would want on an app if we were to develop/buy a new app and will give that to National HQ for future reference. Kevin Chaplin will compile the list. -> **Complete.**
  - Action: Create additional social media accounts on Snapchat, Twitter, and Instagram. Appoint multiple administrators to regulate and update content.
    - We now have multiple administrators for the only approved social media platform, Facebook. TAL has a Twitter account, and it requires a lot of attention, such as multiple daily updates of new content and being responsive to posts/responses by other users. HQ staff does not have the bandwidth to do this at this time for us. Commission to conduct in depth study to identify scope, resources/cost, and return on investment. Proposal to be completed by Fall NEC.

- Action: The Public Relations Commission convene regular discussions via scheduled meetings and phone conferencing to discuss ideas on how to attract younger members. Solicit ideas from other commissions and committees.
  - Seth to send email to all Commission/Committee Chairmen asking for a description of what programs they have targeting younger members with the goal of creating a pamphlet and/or page on the SAL website outlining these programs. To be completed prior to Fall NEC 2021. Ongoing participation in Commission/Committee meetings to identify future opportunities.
- Action: Currently, there are very few stories submitted to the *National Update* newsletter. The publication should include a segment with articles and activities that appeal to younger readers, i.e., crossword puzzles, connect-the-dots, word search, etc.
  - With the newsletter moving to an electronic platform what can we do to create interest for younger members? Maybe a comic feature? Maybe articles written by younger members?
  - Branding that easily identifies the *National Update* as a SAL publication. Ken to follow-up with HQ Staff.
- Action: Develop a plan to conduct focus groups with younger SAL members in several different regions of the country, perhaps at a handful of detachment conventions where younger members are in attendance. The idea is to solicit information and ideas to attract younger members.
  - Seth to email NECmen asking for individuals from detachments to participate in a panel discussion. Email to be sent following Spring NEC 2021. Virtual panel discussion with 12-15 years old and 16-20 years old to be held summer of 2021. With ideas from panel presented at Fall NEC 2021.
- Survey detachments for “best practice” methods of attracting and retaining younger members. Share that information in articles published in the *National Update* newsletter.
  - PMCC to create survey to send to NEC. Will need a couple of volunteers to create a survey in the next couple of weeks. Survey to be sent following Spring NEC 2021.
- 4.C – Develop a campaign to promote SAL program to American Legion Family \*
  - Intent: Increase program awareness to TAL and ALA
  - Core Values Attested: Innovation; Positive Branding; Membership Support
  - Action: Create promotional videos with information of who the Sons of The American Legion are and what we represent. Post videos on multiple media platforms: myLegion.org/sons, youtube.com, and the SAL Facebook page.
  - Update: Matt volunteered during the Fall NEC call to create “this is who we are” videos to engage younger members by featuring current members to introduce the organization to them. These can be produced at no cost. Matt to work with HQ Staff.
  - Upload the same videos to thumb drives that can be distributed at events and members as a recruiting tool.
    - Not sure thumb drives are the most efficient cost-effective means to distribute videos. No longer considering.
  - Create an online library of S.A.L.-related videos, past and present, and promote its existence.
    - Videos are already posted to Facebook, website, and YouTube Channel. -> **Completed.**
  - Consider production of audio materials and make available for commercial radio opportunities.
    - TAL is not supportive of this. See update to 4.A. Productions such as these will be done as a family by TAL Marketing Department. -> **Remove.**
- 4.D – Develop SAL promotional videos\*
  - Intent: Increase awareness
  - Core Values Attested: Innovation; Positive Branding; Membership Support
  - Action: TAL Media and Communications Division (M&C) will assist in developing promotional videos to increase membership and create positive public relations by

covering SAL events. Plans are being made for the SAL Commander to coordinate with M&C by filming the Commander making public service announcements (PSA) to parallel what TAL's PSA's will be with National Commander Reistad. New PSA's will be completed three times a year. By having M&C do filming there will be no impact to the SAL budget. The Committee will have an opportunity at the Fall meetings to coordinate with M&C the ideas and goals of the Commission and the SAL.

- Commanders Gibbs and Bolt each did a few of these. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic prevented any from being created the last year, but this will resume next year. -> **Completed yearly.**
- 4.E – Develop videos to support SAL fundraising efforts \*
  - Intent: Increase donations to supported programs
  - Core Values Attested: Innovation; Positive Branding; Membership Support
  - Action: TAL M&C can assist with promotional videos in regard to fundraising efforts. Advance planning with M&C would be required. Also, legiontown.org can be utilized to post promotional content and local SAL events. M&C monitors this site on a regular basis. They follow up on stories that may have potential for additional press coverage and distribution. The PMCC will work with the National Commander to develop content for videos for each of his projects for the year. -> **Will be completed yearly by FALL NEC.**

#### **New Business:**

Chairman Rippe noted we have a vacancy on the Commission with the passing of Damon Bradtmueller and he is working with Past National Commander Ray Giehl's committee to identify a candidate to fill the position.

#### Snapshots of Service

- We need to create a release form to use photos. Ken George will supply the Chairman with a copy of the Legion's form to use.
- We need to create an online submission method, maybe using Dropbox or something similar. Mark McCue volunteered to create and monitor a new email address for submissions. The current form uses Damon's address and needs to be amended.

#### SAL Call Calendar

- Commission/Committee chairmen should continue to send out call-in invitations for their meetings if they are not open.
- Google Calendar should be used for open meetings.
- There is a concern about posting the call-in numbers on the public website.

#### **Resolutions:**

None.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) deferred his remarks to the Commission when invited to speak by Chairman Rippe after the opening but had to leave the call before the opportunity arose.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission participated in the discussions during the meeting and did not have any further comments.

#### **Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE) adjourned the meeting at 10:05 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you.

Are there any questions for Chairman Seth Rippe? Are there any questions for Chairman Seth Rippe?

If there are no objections -- chair recognizes Mark Cannito.

NECMAN CANNITO: Mark Cannito, NEC South Carolina.

Seth, on the young recruits for the committee, I have someone in mind. So how do we go about submitting that name to you, I guess?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RIPPE: Great question, Mark. We're going to send out an email specifically asking for individuals or for potential volunteers to your NECmen, and then we would like you to send that back, their contact information. So, we're going to be asking specifically what their age is, because we're going to break this down into two groups. I believe we decided the cutoff was going to be 12 to 15, and then 15 to 20. We're going to be asking for their age and some direct contact information. Then we'll get in touch with them and make sure that they would like to participate and make sure that we have them in the correct panel.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any other questions for Chairman Seth Rippe?

If there are no objections, the Public Media and Communications report will be accepted by unanimous consent.

I call upon National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Vice Chairman Joe Roberts for his report. Veterans Employment & Education Commission is on deck.

### **Oral Report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

**Joseph Roberts Vice Chairman, Arizona**

Thank you, Commander.

We, as a committee, met on March 1st, 2021, via Zoom. I'm not going to read the entire list because it, again, went on for over an hour. But I do want to highlight a few things I think are very important that we need to be aware of.

As we do on every call, VAVS representation is very important. We're trying to get as many reps and deps signed up as possible. We've made great strides in that. 2019 we had 31 officially. By the start of 2021, we were up to 51. Part of that was getting more people signed up, part of it was getting proper documentation and getting everybody properly recognized.

Unfortunately, with COVID, that caused some glitches where VAs were not open, therefore, they weren't able to have meetings, and members were being toggled off just by default. I believe at last count we're at 46 members, reps and deps nationwide, so we need to keep that in the forefront of our minds.

July 15th is rapidly approaching. That's the deadline for the squadron consolidated report. You've heard it before. Obviously, it's important to get the work that we do out there. But it's also what we use as a commission to come up with the Kepler Award, the O'Brian Award, the Webster Award for squadron, district, and detachment rehabilitation reporting respectively. So that's very important, we'd like to have more of that.

As well as we want -- our goal was at the beginning of the year to have one applicant from every detachment for the Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chairman Joe, excuse me. Could you speak up a little bit? We're having a volume problem with you.

COMMISSION VICE CHAIRMAN ROBERTS: Okay. I'll do my best. I'll speak up, I apologize.

And the Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award, which is our big one. Unfortunately, last year we only had one nominee. We'd really like to see that increase. Everybody has a guy in their detachment that is capable of, that's always at the VA, and we need to get them recognized. They do a lot of good work out there.

As always, there are other ways to support American Legion. Operation Comfort Warriors; Fisher House we donate a lot of money to; California has their Helmets for Heroes program. As you heard earlier, buddy checks, that's another important part of what we do.

Finally, I just want to end on a real positive note. One of our commission members, Dave Cinquegrana from the Detachment of New York, was named by the VA as the VAVS Volunteer of the Year. It's a nationwide award, it's really a big deal. So, I encourage you, if you talk to Gabe or you happen to run into him, make sure he gets some congratulations. That's a big honor for him and for the commission, so we're very proud of the work that Gabe does.

Commander, I think that concludes my report. I apologize for the volume issue.

*...Commission Vice Chairman Roberts submitted the report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.*

## **Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission**

### **Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 1, 2021 as a conference call

b Chairman Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL)  
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### **Roll Call:**

Chairman:	Harl D. "Butch" Ray (IL)	Members:	Steve Tansel (IN) - Excused
Vice Chairman:	Joseph E. Roberts (AZ)	:	Eddy Seegers (TX)
Secretary:	Scott A. Williams (VA)		Vacant
	National Assistant Adjutant		Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY)
Liaison:	Jim Hartman (MD)		
	Past National Commander		

Guests: Clint Bolt, SAL National Commander, William Slater, Jr., Buster Sutterlin (OH), Ken George (SAL Liaison), Nick Arceo (CO), Mike Holley, Jim Stewart, Brian Compton (SAL National Headquarters), Ned Fox (SAL NVC), Michael Fox (Leading Candidate), James Eubanks, John Clark (WA), Doug Bible (SAL PNC), Phil Stander (IL), Jeff Gibson (AR).

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Ray declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Ray (IL) – Gabe Cinquegrana (Commission Member – NY). has been named VAVS Volunteer of the Year – Male Volunteer of the Year. This is a significant accomplishment for the SAL. Congratulations from the entire organization. An article will appear in Legiontown and the SAL Website regarding Mr. Cinquegrana’s award. This has been forwarded to SAL Liaison, Ken George, and SAL National Commander Clint Bolt. We hope to publicize an article in Legion Magazine or a brief announcement of this accomplishment.

The new overall VA & R presentation has been updated with the importance, what VA & R does, Washington Conference, Annual goals, programs, VA & R Awards, National Advisory VA Council, general information, motivational tool for what our members can do, State VA and homeless veterans, Operation Comfort warrior. A Chairman’s Manual was completed to be shared with future SAL National VA & R Commission Chairmen. He shared a couple of the completed PowerPoint presentations with the attendees of this meeting. The presentations can be updated from year to year.

Chairman Butch also shared the VAVS presentation with the attendees. They can also serve as motivational tools for our membership. The VAVS Presentation was assembled by Gabe Cinquegrana.

Chairman Ray said that the commission has a goal to get at least one Charles Rigsby nomination from each Detachment this year. This year has been challenging due to the COVID-19 Virus and those volunteers who went above and beyond the call of duty should be nominated for this award. If a Detachment submits a nominee that is not awarded and the nominee continues to volunteer, he can be submitted again the following year with updated numbers.

Chairman Ray shared a link for those who provide Caregiver Support to a veteran family member or veteran parent. The website is: [www.caregiver.va.gov/support/Peer\\_Support\\_Mentoring\\_Program.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/Peer_Support_Mentoring_Program.asp)

COVID 19 information was sent out prior to this meeting.

Chairman Ray said we are now ready to train more in VA & R programs.

Chairman Ray talked about some of the other VA & R Programs – Fisher House provides housing for families for veterans who are in VA Hospitals across the country.

OCW or Operation Comfort Warrior is another program we support, started by PNC Jim Koutz (IN). Every dollar donated to this program goes directly to the care of a veteran where the money was donated.

Other programs we support at the VA include ‘My Life, My Story’, Warrior Transition Program, Women Rise, and Helmets for Heroes. Helmets for Heroes info for the Legion Family has spread across the country, and the program is going strong. It’s similar to the Piggy Banks for CWF, and it’s an easy one to work.

Chairman Ray talked about the need to promote the Consolidated Squadron Report Form to all of our Squadrons and the importance of reporting on the programs supported over the past year. National Awards will be given based on the reports submitted. They need to be submitted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of July.

Gabe Cinquegrana (NY) – VAVS & Eastern Region News – acknowledged his award. It is a lengthy process. He said this is something he enjoys doing. He talked about wanting to help veterans and honoring his father. After his father's death, he decided he would dedicate his life to serving veterans in memory of his father. He volunteers 3 days a week in the volunteer service office. This gives him the leg up on the information to help out the American Legion Family. As a result, 2 projects have now turned into AL Family projects at that VA facility. Thanked Commander Bolt for his inspiration to serve as a volunteer. He said that he will continue to do the best he can in serving the Veterans.

Update on Reps and Deps – 2019 SAL had 31 Reps and Deps – start of 2020 we had 51 Reps and Deps ended 2020 with 36 Reps and Deps. The fluctuations over the past few years were caused by many things. He contacted those Reps and Deps from the past 2 years requesting information from them. In addition, 7 have been added as correction and another 3 will be added by correction. We are at 46 Reps and Deps as of tonight. Three issues are causing the discrepancies on the reported number of Reps and Deps. First, American Legion has caused some problems where we are unable to get verifiable information to show SAL Reps and Deps creating no baseline to work from. He is trying to piece together missing information. Second, voluntary service offices. Some do not understand correct assignments are and how they are reported and do not understand the process of maintaining records of Reps and Deps. Third – VA Central Office. The reporting system used Nationwide (VSS – Voluntary Service System) is a weak system. There is an automatic process in that system a volunteer who does not report hours for 11 months where those individuals disappear from the system including the hours prior to becoming inactive. These are the issues that the Sons are finding. Four recommendations being made to Advisory Board to improve this process. We need some control of the process to report accurately.

He made recommendations to Chairman Butch. People have done great work. He sent names of those who are doing great work to the respective Detachment Commanders as potential candidates for Rigsby Award nominees.

A question-and-answer period followed his report.

Chairman Butch said that the commission will work with the American Legion to improve this process.

One recommendation being made is to not have volunteers toggled to inactive due to an extended period of inactivity through no fault of their own. Need an SAL Certifying Officer and having an unlimited service period or a 5- or 10-year service period.

Vice Chairman Joe Roberts (AZ) – Western Region – Congratulated commission member Cinquegrana on his award for National VAVS Volunteer of the Year. This has been a difficult year for VA and Volunteer work in general and everyone has stepped up to meet this challenge. Working with his own post doing 'Buddy Checks'. All records are straight and current for his Post.

Eddy Seegers (TX) – He said prayers were still needed for those in the Mid-West who suffered the after effects of the Ice Storm in February. The importance of Buddy Checks – emergency phone trees are used by other posts to check on their members. Great idea to check up on members well – being. Serving on the VA & R commission has been touching to him after his mother's death. He said we need to really focus on grass roots helping our veterans out in our communities.

PNC Douglas Bible thanked the commission for all of their efforts. He said that the commission needs to continue to work toward achieving its goals.

PNC Jim Hartman – Congratulated Gabe on his award. Thanked everyone for their prayers after his recent fall.

Nick Arceo (CO) – congratulated Gabe on his award. Great meeting tonight.

Buster Sutterlin – said some of the Veterans homes in Ohio are starting to open up to some additional patients in Ohio.

James Eubanks – appreciates all of the work the commission and organization is doing to support veterans.

SAL Liaison, Ken George – apologized for some of the technical glitches for this meeting. There are some areas where the Sons can champion and/or focus on. How can we better support the Legion in VA & R Programs?

**Old Business:**

The Rigsby application will be streamlined for the future. The application will include all work done by one individual in one membership year – July 1 to June 30 time frame. The Rigsby application needs to be simplified for future years. Chairman

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

**Resolutions:**

There were no resolutions for the Spring NEC.

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

National Commander Clint Bolt (VA) addressed the Commission. – Congratulated Gabe on his award. He will be bragging to Commander Oxford and President Nicole about Gabe’s accomplishments. This has made our organization a lot better. Thanked Chairman Butch on communications within the organization, especially during this difficult time with the Pandemic. Participated in the Washington Conference VE & E Meeting today. Will be participating in the VA & R Conference tomorrow. Commander Oxford, please read the ‘Know Before You Go’ for this year’s Legislative priorities. He encouraged us to reach out to our elected representatives to talk to them about our Legislative Priorities. We work as a family to make our veterans lives better.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He said he enjoyed listening to the meeting. He also likes that the commission is future focused. His grandfather was able to sit down one on one about his grandfather’s service through an interview with that veteran. Publicize it in the local newspaper. This has been a challenging year where we learned new things through this process.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Harl D. “Butch” Ray (IL) adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: That award that Gabe won is a competition against all VSOs in the VA voluntary system. That is a big deal, when you go up against all the volunteers of all the VSOs. This is the first time The Sons of The American Legion have ever won this award, and we're all very proud of Gabe and we look forward to properly recognizing him for this achievement at national convention in Phoenix.

Are there any questions for Vice Chairman Joe Roberts. Are there any questions for Vice Chairman Joe Roberts?

If there are no objections, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission report will be accepted as published by unanimous consent.

I call on National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Thom Skelley for his report. Subcommittee on Resolutions is on deck.

### **Oral Report of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission**

**Thomas "Thom" Skelley, Chairman, Texas**

Gentlemen, as you have the minutes of our spring meeting, the VE&E report will be a summation of what your commission has been involved in lately.

We, of course, have our own monthly conference calls, we have regional representatives that attend the NVC region calls. Resolution regularly send out information such as the weekly VE&E update from national. We send out details of local job fairs and stand down events. This provides the opportunity for squadrons to get involved this, and that's what we're looking for. We've said it before, we'll say it again, that we need boots on the ground --

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Mr. Chairman, excuse me sir, you're having a volume issue. Could you speak up some, sir?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Yes, Commander. Is this any better?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Hold on, Mr. Chairman. Okay, Mr. Chairman, try again, sir.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Test one two. Is this any better?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Not yet, no.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Not yet?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: There you go, that's much better.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Sorry about the closeup, guys.

Just to reinforce what we're saying, we need boots on the ground at these local events if we want to provide for our veterans the opportunity to make a better living, get off the streets, and reduce and eliminate homelessness.

That's why we strongly encourage each detachment to have their own VE&E committee. We have put together a suggested operating procedure on how and what to do, the responsibilities of such committee within each detachment.

We have also made it easier to find information regarding Veterans Employment & Education by having it placed under the Resources tab on the Sons' web page. Of course, that's [legion.org/Sons](http://legion.org/Sons).

Also, through the passing of the NEC and approval by The American Legion, we are pleased to announce the resolution to create the Marvin P. Nay Award has come to fruition. We will be accepting nominations through May 1st. The criteria, the nomination form and instructions can be found in the adjutant's communication section and the resources tab on our website as well.

This award is going to give national recognition to a Sons member for outstanding contribution to Veterans Employment & Education to include homelessness. Why is that important? It's been said before, we are our own best-kept secret we need to get the word out about what The Sons of The American Legion do and be proud of our accomplishments.

With that, the commission hopes that our efforts meet with your approval and look forward to continue serving our veterans in the future.

Commander, that concludes our report.

...Commission Chairman Skelley submitted the report of the Veterans Employment & Commission.

## Veterans Employment and Education Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm EDT on March 18, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX) .

### Roll Call:

Chairman: <u>Thomas P. Skelley (TX)</u>	Members: <u>Doyle T. "Travis" Cummins (MO) – Exc</u>
Vice Chairman: <u>James Coates (NY)</u>	: <u>William Sheehan (MA)</u>
Secretary: <u>Ed Sheubrooks (FL)</u>	<u>Greg N. "Nick" Arceo (CO)</u>
	<u>National Assistant Adjutant</u>
Liaison: <u>Gene Sacco (CA) – Absent</u>	<u>Fred Vaccarella (VA)</u>
	<u>Past National Commander</u>
Guests: <u>Carlos Santana (PR), William Slater (NC), Henry Hasslehand (NJ), Edmond Lendety (VA), Pat Gallagher (NJ), John Kingston, (TX), Chris Cook NVC-Midwest (OK), Ken Sutton (CA)</u>	

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion to accept the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting made by Nick Arceo (CO), seconded by Fred Vaccarella (VA). There being no objections, Chairman Skelley declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

### Reports of Members:

Chairman Skelley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Our goals remain the same as well as our Mission Statement. And the Reaffirmation of National Commander Bolt's theme "Serving Those Who Served...Full Steam Ahead".

James Coates (NY) – In my efforts to help our Detachments promote the VE & E Commission and reach the local levels, I have been sending weekly and monthly V.E. & E. reports to the Eastern Region. I have also reached out to the Central Region as well with emails. I have included the Marvin P. Nay Award information and the need to complete the SOP for Detachments. I have also included using the Website and the National Legion Update in these emails as well.

Fred Vaccarella (VA) – I have been in contact with the 12 Detachments in the Southern Region by weekly Reports to the Detachments. I have encouraged them if they do not yet have a V.E.& E Commission to form one as soon as possible. This can be done as a Sub Committee under VA &R if needed. In my weekly reports, I am including Articles that are relevant to the Commission. It's hard for me to preach to other Detachments to start a VE & E Commission as currently, my own Detachment of Virginia does not have an established Committee for V.E.&E., but at our upcoming Convention we will be established as a subcommittee under V. A. & R. I am also working to reestablish job Fairs in Virginia. Communications are the key in spreading the word of what the Commission stands for and what we can and want to accomplish.

Nick Arceo (CO) – I represent the Midwest Region and continue to provide important information and articles of interest with emails to the Region. I continue to stress to the Detachment's the need to establish a V.E.&E Commission as either "A stand-alone Commission" or as a sub-Committee under V.A.& R. I encourage the usage of our SOP, and our Tri information. I also continue to send the information of the Marvin P. Nay Award to the Detachments.

William Sheehan (MA) – My daughter had a suggestion on the pamphlets that are for distribution to the First Responders. She stated they should also be given to Case Workers and Emergency Room personal. This may get the information out faster than distributing to the First Responders. I have been working to get information out to the DSO's in my Tri-County area. In addition, I have been working with Post and Districts in Massachusetts.

Chairman Skelley (TX) stated that each Detachment works differently in how they can form a new Commission or Sub Committee. For instance, in some states the Detachment Commander can establish a Committee on his authority. Other Detachments require a Resolution. With the Detachment of Virginia close to forming a V.E.& E Subcommittee under V.A. & R., we now have a blueprint to give other Detachments help in forming a Commission or Committee for those that need it. This along with our suggested SOP will help answer any questions the Detachments may have or hurdles that may exist for them.

Chairman Skelley (TX) stated that we very much take pride in the fact that as a Commission, we are getting the information out. Communication is the key! We keep each member of the Commission informed on what we send out on our emails to the Detachments. The sharing of this information gives us insight and ideas that one of us may not have thought of. The National Update is sent out weekly once I receive it from National. With the Covid-19 pandemic hopefully coming to an end with the vaccines being distributed, Stand Downs will hopefully be starting back up. With that said, we need all boots on the ground at each Detachment. Each Detachment is encouraged to form a V.E. & E. Commission and forward the Chairman of their Commission to National. We hope to get all of the Detachment Commanders and Detachment Adjutants addresses as well. Just imagine what our distribution network would look like and how many people we could reach.

Chairman Skelley (TX) asked the Commission members if anyone had received any submissions or knew of anyone applying for the Marvin P. Nay Award. No names had been received, however there may be someone from the Detachment of Kansas that is deserving. Nick Arceo (CO) will reach out to the Detachment.

**Old Business:**

PowerPoint was created and sent to the PNC Panel for their feedback.

Washington Conference was virtual, and we were invited to attend and did. The information that was presented was distributed to the Commission.

Suggested Operating Procedures for Detachments distributed.

**New Business:**

Improving Regional messaging distribution and how can we track information from the Detachments. We should be getting a list of V.E. & E. Commission members from each Detachment in the coming year. In addition, we will formulate an email distribution network including the Detachment Commanders and Detachment Adjutants. Just imagine what our distribution network would look like and how many people we could reach.

Tri-Fold Brochure is waiting Legion approval.

NEC Virtual Call will be held on April 21,2021.

The deadline will be May 1st for acceptance of the Marvin Nay submissions. This will include anything from January 2020 to May 1st, 2021.

**Resolutions:**

None.

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

James Coates (NY) stated that New York is actively working the V.E.&E program. With the vaccine available, the Veterans Outreach facility in Rochester has been trying to vaccinate as many homeless Veterans as possible. A few of us have gotten a Legion Family Team together and collected some funds to buy snacks and water for the Outreach facilities in Rochester and Tonawanda so that the Veterans would have something to snack on after their vaccine shots.

Bill Sheehan (MA) stated that at some Stop and Shop stores and other Grocery stores have a program that for every \$10.00 spent for Food Banks or other similar types of programs are donating ten percent or \$1.00 back to that program. Purchasing food for Homeless Veterans would fall under this program.

Fred Vaccarella (VA) I have two little things. Recently I met a fellow at our Post that is a transfer from California. He is joining the Sons as well. He works for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I want to get him involved with this program. On a sadder note, on March 2nd we lost a member Joseph Neist. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Nick Arceo (CO) stated that there is a lot going on in Colorado. Volunteers are being called back to help in the communities. That is a positive. Let's keep Commission member Bill Sheenan and his family in our prayers for what they are dealing with.

Chairman Thom Skelley (TX) stated I just want to say Thanks for taking pride in what you are doing as a Commission. Our task is not an easy one, but you all are answering the Challenge. Our next call will be April 24th, 2021.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX) adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman Thom Skelley? Are there any questions for Chairman Thom Skelley?

If there are no objections, the Veterans Employment & Education Commission report will be accepted by unanimous consent.

I call upon National Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman John Jennings for his report. Past National Commanders Panel is on deck.

**Oral Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions**

**John Jennings, Chairman, Florida**

Thank you, Mr. Commander, and good afternoon, everyone. It's been a tough year, but I want to start off that we've done a lot of good stuff in a short period of time with a lot of support.

We had a virtual meeting on April 8th, 2021. All members were present. We did review the five resolutions that were presented to the NEC today. Commander Bolt attended, along with Ken George and other members of the NEC.

I would like to at this time recognize my committee: Joe Keiser out of Nevada; Jay Marsden out of Missouri; David Blair out of Texas; and John Chang out of New York, part-time, almost full-time resident of Florida. I want to thank them for their dedication and support. I also want to put out a big thank you to Anthony Wright, the assigned adjutant for the committee, and of course Joe P. Joe P. and I have butted heads a few times, but he's always got the direction it needs to go, and I want to thank him for his words of wisdom and input as we move forward.

On a personal note, as I conclude, this will be my last NEC meeting as far as chairman on the Subcommittee on Resolutions. I am not seeking reelection for NEC at the Detachment of Florida, so therefore, I will not be able to hold that position. And I have also communicated with Commission on Committees Chairman Ray Giehll, with a letter stating that.

I know some people may applaud that, but I've enjoyed working with each and every one of you through the five or six years. I do want to thank Bob Brown and I do want to thank Ron Roberts, because they've been very instrumental, even though they think not maybe at sometimes, but they've been very instrumental with the operation of the committee.

With that, I want to say thank you, gentlemen. Stay safe, healthy, and God bless each and every one of you.

That completed my report, Commander.

*...Subcommittee Chairman Jennings submitted the report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions.*

## Subcommittee on Resolutions

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm EDT on April 8, 2021 as a conference call

b Chairman John T. Jennings (FL)

y \_\_\_\_\_

### Roll Call:

Chairman: John T. Jennings (FL)

Members: Joe Keiser (NV)

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony W. Wright (PA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Marsden (MO)

National Adjutant

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Blair, II (TX)

Liaison: \_\_\_\_\_  
(none assigned)

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Chang (NY)

Past National Commander

Guests: National Commander Clint Bolt (VA), National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY), National Vice Commander Chris Cook (OK), National Assistant Adjutant Scott Thornton (OH), Convention Chairman Chuck Treat (AZ), Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN), Past National Commander Rick Cook (OK), NEC Ron Roberts (MS), Kenneth George (National SAL Liaison).

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Jennings declared the minutes of the Fall 2020 meeting approved as published.

### Old Business:

The administrative team continues to update the resolution log. Our resolutions go back to August 1972.

The Committee will continue to work with the development of an electronic database for resolutions. The goal is to have this available from the web site.

### New Business:

None.

### Resolutions:

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Spring, 2021

Title: Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee

Origin: Detachment of Mississippi

Action: Motion to approve by Jay Marsden; seconded by John Chang.

Discussion: Amend Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee to state, "Voting representation from 25 Detachments of the Sons of The American Legion shall constitute a quorum." (The current Rule states, "Voting representation from five (5) Detachments shall constitute a quorum.")

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Spring, 2021

Title: Creation of 50<sup>th</sup> Convention Commemoration Committee

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission / National Commander Clint Bolt

Action: Motion to approve by John Chang; seconded by Jay Marsden.

Discussion: Establish an ad-hoc committee [reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission] to formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition of the Sons of The American Legion's 50<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Milwaukee, WI in 2022.

Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring, 2021

Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000.00 from the 2021 Budget  
 Origin: Child Welfare Foundation Committee  
 Action: Motion to approve by Joe Keiser, seconded by Jay Marsden.  
 Discussion: Donation of \$5000.00 from the 2021 budget line.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring, 2021

Title: Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions  
 Origin: Detachment of Massachusetts  
 Action: Motion to approve by David Blair; seconded by Jay Marsden.  
 Discussion: To allow for the National Adjutant to make such changes in resolutions as may be necessary to eliminate factual misstatements or language inconsistent with the clear intent of the resolution when taken as a whole, and as evidenced by the deliberation of the body from which such resolution emanated.  
 It was noted that this is nearly identical to the resolution that the parent organization currently operates under.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

S.A.L. Resolution 6– Spring, 2021

Title: Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to Attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader  
 Origin: Internal Affairs Commission  
 Action: Motion to approve by Joe Keiser; seconded by John Chang.  
 Discussion: To provide for the National Representative, selected by the standing National Commander and his advisors, and approved by the Subcommittee of the Sons of The American Legion, through the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, be allowed reasonable and appropriate travel expenses to attend certain funerals or memorial services for Past National Commanders and certain significant others.  
 Disposition: Motion carried on voice vote

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

National Commander Clint Bolt addressed the committee and thanked them for the work they have done this past year. This has been a difficult year and half and look forward to traveling the remainder of his term and meeting in person at the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

National Liaison Ken George addressed the Committee and thanked them for the work they put in reviewing the resolutions presented to them. He also discussed the importance of submitting the Consolidated Squadron Report as well as the new Squadron Data Report. The new myLegion portion of the website has been converted and the IT department is working out many technical issues being presented. He requested that we encourage our member to be patient as they work through issues. If you have any issues use the email address [cs2@legion.org](mailto:cs2@legion.org) to discuss your issue. You will be assigned a ticket number and will be answered accordingly.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) adjourned the meeting  
 at 9:15 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for your years of service, sir. I hope to properly recognize you in Phoenix for all your years of

service to The Sons of The American Legion. But I don't think you're ready for the rocking chair yet, John.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Thank you, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Are there any questions for Chairman John Jennings? Are there any questions for Chairman John Jennings?

If there are no objections, the Subcommittee on Resolutions report will be accepted by unanimous consent.

I call upon Past National Commander Panel Chairman Danny Smith for his report.

### **Oral Report of Past National Commanders Panel**

#### **Danny J. Smith, Chairman, Colorado**

Thank you, Commander.

Mr. Commander and national officers and staff, NEC alternates, distinguished members and guests, I had asked for this opportunity to address the NEC on behalf of the PNC Panel and give you a brief report and update on where we stand regarding the strategic plan and the associated "to do list."

For those of you who may not know, the PNC Panel is not necessarily a reporting body to the NEC. Our duties and our structure was established by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, and normally that's where our report goes. A report will be forwarded to them, but I felt that it was important that everyone kind of be brought up to speed of where we stand with our strategic plan and that associated "to do list." Hopefully you all have access to that and have received that report, and definitely share that with your members within your detachment.

As you go through the strategic plan update, you'll notice, I believe highlighted in red, specific dates when those items were completed and status of the other various items. Now, here's one thing you need to realize. We basically are checking off those "to do list" items when we see that they are completed and designated as such through the commissions and committees. But there is no way that we can control implementation of those items within the strategic plan. That must be accomplished by the commissions, committees, our national officers and staff, and you, the members.

I say "you, the members," because there are some things, I know that we need your help with, such as date of births, email addresses. So, this is all-inclusive strategic plan "to do list." So, when you're asked for those items, please help us in retaining those and collecting them, along with the surveys that will be going out.

It's important to remember that we are all volunteers, and our families and careers must come first. Now, that being said, the panel feels that completion and implementation of the strategic plan is moving forward and is in good shape. Now, it may not be moving as rapidly as some would consider fast enough, however, we have made considerable progress.

That being said, and to conclude this report, the panel would like to thank all of those who have completed their assigned tasks and their items on the "to do list."

Mr. Commander, that completes my report.

*...Panel Chairman Smith submitted the report of the Past National Commanders Panel.*

## **PNC Panel**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm EDT on March 13, 2021 as a conference call by Chairman Danny Smith (NE) .

### **Opening Statement by the Chairman:**

Chairman Smith stated that he is frustrated, disheartened, and disappointed with some chairmen, Panel members and staff. It has been extremely difficult to complete implementation of the Strategic Plan given the current pandemic and working with volunteers. Apologized to Robert Faust, who was included in the meeting call, which was issued by National Headquarters, David Faust is the Panel member not Robert. Chairman is not sure why this was not corrected after it was pointed out to Headquarters staff. Notified those present that he does not intend to seek additional term on PNC Panel.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Kevin Winkelmann (TX)	Excused: James Hartman (MD)
Kevin Collier (AK)	David Stephens (IN)
Greg Gibbs (NY)	
Rick Cook (OK)	
Byron Robichaux (LA)	Absent: Mike Moss (CO)
Tommie Cisna (IL)	Christopher Cerullo (NY)
David Faust (WI)	Joe Gladden (MD)
Danny Smith (NE)	William Sparwasser (MD)

**Report from March 2020:**

Reviewed and held discussion on the Panel report from last Spring along with the input received from email contact with panel members. The report published March 3, 2020 included the PNC Panel Strategic Plan "To Do List" items and recommendations to be considered. The PNC Panel has completed their "To Do List" with the following recommendations, which will be forwarded to our commission / committee chairmen:

- A. Any chairman who is being replaced should plan to stay after post NEC meeting, sit down with the incoming chairman and share the commission / committee plans and status of their current items they are working on.
- B. All incoming chairmen should be notified at least 60 days ahead of National Convention so they can make travel plans to stay an extra day, which would allow them to attend the transition meeting on Monday.
- C. Meet with outgoing chairman on Monday either before or after the transition meeting to exchange records of the commission / committee. At a minimum these records should contain; meeting minutes, resolutions, ongoing projects, annual awards, award selection guidelines and Excel tabulation program which determines award recipients.
- D. The Panel would like to see partial travel allowance made available for any new incoming chairman, if they attend the Monday morning transition meeting. (This would require a resolution.)

**Introduction of Non-PNC Panel Members:**

Leading Candidate Michael Fox, PNC Robert Faust, National Adjutant Anthony Wright and a caller who refused to identify themselves.

**Review PNC Panel Assigned Responsibilities:**

Chairman did a quick review of the assignments received from The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission, which include making recommendations for some appointments, oversee the completion and implementation of the Strategic Plan and taking ownership of our organizational duties.

**Reports from Commission / Committee Liaisons:**

Received brief verbal Commission / Committee Liaison reports from Rick Cook (Internal Affairs), Finance (Byron Robichaux), Veterans Employment & Education (David Faust), Public and Media Communications (Tommie Cisna), Commander's Advisory (Greg Gibbs), Committee on Committees (Kevin Winkelmann), and National Headquarters & National Adjutant Staff (Danny Smith).

**Old Business:**

**Status of Strategic Plan Priority Report – Fall 2020**

- 1) CORE VALUE TRANSPARENCY

**Referred to: All Commissions, Committees, National Officers, National Staff, and in general all members of the Sons of The American Legion:**

One of the key elements of our Strategic Plan is transparency, yet we continue to fail and need to work on this portion of our Strategic Plan. This goes far beyond the directives listed in the Strategic Plan and ties directly in with effective communications with our membership. Too many times "things" just happen, communication breaks down, procedures are not followed, and we forget who we are ultimately responsible to and who we serve. Beyond that there must be open two-way communication with our National Officers, National Staff, National Headquarters Staff, our American Legion counterparts, Past National Commanders and fellow members.

**Update: We have seen improvement; however, work needs to be done by everyone to achieve this goal. At times it appears that those who call for transparency are the ones that are the least transparent.**

2) CORE VALUE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT – LIFE MEMBERSHIP

**Referred to Membership, Internal Affairs, Finance, and National Headquarters Staff:**

Collaborate to collect date of birth data from our membership and develop a dues structure for Sons of The American Legion life membership. Investigation should include communications with Detachments that currently have a PUFL plan, investment options, interest of current membership in joining a PUFL plan and incorporating current Detachment plans into a National plan. We have discussed this for many years, the vision of a paid up for life membership will only be achieved through collection of vital information and proper planning.

**Update: Per National Liaison Ken George, National Headquarters is currently working on the Life Membership option and anticipate having it ready by the 2023 membership year.**

3) CORE VALUE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT, PROFESSIONALISM – COMMUNICATIONS

**Referred to Membership, Internal Affairs, Public and Media Communications:**

Collaborate to collect email addresses of our current membership and formulate a plan to ensure future collection of this data. Email addresses will be used only for distribution of Sons of The American Legion material including but not limited to newsletters, membership data, Commission and Committee reports, along with communications from National Officers and staff. This directive ties directly to our core value transparency, we must stress the trickledown effect to ensure all of our members receive relevant information.

**Update: It was reported that the membership application form contained an entry space for an email address. No further information was presented on this priority.**

4) CORE VALUE MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT, PROFESSIONALISM – EDUCATION

**Referred to All National Commissions and National Committees:**

Each National Commission / Committee develop PowerPoint or similar type of presentation which highlights their own responsibilities and gives an overview of each National Commission or National Committee. These should be educational and also entertaining to capture the attention of those watching and ultimately provide the viewer with some basic knowledge of each National Commission / Committee and associated programs. Once each National Commission / Committee has a draft assembled they should work with their respective assigned Past National Commander liaison and receive a review by National Headquarters prior to any distribution to our membership. Training of all of our members at the National meetings would be nearly impossible therefore it is imperative that we provide educational materials for our membership to utilize at their local levels. Coupled with this a "pool" of trainers could be developed to assist with the local training sessions.

**Update: Training information has been under review with material received from V.E.&E., V.A.&R., Americanism, M.T.&D., Finance, Membership and PNC Panel. Awaiting material from Public and Media Communications, Children and Youth, Child Welfare Foundation, Internal Affairs, Resolutions, Committee on Committees and Commander's Advisory.**

**Review Strategic Plan Update**

The Strategic Plan "To Do List" was reviewed item by item with the Strategic Plan updated to indicate the status of each item. For the most part our Commissions / Committees have completed their specific "To

Do List" items, however others have reported "in process" status and have not implemented or completed their tasks. We do not have the ability to confirm the completion or current status without a written report presented to the PNC Panel for review and verification.

As stated earlier it has been a difficult year given the pandemic and inability to meet in person; the Panel takes this into account. It was also noted that a few Commissions have a seemingly overwhelming task assigned and the completion of the task has several steps prior to implementation. A number of the PNC Panel Commission / Committee Liaisons reported that it was their understanding the "To Do List" items were complete, and reports sent to the Panel, however no reports were received. These Liaisons would be in contact with the various chairmen to discuss this issue.

The Strategic Plan document has been updated and we will request that it be distributed as part of the NEC documents.

**Status of PNC Panel Recommendations for Transfer of Commission / Committee Chairmanship (New Chairman)**

This item was in the March 3, 2020 report discussed earlier. All Panel members agreed that the recommendations were good, sound, operating procedures and partial travel allowance should be made available, if a resolution is presented for approval. These recommendations will be sent to all of our Commission / Committee chairmen.

**New Business:**

**Panel Terms Expiring Fall 2021:** Rick Cook, Joe Gladden, Byron Robichaux, Steve Laws+, James Hartman

Rick Cook, Byron Robichaux and James Hartman indicated they would like to continue to serve on the Panel. Chairman Smith pointed out that PNC Hartman had been appointed to fulfill Jeff Frain's term and has been a great asset to the Panel. Further nominations for Panel members and election will be conducted at the Fall 2021 PNC Committee meeting.

**Next Step for Training Materials**

Chairman Smith presented his proposal to complete approval and realization of the commission / committee basics training modules. This proposal was discussed, with each Panel member given the opportunity to express their opinion. It was agreed that the next steps will be as follows:

- 1) Continue to review new presentations for correct content, grammar and spelling
- 2) Assemble training material on some type of memory device which will be forwarded to our M.T.&D. Committee.
- 3) Our M.T.&D. Committee will determine training template or templates.
- 4) Our M.T.&D. Committee will secure release forms from the Commissions / Committees that used pictures in their presentations.
- 5) Our M.T.&D. Committee will verify proper use of any organization's copyrighted logos.
- 6) After these steps have been completed the training modules and any required release forms will be forwarded to The American Legion for review and approval.
- 7) Our M.T.&D. Committee should determine the logistics involved with the avenue for distribution or access by our general membership.

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

Kevin Winkelmann stated that he was distraught with the passing of PNC Steve Laws as they were very close friends; PNC Laws will be missed by all.

Rick Cook reported that PNC Mike Moss was on the waiting list for a kidney transplant and had been called several times, however, the donor kidneys were found to be unusable.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Danny Smith (NE) adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm .

Note: After the meeting I received some complaints about the unknown caller. Therefore, in the future callers that refuse to identify themselves will be asked to leave the call or disconnected from the call.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, PNC Danny Smith.

Are there any questions for Chairman Danny Smith? Are there any questions for Chairman Danny Smith?

If there are no objections, the Past National Commanders Panel Report will be accepted by unanimous consent.

### **Old Business**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any old business to be brought before the National Executive Committee? Any old business to come before the National Executive Committee?

### **New Business**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Is there any new business to be brought before the National Executive Committee? No new business to come before the National Executive Committee, okay.

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion, I call upon Leading Candidate for National Commander, Michael Fox.

### **Remarks**

#### **Michael Fox, Leading Candidate for National Commander, California**

Thank you, Commander Bolt.

Greetings to all the national officers, guests, and my fellow Sons that are in attendance. This past 14 months has definitely been a long year to remember. It's been just over 18 months

since we have all met together in person, and I know this pandemic has caused a lot of problems not only within The American Legion family but throughout the entire world itself.

Some of the things that we have learned in maneuvering through this obstacle that was put before us is some changes; some of those changes being good, some of those changes being bad. Some of the bad things that we have come across is we have lost many members, family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Human contact has been something of the past for the last 14 months, and donations in the family have been down, not to anyone's doing, but just because life and this pandemic has gotten in the way.

But with that being said, I think we need to focus on positives. What are some good things that have come from everything that we've learned? We've learned new ways to get business done. We've all had to adapt. A lot of us have not been traveling so we've been able to possibly save some money. I know our community service hours have drastically increased with our squadrons, and many squadrons and posts have taken this opportunity in being shut down to revamp their posts, to make some positive changes inside their buildings for those that have been able to stay afloat.

I hope every one of you have taken this time and planned for the openings, as some of our detachments are open, some just starting to open, and some planning to open in the near future, taken this time to plan about what the future is going to look like. To prepare ourselves if something like this were to happen again, so that we're ready ahead of time.

I hope some of you have revisited some of those old ideas that may have not worked in the past, but due to everything that we're going through now, they could help us out.

You know, this year in 2021 will be a few milestones for our nation. The 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor will be coming in 2021. There's not many of those members left.

We all need to remember the sacrifice that those men and women, our military heroes did for us.

Another milestone that will be coming in 2021 is the 20th anniversary of 9/11. I'm sure as many of you know, we were all alive at that time and I'm sure you can remember where you were and exactly what you were doing on that tragic day.

I'd like to take a special opportunity to introduce to everybody, if I'm so lucky to be elected next year, a special project that will have home-run benefits to our organization. This program, if I'm so lucky to introduce, will bring new members to the Legion family, will promote brand awareness to the entire Legion family. This program will come at no cost to our members or the national organization whatsoever and will honor our veterans all at the same time. Something that is a win-win for all of us, and none of this project will take away any of the amazing work that is done by our squadrons throughout the country.

In closing, I would just like to remind everybody, social media is a huge platform that we can all utilize if we are not doing so already. When you post on the social media, use the hashtag "SAL strong." Why? Because you are a member of The Sons of The American Legion and you are strong. Strong on child welfare. Strong for our first responders. Strong for the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Because gentlemen, there is no limit to the amount of good we can do. We are The Sons of The American Legion and we are SAL strong. So, God bless our veterans, God bless our military in harm's way, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Leading Candidate Michael Fox. I appreciate that.

Chair recognizes Ray Giehll.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Mr. Commander, PNC Raymond Giehll from Detachment of Indiana, addressing the NEC as the chairman of Committee on Committees. Good afternoon, everyone.

I just want everyone to know that we had a really good year this year as far as recommendations. We had 29 detachments send in 67 members for recommendations to national committee and commission appointments. The committee really wishes there was a spot for everybody, because when a detachment sends somebody in, we know that's probably a good person for the organization.

Been a few changes made, I think we'll all like it. Been some people who are going away, like J.J. J.J., you've done a good job and we'll miss you.

But I just want everybody to know that it's great to have that many names brought to us. It gives us a great pool of members to decide from and a great direction for The Sons of The American Legion.

Thank you, Mr. Commander, I appreciate that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, PNC Ray Giehll. Appreciate that.

I now call upon Second Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton for some remarks.

### **Remarks**

#### **Chris Carlton, Second Leading Candidate for National Commander, Indiana**

Mr. Commander, NEC, it's been a great meeting once again. As the leading candidate alluded to, we have found ways to get over these hurdles and jump through these hoops but still conduct business.

I'm proud to be a member of The Sons of The American Legion and proud to represent all of you in everything we do. I look forward to seeing the great works that Leading Candidate Michael Fox had kind of alluded to, his project. I'm looking forward to seeing what that is and getting behind it and promoting it as well.

With that, Mr. Commander, thank you for a few minutes of time. I look forward to all the great things and the convention in Phoenix.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Second Leading Candidate Chris, I appreciate those remarks.

At this time, the chair will recognize Ken George, our liaison.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Good afternoon, everybody. I wanted to, for the Good of the Legion part of it, address some questions. So, I want to take them by categories. If you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them. I may defer to you to say send me an email in the interest of time or if it's a more complicated than what I can answer.

On the subject of the CSR, are there any questions? Let me tell you what we did. So, what we did is, we took it and did not do a hard copy print this year, and I'll tell you why. It's because we printed about 6,500 copies, we sent them out, and we got in, return physical paper copies, less than 800. So, for some of you business types, the return on investment on that, you can see, is not worth it.

However, it's a three-part form, it's very important. So, what we did is, we took that form, we put it in a PDF fillable format where all you have to do is plug in your numbers. When you plug it in the first page, it populates the second and third page. All you have to do is print it out, you can scan it and send to your detachment and to national. Or if you really insist

on spending money and supporting the United States Postal System, you can put a stamp on it and send it to us as well.

So that means it's posted in three different sites. I'll go through them, each one. All of them start with legion.org. Legion.org/publications, legion.org/sons/publications, and legion.org/sons/adjutant. It's on those three sites, and eventually we are going to add it to myLegion for adjutants so they can actually just go right to it on their page.

Now with that, are there any questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Scott Garrett for a question.

NECMAN GARRETT: Yes, sir. When I received my copies of the CSR from Scott Thornton, what I'm finding is I can't write on them because they're all requiring passwords. What I'm getting is a read only. And when I try and make a copy of it into my computer, that normally I can handle, it says, "Password required."

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Are you doing a save as or just save?

NECMAN GARRETT: I'm doing a save as.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: You're saying you need a password once it's filled out; correct?

NECMAN GARRETT: Correct.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Let me look into that for you.

NECMAN GARRETT: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Any other questions?

None, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: I'll go on to the next question. Next question is the annual SDR, annual squadron data report.

For those of you who are dual members, you fill out a similar form, or the post does, it's called the post data report, the PDR. That PDR and is SDR basically ask for some simple information: the physical address of your post, your point of contact for membership, your post dues or squadron dues, and the commander and adjutant, I think.

So, what's most important about that is your dues. The dues, I might not have been clear enough, but I want to clarify it now. When you submit that form, you need to include dues as a whole. What that means is national, detachment, squadron. And if you -- not all squadrons pay this, but if you pay a district or a county per capita, you need to include all of that in that final number and submit it too national.

Now, if you didn't, send me an amended version personally and I'll go ahead and take care of it for you, or if you put your squadron dues and didn't include your national or detachment.

The reason we're having this form is because, if you remember a year ago when we actually went with mySAL and you were able to do transmittals, before that the IT staff sent out a form saying, "Hey what is your detachment per capita?" Once we got all that, we could enable transmittals for adjutants on myLegion. What it didn't do is, it didn't ask for a squadron per capita, because if you're filling out as a squadron adjutant, you're not going to send the money to us, you're going to keep it.

Well, in this case, this is going to allow for your individual members, including myself and anybody else who is an SAL member, to renew online using myLegion. MySAL is going away, I will cover that in a minute -- or it's not going way, it's gone. I'll cover that in a minute.

MyLegion, which is the new format, you will be able to go online, you will be able to adjust your profile. So, if you move ten times a year, you can change your address so you're

getting your mail. If you're one of those that change your phone number quite a bit, you can change that, too.

What's most important is we need your personal information, and what's really important is we need an email. We're going through an electronic age and email is the wave of the future, it's here. So, when you fill out the SDR, we'll have that squadron information, and you can go on as an individual and renew your dues. You can post a credit card. I think we can allow ACH; I don't know if that's set up yet or if it's still in the infancy stages. That is hopefully going to be online and ready to go July 1st for the new membership year for 2022. Remember, we start collecting dues in July. The actual membership year starts January 1.

Now, on the annual squadron data report, are there any questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: There are none, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Oh, I see a question.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Question, John Jennings.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Yes, Ken. You brought up something there that kind of threw a trigger on me because I know you and I have had some conversations about mySAL. Since we're going to the Legion platform, and since The Sons are a program of The American Legion, where the post does the "P," post data, PDR, the squadrons do an SDR. Why could they not be one form supplied by the post that would supply all the necessary information for them and for the program?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's a good question. The best answer I can give you is, right now, time is of the essence. Rather than have every -- because the PDR is due in February every year. This form actually came out in April. Eventually we can probably

merge the two. But right now, time is of the essence, and that SDR needs to get in so we can get everybody with that capability on July 1st.

It's a good suggestion, I'll definitely look into it.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JENNINGS: Okay. Thank you. You just turned the light on. Thanks, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Ray Giehll, question.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Ken, a couple of questions. As the detachment acting adjutant, is there any way we can find out which squadrons sent in that SDR ahead of the deadline so we can maybe push a little harder? Is that a possibility?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: It is a possibility. However, right now it's going to be a challenge. We created the form, but we didn't write the necessary language to create a report. Right now, the focus is myLegion and getting everybody on that. Everything else has been put aside. So right now, I'm unable to create that report unless I actually physically grab them and put them in a spreadsheet or something.

Unfortunately, right now that's not available but it will be had. And it's a very good suggestion, and you weren't the only one to make that goal.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: I have one more question, sir. Concerning the myLegion, I've had no problems with it, I got on. I'm part of the squadron leadership. It took me a while to understand why, and I'm not sure anyone has pointed this out, and you can tell me if I'm wrong or not. But you can't be your squadron leadership if the national organization does not know you're the squadron leadership; correct?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's correct. PNC Giehl, that's my next subject that I'm going to talk about, so can we defer that question just so we can get the SDR out of the way?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Bob Brown for a question.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: This question came from my adjutant and my commander of my detachment. What about those squadrons and even individual members that don't have an email address? Has that issue been thought of or brought up in concern so that we can get them on board as well?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Well, the answer is quite simple, is get them an email address. You can create one on Gmail, you can create one on Yahoo. If you have your website, they typically give you emails with your domain name on it. I mean, paper is still available but we're really trying to get everybody in the electronic age only because, one, it saves a few trees; and two, it's quicker, it's more efficient. Our systems are getting set up for that kind of platform -- they're set up already. So, we just need to get everybody else on the lower levels to that point.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: There are no other questions, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: All right. The big white elephant in the room, myLegion. So, some of you are familiar with mySAL, myLegion. MySAL is gone, it's gone away. So has the original myLegion. We changed over our software platform, it's calls Personify, and with that we had to create, and we did create myLegion. But it's all-encompassing; it works for the Riders, it works for the SAL, it works for the Legion.

What it is, if you can envision a room full of people, and in every corner, you had a group. So, imagine information kind of scattered all over the place. Well, some of it was duplicated, so we had the same information in one corner as we did in another. And we had to bring that all together. So, with that, myLegion was created.

Now, I know some of you are having problems as adjutants with your groupings. That is being fixed as we go. I know some of you are having problems logging in. That's because you're trying to probably log into the old system, and you need to log into the new one.

We've been trying to send out updates with training videos, with tutorials, and another one is going to come out next week.

But what's happening is, what we are doing in the staff, literally they're working overtime, they're working 12-hour days in some cases. Some people have been less than friendly, some of them have been very friendly. The ones that are less-than friendly, you're not helping.

What we need is good information on what you can and cannot do, not your opinionated feedback. We need the actual data. With that, they're logging all of that with a ticket, they're assigning it. And then when they fix it -- also they're looking for duplicates. So, if it's a log-in problem they'll put all of those in one ticket. And then they'll give it to somebody and assign it, and then there's a follow-up process that goes with it. They should be making contact either as a group or individually.

I ask for your patience. We have to be patient too, as staff, because we don't have access to myLegion. We have access to another database that actually feeds that. So, we don't even know what you're looking at, unfortunately, when you call us.

Now, with that also, you may notice, some of you that do have your groupings and your capabilities, you may have noticed membership number changes. Here's what happened. So first and foremost, if you're a dual member like myself and one of my colleagues, one of our other staff members, you had two different membership numbers. For the duallies, your membership number defaulted to your Legion ID number and your SAL number will eventually drop off. But when you go into myLegion and look at your individual profile, you will see an SAL and a Legion profile, one under the other.

Now, what also happened was, we had duplicate information on SAL members that weren't dual members. There's about 20,000 of those the last count I saw, that got assigned a new number, start with three five zero zero zero, a 3500 number. But don't panic. That doesn't mean anything other than you just have a new membership number.

What it does mean that your years of service were not lost. If it's not correct, it will be corrected. You may not see it on this ID card coming out. It's because we didn't cultivate all the packets of information before the cards got printed. So, if your years of service is off, it's okay. We will fix it next year, because as we import all the data, everything will continue to update.

Now, if you're that concerned about it, you can go on myLegion, you can go on there and you can actually download your membership card now. So, if you paid your dues and you can't get ahold of your adjutant, they didn't give you your card, you can go in there and download it, you can download it as many times as you want. So, if you are washing your wallet and your ID card disappears, go and print off a new one. As long as your dues are paid, it will keep giving you a new one.

So, I know I put out a lot of information. The commander, the judge advocate and Adjutant Hicks here met with our IT team. Our IT director is dedicated to servicing everybody

and making sure that we all get what we want, all the issues are fixed. I feel that -- were you guys confident in their abilities?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Yes.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: So, I think that we received a satisfactory answer.

With that being said, I put out a lot of information. Are there any questions on that that I will try to answer? If I can't, send me an email and I'll get you an answer, because I may actually have to ask IT about it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have a question from PNC Rick Cook.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COOK: Ken, I have a problem where my email's been used in a couple of different places. And even though I'm not a Legion member, I process the membership for The American Legion post. When I logged in originally, I logged in as the adjutant for the post using my email. But now I cannot log in and use that same email as the detachment adjutant or as the squadron adjutant. Do you have any suggestions?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Yes. Actually, you brought up a point I had written down and I did not cover.

So, part of that problem, too, with log-in is you need one email and one email only to log into everything. So, if you have duplicate emails, yeah, it may not work. Also, you may have gotten a new number because of it, because it treated you as two different people -- or the names matched up, the emails didn't, and it just generated a new number.

So, copy down this email please, everybody. I think I've sent it out but I'm going to say it again. The email is C as in Charles, S as in Sam, the number 2, cs2@legion.org. That is our dedicated customer service email for myLegion issues.

If you send them what you told me, they will try and get you straightened out, or at least figure out what they can do to fix it. A lot of problems come up. I've never seen a software change go smoothly. They always come with problems, bugs, and it takes time to work it out. Even if you've got your new version of Windows, what does Windows do? They let you work out the bugs. We're not trying to do that, but it just happens that way.

So, I may not have a definitive answer, but I hope you get an email. And copy me on an email, too, because that's something I can follow up on as well.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Ray Giehll.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Hi, I'm back again. Back to what I was asking you. I'm having no problems with it, I've even transmitted cards. But I've got members of squadrons who can't understand why they think -- they are the squadron adjutant, but they don't end up on the leadership side when they log in.

I know the answer; I'm not looking for the answer. The answer is you have to be registered at the commander or adjutant at the national level via a form that the post fills out.

I've never heard anybody mention that. You didn't mention it. When we talked on Saturday, I meant to ask it Saturday, but I was busy. I've never heard anybody mention that form, it's the notification of post commanders and squadrons -- post and squadron commanders and adjutants. We send it in every year. I assume that's why, when I get on, I'm a leadership and my commander is.

Can we address the fact that I don't think every post and squadron realizes that exists? So, when you try to get in there and process cards as leadership, national might not give you that group -- because I'm understanding the grouping thing, too. So, it's not -- I mean, I think it's

great, so far it's worked fantastic for me because my post does all the right things to get me to the point where I'm at, but I'm not sure every post is. I'm sorry to go long, I apologize.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: You mentioned some good points. So, the form you're mentioning is the certification of officers, and that was the one that we actually did away with the paper version, and we did it online. We open that up five months of the year starting -- as a matter of fact this year we're going to start a little early, probably May 1st. Then it closes, because you've conducted your elections, you should have submitted your officers to your detachment, and then also to us.

So, with that being said, if you don't fill that out, we don't know who you are. We're not going to guess and we're not going to call you, unfortunately. It's what you give us. If you give us the information, great. If you don't, we have no idea. So, it's very important you fill that out.

It's also very important you coordinate with your detachments because most of your detachments and your departments have a deadline for that form, and it's usually 30 days after your election it needs to be filed. So, check with your department detachment bylaws of when that should be submitted.

Did that answer your question, PNC Giehl?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIEHLL: Yes, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Harold Thompson.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJUTANT EMERITUS THOMPSON: Yes, Ken. My question is, my commander and adjutants don't have the computer capability, and I am doing the membership. Can the post adjutant sign it in that I can be able to do the squadron membership? Or do I have to get, say, my commander or adjutant on to a computer so they can? They have email addresses, but it just goes to a phone which is not very easy for them to go through stuff.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: I don't know the exact answer to that question, because normally the procedure is to have myLegion access, or previously mySAL, as a leader; you have to be part of the leadership. I've never known them to just hand out a log-in for someone who is just doing the membership.

However, let me ask that question, because things do change as we do install new software and capabilities. So let me write that down and I'll get back to you. Okay, Mr. Thompson?

NATIONAL ASST. ADJUTANT EMERITUS THOMPSON: Okay. Because I am the finance officer of the squadron.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Got it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Scott Thornton.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJUTANT THORNTON: Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Ken, to follow on with PNC Giehl's question with the commanders and adjutants' certifications. I know in my case, as a squadron adjutant, that I found with myLegion I've been assigned a new ID number. So, I'm presuming that I should be using that when I fill out the certification for my squadron online. I can imagine, though, that my squadron commander doesn't know if he's been assigned a new one because he hasn't logged into the system yet, and I can imagine that there are a great many other commanders and adjutants out there WHO don't know they got a different ID number as well.

What do you anticipate happening to those of us who might register online with what we believed our ID numbers to be all this time when, in fact, Personify has given us a new one and it's not going to match up?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's a good question, thank you. That is the very subject I talked about with the IT director and actually mentioned to the commander. So, thank you for reminding me.

If you are assigned a new membership number, you are going to get a letter indicating that you were assigned a new membership number, and with that letter you will get your card. I don't know exactly when they're forthcoming. I will keep my finger on the pulse because I think, the sooner the better.

Just so you know, I have a weekly status report with IT that's going to occur starting next week. So, with that, if you have questions, submit them to me and I can get with the IT director and he can get me those answers, or I can call over to the operations center.

So, if you were one of the 20,000 that got a new ID number, you will get a letter with a new card, and hopefully that will be happening very soon here. If not, ask me and I can look it up for you and give it to you after I confirm some personal information, because I just don't give out that kind of information without knowing who I'm talking to.

NATIONAL ASST. ADJUTANT THORNTON: Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Ken, there are no other questions.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Okay. I just want a clarification. I mentioned the certification of officers that was filed online. But in the adjutant manual, there is a notification of commander and adjutant form that is still in the book, and you do have to fill that out and send it to us so we can update the post and squadron profiles as far as that leadership.

If you're looking for that adjutant manual, it's actually online, it's been online for a couple of years now. I gave you that email, [legion.org/sons/adjutant](mailto:legion.org/sons/adjutant). That's where it's at. You

can download that manual. It's all fillable PDF forms and also has the awards. It has any forms you have to fill out with national and detachment. Like I said, everything is there.

One last round for any other questions? I know I took up a lot of time, but I felt this was necessary and I wanted to do it in a forum that was a little more informal and a little more conducive to you guys.

Everyone here at national headquarters is doing everything we can to increase your experience. One of the things we talk about here all the time is, it's part of branding, it's touch points. So, touch points are points of contact with you, whether it be virtual, whether it be physical, whether it be a piece of mail. Are those painful? And if they are, how can we make it easier?

So, one of the questions we talked about is, I get a renewal notice after I renew. Yeah, that's a pain point right there for some people, and some people get pretty ugly about it. We are going to have some crossover, but we can try and decrease that, and hopefully with the new software we will.

That's one example. That's one of the things we're definitely addressing here. We work for you as the members, and we'll do everything we can to help you out and to set everyone up for success.

Are there any other questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Past National Commander Doc Gibbs.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: I just have a quick question, Ken, not having to do with this.

Who will be taking over Jack Querfeld's job?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: That's the million-dollar question.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GIBBS: Oh, okay.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Those cards have been played pretty close to the vest. I will say this, that our deputy director, Matt Herndon, has been absorbing a lot of those duties. There's been no announcement if anyone is going to be promoted moved over, moved out, moved on, anything like that. We'll know more probably after the NEC meeting for The American Legion.

For those who don't know, our director, Jack Querfeld, is retiring after, I think, 26 years with The American Legion, and actually serving, I think, 28 years in the U.S. Army as well, he's retired. He started as our HR director, moved on to Internal Affairs director. But he's finally going to retire, move closer to his grandkids.

His last day here is April 30th, but he will officially retire July 31st, I believe. So, he's just going to go on what we call terminal leave, which is a military term. If you have leave on the books, you go on leave, you get paid your vacation, but you're not actually working.

Any other questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes John Waite.

NECMAN WAITE: Hi, Ken. John Waite, NEC Vermont. Just a quick question. I know they're working on the myLegion thing and we've had some communication. But as far as squadrons that are sitting on those, should they just mail them in like they used to?

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: I'd say, if you can't know have access and you don't want to wait, we definitely can still do paper transmittals. So, if you're sitting on dues and you have problems, please send them in. Let's get everybody on the books and renewed.

Between now and next Wednesday, keep trying to log in, because I know they've been doing blocks of them, and quite a few blocks, where people can log in and get their functionality of myLegion going. So just keep checking periodically. They may not communicate to you and say it's fixed, but just go in and do it. In some cases, I've heard some people say, "Oh, I can access now." So just keep checking periodically.

NECMAN WAITE: Thanks.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. No other questions, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Commander, my last point I'd like to make. These NEC meetings, especially virtually, require a lot of resources. What you can't see beyond the commander, when you're looking forward in the NEC room, we have computers and screens and cameras and people. So, what I'd like to do right now is I would like to ask everybody to come up and get behind the commander on the stage. Come on staff, everybody, come on.

So, there's people in the audience that actually make this happen. It's not just myself and Brian. Reggie, please, you too. I know you can step away a moment. But I have three people that can't because they have to sit on their monitors and, of course, our court reporter.

So, we have two people from Markey's: we have Josh and Aaron who actually are making sure that you can see this, you can hear this. We have our staff in the background -- got the right camera, oh, good.

So, in the purple shirt we have Reggie Mathis. You have may have seen him, he's part of our convention staff. He's actually the one that makes The American Legion convention what it is, and he does a phenomenal job. I really enjoy working with Reggie.

We also have Kevin Mook who is wearing the SAL cover. He's a dual member, retired Navy, he's one of my coworkers.

Then we have Michele Emery, some of you know her. She works in Internal Affairs. She does all the Training Tuesdays. She's an Auxiliary member and, again, great to work with, one of my best coworkers as well.

Of course, everyone knows Brian. He's barely in the camera there, move over closer to Michele. So, you have Brian Compton sporting an SAL mask there, looking good. Of course, you know Brian, he's the nuts and bolts behind a lot of this too. He's always working behind the scenes.

I just wanted to recognize them. They do phenomenal work, and they're in on their own time to make this meeting happen for you. So, let's please give them a round of applause.

*(Applause)*

And then I -- help me out, your name, I forgot your name.

BRIAN COMPTON: Janine.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Janine, our court reporter, is here, who you normally see at the NEC meetings. But she's hidden off in the corner there recording all this.

Anyway, Commander, thank you for indulging me, thank you for allowing me an ample amount of time to explain some things, maybe ease things over a little bit.

Write me directly if you have an issue, I'll try to get an answer for you, I'll follow up. Brian, as well, will do the same.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We have another question, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Okay.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Dennis Henkemeyer.

Chair recognizes Bob Brown.

NECMAN ROBERT BROWN: Ken, a comment. I tried to get in a moment ago on this membership. We haven't discovered these different portals for SAL, Legion, and Riders and such. We did find a workaround. I noticed a text from California said they were sending theirs in by paper.

If we go on the listing to process membership, you have to fill out every little piece of it, but it asks for branch of service and years. We just put "unknown," "unknown," and bingo, it goes straight through and works, and it processes, and we get a full report like we were still online, the old mySAL.org.

So that's a workaround that we discovered. Now, we may not be doing it the right way, I don't know, but we processed probably 400, 500 memberships like that.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Okay. Good to know. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Dennis Henkemeyer.

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: Ken, just a quick update on the CS2 that you mentioned earlier. It does work, there's no doubt about it. Yesterday I was working on two members from our post that they showed as being delinquent for 2021. So, I sent an information to CS2, and by this morning already, that problem had been corrected. So CS2 does work. That's all I've got.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: CS2, I think you're referring to the email; is that correct?

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: That's correct, yes.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: CS2, Charles Sam 2.

NECMAN HENKEMEYER: I stand corrected.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: People are, like, "What, CS2?"

That's great, I'm glad things are working out. You've got to remember, too, this is for both the Legion and the SAL. So that workaround that NEC Brown found, you know, it's all-encompassing. But if you can't answer and it still let you go through, I'm sure it's right. It wouldn't let it happen if it wasn't.

I see a question from Mr. Fox.

LEADING CANDIDATE FOX: Yes, Ken. No question. Just would like to reiterate, you know, and express my appreciation not only to you but to the entire staff at headquarters.

All types of change is difficult, and especially when we're doing software changes, there's always bugs that need to get worked out in the end. But I'd just like to stress to everybody, you know, as you did, be patient. There is a light at the end of the tunnel, and I know every one of us will be happy once everything is fully functional and it will increase, hopefully, all reporting and as well as help membership in the long run. So be patient.

And Ken, for you and everybody else, thank you for all the hard work and taking all the bullets from all the members when things don't go right.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Thank you, Candidate Fox.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: There are no more questions, Ken.

NATIONAL STAFF LIAISON GEORGE: Commander, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Ken, for that report.

I'd also like to announce that attending our meeting today virtually is James Marsden, The American Legion National Historian.

Thank you, sir, for attending our meeting. I hope you have enjoyed and gotten a lot of insight into The Sons program.

### **Donation Pledges**

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: We will now accept donation pledges.

Remember, only those members of the NEC with a voice will be able to make such pledges during this session. Please use the "raise my hand" function of the Zoom meeting to let us know you wish to be recognized. When I do call on you, please speak slowly.

Chair recognizes Mike Pipher.

NECMAN PIPHER: Thank you, Mr. Commander. Mike Pipher, NEC Detachment of Indiana. We had our DEC last weekend. Although we're still tabulating moneys that were coming in then and since then, I do know that we have at least a \$7,000 donation to Child Welfare Foundation that's going to coming your way shortly.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: All right, thank you, sir.

I have received during my visit here last weekend from Squadron 97 in DeKalb, Indiana, \$500 for the American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation. From the Fourth District in the Detachment of Indiana to The American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation, \$500 also. Thank you, Indiana, for all of that.

Chair recognizes Willie Morgan from Virginia. Willie, you are muted.

NECMAN MORGAN: Good afternoon, everyone. I have some donations from the Detachment of Virginia. From Squadron 284 in Colonial Heights, they donate \$400 to Operation Comfort Warrior; they also donate \$400 to Child Welfare; and they also donate \$400 for NEF. Okay?

Also, Squadron 327 of Norfolk donates \$4,000 for Operation Comfort Warrior; for Child Welfare they donate \$2,500. Okay?

And Squadron 67 of Hampton, Virginia donates \$150 for Child Welfare.

Thank you, gentlemen. Have a great evening.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Willie, could you possibly repeat? You went a little too fast for us to keep track of it. Could you please repeat that, sir?

NECMAN MORGAN: Yes, sir. Commander, from Squadron 284 in Colonial Heights, I have \$400 for Operation Comfort Warrior, also \$400 for CWF, also \$400 for NEF. From Squadron 327 in Norfolk, I have a \$4,000 donation to Operation Comfort Warrior. And for CWF, \$2,500 from 327. And from Squadron 67 out of Hampton, Virginia, we have a \$150 donation for Child Welfare. That concludes our donations from the Detachment of Virginia so far. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Willie.

Chair recognizes Kevin Collier from Alaska.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COLLIER: Yeah, Commander. On behalf of the Detachment of Alaska, as a PNC, I would like to say that we are going to send in a check for \$1,475 for the Child Welfare Foundation, and also a check for \$1,475 for the National Emergency Fund.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir. I apologize, yes, that is Past National Commander Kevin Collier. I apologize for that.

Chair recognizes, I just have a phone number. It is (630)670-4411. Chair recognizes you, sir.

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE PAVIGLIANTI: State your name and detachment, please.

NECMAN MELONE: Mark Melone, Detachment of Illinois NEC. Illinois would like to pledge, I'd say, about \$8,600 at that point to the CWF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Okay. Thank you, NECman Mark, appreciate it.

NECMAN MELONE: You're welcome.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes Scott Garrett from Colorado.

Scott, I think you're muted.

NECMAN GARRETT: I'm sorry, I was still muted.

This is Scott Garrett, NEC Colorado. Numerous checks. I have one from Squadron 111 made out to The American Legion Veterans and Children foundation, \$500. Squadron 2, Pueblo, National Emergency Fund, \$200. Squadron 111, American Legion National Emergency Fund, \$500. Squadron 15, Fisher House, \$400. Squadron 2, Child Welfare Foundation, \$750. Squadron 15, Child Welfare Foundation, \$1,300.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Scott, can you slow down just a little bit, sir?

NECMAN GARRETT: That was all of it, sir.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: What was the last donation, sir?

NECMAN GARRETT: Squadron 15, CWF, \$1,300.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Scott. Appreciate those donations, sir.

Are there any other donations to come before this meeting?

NECman from Virginia Willie, what was the last CWF donation that you pledged? I think it was Squadron 68. What was the total?

NECMAN MORGAN: Squadron 67, sir, my squadron. \$150 to CWF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, sir.

NECMAN MORGAN: No problem.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Chair recognizes John Waite.

NECMAN WAITE: Detachment of Vermont has \$3,202 for CWF.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, John, for that donation.

Are there any other donations to come before this meeting?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Commander -- Carvin from Michigan.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a donation from the Detachment of Michigan, CWF, South Haven, \$350; 18th District, \$350; Squadron 14 --

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Sir, you're going a little too -- could you back up, please? We're trying to record everything. Sir, could you add your donation to the chat box, please? We're having great difficulty hearing your donations. Can you do that in the chat box, sir? Or you could email us, too, if you want to. But thank you for those donations, sir, we do appreciate it. We're just having some issues hearing you.

Are there any other donations to come before this meeting?

Is there anything else for the Good of The Sons of The American Legion?

Do you have a total?

ASSISTANT NATIONAL ADJUTANT HICKS: The donations that were pledged thus far, comrades, for CWF, we have a total of \$22,277; for Fisher House, \$400, for NEF, total today pledged, \$2,375; for Operation Comfort Warrior, total pledged, \$4,400; for the American Legion Veterans and Children's Fund, total pledged today, \$1,500. That concludes it, Commander.

So grand total -- I'm not sure that's right, though. Just go with that now. I don't think those numbers are adding up right.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Thank you, Jeff, for that. Appreciate it.

Great job, gentlemen. We appreciate that. This is the first time that we tried using the donate during our meeting. It's greatly appreciated, all of the money that will go to Legion charities.

Is there anything else to come before the Good of The Sons of The American Legion at this time?

Okay. Are there any final announcements at this time?

If there is no further business to come before this National Executive Committee meeting, National Chapter Rodney Tolbert will lead us in the closing prayer. Please rise and uncover.

### **Benediction**

#### **Rodney Tolbert, National Chaplain, Michigan**

Almighty God, we started this meeting with You, and we are closing it with You. Thank You for making this meeting a success. We would not have time without You because many of our plans lie with You who establishes them. May the things that we learned today stir our hearts and remain when we put them into action. May what we learned impact our lives, family, friends, and the rest of our organization. We believe and pray in Your name, amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER BOLT: Please cover.

Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of The Sons of The American Legion. Let us ever be watchful of the honor of our countrymen, The American Legion, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, loyalty, and democracy.

With the colors of our nation being in place, gentlemen, please join in a right-hand salute. Two.

I now declare the Spring 2021 meeting of the NEC adjourned. Thank you, gentlemen, for all your patience and participation today. Thank you.

*...At 3:01 p.m., Saturday, April 24, 2021, the National Executive Committee meeting of The Sons of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.*

**ADDENDUM B**

***Internal Affairs Commission Report to  
National Executive Committee  
The American Legion  
May 5-6, 2021***

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 virtually at the National Executive Committee Meeting on April 24, 2021.

<b>RESOLUTION NUMBER</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION</b>
SAL Res. No. 1 Spring NEC, 2021	Detachment of Mississippi	Change to Rule 1 of the National Executive Committee	<i>Recommend Approval</i>
SAL Res. No. 2 Spring NEC, 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Creation of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Convention Commemoration Committee	<i>Recommend Approval</i>
SAL Res. No. 4 Spring NEC, 2021	Child Welfare Foundation Committee	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2021 Budget	<i>Recommend Approval</i>
SAL Res. No. 5 Spring NEC, 2021	Detachment of Massachusetts	Empowering the National Adjutant to Correct Resolutions	<i>Recommend Approval</i>
SAL Res. No. 6 Spring NEC, 2021	Internal Affairs Commission	Establishing a Policy and Procedure for a National Representative to attend the Funeral or Memorial Service of a Past National Commander or Significant Leader	<i>Handled administratively to comply with The American Legion travel policy on death of a Past National Commander</i>

  
**George V. West (NH), Chairman  
SAL Subcommittee**