

PROCEEDINGS
THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST-NEC MEETING

Charlotte, North Carolina

August 27, 2023

Charlotte Convention Center - Exhibit Hall C2

Reported by:
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... At 2:05 p.m., the members assembled for the Post National Executive Committee Meeting, and the following proceedings were had:

... Gavel.

CALL TO ORDER

Donald "JR" Hall Jr. (MD), National Commander

Sergeant-at-Arms, please secure the doors.

Good afternoon, everyone. Please rise.

... Gavel.

POSTING OF THE COLORS

With the Colors of our Nation being in place, join me in offering a right-hand salute.

Two.

Please uncover.

Jeff will come up and lead us in a prayer.

INVOCATION

Jeff Gibson, Sr. (AL), National Chaplain

Let us go to the Lord in prayer. Holy Father, grant the things we do today for the

betterment of our organization ourselves. We ask for your supreme guidance now and in our daily lives. Amen.

... Chorus of amens.

POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY

Donald "JR" Hall Jr. (MD), National Commander

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

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 POW/MIAs still unaccounted for, as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners 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 for this

vital endeavor. The POW/MIA flag is in place at this time.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I call upon National Vice Commander John Cook to lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

...Pledge of Allegiance recited.

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

I now call upon Vice Commander Linwood Moore in the reciting of the Preamble to the Constitution of The Sons of the American Legion.

... Preamble to the Constitution recited.

BLUE STAR SERVICE BANNER

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: 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 the 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 in place.

... Gavel.

National Adjutant Anthony Wright will now read the Call to the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee.

READING OF THE MEETING CALL

Anthony Wright (PA) National Adjutant

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 1 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion hereby calls for a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to be held August 27, 2023 in the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: I now declare this 2023 Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion regularly convened.

As a point of housekeeping business, I would remind everyone addressing the chair to

please use one of the microphones located in the
Walk up make sure you say your name your title and
what Detachment you're from. This will ensure that
we maintain order and give our court reporter a
better opportunity to make the document and
proceedings correctly.

Will the National Executive Committee,
all National Executive Committeemen and Alternates
rise.

Well, sit back down while Anthony does
roll call.

... *Laughter.*

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: I'm over here
confusing JR all right. It does say roll call
somewhere, but I can't find it.

ROLL CALL

Anthony Wright (PA) National Adjutant

National Commander

Donald "JR" Hall, Maryland

National Vice Commanders

North: John R. Cook, New Hampshire

South: Linwood A. Moore, Virginia

Central: Robert L. Bristo, Minnesota

Midwest: Terry A. Harris, Kansas

West: James R. Fischer, Sr., California

National Adjutant

Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Adjutants

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

James E. "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida

Robert J. Avery, New York

Scott A. Williams, Virginia

Scott J. Thornton, Ohio - Excused

Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey

Clifford Hall, Georgia

National Chaplain

Jeffrey L. "Jeff" Gibson, Sr., Alabama

National Parliamentarian

Gary Leach, California

National Historian

Stephen J. DeFeo, Indiana

National Sergeant-At-Arms

Greg J. Wagner, Indiana

National Assistant Sergeants-At-Arms

Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania

Greg Falco, New York.

Lyle G. Larson, Kansas - Excused

Mark T. Fayer, Sr., Maryland

Matt Griffis, Arizona - Excused

National Commander's Aide

David A. Miller, Indiana

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS**Immediate Past National Commander**

Christopher A. Carlton, Indiana

Michael C. Fox, California

Michael K. Seaton, California - Excused

Robert A. McBride, Ohio - Excused

J.R. Stillwell, Illinois - Excused

Robert H. Faust, California.

James R. Hartman, Maryland.

Charles E. Gannon, Maryland.

David P. Stephens, Indiana.

Christopher R. Cerullo, New York.

Frederick L. Hartline, Sr, Ohio - Excused

Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota.

David R. Faust, Wisconsin.

Robert A. Worrel, Indiana.

Eugene L. Sacco, California.

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.

Michael J. Deacon, Iowa.

Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan.

Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana.

Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois - Excused.

Mark E. Arneson, Georgia.

James K. Roberts, III, Florida - Excused.

Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland.

Michael W. Moss, Colorado - Excused.

Kevin L. Collier, Alaska.

Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - Excused

Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs, New York.

Joseph Paviglianti, New York.

Roll call of Detachments

Alabama.

Alaska.

Arizona.

California.

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.

Puerto Rico.

South Carolina.

South Dakota.

Tennessee.

Texas.

Vermont.

Virginia.

West Virginia.

Wisconsin.

Wyoming.

Commander, that completes roll call. You
have a quorum.

INSTALLATION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Donald "JR" Hall Jr. (MD) National Commander

Will all the National Executive
Committeemen and Alternates please rise.

You will raise your right hand and repeat
after me, giving your names where I give mine.

... Oath administered.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: You may lower your hands and be seated.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTED NATIONAL OFFICERS

The following are my appointments for National Officers for the 2022-2023 Administrative Year.

National Adjutant - Anthony W. Wright (PA).

National Asst. Adjutant Emeritus - Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE).

National Assistant Adjutants: James E. "Ed" Sheubrooks (FL), Robert J. Avery (NY), Scott A. Williams (VA), Scott J. Thornton (OH), Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ), Clifford E. Hall (GA).

National Chaplain - Ernie Laberge (MA).

National Historian - Jeff Thorne (MD).

National Parliamentarian - Gary Leach (CA).

National Sergeant-at-Arms - Mart T. Fayer, Sr. (MD).

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms:

Matthew W. Griffis (AZ), Brian K. Waters (PA),
Gregory A. Falco (NY), Lyle G. Larsen (KS),.

National Commander's Aide: Tom Deal.

I will entertain a motion to accept the
National Officer appointments.

I'm sorry, we also have an addition to
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms: Timothy Brower from
New York.

MARK MCCUE (MA): Mark McCue, NEC,
Massachusetts. I'll make the motion to accept the
appointments.

CHRIS COOK (OK): Chris Cook, Oklahoma, I
second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a
motion.

All those in favor, say aye. All those
opposed, nay.

Motion carries.

INTERIM APPOINTMENTS

I am making the following appointments to
serve on the National Commissions and Committees.

Americanism: Daniel Maurin.

Chris Sherbourne.

William Murphy III.

Internal Affairs: Juan Torres.

Wade Hudson.

Legislative: Blair Miles.

Bernie Kessler.

Member: Wayne Madson.

Public Media and Communications: Doug
Evans.

Gene Theroux.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation:

Bruno Williamson.

Member: Jeffrey Gibson Sr.

Consultant: Gabe Cinquegrana.

VE&E: Vice Chairman, James Stewart from
Delaware.

Member: John Robinson.

Member: James Noble.

Consultant: Dennis Henkemeyer.

Children and Youth: Chairman, Joseph
Lohman.

Member: Brian Shedd.

Member: Jeff Trout.

Member: Thomas Arista.

Member: Christopher Reachard.

Child Welfare Foundation: John
Sansoucie.

Subcommittee on Resolutions: Mark McCue.

Member: Brandon Curry.

Membership: Chairman, Daryl VerStreate.

Member Northeast: Robert Manzo.

Southeast: Thom Skelley.

Central: Harl "Butch" Ray.

Midwest: Michael Monserud.

West: Dan Ashley.

Members: Matt Verkuilen, Jason Miller
and Casey Hanson.

Consultants: George Gray and Jack
Youngs.

Convention: Vice Chairman: Gerard
Sambets.

Members: Charles Treat, Ben Baldwin,
Steven Navarrete, Joseph Guidice and Peter Booth
and open spot for Kentucky.

And MT&D: Chairman, Michael Cotten.

Vice Chairman, Shawn Davis.

Members: Mark Kilstrom and Michael Obremski.

Consultant: Ronald Roberts.

PUFL Ad Hoc Committee: Chairman, Kevin Winkelmann.

Members: Scott Garrett, Camille LeJeune, Marc Chaney, Dennis Albright.

As part of the CENTCOM to work on the 100th anniversary will be Kevin Winkelmann, Bob Worrel. David Faust, Greg Gibbs, all PNCs, I'm sorry, and William Towns.

Also, on CENTCOM is Vice Chairman Joe Gladden.

CHRIS COOK (OK): Mr. Commander, Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma. I make a motion to accept the appointments minus the two members from Colorado.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a motion on the floor.

MARC CHANEY (OR): Marc Chaney, NEC from Oregon, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a motion and a second.

Are there any questions?

CAMILLE LEJEUNE (LA): Mr. Commander, Camille LeJeune from Louisiana, NEC.

Under Convention, the chairman should be Tommy Vassar Jr. because the convention will be in New Orleans next year. He's not listed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: He's already on there. These are just new appointments.

CAMILLE LEJEUNE (LA): Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Anything else on the discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor of accepting the National Commission and Committee appointments signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, nay.

Motion carries.

CHRIS COOK (OK): Point of order. Commander, Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma. The motion was to accept the appointments minus the two individuals from Colorado. Just want that to be on

record.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: So, heard.

At this time, we will hear from National Membership Committee Chairman Daryl VerStreate.

While he's doing that, will you come up, please. Daryl, go ahead.

DARYL VERSTREATE (NY): Daryl VerStreate, Detachment of New York. I've got to tell you -- am I echoing or is it me? Last year was a wonderful year, 100, Thom Skelley, broke a lot of records, set a milestones.

And as my own Detachments as I stand here, look out, I guess the best way to say this, when I completed a search and rescue school in the Army, the cadre came in to us as graduates, and he took off his cover and he let us -- there's no rank in the room.

There's no time that would be truer than in the membership, whether it's Squadron or Detachment or the National level. It takes all 375,000 members in this organization working together to set those milestones and reach those

achievements and to continue to grow this fine organization.

In the future, in this coming up year, it's sincerely my hope working with the National Membership Committee and the National Commander JR Hall that we will be able to surpass those records we set last year, and hope, hopefully set some new all-time highs -- no pun intended, if for no other reason than I'd like to beat Thom Skelley.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: I'd like you to beat Thom Skelley too.

... *Applause.*

Thank you. If you were in the last meeting, there was a request to make sure that we keep communication clear. With that, I would like to have Joe Mayne come forward and speak about a meeting and some changes that happened just in July.

JOSEPH M. MAYNE (MN): So, the short version is, because of a long pattern of overreach by the Oversight Committee that was assigned by the Legion, mainly the chairman -- and this is a Legion

committee made up of Legionnaires -- it was eliminated by The American Legion leadership at the end of July at the end of an ad hoc meeting.

Its members were combined with Advisory Committee. It went from -- so the Advisory Committee went from five to nine. The oversight chairman resigned.

Then The American Legion, within a day or so, eliminated The American Legion Internal Affairs Subcommittee of the SAL. Those are the changes. Any questions? That's kind of what my response was, too. Really? Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Gentlemen, you just heard the changes, and I heard chairman say is there any questions and I heard nothing. So, when I walk off of here, I don't expect people to walk up to me and go what happened there and what was it. You had a chance to speak. We're not going to talk about it behind everybody. Everybody asked for transparency. If you want transparency, you heard the changes. You had a right to the questions. You didn't do nothing. So, let's move forward.

JOSEPH M. MAYNE (MN): Mr. Commander, if anybody wants to talk off line one-on-one I'm happy to do that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Just know you're going to talk for a long time. That is Joe Mayne.

... *Laughter.*

I believe that we had some resolutions that you wanted to talk about.

RESOLUTIONS

NEDLEY FOX (CA): Thank you, Commander, Ned Fox. Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions. These resolutions are for the Post Convention. SAL Resolution No. 1, or let me step back. Your Subcommittee on Resolutions met yesterday. There were four members present. We went over these three resolutions.

SAL Resolution No. 1, Post Convention 2023, authorize the National Adjutant to correct misstatements of fact or inconsistencies of language in adopted resolutions without changing intent.

This originated out of the Internal

Affairs Commission after discussion. This resolution is rejected and sent back to Internal Affairs with the recommendation that the Adjutant's Office Subcommittee on Resolutions and Internal Affairs, we all sit down and clear up some inconsistencies in the end of the resolution and hopefully we can get that back on the table here.

SAL Resolution No. 2, Post Convention 2023, is renamed the National Membership Committee. And this came out of the National Membership and Squadrons activity.

WHEREAS the Sons of the American Legion Resolution NEC 774 created by the National membership and Squadron's activities committee as a standing committee of the National Executive Committee, and

WHEREAS, said resolution defined the purpose, scope, function, authority and membership of the committee, and

WHEREAS, the increase in national membership and need for clarity and continuity suggests a revision to the original resolution is

in order.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Legion in regular session assembled in Charlotte North Carolina on August 27th, 2023 that the National Membership and Squadrons Activity Committee be renamed as the National Membership Committee; and be it further

RESOLVED that the committee shall continue to be a standing committee of the National Executive Committee reporting to the Internal Affairs Commission; and be it further

RESOLVED that the committee is charged with promoting the recruitment, renewal and reinstatement of members of the Sons of the American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED that the committee should develop suggested programs and activities which may be used by Squadrons or other levels of the organization to promote service, camaraderie and membership; and be it further

RESOLVED that the committee shall disseminate national membership and renewal reports through its assigned members as well as other duties germane to the membership; and be it further

RESOLVED that the committee shall be comprised of an appointed chairman, three core members of which one shall be named vice chairman and several regional chairmen representing each geographical region as determined by The American Legion. All of whom shall be granted voice and vote in the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED that there may be one authorized National Commander's representative on the committee who shall serve with voice and vote and a number of consultants and/or advisors to the committee as deemed appropriate and necessary who shall serve with voice but no vote; and be it further resolved that the National Vice Commanders of the Sons of the American Legion shall serve as ex-officio members of the committee with voice but no vote, and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Sons of the American

Legion Resolution NEC 7-74 is hereby rescinded.

It is the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Resolutions to approve this resolution. So, Ned Fox as chairman and as NEC from California make a motion to approve SAL Resolution No. 2, Post Convention, rename the National Membership Committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a motion on the floor.

Do I hear a second?

MARC CHANEY (OR): Commander, Marc Chaney from Oregon, NEC, seconds that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: I have a first and a second. A question?

BILL KELLY (FL): Commander, Bill Kelly, Florida NEC. I'm not going to speak either for or against the resolution, but I am going to speak to not having a hard copy of the resolution in the hands of the NEC to take a look at. I find this a problem that we are unable to review the resolution being presented to us. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you for

those comments. And I understand that that's unfortunate that we didn't have a chance to get them done. They did just review and it get it out there. We would like to.

However, that is something that we'd like to do. It is not something that we have to do. We need to get the business done here today, that's why we had to do this.

Any other questions? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Any opposed, nay. Resolution carries.

NEDLEY FOX (CA): SAL Resolution No. 3 Post Convention 2023. Operation ALF recognition. Origin Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Wisconsin, has been actively involved in the Children & Youth program, and a significant part of said program was to provide comfort and assistance to children of deployed parents and children who are experiencing medical issues through the Josh & Friends program; and

WHEREAS, upon the termination of the Josh

& Friends program, the Detachment of Wisconsin determined that it was fitting and appropriate to replace said program with another comfort animal to assist children in coping with the adversities of deployments and illnesses; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2020 a suitable and affordable plush comfort puppy was located and approved by the Detachment Executive Committee in regular session convened, with further approval from The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, with the program to be known as Operation A.L.F., standing for American Legion Family, and administered under guidelines as established, i.e., to distribute pups to military and ill children, and not to sell the items to the American Legion Family, but to accept donations in exchange for the items; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion, on October 12, 2022, brought national recognition to the Wisconsin Operation A.L.F. program by publishing an interview and article highlighting the importance of the program, and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the Operation A.L.F. programs, the Detachment of Wisconsin has received requests and distributed pups to eleven Departments of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion, along with multiple Posts, Auxiliary Units and SAL Squadrons in Wisconsin and other states for use in their Children & Youth programs, and

WHEREAS, the Operation A.L.F. program has proved to be a vital and necessary addition to the Children & Youth program; and

WHEREAS, the Detachment of Wisconsin adopted a resolution requesting that the National Organization recognize the Wisconsin Operation A.L.F. program as an official National program, including making all necessary provisions to account for activities related to it on the Consolidated Squadron Report form as soon as practical; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in

regular meeting assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 27, 2023, that the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion hereby recognizes the Detachment of Wisconsin's "Operation A.L.F. (American Legion Family)" program as part of its National Children & Youth program; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Children & Youth Committee is directed to promote the program to the Detachments, Districts, and Squadrons and encourage their participation in it; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Children & Youth section of the Consolidated Squadron Report form be amended as soon as practical to include lines to record the dollars and hours donated in support of Operation A.L.F.; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that these actions become effective with the close of the 2023 National Convention executive committee meeting.

As subcommittee chairman on resolutions and also NEC. It is our recommendation that SAL

Resolution No. 3 be adopted. I make a motion to approve SAL Resolution No. 3.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a motion.

BRANDON CURRY (KY): Mr. Commander, Brandon Curry, NEC, seconds that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a motion and a second on the question.

Hearing none, all those in favor of passing Resolution 3, say aye.

Any opposed, say nay.

Motion passes.

NEDLEY FOX (CA): If I may finish my report real quick. I agree 100 percent with Mr. Kelly that we as NEC, that copies -- when we go to the October meeting, that if there's any resolutions that those copies are available for every NEC person in attendance because to keep that transparency and nothing hidden, it helps if there's more eyes and hands on the pudding. Thank you. That concludes my report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Is there any other NECman that would like to address the NEC?

MICHAEL COTTEN (DE): Michael Cotten, Delaware, Member Training and Development. I want everyone to know that at the fall NEC we're going to be offering NEC training. I'm sorry -- orientation. That's the same thing we did last year. Updated a little bit. So be sure, if you haven't taken it, you will take it. It's going to be going on again.

At the spring NEC, we will be offering NMI III. That will be our final graduation class from the NMI program. We'll also be offering SAL University in between now and especially at the fall NEC, more information will be available. We are looking for each Detachment to submit at least two names, preferably, for candidates. We're looking for somebody in the age, rank of Detachment Commander or less. Any questions?

CHRIS COOK (OK): Yes, Commander, I have a question. Yes, Commander, Chris Cook, NEC,

Oklahoma. Will there be a candidate forum for these ones that we're nominating for SAL University, or is it going to be a more -- what do I say -- simpler form of names and contact information?

MICHAEL COTTEN (DE): Absolutely great question. We'll be developing a candidate form with requirements, first requirement is on Legion.org, complete the Legion Basic course. We also want a resumé from each of the Detachments. That way we know the Detachment's fully sponsoring the candidate coming out for training. Whether that form comes up from National or comes out straight from the committee is yet to be determined. We're working on that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: That committee is national.

JAMES STEWART (NV): Commander, Jim Stewart, NEC from Nevada, also the NEC liaison committee chair. I want to ask that all NECs be passed out survey forms for your requested committees and commissions, and we ask that you

bring those completed forms over to either myself or to PNC Cliff Smith so that we can actually get you on the list because we want to have this all completed well before the fall meetings. So, thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Are there any other questions for MTV chairman Mike Cotten?

MICHAEL COTTEN (DE): One more thing. There will be a stipend from National. Not quite sure exactly what that amount is going to be because we're still working on the details of the event organization, logistics, but we are requesting that each of the Detachments budget something in your Detachment to help cover the cost of your candidates for basically three extra days in Indy.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Anyone else?

JAMES STEWART (NV): Commander, also if anybody needs survey form for the NECs, I do have them and I have them in my hand. So please come see me to fill them out. Thank you, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: NECs, you just

got sworn in. You said you were going to do your job. Please get it done. That's one of the things we do, take something serious, get it done, get it out of the way so that Past Commander Smith can move on with what his job is.

PNC DOUGLAS BIBLE (MN): Mr. Commander, Doug Bible, Past National Commander, Minnesota. Point of privilege. I'd like to request the Finance chairman to have breakdowns for the fall NEC of what the budget is for each committee, commission, expenditures things like that, if he doesn't already have that planned for that.

Our members are looking to see what is being spent where, and when they're told we're on budget, we're doing good is not enough information. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Chairman Hill, would you like to address that?

WILLIAM "BILL" HILL (MD): Absolutely. Point of order and clarification. Since 2018 or '17, I apologize the correct date, since I took over as chairman, a detailed analysis by line item

by committee or commission has been provided to the chairman and to the NEC at the appropriate meetings for the review and approval. We provide that, we also provide a summary.

That information is also provided to our Legion liaison for the purposes of budgeting. That information has been provided to the NECs and to the commission and committee chairmen every year since then.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you, sir.
Anyone else?

Guys, I just want to say a couple of things. One of those things is taking our job serious and getting things done. That's what we need to do. Not wait. Not wait a week or two before. I talk to every chairman and we'll go to the transition meeting, about getting the reports, getting the work done, not waiting until the last minute. That's when we struggle. When we rush to get something done, we don't take the time to do it right.

I want to have the best year we can have.

The best year we can have is getting our jobs done and getting it done quickly and moving on to the next task. That is what will make us have a great organization.

The transparency issue, I want to tell you: If I know it you can know it. Okay? We don't have nothing to hide.

But we also have to put down the politics and start picking up the programs and work the programs because that's what we're really here for.

Okay. Let's have fun. Let's celebrate success. Not a success at the end of the year, success tomorrow because we did something and we did it right. Today we took a heck of a lot of money up here and we did something right. We have a reason to celebrate. We had a great year.

Let's pick up all the positives we can and push every one of them out there in front of the name of the Sons of the American Legion and let's put down some of the negatives and start working together, then everybody will want to be a member of the Sons of the American Legion and not

part of the gossip club. Please!

... Applause.

Anyone else, any other commission chairman want to say anything to the NEC?

OLD BUSINESS

Is there any old business to be brought before the National Executive Committee?

NEW BUSINESS

Is there any new business to be brought before the National Executive Committee?

NEDLEY FOX (CA): Ned Fox, California. I'd like to make a motion that all resolutions received through the adjutant's office, that they're timestamped along with dates that each committee or commission receives those, there should be a date that that chairman receives those because currently we do not do that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a motion on the floor.

MARK CANNITO (SC): Mark Cannito, NEC South Carolina, I'll second the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: We have a

motion and a second.

Are there any questions? Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye. Any opposed, nay.

Motion carries.

Any other New Business?

WILLIAM CLANCY (NY): Mr. Commander, Bill Clancy, New York, IA chairman. It's come to the attention of the Internal Affairs Commission that several committees and commissions are in need of some help with their minutes, keeping good, accurate, tightly written minutes. So, we will do -- IA is asking for volunteers from any of the Detachments of people that might be good at that job to volunteer to help out in that regard.

So, if you have someone in your Detachment -- need not be a national officer or a past detachment commander or anything, just somebody you think would be really good at that, please submit a name. They can send it to sal@legion.org and Mr. Kevin Mook will get that, and we'll try to get some additional head count on

commissions and committees with scribe-taking minutes. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you.

WILLIAM CLANCY (NY): Any questions?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Just for clarity, too, you just heard Mr. Clancy say he was the Internal Affairs chairman. He also is now the trailing candidate, and under the new changes that have been made, the trailing candidate will be allowed to stay on as a chairman. Is there any questions about that? Just wanted to make sure everybody knows. We're trying to keep transparent.

Any other new business? Mr. Clancy, Adjutant wants clarification on what minutes you are talking about doing minutes for. Are you talking about each committee?

WILLIAM CLANCY (NY): We're talking about minutes on committee and commission meetings that take place on a regularly scheduled basis.

IA, for instance, last year met on the fourth Thursday of every month and we did fine. I will share that the IA Commission, that was an area

where we could use some help. We're looking again for people who might volunteer who would be very good at this job.

It's a specific task. It's something I will be very upfront I'm not great at it, but somebody could be a good scribe. You're not going to have the title of adjutant, just be a volunteer on a commission or committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Understanding. Clarity, some people can't take notes. Some people are actually terrible at. It just because you are told you take notes today doesn't mean we're going to get good notes and good reports out to the Blue Cap members.

The way we can do that is if we have a member that can do that that is willing to help as a volunteer on those calls to make the minutes and get them to the chairman so he can approve them so we can move them forward.

WILLIAM CLANCY (NY): Exactly.

KEVIN MOOK (MD): Commander, Kevin Mook, liaison. Just to amplify, it's not necessarily

somebody that already has an appointment. It's somebody that could be an addition to having an appointment. Okay. Just for clarification.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Just a volunteer willing to help out this great organization that they love.

Anyone else under New Business?

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS

Does anyone have any announcements -- I'm sorry, For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion?

Is there anything for the Good of the Sons of The American Legion?

I see people walking up

CAMILLE LEJEUNE (LA): Mr. Commander, Camille LeJeune from Louisiana. The rules of the NEC, I have an old copy that's dated back to '15 and the current copy of 2022. Normally if there's changes to this document it would be written to the backside of the page and also let us know what changes were made.

This is not in the new document. So, I'm

just asking the question, should it be? To highlight those changes that were made from 2015 to 2022. Thank you.

THOMAS G. DEAL (MD): Mr. Commander, Tom Deal, aide to the National Commander. When your kids were handing out your pins outside, Sean, from Nebraska, wanted to donate \$100 to start your project. Got \$100 here from Sean from Nebraska.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you. Thank you, Sean.

... *Applause.*

I want to finish. Camille had a question about should that be on there. And the Adjutant said that would be an administrative move by the Legion. So, we'll bring it up to them and see if they feel it needs to be on there. Anyone else.

DAVID HANSON (ID): David Hanson, NEC from the Detachment of Indiana. I'm kind of new to this, I guess, but my question was: In regard to these appointments, I'm the NEC for the Detachment of Indiana, and the first time I read about an appointment from somebody from Indiana was when I

got this paper in my hand.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Welcome to the Legion world.

DAVID HANSON (ID): Why is that? Is that an oversight? Shouldn't I be notified I represent the 36,000 members of the Detachment of Indiana? How do I not know these?

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Most of the people who put in for appointments were put in for somebody -- if I get it wrong I'll ask the CONA/SONA chairman that's sitting there to stop me, make corrections. But they put people in for appointments that were put in for appointments.

DAVID HANSON (ID): I understand anybody can put an appointment in. I'm just saying why wasn't I notified of the appointment before --

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Because today is the day that we notify everybody.

I'm sorry, that's the way it happens. If we put it out there early, all the jitter jatter and talk keeps going and everybody is saying who is being kicked off and who is being put on and all

that. To do that, to keep the business the best we can, this is the business we do.

DAVID HANSON (ID): What you're saying is you don't trust me to be --

KEVIN MOOK (MD): It's not an NEC decision.

PAUL A. HAYSE (IL): Commander Paul Hayse, Illinois.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Point of order.

PAUL A. HAYSE (IL): Shouldn't these appointments go through the NECmen, handed into the --

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Mr. Matoska, do you want to take care of that one

PAUL A. HAYSE (IL): I thought they were supposed to go through the NEC to the committee.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Bill said anyone can make a recommendation.

To answer your question, I trust you wholeheartedly, but I don't get to do the appointments. I don't do it all. That's the way

the business is done. I'm not trying to be rude. But this is something that's questioned every year. This is not new.

DAVID HANSON (ID): We do a lot of things because that's the way American Legion does it. Is that the way that American Legion does it?

PNC CHRISTOPHER A. CARLTON (IN): The gentleman from Indiana has been given an answer. I don't think he's allowed to speak anymore on this.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you.

NEDLEY FOX (CA): I'm back. Ned Fox from California. Just kind of a reference for all of the NEC here or actually anybody that sits on their finance commission and their Detachments that do budgeting is that it's really sad -- actually I was pissed, let me put that in the minutes -- to receive notice that the fee for convention had gone up when we got notification with the call in to come to convention, from 25 to 35. It's not the dollar amount, it's that this took place in May and we don't find out until the 30 days before we get here. We need help.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Communication.

NEDLEY FOX (CA): Communication is the key.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Can you stand still when you're talking, you keep falling.

KEVIN MOOK (MD): That's a TAL resolution that was provided to the NEC of the TAL. I provided it to us to make sure we were all taken care of. TAL should have made sure that you knew that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you.

MARC CHANEY (OR): Marc Chaney, NEC from Oregon. I just want to touch on the Paid-Up-for-Life ad hoc committee. I really think it needs some structure. We have met maybe four times in a year. Just throwing that out there.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Please understand that Chairman Winkelmann had not one but two broken hips.

MARC CHANEY (OR): I understand that. Maybe we should consider making a vice chair so that we can actually move forward with this

committee because there are four other of us on here who are willing to do work while he's down.

JOHN LAWRENCE (LA): Mr. Commander, John Lawrence, Alternate NEC from Louisiana. Those who were here Friday, my comments about the National Constitution and Bylaws, I stand by those comments. And I'm asking that our incoming leaders, our chairmen of the appropriate committees look into why the NEC was not afforded the courtesy to review and approve those constitutional bylaws and why the National Convention was not afforded the courtesy to review and approve those constitution bylaws.

I fully believe there was plenty enough time for that action to happen, and I would greatly appreciate an answer in the fall NEC meeting of why we were not afforded that courtesy.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Thank you.

KEVIN MOOK (MD): Commander, Kevin Mook, National Liaison. I told you before, I'll tell you again, those came from the ad hoc committee. They were given to us to start over again. Any future renditions of the bylaws, the Uniform Code of

Procedures and the Rules of the NEC, will absolutely come through this body.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Understand, gentlemen, under the statement I've made already, sometimes it's time to put down the politics and pick up the programs. We keep going back on that same thing. It's not going to change anything.

It came out of the ad hoc from The American Legion. The answer is it was done. To now keep fighting and bickering about it -- you come back with an answer to me of what good it's going to do.

We accept to move on, we can become a stronger organization. If we want to keep bickering, you're going to become part of the problem, not part of the solution. Let's move on and be positive.

... *Applause.*

MICHAEL GRAYSON (RI): Commander, Michael Grayson, Detachment of Rhode Island. I'm wondering if your visitation and your Vice commander visitation schedule is ready to be published, when

we would be able to expect that so we know when to expect your visitations.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: I'm not sure it's ever published, but we're accepting visitations and we've started scheduling. If you send in your recommendations to Liaison Mook, if we're open, we'll be there.

Anyone else?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Are there any announcements at this time?

KEVIN MOOK (MD): Mr. Commander, one more announcement from me. I'm not moving, I promise I won't move. Checks are in the back of the room with Brian.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Everyone wants that announcement.

... *Applause.*

Don't take me as trying to be negative. That's the exact opposite of what I want. Let's have fun. Everybody here is representing somebody's service because we care.

Let's enjoy each other. Let's not worry

about who I should or shouldn't be talking to because I don't want this one or that one mad at me.

We are the Sons of the American Legion. Remember, our families went and fought. They didn't care who was in a foxhole with them, who was in training with them; they fought together, in unity.

When we become more like them, we'll be a better organization. Please be the best Son you can be. That's all I'm asking.

The transition meeting for the National Officers and Chairmen will be at 8:00 am on Monday, August 28th in Room 208 on the Meeting Level here in the Charlotte Convention Center.

The fall Executive Committee meeting call has been or will be sent out soon. It is important that everyone use the online registration site to submit their housing requests to National Headquarters no later than -- Mr. Mook, tell us when. Housing request when?

KEVIN MOOK (MD): Yes, sir, I will have

the fall call letters coming out probably today. If not, no later than Monday -- no, they'll be out in the next couple of days. But inside of that is the registration link.

If you want to go ahead and register because you know the link, please do. But the call letters will be coming out very soon.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: If there is no further business to come before this National Executive Committee meeting, National chaplain Gibson will lead us in the closing prayer. Please rise and uncover.

BENEDICTION

Jeff Gibson, Sr. (AL), National Chaplain

Thank you. My phone has been crazy. A lot of people have been watching us live. We always talk about veteran suicide. We have members out here that serve with the fire department, police department, several different things. They suffer from PTSD also.

Commander, is there any way that we can

have something available for those members? That's what my text message was, that, you know, we do a lot for the veterans, but our own members suffer with PTSD and the jobs that they deal with. So maybe we can come up with something to help them.

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: "Be the One" is "Be the One" for everyone.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN GIBSON: I'm talking about, you've got to have some training or something -- the thing about this, give an example. I'm a combat vet. If you and me don't exchange numbers and my mind is in a different place, who do I call?

All the time you can't get to the VA hospital. Those are the questions that were asked me. I'm just bringing it out here just as a thought.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer. May the strength of God sustain us. May the power of God preserve us. May the hand of God protect us. May the way of God direct us. May the love of God go with us this day and forever, amen.

... Chorus of amens.

CLOSING

NATIONAL COMMANDER HALL: Recover.

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 Country, The American Legion, our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, loyalty and democracy.

SALUTE THE COLORS

Join with me. With the Colors being in place, right-hand salute.

Two.

ADJOURNMENT

I now declare this 2023 Post-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the

Sons of The American Legion adjourned.

... Gavel.

-o0o-

... At 3:02 p.m., Sunday, August 27,
2023, the Post National Executive Committee of the
Sons of the American Legion was adjourned.

-o0o-

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

I, DENISE HINXMAN, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify;

That on August 27, 2023, I was present and took verbatim stenotype notes of the meeting entitled herein, and thereafter transcribed the same into typewriting as herein appears;.

That said meeting was taken in stenotype notes by me, a Certified Court Reporter, and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction as herein appears;.

That the foregoing transcript is a full, true and correct transcription of my stenotype notes of said meeting.

Dated at Reno, Nevada, this 26th day of September 2023.

DENISE HINXMAN, CSR, RDR, CRC