

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



**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
October 12-13, 2013**

**MINUTES OF THE
FALL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
OCTOBER 12-13, 2013**

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) called the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, October 12, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) gave the invocation.

National Commander Joe Gladden (MD) called for the Sergeant-At-Arms to place the POW/MIA Flag on the empty chair which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Thomas Chebro (GA) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Brad Schroenghamer (NM).

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

Present were: E (excused)

National Officers

Joseph W. Gladden (MD)	National Commander
Robert L. Turner (CT)	National Vice Commander
Thomas Chebro (GA)	National Vice Commander
Randall L. Eicher (OH)	National Vice Commander
Brad R. Schroenghamer (NM)	National Vice Commander
William J. Lloyd (WA)	National Vice Commander
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Chaplain
Thomas E. Marsden (NJ)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
William G. Hill (MD)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Michael L. Kirschner (CO)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeff L. Alvis (TX)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Bruce F. Paquin (MD)	Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders

Christopher Huntzinger (PA)
Robert McBride (OH)
J. R. Stillwell (IL)
James Hartman (MD)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)
David P. Stephens (IN)
Douglas P. Bible (MN)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)
John T. Dietz (KY)
William E. Matoska (MD)

Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Richard L. Cook (TX)
Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Steve C. Laws (NC)
Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Michael J. Deacon (IA)
William L. Sparwasser (MD)
Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)
David L. Dew (TX)
James K. Roberts, III (FL)

National Executive Committeemen

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

Commander Gladden (MD) then called upon National Adjutant Brian O’Hearne (MA) for the reading of the minutes from the 41st National Convention.

Commander Gladden (MD) entertained a motion to accept the minutes. A motion was made by Wisconsin, seconded by New Jersey.

National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) welcomed all the Detachment Commanders and asked first time attendees of the Fall NEC Meeting to stand for recognition. Commander Gladden thanked the SAL for making him National Commander and briefly spoke about his experience on the Legacy Run Ride to National Convention in Houston, Texas and encouraged everyone to take part in the Legacy Run.

Commander Gladden (MD) stated we have two vacancies on our Commission/Committee that he would like to make a motion to fill those two vacancies.

Children & Youth – Jay Scott Garrett (CO)

Public Relations – Enos Bellanger (LA)

A motion to accept was made by Bob Brown (GA), seconded by Jim Gelwicks (CO).

Commander Gladden called on National SAL Liaison John Kerestan (IN) for remarks.

Mr. Kerestan began by welcoming everyone to Indianapolis. Anyone needing check entitlement to please see Harold Thompson, Assistant Adjutant in the SAL office. This weekend is also the Circle City Classic with the college football game and parade so we have a lot of traffic so be very careful if you’re out and about.

During the National Convention in Houston I mentioned that’s the first time in 25 years we did not reach 100% membership during a National Convention. I find that somewhat embarrassing and we have

always been at 100% membership prior to National Convention. In your packet is a membership gain record for the past 25 years. It shows how many members we've gained and gentlemen our numbers are declining. At this rate I sincerely question if we will get 100% membership next year (2014). I hope this doesn't happen.

We have two things going against us – the economy and the IRS. In your packets are two Resolutions passed by The American Legion at the Houston National Convention. We aren't sure where they will go at this point and will keep you updated of the status as we get the information.

In your packet on bright orange paper is the Renewal Report. We had 44,000 members from 2012 that did not renew for 2013. We already had the members all they have to do is renew. You have more direct contact through your meetings within your state. You need to hammer this membership at every opportunity...you're the leadership for this organization.

At the 2:30 pm session we will have a special presentation from Mr. Joe Gallagher, National Staff. He's going to show a presentation of the new system called "MySAL" which is similar to the "MyLegion".

There's a segment prior to Monday Night Football called "Come On Man". I'm going to give you some scenarios and you as an audience will say "Come On Man".

- 1.) We have over 44,000 members that didn't renew for 2013 – "Come On Man".
- 2.) Get your ID number correct on your reservation form – "Come On Man".
- 3.) If you want two beds in a room give the name of your roommate – "Come On Man".
- 4.) Make up your mind if your coming or not – "Come On Man".
- 5.) Your liaison (that's me) – Send me a word or pdf as an e-mail document instead of a fax, especially since our fax machine is older than J. R. Stillwell, however I put the fax number on the reservation form instead of my e-mail address. So audience to your Liaison – "Come On Man".

Mr. Kerestan thanked everyone for their attendance this weekend. This concluded his remarks.

Commander Joe Gladden (MD) showed the "Shoot for the Moon" video at this time. Commander Gladden stated his membership goal is 106.3%

Commander Gladden called for announcements. Caucus meetings were announced as well as the Leading Candidate's luncheon at 11:00 am.

Milton Chatham (TX) gave a special presentation to PNC Chris Huntzinger in honor of the Auxiliary's breast cancer fundraiser.

PNC Huntzinger was presented with two decorated bras in honor of breast cancer awareness. At this time Chris put them on. PNC Sparwasser spoke and said we need to make a motion Chris wear the bras all weekend.

Commander Gladden presented Ray Edwards, Jr. (MD), the Charles B. Rigsby VA Volunteer of the Year with his VAVS blue Squadron cap. Mr. Edwards gave a brief speech and thanked everyone.

At this time the General Session was adjourned at 8:48 am with a right hand salute to the colors and resumed at 2:30 pm for a special guest speaker, Joe Gallagher, Deputy Director, IT, National Headquarters.

The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 2:30 pm, Saturday, October 12, 2013 for a special presentation from Joe Gallagher, Deputy Director, IT, National Headquarters.

Mr. Gallagher began by thanking the SAL for having him there today. Mr. Gallagher stated he's been with the Legion for 20 years now.

We are going to go through the information about the new web portal for the SAL and the SAL Squadron Officers. In August 2010 MyLegion started with 1,000 posts using this tool and now has 5,600 and still growing.

MySAL Features:

- View & Edit Squadron Membership Information
- Squadron Inquiry
- Download & Print Rosters/Reports
- Work w/Membership Data using CSV Files (CSV – Comma Separate Value)

Authorization forms are now available online. For further information go to www.legion.org/sons and click on MySAL.

Question: NECman (TX), I'm the Squadron Adjutant and Post Commander, who would I have to get authorization from? Answer: As the Post Commander you can give yourself access.

Once you have been set up your access is granted. After 12 months the ID will expire and after 6 months the password will expire. This is done because officers change year to year.

Once inside you can get a list of all members. The list will give current, active, expired and deceased. When you see "undeliverable" the member doesn't live at that address.

If you click on an ID you can expand the information that will show personal information, payment history and the dates when changes were done. If you make changes online you do not need to send in a member data form. You can not do transfers or new member additions with this program you still need to submit a member data form.

The system will run an update at 5 pm every night.

Question: Can we get the phone number listed on the green bar? Answer: Yes

The Squadron Inquiry you can't make changes. Downloads give you a report in pdf format. I encourage you to use CSV files.

If you have questions you can contact us via e-mail; phone or remote desk top. You can go online and print this power point presentation.

You have to actually print and send in the authorization form and we will verify the officers signature for approval. If you have questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact my office. This concluded his presentation.

Commander Joe Gladden (MD) thanked Mr. Gallagher for his presentation. At this time Commander Gladden showed Part II of "Shoot for the Moon" Video.

Following the video, Commander Gladden called for donations. Donations were accepted and the General Session was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, October 13, 2012.

With colors being in place and following a right hand salute, National Commander Joseph Gladden (MD) declared the National Executive Committee Fall Meeting reconvened.

National Chaplain Danny J. Poole (MI) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Randall Eicher (OH) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander William Lloyd (WA).

Commander Gladden had National Commander Dan Dellinger (VA) escorted to the podium. Commander Dellinger began by saying we need to work as a family because what the government is doing to our veterans is a shame. Our service members don't deserve to be pawns in this political mess. Keep calling and contacting your congressmen to let them know it's not right what they're doing to our veterans.

We are here to offer our assistance to make your year good. Your membership is going great and I know you'll reach all your goals. You're fundraising efforts are fantastic and I commend you for that. Don't hesitate to ask if the Legion can do something for you because we are here as a family.

This concluded his remarks.

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

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National Executive Committeemen

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

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

David Lee (NY), Chairman

Mr. Lee (NY) said, we have 353,000 members, as you heard Commander Dellinger, we should be flooding Congress with phone calls and e-mails. Our veterans need us.

We have information called “Take Action” that’s sent out by the National Organization. We need to get this information out very quickly to our membership.

We have a back log of 193,000 veterans that have issues. We need to get more veterans elected and informed about the process so they understand what’s being said and how veterans feel.

The next Washington Conference will be March 23-26, 2014. The bus tour will be on Sunday, March 23rd. This concluded his report.

At this time Harl “Butch” D. Ray (IL) gave his report.

HOMELAND SECURITY and CIVIL PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Harl “Butch” D. Ray (IL), Chairman

Mr. Ray asked: Are you prepared; Are you ready? Be informed – be ready – may the force be with you! This concluded his report. *A motion was made by New York to accept the report, seconded by Maryland. Motion carried.*

At this time Public Relations gave their report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

Joseph Korba (NJ), Vice Chairman for Damon Bradtmueller (IN), Chairman

Mr. Korba (NJ) reported there hasn't been much participation in the "Snapshot of Service". We really need to build the inventory of photos. This project supports the Four Pillars of The American Legion.

We had a PR Fair at Houston Convention that was very successful and we were able to get a lot of material out. We would like to try to expand it next year and get more videos we have out to you. The key is getting the information out to the blue caps.

This year we're going to extend the roles of our commission members to help each of our commissions/committees with Public Relations. It's all our responsibility to cross market what we do. This concluded his report.

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

Milton Chatham (TX) said there's a correction to the PR Minutes, line 5, MySons.org should be MySAL.org – so noted.

At this time VA&R gave their report.

VA&R COMMISSION

Jeff Frain (AZ), Chairman

Mr. Frain (AZ) reported we only have 75 Deputies and Reps across the US. We have 353,000 members and only 75 representatives.

The Fisher House book will be done this year with an emphasis on volunteer hours. Fisher House stepped up to help families in need with fallen soldiers due to our recent government shut down.

We passed one (1) Resolution: SAL Res 2 – Fall 2013; titled – "*Commendation of Fisher House for Assisting our Veterans Families.*"

The next project is Missing in America Project (MIA) – MIA brochures will be distributed on Sunday of the Fall NEC. Our veterans are sitting on shelves and our job is to make sure they get the proper burial.

At National Convention we did not give out the VA&R District Award because we didn't have the final numbers – 4th District of Georgia is the award recipient. They will be presented with the award at the Spring NEC in May. This concluded his report.

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

Resolution Chairman Robert Brown (GA) read resolution SAL Res 2 – Fall 2013 titled "Commendation of Fisher House for Assisting our Veterans Families". A motion was made by Robert Brown (GA) to accept the resolution, seconded by Wisconsin. Motion carried.

At this time Children & Youth gave their report.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH COMMISSION

Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman

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

We make donations to these programs to make a difference. In 1952, Dr. Garland G. Murphy, Jr. gave a large contribution to TAL towards the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of our children. In 1988 we contributed over \$39,000; 10 years later \$167,000; 20 years \$332,000; last two years \$506,000 and then \$453,000. These contributions make a difference in the lives of these children.

Last year among others, the following received grants:

- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation - \$39,500
- National Center for Learning Disabilities - \$45,000
- Operation Military Kids - \$60,000
- Childhood Leukemia Foundation - \$60,000
- Children's Organ Transplant Association - \$43,000

We are approaching the \$6 million mark and are less than \$100,000 away. We will recommend the approval of thirteen (13) grants totaling approximately \$700,000 in grant money.

We're approaching 800 CAT members. See John Mejia on CAT information. We currently have 574 CAT (Children's Action Team) members. This year Commander Gladden set a goal of \$450,000 for CWF which works out to be about \$1.30 per member. This concluded his report.

Mr. Bolt (VA) reported we discussed COTA, CMN, FTA, Ronald McDonald House, Special Olympics, Family Support Network, Josh Dogs and OMK.

Doc Gibbs reported that the Josh Dog goal for this year will be 2,500. Commander Gladden stated in our meeting that all our programs are important but wanted to give special attention to Josh Dogs and Special Olympics this year. Special Olympics desperately needs volunteer hours.

The C&Y Conference was held in Indianapolis in September and we only had 10 Detachments in attendance. I urge all Detachments to send a representative to the Conference in the future.

Mr. Kerestan is in the process with the editors in refreshing the C&Y Handbook so he's asking for photos of younger members with covers or baseball caps. He needs them submitted by December 1st so the handbook can be put together by the first of the year. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Indiana to accept the report, seconded by Wisconsin. Motion carried.

At this time Americanism gave their report.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Danny Smith (NE), Chairman

Mr. Smith (NE) reported, in Houston there were four young adults lead on stage in front of a bunch of strangers. They met that challenge head on with a huge smile on their face and a heartfelt thank you. These are our youth champions. There's nothing more satisfying then seeing that smile on someone's

face that you've been able to help out and maybe give a brighter future. If you think about it...SMILE – Sons Making Individual Lives Extraordinary. That's what we do make individual lives extraordinary through our programs and projects.

At this time Mr. Smith turned the podium over to William Towns (OH) for the Legacy Scholarship report. Mr. Towns reported that The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Program was established in 2002. The American Legion wants to ensure higher education for the children whose parents have been killed while serving our country. It's a civic duty to provide them with an equal opportunity which is why the Legion offers this support through the Legacy Scholarship.

There has been a significant short fall in government money allotted to children whose parents were killed in war. The government benefit only covers about half of living expenses, textbooks and rising cost of tuition. The price tag of higher learning will increase about 5% a year and military compensation will not cover this.

Through the 2012 year The Legion Family has raised \$6.5 million and the Legacy Run has surpassed it's goal each year. This year 28 scholarships were given out but the need is much greater. Commander Gladden has made The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Program his focused program for his term as National Commander. His goal is to raise awareness and give the help this program provides. Commander Gladdens goal is to raise \$250,000 and to increase the contributions for this organization. We have established an award to Sons for donations to the Legacy Scholarship Program. Over the next few months you will hear more about this effort and we will get behind our Commander for this project. This concluded Mr. Towns report.

Mr. Smith reported, the second program that the National Commander has asked is to increase volunteer hours, donations and sponsorship to is Boys State. This is a long running program with The American Legion so we need to increase our participation.

CPR's - We need to stress the importance of what these forms are and getting these submitted. These are a means of reporting what we do. Take pride in what you do and get it reported.

The District Report judging for the awards have been complete. First place winner is Detachment of Georgia – 9th District. Second place is Detachment of Maryland – North Central District. These awards will be presented at the 2014 Spring NEC Meeting.

The formula for success is relatively simple by educate and communication. If we educate and communicate with our members not only will we see our volunteer hours and donations increase we will see our membership increase.

I've taken the first step and assigned Commission Members specific Detachments that they will have direct contact with. We will put out a little snippet called "Spotlight on Americanism". We will highlight different Americanism Programs and what is going on. They will send it out to their assigned Detachment leadership. The "Spotlight on Americanism" will also available on the website.

In the near future we will develop a training module for chaplains that will be conducted by Bill Towns (OH). The SAL handbook will be revised and will likely be a two year process. We will also be working with Jill Druskis, Director, Americanism in getting some Resolutions for the Spring NEC Meeting. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Wisconsin to accept the report, seconded by Virginia. Motion carried.

*Correction to Americanism Commission minutes – Robert Turner (CT) was present as a guest.
Correction to Americanism Commission minutes – John Pellegrini (MT) pointed out there was a typo
with the Boys State paragraph – it should be your instead of you. - All corrections so noted.*

At this time Internal Affairs gave their report.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman

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

Member Training & Development – reported by Mike Sawicki (IL)

Mr. Sawicki had all the Commanders that went through training stand up to be recognized. The class is ½ full for NMI 1 so get your names submitted to Don Culver. A thank you to Ron Roberts and Joe Paviglianti for conducting the parliamentary procedure class and we will have another class at the Spring NEC. Thank you to all the instructors for teaching the Commander and Adjutant class. Please ask your Commanders for the material and get it out to the blue caps. This concluded his report.

Membership – reported by Raymond Jarvis (NY)

We started out with a bang by 33 Detachments reaching our 10% goal. Then something happened along the way to our 25% Target Date on the 9th. Nationally we missed the 25% Target Date by 4.3% or 15,000 members. What happened? We need to get the word out all the way down to the Squadrons. The membership is at the Squadron level and we need to contact the Squadrons – “Just Ask”. Renewals are hurting us. We’re signing up new members but are we keeping them? That’s were it’s at with the renewals and personal communication by phone, personal contact or a letter. This concluded his report.

Convention – reported by Mark Tansel (IN) for Richard Campbell (NC)

The Convention Committee is still in the planning phase for our National Convention in Charlotte, NC. The site visit is scheduled for December. Keep checking the SAL website for more information. This concluded his report.

Mr. Tansel (IN) stated there was one (1) Resolution:

SAL Res 1 – Fall 2013 Titled: “Endorsement of Jeff Evans (VA) for National Vice Commander South. Received and filed.

There is a District and Detachment consolidated report flow chart in our Internal Affairs Commission minutes that has been approved and will be implemented. This concluded his report.

Commander Gladden commented that for the memberships final renewal notice we will use a letter from him in lieu of a post card.

***A motion was made by New Jersey to accept the report, minus the resolution, seconded by Maryland.
Motion carried.***

At this time the Finance gave their report.

FINANCE COMMISSION
Jerry Leopold (KS), Chairman

Dr. Leopold (KS) reported that we look at your dues as an investment. You're investing your dollars into the Sons of The American Legion. The expenditures through June serve as our guide to create our budget for 2014. We will be tracking travel through expanded breakdown and how many dollars we're spending on travel.

We increased the income based on an additional 5,000 members which results in \$10,000 more income. We also discussed the Resolution submitted by California and you should have received a survey to complete based on Call-In Review. We have approved the 2014 budget. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Wisconsin to accept the report subject to the audit, seconded by Texas. Motion carried.

Question – Jim Gelwicks (CO) said, he noticed the amount under input services has been reduced – is that cost going away or redistributed elsewhere? Answer – No. The cost is not going away it's just never been reported with anything greater than \$1,000. We took the \$60,000 just sitting there and put in other places in the budget.

Commander Gladden (MD) called for the Sub-Committee Report on Resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Robert Brown (GA), Chairman

Mr. Brown (GA) stated we had two (2) Resolutions read and acted upon. This concluded his report.

A motion was made by Robert Brown (GA) to accept the report, seconded by Minnesota. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Commander Joe Gladden (MD) called for old business. There was no old business to discuss. This concluded the old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commander Joe Gladden (MD) called for new business. There was no new business to discuss. This concluded the new business.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Commander Joe Gladden (MD) called For The Good of the Sons.

PNC Ray Giehll, Jr. (IN) stated as the Chairman of the Committees on Committees we make the appointments to the various Commission and Committees. We get those names from you and that is our problem right now. We are not getting those names from you. We only had 15 Detachments turn in their recommendations last year. Adjutant O'Hearne sends out a reminder in January to send in your appointment list by March 1st. We need them submitted along with their resume. Send us names because we can always use new and fresh faces.

PNC Mayne asked PNC Giehll for ideal guys for recommendation to the National organization and criteria on the type of guys your looking for. Giehll said, we could really use some younger members and hard working.

Chris Affolter (CA), Detachment Commander, stated the VA Benefits are at a stand still and just wanted to give a personal note that I solely depend on the VA for my income because of my time in the Marine Corp. I have three children and come November 1st I may not be able to buy milk. I'm asking each and every one of you to go back and call your congressman to stop this stuff they are doing. Also, the DOD was granted to pay military but the families won't get benefits for their soldiers burial.

PNC Cliff Smith stated we collected \$1,240 for the Susan B. Coleman Breast Cancer Foundation.

Ron Roberts thanked everyone that attended the Parliamentary class and this was the first NEC Meeting that I attended that was conducted in proper and respectable way (in most cases).

Tom Marsden (NJ) stated he needed some pictures from North Carolina and Colorado for the website.

Bill Hill, National Sergeant-At-Arms reminded everyone that National Commander's Homecoming will be March 21-22nd. This information is posted on the National website as well as Detachment of Maryland's website.

Commander Gladden thanked John Kerestan for putting together everything for the NEC Meeting so to John - "Come on Man". Commander Gladden also thanked all the National Officers and how important their jobs are to this organization.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee, National Chaplain Danny Poole (MI) gave the benediction.

Following a right-hand salute, National Commander Gladden (MD) declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 23 - 25, 2013

No.: SAL Res 1 – Convention 2013

Title: VA&R 1,000,000 hours of service per year goal

Origin: The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, One of the four pillars upon which The American Legion was founded, The VA&R Commission, actively advocates for, and exercises independence oversight for a myriad of benefits, Programs, and opportunities created to compensate and care for generations of American Veterans and their dependents: and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion supports the VA&R Commission by volunteering at the Veterans Hospitals and Homes, Through this support The American Legion Family remains a major contributor for the Department Veterans Affairs Voluntary service (VAVS) program: and

WHEREAS, over the past few years The American Legion Family has volunteered over 930,000 hours and has never reached the 1,000,000 hour goal per year: and

WHEREAS, by making 4 recommendations at each Medical Center we as The American Legion Family can achieve this goal and they are

- 1) Make sure that you have active representatives for the VA Medical centers
- 2) Recruit 10 regular scheduled (RS) volunteers at each medical center
- 3) Host 2 occasional hour events (which can be used to recruit RS volunteers)
- 4) Ensure that all the American Legion Families members serving at the National Cemeteries and State Veterans Homes are logging all of their hours with the parent VA Medical Center; and be it resolved

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion work hand in hand with the American Legion Family to help implement the 4 goals stated to the 1,000,000 hour goal; and be it finally resolved

RESOLVED, that, the Sons of The American Legion, assembled in Convention Session in Houston, Texas August 23-25 2013 supports this resolution to help achieve the American Legion Family goal of 1,000,000 hours of VAVS service,

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 23 - 25, 2013

No.: SAL Res 4 – Convention 2013

Title: Recognition of First Responders to the Boston Marathon Bombings

Origin: Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee

WHEREAS, the events of what is now being called the Boston Marathon Bombings of April 15, 2013 shocked this nation with its brutality and indiscriminate nature, and

WHEREAS, this act of terrorism caused the death of three innocent bystanders including an eight year old boy along with serious wounds to two hundred sixty four other spectators and participants requiring treatment in twenty four local hospitals with at least fourteen amputations, and

WHEREAS, The immediate assistance of first responders consisting of fellow citizens, runners, police and fire department officers, doctors, nurses and bystanders, brought aid, comfort and instant medical first aid to those injured; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25, 2013, by the members of the Sons of The American Legion, that we express our respect, admiration and thanks to all who “First Responded” to the needs of their fellow citizens. These acts of selfless assistance to those in need truly expresses and enforces the ideals of Americanism and Community Service as outlined in the Four Pillars on which The American Legion Family stands.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 23 - 25, 2013

No.: SAL Res 5 – Convention 2013
Title: Recognition of Social Media sites
Origin: Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee

WHEREAS, the events of what is now being called the Boston Marathon Bombings of April 15, 2013 motivated our society in a common bond for justice to be served, and

WHEREAS, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies requested assistance of locating the whereabouts of the alleged bombing suspects once identified, and

WHEREAS, the immediate response from the public at large was overwhelming with clues and tips flooding all law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS, this transferring of information was aided and abetted by the use of social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Tumblr and others; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25, 2013, that we wish to express our respect, admiration and thanks to all social media sites for any assistance rendered which assisted in locating and providing evidence that led to the eventual capture of the alleged bombing suspects.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 23 - 25, 2013

No.: SAL Res 6 – Convention 2013

Title: Endorsement of William L. Foster (AZ) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Arizona

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25,2013, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona hereby endorses William L. Foster for the high office of National Vice Commander West at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was adopted be the Detachment of Arizona and endorsed by the Department of Adjutant but with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Jeff C. Frain and Department Adjutant John Aldecoa are on the submitted resolution.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 23 - 25, 2013

No.: SAL Res 7 – Convention 2013
Title: Endorsement of Ronnie Grist (GA) for National Commander
Origin: Detachment of Georgia

WHEREAS, This member has been an active member on the Sons of The American Legion for 30 years in East Point Squadron 51, eligible through the service of his father, Jack N. Grist, in the Coast Guard from 1955-1960; and

WHEREAS, he has served as Squadron Historian, Jr. Vice Commander, as Commander for 6 terms, Sr. Vice Commander/Adjutant for 7 terms, Chaplain ad currently serving as Judge Advocate; and

WHEREAS, he has served as 4th District Commander 3 terms and is currently serving as Adjutant for the 8th time; and

WHEREAS, he has served the Detachment of Georgia as Historian, chaplain, Finance Officer, Vice Commander, as Adjutant for 13 years, served as Commander from 1987-1989 and is currently serving as Adjutant again; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the National level as Chaplain and Southern Vice Commander along with serving as Chairman or as a member of the Children & Youth Commission, VA&R Commission, and the Legislative Commission, and as National Executive Committeeman and Vice Chairman of the Children & Youth Commission and who has attended every National Convention since 1986 and at least one NEC meeting a year since 1986; and

WHEREAS, he has he has been awarded both the Squadron Member of the Year and the Detachment Member of the Year, as well as the Detachment's Lifetime Achievement Award, and has been awarded a Life Membership from the Squadron and the Detachment; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23-25, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Georgia hereby endorses Ronnie Grist for the high office of National Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the above resolution was adopted be the Detachment of Georgia and endorsed by the Department of Georgia but with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Lyle Chapman and Department Adjutant Charlie Knox are on the submitted resolution.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 23 - 25, 2013

No.: SAL Res 8 – Convention 2013
Title: Children and Youth Organizations
Origin: National Children and Youth Commission

WHEREAS: One of the main objectives of the Children and Youth Commission is to support quality organizations that provide services for children and youth; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that provide uplifting programs to critically ill children and their families; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that provide wish fulfillment to children with terminal illnesses; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that create healing environments in hospitals, communities and homes for young persons who are facing chronic illnesses; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that assist with the cost of medical care for children with disease thus reducing the burden on their families; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that provide air transportation for seriously ill children to medical centers for treatment; and

WHEREAS: Organizations exist that help children with life threatening illnesses to believe in hope, joy and the promise of tomorrow; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23 - 25, 2013, that the Sons of The American Legion National Children and Youth Commission inform Detachments, Districts and Squadrons of the existence of these organizations that assist in improving the quality of life for children battling illness and disease; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Sons of The American Legion encourages all Detachments, Districts and Squadrons to promote and support these organizations in the communities across their states.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
October 12 & 13, 2013

No.: SAL Res 1 – Fall 2013

Title: Endorsement of Jeff Evans (VA) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

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

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

WHEREAS, Past Detachment Commander, Jeff Evans has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Virginia as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12 - 13, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Virginia hereby endorses Jeff Evans for the high office of National Vice Commander South at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Virginia and the Department of Virginia with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Doug Farrell and Department Adjutant Dale Chapman are on the submitted resolution.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
October 12 & 13, 2013

No.: SAL Res 2 – Fall 2013

Title: Commendation of Fisher House for Assisting our Veterans Families

Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation continues to support the military families in their time of greatest need through a network of comfort homes built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher Houses are located in close proximity to the medical center or hospital it serves; and

WHEREAS, Due to the government shutdown, The Department of Defense was unable to pay the death gratuities to the families of service members killed in combat; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation has generously agreed to offer the families an advance grant until the government can make the reimbursements; and

WHEREAS, The Fisher House Foundation will also cover flights, hotels and other incidentals for the family members; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12 - 13, 2013, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby commends the Fisher House Foundation for ensuring that our nations veterans families are taken care of by providing an advance grant to the families of service members killed during the government shutdown.

ADDENDUM B

***Internal Affairs Commission Report to
National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 16-17, 2013***

Disposition of Action of
Sons of The American Legion

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 12-13, 2013.

	TITLE	ACTION
SAL NC 1-13	Support Resolution for VA&R 1,000,000 hours of service goal for Medical Centers for the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission	Approved
SAL NC 4-13	Recognition of First Responders to the Boston Marathon Bombings	Approved
SAL NC 5-13	Recognition of Social Media Sites	Approved
SAL NC 6-13	Endorsement of William L. Foster (AZ) for National Vice Commander	Received and Recorded
SAL NC 7-13	Endorsement of Ronnie Grist (GA) for National Commander	Received and Recorded
SAL NC 8-13	Recognition of Children and Youth Organizations by Detachments, Districts, and Squadrons	Approved
SAL NEC 1-F13	Endorsement of Jeff Evans (VA) for National Vice Commander	Received and Recorded
SAL NEC 2F-13	Commendation of Fisher House for Assisting Veteran Families	Approved