

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**40<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
**OF**  
**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**



**Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
**August 26-28, 2011**

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PRE-CONVENTION MEETING  
AUGUST 26, 2011**

The Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of The Sons of The American Legion was called to order by National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne at 1:00 pm, Friday, August 26, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

With colors being in place a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander David L. Dew (TX) called on National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) for the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander Mark Cohen (ID) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) then called for National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

David L. Dew (TX)	National Commander
Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Vice Commander
Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA)	National Vice Commander
Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (WI)	National Vice Commander
Dr. Jerry L. Leopold (KS)	National Vice Commander
Mark J. Cohen (ID)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Lyle Larson (KS)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
G. D. Hendrix (GA)	National Chaplain
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
William L. Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Historian
Thomas L. Getz (OH)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI) - E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Fifield (MA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Roy H. Turner (WV) - E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Michael W. Dooley (FL)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Bradley S. Pack (TX)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Robert McBride (OH)	Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)	Richard L. Cook (TX)
James Hartman (MD)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Steve C. Laws (NC)
David P. Stephens (IN)	Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)	Thomas Cisna (IL)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

At this time Commander Dew (TX) declared the 2011 Pre-Convention of the National Executive Committee regularly convened. National Adjutant O’Heerne was called for the reading of the April 30 – May 1, 2011 minutes.

A motion to accept the Spring 2011 Minutes was made by Indiana and seconded by Connecticut. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Kerestan welcomed everyone to Minneapolis. The October NEC Meeting is just around the corner and the call-in letter was mailed out last Wednesday therefore it should hit your mail box today or tomorrow and will be e-mailed on Sunday to all the Detachment Adjutants, NECman and National Officers. The rooms are going to be tight this year because the National Commander will be having his reception at the hotel plus an Indianapolis Colts football game. You can send your reservations via fax, e-mail or regular mail but you need to make your reservations through me.

It has been a very good year under Commander Dew. I want to thank everyone for the support you’ve given me and Internal Affairs. David, I appreciate all you’ve done for the Sons, you’ve been a diamond in the rough.

In closing, I wish you the best at this year’s National Convention. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Dew called for any Chairmen Reports, no reports were presented.

Old Business

Commander David L. Dew (TX) called for any old business; no old business was presented at this time.

New Business

Commander David L. Dew (TX) called for any new business. The East called for a caucus.

For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion

Commander David L. Dew (TX) called for Good of The Sons; nothing to come For the Good of The Sons of The American Legion.

In closing, National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) gave the benediction.

Following a right-hand salute, Commander David L. Dew (TX) declared the Pre-NEC Meeting adjourned.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
40<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL CONVENTION  
AUGUST 26, 2011**

**National Commander David L. Dew (TX) called the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion to order at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, August 26, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

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

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

National Commander Dew called on National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) to give the invocation.

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

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

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

The National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion hereby called by the National Commander the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion held August 26-28, 2011 in the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. The purpose is for the

National Convention Session in accordance with the uniform code of procedure for National Convention will convene at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 26, 2011. The 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention will be convened for the following purposes:

- To complete all business for the Sons of The American Legion for the fiscal year 2010-2011.
- To vote on all Resolutions which are properly presented to the National Convention of The Sons of The American Legion.
- To consider and/or make amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws of National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion.
- To elect a National Commander and Five (5) National Vice Commanders in that sequence for the ensuing year 2011-2012. Elections will take place on Sunday, August 28, 2011.
- Representation in the National Convention shall be allotted in accordance with provision of Article V of the National Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion, which is stated in Article V, Section 3 and Section 4.

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) then called for National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

David L. Dew (TX)	National Commander
Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Vice Commander
Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA)	National Vice Commander
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Dr. Jerry L. Leopold (KS)	National Vice Commander
Mark J. Cohen (ID)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
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Thomas L. Getz (OH)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI) - E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
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J. R. Stillwell (IL)

Charles E. Gannon (MD)

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Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)

Douglas Bible (MN)

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Roland D. Matteson (AZ)

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Clifford A. Smith (MA)

Michael Deacon (IA)

Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)

Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)

Thomas Cisna (IL)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

Commander David L. Dew (TX) welcomed everyone to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Sons of The American Legion Convention. It's been a pleasure seeing everyone this year.

We had a fantastic year as you will hear as the Chairmen come forward to give their reports.

Commander Dew called Dennis Blue (MN) to the podium.

Mr. Blue stated the Golf Tournament will be presented by the Detachment Commander of Minnesota. The dinner and comedy show will take place tonight. This concluded his comments.

William Peters (MN) was called to the podium.

Bill Peters (MN), Commander, Detachment of Minnesota said we were very pleased to sponsor the Golf Tournament. Mr. Peters thanked John Zgoda for helping him with the Golf Outing.

We had nine (9) teams that participated. Congratulations to the Detachment of Ohio for winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Tournament with -4 under par. We did have donations come in and they will be given at the Fall Meeting. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Dew had National Commander Jimmie Foster (AK) and his wife Rehta escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Commander Foster stated his motto is "if you're not dual, you're not cool". I strictly believe in that and I'm just as proud to be an SAL member as I am a Legion member. There is strength in numbers. The fundraising and services you provide as Sons and all the hard work you do in support of veterans is why I'm proud to be here. Commander Foster spoke about his father and

his service in WWII. You should feel proud of what your father's and grandfather's have done for us.

Whatever your Squadron size may be pick a few things to do, but do them well. Do them well enough that when you come to National Convention your on stage receiving a 1<sup>st</sup> Place Trophy. Also send in your Squadron reports because there is strength in numbers as we report those numbers to Congress.

Let's not forget the young men and women on active duty. We take care of veterans but we also need to take care of our active military. When you're down and out just think of someone that's been there. Don't stop – it's not going to happen on my watch. Remember our vets and thank them for their service. David Dew has done a great job. Every year the SAL smokes the Legion in CWF. There was \$355,666 raised for the Legacy Run.

Thanks everyone for what you've done. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Dew (TX) presented National Commander Jimmie Foster (AK) with a Citation of Appreciation and made him a Distinguished Guest.

Commander Dew had National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler (VA) escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Adjutant Wheeler began by saying I've been eligible for the Sons since 4/23/1947. Past Commander Tommie Cisna asked me to join to honor my father who fought in WWII. I'm very proud to be a member of the Sons since you do so many great things for America's veterans and their families. I wish you'd teach us the secret of hitting 100% membership every year.

In closing, I wish you a great convention. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Dew (TX) made National Adjutant Daniel Wheeler (VA) a Distinguished Guest.

Commander Dew had Larry Besson, Internal Affairs Commission, Chairman, George West, SAL Sub-Committee Chairman, Jack Querfeld, Internal Affairs, Director escorted to the stage.

Mr. Besson (IL) spoke about the outstanding numbers the SAL has. Your membership is fantastic with 334,000+ members. We also have 5,861 Squadrons nationwide and growing by leaps and bounds. I have to say thanks for the fantastic job in fundraising and volunteer hours. Donations to the Children & Youth projects have raised \$888,000.

In closing, Mr. Besson (IL) thanked the Sons and said you're doing a good job. Keep up the good work. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. George West (NH) spoke. It's wonderful to hear the statistics you've accomplished once again this year. I'd like to take a moment to reflect, then candidate David Dew, came before us while he was campaigning, said "elect me, Dew can do it". After looking at all your accomplishments, it appears to me that "Dew done did it". These accomplishments can't be

done without every member of every Squadron and Detachment represented here today. I may be one year older since last we meet but my SAL cap still fits and proud to be a member with you.

In closing, Mr. West (NH) thanked the Sons and said to keep up the great work. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Jack Querfeld (IL) spoke. He said, thank you from the staff in all you do. I sat in on the Legion Rider meeting and was amazed the number of Sons that were in the meeting that made the trip from Indianapolis to Minneapolis. I want to thank you for your involvement in the Legacy Run as well as the Child Welfare Foundation. This concluded his remarks.

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

Commander Dew had Dennis Boland (FL), President of CWF and Bob Caudell, Executive Director of CWF escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Boland (FL) began by saying that it's an honor to be here before you. When you come to present yourself to people you wonder what you should talk about and hopefully you inspire as I have been inspired. In 1932, your inception, you had no history but you have had a rendezvous with destiny. Thank God you haven't reached your destiny yet because that history you've compiled over the years has made you magnanimous amongst the family and what you do for veterans and children and youth of our Nation.

Take a look at Colorado that raised \$4,170 with their duck race. You put a lot of plastic ducks in a river and watch them go down. That's got to be a lot of fun and they raise a lot of money doing this. The same aspect in Arizona with their Josh Program, it's outstanding when they recruit all the Josh Soldiers to be handed out. The main thing is among each other with the competition, which is so friendly and gives you ideas. It's competition that enlightens you to do better at the programs that you've done so well over the years.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart and you make me so proud to be a member. You are my family and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family.

Mr. Boland stated, since 1954 the CWF has awarded over \$11.3 million in grants to organizations to benefit children. The strong support of Sons of The American Legion has made these grants possible. I know Commander Dew's goal is \$5 million; we're just a little shy of this goal. The SAL is only \$392, 170 away from reaching this goal.

The following Detachments received awards from the Child Welfare Foundation:

***Detachment of Ohio received the US Udie Grant Legacy Award for 2010-2011***

***Detachment of Colorado for Excellence and Achieving the Highest Per-Capita for 2010-2011***



***Detachment of Arizona received the CWF Meritorious Achievement Award for Highest Increase Per-Capita 2010-2011***

***Detachment of Ohio received the Garland D. Murphy, Jr. Award for 2010-2011***

Mr. Boland presented the Child Welfare Diamond Lapel pin to Commander David L. Dew (TX).

Mr. Boland closed by saying thank you for supporting CWF. This concluded his speech.

Commander Dew made Mr. Boland and Robert Caudell Distinguished Guests.

Commander David L. Dew (TX) had National Auxiliary President Carlene Ashworth (TX) and National Secretary Dubbie Buckler (IN) escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

President Ashworth said it was a pleasure to be here. The Auxiliary and I appreciate the things you do to help support the Auxiliary and continue your hard work. We couldn't accomplish what the Auxiliary does without the help of the SAL.

President Ashworth (TX) thanked Commander Dew. This concluded her remarks.

Secretary Dubbie Buckler spoke. She said it was a pleasure to be here and I take my hat off to all of you. There has been so much focus and energy at what we exist for and that is to serve our veterans and active duty military. Thank you for all you do and as a family we need to grow. We are trying to put together a joint membership tri-fold brochure that contains a membership application for Auxiliary, Legion and SAL. We hope to have this done by the end of the year.

Secretary Buckler thanked everyone and wished the SAL a great National Convention. This concluded her remarks.

Commander Dew presented Carlene Ashworth and Dubbie Buckler a Certificate of Appreciation and made them Distinguished Guests.

Commander Dew had Honorary National Junior Auxiliary President Sabrina Cobb (OH) escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Sabrina Cobb (OH) said it was an honor to be before the SAL. She said the SAL was the reason she became an Auxiliary member. Before her father was a soldier he has been an SAL member for 54 years. Her travels this year gave her the opportunity to speak to the Detachments of New York and Alaska and thanked them for their hospitality. This year, the biggest subject I've been reminding is Family. Along my travels, even though each Detachment works differently we all equal one giant family. We all work towards one common goal; to honor those that sacrificed so much for us.

Ms. Cobb thanked Commander Dew for allowing her to address the Sons and hope his year has been more than successful. This concluded her remarks.

Commander Dew presented Sabrina Cobb (OH) a Certificate of Appreciation and made her a Distinguished Guest.

At this time Commander David L. Dew (TX) called Kevin Collier (AK) to the stage for the Legislative and Rules Convention Committee.

Mr. Collier (AK) reported, the Legislative and Rules Convention Committee met on Friday, August 27, 2011 for the purpose of reviewing the standing rules of the Convention. As a delegate to the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention, Mr. Collier (AK) made a motion for the acceptance of the Standing Rules of the National Convention is accepted as published, motion was seconded by Montana. Motion carried.

At this time Commander David L. Dew (TX) gave his Final Report.

Commander Dew began by saying, on August 29, 2010 was one of the most exciting days of my life. Words can't describe the overwhelming feeling of excitement the journey I was about to embark on as National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. I don't think it actually soaked in until the drive home from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I was able to attend the Department of Texas's DEC with the opportunity to thank the whole Department family for all their support to achieve this position. The next week it was an honor to be with Commander Jimmie Foster and National Auxiliary President Carlene Ashworth in Washington, DC for Commander Foster's testimony before Congress on all the veterans issues.

I then attended the Americanism Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana then came the October NEC Meeting in October where we implemented my plans for the year. Following was my trip to St. Cloud, Minnesota for their Fall Conference and Membership Banquet with a special thanks to John and Julie Zgoda for taking care of me while I was there.

In November, my wife and I traveled to Orlando, Florida for the Children's Miracle Network hosted by Disney, Inc. I'll never forget the children I met while I was there and how brave they are. I received a big dose of reality before leaving the hotel at Disney. I thank God for my wife Charlie and good friend Mike Moss for being there when I collapsed from bacterial pneumonia.

I didn't have a clue I was even that sick. Once I got over being sick I was back at the job. In December, we went Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and one of the most humbling time of my life.

In January, I attended Pennsylvania DEC Meeting were it was so cold but the meeting was great and the hospitality was warm. I thought it was cold in Pittsburgh until I arrived in Vermont where it was even colder. I then attended the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, Illinois. I then traveled to Flint, Michigan for their DEC and thank you God for no tornados.

In March, I traveled to Washington, DC to the Washington Conference for laying of the wreaths ceremony, where I had the honor to lay the wreaths. In April, I attended the NEC Meeting in Indianapolis and we raised over \$104,000 for CWF starting out the year. Thank you all for what you did to get us cranked up.

Finally, a road trip to warmer weather, Parker, Arizona in which they had great attendance. Leading Candidate Jimmie Foster and I had a great time camping and hanging out with all the members and their families.

One of the most exciting trips of the year was on April 20-24, 2011 to Kodiak, Alaska. The landscaping was breathe taking and just beautiful. It was really special because all four National Leaders were together for the first time and had a wonderful time.

I was able to reschedule the Kansas trip, then traveled to Louisiana, Wyoming, New Mexico, which it had been a long time since a SAL National Commander attended their DEC. I then traveled to Huntington, West Virginia then New York where it was one of the most awesome meetings I attended. They are incredible in what they do in New York. Now here we are in August where I was able to attend the National Junior Shooting Sports in Colorado.

In closing, Commander Dew (TX) said it will be one year he won't forget. He thanked all his officers and chairmen he had the honor to work with. Thanked everyone for electing him. This concluded his report.

A motion from Kevin Collier (AK) to accept Commander Dew's Report, accepted by Texas, seconded by Florida. Motion carried.

At this time Past National Commander Robert McBride (OH) was called to the stage for a special presentation.

PNC McBride (OH) addressed all the Past National Commanders. In the 40 conventions that have followed, we have been blessed with an ever growing and ever improving organization. This didn't happen by accident it happened by leadership. This room is filled today with the leaders of the Sons of The American Legion. You are here today because you are the organizations leaders. By any measure in a difficult economic time the leadership gathered here today has delivered an outstanding year. The ground work for that outstanding year was laid by the leadership of our National Commander David Dew (TX).

PNC McBride made Commander David Dew a Distinguished Guest.

At this time National Commander David L. Dew (TX) made all the National Vice Commanders and National Chaplain Distinguished Guests.

National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne announced to submit any pictures from the Legacy Run to Mike Pipher, Newsletter Editor.

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) declared the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention recessed until August 27, 2011 to begin at 9:00 am.

**The 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 27, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander David L. Dew (TX) declared the Convention in session.

National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) gave the invocation.

National Vice Commander Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) then called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders and Detachments.

Present were: (E=Excused)

**National Officers**

David L. Dew (TX)	National Commander
Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Vice Commander
Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA)	National Vice Commander
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Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Michael Deacon (IA)
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Richard League (MD)	Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)

Roland D. Matteson (AZ)  
Joseph Mayne (MN)

Thomas Cisna (IL)

**National Executive Committeemen**

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

Commander Dew called NVC Mark Cohen (ID) to the podium. NVC Cohen called Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) to give the Credentials Report.

At this time, Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE) was called to give the Credentials Report.

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

Mr. Thompson (NE) reported the following: There were a possible 844 Delegates and 42 Delegates At Large for a total of 886 possible Delegate votes from 53 Detachments. There were 42 Detachments pre-registered with 818 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 52 Guests. On Thursday, we had 47 Detachments with 862 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 62 Guests registered. On Friday, we had 51 Detachments with 880 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 65 Guests registered. At the close of registration on Saturday, we had 51 Detachments with 880 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 65 Guests at the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention.

Mr. Thompson announced there will be an increase for next year's National Convention registration.

This concluded Mr. Thompson's first preliminary report.

At this time Thomas Wigmore (MA) was called to give the National Membership Committee Report.

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

**NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**Thomas Wigmore (MA), Chairman**

Mr. Wigmore began by saying this has been another banner year for our organization. Our race started in Milwaukee and some of your regions were neck-n-neck with some left in the dust. Some of our highlights this year was awarding the first Triple Nickel Award. This award was established in 2009.

As of August 23, 2011, there are 25 Detachments at 100% with 17 Detachments at an All-Time High.

A recap of our race results are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Western Region
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Eastern Region
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Mid-Western Region
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place – Southern Region
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place – Central Region

The following awards were given:

***Regional 100% Awards***

East	Delaware
South	Tennessee
Central	Iowa
Mid-West	Kansas
West	Nevada

***Highest Renewal Percentage by Region***

East	New York	(91.25%)
South	Mississippi	(100.00%)
Central	Illinois	(90.80%)
Mid-West	South Dakota	(96.54%)
West	California	(83.17%)

***90% Renewal Awards***

North Dakota	95.98%
Nebraska	90.37%
New Hampshire	90.32%

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

***Largest Squadron Award – Shiloh Squadron 791, York, Pennsylvania***

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

Category I	Mississippi
Category II	Wyoming
Category III	Missouri
Category IV	California
Category V	Pennsylvania

**Mr. Wigmore announced that the 2010-2011 Blue Brigade recipients will be shown on the screen.**

**Triple Nickel Award – Detachment of Iowa. Membership – 105.6%; New Charters – 7; Renewal Percentage – 87.1%.**

This concluded the Membership Report. Mr. Wigmore (MA) made a motion to accept this report, accepted by Pennsylvania, seconded by Florida. Motion carried.

At this time Leading Candidate Fang Wong (NY) was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Wong (NY) started by sharing his story of why he picked The American Legion. He said, he came to the United States when he was 12 years old back in the 1960's. I went to a Chinese school instead of a regular school. I was recognized by someone and he handed me a box and a check that paid for my tuition and in the box was a medal. This made an impression on me as a young boy coming all the way from Hong Kong.

I later found out, in order to join the Legion, I had to join the Army. To qualify you had to go to Vietnam and I stayed in the Army for 20 years because I enjoyed it. After I retired, found a job, settled down and had a family I rushed up to the post and wanted them to sign me up. I handed my DD214 and a check to the Adjutant, and then he had the nerve to tell me you only needed one day of active duty.

I tell you this because of how important the Legion Family to your work. You touch young boys and girls of all age of what it means to be a good citizen and an American.

I bet when the Post Commander handed me this medal 48 years ago I'm sure he had no idea he was planting a seed for National Commander. That's what the SAL does, is go out there and plant the seed for membership. You have done outstanding work with CWF by raising \$400,000 in donations and over 40,000 volunteer hours.

I look forward in sharing my year with Jim Roberts, III and hope you vote for him. It has been an honor to have a few minutes and please continue your great work. My big kick this year for the Legion is membership. My projects will be CWF and Legacy Scholarship Fund. This concluded his remarks.

NVC Mark Cohen (MD) made Fang Wong (NY) a Distinguished Guest.

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

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

At this time 2<sup>nd</sup> Leading Candidate James Koutz (IN) was escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Koutz began by saying thank you for inviting him to attend the SAL Convention. I am an SAL member of Squadron 200 in Boonville, Indiana. Sons of The American Legion is very important to me because in 1975, when my Son was born, I decided to start a Squadron in Boonville, IN. I think we ended up with 21 members that night.

I want to say thanks for what you do for the Child Welfare Foundation. If it wasn't for the Sons of The American Legion it wouldn't be what it is today. I want to thank you and salute you for that.

In closing, he thanked the SAL and said to have a great Convention.

NVC Mark Cohen (MD) made Jim Koutz (IN) a Distinguished Guest.

(CWF report continued at this time)

**CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

**Peter Sierminski (CO), Chairman**

Mr. Sierminski began by saying it was a great year for CWF this year, \$392,000+ which came out to be \$1.15 per member. This past year, thirty (30) Detachments met their goal of \$1.00 per member. Ten (10) Detachments exceeded \$2.00 per member. Special mention to five (5) Detachments for exceeding \$3.74 per member – Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, South Carolina and Virginia.

This year the Sons of The American Legion will reach the \$5 million dollar mark and are only about \$100,000 away from our goal.

Mr. Sierminski (CO) presented the following awards:

*Per Capita Awards Largest in the Nation – **COLORADO***  
*Per Capita Awards in the South Region – **SOUTH CAROLINA***  
*Per Capita Awards in the Central Region – **OHIO***  
*Per Capita Awards in the West Region – **ARIZONA***  
*Per Capita Awards in the East Region – **VERMONT***

*Largest Monetary Donation in the Nation – **OHIO***  
*Largest Monetary Donation in the East Region – **PENNSYLVANIA***  
*Largest Monetary Donation in the South Region – **VIRGINIA***  
*Largest Monetary Donation in the Mid-West Region – **COLORADO***  
*Largest Monetary Donation in the Western Region – **ARIZONA***

Detachments over \$2.00 per member that were not Regional winners were:  
*Alabama, Idaho, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington*

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



*Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming*

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

At this time National Vice Commander Patrick Gryskiewicz (WI) called William Towns, Jr. (OH) to give the History Book Awards Report.

**HISTORY BOOK AWARDS**  
**William Towns, Jr. (OH), National Historian**

Mr. Towns (OH) thanked the Detachments that sent in pictures from their National Commander visits. There were six (6) history books, four (4) from Squadrons and two (2) from Detachments submitted for judging. The judging on two books were given a 100% score. We had to go in and start looking into more detailing like spelling, margins, words and picture sizes. We used three different tie breakers before we found one little discrepancy between the two books.

The history book winner was awarded to *Lake Plata, MD Squadron 82*. The Detachment winner is - *Maryland*.

Mr. Towns (OH) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Ohio, seconded by Pennsylvania. Motion carried.

PNC J. R. Stillwell (IL) commended the Detachment of Maryland for an outstanding job on their scrap book.

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

Mr. Comer began by saying, it's been 24 years since he's been National Commander in 1987-88. I haven't missed one year in attending the Sons of The American Legion's National Convention. I'm not trying to break a record I pride myself that I'm the only one that has done it. It's a great privilege to be a part of this American Legion Family.

They say, why do you keep coming back? I think it behooves all of us to remember where we've come from, where we're going and how we can help. Twenty-four (24) years ago I asked you to do something for me and you didn't fail me. I asked you to raise \$1 million dollars for CWF and you didn't fail me you raised \$1 million and \$168,000. That's why I'm here again this year. You're the only organization that has kept up the challenge. This year we're looking between \$4-\$5 million you've raised for CWF – well deserved and thank you SAL.

Your membership is still growing. Go out and get those expired memberships and if they can't pay their dues pay it for them. When organizations come to our Department Conventions make sure everyone behind the booth is a member of the SAL or Legion if eligible. Keep up the very good work. This concluded his remarks.

NVC Mark Cohen (MD) made PNC Comber (MA) a Distinguished Guest.

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

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman**

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

*NEC 2-11 – Titled: Endorsement of John Waite (NH) for National Vice Commander. Received and filed.*

*NEC 3-11 Titled: Endorsement of Philip Deutser (OK) for National Vice Commander. Received and filed.*

*NEC 1-11 Titled: Support the Friends of Ernie Pyle, submitted by Detachment of Indiana. Referred to Internal Affairs Commission for 2011 Fall Meeting.*

We reviewed the 2010-2011 accomplishments. Don Culver reviewed the MT&D and getting everything ready for the Adjutant/Commander School as well as the 2011-2012 NMI School. We discussed the new MyLegion.org. This concluded his report.

Mr. Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Indiana, seconded by Wisconsin. Motion carried.

NVC Joseph Gladden (MD) called Bruno Williamson (IL) for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Report.

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

**VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION**  
**Bruno Williamson (IL), Chairman**

Mr. Williamson began by saying the main object of the Convention Committee is to recap the year. The Commission was very busy this year promoting seven programs.

The seven (7) programs are:

- 1.) *Homeless Veterans* – 1/3 of our homeless veterans has served in our National Armed Forces. It is estimated that on any one given night there are 100,000 homeless veterans across our Country.
- 2.) *National Veterans Assistance Day* – This year it was held on May 21, 2011. This is a day to say “thank you” to those that served us. This year we served almost 13,000 veterans with almost 12,000 hours and donations totaling \$71,000.
- 3.) *Respite Care* – provides our veteran caregivers a break to get away and get some rest.

- 4.) *Landstahl Hospital Care* – provides comfort items to our wounded troops.
- 5.) *VAVS Reps and Deps* – we are continuing to get Representatives in all 154 VA Medical Centers across the Country.
- 6.) *Ride to Recovery* – a rehabilitation program for our troops with physical and mental injuries.
- 7.) *K-9 for Combat Warriors* – providing service dogs to our injured troops.

This year's Washington Conference was different. Some of the topics this year were Health Care Benefits, a Women's Veteran Panel, Veteran Courts, National Cemeteries, VA Rehabilitation and Suicide Hotline which has changed its name to the Crisis Hotline. I greatly encourage your Detachments to send you to the VAVS Conference. This year's VAVS Conference will be held in Charleston, South Carolina, March 14-16, 2012

The following Awards were presented:

*Kirby Kepler Memorial (Squadron): Squadron 66, Pioneer, Utah*

*Allen I. O'Brian Memorial (District): 4<sup>th</sup> District, Georgia*

*Earl Webster Memorial (Detachment): Georgia*

*Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year: None*

We had over 7,900 Veteran Home Visits with an additional \$52,000 dollars spent; Fisher House with 9,100 hours and donations of \$77,000. Our total hours for volunteering were over \$320,000 with cash and items donated of over \$5.2 million.

This concluded his report.

Mr. Williamson (IL) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Illinois, seconded by Wisconsin. Motion carried.

At this time Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) was called to give the Americanism Report.

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

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION**  
**Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Chairman**

Mr. Hammerschmidt (KS) presented the following awards:

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

- #1 Detachment in the Nation – Maryland*
- #1 District in the Nation – 4<sup>th</sup> District, Georgia*

*#1 Squadron of the Year - Squadron 191, Mount Airy, Maryland*

The following National Emergency Fund Awards were presented:

*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Nation – Connecticut*  
*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Central Region – Iowa*  
*Largest Donation Per Capita in the South Region – Virginia*  
*Largest Donation Per Capita in the Mid-West Region – Colorado*  
*Largest Donation Per Capita in the West Region – Oregon*

The following Community Service Scrapbook Awards were presented:

*Community Service Detachment Scrapbook Award – Kansas*  
*Community Service District Scrapbook Award – None*  
*Community Service Squadron Scrapbook Award – Squadron 289, Riverside, California*

Mr. Hammerschmidt (KS) thanked everyone that helped. This concluded his report.

Mr. Hammerschmidt (KS) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Kansas, seconded by Florida seconded. Motion carried.

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted Michael Peterson to the stage.

Mr. Peterson said Randy Eicher (OH) and Blair Miles (OH) took us up on our offer to come to their community. They brought 93 High Schools to the first ever Youth Symposium sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion and US Army. I loved that it had never been done before. This was a different way of looking at the SAL and Legion Family. We are looking to do programs in Alabama, California and Indianapolis, Indiana to reach out to the High Schools.

The economy and pressure on schools for testing has created a great shortage of social and emotional learning programs for students. This is an incredible opportunity for SAL and the Legion Family to help fill the gap and build bridges for these schools that need resources.

The Legion is real life with real needs. (Mr. Peterson sang a song at this time.)

Mr. Peterson thanked everyone said God Bless. This concluded his remarks.

NVC Mark Cohen (MD) made Michael Peterson a Distinguished Guest.

At this time NVC Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA) called Mike Moss (CO) to give his report on Children and Youth.

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

**CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION**  
**Mike Moss (CO), Chairman**

Mr. Moss began by thanking everyone for supporting the Children & Youth Programs across this great Nation. The “blue cappers” are the one’s that go out and continue to do the work.

If you look at our CPR’s we had noted only 566 out of over 1,311 that were ordered. It’s very important we start pushing the CPR’s. Go back and report to your Squadrons, Districts and Regions and tell them you need these reports filled out. We had 1,246 Squadrons report, 40 Districts and 23 Detachments.

The hours and donations are as follows: Special Olympics \$139,109 – 15,800 hours; CMN \$90,000 – 6,357 hours; Other Supports \$809,645 – 80,000 hours. Other Children & Youth Programs: \$1.3 million – 167,000 hours.

The following ***Children & Youth Awards*** were announced:

*East Region – Squadron 338, Lenardo, New Jersey*

*Central Region – Squadron 8, Wellington, Ohio*

*West Region – Squadron 155, Colton, California*

*South Region – Squadron 51, East Point, Georgia*

*Detachment – Georgia*

*District – 10<sup>th</sup>, Texas*

*Overall Squadron – Squadron 47, Round Rock, Texas*

Mr. Moss made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Colorado, seconded by Florida. Motion carried.

At this time the Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the 2011 American Legion Youth Champions and Colin Short (IN), Assistant Director, AC&Y to the stage.

Mr. Short (IN) began by saying he’s proud to join the SAL today and a proud member of Squadron 212 in Lapel, Indiana.

There’s no better way to keep America than to prepare the youth of our Nation to meet the challenges and tasks they will face. Through youth activities The American Legion helps develop young citizens of America by laying a foundation for mental, moral, spiritual and physical growth.

Our youth programs offer healthy competition, leadership, opportunities and teamwork. All that is in close harmony with instilling a sense of patriotism, a love of God and Country, and a responsible citizenship.

The American Legion is proud of this all embracing approach and equally full of pride for its youth that holds this Nation’s future in their hands. I’m privileged to introduce you to our Youth Champion Delegation. These are the young people who have excelled in Youth Program sponsored by the American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion as they represent

many thousands of youth across the country that participate in character building activities throughout this past year.

I would like to introduce you to our 2011 American Legion Boys Nation President – ***Michael Herbert (CO)***.

*Michael Herbert* of Arvada, Colorado was elected President of the 2011 American Legion Boys Nation last month in Washington, DC. He was selected based on his performance at Colorado's Boys State where he served as Governor and was sponsored by American Legion Post 161 in Arvada, CO. He's an incoming senior at Arvada High School. He plans to attend the US Military Academy with career plans to study law.

Michael Herbert thanked the SAL for the program and Post 161 in Colorado for providing me with this opportunity. The reason our Country has been able to overcome challenges is because of the freedom and government we have. There's no program in this country that celebrates that government that celebrates that constitution, better than the American Legion Boys Nation Program. This concluded his remarks.

Please join me in welcoming our 2011 Sporter Shooting Champion – ***Mitchell Van Patton (ID)***.

*Mitchell Van Patton* is a fourteen year old shooter from Meridian, Idaho captured the Sporter Crown in this year's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual American Legion Jr. Air Rifle National Championship at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. Mitchell fired an impressive 2,295.9 out of a possible 2,509. Mitchell shoots for the Meridian Optomist Jr. Rifle Club of Idaho which is sponsored by American Legion Post 113. Mitchell's future plans are to make it to the Olympic Developmental Team then on to the Olympics.

Mitchell Van Patton thanked the SAL and said they are a great organization. I am proud to be a brand new member. I was very impressed of how well the American Legion National match was ran and how organized it was. This concluded his remarks.

Please join me in congratulating our 2011 Precision Champion – ***Daniel Lowe (WA)***.

*Daniel Lowe* of Olympia, Washington with a 5 point lead won the Precision Champion in Colorado Springs, Colorado this year with an outstanding score of 2,454.7 out of a possible 2,509. Daniel is a member of Capital City Jr. Rifle Club sponsored by American Legion Post 2. Daniel plans to become an X-Ray Technician.

Daniel Lowe said how great it was for the support from the SAL and how great of an organization it is and looks forward to joining when he gets home. He thanked the SAL for all they did. This concluded his remarks.

Please join me in welcoming our 2011 Eagle Scout of the Year – ***Robert Rasmussen (MN)***.

*Robert Rasmussen* of Hutchinson, Minnesota won the 2011 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. He received a \$10,000 College Scholarship. The Eagle Scout of the Year Award

recognizes Robert's practical citizenship, scouting accomplishments and commitment to community service. Robert worked on two projects including planning, building and establishing thirty-two bird homes, then he contacted local businesses for material donations to build each one. The other project he sought the help of donations from a local cement company, Robert spent two summers making more than 700 8-by-12 concrete markers that featured a star-shaped bronze marker and an insert to hold a U.S. flag. The concrete markers were placed at unmarked veteran graves in a local cemetery, where he too alphabetically updated the list of veterans buried there. Robert also listed the veterans by the war they served in and created a walking tour of the cemetery to help visitors find their loved ones. Upon graduation, the Hutchinson High School junior hopes to pursue a psychology or law degree at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Robert Rasmussen said it was a privilege to be here to represent all Eagle Scouts. Scouting has taught me many skills and I'm most proud of my projects that honor our veterans buried in our local cemeteries. He's a member of Squadron 96 in Hutchinson, Minnesota. He thanked the SAL. This concluded his remarks.

Please join me in welcoming our 2011 Oratorical Youth Champion – **Anisha Gururaj (MO)**.

Anisha Gururaj is from Chesterfield, Missouri. Anisha represented Missouri at the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual American Legion Oratorical Competition to emerge as the top winner from among 52 State Champions. In winning the contest Anisha took home an \$18,000 College Scholarship. Her speech titled "Our Parent, the Constitution" was phenomenal and I hope you were able to see it. If you haven't you can still see it on Legion TV.

*Anisha wasn't able to be with us today.*

Please join me in welcoming our 2010 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year – **Brandon Drozd (NE)**.

Brandon Drozd from Genoa, Nebraska was named the 2010 George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year. This award is based upon integrity, mental attitude, leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and general good conduct. Brandon is a recipient of \$3,500 in College Scholarship Funds from the American Legion. He played catcher for American Legion Post 263 in Silver Creek, Nebraska. He was also selected as the Nebraska Player of the Year and Great Lake Player of the Year. He's pursuing a career to start his own research company.

Brandon Drozd (NE) thanked the SAL and American Legion for allowing him to speak. He said he's been privileged to participate in American Legion Programs. I am glad to represent the Department of Nebraska as the Baseball Player of the Year. This concluded his remarks.

This concluded Mr. Short's remarks.

Colin Short (IN) and the entire Champions were made Distinguished Guests.

At this time NVC Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA) called Kevin Collier (AK) to give his report on Legislative & Rules Convention.

(A video was shown at this time.)

**LEGISLATIVE & RULES CONVENTION COMMITTEE**  
**Kevin Collier (AK), Chairman**

Mr. Collier reported, our first order of business was to review and accept the Uniform Code of Procedures which was approved.

We then reviewed the 2011 American Legion Washington Conference. We had 75 people in attendance. If you haven't been there it's a three day ordeal. We start out with the National Commander laying wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers and various other veteran's War Memorials. Then we join The American Legion at their Commission Meetings. I sat in on the Legislative Meeting then went to all the other meetings to see how we were being represented. I saw at least five to ten Son members wearing their caps. It was commented on by the National organization at the American Legion that they are noticing us and they like it. Next year's Washington Conference will be February 26-29, 2012 at the Hilton Washington Hotel.

There was a question on the floor about the status of the Flag Amendment. The House Joint Resolution 13 and Senate Joint Resolution 19, which read, that Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, currently there are 26 Senators and 80 Representatives signed on as co-sponsors.

Our next order of business was reviewing the applicants for The George B. Evans Grassroots Veteran Advocate Award of the Year. This is the first year for giving this award since renaming it last year in honor of George B. Evans. I would like to ask his wife, Bernadette Evans, his sons Matthew and Andrew, his sister Denise and husband John to present this award. This gentleman did an outstanding job and unfortunately he couldn't be with us because his grandmother passed away. This Award is presented to ***Santiago J. Betancourt (TX)***. The award was accepted on his behalf by the Detachment of Texas.

Bernadette Evans said congratulations to the recipient and it was an honor to present this award on behalf of her husband, George B. Evans.

As a reminder, we stand by the American Legion's side with honor and pride as we serve America's veterans every day that politics is too important matter to leave in the hands of Politicians. We need to stress that every American should get involved in the political process by learning what the issues are, finding out where each candidate stands on the issues and voting. This concluded his report.

Mr. Collier (AK) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Alaska, seconded by Florida. Motion carried.

At this time NVC Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA) called Dr. Jerry Leopold (KS) to the stage. Dr. Leopold then called Ray Jarvis (NY) to give the Finance Committee report.



**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Ray Jarvis (NY), Chairman**

Mr. Jarvis reported there was no business to discuss. This concluded his report.

Mr. Jarvis (NY) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by New York, seconded by Illinois. Motion carried.

At this time Jerry Leopold (KS) called Jeff Frain (AZ) to the stage to give the Constitution and By-Laws report.

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**  
**Jeff Frain (AZ), Chairman**

Mr. Frain stated we had one (1) Resolution submitted. NEC 01-11 was submitted but was rejected for not being in the proper format. This concluded his report.

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

At this time the National Vice Commanders will give their final reports. NVC Joseph Gladden (MD) for the East Region was called to the stage.

NVC Gladden (MD) said, a year ago I was given the opportunity of serving over 133,000 members of the East. Mr. Gladden thanked the leaders of the East for all their work, without them we couldn't have the year we did. We came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in membership and still very proud. We had 100.635% of our goal with 133,235 members to date.

The East ran the membership cup series. Each target date was a race and points were awarded for how well your membership did on each race day target date. After ten race dates a champion was determined, winning five out of the last six target date races, Team Delaware was crowned. The Detachment of Delaware was presented with a Membership Cup for their great year by hitting 103% of their membership.

One of the things Commander Dew was pushing this year was reporting. This year the East turned in 465 Squadron Reports and 8 Detachment Reports. When you total these reports the East had \$331,658 with 40,198 hours for Children & Youth Programs; \$695,274 with 192,639 hours for Americanism Programs; \$1.4 million with 198,823 towards Veterans Programs. When you total these together the East had \$2 million in donations with 431,000+ in service hours. I give you a right-hand salute for all your hard work.

As this year's National Vice Commander I had the opportunity to travel to eight (8) of my Detachments and would like thank them for their hospitality. For those Detachments I wasn't able to make it to, I'm sorry, but I thought about you all year round. Looking back on this year there's one word to describe what this year has meant to me and that word is "IMPACT".

When I was in New York I heard about a soldier named Spc. Branden Marrocco. While serving in Iraq, Spc. Marrocco lost all four of his limbs in an IED explosion. The Legion Family of New York combined with the local community had a house built that will allow him a more normal life.

While traveling in West Virginia I ran into a female veteran named Lisa Grove that ran a hot dog truck to raise funds for homeless veterans. I traveled to Massachusetts where I was given the great honor of touring the USS Constitution and had the honor of flying the flag over the ship. The oldest commissioned US Navy Vessel still floating in the world.

While traveling to Delaware I met Mike Cotton, Commander, of the second largest Squadron in the world with just over 1,100 members. Mike is always coming up with ways in getting new members.

While traveling to New Jersey I got to see first hand the SAL College. It's an incredible class put on by Gary Nelson, Tom Marsden and Jim Noble. This is a class we need to duplicate all across the nation. It helps us learn what the organization is all about.

In June I traveled to New Hampshire. This was one of my toughest visits because on Memorial Day my good friend from NH, Steve Fisher, after attending two Memorials, went home to cut his lawn and had a heart attack and passed away that day. Steve was working on becoming a NVC. With thoughts of my own mortality I started a weight loss program. After talking to Steve's wife, Dawn, and getting permission I got people to sponsor my weight loss program and the money would be donated to the American Heart Association in Steve's name. We raised over \$2,000 for the American Heart Association in Steve's name.

At the Spring NEC meeting I felt the love from the SAL. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, just before the meetings my mom passed away. Knowing my love of this organization my sisters told me to go...so I went. At the NEC my friends from Ohio told me they wanted to make a donations to CWF in my mom's honor. The Detachment of Ohio made a challenge to the audience and they all donated \$1,800 in my mom's honor. This a moment I'll never forget and will impact my life forever.

NVC Joseph Gladden (MD) thanked everyone for their support and hard work. This concluded his report.

Mr. Gladden (MD) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Maryland, seconded by New York. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Mark Cohen (ID) for the West Region was called to the stage for his final report.

NVC Cohen (ID) said it has been his honor to represent the West. My report will not be full boring numbers or statistics. You don't want to know how many e-mails I forwarded from John Kerestan – 473. I will not talk about the West finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place for membership. I will not

brag about #1 Nevada at 156% and an All-Time High, Philippines at 135%, California at almost 104%, Alaska almost hitting 102% or Arizona at an All-Time High with almost 100%. It would just be boring to hear about the Western Region finishing membership year at 101%+.

You can not make me tell you about the dollars we in the West contributed to CWF, raising over \$72,000 or 18% of the total with only 6% of the total SAL membership in our Region. I won't share with you the West per capita results of \$3.25 per member almost double. I won't tell you about nine (9) of our ten (10) Detachments meeting or exceeding \$1 per capita or six (6) of us exceeding Commander Dew's goal of \$1.15.

I specially don't want to talk about Arizona's \$6.34 per capita because it would just give Jeff Frain a higher goal to shoot for next year.

I visited the Korean War Memorial which is why I was able to join the Sons. I went to Washington to judge a Ms. Legion beauty pageant because you don't want to hear about my nightmare of hairy chests, coconut bikinis and grass skirts.

I visited Oregon where it rained the whole time I was there. I then traveled to Utah where a Squadron was rejuvenated. That's proving if you don't ASK you won't GET. I attended the Boys Nation in Idaho and how they would like me to come back next year and encourage as many SAL Idaho members as possible to attend. Then that leaves me with my visit to California.

NVC Cohen (ID) thanked all his Detachments for their hospitality. This concluded his report.

Mr. Cohen (ID) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Idaho, seconded by California. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Patrick Gryskiewicz (WI) for the Central Region was called to the stage for his final report.

NVC Gryskiewicz (WI) stated, everywhere he went the hospitality was excellent. I was glad when I went to the Detachment of Michigan it was a tornado free zone. I'd especially like to thank the Detachment of Wisconsin for helping me this year. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Gryskiewicz (WI) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Wisconsin, seconded by Ohio. Motion carried.

National Vice Commander Dr. Jerry Leopold (KS) for the Mid-West Region was called to the stage for his final report.

Dr. Leopold (KS) said what a great ride I had. It's been a fantastic year. The Mid-West Region has out stripped anything I could have asked for. The goals were set and made. I want to make a special note and thank all the states I was able to visit – Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, Missouri and Texas. Each Detachment provided excellent hospitality.

Mid-West wasn't necessarily first in every category but overall we were leaders in the nation. In membership we went over the 100% quota, however we had three (3) Detachments in the top seven (7) in the nation. We also had 18 new Squadrons chartered. We also had three (3) of the top Detachments with the highest renewal rates in excess of 90%.

Currently, for every three (3) Post there is a Squadron in the Mid-West Region. We do memberships it's what keeps this organization alive. I had five (5) Detachments turn in Squadron CPR's. What's great is, Montana had 100% return of all their Squadron Reports.

The region donated \$52,000 to CWF which is \$1.98 per member with Colorado having \$8.58 per member. Other programs my Detachments supported were CMN, Special Olympics, Josh Dogs, American Legion Baseball and a majority of the programs of the Sons of The American Legion. We also supported programs in Americanism and VA&R.

The Mid-West had continued as a leader in the nation. Dr. Leopold, said he would like to personally thank them for all their hard work and efforts during my year of leadership. This concluded his report.

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

National Vice Commander Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA) for the South Region was called to the stage for his final report.

Mr. LeJeune thanked the Detachments of Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia and Florida for their invitation to visit them and thank you for the warm Southern welcome you showed my wife, Barbara, and me. We will always treasure those visits to those Detachments. Each trip was made by automobile because Barbara and I are both retired and want to see the country side.

The Southern Region is the third largest in the nation with 105% target date with 37,260 members. Of that amount we had 37,329 at 100.8% membership. Membership is the life blood of this organization and membership is the responsibility of everyone. Our region turned in 14 new Squadron charters with 140 new members. The Southern Region donated \$64,939 to CWF.

*Georgia* – the meeting was in the afternoon and I was pulled away so I don't know much about the reports that were given. Georgia's membership was below last year by 58 members. There membership stands at 79.93% and they donated \$6,788 or a \$1.30 per member to CWF.

*Tennessee* – it was extremely wet and cold that weekend but it did not stop this American Legion Family from getting their business done. This Detachment pays the dues for new Squadrons for that year but it ended December 31<sup>st</sup> then it was reinstated. As of my visit they had three (3) new charters and a goal of \$2,000 for CWF was set. During my visit their CWF donations was 87 cents per member, now they're \$2.27. Tennessee went from 46<sup>th</sup> place to 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for membership with 109.94%.

*Virginia* – I like the fact that this Detachment gets the Squadrons to bring their Squadron flags to their meetings and if they didn't bring their flag they were fined \$5 for CWF. During my visit I recorded \$8,035 in donations to CWF with over \$10,000 in donations to other programs and this year \$19,247 or \$4.34 per member. Their membership currently stands at 99.91% and 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation. They also had the largest renewal in the Southern Region.

*South Carolina* – I wasn't able to visit South Carolina, however, I got a call on Father's Day that they had a trailer full of stuff and money to bring to people that was hit by the tornado in Alabama.

*Florida* – what a way to bring a National guest in. When I pulled into the parking lot, when I saw John Jennings, right behind me was an emergency vehicle with their lights on. I assumed I had a traffic violation but it seems like the NECman John Jennings and our Commander Elect, Jim Roberts, III played a trick on me upon my entrance. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year they reached an all-time high in membership. They are 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation as compared to 16<sup>th</sup> last year. They are currently 720 more members compared to last year. They are the largest Detachment in the Southern Region with 13,904 members. Donations were as follows: \$17,000 CWF; \$23,190 CMN; \$2,700 NEF; \$29,000 Special Olympics & \$31,791 VA&R.

Inclosing, Mr. LeJeune said it has been a great honor to serve as your Southern Region NVC. Through my father's service in WWII, I'm honored to serve our veterans and their families. This concluded his report.

Mr. LeJeune (LA) made a motion to accept his report, accepted by Louisiana, seconded by Florida. Motion carried.

At this time the podium was turned back over to National Commander David L. Dew (TX).

Commander Dew (TX) called for all donations.

Commander David Dew (TX) had PNC Bob Turner escorted to the stage by the Sergeant-At-Arms.

Mr. Turner said how much he appreciates what the SAL does for the CWF. We have over 300 applicants for grants this year and it's going to be a very difficult decision. The Boys State/Boys Nation Program is a very important part of the American Legion. Come to find out they don't know a whole lot about the American Legion so starting next year we're going to bring two or three of the Junior Presidents to National Convention and show them what the American Legion Family is all about. PNC Turner introduced Andrew Berkendorf (IA) and Wells Ellensburg (GA). This concluded his remarks.

Commander David Dew made Bob Turner, Andrew Berkendorf and Wells Ellensburg Distinguished Guests.

Commander David L. Dew (TX) announced the following donations totals: CWF \$62,744; NEF \$5,350; CMN \$24,240 and Legacy Scholarship \$250.

Commander David L. Dew (TX) called on Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE) for the final credentials report.

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

Mr. Thompson (NE) reported the following: There were a possible 844 Delegates and 42 Delegates At Large for a total of 886 possible Delegate votes from 53 Detachments. There were 42 Detachments pre-registered with 818 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 52 Guests. On Thursday, we had 47 Detachments with 862 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 62 Guests registered. On Friday, we had 51 Detachments with 880 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 65 Guests registered. At the close of registration on Saturday, we had 51 Detachments with 880 Delegates, 28 Alternates and 65 Guests at the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention. There were only two (2) Detachments that didn't register – District of Columbia and Rhode Island. This concluded his report.

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

Commander Dew called for announcements.

It was announced we need names for National Chaplain by PNC Ray Giehll, Jr.

Caucuses were announced at this time. This concluded the announcements.

Commander David L. Dew (TX) recessed the meeting until Sunday, August 28, 2011 at 8:00 am. Following a rendering right-hand salute to the colors.

**The 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion was reconvened at 8:00 am on Sunday, August 28, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

With colors being in place, a right-hand salute was rendered. National Commander David L. Dew (TX) declared the Convention in session. National Commander David Dew (TX) called on National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) for the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander Jerry Leopold (KS) led the Pledge of Allegiance.

National Commander Dew (TX) then called for National Adjutant Brian O'Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past Commanders and Detachments.

Present were: (E=Excused)

### **National Officers**

David L. Dew (TX)	National Commander
Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Vice Commander
Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA)	National Vice Commander
Patrick N. Gryskiewicz (WI)	National Vice Commander
Dr. Jerry L. Leopold (KS)	National Vice Commander
Mark J. Cohen (ID)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Lyle Larson (KS)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
G. D. Hendrix (GA)	National Chaplain
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
William L. Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Historian
Thomas L. Getz (OH)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI) - E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Fifield (MA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Roy H. Turner (WV) - E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Michael W. Dooley (FL)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Bradley S. Pack (TX)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Robert McBride (OH)	Byron Robichaux (LA)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)	Richard L. Cook (TX)
James Hartman (MD)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Steve Laws (NC)
David P. Stephens (IN)	Neal Warnken (KS)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Richard League (MD)	Raymond P. Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Joseph Mayne (MN)	David L. Dew (TX)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) declared the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion convened.

Commander Dew asked all the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort the 2011 National Sons of the American Legion Color Guard Champions to the stage.

Commander Dew presented them with the Clyde Stillwell Memorial Award And Guide-On as well as making them Distinguished Guests.

At this time Commander David L. Dew called National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) to stage for the National Memorial Service.

Chaplain Hendrix said a prayer then the Memorial Service followed with music (*Ava Marie & Wind Beneath My Wing*), candle lighting then Chaplain Hendrix read a scripture (Psalms 23 ).

Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) was called to say a few words. Father Gummersheimer said guided by tradition we pause to remember and to give thanks for those of our members that have gone on to Squadron Everlasting. Regardless of the offices they held or the hours they worked they were all proud possessors of a priceless heritage. This concluded his remarks.

Chaplain Hendrix said thanks for allowing him to serve as National Chaplain this year.

At this time there was a moment of silence, then Chaplain Hendrix conducted the Benediction followed by everyone singing “God Bless America”. This concluded the Memorial Service.

Father Gummersheimer made a challenge towards all the Past National Officers to write a \$100 check to the Legacy Fund.

Commander David L. Dew (TX) made Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) a Distinguished Guest.

Commander Dew called the NVC to say their last words before being released from the stage and they presented Commander Dew with gifts.

### **Special Order of Business**

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) called National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY) to read the rules of the convention governing the nomination and election of Officers.

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

The Detachment of Alabama yielded to Florida, Florida requested permission for Ed Sheubrooks (FL) to approach the podium for the purpose of nomination. Alaska yielded to the Detachment of North Carolina, North Carolina requested PNC Steve Laws (NC) permission to approach the podium to give a seconding speech. All Detachments represented, seconded the nomination.



The roll call was completed and National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) announced that there was one candidate for National Commander, James K. Robert, III (FL). Robert McBride (OH), Past National Commander who moved that National Adjutant be instructed to cast one unanimous ballot for James K. Roberts, III (FL) for the Office of National Commander 2011-2012, seconded by J. R. Stillwell (IL). Motion carried.

The Sergeant-At-Arms and all Past National Commanders escorted James K. Roberts, III (FL) to the podium. Following a brief speech by newly elected Commander Roberts, Commander David L. Dew (TX) made Mr. Roberts (FL) a Distinguished Guest of the National Convention.

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the roll call for nomination for the *Office of National Vice Commander*.

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

The Detachment of Connecticut yielded to Massachusetts, Massachusetts requested permission for PNC Clifford Smith (MA) to give a nomination speech. Delaware yielded to the Detachment of New Jersey, New Jersey seconded nomination. James A. Noble (NJ) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Eastern Region for the year 2011-2012. The nomination for James A. Noble (NJ) was seconded by all Eastern Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Alabama yielded to Kentucky, Kentucky requested permission for NECman Jim Effner (KY) to give a nomination speech. Arkansas yielded to the Detachment of Virginia, Virginia seconded nomination. Bob Fulkerson (KY) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Southern Region for the year 2011-2012. The nomination for Bob Fulkerson (KY) was seconded by all Southern Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Illinois requested permission for PNC Tommie Cisna (IL) to give a nomination speech. Indiana yielded to Missouri, Missouri requested permission for Commission Chairman Doug Goodwin (MO) to approach the podium for a seconding speech. John A. Sansoucie (MO) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Central Region for the year 2011-2012. The nomination for John A. Sansoucie (MO) was seconded by all Central Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Colorado yielded to Nebraska, Nebraska requested permission for NECman David Rippe to give a nomination speech. Kansas seconded nomination. Danny Smith (NE) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Mid-Western Region for the year 2011-2012. The nomination for Danny Smith (NE) was seconded by all Mid-Western Region Detachments.

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

The Detachment of Alaska yielded to Arizona, Arizona requested permission for Department Adjutant John Aldecoa (AZ) to give a nomination speech. California seconded nomination. Steven Blank (AZ) was nominated for the Office of National Vice Commander for the Western Region for the year 2011-2012. The nomination for Steven Blak (AZ) was seconded by all Western Region Detachments.

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

National Commander David L. Dew (TX) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to bring forth the newly elected 2011-2012 National Vice Commanders to the stage.

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

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

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

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

The newly elected National Officers were installed by Dennis Boland (FL), President, Child Welfare Foundation.

Dennis Boland (FL) asked the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort James K. Roberts, III (FL) family to the stage.

The President of The Child Welfare Foundation Dennis Boland (FL) called for the newly elected National Commander of the Son of The American Legion, James K. Roberts, III (FL) for installation.

At this time The President of The Child Welfare Foundation Dennis Boland (FL) read the installation for David L. Dew (TX) the out-going National Commander.

At this time Department of Florida Chaplain, Bob Vick offered prayer.

Mr. Boland (FL) handed the gavel to the newly installed National Commander Jim Roberts.

Anita Roberts was called to present the newly elected National Commander cap.

Jacklyn Cook (TX) and National Commander David Dew (TX) were called to the podium, where Commander Dew received his Immediate Past National Commander cap.

Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) took the stage for his speech.

Mr. Roberts began by saying thanks for allowing him the opportunity to serve as National Commander for this great organization. There are so many people that had a hand in making this happen. Mr. Roberts thanked the installing officers, his grandfather and father in which they made it possible for him to be here today to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion.

As you know my grandfather served in WWII and my father served in Vietnam. My father had a stroke at the end of June from complications and passed away last Saturday.

My father gave me my start in the American Legion Family and for this I'm eternally grateful. I want to thank my family, friends, my mother Teresa, sister Jennifer and long time friend Raymond Cummings.

This year the Florida leadership is under, Department Commander Fletcher Williams, Department President Diane Russo and Detachment Commander Bill Kelly. Mr. Roberts thanked Florida Post 4 and his teacher, mentor and friend Ed Sheubrooks.

Finally, to our veterans, to those folks that are continuing to serve our nation today – thank you. It's your service that gives us the freedom to do things we do today as an organization and individuals.

My theme will be "*getting back to blue*" because everything starts at the level where we all wear blue caps and name tags. I have three (3) priorities: 1) Communication 2) Commitment and 3) Recognition. First, Communication, very high priority because I believe we have to be able to use all the means we have to communicate. Second, Commitment, to our Legion Family and our nations veterans. Third, Recognition, we need to recognize those members that are doing good things for the American Legion Family.

The national membership program will be "The Great 2012 National Membership Trail Ride". I'm setting a goal of 90% for renewals and \$400,000 for CWF. Young members are the future of the Sons of The American Legion that's why it's important to keep these young men involved. The National Emergency Fund will be near and dear to me this year and I don't want to take away from any of the other programs. This concluded his remarks.

Mr. Roberts made his father, Dennis Boland, Bob Vick, Art Schwabee, Ed Sheubrooks, Teresa (mother), Jennifer (sister), Anita (wife), Jesse and Jasmine (daughters) Distinguished Guest.

At this time the podium was turned back over to Commander David Dew (TX). Commander Dew called the newly elected National Vice Commanders to the stage.

The National Vice Commanders presented Jim Roberts, III with a check for \$1,182.37 in honor of his father, James K. Roberts, Jr. towards NEF.

The Sergeant-At-Arms was called to bring the colors of the SAL to the podium under which David L. Dew (TX) has served.

The out-going National Commander David L. Dew (TX) was presented with his National Colors by PNC Richard Cook. The colors were then retired by the Color Guard.

PNC Steve Laws presented incoming National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) with his colors.

At this time the podium was turned back over to National Commander Dew. He then called for any Old Business.

**Old Business:**

No old business. This concluded the old business.

**New Business:**

No new business. This concluded the new business.

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

PNC Douglas Bible (MN) gave praise to Mike Pipher, National Chairmen and Past National Chairmen for doing an outstanding job on the Preludes to the Convention Reports. Mr. Bible also announced that Christopher Huntzinger (PA) is the leading candidate for next year's National Commander and Joseph Gladden (MD) is the second leading candidate for National Commander.

This concluded the Good of the Sons.

Commander Dew announced the Post Convention NEC Meeting will begin in 5 minutes.

With no further business to come before the National Convention, National Commander Dew (TX) turned the podium over to National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) to end the meeting in prayer.

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

Commander David L. Dew (TX) declared the 40<sup>th</sup> National Convention adjourned.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
POST CONVENTION MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2011**

The Post Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion was held on Sunday, August 28, 2011, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) asked Past National Chaplain G. D. Hendrix (GA) to give the invocation.

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, National Vice Commander James Noble (NJ) led the Pledge of Allegiance and National Vice Commander John Sansoucie (MO) led in the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion. Following the Preamble, the displaying of the Blue Star Service Banner was performed.

National Commander Jim Roberts (FL) then called on National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past Commanders and Detachments.

**National Officers**

James K. Roberts (FL)	National Commander
James A. Noble (NJ)	National Vice Commander
Bob Fulkerson (KY)	National Vice Commander
John A. Sansoucie (MO)	National Vice Commander
Danny J. Smith (NE)	National Vice Commander
Steven A. Blank (AZ)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
William L. Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Chaplain

**Past National Commanders**

Robert McBride (OH)	Byron Robichaux (LA)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)	Richard Cook (OK)
Charles Gannon (MD)	Clifford Smith (MA)
David Stephens (IN)	Michael Deacon (IA)
Christopher Cerullo (NY)	Earl Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas Bible (MN)	Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)
David Faust (WI)	Thomas Cisna (IL)
Roland Matteson (AZ)	

**National Executive Committeemen**

Alabama (B), Alaska (N), Arizona (B), California (B), Colorado (B), Connecticut (N), Delaware (B), Florida (N), Georgia (B), Illinois (N), Indiana (B), Iowa (B), Kansas (B), Kentucky (N), Louisiana (N), Maine (A), Maryland (B), Massachusetts (N), Michigan (N), Minnesota (B), Mississippi (N), Missouri (N), Montana (N), Nebraska (B), Nevada (N), New Hampshire (B), New Jersey (B), New Mexico (N), New York (A), North Dakota (B), Ohio (B), Oklahoma (N), Oregon (N), Pennsylvania (A), South Carolina (N), Texas (N),

Utah (B), Vermont (N), Virginia (B), Washington (N), Wisconsin (B), Wyoming (B). National Adjutant O’Hearne (MA) stated that there was a quorum present.

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) declared the Post Convention National Executive Committee meeting convened.

National Commander Jim Roberts, III (FL) then installed the National Executive Committeemen and Alternates who were present.

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) read the list of National Officer appointments for 2011-2012 are as follows:

Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert J. Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
Ed Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
David M. Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
James L. Brennan (FL)	National Historian
William L. Towns, Jr. (OH)	National Chaplain
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Michael W. Dooley (FL)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Robert Fifield (MA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Thomas I. Getz (OH)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
William Kelly, Jr. (FL)	Aide to the National Commander
Mike Pipher (IN)	Editor, SAL Newsletter
Clifford E. Hall (MA)	Event Coordinator

A motion was made and seconded by Virginia to accept the Officer appointments. Motion carried.

National Commander James K. Roberts, III (FL) indicated that the Commission/Committee appointments had been distributed.

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

Commander Roberts (FL) called for any comments from the Chairmen as we get started for our year.

Commander Roberts called Thomas Wigmore (MA) to the podium to talk about this year’s membership.

Mr. Wigmore said, Commander has the map of our route that we will be taking this year as we promote the membership. *Recruit* and *Reinstate* are two of the words we'll be using this year. I'm asking all of us to get out, not only through our Detachments, but also through our Squadrons. We need to get these renewals back and keep them. I'm looking forward to another banner year in membership. This concluded his remarks.

(Outlines for the plans are being handed out.)

There was no old or new business to come before the National Executive Committee.

Commander Roberts called for announcements.

Tom Getz made an announcement about the parade.

John Jennings announced Jim's homecoming will be March 16-17, 2012. There will be more information coming.

Commander Roberts announced the transition meeting will be at 8:00 am in the Minneapolis Convention Center in Room 202B. Commander also announced to get your Fall Meeting Reservations in by September 4<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee Meeting, National Chaplain G. D Hendrix (GA) gave the benediction.

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