

PROCEEDINGS

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

Fall Meeting

**Sheraton Hotel City Centre
Indianapolis, Indiana**

October 2 - 3, 2021

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...At 8:00 a.m., Saturday, October 2, 2021, the National Executive Committee was called to order by National Commander Fox.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: With the colors of our nation being in place, hand salute. Two.

Uncover.

National Chaplain Jeff Gibson, Sr., will now invoke the blessing of God.

Invocation

Jeff Gibson, Sr., National Chaplain, Alabama

If you have not uncovered, please uncover. Hey, listen up. Before we start, I want to uplift your spirit and motivate you today because we've been through a storm. Victory, v-i-c-t-o-r-y, was our battle cry and we're still going through that storm, but we're here this morning. Communication is hard to see, but in the end it is the key to great relationships we all want and need.

I want us to remember all of our members that have lost their loved ones since the last time we got together. I want you to remember those three young men that died in New York within 48 hours to make a suicide, those soldiers. I want you think about our members that want to be here but fighting Covid and those that survived Covid. We want you to keep all of them -- when we go into prayer, keep all of them in prayer. Before you leave today, look at the body next to your right and left arm and tell them you're not alone, that we're here for family together, for each other.

The American Legion do a buddy for veterans but as SAL, I want us to do a better check on each other and make sure that we are lifting our spirits. We can get PTSD like veterans and a lot of other things that can happen to us. So we are one in the family and we're SLA strong.

Now, let's go to the Lord in prayer. Oh, heavenly Father, grant us the things we are doing today for the benefit of our organization and ourselves. We ask for your supreme guidance in all of our daily lives. Amen.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: On behalf of all veterans, let us stand in silence.
...The National Executive Committee observed a moment of silence.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: 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 and MIAs still unaccounted for, and 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 the defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

Sergeant-at-arms please place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair.
...The Sergeant-at-Arms placed the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: The National Sergeant-at-arms, will he lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Please cover.

National Vice Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr., will lead us in the preamble.

Recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: 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 every day that these individuals are protecting our liberty.

The Blue Star Service Banner is in place.

(Gavel)

National Adjutant will now read the call.

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Pursuant to Section 2, Article VII of 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 October 2 and 3, 2021, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Mr. Adjutant, how about some roll call.

Roll Call

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander
Michael C. Fox, California

National Vice Commanders
East: Richard Huntley, Maine
South: Jason Roberts, Georgia
Central: Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr., Ohio
Midwest: Juan R. Torres, Texas
West: L. Jim Stewart, Nevada

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Adjutants
Harold E. Thompson, Jr., Nebraska (Emeritus)
James "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida (EXCUSED)
Robert J. Avery, New York
Scott A. Williams, Virginia
Scott J. Thornton, Ohio
Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey

National Chaplain
Jeffrey Gibson, Sr., Alabama

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Historian
William L. "Bill" Towns, Jr., Ohio

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Charles A. Curtis, California

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms
Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania (EXCUSED)
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas
Greg Falco, New York
Gary Wagner, Indiana
Mark T. Fayer, Sr., Maryland

National Commander's Aide
Frank Meraz, California

Chief of Staff
Bob Brown, Georgia (East)
Mark Severance, California (West)

Parliamentarian, Ron Roberts, Mississippi

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Clint D. Bolt, Virginia (EXCUSED)

Past National Commanders
Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
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
Eugene L. Sacco, California
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
John T. Dietz Kentucky
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas

Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas (EXCUSED)
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana (EXCUSED)
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
James K. Roberts, III, Florida (EXCUSED)
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland
Michael W. Moss, Colorado (EXCUSED)
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona (EXCUSED)
Danny J. Smith, Colorado
Greg “Doc” Gibbs, New York (EXCUSED)

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Alabama, BOTH
Alaska, NEC
Arizona, ALTERNATE
Arkansas, BOTH
California, NEC
Colorado, ALTERNATE
Connecticut, BOTH
Delaware, ALTERNATE
Florida, BOTH
France, NEC
Georgia, BOTH
Hawaii, NEC
Idaho, NEC
Illinois, BOTH
Indiana, BOTH
Iowa, NEC
Kansas, BOTH
Kentucky, BOTH
Louisiana, NEC
Maine, NEC
Maryland, ALTERNATE
Massachusetts, NEC
Michigan, ALTERNATE NO VOICE
Minnesota, NEC
Mississippi, NEC
Missouri, NEC
Montana, ALTERNATE
Nebraska, BOTH
New Hampshire, BOTH
New Jersey, BOTH

New Mexico, NEC
New York, BOTH
North Carolina, NEC
Ohio, BOTH
Oklahoma, BOTH
Oregon, NEC
Pennsylvania, NEC
Puerto Rico, NEC
Texas, BOTH
Vermont, NEC
Virginia, ALTERNATE
Washington, BOTH
West Virginia, ALTERNATE
Wisconsin, BOTH
Wyoming, ALTERNATE

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Mr. Commander, you have 42 voting members present. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: I now declare this Fall 2021 meeting of the National Executive of the Sons of the American Legion regularly convened. At this point I'm going to do a little deviation in housecleaning business. I'd liked to call upon Parliamentarian Ron Roberts.

Remarks

Parliamentarian Ron Roberts

Thank you, Mr. Commander. The Commander asked me this morning to give a little talk on how to make motions and seconds and so on. First of all, a lot of you all already know me. I want to give you a little of my background in parliamentary procedure. For the VWF of Mississippi I was the parliamentarian for five years. I've been a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians since 1986. They are a large group worldwide. We have just over 3400 members worldwide. So that gives you a little bit of background in parliamentary procedure.

I've taught the course at new commander's training. This will be the ninth year. I recognize a lot of faces that have been there. So we'll go over some procedures that need to be followed for a couple of reasons. One, we want to do things right. Secondly, this pretty young lady sitting over here is a court reporter. She's a professional. She can only record what she hears.

Okay. These are historical documents of our organization, also a legal document of our organization. This proves we are a program of the Legion, fulfilling part of our obligation for that proof. So let's get right into what everybody wants to hear, parliamentary procedure first thing in the morning, wow. Procedure for making a motion, I see a lot of heads starting to nod already. Before a member in an assembly can make a motion, they've got to be recognized by the chair.

What does that mean? Don't walk up to the microphone and say Joe Blow from Montana, I want to make a motion, so and so. This gentleman, our Commander, or the chair the

parliamentary refers to, the person in charge, recognizes you. There might be three people come up to the same microphone at basically the same time. It's not who shouts first, who hollers the loudest. It's who this man nods or points to. He decides who he's going to hear.

Okay. To claim the floor, especially in a deliberative assembly of this size, Roberts Rules of Order say any assembly that's bigger than can be around a boardroom table, which the big boardroom tables I've been in board meetings hold 20 people. That's a lot of people around a big table, but they're a big table.

Anything beyond that we follow these rules. To claim the floor, a member rises, goes to the microphone, says Mr. Commander or Mr. Chair, once he's been recognized, then his name, his title and then states his motion, who he represents. So if Cliff Hill comes up to the microphone first, recognized by the Chair, he would say my name is Cliff Hill, NEC from Massachusetts, say he's an NEC. He's also said he's an NEC, his name and who his represents. She's got it on record over there. I would like to make a motion that.

Now, in a big assembly like this, the second does the same thing. You don't shout second from your seat. You come up to the microphone, same procedure, introduce yourself. I know it's different than what we've been doing, but we're going to try proper parliamentary procedure. For instance, again, I'll pick on somebody else, my friend John Chang from New York. John can't stay up and say New York seconds. New York can't second. Who is New York, do they have a vote in anything, but John Chang, the NEC from New York, does have a vote. Again state your name.

Once he makes the motion, seconded, then what happens. The Commander says any discussion. Same way with discussion, step up to the microphone, introduce yourself again and he'll say go ahead, speak on it. Remember two times from the same individual before everyone else has a chance to speak.

Then it's the Commander's obligation, when the discussion is over, to clearly state we've had a first, a second on the motion to -- state the motion exactly. Then we're going for a vote. You've got to remember this is where you have to pay attention. We have to take our duties and responsibilities seriously. You have to pay attention to the motion as it was originally stated. This man here, if he changes a word in it, could mean an entirely different thing. So he's got to make sure he repeats it exactly and you've got to listen to make sure he repeats it exactly because you've voting on what he states.

Any quick questions? Any long questions? Mr. Kelly, my friend?

WILLIAM D. KELLY, FLORIDA: Mr. Roberts, as you see, it takes a minute for anyone who's not sitting right in the general area. Would it be proper to stand and say Mr. Commander, and then advance over to the microphone?

PARLIMENTARIAN RON ROBERTS: Yes. He can point to you and say, Mr. Kelly, come on forward. I agree with you because especially if you're stick in the middle and you're a robust individual. You notice how I covered myself on that one. That would be fine to do something like that. You've been recognized and he has the opportunity to recognize you. That's the main thing. Remember state everything clearly because it's going on the record, the official record of the Sons work of what we do.

Any other questions? Good question, Bill, thank you. Thank you, gentlemen, for your time. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

Reading of Minutes of Previous Meeting

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: All right. Now, at this time, Mr. Adjutant, can you read the meetings from the last meeting.

NECMAN DENNIS HENKEMEYER (MN): Mr. Commander, Dennis Henkemeyer, NEC, Detachment of Minnesota. I move that we dispense with the reading of the minutes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a second?

NECMAN THOMAS GLANDER (ALA): Tom Glander, NEC, Alabama, seconds the motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There is a motion on the floor from Dennis Henkemeyer from the Detachment of Minnesota to suspend the reading of the minutes, and a second by Tom Glander. Is there any discussion?

NECMAN NED FOX (CA): Ned Fox, NEC California, I would think we could dispense with the minutes, but we should at least approve the minutes as published, presented. Hope you read your e-mails.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Excuse me, is that an amendment to the motion?

NECMAN NED FOX (CA): I would be happy to amend the motion that the minutes be approved as presented and published.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There is a motion to amend the previous motion to accept the minutes as published. Is there a second?

NECMAN JUAN CRUZ (PR): Juan Cruz, NEC from Detachment of Puerto Rico, second.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's a motion and a second. Is there any discussion? There's a motion to amend the previous motion, to accept the minutes as published.

If there's no discussion, all those in favor of the amendment, say aye.

Opposed, nay.

Amendment carries.

There is a motion on the floor from Dennis Henkemeyer from the Detachment of Minnesota to accept the minutes as published, seconded by Tom Glander from Alabama. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, I call for the question.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

PARLIMENTARIAN RON ROBERTS: Mr. Commander, I have the distinct, I'm not going to say, pleasure but opportunity call the Commander out of order twice.

Anyone have an idea why? Okay. We've got some people familiar with Roberts Rules of Order. First of all, call the question, Robert Rules of Order, page 167, Item 16 clearly states to call the question or raise the question is a main motion, requiring a second, no debate is allowed, requires a two-thirds vote in order to pass because it suspends the rights of members to debate.

So you already had a motion on the floor and yet you made another motion. You can't do that, Mr. Commander. Nobody can do that.

Second reason you're out of order is are you aware that the Chair or the Commander, whichever he's called, cannot make a motion while he has a gravel. Two times you're out of order. I did this for your benefit out here so you can see how parliamentary procedure works.

Yes, call for the question is a main motion. It's another motion. We already had the one on the floor that we were just going to vote on, but he stated another main motion. Okay. And if you'd repeat it.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So now that I've been ruled out of order.

(Laughter)

Let's try this again. There's a motion on the floor to suspend the reading of the minutes, amended to accept the minutes as published by Dennis Henkemeyer, second by Joe Gladden.

Is there any discussion on that? Any discussion? I will call for the vote.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed nay. Motion carries.

Thank you.

(Applause)

So if that doesn't prove to all of you that I'm not above any of you, that we're all in the same light, I don't know what's going to do that this weekend.

(Laughter)

But that's why you surround yourself with people that have more knowledge than you to keep you in line. So thank you, Ron.

At this time are there any first-time attendees to Indianapolis for the NEC meeting? Please rise.

(Applause)

Well, welcome to Indianapolis. Lucky for you get to see a lot of changes this weekend to a different NEC and I hope you guys enjoy yourself.

At this time can I have any dual members please rise. I'd like you to be recognized as well.

(Applause)

On behalf of the entire organization, thank you for your service. And I'd like to point out we've got one member that's in back there, Mr. Brandon Curry, can you please rise in uniform. Thank you.

(Applause)

We missed you at convention, but we're glad you're here now. So if there are no objections at this point, I'm going to deviate a little from the agenda.

Remarks

National Commander Michael Fox

So, Gentlemen, there's been a lot of rumors going around about what's going on and what's been happening. I'm going to do my best to help all of you out with that. I'm going to give you the knowledge that I have at this point.

I'm not going to take any questions on it. I'm just sharing information with everybody so that they're more aware of what's happening.

American Legion has presented me with a resolution, Resolution No. 28. Constitution, bylaws, offices, resolutions and policies of the Sons of American Legion, origin Sons of the American Legion Committee, submitted by the National Sons of the American Legion Commission,

May 5 and 6, 1938.

Resolved by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5 6, 1938, there can be no fundamental differences or conflict between the constitution, bylaws, offices, resolutions and policies of the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion, but that the American Legion provisions,

whenever applicable, shall cover any instance of such differences or conflict in the conflicting provision of the Sons of American Legion shall be deemed void.

Yesterday morning there was a meeting, a quite large meeting, with some of the leadership in the American Legion, including but not limited national Adjutant Dan Wheeler, Dean Cassell, our liaison Ken George, Jake Comer, Dan Dillinger, Dan Ludwig, the newly formed committee of the Sons of the American Legion, the SL advisory board with all of its members, myself and a few others, Sean Long, who is treasurer, Gather Kenner National Finance Commission Chairman.

The American Legion has given us an opportunity. They have eliminated some committees by their decision and restructured those committees at this point, the SAL Advisory Board. The SAL Advisory Board is going to be working with a new committee on the American Legion, the SAL Oversight Committee.

For many years there's been talks amongst a lot of us that, you know, we want to run our own program. We want to operate things the way we want to operate them. Gentlemen, the American Legion has given us that opportunity. They are giving us the opportunity to control our own destiny. Yes, they've dictated a couple of changes to us right now, but those changes are for us to set ourselves up for the future.

You know, why are they doing this. You know a lot of people, well, if they want us to run our own program, then why are they telling us what to do. Guys, they're setting us up. The American Legion does not want to be looked at any more of controlling us.

They want us to make the decisions in collaboration with the American Legion. They want us working together, but they want us to control our destiny. They want us to figure out what's best for our program because the Legion knows the better we are, the better the American Legion is.

With this opportunity, the only way that it's going to work and the only way that we are going to be allowed to control our future is if we work together. So from the far right side of the room to the far left, we've got to be on the same page. The goal has been set. We have to work together to get there.

When you get back home and your members in your detachment, they play a vital role as well. We all have to be on the same page. American Legion, it says we will always be a program. We will never get away from that. But they're giving us the autonomy to control our destiny and what that looks like. We just have to put the plan together and let them know.

The SAL Subcommittee of Internal Affairs is going to be presented with a change at the NEC meeting. It's going to go down to three members. Those three members are going to work in collaboration with us, and those three members of that committee, the Oversight Committee, is not going to be a distant committee. That committee is going to be here at our NEC's.

They're going to be at our convention. So they're going to see firsthand what we're doing and what's going on. No more backdoor reports or just hearing about what's happening. They're going to have firsthand knowledge and if they see something that they're not happy with, they're going to let us know and give us the opportunity to correct it. They're not going to dictate to us what to do.

The CENTCOM committee that was formed is going to play a key and vital role in our organization, and it's not just being those three PNC's along with the Judge Advocate and those members that are under 30. It's going to take all of us. We all have to provide input to that committee.

For all of you, I hope you've seen the e-mail that has come out already with Survey Monkey to ask a few questions. I cannot stress to you enough to get involved with this, participate, because your voice matters. If we want to put a plan together for the future that takes us into our 100th anniversary, everybody needs to participate. We all have to work together.

There's no way that we can mandate this committee to put together a true strategic plan on their own. They need our help, and they need it in many ways. So if we want this plan done right, we all have to be on the same page.

They're going to be collecting and analyzing all the data that we give them, and it's not just us here in this NEC meeting. It's going to be those squadron members when you get back home. The more people that participate in this process, the better of a plan we can come up. And it's up to us in this room right now to make sure that that happens when we get back home.

We have to encourage everybody to be involved and especially those younger members. That's why it's key on the appointment of those members under 30 because if we're looking at a strategic plan for five years, ten years, 25 years down the road, it needs to be with those younger guys. Where do they want this organization to go, where do we feel it should be in five years, where do they feel it should be in 25 years?

Just remember, if you do not give your input, I'm to tell you right now, do not complain. Like everybody, please remove your covers. We're all just citizens right now, right. You can hate that guy next to you. You cannot want to talk to him or be involved. You didn't have to have a beer with them or take them to dinner. Heck, you didn't even have to work with him to try and better the Sons of the American Legion and that's fine.

It's okay. You have that right and you have those freedoms because all of the veterans that have sacrificed for you, remember that.

Put your covers on. Look around the room. With that cover on, you're representing the Sons of the American Legion, whether you're a national officer, detachment officer, squadron officer or just a member. You are representing the American Legion as the largest program of the American Legion. That guy next to you, you've got a 95 percent chance that he's a member for the same reason you are.

Honoring a veteran, remember that. Now, that you have that cover on, you can have a difference of opinion and that's okay because that creates healthy discussion. That's going to create a better strategic plan in the end.

We have a goal that has been set by us from the American Legion. If we want to control our own destiny, we need a bulletproof strategic plan. We need policies and procedures that allow us to operate independently. We have to work together to get that done.

So remember when you have your cover, we know what the goal is. We all know that the Legion has given us the autonomy to run our own program. That's the goal. Now, there's multiple paths to get there. But always remember just because somebody may have an idea of a different path doesn't mean that we're still focused on that same goal in the end.

I know everybody in this room wants that. Always remember we're here for the same reason, to honor our veterans and the children and their families. When you wear this cover, always represent that. Thank you.

(Applause)

Appointment to National Commissions

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: This morning we've got some vacancies that need to be filled. Brad Dudley, a member of the Finance Commission, due to his resignation; Lowell Long, member of MT&D, also for his resignation; we have a vacancy in Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, a vacancy in the Century Committee and also a vacancy on Convention Committee.

So at this time I'd like to make a recommendation for Steve Honigfort sorry if I screwed that up, as member of the National Finance Commission, Chris Casey as a member of the National Member Training and Development, Greg Falco as a National Sergeant-at-Arms, Aiden Meachum as a member of the Century Committee representing the Midwest as a member under 30, and Tommy Vasar, Jr., as a member of the Convention Committee.

NECMAN BILL KELLY (FLA): Bill Kelly NEC from Florida, I'd like to make a motion that we accept the recommendations of the Commander to fill these committees.

NECMAN BOB BROWN (GA): Commander, Bob Brown, NEC from Georgia -- I don't know if this is on or not -- I would second the motion that we acknowledge the recommendations of the Commander as accept them as stated.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's a motion on the floor by Bill Kelly from the detachment from Florida to accept the recommendations to fill the vacancies for the appointments and seconded by Bob Brown of Georgia. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, I will call for the vote. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed Nay. The motion carries.

At this time Sergeant-at-Arms would you please bring before me a National Liaison Ken George.

(Applause)

Remarks

Ken George

National SAL Staff Liaison, California

Good morning, everybody.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

NATIONAL LIAISON GEORGE: Good morning. Welcome to Indy. It's been two years since we've met in this room and for me it's really good to see a lot of faces. It was good to see everybody at convention and it's refreshing. It's nice. We do have some friends that aren't with us for various reasons, and some won't be with us ever.

I know who some of those individuals are. I'm not going to name everybody, but we need to look around the room, a lot of new faces. We need to embrace everybody. But also, too, this is a weekend for change, as the Commander said. There is a golden opportunity for the SAL to actually set its own destiny. You're still going to be a program, but you know what that program at least some people think that there is, whatever the reins, whatever you want to call it, they've giving you the reins and saying ride your own horse is basically the best way to put it.

Some of the committees are disbanded. They'll be reformed under different guidelines. The Oversight Committee is smaller, but yeah, they will be amongst you and actually paying attention and watching, as well as I am. My job is to actually report to them and coordinate their reports and give it to the NEC Internal Affairs.

So with that, I would say, you know what, everybody is watching. Take this opportunity and show them that the SAL is a force to be reckoned with. So that, I will close my remarks and

let you get on with your meeting. Enjoy yourself in Indy and it's good to see everybody. Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: At this time I would like to call Americanism Commission Chairman, Chuck Treat, to the podium, for his report, along with Children and Youth Chairman Jim Noble and Child Welfare Foundation Committee Mark Nave. I know a lot of them may be shocked, wait a minute, they're giving a report.

So while they're make their way up to the stage, yes, something a little bit different. One of the things that I've heard over the several years of being here is man, Sunday, all we do is listen to reports, all day long, people fall asleep, you wake up, you know right what's going on.

I'm going to tell everybody right now I wouldn't fall asleep, if I were you, because things are changing. Things are different and you're not going to know where you are when you wake up. We're going to go through a few reports. Yes, I understand for you NEC you don't have the paperwork in front of you. That's okay. Just listen. We're not going to go through any resolutions today. Resolutions will be done tomorrow.

We're making some changes on the administrative side as well, so you're all aware. This evening every voting member, as well as Past National Commander, I believe, every Past National Commander and every voting member of the NEC will receive an e-mail this evening. Look at your e-mails tonight. There's going to be all of the resolutions and all of the minutes for the meetings.

At this NEC we'll have some printed copies, but we are transitioning. In May you will not. The only thing you will get will be the resolutions. So keep that in mind. So open your e-mails, come prepared for questions. So at this time we'll go through Americanism and its committees but no resolutions.

Oral Report of Americanism Commission Chuck Treat, Chairman,

Good morning. I would like, first to start with Mark Nave for Child Welfare Foundation. He'll give his report and then we'll proceed with Children and Youth.

Oral Report of Child Welfare Foundation Youth Committee Mark E. Nave, Chairman, Pennsylvania

Good morning, everyone.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

CHAIRMAN NAVE Good morning. The Child Welfare Foundation Committee convened last night at 6:30 p.m., in the Ohio Room on the 21st Floor. To lead off, I want to introduce my Committee members. Both of them are in the corner over here, Lyle Chapman, George Fleming, Sandy Lipman, Jon Coakley.

I'm honored to say that I have a committee of great experience and a wealth of knowledge and energy, and they make serving on this committee the easiest job possible. Thank you, gentlemen.

(Applause)

Last night at our meeting, we had 15 people attend not including distinguished guests. Each committeeman gave their report on their individual regions. Overall, so far this year, we've

donated \$75,000 so far, which is way better than last year at this time where we only had donated 32,000. So the work is being done by our membership as the world starts to open back up, and I say thank you for that.

Thirty-four detachments so far have given donations. A special shout out goes to the Central Region where all detachments have given donations so far this year. We mentioned so far, who's our top five. Well, starting off at No. 5 is Michigan, as far as total donations. No. 4 is Georgia, No. 3 is New Hampshire, No. 2 is Florida, and coming at No. 1 the Detachment of Texas.

So it's still early, but I haven't seen this many detachments raising so much money so early in the CWF fundraising year. So the work is definitely being done, and I want to thank you for that.

As we went on into the meeting, we talked about the CWF grant submissions that we had this year. We had 136 grant submissions that came in this year. The quality of the grant submissions this year were like no other. Normally we usually review about 50 proposals. This year we received 68 to look at.

We did our review, and we made our recommendation for 10 grants to be awarded. That will happen tomorrow night at our CWF selection dinner. And as soon as that information is available, I'll make sure that information is communicated out to the membership.

We have merchandise this weekend. Did I say merchandise? We have merchandise. First, we have our CWF polo shirt which is going for \$35. We have a table outside where we are selling merchandise. We have our CWF portfolio out front which is going for \$20. We also have challenge coins which are selling for \$5 apiece. And we also have a CWF phone charger which is good for Android and Apple phones, which are sold for \$10 apiece.

And I would like to say that there's two merchandise items that are sold out. One is the apron that we sold back in 2019 that kept on selling and kept on selling. Well, we have finally sold out. And we had CWF piggy banks, which are not a sales items, but items that we request that you order, we have run out. National told us they had 3,000 at the beginning of the year. Well, right now they have none in headquarters and they're actually quite happy to see that, they told me.

But the work continues with merchandising as we had some ideas come across the floor last night about new merchandise items, and we'll continue to work on that as we move through the year. We also talked about some of our goals for the year, and one of them is providing a guide for detachment fundraising. And a lot of the members that were there at the meeting last night gave some great suggestions, and we're looking for suggestions from anybody.

If you have a suggestion about fundraising that you do in your detachment, reach out to me. Reach out to one of your committeemen, send me an e-mail. Any idea is a great idea and we're looking to gather as many ideas so that we can share those to the membership at large.

Are there any detachment chairmen here for CWF? All right. Thank you, gentlemen. We're looking forward to having our detachment chairmen involved in our phone calls so that they can get information firsthand, but you can also share information, provide information, ideas. Ideas from anybody is positive and we look forward to having you on a phone call and being involved with us in the upcoming year.

And last but not least, some of our committeeman came around with a 50/50 raffle that we were doing. All the proceeds will go to the CWF and hold on to your ticket as we will do that drawing tomorrow morning. Coming into this weekend we were \$110,000 away from reaching

\$9 million. Nine million dollars in total donations by the Sons of the American Legion since 1988.

Let's get a lot closer to that because as I've said always, we will be fine when we reach nine. That concludes my report. Thank you.

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

Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm on October 1, 2021 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Mark E. Nave (PA)</u>	Members:	<u>Lyle Chapman (GA)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott A. Williams (VA)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>George Fleming, Jr. (PA)</u>
Liaison:	<u>(None assigned)</u> Past National Commander		<u>Sanford Lipman (MI)</u>
Guests:	<u>Doug Evans (KS), Mark Fayer (MD), Tom Klinger (FL), Gary Temple (WY), Len Free (NJ), William Murphy (MA), Tim Van Patten II (NY), Gary Lang (OH), Don Hall (MD).</u>		

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Nave declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Mark Nave: From the Western Region \$8k in donations to CWF. 4 out of 10 Detachments donated to CWF. Arizona, California, and Oregon lead the way. He talked about the Grant process. Western Region National Vice Commander offered a challenge to the first 3 Detachments to reach Membership Goal in Western Region by December 31 – Nat. Vice Commander will donate \$100 per Detachment for those 3.

Overall CWF 34 of 50 Detachments donated to CWF. All Central Region Detachment donated to CWF. He gave the Top 5 Detachments donating to CWF. \$110K short of the \$9 million mark. Will be fine when we reach nine.

Lyle Chapman: Midwest Region – Colorado in first with Nebraska and Texas following. Some donations still to be posted.

George Fleming, Jr.: East Region - 9 out of 14 donated to CWF. Talked about sales at Fall NEC and CWF Shirts.

Sanford Lipman: Central Region is lagging in donations to start. He is pushing the pigs. One idea - \$15 per box plus info and 12 pigs can be sent out to each Detachment. Some pigs brought in already with more to come at Spring NEC.

Jon Coakley, II: Southern Region in 2nd place in CWF Donations behind the Midwest. Will be on next Southern Region Conference Call will be coming up soon.

Old Business:

CWF Calendar – Chairman Nave talked about a potential CWF Calendar for 2022, that would feature some of the CWF grant recipients. It would be a 12- or 18-month calendar. The calendar would start July of one year followed by 12 months of following year. The calendar would recognize the top SAL Contributors for a given year. No longer being considered.

CWF Grants 136 well written grants received. 68 to review for selection. Toughest year to select top 10. Best year for quality of grants received. Discussion followed on the selection process and how we can use this to encourage other organizations to apply and how to get more donations. Grant instructions are available on the CWF Website.

CWF Merchandise – Shirts Size Med to 2x available; CWF Folios, CWF Challenge Coins, and CWF Phone Chargers are available at the Fall NEC. We are out of the CWF Piggy Banks,

Other ideas including Apron plus Chef’s Hat and Chef’s gloves, grill set, Backpack with charger, and License plates. Other ideas were discussed for fundraisers to support CWF. Please send CWF Merchandise ideas to Chairman Nave.

New Business:

Reporting Issues discussed. We’re not getting CWF Reports. CWF reports received for the last 4 weeks. He said we should start to see more reports in the future.

2022 Goals – 2 goals – First – Corporate Sponsorship; Second - Guide for Detachment Fundraising for CWF assembled. Chairman Nave is soliciting ideas for this guide.

CWF Award Selection Dinner will be Sunday at 5pm. Several VSO’s will be involved. \$600k to \$850k will be awarded in grants.

Detachment CWF Chairman should get involved in the monthly CWF Conference Calls. Their input is needed.

100% per member banner. Form is available online at CWF Website and deadline is May 31, 2022.

Selection of Committee Members. Year goes from June 1 to May 31 off following year. It is being suggested that the selections be done earlier than the other committees and commissions to be in alignment with the CWF Year. This change would help increase donations for CWF. A resolution may be needed to make this change.

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. CWF has been consistent in the SAL. Shows commitment of the committee to keep CWF going. Sons will always champion CWF. Always look for new ideas to raise funds for CWF.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. Strong supporter of CWF. Keep up the good work.

Multiple ways to donation – via website. Facebook donations are hard to trace and document where the money is donated from.

More participation on third Wednesday CWF Calls each monthly. Next call will be October 20.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA) adjourned the meeting

at 7:27 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TREAT: Now, we will have the Children and Youth Report given by Jim Noble.

**Oral Report of Children and Youth Committee
Jim Noble, Chairman, New Jersey**

CHAIRMAN NOBLE: Morning gentlemen, morning. At 6:30 last night we started our meeting. We had 13 guests. Donations from last year for Children and Youth Programs \$722,706, total outages \$112,140, gave a value of \$3,200,461. E-mails will be going out to all National Vice Commanders to be forwarded to the attachments in their regions, including and reminder of the Children and Youth month, which is in April.

Committee goals will include working with detachments to raise the bar on our donations and publicize all activities and highlights of the Children and Youth Programs. The current Children and Youth Manual will be reviewed for possible updates if needed.

Unfortunately, two our committee members were unable to make it here and if you can keep them in your thoughts and prayers, John Mejia out of California, he lost his wife Sugar last week. John Lawrence from Louisiana couldn't make it due to work. They have the hurricane down where he is.

Chris Sherman of Wisconsin reported CODA. For over 30 years the American Legion family has donated \$1.5 million to the organization. We were lucky to have Alan Watry of Wisconsin to report on a National Convention Youth Room. Alan is the Chairman of the Milwaukee convention for next year and we continue to build on the accomplishments of the past two years. And I'd like to thank the gentleman in the back of the room, Bill Clancy, for all of his help in that. Bill was the national chairman last year, last two years.

Terry Harris out of Kansas reported on CWF and he had the opportunity work in a booth last year at the National Convention to raise money. For many years, the Sons have been top supporters of the program. We are nearly \$9 million in donations.

Terry also reported on the NEF. This program has been around since 1969, and the donations are going to members and posts suffering from disasters.

I'd like to thank Sean Deiter from Pennsylvania for stepping up and giving John Mejia's report on Veterans and Children Foundation. Since the creation in 1925, the American Legion Veteran and Children Foundation has delivered over \$30 million in financial assistance for disabled vets, military families and young people who have lost their parents in our nation's service. Income from the Foundation investments are used for Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation programs and temporary financial assistance.

The committeemen are assigned regions, myself in the south, John Lawrence in the central, Chris Sherman in Midwest, Terry Harris west, and John Mejia will be in west, I'm sorry.

Members will report on the various Children and Youth program and activities and report back to our committee at a monthly meetings. Our meetings will be held the second Monday of the month at 7:30. There will be e-mails going out to that effect.

For the good of the Sons, during our meeting, Paul Hayse of Illinois noted that the detachment is selling left-handed flag pins and the proceeds are going to the Children and Youth projects in Illinois. The pins will be able to be put on your ride side of your cover.

Chris Sherman also reports a outdoor project in Wisconsin. Just like the GI Josh dogs, they will be presented to children of employed military and on the front of the dog, it has all four emblems of the American Legion family. We closed at 7:00 p.m., and that completes my report. Thank you, Gentlemen.

...Commission Chairman Noble submitted the report of the Children and Youth Committee.

Children and Youth Committee

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm on October 1, 2021 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman James A. Noble (NJ)

The opening prayer was given by Matt Thalasinios, Det. Chaplain (NJ). The Pledge was led by Terry Harris (KS). The Preamble was led by Chris Sherman (WI).

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>James A. Noble (NJ)</u>	Members:	<u>John Lawrence (LA) - EXCUSED</u>
Secretary:	<u>Robert J. Avery (NY)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Christopher Sherman (WI)</u> <u>Terry Harris (KS)</u>
Liaison:	<u>(none assigned)</u> Past National Commander		<u>John Mejia (CA) - EXCUSED</u>
Guests:	Sean Deiter (PA), James Coates (NY), Matt Thalasinios (NJ), Dale Kane (NY), Henry Cleveland (VT), Gabe Cinquegrana (NY), John Wright (CT), Allen Watry (WI), Butch Ray (IL), David Page (NJ), Dominic Inzerma (NJ), Bernie Kessler (OH), Paul Hayse (IL)		

Reports of Members:

Chairman Jim Noble (NJ) welcomed all attending today's meeting and introduced the members of the Committee.

Chairman Jim Noble noted that total donations last year for Children and Youth programs were \$722,706. Hours totaled 112,140 which is a value of \$3,200,461.

Emails will be going out monthly to the National Vice Commanders to be forwarded to the Detachments in their regions, including a reminder regarding Children and Youth month which is April. Committee goals will include working with the Detachments to raise the bar on our monetary donations and in publicizing their activities that highlight Children and Youth programs. The current Children and Youth Manual will be reviewed for possible updates if needed.

Chris Sherman (WI) reported on the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). For over 30 years The American Legion Family has donated \$1.5 million to the organization.

Allen Watry (WI) reported on the National Convention Youth Room. Allen is the Chairman for the Milwaukee Convention next year. We will continue to build upon the accomplishments of the past two years of activities for our younger members.

Terry Harris(KS) reported on CWF. He had the opportunity to work the booth at this past National Convention to raise money. For many years the SONS have been the top supporter of the program. We are nearing \$9 million in donations.

Terry also reported on the National Emergency Fund. This program has been around since 1969 with all donations going to members and Posts suffering from calamities such as hurricanes.

Sean Deiter (PA) reported on the Veterans and Children Foundation. Since its creation in 1925, The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation has delivered over \$30 million in financial assistance for disabled veterans, military families and young people who lost parents in service to our nation. Income from the foundation investments is used to fund Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs and Temporary Financial Assistance, which provides funds to minor children of active duty or American Legion members.

New Business:

The Committeemen were assigned regions and will be on their respective conference calls.

East: James Noble; South: John Lawrence; Central: Chris Sherman; Mid-West: Terry Harris; West: John Mejia. Members will report on the various Children and Youth programs and activities and then report back at the Committee's monthly conference calls. The Children and Youth Committee Calls will take place on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM Eastern Time. All are welcome to participate in the calls.

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Paul Hayse (IL) noted his Detachment is selling left-handed flag cap pins with proceeds going to Children and Youth projects in Illinois.

Chris Sherman reported on the ALF dog project in Wisconsin. Like GI Josh Dogs, they are presented to children of deployed military personnel.

Closing:

The closing prayer was given by Matt Thalasinis, Det. Chaplain (NJ).

With no further business to consider, Chairman James A. Noble (NJ) adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TREAT: Good morning. We were told we had five minutes each. So I'll make this short and sweet to try to make up the time. No. 1, we met yesterday in this room. The meeting room that we were supposed to be ran way late. So we started our meeting at about 7:35 in this room.

Everybody was present, including Mr. Hammerschmidt who was not physically present, but he was with us on conference call. We presented a number of issues. We'll get to the No. 1 issue secondly. We presented a resolution that was passed by the Americanism Commission. It's been processed through the system. You will be seeing it tomorrow and voting on it at that time. It is Resolution No. 8 for \$130,000.

The minutes that you will get tomorrow will reflect all of the information necessary regarding the meeting. Right now, I'm like to introduce Flying Flags for Heroes, Mr. Tim Aboudara from California, who is attached to the Americanism Commission by resolution from the post-convention NEC meeting. Please welcome, Mr. Aboudara.

(Applause)

Remarks

Flying Flags for Heroes

Tim Aboudara

Thank you. Good morning.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

MR. ABOUDARA: Thank A moment of personal privilege. Vice Commander Stewart, you can score us, Commander and myself, 168 hours ago Commander Fox and I were in this room for the Boys State and Girls State National Directors conference and Flying Flags for Heroes was a program and the service project that we introduced.

You all have the brochure on Flying Flags for Heroes, and I believe you all have what we will call the cheat sheet on the national message for Flying Flags for Heroes. In addition to the role that Commander Fox has appointed to me on the Americanism Commission, I'm also the National Commander's liaison for this program.

The good news for all of you is I'm going to go through all of the bullet points on the handout. You can go through that yourself.

At the convention, just before it closed, Commander Fox's Flying Flags for Heroes service project was approved. This is the ultimate service project in serving veterans and it's something we can all do wonderfully with a minimum of fundraising. This is an opportunity to engage our communities in a program where we honor veterans who are interred in local cemeteries.

Our national cemeteries get plenty of recognition for our veterans that are laid to rest there, but over 400,000 veterans are buried in local cemeteries every year. And this is our opportunity to engage the community, honor veterans and an opportunity to increase our membership. What is more mom, apple pie and Americanism than placing flags at the grave sites of our fallen heroes?

We have some things that we'll be addressing with some training in a little while with the detachment commanders and adjutants, but to the members of the NEC, we are calling on you to work with your detachment commanders. The goal that Commander Fox has set is \$1 million flags during his term as National Commander.

We can't get to a goal without a plan, and what we need from each detachment is their goal, what their goal for the next year or the next 11 months is in placing flags in local cemeteries. And No. 2, each detachment needs to have someone who owns this program in their detachment. A communication will be going out to the detachment commanders, adjutants and all of you requesting that information, along with providing you with speaking notes that mirror what you've already received.

Achieving a million flags over the next 11 months should be an easy goal to achieve, and the benefits for all of us and for those veterans and their families are immeasurable. We ask you to embrace this. It's not difficult and it doesn't take a lot of money.

So that concludes my report. I'm here all weekend, happy to answer questions. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TREAT: So today we have a field trip. We will be loading at 1:00 p.m. We'll give further details under announcements later, but that would conclude the reports for the Americanism Commission. Once again, 1:00 p.m., we load the buses. By 1:30 p.m., they're gone. So you need to be here on time. Please dress appropriate and we look forward to you experiencing the opportunity under Flying Flags for Heroes, minus resolutions. Thank you.

...Commission Chairman Treat submitted the report of the American Commission.

Americanism Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am on October 2, 2021 in the Ohio Room
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2022)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY, 2023)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Joseph E. Roberts (AZ, 2022)</u>		<u>Robert Manzo (MD, 2023)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott A. Williams (VA)</u>		<u>Eddy Seegers, Jr. (TX, 2024)</u>
	National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Richard Pond, Jr. (NH, 2024)</u>
Liaison:	<u>James Hartman (MD)</u>		

Past National Commander

Guests: William Yeagy (MD), Larry Ford (MD), Tom Klinger (FL), Steven Cox (PA), Tom Glander (AL), Matthew Thalasnor (NJ), Robert Phillips Jr. (NJ), David Rippe (NE), Gary Lang (OH), Patrick Gryskiewicz (WI)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Rippe declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Chairman Rippe Congratulated Gabe Cinquerana on his VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chairman Rippe said SAL National Commander Fox' theme for this year is Leadership through action. VA & R Goals for the 2021-22 year are 1) increased emphasis on Veterans National Assistance Day on May 16:2) Increase the Applications for the Charles Rigsby Applications to 20. Congratulations to James Coates as the winner for 2021! 3) Increase our Reps and Deps Nationally by 10 %. Commission is working on process improvement plan to make this more readily available to our younger members.

Participation in Regional Conference Calls will continue by the VA & R Commission Regional Reps. Commission Monthly Calls will continue on the 4th Monday of each month 7pm Central Time.

Chairman Rippe promoted other VA & R programs to include – Fisher House, OCW, and others previously mentioned. Chairman Rippe talked about the Helmets to Heroes program out of California.

Reports of Members:

Gabe Cinquegrana: Commission Member Cinquerana discussed the VAVS Hospital/Medical Center Representative Certification Form for the Sons of the American Legion. He also discussed the importance of VAVS Reps and Deps and how this drives SAL representation on the National Advisory Board. He also discussed the SAL VAVS Representative & Deputy Representative Handbook. Sons Reps and Deps specific guideline materials are available.

Old Business:

Recognition of Gabe Cinquerana as National VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year.

New Business:

VCF is National Commander Dillard's Project for this year.

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2021

Title: Donation of \$500,000.00 to the Veterans and Children Foundation from the S.A.L. Reserve Fund

Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission / National Commander Michael Fox

Motion: Joe Roberts

Second: Eddie Seegers

Discussion: None

Action: Motion Carried.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Chairman Rippe – thanked former chairman Ray for a smooth transition in leadership.

PNC Bolt is recovering from COVID. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. He said that this is the most important program in honoring our father's and grandfather's legacy.

Closing:

With no further business to consider,

Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2022)

adjourned the
meeting

at 11:04 am .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are objections, I'd like to move the Americanism Commission report, minus the resolutions, to file. Americanism reports moved to file. Thank you, gentlemen.

American Legion Auxiliary member Kathy Daudistel of the Department of Kentucky became the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during its organization's 100th National Convention held August 27 through September 2 in beautiful Phoenix, Arizona.

Daudistel is eligible for the ALA membership through her father, a United States Army veteran, who served during the Korean war era. An ALA member for 25 years, Daudistel has held numerous leadership positions at the unit, district, department and national levels, including national vice present, national committee chair, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Children and Youth, Poppy, National Security, Americanism, Membership and Leadership, national committee vice chair, junior activities, national executive committee and alternate national executive committee.

Daudistel retired from a Fortune 500 company after more than 30 years where she worked in the information technology department. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in information technology from Northern Kentucky University. Daudistel has two daughters, four grandchildren and two sons-in-laws.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort before me the American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Madam President, the podium is yours.

Remarks

Kathy Daudistel

American Auxiliary National President, Kentucky

Good morning, everybody. Thank you for that wonderful welcome. Commander Fox, past national commanders, officers and very important members, I'm so excited to be here. Thank you for letting me join you this morning. I'm honored and humbled and mostly I'm excited to be able to come and personally tell you how much we appreciate everything you do, especially for the four pillars in the Child Welfare Foundation. You do some outstanding, outstanding amazing work and it is much appreciated, and you probably don't hear that enough.

So I want to tell you a little bit about our focus on the auxiliary this year. It's caregiving, caring for those who care for others. There are 5.5 million unpaid caregivers of military and veterans in this country. We recognize that there's a lot of legion family members who are caregivers, but they don't associate, or they don't think of themselves as caregivers. It's just family doing what family does for family.

So we want to let them know that we support them, there's resources available for them and they're not alone in their endeavors. I mean family working together, right, that's what it's all about, which makes me to have to say that this is why I appreciate Commander Fox's projects so much.

It's Flying Flags for Heroes, what better way to get our Legion family working together as a family. It's a great way to rally support and what better cause than to respect our veterans.

So I want to thank you for that, Commander Fox. It's an outstanding job. I want to thank everybody here.

I want to let you know that I've been to a couple of different departments, Michigan, Vermont and Ohio, and the Legion family is really, really working together and it's very strong and force in the communities for our veterans. So I really think you're doing an outstanding job. It's much appreciated.

My vice president and I will be joining you for the field trip this afternoon just to show you that I'm really into working together as a family, and I'm looking forward to it. I hope to see a lot of you there as well. If you have any questions, I'll be around, and you can catch me on the field trip while we're placing flags on our heroes' graves.

So thank you so much, again, for inviting me over to speak to you. It's a honor, it's a pleasure. I appreciate everything you're doing. God Bless and I wish you a really successful morning. Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So Madam President, before you walk away on behalf of the Fox Squad Team, we'd like to present you with one of the shirts to take back with you.

AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: At this point I'd like to call on our Internal Affairs Commission Chairman along MT&D Chairman Mike Monserud and Membership Chairman, Tom Skelley, to the podium for their reports. And Madam President, you're welcome here any time.

Oral Report of Internal Affairs Commission William Clancy, III, Chairman, New York

Good morning, all.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CLANCY: The Internal Affairs Committee met last night at 6:30 -- I'm sorry, at 7:30 up in the room on the 21st Floor. We had a lighthearted and fun meeting, and we got the ball rolling on multiple fronts in wonderful ways.

We started with reports from the commissioners that roll up under Internal Affairs. And I'm going, in the interest of time, jump right into letting these fine gentlemen give their reports. I'm going to start with Membership, Training and Development Mike Monserud. Here he is.

Oral Report of Member Training and Development Committee Mike Monserud, Chairman

Good morning, gentlemen. Last night at 6:30 we met in the Michigan Room. We had 29 members in attendance, and we went over what the plan for the MT&D Committee is this year. It's aggressive plan. It's a big plan, but we're here to serve you.

The first thing we're going to do is Commander's class is going to move to National Convention in Milwaukee. That's the first order of business we're working on. Second order of business, we're going to take NMI 1, 2 and 3 and we're going to refrain it a little bit and we're

going to re-present in the spring. NMI 1, 2 and 3 will be held in the spring. I've had that question asked two or three times. We will be holding the class.

Since we've removed commander's class, that's going to open up a slot in the fall NEC. We're going to develop and NEC man class and that's going to be held in that place. And last, but not least, the ambassador's training, known as the National Vice Commander's Training, will be refrained and redistributed. We will hold that again.

Gentlemen, we're here for you. We're here to develop the leaders that are coming behind us. Everything we do should last for five years because five years from now there's going to be new people taking our places. We need to train those people right now to take our place right now.

If we don't get the training, in five years where are we going to be. We need to develop and pass it down to them. So what I need from all of you, NEC men, past national vice commanders, past commanders, I need you to contact me. See me this weekend, I'll give you my business card.

I want you to tell me what it's going to take to replace you as a NEC man, a national vice commander, a detachment commander. You need to help me, and my committee make these programs a lot better, and I have a great committee. I have Tom Marsen from New Jersey, I have Scott Baker Pennsylvania, and I've got Mike Cotton from Delaware. So please get ahold of them, too.

We're going to work diligently. We're going to work hard and we're going to try to give you guys the best training we can over the next few years that you can pass down to the squadron levels.

So Gentlemen, it's brief. Any questions? Hearing none, thank you.

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

Member Training and Development Committee

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm on October 1, 2021 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Michael D. Monserud (IA).

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Michael D. Monserud (IA)</u>	Members:	<u>Mike Cotten (DE)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Lowell Long, Jr.(MT) - Absent</u>
Liaison:	<u>(none assigned)</u> Past National Commander		<u>Tom Marsden (NJ)</u>
			<u>Scott Baker (PA)</u>

Guests: Ron Roberts (MS); Dennis Henkemeyer (MN); Tim Conway (OH); Steven Cox (PA); Gene Theroux (MA); Steve Gower (VA); Joseph Navarrete (NM); Joe Wysochanski (PA); Robert Bascou (NJ); Shawn Davis (MN); Ken Rocholz (IA); Rich Kirby (CT); Cliff Boyer (PA); Ray Samko (MA); Jeff Lee (VA); PNC David Faust (WI); J. Bruce Ruthven (NY); Gaither Espy (NY); Fred Vaccarella (VA); Don Allisot (ME); Seth Rippe (NE); Chris Cook (OK); David Rippe (NE); PNC Joe Gladden (MD); Mark McCue (MA); PNC Cliff Smith (MA); Bill Clancy, III (NY); PNC Byron Robichaux (LA)

Reports of Members:

Chairman Mike Monserud: The MT&D Committee has a very aggressive plan for this year. We're going to revamp the Detachment Commanders class after tomorrow and move it to the National Convention starting next year. We're going to move the NMI sessions to the Fall and create a class for National Executive Committeemen.

We need to work on training our future leaders all the way down to the squadron level.

We have been meeting weekly to work on everything we have going on.

The National Management Institute (NMI) courses have been updated and will be presented in the Spring. Class 1 is like the Legion's "Basic Training" program; Class 2 is geared toward upcoming Detachment Commanders; Class 3 is intended for commission and committee members/chairmen.

Dave Rippe (NE) asked about prior NMI students whose courses were interrupted by COVID. Mike Cotton replied that those candidates for NMI-3 NMI-2 are already re-enrolled. Those candidates for NMI-1 will be contacted to see if they still want to begin the program. If anyone does not, their detachment will have the opportunity to nominate another member in his place. Detachments may submit an alternate candidate to have a pool to choose from in case of any vacancies. We are still limited in the number of seats available. Mike will be taking Don Culver's position of handling all of the NMI nominations from the National Executive Committeemen.

Seth Rippe (NE) asked if there has been any discussion of offering virtual training sessions. The Legion does offer "Training Tuesdays" on the last Tuesday of every month. They are mostly presenting Legion-related topics, but much of it is relevant to the S.A.L. and there are some Sons-specific sessions.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He started off paying a \$20 fine when his phone rang. He thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to bring their ideas to the Committee to help them develop the programs we need to train our future leaders at the national, detachment, and local levels.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. He spoke about the importance of training for our upcoming district and detachment leaders – don't wait until they want to go higher.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Michael D. Monserud (IA) adjourned the meeting
at 7:20 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CLANCY: Next up would be the chairman of the Membership Committee, Mr. Tom Skelley.

**Membership Committee
Thomas Skelley, Texas**

Good morning, everyone.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: The much anticipated and long-awaited membership report, first one of the year. Some great news, 48 out of 55 detachments hit our ten percent goal. We did meet at 6:35 yesterday. I do want the record to reflect that Committee member Ron Roberts, who was a dual member, shows as absent I would like to change to excused. He was attending to Legion business. So I want to make that slight change.

But, again, 48 out of 55 detachments have made their ten percent membership goal. Southern Region, once again, in the lead after the first membership mark. A special shout out to the detachment of Hawaii, already over 100 percent membership.

(Applause)

The Commander would like me to reiterate, 48 detachments out of 55.

(Applause)

Great accomplishment. My question is why wasn't it 55 out of 55, but we're working on that. That's our job. We had reports from each region. The national vice commanders and the committee members reported. One of the things we would like to do to get the word out to what we're doing as a team. I asked in the meeting last night what does team stand for. Together everyone achieves more.

So working together, we're going to get to that 105 percent. We're going to set a new all-time this year. I believe that Commander Fox and his team that he's put together, we have a shot of hitting 400,000 member. If we all put our minds to it, we can get it done.

We discussed the paid up for life program, that an ad-hoc committee was supposed to have been assigned to look in to, and we're going to follow up on that. Under some of the new business, we made a motion to accept the National Commander Paul Dillard's incentive that went out to the American Legion members.

If you have been a member for at least five years, continuous membership, and you did not pay last years' dues, you can pay this year and have your continuous membership continue. It will be at six years instead of seven, but it will continue. You won't lose those years. If you choose to pay last year's dues, of course, and this year's, you will continue at seven years.

We did have a resolution that was passed through our committee last night, forwarded on to Finance and then to Internal Affairs that we will get into tomorrow.

We discussed the possibility of creating a forum where detachments can share their success stories and ideas around the nation so that what works in California may not exactly work in Massachusetts, but you have a game plan, something that you can start with. You may need to tweak it a little bit, but it's a proven success.

We stress getting the message down to the squadron level to just ask. As November is National Renewal month to honor the veterans that you gave your eligibility to be a Sons of the American Legion, what better month to do it than on Veterans Days. So we're asking you to go back to you detachments, down to your squadrons, and ask those people, please renew in November. There's no reason to wait until January when your card has already expired. We stress the importance of being a current member in good standing.

God forbid should a natural disaster strike. Part of the NEF regulations state that you have to be a member in good standing when the disaster occurs, and you have to be a member in good standing when you apply and you're eligible for up to \$3,000 in relief fund. So it's a huge benefit of being a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

With that, no further business. The Committee adjourned at 7:45 any questions? Hearing none, Commander, my report.

...Committee Chairman Skelley submitted the report of the Membership Committee.

Membership Committee

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm on October 1, 2021 in the Circle Center & West Rooms
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Thomas P. Skelley (TX)</u>	Members:	<u>[E] Ernie Laberge (MA)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Lyle G Larson (KS)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>[S] Ron Roberts (MS) – Absent</u>
Liaison:	<u>Joseph Mayne (MN) – Excused</u> Past National Commander		<u>[C] David Mennel (MI)</u>
			<u>[M] Mike Kirschner (CO)</u>
			<u>[W] Jack Youngs (ID)</u>
	National Vice Commanders:	East:	<u>Richard “Dickie” Huntley, Sr. (ME)</u>
		South:	<u>Jason S. Roberts (GA)</u>
		Central:	<u>Jeffrey M. Vrabel, Sr. (OH)</u>
		Midwest:	<u>Juan R. Torres (TX)</u>
		West:	<u>Leslie J. “Jim” Stewart (NV)</u>
Guests:	<u>Marc Chaney (OR), Robert “John” Clark (WA), Juan a Cruz (PR), Chris Affolter (AR), Victory (AR), Ray Jarvis (NY), David Lee (NY), William D Kelly, Jr. (FL), Brian Carter (FL), James Snyder (KS), Robert Phillips, Jr. (NJ), Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA), George Gray (GA), Jacob McCaly (WV), Nick Arceo (CO), Jamey Holloway (GA), Ernie LaBerge (MA), Dennis K. Albright (OH), Bill Anchors (PA), Robert Bristo (MN), Kevin Chaplin (VA), John R. Cook (NH), Bill Clancey (NY), Bob Brown COS (GA).</u>		

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Skelley declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Thom Skelley: Together everyone achieves more. Remember the incentives that are available through the organization for membership recruiting. Use these as tools to motivate your people toward the membership goals. Let’s work together and move forward with what we have on Legion.org. The issues are being addressed and will continue to improve. Goals are a good tracking method, but the end goal is 100% Membership.

Chairman Skelley went over the rules for qualifying for NEF funds.

Keep utilizing online renewals and new member signups. Push family events to generate membership opportunities.

Advertise membership in the local community. Promote the Blue Brigade and other Legion membership incentives.

East Region Reports

Chairman Ernie Laberge: We continue to move forward. Please ask if you need help. Contact will be made shortly with the Detachments under the target percentage.

NVC Dickie Huntley, Sr.: The East is doing what we do. We met our target date of 10% We will come on strong in the end. 11 of 14 Detachments hit the target date.

South Region Reports

Chairman Ron Roberts: No report given.

NVC Jason Roberts: With all the storms and damage that has taken place in Louisiana this year they are currently at 50%. Let's use them as an example and not use excuses for a lack of membership. 5% of Detachments have made 25%. 11 of 12 have made the 10% goal.

Central Region Reports

Chairman David Mennel: The regional competition is moving forward.

NVC Jeff Vrabel, Sr.: Central is in first place. All Detachments reached 10% target. 4 of those reached 25% We need to move our goals up faster. Move more like the American Legion with membership targets.

Midwest Region Reports

Chairman Mike Kirschner: We need contact information Please go back to your Detachment and Squadrons and get the contact information to us. Please send contact information to mlkirschner@comcast.net.

NVC Juan Torres: Pushing membership. We hit the 10% target date, hit 20%. 9 of the 11 Detachments made goal.

West Region Reports

Chairman Matt Griffis: Do "Buddy Checks". Get your Districts involved in the membership drive. Let's not let Covid be an excuse for not reaching our goals. Ask questions if there is something you need to know. Let's communicate.

NVC Jim Stewart: Made 10% overall. 1 Detachment did not make target, (Philippines). They are having trouble with online work, and I am sure they will make 100% when the membership is turned in. Hawaii is at 102%. We are pushing to hit 100% in membership by December 31.

Old Business:

Strategic Plan Priorities

- Paid Up For Life Program; Chairman will follow up on this to see that we are moving forward and will be in contact with Committee members on his findings.
- Collection of email addresses: This is a work in progress.
- Annual Squadron Data Report: This needs to be filled out to enable legion.com to work for online renewals.

myLegion.org

- Online membership renewals

Annual Squadron Data Report dues details required for the Squadron to get their per capita back

New Business:

The chair was passed to Jason Roberts (GA) for the purpose of a motion.

Motion to accept National Commander Paul Dillard's incentive program to allow for continuous years with waving of last year's unpaid dues.

Motion: Thom Skelley (TX)

Second: Jeffery Vrabel, Sr. (OH)

Motion passed

The chair was passed back to Chairman Skelley.

Chairman Skelley will ask public relations and media to develop a way to put ideas for membership drives online. November is National Membership month.

NEC (LA) Camille LeJeune, Jr. Thanked all present for the help that has been received by Louisiana from Legion members from across the country.

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2021

Title: Create the "Squadron Commander of the Year Award"

Origin: Membership Committee
Motion: Approve as presented.
Maker: Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr. (OH)
Second: Jim Stewart (NV)
Discussion: No discussion from the floor.
Action: Passed Unanimously

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. Commander Fox addressed the Committee. Let's shoot for more than 105% for the year. Let's work together to make this happen. Make sure the Blue Cap members understand what the Sons of the American Legion do and how we help. Let's make sure we are still honoring the service of those who served.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. Make sure we remember the reason we are here and why we belong. Remember the first line of our preamble. Happy to see everyone face to face.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Thomas P. Skelley (TX) adjourned the meeting
at 7:45 pm .

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CLANCY: And the third committee that rolls up under Internal Affairs is for our next convention. So Mr. Allen Watry.

**Convention Committee
Allen Watry, Wisconsin**

Good morning, Gentlemen,

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

CHAIRMAN WATRY: The National Convention Committee did get together at 7:30 yesterday evening in the Ohio Room. We had 13 people present including our committee members and our scribe or recorder for the evening.

We started with the normal ways we start all of our meetings. We had some reports. We did have a motion that was unanimously approved, thanking and congratulating the detachment of Arizona for a very great convention under some very trying times with all of our Covid implications. So Mr. Treat was not able to be there. He was running another meeting. So to Mr. Treat and to the detachment of Arizona, thank you for a great convention in Phoenix.

(Applause)

With that business completed, we started to talk about the 50th convention in Milwaukee. We did have Mr. Joe Gladden, the chair for the 50th Convention Commemorative Committee. He gave a review of what their plans are and I'm not going to share them. I will let them share those later on, but do know that we are going to work very closely with them on the convention in Milwaukee.

We, then, did turn to the plans that we have going in Milwaukee from the detachment of Wisconsin. We did review. There's a document we had that's called a strategic plan that's been passed along for the last several years between detachments. So we will be following that.

This year we're also going to start to create a one sheet per convention, kind of a history summary. So as we continue to grow and we continue to do programs the youth room, we can look back and see what was done, how many youth were there, what were the topics and hopefully

continue to grow. Just a little bit more efficient versus every time we get together who did what for pins and those sorts of things.

With the convention in Milwaukee, you know, Milwaukee, if you haven't been there, is an awesome place. Between the Milwaukee Brewers and the stadium there, we now have the Deer Zone for Milwaukee Bucks. We have Water Street down on the Milwaukee River. You've got the lake front and the veterans memorial in that area.

We have the Harley Davidson Museum, brewery tours and many more things. So the detachment has a lot to choose from and we're looking forward to hosting it. The plans right now that we're working on will be a social Friday night, most likely at one of our squadron and post in the area. Theme potentially could be beer, brats and sweet corn.

And the beer, rumor has it we might try to get spotted cow for those people that like New Glaris brewery. We are going to work, as mentioned earlier, with the Children and Youth to have a children and youth room again, looking to build upon what happened in Arizona.

The 128th refueling wing is in the area. Don't know if we can pull something off to get a tour or get some people from that to the convention, but that is something we are going to work on.

Saturday is going to be a lot of activities that the 50th will be taken care of, and, again, I'm going to leave that to them. And then we are working with the Legion family, Sunday at Veterans Park, which is just a little bit east of where the convention will be, they're going to have Legion Family Day.

There's actually a different organization already set to do what they call an Octoberfest. I don't know why they do Octoberfest in August, but that's their reason. But we are working with them, or the detachment department and the auxiliary are working with them to have a Legion booth and we are going to probably have the entire Legion family invited to go to that activity.

With that, we did have some final questions and answers, and then we closed at 8:15. Any questions? That is my report. Thank you.

....Committee Chairman Watry submitted the report of the Convention Committee.

Convention Committee

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on October 1, 2021 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Allen J. Watry (WI) .

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Allen J. Watry (WI, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>Brandon Curry (KY, 2020)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Anthony W. Wright (PA)</u> National Adjutant		<u>Charles E. Treat, II (AZ, 2021)</u>
Liaison:	<u>(none assigned)</u> Past National Commander		<u>Christopher Byrd (NC, 2023)</u>
			<u>(TBD) (LA, 2024)</u>

Guests: Chris Sherman (WI), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Scott Merrill (NH), Henry Hasselban (NJ), Brandon Curry (KY), Shawn Davis (MN), Joe Gladden (MD), J.R. Stillwell (IL), David Faust (WI), Richard Pfeiffer (IN) and Greg Spaulding (IN).

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Watry declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Allen Watry (WI, 2022): Chairman Watry welcomed everyone to the National Convention Committee meeting. Discussion was held about the National Convention Committee Strategic Plan. Chairman Watry thanked those who helped make this document available for him as chairman of the National Convention Committee. Additionally, Past National Convention Chairman Shawn Davis suggested that the plan become a living document and the members concurred.

Brandon Curry (KY, 2020): No report

Chuck Treat, II (AZ, 2021): Excused

Christopher Byrd (NC, 2023): Absent

(TBD) (LA, 2024): X

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously thanking/congratulating the Detachment of Arizona and Chuck Treat II on a very successful Convention despite the challenges COVID presented.

50th Convention Chairman Joe Gladden:

Past National Commander Joseph Gladden announced that the 50th Convention Committee is working on a banquet Saturday afternoon or evening. The cost and location are currently being discussed. The goal would be to have the banquet of the 75th anniversary with up to 500 people.

It was suggested by Brandon Curry that the 50th Convention Committee to investigate the possibility of having sponsorships from corporations to supplement the cost of the banquet.

The committee has suggested interviews be conducted with Past National Commanders to discuss their year as National Commander as well as entertainment for the banquet.

There will be a 50th Convention book and a challenge coin contest which will be reported on when the 50th Convention Committee provides a report to the NEC.

A picture wall was discussed of the 50 years of National Conventions. Upon completion of the wall being displayed at the National Convention in Milwaukee, WI., the wall will be open to be displayed at the Detachment meetings.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Chairman Watry discussed plans for the 50th National Convention which will include the youth room and Friday night dinner. During Friday night dinner there are plans to sell raffle tickets for handmade quilts by Chris Sherman's mother and her quilting group. Discussion was held to possibly have a live online auction to encourage participation of The American Legion Family.

There was discussion regarding a National Convention pin. It will be decided in the next several at the Detachment of Wisconsin's Detachment Executive Committee meeting if it will be feasible to have a National Convention pin in conjunction with the 50th Convention Committee Coin.

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Committee.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, _____ Chairman Allen J. Watry (WI, 2022) _____ adjourned the meeting
at 8:15 pm

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CLANCY: Great Job, Allen. I myself am very much looking forward to that convention and Youth Room 4. I'll take a moment. I'd like to introduce the other members of the Internal Affairs Commission. We have as our members Mr. Mark Tansel, who everybody knows, Mr. Steve Gower, Mr. Jay Cook. We have a Mr. Ken Sutton from California who could not be here this weekend due to personal reasons, so he was excused. And our Co-Chair is Mr. Bear Weinzirl.

And whenever you're a head of a Commission or Committee and you have your No. 2 as a guy named bear, you're in good shape. So Bear, thank you.

We did cover some ground on just pure internal affairs, and it mostly related to resolutions. We'll be talking about that tomorrow. One of our goals for the coming year is to look at our constitution and bylaws and to see if there's any positive changes that can be made to those, and you'll be hearing more from that throughout the year. That's a big process and we'll be very thoughtful about it.

That said, Mr. Commander, that is my report minus the resolutions. Thank you.

...Commission Chairman Clancy submitted the report of the Internal Affairs Commission.

Internal Affairs Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm on October 1, 2021 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William M. Clancy, III (NY, 2022).

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>William M. Clancy, III (NY, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>Mark Tansel (IN, 2023)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Larry "Bear" Weinzirl (MD, 2022)</u>		<u>Steve Gower, Sr. (VA, 2023)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Jay Cook (OK, 2024)</u>
			<u>Kenneth Sutton (CA, 2024) - Excused</u>
Liaison:	<u>Rick Cook (OK)</u> Past National Commander		
Guests:	<u>David Page (NY); Dominic Inzerma (NJ); John Wright (CT); Dennis Henkemeyer (MN); Ray Samko (MA); William Murphy (MA); Bill Kelly, Jr. (FL); Steven Cox (PA); Joe Wysochanski (PA); John Chang (NY); Jay Marsden (MO); David Hanson (IN); Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA); Bob Brown (GA); Thom Skelley (TX)</u>		

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

Jay Cook (OK) made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2021 conference call published; seconded by Mark Tansel (IN). The motion carried.

Reports of Committee(s):

Member Training & Development Committee – Chairman Mike Monserud (IA) gave his report. The MT&D Committee has an aggressive program for this year. National Executive Committeeman class will replace the Commanders Conference in the Fall.

Steve Gower (VA) made a motion to accept the MT&D Committee report; seconded by Jay Cook (OK). The motion carried.

Membership Committee – Chairman Thom Skelley (TX) gave his report. The Committee approved Resolution NEC2021-F4 to create the "Squadron Commander of the Year" Award. Chairman Skelley read the resolution for the

Commission's information. The Committee raised two issues: (1) being the status of an ad-hoc committee to pursue the development of a paid-up-for-life program; and (2) a discussion of American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard's membership incentive program.

Mark Tansel (IN) made a motion to accept the report, minus the resolution; seconded by Jay Cook (OK). The motion carried. Jay Cook (OK) made a motion to accept Resolution NEC2021-F4; seconded by Steve Gower (VA). The motion carried.

Convention Committee – Chairman Allen Watry (WI) gave his report. The Committee recognized past chairman Chuck Treat for his efforts regarding the recent convention in Phoenix. They are working through the details of the 2022 convention in Milwaukee and how those plans will mesh with the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee.

Larry Weinzirl (MD) made a motion to accept the Convention Committee report; seconded by Steve Gower (VA). The motion carried.

50th Convention Commemoration Committee – Chairman Joe Gladden (MD) could not present a report to the Commission as the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee does not meet until Saturday morning.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Bill Clancy: The Commission addressed resolutions 2 and 3 at their most recent conference call. The Commission voted to return both to the Detachment of Oklahoma for further review and consideration in light of the recent memo from The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission to dissolve three existing committees and the creation of the new PNC Advisory Board.

Goal for the year: Review the National Constitution and By-Laws and develop recommendations for changes. This is going to be a big project that will require input from a lot of people.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

After some discussion about Resolution NEC2021-F6, it was agreed to table action on it until the Finance Commission provides their opinion on it Saturday morning. The members will reconvene briefly then to decide on it.

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2021

Title: National Commander Recommendation Committee

Origin: Detachment of Oklahoma

Motion: Return the resolution to Oklahoma for further review and consideration.

Maker: Larry "Bear" Weinzirl

Second: Steve Gower

Discussion: Judge Advocate Joe Paviglianti - In light of the recent memo by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion that replaced the previous Commander's Advisory Committee, Committee on Committee Appointments, and Past National Commanders Panel with a new Past National Commander Advisory Board, this resolution is no longer appropriate at this time. Chief of Staff – East Bob Brown and Chairman Clancy both echoed Judge Paviglianti's opinion on the timing of the resolution. PNC Rick Cook spoke as Oklahoma's adjutant, stating the intent of the resolution was to demonstrate the SAL assuming more responsibility for our own administration.

Action: Motion carried unanimously

No. S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2021

Title: Leadership Selection Committee Formation

Origin: Detachment of Oklahoma

Motion: Return the resolution to Oklahoma for further review and consideration.
Maker: Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
Second: Kenneth Sutton
Discussion: The Commission followed the same reasoning as that for Resolution No. 2.
Action: Motion carried unanimously

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2021
Title: Creation of Standing Committee and Funding for Century Committee (CENTCOM)
Origin: Ad-hoc Century Committee / National Commander Michael Fox
Motion: X
Maker: X
Second: X
Discussion: X
Action: X

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He answered a question from Steve Gower (VA) about changes to the process for detachments to nominate members for consideration to serve on national commissions and committees. It is still being worked out for everyone as the new PNC Advisory Board was just created by The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission. He will be giving a bigger briefing on the change at the opening of Saturday's NEC session.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. He recognized that this Commission has a big responsibility to deal with the nuts and bolts of the organization, and that resolutions are the means of giving direction to the organization as we grow.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman William M. Clancy, III (NY, 2022) adjourned the meeting
at 8:46 pm .

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no questions or opposition, we will move the Internal Affairs report to file.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COOK: Rick Cook, Past National Commander, the ad-hoc committee on the 50th Commemorative Committee was formed and assigned to IA to report to IA, and that doesn't seem liked that has happened. So it needed to be also in include the IA report, but it hasn't been held yet. So it also needs to go into IA.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you for that. Let me explain a little bit more. The Internal Affairs is also going to be meeting again tomorrow. It is not their full report. So maybe I should state that the opening report for Internal Affairs for their committees underneath, minus the 50th Anniversary as well as resolutions, be moved to file.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER COOK: Yeah, thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there's no further questions or comments move to file.

Announcements

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Okay. At this time we're going to get into some announcements, if anybody has any announcements. But what I'd like to do before anybody else gets up is our national vice commanders have got some pretty little boxes in front of the for VCF.

The national commander Paul Dillard's goal this year was to raise \$2 million for Veteran and Children Foundation.

So these gentlemen are going to walk around, and those little boxes hold some change. So if you've got any change in your pocket that you'd like to make a donation for. Keep in mind they also hold one's, five's, ten's, twenties, hundreds. And believe me if the box gets full, they can dump that box out and put it in their hat. So this donation will go to the VCF, and we'll make sure that it is on record that it came from the NEC meeting.

So as we roll into announcements, we call on our National Historian, Bill Townes. Your National Historian has some special words for everybody. So, please, as you're reaching into that pocket, pay attention. He's got some good information for you guys.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN TOWNES: Good morning.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

With the high cost in hours and dollars scrapbooks, history books or even newsletters even important anymore. I mean really. Those that want to know what's going on are already there. Who really needs to know what 20, 40, 50 years ago? Yes, these are actual answers when I asked squadron members why they didn't have a book. Kind of sad.

Without these books, would anybody remember the efforts of Squadron 71 North Augusta, South Carolina. Young members there built a cage and started a letter writing campaign to request humane treatment for our servicemen who were being held in Vietnam.

What about by knowing that by September, there were 45 new squadrons created in 1971, 45 in one year, or how about there were 24 detachments at the very first national convention of the Sons of the American Legion.

Without a scrapbook, without a history book or newsletter, would anybody be able to learn that a 1963 Arcadia Squadron 24 Commander would become our first elected national commander.

His first appointments as national adjutant was Eric Smith out of Illinois and his sergeant-at-arms was Fred Hartline out of Ohio. Did you know that both the east and west and the national chaplain all had to win contested elections to hold their positions?

Gentlemen, I'm encouraging you to go back, start working on a scrapbook, a history book and yes, even write an article for a newsletter because in Milwaukee we really need to see more than three or four books to judge. Yes, I think we can handle the cost of books and newsletters, but can we handle the cost of not having them.

Where are they going to look for information in the future, what we are doing today is tomorrow's history, and if we don't teach them, they won't know. Mr. Commander, thank you for your time.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Are there any announcements from the floor at this time? Anybody have any announcements?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER ROBICHAUX: This probably would be better under the goods of Sons but I want to make sure that -- Byron Robichaux, past national commander, sorry. I'll start over. I think this would be better to mention this at this point in time while there's more people because sometimes the crowd gets a little smaller.

The Chaplain was talking about family and us being a family and the programs, and you were talking about people younger and so forth. There was a time when there were a lot younger people here and that connection comes to the fact that the recent storm we had.

One of our members -- this is Tom Moriston's son, Tom is in the room somewhere. Lucas, he works for a company that puts out generators for cell towers and stuff of that nature. And so I get a call from Lucas out of the clear blue. I haven't heard from Lucas in a while. This is Tom's son.

And he asked me how things were, so what damage I had and so forth. And he goes, let me see what I can do, let me talk to my boss. And we talked about the fact that he said people sit there and go how do you know this guy for 30 years if you're only like 37 years and he goes because I knew him since I was a kid, and we did.

And so Lucas talked to his boss and the next thing I have at my house is a diesel generator that ran my entire house with electricity which was filled up each by the company. *(Crying)*

I'm very fortunate in terms of the fact that the damage we suffered compared to other people is minimal. But that's what family is about. He didn't want any recognition, but --

(Applause)

He didn't want any recognition about it, but I said no, I'm going to give you at least some shout out at the NEC meeting to let you know that's what we're about. And so when you come from young, they learn, and he's proven that and he's a great friend. So I just want to make you aware. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you for that.

(Applause)

So at this time under announcements, I'd like to call up Joe Gladden up to the podium.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER GLADDEN (MD): Joe Gladden, past national commander from Maryland. Byron, thank you making us all cry, incredible story. Now to make you laugh and enjoy. Tonight Maryland will be hosting our annual TA TA Tribe meeting over in the Hilton Indianapolis, 120 West Street, after 8 o'clock.

We'll be asking you to come over, have your pinkie ready and your pinkie will be painted for \$20. And all that money will go to breast cancer awareness, which is important to all of us, and the ones that we love. So hopefully we'll see you all tonight, not all at the same time. Applause.

MR. ABOUDARA: Well, Gentlemen, now we're going to make an announcement about Flying Flags for Heroes. At 1 o'clock we're going to be loading the buses. At 1:30 p.m., we are leaving. We are gone. So please be there early so that we can load up the buses. We have several buses to load.

We will, then, depart the hotel and we'll head out to the Lincoln Memory Gardens where we will perform a ceremony. We have the Madam President Daudistel will be with us, Commander Fox. The American Legion Commander will not be with us.

Please be out front. It is a ceremony. It is a solemn occasion, but we will be planting flags. We will have flags out there. The buses will unload one by one and you'll be directed where you need to go. There is a formal script. We will have a short opening on the ceremony.

We will have color guards there. We will have trumpeters there. It is a full ceremony. So please join us. Come as you but change your shoes. Make sure your shoes are little bit more accessible for walking on grass that may be a little softer than hard pavement.

Do you have anything to add. Today is a real opportunity to see what Flying Flags for Heroes is about and it's an opportunity for you to go back to your detachments after having walked the talk. So please be part of this today. Let it be a motivator to go back and accomplish Commander Fox's goal of a million flags. Thank you.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TREAT: Thank you, Tim. So just as a reminder, while this ceremony may seem elaborate and detailed, a lot of work went into it. I have to thank -- I've been calling him Super Dave. Past National Commander Dave Stephens did a lot of the leg work here in Indy for us, indispensable on bringing all of these different entities together to help this happen.

But the one take away here is that while we have a lot of details, your ceremony can be simple. It can be solemn, and it can represent the true nature of this ceremony without having to go through all the extremes. The No. 1 issue is that we do it, that we go out there and we find the non-military veterans affairs type of cemeteries. There are over 400,000 buried at nonveterans cemeteries.

That should be recognized, and they go unrecognized and they're in the nooks and crannies of some communities and we don't want to leave anybody behind. So that's part of this process, too. And then when you do it, we want people to record it. So this is an opportunity for you to take home the full thing, the full ceremony, and at the same time take a look at it and see what you can do locally and help sell it to your guys back in your detachments. That's what we need for you to do. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you, Chuck. Just to add one more thing to that, Gentlemen, you know, we're all here for a reason and a purpose. This event is about something new when we get together at our NEC meetings. I preach getting outside of your four walls. I preach about community engagement and getting involved in the community.

Well, we're acting upon it. Well, I guess I can't say I'm going to mandate everybody to be there. I'm going to strongly encourage that you all attend because I can guarantee you that people are going to know if you're not there and it's going to be unfortunate because you're going to miss a good event. You're going to miss us getting involved in the community in Indianapolis, and it's something that I know I'm going to carry forward to our next meeting as well.

When we gather, we're going to get involve in the communities. So I look forward to seeing every single one of you this afternoon as well.

NECMAN LEONARD FREE (NJ): New Jersey, permission to speak.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Yes, sir.

NECMAN LEONARD FREE (NJ): Commanders and Adjutant, ten minutes after the close of this meeting, meet back in this room. The Commanders and Adjutant please stand and be recognized at this time.

(Applause)

Thank you, Gentlemen, for coming. Ten minutes after the close. Thank you.

NECMAN CAMILLE LEJEUNE (LA): Commander, Cammille Lejeune NEC from Louisiana. I did forget to mention yesterday at the membership meeting as a contract employee with the Department of Louisiana, I see and do a lot of things. And at this time, I would thank all of those departments and detachments from whatever state that you might be in that have delivered truckloads of goods and supplies and monetary donations to our great state of Louisiana.

It's without our dedicated family members that it's very hard for some people to function out there because they have nothing. Those of you that might have heard, Gran Isle was completely wiped out. They're not allowing anybody to get into that particular location unless you're a landowner over there. There are still no utilities there, and some of our places still have not been back to school.

So, once again, from the Department of Louisiana and detachment, I would like to say thank you if your state made any contributions to our great state. Thank you, Mr. Commander.

(Applause)

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER JEFFREY VRABEL SR: Mr. Commander, Jeff Vrabel, Sr., National vice Commander for the central region. Thanks to the generosity of our members in this room, we're happy to announce that \$1,345.67 was raised for CVF.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Great job.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SACCO (CA): Mr. Commander, Past National Commander Gene Sacco from California. I just wanted to bring up another item regarding Flying Flags Heroes because I didn't hear it in today's presentations. There's a website. It's in the brochure Flying Flags for Heroes.com.

It's critical, that when you schedule our ceremonies in your own states, or your squadrons do, that you go onto the site, you register the upcoming event on the site with all the contact information. And then also after the event is done, it's very critical that pictures, videos, et cetera are taken of the event, that you post those pictures on the site as well as post how many flags you place because there is a counter on the home page of the website that's updated two or three times a week.

And what we really want to see and encourage participation also, is that number going up. So visit the website often, see where we are and definitely do not forget to post the pictures and also post the upcoming events that you've scheduled. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you. At this time I'm going to also do something a little bit different. If the leading candidate and the second leading candidate would like a few moments to address the body to give any announcements, word of encouragement, I would invite you to the podium and you may have a few moments, if you'd like.

While they're making their way up here, something else that's a little different. I've been asked by leadership in our organization, particularly our National Vice Commanders, they want to do something different. They're going to be holding an NEC meeting with their region.

So NEC men, pay attention. This is for you. At 4:30 this afternoon, in the Circle East Room, if you are a national executive committeeman from the East, you need to be in the Circle East at 4:30. If you are an NEC man from the Central Region, you need to be in Circle Center at 4:30. If you are from the South, you will be need to be in the Illinois Room on the 21st at 4:30. If you are from the Western Region, you will need to be Circle West lower lobby at 4:30. And if you're from the Midwest, the Ohio Room at 4:30.

So, Gentlemen, don't disappoint your Vice Commanders because they will be taking roll.

Remarks

Leading Candidate Chris Carlton

LEADING CANDIDATE CHRIS CARLTON: Thank you, Commander. I got the memo. Good morning. Morning. As you all know, we are all a team, and we all need to work as a team. Commander Fox has his team. He has five vice commanders. Well, I am not running alone. I am not a lone candidate. I'm not doing anything by myself. I, too, have a team. There are five other gentlemen that are running for office in their respective regions.

And if you would, as I call your name, would you stand and be recognized. From the east we have Ernie Laboge.

(Applause)

From the South we have Ron Roberts.

(Applause)

From the Central, we have Dave Manell.

(Applause)

From the midwest, we have Mike Persner.

(Applause)

And from the west we have Jack Young.

(Applause)

Be on the lookout for these gentlemen as they are campaigning in their respective regions. Along with that, what we'd like to say, on this field time, we understand we have a great opportunity, us candidates, because restraint time and trying to get on the bus, what we are doing is we are providing a box lunch for everyone that is going on the field trip. When you load the buses, we will have a box lunch to give to you.

Important instructions, though, to make this go fast and easy so we can load on time, if you would, exit the building at the west doors going towards the parking garage. When you turn right and go around the corner, we will be set up there. We will be passing out a box lunch and a bottle of water.

Each one of us will be on a bus with a trash bag so when we are finished, we can collect the trash and take care of it. We are doing these compliments. We thank you for all you're doing. We thank you for attending and supporting Commander's projects. And with that, I look forwarding to seeing all of you. Thank you.

(Applause)

Remarks

Second Leading Candidate, JJ Hall

SECOND LEADING CANDIDATE HALL: Good morning. It's nice to see everybody back here. And as my name was announced in Phoenix, the excitement started growing and I can't thank everybody enough who's came up to me and offered the support and help along the way. So as I get going, I will need everybody's help and support and that starts now by supporting Commander Fox and everything and all the changes.

So please, embrace these changes and know this organization has been around a long time and we're going to make it better, all of us together, and we're going to keep growing. And we're going to show why this emblem that we wear signs so bright. Thank you all.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Are there any more announcements from the floor at this time? So there's been an anonymous donation to add to the VCF total in \$1350, totaling \$2,695.67. So good job, guys.

(Applause)

For all of the chairmen, don't hate me, don't throw darts, please. I apologize right now. I'll take the blame. All chairmen, at 12 o'clock today down here media will be here to take official photos for the website. You don't need to be in a full suit if you don't want to. It's only from -- you know, just a head shot, so from the top up. So if you could, please come down here and get your

official photo for the website. That way everything is uniform, and we all have the same background because right now there's some different things up there.

But if we could do that, I would appreciate it. At 12 o'clock media will be down here, downstairs set up to do that. It's only going to take a quick second, as long as you know how to smile pretty, you know, and we can get through it really quick, get it done, load the buses.

Tomorrow morning, memorial service will start at 7:30 sharp. Should last about a half hour. We'll take a small little break for those that are here to use the restroom. We will start at 8:15 a.m. sharp tomorrow, we will reconvene the NEC.

Does anybody have any questions on those? You guys are good. Right after we close right here, our National Vice Commanders are going to have a caucus. If you're in the eastern region, you'll be in Circle East directly across the hall, central region Circle Center, western region Circle West, southern region over here to the left, midwest region over here to the right.

All of the Commission meetings that are on the schedule for 10:00 a.m., are going to start at 10:20 to allow time for the caucus so everybody can be involved. So all meetings will start at 10:20. So if you look at your schedule, just push everything back 20 minutes.

(Gavel)

Colors being in place, please join me with in rendering a hand salute by the numbers.

One, two.

The National Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Legion will now stand in recess until 8:15 a.m. tomorrow morning.

...At 9:52 a.m., Saturday, October 2, 2021, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 8:15 a.m., Sunday, October 3, 2021.

SECOND DAY

Sunday, October 13, 2019

...At 8:15 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Bolt presiding.

(Gavel)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: With the colors of our nation being in place, hand salute. Two.

Uncover.

National Chaplain Jeff Gibson, Sr., will now invoke the blessing of God.

Invocation

Jeff Gibson, Sr., National Chaplain, Alabama

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN GIBSON: I want you to relax one minute, one mine, before I give the invocation. You know what, God is good. You know what, I feel good this morning. I bring you universal peace and blessing and I'm going to tell you how good God is.

Yesterday the devil tried to stop what Commander had for us to do. It rain. So a lot of people made excuses, Commander. An excuse is a dressed-up lie. It rained, so some people didn't want to go. They didn't want to be out there because have blinders on their over eyes and they couldn't see the vision of what God gave the Commander.

You all missed the service this morning, but you all going to get something today. Amen.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Amen!"

But listen to me. We got on the buses. The buses took off. It's raining. We get to the cemetery, the first bus because stopped. Boom, the rained stop. God is good, and you're doing what he asked you to do. We got off the busses. It was calm and the Commander said some powerful words. The ground was soft where we could put the flags in the ground. People took pictures. They enjoyed themselves. And then you walked around, you see World War II veterans, World War I and nobody was across the highway taking pictures. Who was those guys in their caps. You never know who's watching you.

It was a beautiful time. How many of you all in here has been blessed by God. You had cancer and you survived, diabetes, you survived, Covid, you survived because of God. God is working. We've got to support Commander Fox because if it was not for God, that would have not happened.

I'm going to give you all something. Tell the truth to each other. Truth cannot be compiled and still be truth. The truth will always remain the truth. Even if no one believes it, a lie will always be a lie, even if a million believe it. A lie told a thousand times cannot become the truth, when a person tells the truth as a part of their past. But when a person tells a lie, it becomes a part of their future.

Jesus told the Pheresis, you're just like your father, the devil. He was a liar and a murderer from the beginning. I would rather hurt you with the truth than to comfort you with a lie. The truth will set you free, but a lie will keep you in bondage.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer. Oh heavenly Father, bless this week, bless this leadership, Father, and bless Commander Fox. Father, thank you for giving him the guidance and the understanding and the will and the determination to do what you will have him to do. And bless all of those that's going through trials and tribulations. Bless those that, Father, sometimes don't even feel like moving, but you got them the motion of movement.

And, Father, thank you for looking over this meeting and, Father, let us be SAL strong, continue us to do what you would have us to do. Amen.

... *The National Executive Committee responded, "Amen!"*.

JJ said hello. I'll pass that National Commander Nick Bolt is still struggling, but let's keep putting him in prayer. I'm going to leave you all with. I love you and there's nothing you can do about it.

(Laughter)

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

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Sergeant-at-Arms, will you lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you. Please cover.

National Vice Commander Juan Torres will you lead us in the Preamble.

Recitation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion

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

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: National Adjutant, Anthony Wright, will now call the roll.

Roll Call

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

NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander
Michael C. Fox, California

National Vice Commanders

East: Richard Huntley, Maine
South: Jason Roberts, Georgia
Central: Jeffrey Vrabel, Sr., Ohio
Midwest: Juan R. Torres, Texas
West: Jim Stewart, Nevada

National Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania

National Assistant Adjutants

Harold E. Thompson, Jr., Nebraska (Emeritus)
James "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida - EXCUSED
Robert J. Avery, New York
Scott A. Williams, Virginia
Scott J. Thornton, Ohio
Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey

National Chaplain
Jeffrey Gibson, Sr., Alabama

National Judge Advocate
Joseph Paviglianti, New York

National Historian
William L. "Bill" Towns, Jr., Ohio

National Sergeant-at-Arms
Charles A. Curtis, California

National Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms

Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania
Lyle G. Larson, Kansas
Greg Falco, New York
Gary Wagner, Indiana
Mark T. Fayer, Sr., Maryland

National Commander's Aide
Frank Meraz, California

Chiefs of Staff

Bob Brown, Georgia (East)
Mark Severance, California (West)

Parliamentarian
Ronald Roberts, Mississippi

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

Immediate Past National Commander
Clint D. Bolt, Virginia - EXCUSED

Past National Commanders

Michael K. Seaton, California
Robert A. McBride, Ohio
J.R. Stillwell, Illinois
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
Eugene L. Sacco, California
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota
John T. Dietz Kentucky
William E. Matoska, Maryland
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts
Neal C. Warnken, Kansas - EXCUSED
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana - EXCUSED

Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois
James K. Roberts, III, Florida - EXCUSED
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland
Michael W. Moss, Colorado - EXCUSED
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - EXCUSED
Danny J. Smith, Colorado
Greg "Doc" Gibbs, New York -EXCUSED

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Alabama, BOTH
Alaska, NEC
Arizona, ALTERNATE
Arkansas, BOTH
California, NEC
Colorado, ALTERNATE
Connecticut, BOTH
Delaware, ALTERNATE
Florida, BOTH
France, NEC
Georgia, BOTH
Hawaii, NEC
Idaho, NEC
Illinois, BOTH
Indiana, BOTH
Iowa, NEC
Kansas, BOTH
Kentucky, BOTH
Louisiana, NEC
Maine, NEC
Maryland, ALTERNATE
Massachusetts, NEC
Michigan, ALTERNATE NO VOICE
Minnesota, NEC
Mississippi, NEC
Missouri, NEC
Montana, ALTERNATE
Nebraska, BOTH
New Hampshire, BOTH
New Jersey, BOTH
New Mexico, NEC
New York, BOTH
North Carolina, NEC
Ohio, BOTH
Oklahoma, BOTH

Oregon, NEC
Pennsylvania, NEC
Puerto Rico, NEC
South Carolina, BOTH
Texas, BOTH
Vermont, NEC
Virginia, ALTERNATE
Washington, BOTH
West Virginia, ALTERNATE
Wisconsin, BOTH
Wyoming, ALTERNATE

NATIONAL ADJUTANT WRIGHT: Mr. Commander, that completes roll call. You have 47 detachments represented. You have a quorum.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: I now declare this Fall of 2021 meeting of the National Executive of the Sons of The American of Legion regularly convened. Guys, just as a reminder, I know we talked about it yesterday, but please use microphones, name and detachments so they can be recorded for the historical moments.

At this time, if there are no objections, I'd like to deviate from the agenda. Hearing no objections, Sergeant-at-Arms, can you do me a favor, sir, and bring up Dominique, a young man that's sitting over there, can you bring him up on stage please?

(Applause)

Remarks

National Commander Michael Fox, California

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So, you know, as I spoke yesterday and you guys had your committees and commissions meetings, CENTCOM is working a strategic plan. This right here is what everything is about, this young man. Everything that we do this weekend moving forward today is about the future of our organization. It's not about where we are right now and us. It's about where do we want to be. We want this young man to stay active, to stay involved. And the only way we're going to do that is if we make sure he has fun, enjoys himself.

So as we think of everything today and when we go back home, keep this young man in the forefront of your mind. So as we continue to work to put the plans in place for our future, as we get older, these are the guys that are coming up behind us. We need to do everything we can to protect them and ensure that they have a bright future, that when we celebrate our 100th anniversary, this guy is there because in ten years he won't need a chair anymore.

(Laugh)

In ten years this is what we want to see in our leadership roles, get young and stay young. Dominick, I want to say thank you for coming this weekend and I hope you're enjoying yourself. You still got that coin; you didn't give it away. Good job. Thank you. Thank you for being here, buddy.

(Standing ovation)

That's our future, guys. You know, that's our future, and it's our job to ensure that everything goes good for them so that when he gets into your seat, he can ensure that that continues on, carries on the legacy, passes it forward, right.

Is anybody missing an I-pad? I have it. It was on the bus, Bus 3. I have for you. If you can give me the code, then you can have it.

(Laughter)

Appointment to National Commissions

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So at this time we have a vacancy on the Legislative Commission. At this time I would entertain a motion to resolve that. A recommendation has been put forward for David Sousa to fill the vacancy on the Legislative Commission. NEC, that's you or if you want to leave it blank, that's fine, too.

NEC DENNIS HINKEMEYER (MN): Dennis Hinkemeyer, NEC Detachment of Minnesota, I move for the approval of that appointment.

NEC MARK CHANEY (OR): Mr. Commander, Mark Chaney, NEC Oregon, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's been a motion by Dennis Hinkemeyer to approve David Sousa to the Legislative Commission and a second. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, nay.

Motion carries.

At this time I would like to call Internal Affairs Chairman, are you with us this morning, Bill Clancy? I'd like to call you up to finish your report from what you started yesterday, and if we could have the 50th Anniversary Committee come up as well. Thank you.

Oral Report of Internal Affairs Commission William Clancy, III, Chairman, New York

I must say that typically on Sundays, after being here for a few days and you're a little bit groggy and you're thinking about, at least in my case, a lot of business ahead. You know, you're going to catch your flight, you're going to get a ride home, you're going to meet your kids, you're going to work on some homework tonight, right. Homework is on my brain because that's always a Sunday night routine in my house.

Think about tomorrow morning going to work, getting things going. Your brain is scattered on a Sunday morning and then starting off our day with the inspiring words from my friend, our chaplain. You have an ability, my friend. It's a gift and I can't wait to one day to visit your church.

So as the Commander said, my Commission gave our report yesterday minus the resolutions. And our Commission did act on several resolutions, and I will just top line them for you, what they were about and, you know, what our action was.

I will start with very briefly Resolution No. 4, which addressed the idea of a squadron -- it was presented by the membership committee, and it provided for a new award, the Squadron of the Year Award and a trophy. This is a great idea, and this resolution was approved by our Commission.

Resolution No. 5, and the man is right here. I'm going to let him speak about it. It pertains to the 50th Convention Commemoration Convention and providing them with a number of things, but perhaps I'll just turn that over to you for a report and present that, if that works.

Oral Report of 50th Convention Commemoration Convention
Joseph Gladden, Maryland

Good morning.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GLADDEN: You know, I was over there thinking it's been almost ten years since the last time I was a committee chairman, and it's great to be back up on the podium again. One point of personal privilege, just for the people who have been worried about my motorcycle, it has been fully repaired. It's sitting in Vegas. What stays in Vegas hopefully doesn't stay in Vegas, my motorcycle.

(Laughter)

Hopefully it will be back in the next two weeks. I'm looking forward to getting that back. For those that don't know, I was doing the National Legacy Run. I made it 2600 miles from home, last day of the Legacy Run, and it blew a lifter and ruined the entire motor. So I had a whole motor put into it. So praise the Lord, it's coming home.

With that the, 50th Convention Commemoration Committee met yesterday morning and we have been meeting for the last probably two and a half months by ZOOM every two weeks. Yesterday we had six guests in attendance, five guests including the leading candidate for National Commander, Chris Carton. And Chris said for some reason he felt like that that was going to be the most important convention that he will ever attend. I'm not sure why, what he meant by that. But we also had the second leading candidate, JR Hall, come in and thank us for all the hard work that we're doing.

The 50th Convention will be next year, Gentlemen, August 26 to 28, 2022, and I want to thank Commander Fox and Commander Bolt for having the faith in myself and Chuck Treat, my co-chairman, and the rest of the members of the committee, to put on the best commemorative convention we can.

Does anyone need any money? I happen to have some money. Does anybody need money?

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Sure!"

Okay. Got an easy way for you. You all received a form this morning. We are having a challenge coin design contest. And we're asking you to take that form, create a coin that you would like to have be the 50th Convention coin. And the winner, winning design, which would be chosen by the team, will win \$500 and two tickets to the 50th Convention banquet.

So start working on that. Our cutoff is November 15. So you have about a little over a month and a half to get that design done and get it into us. The way you can get it into us. Currently we've set up a new e-mail, SLA50thconvention@gmail.com, and you can e-mail your design to us. Certainly, also, you can e-mail to my own personal e-mail address JGlad123@aol.com, but we'd prefer you to use the new e-mail address.

Certainly, also, if you send it to headquarters, send it to Commander Fox, he has a very -- everyone knows his e-mail address -- they'll get it to us, but start getting those e-mails to us.

We're going to have a banquet on Saturday afternoon. Hopefully, we're looking at probably having it at one of the headquarters hotels. That's still being worked on, the details. But the banquet, we're hoping to keep the cost at \$50 a ticket.

As everyone knows in the banquet world, it's probably going to cost us \$75, maybe more to hold the banquet. So what we are doing is we are requesting funds to help us out to supplement so that we're not trying to charge you guys \$75 and your families or whatever to come to the banquet.

The 75th Anniversary banquet had almost 500 members attend. So we're hoping that we have 500 members attend and that's what we're planning.

Okay. At the banquet we're going to be having entertainment. As I mentioned, you're going to receive a challenge coin at that banquet as part of your ticket fee. The coin themselves won't be available for sale until after the banquet. If you come to the banquet, you get your free challenge coin. If you want to buy more challenge coins, I believe we're going to charge probably \$10 a coin. You can get those at the banquet. So the people that are attending the banquet are going to have first shot at getting those challenge coins, additional coins to take home with them. After that, the coins that we have available, we'll make available to the general population.

We're going to have a 50th Commemorative wall, a wall of pictures. Chronological history of the first convention up through -- probably won't have the 50th Convention on that wall, Commander, seeing how it won't have taken place yet, but through the 49th convention and have those on the wall.

We are going to make Ken George -- thank you, Ken. Ken has been a very important part of the committee. Ken's suggestion was to prepare the wall and then after convention, we'll be able to ship that wall. If your detachment wants to have it at your midwinter conference, at your convention, that wall on a first come, first basis will be able to be shipped to your convention for you to display it at your convention and at your midwinter conference or whatever event that you might have going on. So that will be pretty cool also.

We're also planning on putting together a 50th Convention Commemorative book, similar to, which I still haven't seen it, the American Legion Writers Book. It probably hasn't got to my house yet. You know how mail is, Ken. Sorry, if there's any postal workers in here.

We're going to prepare a book covering 50 years of pictures, thoughts from the commanders each year and so forth. So we're really excited about that.

So what we need, how are we going to make the wall and how are we going to make the book. That's where you all come in and the nation comes in. We need pictures from each of the conventions. It doesn't matter who it is, doesn't have to be pictures of the commanders. It could be pictures of you attending with your family or whatever, but of the convention.

Thanks to Chuck Treat, Chuck, where are you, there you are. Chuck is donating -- we're going to create a website called SAL50thconvention.org and we're going to have the ability to upload pictures one at a time with a description of who's in the picture and what the picture is about. You can upload that into our file so that we'll, then, be able to pull up those pictures, look at them and then print them out and do what we need to do with them for the book and for the wall. So that would probably within the next 30 days, next two weeks, what do you think?

CO-CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE TREAT: Week and half.

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE GLADDEN: So in a week and a half, let's go two weeks, give him a little flexibility. Chuck is a pretty busy guy, SAL50thconvention.org. You'll be able to go there, take your pictures, and upload them to us.

It's going to be extremely important for all of this to work, we need your help. I know there's some older gentlemen or when I say older, not necessarily in age, but the guys back at the beginning conventions, we need your help and all the way along.

So we also had yesterday, we had two resolutions come before us. We had Resolution 5 requesting additional funding of \$75,000 for various items related to the 50th Convention, and we had Resolution 9 requesting three additional members to be added to the committee. Both of those resolutions were reviewed and approved, and our meeting closed at 11:06 a.m.

Does anyone have any questions in reference to the 50th Convention? Is everyone planning on attending next year? All right. We're going to have a great time and if I can be of service to anyone or you can be of service to us by doing those things I'm asking, coin challenge, pictures. We need your help. Thanks, gentlemen.

...Chairman Gladden submitted the report of the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee

50th Convention Commemoration Committee

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am on October 2, 2021 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman PNC Joseph W. Gladden (MD)

Roll Call:

Chairman: PNC Joseph W. Gladden (MD)
Vice Chairman: Charles E. Treat, II (AZ)
Secretary: Robert J. Avery (NY, Mbr.) - Excused
National Assistant Adjutant

Members: PNC Robert McBride (OH) - Excused
PNC Christopher Cerullo (NY) - Absent
PNC J.R. Stillwell (IL)
HIST Bill Towns, Jr. (OH)
PNC David Faust (WI)
PNC Michael Seaton (CA) - Excused
PNC David Stephens (IN)
PNC Robert Faust (CA) - Excused

Guests: Allen Watry (WI); Casey Lenort (MN); Larry Ford (MD)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Gladden declared the minutes of the September 30, 2021 conference call approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman PNC Joe Gladden: Review of activities of the Committee to date: Coin design form is completed and printed for distribution; no action received on the issue of a banquet facility in Milwaukee - waiting on feedback from National. Discussion outlining the process of Coin Design form submittal and reviewed the use of the email account created for the design submittals and sharing access to all committee members. Review the Winning design of the Coin Challenge will receive \$500.00 and two free tickets to the SAL Commoration event on Saturday of SAL Convention. Committee members are ineligible to submit to the Design Challenge as this would be a conflict of interest. Coins may only be purchased after the SAL event - Coins are included with the purchase of event tickets (one ticket includes one coin). Form will be sent via e-mail to ALL SAL via Ken George.

Vice Chairman Chuck Treat, II: Offered to have created a stand-alone Website for the download of photos and information needed for the 50th Commemorative Book and the 50th Commemorative wall. Features to include large file

size downloads and screening process for archival of photos to be secured and stored for future use. Proposed as fast and secured method to start the design and concept process of the two projects.

HIST Bill Towns, Jr.: Inquiry on the download access and “drop box” facility to allow us to move forward with the 50th Commemorative Committee Book and Display Graphics/Wall. Conversation transitioned to using a stand-alone website specific to the committee’ needs. Option offered by Chuck Treat was found acceptable and expedient to need of gathering the artwork. Speed of creation and availability is very important to keep the elements of the projects on time.

PNC David Faust: Discussion regarding the acceptance of photos and have a measure in place to screen the uploads for inappropriate content removal prior to acceptance into storage. Website should not be aligned with any entity other than National use for the Committee purposes only. Ease of use and collection of information for each photo is a prerequisite.

PNC David Stephens: General discussion asking about the Resolutions and how they were separated and why. Two separate topics needed two resolutions.

Old Business:

There was no old business to come before the Committee

New Business:

Resolutions in final for were brought forward for a vote as follows:

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2021

Title: Funding for 50th Convention Commemoration Committee

Origin: 50th Convention Commemoration Committee

Motion: Motion made to accept the resolution in its current form as presented

Maker: Chuck Treat

Second: Dave Stephens

Discussion: Explanation of the separation of funding amounts to clarify where and how the funds will be used.

Action: Approved

No. S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Fall, 2021

Title: Expanding to 11 Committee Members for the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee

Origin: 50th Convention Commemoration Committee

Motion: Motion made to accept the resolution in its current form as presented

Maker: Chuck Treat

Second: Dave Stephens

Discussion: none

Action: approved

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Committee. Discussion added to the National Commander project and the changes we can look forward to.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman PNC Joseph W. Gladden (MD) adjourned the meeting at 11:06 am .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So in case that slipped by everybody, it seems to be a common theme as I talked about yesterday. In order for things to happen, the 50th needs help from everybody. Like you said, in order for this to go off and to make it good and accomplish

all of those goals that they have set forth, they need help. That means we all need to work together to make sure that they get what they need so that we have a good anniversary. Just keep that mind. When you go back to home, talk to your detachment. Let them know we need that information from everybody.

CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE GLADDEN: If all of the other members of the 50th Commemoration Committee could please stand up and recognized.

(Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CLANCY: It's very exciting stuff and I know myself and my family are very much looking forward to attending. So from an internal affairs perspective, there were two resolutions which PNC Gladden referred to and that is Resolution No. 5 which was approved by our Commission and Resolution 9, which was very specific. It just addressed the increase the number of people on that committee to 11, and that was also approved by our Commission.

That concluded our work as a Commission on 5 and 6 pertaining to the 50th Convention. I will note that many of you were at our meeting on Friday and not all of these were addressed there. We actually had multiple meetings over the weekend, and we were like a Commission on the fly. But we did approve that one yesterday morning after it as reviewed by Finance.

Also came before our Commission is Resolution No. 6, which pertained to CENTCOM and I know a lot of people have been calling it CENTCOM Committee, but it's not really CENTCOM because committee is worked into the name of CENTCOM. And there was a resolution which pertained to CENTCOM and enabling its good work. It established a few things such as codifying that the CENTCOM group would be enabled for a period of at least five years. It added that the leading candidate and trailing candidate would be ex officio members, which would mean they would be members but without vote, and it established a budget for CENTCOM.

That Resolution was first discussed at our Friday night meeting, and then it was agreed that we would have to wait for Finance to approve, which was done yesterday morning. And after Finance's approval, the Commission met again and that resolution was as well approved. Prior to our meetings -- I'm just trying to make sure everyone understands -- the Commission had a call approximately two weeks ago on Thursday, and there were two additional resolutions what were addressed in that phone call. Those were Resolutions 2 and 3, both of which pertain to the selection of leadership, both for the National Commander as well as committees. And those two Resolutions, 2 and 3 from the detachment of Oklahoma were referred back. The decision of the Commission was to refer them back to the detachment of Oklahoma for further consideration in light of the fact that the American Legion provided new direction for the leadership of the entire organization, how that is selected.

And that is where the Internal Affairs Commission netted out on all of the resolutions for this meeting and the meeting prior. And I would say it is subject to the final approval of the resolutions. That is the report of Internal Affairs Commission for this meeting. And thank you, minus the resolutions, yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no objections or questions, we will move the Internal Affairs Commission to file?

CHAIRMAN SKELLEY: Mr. Commander, Tom Skelley, Membership Chair, just a point of clarification. Chairman Clancy stated that it is a Squadron Commander of the Year award, not a squadron award and there is no trophy. It's going to be an official uniform cover, just for the record.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you.

NECMAN MARK CANNITO (SC): Commander Fox, Mark Cannito, NEC South Carolina, I attended the resolution meeting and when the squadron commander was --

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Just a minute, this is going to be minus the resolutions?

NECMAN MARK CANNITO (SC): Yes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So if you have comments on the resolutions, can we hold that off?

NECMAN MARK CANNITO (SC): I'm not sure where my question goes.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Okay. Go ahead, then.

NECMAN MARK CANNITO (SC): When they discussed squadron commander and the award with the cover, I think it was brought about whether the Sons were going to pay travel for that award winner to make the convention, and it wasn't ever answered, at least as far as I understood. Are we bringing them or not?

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So I we address that with the resolution when we look at the resolution, if that's in the resolution? If it's not, then we won't be.

Is there any other questions for the Internal Affairs report? If there are no further questions or discussion, move the report to file.

I'll call on Chairman Chris Cook, Subcommittee on Resolutions, to address those resolutions.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: Thank you, Commander. Gentlemen, you have the resolutions in front of you and in your e-mail. For clarifications, Resolution No. 4, fall 2020 has additional information to go with this resolution that I will not be addressing in this. Please see that information in addition to this resolution.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall 2021
Title: Create “Squadron Commander of the Year” Award
Origin: Membership Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a volunteer-based program of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the heart of our membership begins at the local squadron level; and

WHEREAS, the head of the local squadron is the squadron commander; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to annually recognize squadron commanders on the national level who exemplify outstanding contributions to their communities by way of service to our active duty service personnel, veterans, and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby creates the “Squadron Commander of the Year Award;” and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Membership Committee shall judge the nominees annually at the Spring National Executive Committee Meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the presentation of this award shall begin with the 2022 National Convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the recipient of this award be presented with an official Sons of The American Legion uniform cap embroidered with “Squadron Commander of the Year” and the designated year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that each national nominee will receive a signed certificate of appreciation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the criteria and nomination form are attached as supporting documentation

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: This comes from Tom Skelley, Chairman Membership, approved by Finance, Chairman Bill Hill. It was discussed. The subcommittee on Resolution made the discussion, and it was approved to be brought before you for your action. Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Chairman Chris Cook just read you Resolution 4. I'll entertain a motion to take action on this resolution.

NECMAN BOB BROWN (GA): NEC Bob Brown, detachment of Georgia. I make a motion that we accept the recommendation of the committee to support the resolution and pass it, Resolution No. 4, Creation of a Squadron Commander of the Year award.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: We have a motion on the floor from Bob Brown from the detachment of Georgia to accept the committee's recommendation and approve Resolution No. 4. Is there a second?

ANEC MICHAEL COTTON (DE): Alternate Michael Cotton NEC, Detachment of Delaware seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: We have a motion and second. If there any discussion on the acceptance of Resolution No. 4?

NECMAN JOE WYSOCHANSKI (PA): Mr. Commander, Joe Wysochanski, NEC from, Pennsylvania. Is it relevant to ask questions on the supporting documentation?

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: It is.

NECMAN JOE WYSOCHANSKI (PA): Okay. I don't see anything in here for funding of the cap and we have Resolution No. 1, which is funding for caps for another award. Should that be included? And my second comment is hold only the office of squadron commander at the time of nomination at any level with the Sons of the American Legion. It sounds like it contradicts itself.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, I'll call for the question. There's a motion on the floor from Bob Brown to accept the Committee's recommendation and approve Resolution No. 4, duly seconded by Mike Cotton. Call for the vote.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

All those opposed, nay.

Motion carries.

Gentleman, Paul E. Dillard was elected national commander of The American Legion on September 2, 2021, in Phoenix during the organization's 102nd National Convention. Paul's theme as national commander is "No Veteran Left Behind." He first joined The American Legion in 1969.

A native Texan, Dillard graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965 before joining the US Navy and serving in Vietnam through four campaigns including the Tet offense. He later received an honorable discharge as a radarman second class petty officer from the Navy Reserve before attending Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State University.

Dillard worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager and director of manufacturing in Tennessee. Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry and became its airplane pilot. A career change was made when he and his wife, Donna, began their family and he entered the insurance business specializing in employee benefits and later forming Dillard & Gann Insurance.

As a paid-up-for-life member of the American Legion Post 265, Commander Dillard served as post commander, vice commander, adjutant and judge advocate. He also coached American Legion Baseball for more than 10 years and served as his post's Boys State chairman. Commander Dillard served the 4th District as commander and vice commander and served the department as sergeant-at-arms, Membership and Organization chairman, National Security chairman, Uniformed Organization chairman, Board of Trustees chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected as Department of Texas Commander in 2007.

On the national level, Dillard has served as an Alternate National Executive Committeeman, consultant to the Insurance Committee, Distinguished Guest Committee, Children and Youth Committee, and Media and Communications Council. He has served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission and chairman of the Legislative Commission. He was elected as national vice commander in 2013.

Commander Dillard married Donna in 1983. They have two sons, William, and his wife Allison, and Jonathan, and his wife Kari, and two grandsons Jarrett and Lukas. All are members of the American Legion Family. Donna has been active and a dedicated member of The American Legion Auxiliary for several years and has served in numerous positions of leadership at all levels of the organization, including department president in 2017 and 2018.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please bring National Commander of the American Legion, Paul E. Dillard.

(Standing ovation)

Remarks

Paul Dillard

American Legion National Commander, Texas

Man, I'm so old if I did all of that. Thank you very much, Commander. Before I get started, I'd like to introduce another gentleman standing out there at the shutterbug, my aide, Walter Ivy, from Austin, Texas.

(Applause)

He's got the hard job. He's got to do all of this stuff, and then book them and all of that stuff and get them over to Holly and then. And he's got to work, and he's got to let me know where I'm at and where I'm going and what's going to happen because all I've got to do is talk for my meals and come in and greet people. But that's not that easy, is it, Commander?

I was telling some folks, I said, you know, because sometimes I don't grab that phone and look, I wouldn't know what day of the week it is. What do you say, good to see you, buddy. He's from down there where my pops, my mother-in-law and father-in-law is at, down there in Houston, area.

But anyway, getting back to the story, I said, I tell people, Brian, he don't take up much space, kind of a broad boy. But anyway, I said, you know, it's hard to figure out what day it is, but if we're driving down the road or I'm in the airport and I see a Chick-fil-A and it's closed, I know it's Sunday. Other than that, every day is the same day.

You get to meet Legionnaires, Sons of the Legion, the Auxiliary and you get to see the family, and I tell you it's really worth that. I had the great pleasure of doing something that I've been telling a lot of folks about because I think the people on the ground, the blue cappers, the grassroots Sons of American Legions that you can take back to your departments.

I got to go to the Cleveland Foundation. They had their 25th Anniversary up in Cleveland, Ohio, and there was over 400 entrants and 11 or 14 states. The races started that morning at 8:00. The last one was at 4:30 in the afternoon. I'm going to tell you the good part here in a minute.

They still let you in here, too, Buddy. Good job, Buddy. But anyway, we were there all day, the American Legion through Operation Comfort Warriors. We actually sponsored and it's the first year for it. We sponsored a team and bought a boat through Operation Comfort Warriors. And I'll tell you the best part about that in a little bit or a lot of the good parts.

So we got to stay there that day. I christened the boat. Of course, didn't get to christen it like we did in the Navy. I'd probably bust it. I told you I don't know nothing about this boat business and stuff, but I can tell you about rodeos.

But anyway when we went to christen it and they had on which reached thousands. I mean there was thousands of people there. And I poured the champagne over the bow. I didn't want to pour too much on it because I didn't want to get it drunk. I wanted it to win.

Well, anyway what makes this so strong is we actually had four teams, veterans. One team amputee, eight-man team eight-man rowing team eight-person rowing team, but all amputees below the knee, a rowing team of eight.

There's another one that was visually impaired. All of them were blind except the bowman to try to keep them from having crashes. And another one was all PTSD and another one was sexual trauma.

When you think about that, we probably got the most of those out, really got them out into society and really got them involved and they've got a purpose now. So it's really helped. It really, really went strong on it.

But that's to tell you about the teams. And after I christened the boat and didn't get it drunk, I told the audience that I didn't bring any anchors with me to slow those other three down because I was wanting the American Legion boat to win. But I said it doesn't really matter because all of you are winners and, you know, they were. They're all winners.

So we had fun with that. That's just the type of guy I am. But anyway, the race was ran. The American Legion boat won by two seconds, its maiden voyage.

(Applause)

I think we will continue to go up and do that because it's good. We bought what I call a loving trophy type of thing where you've got placards all-around of who wins and stuff year after year. And that's held in the big boat house. There's so many damn big boat houses up there, but the boat house. And then, of course, they get a little medal and a glass type of trophy.

So I hope we continue that. Like I said, it was their 25th year. So it was our first year for the veterans class to do that. So many special things that weekend. There's going to be a post come out of this. It's going to be probably called the Freedom Rowing Club, probably is what it will be. So we're going to get a post more than likely, maybe two. But we're going to get a post out of this because some of those other folks are veterans that do some racing and stuff, but they're not so involved in it like this.

It was just amazing. People shook our hands, thanked us. We didn't nothing like this before, but they knew who we were, I guess, because they'd come up and thank you for our involvement in a sport like that. They had a big beer tent over there towards the finish line at the end. They said come on in. We didn't have to have tickets. You're supposed to buy tickets, but with that kind of beer, I don't know how they ever sold a ticket because me and Jimmy Counts didn't like it.

We did go in. It was just great the way we were really received, and some of those veterans that was on the race teams, we got to talk to them, and they were just thankful. To give you a little insight, one of those boats usually costs about 45 to \$50,000. We were talking to the manufacturer. We bought this boat for around 20 something thousand. They gave us a deal on it. The boat, they charged us 16 for. The oars 2,000 and it's beautiful.

The oars you know you feather them out have the American Legion new brand on it on each side of the white, just stood out like a sore thumb. It had American Legion on the back part of the boat and on the bow, instead of putting it on the side. Most usually they all put them on the side, they put them on the top. So when you go under the bridge, you can see the American Legion.

So it was neat. It was a great experience. That's some of the good things that we get to do when you get into this situation because of what you do in your local squadrons and what your post does and your unit does that allows the American Legion to step out in front like this. It makes you feel good. It makes you want to go back home and do more, just because of what you all do. Just what you do for our children's foundation, the largest contributor, really and truthfully.

I know you all have got business to take care of. I don't want to take much more of your time, but I wanted to share that with you because I think it's so important that you know what happens out there because of folks just like yourself, the folks back home, too.

So Commander, with that, I'm going to quit because you've got business to do. It says something about these Texans, you know, that I went, and I thought it was a 45-minute speech because I didn't really see it. So it said four or five minutes. But in Texas we can take a four- or five-minute speech and talk for 45, so it doesn't really matter.

Thank you all. Appreciate it.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So before we sent you off, Commander, we all are well aware of your special project this year and trying to raise some money for VCF. So I'd just like to let you know that we all kind of pitched and got together and I've got an envelope for you. So out of the generosity of everybody's pockets that's in the room we put together \$4,095.67 for VCF.

(Applause)

AL NATIONAL COMMANDER DILLARD: As I said, that's what you all do. That's what's so great about the entire family and the Sons of the American Legion is what you all do. You really fill the gap. You fill the void, and you do a good job. Just make sure you don't let Juan get out of hand and watch Kevin back there because he can cause trouble, too. Thank you all again very much.

(Standing Ovation)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Okay. Chris, you can go ahead and continue on with those resolutions.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: Thank you, Commander, moving forward, we have SAL Resolution No. 5, fall of 2021.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall 2021
Title: Funding for 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
Origin: 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
National Commander Michael Fox

WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, by S.A.L. Resolution 2, Spring 2021, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion established the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee to “formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the proper recognition, honoring, and celebrating of our 50th National Convention” scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26-28, 2022; and

WHEREAS Resolution 2 further set the Committee’s makeup at an odd number not less than five (5) and not more than (9) members, with eight (8) of the positions filled during the Spring 2021 N.E.C. meeting and National Commander Michael Fox naming three (3) additional members to the Committee at the 2021 Post-Convention N.E.C. meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Committee has met ten times since their formation in the Spring; and

WHEREAS, The Committee has formulated and coordinated many plans for our 50th National Convention; and

WHEREAS, in order to properly implement these plans, the Committee is seeking additional funding of up to \$50,000.00 on top of the \$25,000.00 already allocated in the 2022 calendar year budget; and

WHEREAS, these additional funds will be used to create and print a 50th Convention Commemorative Book, a 50th Convention Commemorative Challenge Coin, and supplement costs associated with a 50th Convention Commemoration Banquet; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated this additional funding can come from an expected surplus from the 2021 budget year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the National Executive Committee hereby amends the makeup of the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee to consist of eleven (11) members; and be it further RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee authorizes the additional allocation of any 2021 budget year surplus monies of up to \$50,000.00 to be used by the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee as outlined in their charge when they were formed.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: I believe it says in the whereas clause that that is coming out of a surplus, if I'm not mistaken on that. Gentlemen, it was presented by Chairman Joseph Gladden, the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee. It was approved by Finance Chairman Bill Hill. And it was discussed in the subcommittee, and it was approved to be brought before you for your further actions. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So you just heard Resolution 5. I would accept a motion for the NEC to take action on this action.

ANEC MICHAEL COTTON (DE): Michael Cotton, Alternate NEC detachment of Delaware, we propose to make a motion to accept Resolution 5.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So motion on the floor from Mike Cotton is to accept Resolution No. 5.

NEC JOHN WRIGHT (CT): John Wright, NEC for Connecticut, Commander, I'll second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's been a motion. It's been duly seconded. Is there any discussion?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN BILL HILL: Bill Hill of detachment of Maryland, Commander, just a clarification real quick from what Cook just mentioned, it will be a reallocation of funds. It will not come from surplus funds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Any further discussion? We'll call for the vote. There's been a motion made by Mike Cotton to accept Resolution No. 5, duly seconded by John Wright.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Fall 2021
Title: Amend the Makeup of the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
Origin: 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
National Commander Michael Fox

WHEREAS, On April 24, 2021, by S.A.L. Resolution 2, Spring 2021, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion established the 50th Convention Commemoration Ad-hoc Committee to “formulate, coordinate, and implement plans for the

proper recognition, honoring, and celebrating of our 50th National Convention” scheduled to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 26-28, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2 further set the Committee’s makeup at an odd number not less than five (5) and not more than (9) members, with eight (8) of the positions filled during the Spring 2021 N.E.C. meeting and National Commander Michael Fox naming three (3) additional members to the Committee at the 2021 Post-Convention N.E.C. meeting; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the National Executive Committee hereby amends the makeup of the 50th Convention Commemoration Ad-hoc Committee to consist of eleven (11) members.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: It was presented by Chairman Joseph Gladden. It was also presented to the Internal Affairs Commission, both approving that. And the subcommittee discussed this and approved it to come before you for further actions. Mr. Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So you just heard the Chairman read Resolution No. 9. I would accept a motion for the NEC to take action on this.

ANEC MICHAEL COTTON (DE): Michael Cotton, again, Alternate NEC detachment of Delaware, commander, we would like to make a motion to adopt Resolution 9.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's been motion by Mike Cotton to adopt Resolution No. 9. Is there a second?

NECMAN BILL SUTTERLIN (OH): Bill Sutterlin, NEC, Ohio, Commander, I'll second that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's been a motion and it's been duly seconded. Is there any discussion?

Hearing no discussion, I will call for the vote. The motion made by Mike Cotton to accept Resolution No. 9 and it was duly seconded.

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Sergeant-at-arms, can you please bring here Dean Cassell, Executive Director of Marketing to the podium, please.

(Applause)

Remarks

Dean Cassell, Executive Director

Marking, American Legion National Commander

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASSELL: How is everybody doing this morning? Good, good, good. My name is Dean Cassell. I'm the Executive Director of Marketing, also the Chief Marketing Officer for the American Legion. I had the privilege to work for the American Legion for just over a year, but I come from the outside world. I'm more of a corporate marketing guy.

So I come from brands like -- I started at RJ Reynolds. Anybody a Winston Cup fan, do you remember Winston Cup Days racing? I worked on Winston Cup for a number of years. I

worked at Lowe's, ran their sports marketing. I hired this kid named Jimmy Johnson back in 2001 who did pretty good in the NASCAR series. I had a chance to hire him again last year.

And then I spent about six years at ESPN running a division that they acquired in the outdoor space. Any bass fishermen in here? No, that's why they no longer own the company. So that's good. It was a company called BASS, Bass Angler Sportsman Society. So it was a membership group, publishing. We ran a couple of television shows, four magazines in the outdoor space.

And then I came back and ran the Sprint Cup Series in the NASCAR world. And how I got to the Legion is the Finance Chairman over the American Legion Gather Keener, was also general counsel at Lowe's when I was there. So he and I did the deals together.

We did the renaming of the Charlotte Motor Speedway to Lowe's Motor Speedway. We did all the racing assets for about 17 years. So when we were at a fundraiser one night, he asked what are you doing now, and I said I'm doing some consulting with a baseball team. He said we're looking to sort of rethink about marketing at the American Legion overall and we could use somebody that's done it for a long time and has a new vision for what we want to do.

Loved the opportunity, loved the mission and am privileged to be here and be a part of this organization. So what I would like to do today is -- I'm going to give this presentation later today to the American Legion Advisory Commander's group. I'm going to take you through a couple of slides to give you a look, a purview, of what we're doing and how we're doing it.

We've done a lot of what, I think, are pretty decent improvements, since I got here a year ago. And just so you know, under my purview now at the organization, we've created this entire marketing group. Marketing at the American Legion was formerly known as DMS, right, direct mail solicitation. That's what we're doing for membership. That's what we're doing for fundraising. That's what the view of marketing was. It's a much bigger view now.

So under my direction falls the marketing group, which I'm continuing to build out, which is all about the brand, all about how we interact with it. I have all of the content assets, so think website, magazines, social media, all of that falls under our group now.

I do have the fundraising arm. I do have the direct mail piece of it as well. I also have membership and internal affairs. So the reason all of that is together is that's what touches the consumer or the member, right, externally or internally. So we have one voice in what we want to talk about. I also have the media relations. So when we talk to the media, that's what we're doing.

So it's been a heavy lift, but we've made some interesting projects. Just a couple of things, you can look at the top left-hand corner of the screen there, that's a new brand. Does not replace, does not replace the emblem. Okay. Just to make sure we're clear on that. That does not replace that.

Think in terms of the military. The Army has a seal and they have a marketing brand, Go Army. Marines have the same thing; they have a marketing brand. So it's the same look and feel to it. So what we'll do is just really refresh. The emblem will still be used on caps, still be used on legal documents, still be used on financial documents, things of that nature. But we want to have a bit of a fresh look, a little bit of a different view, more contemporary voice to it.

You know, the Legion has been around for 102 years, as you all well know. So it's time. All the big brands do that. Look at Disney -- in fact, General Motors just did a refresh on their brand as well. So it's exciting.

As Commander Dillard talked about, we were able to use that for an event we did down in Ohio around the Regatta. We're using this on the race car as well. So it's an exciting look,

exciting feel, gives us something a little bit different to talk about and sort of create a new conversation and some excitement.

So I'm going to see if I can slide through this here. So let me give you some updates on the Indy car. So a lot of people, when we first came out with this, said what are we doing this for, what's this all about, why is the American Legion candidly spending money to do something to put a sticker on a race car.

Well, that's not really a value of what we're doing here. That has nothing to do with it. It's a marketing plan, a marketing initiative. We had three to four basic pillars that we were going to run this one. One was to create brand awareness for the organization, and I'm proud to say that we've done that.

The other one was to change the conversation about the organization as well. Hey, something new is going on here, we've got to look inside and see what's going on here. Three, we wanted to do something that had a national scope and a local impact. So as Commander Dillard said, we've done a lot of things at every venue this year. There are 17 races that took place on the circuit, 16 actually. They didn't race in Toronto. And we have -- when we overlay our membership on top of where the racing takes place, there's about 700,000 members that are impacted by those markets.

So we were able to put programs together this year that really benefited the local posts, the local departments. We were able to do some action at each track. Commander Fox was out in California with us as well, so he got to see that in action, and we're going to do more of that next year as well.

Thirdly, was inside the Motor sports eco system, partners work together. So Honda or Chevrolet or Carvana or NTT data, the other sponsors inside that eco system of Motor Sports tend to work well together and that's what we're trying to do, drive new partnerships.

When I met with the National Adjutant to take the position, I asked him the preferable interview question, what does success look like in this role. And he said, Dean, that's the easiest question you've asked me all day. Success in your role is two things, more members and more money, and those are my challenges.

So being able to put something like this out to create a conversation and drive those conversations around partnerships, we've got a couple of interesting things that are going to happen. One of which I'll share in the deck that I'm pretty excited about that we haven't announced yet but we're going to here probably in the next two weeks.

So here's just a couple of highlights from this year and I can't even read not from here. What's the first one, marketing contemporary brands. That was good as well. I'm just going to shout. We had color guards come out to almost all racetracks. Jim Ganassi owns the 48 teams. He just won the championship this year for the 14th time in Indy car.

He personally said hey, what else can I do for Legionnaires, and he bought anywhere from 50 to 100 tickets to every race personally out of his pocket to give Legionnaires to show up at these events. We had the American Legion car, the No. 10 car, which ended up winning the championship this year. Alex Plugg, who just won the championship, and that was at no cost to us.

He had inventory available, which typically goes for \$250,000 a race. He just said Hey, I believe in the mission of the American Legion, I love what you guys are doing, I want to be a part of this. He said I'm just going to give this to you, and we had that for four races this year. Dedicated American Legion. We had a National Suicide Prevention Program that I'll talk to you about. And frankly, the biggest thing we got out of this, I told the Finance Commission and the

folks at the Legion, if we don't nothing with this program, nothing, if we don't get one new member, one new donation, one new partnership out of it, it will be the most efficient media buy that the organization has ever done.

We produced two television commercials this year with Jimmy Johnson, one around what is the Legion and what we're doing, and the other one was around veteran suicide. And we bought time on NBC this year. So the difference between a PSA, which you've seen a lot of us do, and an advertising that we can do when we pay for it, is we can actually ask for things in advertising. PSA is just awareness. You can't ask somebody to join, you can't ask somebody to go to their website, you can't ask somebody to donate. But what you can do with a television spot is ask for all those things and that's exactly what we did. So I'm really proud of that.

So if we did none of that stuff, no new members, no new donations, no new partnerships from a corporate perspective, it will be the most efficient media buy we've ever done in the organization. Here's what we gained through 14 races, \$13.6 million in media value. We couldn't buy \$13.6 million of inventory. We don't have the resources to do that, we just don't.

But with what Jimmy does, because he's a seven-time NASCAR champion, rolls into a sport and automatically becomes the most popular driver in the sport just because of his critical mass. He's able to talk about us, extend our voice, leverage what we do. So it's really been a phenomenal season, and that's only through 14 races. There's two more races that have been calculated. So I think we're going to be close to \$15 million this year. So, again, a hugely efficient media buy.

This is just some photographs and things of that nature that we did at the track from an activation standpoint. We had PNC's at every event this year. We were able to activate in Wisconsin, in Portland, in California and Ohio as well. We're building a tow kit this year so that we can take all of these best practices and roll them into next year as well and need to get out there.

And I'm going to have some conversations with the Sons as well, how can we bring that activation to this level also in these markets. So the posts were able to use and the activation around the track.

And then we are actually next year working with Jimmy Johnson in California at the Hollywood POST potentially. We are looking to put together a big gala with Jimmy Johnson and some of his celebrity friends to try to raise money for the American Legion. So that's in the works for, I think, March of next year.

These are just some of the companies that we're talking to about relationships. I will tell you that Fiserv, which is a data process company, they work the back end of transactions from a credit card perspective, so they do all of that. They've committed to buy 1,000 lifetime memberships with the American Legion for their veteran employees of which they have about 5,000. So that's just the first 1,000.

Carvana we're talking to. We also talking to Seven Eleven which is a company that we're talking to. Have you guys ever been to a retail store where they ask you to round up change? We're talking about doing a change round up with Seven Eleven maybe around Veterans Day this year.

And then Veterans United, you've got somebody with Veterans United, they're a home loan mortgage company to work with the VA. They close about eight to 9,000 home loans a month. They actually donated to us around the veterans' suicide platform \$2 million this year. So great commitment, great company there. So that's part of the rationale for getting into the program.

Again, talked about this a second ago the Carvana partnership. We're actually talking to Chick-a-Fila about creating a special legion meal during a time period in one region where you can go in and order the American Legion meal and a portion of those proceeds come back to the American Legion as well.

T-mobile, we think, might be a good partner for us on baseball, with American Legion baseball. We're working with that as well. You know, the value of the relationship, I've kind of already talked about a little bit. Here's one thing that I'm pretty excited about.

This is going to happen. We just haven't announced it so between you and me and whoever else you tell, keep it here, but we are going to be the official charity of Indy Car.

(Applause)

So it hasn't been announced yet. I was at the victory lap celebration for the championship Friday night, and I talked to Roger Penske and Mark Miles about hey, let's get this deal done and they said we just have to paper it. We're going to do it. We want you to be a part of it. We love the way you guys have embraced this sport and what we're doing. So they're very excited.

And what that does for us is it gives us another organization with a big reach to extend what we're talking about and how we're doing it and get our voice out there even more. So we're multiplying the effect of our voice across the country really effectively and efficiently. So I'm really excited about.

All right. I'm just taking you through a couple of more slides here and something that we have put a lot of thought into. The American Legion, in its 102-year history, has taken on frankly the biggest challenges facing veterans. Bare none, nobody has done more for veterans and its 102-year history.

You think about what the World War I American Legion veteran did for the World War II veteran, sitting up the GI bill. We still talk about that today. That's one of the big things we've done as an organization. You look at the World War II American Legion veterans and what they did for Vietnam veterans and all of the care of the compensation around Agent Orange, still talk about that today, still going on today.

And the preponderance of our membership in the organization right now frankly are Vietnam veterans. So if you look at it from segment to segment and era to era, the biggest issue facing veterans today bare none is suicide. Depending on which statistic you listen to, it's 18 to 22, the most commonly referred to as 22 a day, 22 veterans a day are taking their lives.

And I'm showing this to you today. Only a couple of people have seen this. This is another campaign that's going to be coming down the pipeline. We're still working the nuts and bolts out of it, but we want to change the conversation. So let me tell you just a little quick story about how we came up with what we came up with.

So on Chip Ganassi's racing team, he has a gentleman named Dave Bergenfield. And Dave runs a series called -- it's an electric series that travels all over. It's called Extreme E. But Dave just got out of the Navy after 25 years and he was a Navy Seal and a Seal Team 6 guy. So I've talked to him a lot about what we're doing and how we're doing on these type of things and I want his feedback because he just sort of been coming out of the service. And I was telling him about this program that we really think we want to embrace the veteran suicide and what can we do to make an impact with that.

And, you know, all of this business speaks and I was talking to the folks in our DC office. And they were talking hey, Dean, this is a heavy lift. We don't have a program in place for that yet. We're not sure how to do that, how are we going to measure successful, what that's going to look like, all the metrics that you talk about with any kind of marketing or business initiative.

And I was going through this with Dave and Dave just sort of had a bunch of pieces of papers in front of him and he just sort of stopped. And he put the papers down in front of him, and he said Dean, the only metric that matters at all is one. He said you save one veteran, one military member, that's all that matters. Nothing else matters.

So a light bulb went off in my head, started thinking about it. So here's the campaign. If you could save the life of one veteran by doing one thing, would you and would you be one. Would you be the one to sign a petition to help us do legislation in Congress, will you be the one to listen to a veteran and help get him some help, will you be the one that's going to donate to help us drive this initiative forward.

So it changes the conversation completely from a negative of 22 a day to a positive of one, and that's what we going to focus on. The biggest thing we have as an organization is our peer-to-peer network, 1.7, 1.8 million folks across the country. We have the opportunity to open our doors to a veteran or their family and come in and have a conversation.

Now, it's almost a possibility to equip people with the ability to handle these types of situations and we're going to do that. That's going to be the start of it. We did this in North Carolina. Where's my North Carolina folks? There we go.

I'm a North Carolina guy, too. I grew up in Charlotte. We opened out our doors right after we pulled out of Afghanistan and there was a lot of stress and a lot of trauma and a lot of conversation about it. We had 65 Afghan veterans come into the post that day just to have a conversation.

So what I want to do is create a platform where around No. 1, maybe it's the first Saturday of every month, we open the doors to anybody who wants to come in. Not just the veteran, but the family. Like mom going to know something is not right with dad or her spouse rather, the daughter, the son. It's not just about the veteran. It's about the family as well. So we think we can have an impact across a number of areas.

So we're pretty excited about this program. And we're going to do this for a year and see what happens. If we do this and I think we can do it right because we got the people to do it, I want people to talk 20 years from now about this platform and what we did to help save veterans, like we talk about GI bill now some 20 years ago or 50 years ago with that sort of emphasis and passion around that.

So here's a couple of things we're getting ready to do for the next step. We're going to conduct a nationwide search. We're going to find a clinician or we're going to find something that's not named Dean and does marketing to lead this effort with a lot of more credibility and understands the space. So we're excited about that.

We're actually working with Dr. David Rudd at the University of Memphis, and he is the president of University of Memphis about some technology that we can do there as well from an app perspective.

We're going to look at best practices. There's a lot of groups right now that are doing best practices across the country, Legionnaires that are doing things. One More Day is a program that's being conducted in certain markets as well. So we want to look at that and see what we can do from that perspective to add that to our portfolio. And then we're going to talk about this from a campaign.

So we're going to see this on the race car this year. We're going to be talking about this quite a bit. I mean the thing, when I got to the American Legion and I sort of took my first 90 days to look at what's going on, candidly we're an inch deep and a mile wide. We do a lot, but how much impact are we making on a weekly, monthly, daily basis, yearly basis.

And this is something that I've talked to Commander Fox about. I've talked to the Auxiliary about. If we can get the American Legion, the Sons, the Auxiliary, everybody pulling the rope in the same direction, we really can make a powerful powerful impact on this platform and save lives, and that's what it's all about.

There's some metrics here on American Legion baseball that I'm going to present later today. So that's just sort of who I am, what we're doing as a marketing group. Commander Fox, I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I'm happy to take a couple of questions if you guys have anything for me. Otherwise, enjoy the rest of your meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to be here.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN PARSONS: Just a random question around this amazing work that's being done. Matt Parsons, Chairman of Public and Media Communication, looking forward to working with you, Dean. Though the one question I have, Mr. Fox has done an amazing job of posting pictures at La Guna with Jimmy Johnson giving him pre-race advice and how to win and all of the kind of good stuff. The one question I have is did anybody ask him if he's eligible to be a member?

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So I would love to talk about that. I did ask him and yes, he is eligible to be a member. So I signed up one of the guys on his team. And as Jimmy Johnson -- I don't know what you call it, but we'll said an aide quickly told me hey, he's got an race in an hour, he needs to go get dressed. So I gave him one of my cards and an application and told him when the season is over, and my squadron will sponsor you. So I'll let you guys know. Hopefully he calls me. If not, Dean can give him a call. So yes, he is eligible, and he will be a member.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASSELL: Yeah, he will be.

(Applause)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CASSELL: Another thing we're talking about too, is -- there's a lot -- one of the reasons you look at the Motor Sports platform and Indy Car platform is the audience right fit. There are a ton of veterans that like Motor Sports. There a ton of active military that are interested in Motor Sports.

Indy Car is on a trajectory going this way. I worked in the NASCAR world for a long time. That's not the same trajectory right now. They just don't have that same sort of momentum behind them. So we've got an opportunity.

I say all of that to say we're thinking through an idea with all of these veterans that sort do this traveling circus that goes from race to race to race on a weekly basis, can we create sort of an Indy Car post or department, whatever, we'll work through that, where it's just all of these veterans who don't necessary stay home very often but are on time, but altogether, can we develop some sort of virtual type activity that we can do with all of the veterans.

Ganassi alone has 25 veterans that work for him, not just on the Indy Car, but his NASCAR team which he just sold. There's a lot of veterans in that space and we want to take advantage of it. Thank you all very much. I appreciate your time today.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Sergeant-at-arms, can you please before me the Child Welfare Foundation President Mr. Dennis Boland

(Applause)

Greetings

Dennis R. Boland
American Legion National Child Welfare Foundation President, Florida

Good morning.

...The National Executive Committee responded, "Good morning!"

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BOLAND: Love you guys. You know what, I love what Dean is doing for the American Legion and the images he's putting out. With that being said, at the national convention and a couple of your meetings before I've told you about suicide people that we've done through the American Legion. I found another one through Special Olympics. That's one of your babies. Because of Special Olympics, a man doesn't want to kill himself anymore. So what we're doing under Dean's program is an awesome job.

I'd also like to talk about when I was the National Children Youth Chairman, I talked about communication, communication, communication. Well, the wife and I left the house, we packed. We took a whole day saying we've got to have this; we've got to have that. We packed and we started on the road driving here.

Two days into the drive and I looked, and all the clothes are hanging behind me. Where's my jacket? Luckily along I75 in the southern states we have a lot of western stores. So for 28.99, don't I look beautiful.

Well, with that being said, you know, it's always an honor to come before you. Right now the Child Welfare Foundation as of Friday we have raised \$161,000. The Sons have donated over 75,000, which is like 46 percent, and I know at this conference you always come up with big, big, big numbers.

So the bottom line is, like I said, communication, communication, communication. If you don't stay in contact with each other about your programs, and I'm not talking at this level here, I'm talking within your detachments and within your squadrons. It is very significant if you don't, because your turnout will be terrible, and I know most of you realize that.

But in 1932, 89 years ago and you're going on your 90th year anniversary, you evolve. You look around. All these organizations have tried to duplicate you. Nobody has ever done it. They have in fighting amongst themselves and finally their program goes away.

Your program goes stronger and stronger by the day. You're put worth to take over when all of our wars have gone away. And thank God our Afghan troops are back home, but we still are at war with different organizations that want to kill our way of life.

Since 1988, you guys have donated over \$8 million to the Child Welfare Foundation and you're heading for 9 million, and I believe under Michael's leadership, you'll attain that 9 million this year.

In 1971, as today, there's a news article out saying the American Legion is a dying breed. 1971 they had the same news media put out that the American Legion was a dying breed. We may be a little smaller in numbers, but overall, we still as a family are close to three million strong. That's a credit to you, what you do because what you do brings in membership. You ask a child to be part of you and then when you have your special events, you bring that family in and that child who is part of the event, their parents realize that they should be part of this great organization, and they join the American Legion and the Auxiliary and the Sons.

You had that leadership over the past years. One leadership person that brings to mind that ever and enduring person, the quiet man that he is, I love him too death. I would tell you that your other leaders that are up here, but Clifford Smith has a certain quality. I just talked to him this morning and asked him if he changed his image. He doesn't know what an image is anyhow.

One thing I'd like to talk to you about is the RAT program. How many members are there of the RAT program? All right. Well, instead of the RAT program, we're bringing back the CAT program. And the CAT program is going to be basically on the same thing. It will cost you \$25 for the pin and then your job would be to go out and motivate other people to become part of the CAT program and raise money.

We also have the 100 percent ribbon, which you all know we've had that for quite a while. So if you have a 100 people in your squadron and that squadron donates \$100, you can get 100 percent ribbon from the Child Welfare Foundation.

Also, we had the memorial card. A lot of people don't know about the memorial card or don't want to do it. But I think that if one of our members passes away, instead of buying flowers, this memorial card for \$25, you can put the person's name and the family, and we will send them a nice letter stating your squadron and your detachment made a donation in memory of that person.

I feel that's a lot better way than having flowers, which we had a gentleman in my post at one time every other week he was in the hospital. And every week we'd send him flowers. And every other week he'd write us back, I can't eat them, don't send them to me. It's kind of along that line.

The history, you look at your history out here. The Children's Miracle Network, you guys were one of the greatest supporters of that organization. Like I always say, I talk about it and that's what got me involved when I saw that young child in the neonatal part of the St. Petersburg Children's Miracle Network, and we were able to save that child's life. And that child could be put in my hand. That is so awesome, what you do for that program.

The GI Josh under Jeff Fraine, I know that was one of his biggies. The four corners we were there. Everybody had a GI Josh shirt on and we took pictures of probably 100 people there that day. You guys, again, made that program.

The Sponso buddy bear. I talked about the Sponso buddy bear. I'm sorry that that has gone away, but that young child that his life was saved because the doctors couldn't find out what was wrong with him. He just kept saying I hurt. And so they put a tape recorder inside that Sponso buddy bear and he told that bear that night exactly what was wrong with him and the doctors were able to overcome his sickness and saved his life.

These are programs that you've got to be aware of. And when I say aware of, you have to pass them down to the incoming members. History, your history for the last 89 years has been so excellent but like in the American Legion if you forget where you come from, you'll eventually lose who you are.

And when I speak before the American Legion, I speak of dates going back to the '20s, what the American Legion did in the '20s, the '40s, the '50s, the '70s. You have that opportunity when anybody comes in, don't just sign a card and say you're a member. Tell them this is what we did.

We were started 90 years ago, and we have done this, nine million dollars or eight million for Child Welfare Foundation, the Children's Miracle Network, and all of these things you can't forget, and I'll tell you why.

I have said this at many eulogies that I've done for people. When one of your members passes away, a library closes. Think about that, your knowledge. If you have not passed it on to the people, your library has closed and that is a terrible situation in our life. For any kind of organization, you belong to, your history is what makes us.

In this day and age, the problem is they're trying to change our history, but don't let them change your history. Thank you for allowing me to speak before you. God Bless you. I love you as a family because I hope you know you are my family. Thank you.

(Standing Ovation)

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Well, Gentlemen, as you know the past day, we've been collected money for 50/50 raffle. So pull out your blue tickets. We collected \$466. So the winner gets 233. The other 233 will go to CWF. And our president Dennis selects the winning ticket.

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT BOLAND: Hold on, I've got to get my ticket out and make sure I call it right. 774044, there it is. 773617.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I'm going to take the money back with me and I'm going to donate it back to Child Welfare Foundation in memory of our fallen members to my own squadron.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Gentlemen, we've got some reports and some resolutions to finish up today. I've seen some people stirring around. I don't know if it's the coffee or the sodas that you were drinking last night. How about we take a ten-minute break? Everybody use the restroom, come back, get refreshed and ready to finish up the business.

HISTORIAN TOWNES: If there are any Commission or Committee Chairmen, Adjutants or Past National Commanders that have not had their picture taken this weekend, I will be out in the hallway trying to solve that problem.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you. We'll stand in recess until 10:10.

...At 10:00 a.m., Sunday, October 3, 2021, the National Executive Committee recessed, to reconvene at 10:10 a.m., Sunday, October 3, 2021.

...At 10:00 a.m., the National Executive Committee reconvened, National Commander Fox presiding.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: I want to call up the Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman, Chris Cook, to get back to where we were.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: Thank you Commander. Gentlemen, we are going to go to Resolution No. 8. I'll give everyone just a moment to get there.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall 2021
Title: Donation of a \$130,000 to the American Legion Baseball from the SAL Reserve Fund.
Origin: Americanism Commission/National Commander Michael Fox

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, a Sons of The American Legion Liability Account (now called the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund) was established as a restricted fund for use in the event of emergencies such as membership decline, etc., and temporary funds were needed to meet expenses; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11-12, 2017 by N.E.C. Resolution No. 4 established a ceiling of \$750,000 (with a variance of +/- 1.5%) for the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund for each budget year ending in the month of December to be reviewed

annually by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion at the Spring meetings for adequacy and from a fiscal management viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 4 adopted at the Fall, 2017 meeting of The American Legion National Executive Committee further empowers the Sons of The American Legion to request permission to transfer funds from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund to any approved charity that supports America's veterans and youth with the approval and consent of both the Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund is presently over the variance established; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the National Executive Committee hereby approves the donation of \$130,000.00 from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund to American Legion Baseball; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby recommends to the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion that said funds be distributed from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: Chuck Treat, Chairman of Americanism, and Bill Hill, Chairman of Finance, both approved this. It was discussed in the subcommittee, and it was approved to come before the NEC for further action. Commander, Resolution No. 8.

NECMAN BILL KELLY (FL): Bill Kelly, NEC, Florida, I'd like to make a motion that we accept Resolution No. 8.

NECMAN DONALD ALLISOT, JR. (ME): Don Allisot, NEC Maine, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So the motion on the floor is from Bill Kelly to accept Resolution No. 8, duly seconded by Don Allisot. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, I'll call for the vote. All those in favor to accept Resolution No. 8, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

I will now call back up the Resolutions Chairman. I believe No. 6.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No.	S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall 2021
Title:	Creation of standing Committee and Funding for Century Committee, CENTCOM
Origin:	Ad-hoc Century Committee/ National Commander Michael Fox.

WHEREAS, On August 29, 2021, at the Post-Convention meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, National Commander Michael Fox established an Ad-hoc Committee entitled, “Century Committee” (CENTCOM), which was charged with the responsibility of development of a true, all-inclusive strategic plan for the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Committee’s work will extend beyond the 2021-2022 administrative year, at least for a period of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, The scope and agenda of the CENTCOM will evolve over the next several months and years, and will include, but not be limited to, creation of the S.A.L. Strategic Plan, in-depth assessment of all facets of its operations and health of the organization, coordination and interaction with all levels of the organization and that of The American Legion, with reporting responsibility to the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion, and to the Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee of The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, to ensure the longevity of the Committee past its initial creation as an ad-hoc committee, the Committee needs to be a standing committee of the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, In order for CENTCOM to properly begin its work and plan ahead for 2022, funds will need to be made available out of the 2021 budget surplus funds, and reallocation of funds within the 2022 budget will need to occur; an survey-based apps for gathering of insight of members, potential use of 3rd party services in plan development, attendance and participation in regional meetings/conferences and other elements pending development; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated this initial funding for 2021 will need to be \$25,000, and can come from the expected budget surplus from the 2021 budget year, and for the 2022 operating year, \$150,000 can be re-allocated within the 2022 budget; and

WHEREAS, it would also be beneficial and practical for the Leading Candidate and Second Leading Candidate for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion to serve on CENTCOM as ex-officio members, with voice but no vote, so as to ensure alignment and insights for our future national commanders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the National Executive Committee hereby establishes the current Ad-hoc Century Committee as a standing committee of the National Executive Committee, with call-in authorization above its other budgeted line items, and be maintained as a standing committee for a period of five (5) years, with the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion maintaining the ability to change/add/expand its members as seen appropriate, but strongly encouraging the continuity of its initial members; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Leading Candidate and Second Leading Candidate for National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion be ex-officio members to the Century Committee; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the requested funds for the 2021 budget year, and the re-allocation of funds for the 2022 operating budget be approved.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: This we're going to clean up a little bit. The Resolution you have before you was amended in the subcommittee. I will read the whereas clause that it pertains to. Gentlemen, it is at the very end, so when I get there, I will slow down.

WHEREAS, the scope and agenda of the CENTCOM will evolve over the next several months and years, and will include, but not be limited to, creation of the SAL Strategic Plan, in-depth assessment at all facets in its operations and health of the organization, coordination and interaction with all levels of the organization and that The American Legion, with reporting responsibility to the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion and to the Past National Commanders Advisory Board.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: Gentleman, it was amended in the subcommittee that we are going to strike Past National Commanders Advisory Board and substitute in, as you see in your papers, the Sons of the American Legion Oversight Committee of the American Legion Internal Affairs Commission. It was approved for that amendment. That Resolution comes Joseph Paviglianti, Chair of the Ad-hoc Century Committee. It was approved by Bill Clancy, Chairman of Internal Affairs, and Bill Hill, Chairman of Finance.

I will make this motion. This motion is to approve the Resolution as amended. Commander, you have a motion on the floor.

ANEC MICHAEL COTTON (DE): Mike Cotton Alternate, NEC Detachment of Delaware, seconds.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: There's a motion on the floor by Chris Cook to adopt Resolution No. 6 as amended, duly seconded. Is there any discussion on this?

NECMAN BILL KELLY (FL): Bill Kelly, NEC, Florida, While I have certain objections to this Resolution, after sitting in on the Internal Affairs, the Finance Committee and as a member of the Resolutions Subcommittee, I have come to have a better understanding of this Resolution relating to the information September 16 from the Internal Affairs of the American Legion.

There was a lot of discussion on that amongst the NEC's, and a lot of the NEC's took this as an affront to our organization because it felt that the NEC was being taken out of it. But this Resolution, sitting on this, has made me understand that moving into the future, this CENTCOM Committee replacing the old committees that there were in place will help us move on.

And as such, I voted to pass this on from the subcommittee so the Resolution could be adopted or be debated by the NEC. And I'm requesting every NEC man read this over, look at it and think about what we are actually doing here. It's very important. Thank you very much, Commander.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, I will call for the vote.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER RICK COOK (OK): Rick Cook, Past National Commander Oklahoma, this committee does not answer to a Commission, and all other committees that we have currently report to a Commission, and it's my belief that it should be under some Commission somewhere.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Is there any other discussion? There's a motion on the floor by Chris Cook to adopt Resolution No. 6, as amended, seconded by Mike Cotton. Is there any other discussion on this?

With no other discussion, I will call for the vote. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay. Go for a roll call vote. So roll call vote will be voting members only. That is your NEC or your alternate, whoever is here, not both of them, but whoever is present, that's who has the vote.

When you're called, please stand and speak loudly. We don't need everybody to the microphone, but please stand and speak loudly so everybody can hear your vote.

Roll Call

...Commission Chairman Chris Cook called the roll of the National Executive Committee as follows:

Alabama, No
Alaska, No
Arizona, Yes
Arkansas, Yes
California, Yes
Colorado, No
Connecticut, Yes
Delaware, Yes
Florida, Yes
France, Yes
Georgia, Yes
Hawaii, Yes
Idaho, Yes
Illinois, Yes
Indiana, No
Iowa, No
Kansas, Yes
Kentucky, No
Louisiana, Yes
Maine, Yes
Maryland, Yes
Massachusetts, Yes
Minnesota, Yes
Mississippi, Yes
Missouri, Yes
Montana, Yes
Nebraska, Yes

New Hampshire, Yes
New Mexico, Yes
New York, Yes
North Carolina, Yes
Ohio, No
Oklahoma, No
Oregon, Yes
Pennsylvania, No
Puerto Rico, No
South Carolina, Yes
Texas, No
Vermont, Yes
Virginia, Yes
Washington, No
West Virginia, No
Wisconsin, No
Wyoming, No

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: I'm just going to back through one more time the detachments that didn't answer District of Columbia, Nevada, North Dakota, Philippines, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah. Commander, that completes the roll, and Scott is going to give you the totals.

NATIONAL ASSISTANT ADJUTAN WILLIAMS: We have 29 detachments in favor and 15 opposed.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Motion carries. At this time, we'll move into Finance report. Bill, are you with us? On deck will be Legislative, followed by Public Media and Communications, then VA&R, and VE&E.

Oral Report of Finance Commission William Hill, Maryland

Good morning, Gentlemen. I know this is the most exciting part of your day, the numbers. Show me the money, and I'm glad to be here. Glad, Commander, recognized where I was sitting as he told me to que up and get ready. So I'm glad I was sitting there.

Just real quick, our national Finance Commission started yesterday at 10:15. Before I go into the details of it, I want to welcome and thank our member Gary Nelson from New Jersey and I also want to welcome and welcome the reappointment of Steven Honigfort from Ohio back into the Commission. I also want to thank the entire Commission on what they did on Friday and Saturday doing all of the vouchers and sending all of that stuff out there. They did a phenomenal job.

I'm just the, I would say, pretty face up here in front of them, but I'm the face of the Commission. So that's what you get up here for that, but I do want to thank all of the guys out there for a job well done. It's an excellent job. Thank you, guys, for everything you did.

I also want to go into in our meeting overall. Our meeting discussed the six resolutions that you've heard came through Finance. All of them were approved with one and that is Resolution 6. It had conditions on that Resolution, and as you'll have in your minutes, you'll note, the breakout of that resolution, we requested additional details of that. To make sure we're meeting our fiduciary responsibilities for the organization when we got the initial request, we said please tell us how you want to spend these funds, so we don't give you a blanket, here go spend what you want.

So we did authorize the entire \$150,000 with a caveat on the 20 percent to be determined allocation. That 20 percent or \$30,000, we've got and noted as in the notes here, we requested additional details as to how you want to allocate those funds, again, what you're going to need to provide that information to us before the spring NEC. The Commission will look at it and review that information then and we'll make a final determination on that last 30,000 at the spring NEC.

That allows the entire resolution to move forward, but only allocations at this time of \$120,000 of that to be allocated against the four-line items that you see that are outlined in this report. So that will move that forward.

The second part that I want to make sure I clarified and that I mentioned earlier when we were talking about Resolution 5 for the 50th Convention is these are going to be an reallocation of funds. There's no new expenditures. We're not adding any new expenditures. This is going to be a reallocation of funds that we already had allocated in the line items.

The items for 2021, we're going to come out of what we consider the operational support budget, that line item, with \$640,000 sitting in there. We've had nothing removed from that in the past two years. So we're going to extract from that. We're going to take out for 2021, as you note here, we're going to take 100,000 out of that in 2021, allocate to the two-line items for Resolutions 5 and 6, which is the 50th for CENTCOM to cover their expenditures for 2021.

We're going to do similar adjustments in the 2022 budget to cover the entire \$150,000 that was requested from the CENTCOM to cover their allocations. It's nothing new. It's going to come out of the existing operational support line item of 640,000. We'll deduct 150 from that and just adjust that line item.

So, again, there is no net new increase at all to expenditures. It's just a reallocation and readjustment of all of those funds. That is also outlined in your minutes. I want to make sure it was very clear and if you guys had any details on that, hopefully that will eliminate or at least minimize the questions in that area.

We had one guest in attendance, the leading candidate Chris Carlton who brought greetings and thanked the Commission for everything we were doing and a great job and extended that -- he's already asking for his year, too.

And, Chris, thank you for that bottle of champagne, my wife loved it. Thank you very much. She'll be back next year, too. She wanted to let you know so just in case if that helps any.

At that time there was a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting concluded at 10:41 a.m. Commander, that is my report.

...Commission Chairman Clancy submitted the report of the Finance Commission.

Finance Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am on October 2, 2021 in the Illinois Room

of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William G. Hill (MD, 2023)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>William G. Hill (MD, 2023)</u>	Members:	<u>Greg Price (MI, 2022)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Dennis M. Blue, MN, 2022)</u>		<u>Steve Honigfort (OH, 2023)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Robert J. Avery (NY)</u>		<u>Robert Thompson (SC, 2024)</u>
	National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Gary Nelson (NJ, 2024)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Not Present</u>		

Guests: David Page (NJ), Dominic Inzerma (NJ), Bob Brown (GA), PNC Rick Cook (OK), PNC Kevin Winkelmann (TX), William Clancy (NY), William Kelly (FL), Larry "Bird" Weinzirl (MD), Jay Cook (OK), Brandon Curry (KY), Ned Fox (CA)

Chairman Hill led the members in a salute to the Flag followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Commission reviewed the FY 2021 Year to Date report. The report was accepted on a motion made by Dennis Blue which was seconded by Gary Nelson.

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2021
Title: Recognizing Recipients of the "Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award"
Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission

A motion made by Robert Thompson to approve the resolution as submitted was seconded by Steve Honigfort and carried.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2021
Title: Create the "Squadron Commander of the Year Award"
Origin: Membership Committee

A motion made by Dennis Blue to approve the resolution as submitted was seconded by Gary Nelson and carried.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2021
Title: Funding for the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
Origin: 50th Convention Commemoration Committee

A motion made by Gary Nelson to approve the resolution as submitted was seconded by Robert Thompson and carried.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2021
Title: Creation of Standing Committee and Funding for Century Committee (CENTCOM)
Origin: Ad-hoc Century Committee / National Commander Michael Fox

A motion made by Dennis Blue to approve the resolution as submitted was seconded by Steve Honigfort and carried.

Discussion: Dennis Blue questioned the \$30,000 allocated as TBD. The resolution was passed with the exceptions noted below:

Resolution 6 Breakout	% of Allocation	\$150,000
Travel for Committee Meetings	20%	\$30,000
Travel to Regional Meetings	20%	\$30,000
Third Party Assistance	25%	\$37,500
Support of Data Information Collection/Collation	15%	<u>\$22,500</u>
		\$120,000

- To Be Determined 20% \$30,000
- Note: Finance Commission approved the allocation of \$150k, with a hold on the \$30k outlined as To Be Determined. Requiring additional details to actual expenditure to be provided to the National Finance Commission prior to the Spring NEC 2022. The National Finance Commission will hold a special meeting to review the details and make a final determination, to be recommended to be made at the Spring NEC 2022.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2021
 Title: Donation of \$500,000.00 to the Veterans and Children Foundation from the S.A.L. Reserve Fund
 Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission / National Commander Michael Fox

A motion made by Robert Thompson to approve the resolution as submitted was seconded by Gary Nelson and carried.

No. S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2021
 Title: Donation of \$130,000.00 to American Legion Baseball from the S.A.L. Reserve Fund
 Origin: Americanism Commission / National Commander Michael Fox

A motion made by Dennis Blue to approve the resolution as submitted was seconded by Steve Honigfort and carried.

Resolution Outcome Details:

Budget Adjustments based on Resolutions

FY '21 Budget

Operational Support Services	\$640,000
Fall NEC - Resolution 5 Adjustment	(\$75,000)
Fall NEC - Resolution 6 Adjustment	(\$25,000)
	<u>\$540,000</u>

FY '21 Budget

Add Line Item - CentCom	\$25,000
Adjust 50th Convention	\$75,000
	<u>\$100,000</u>

FY '22 Budget

Operational Support Services	\$640,000
Fall NEC Resolution 6 Adjustment	(\$150,000)
	<u>\$490,000</u>

FY '22 Budget

Add Line Item - CentCom	\$150,000
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For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission and thanked them for their hard work.

A motion made by Gary Nelson to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Greg Price and carried.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman William G. Hill (MD, 2023) adjourned the meeting
at 10:41 am .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there's no discussion or questions on the Finance report, we will move to file. Hearing no discussion, Finance report move to file. Thank you.

While our next guy is coming up here, can I have all of the dual members or veterans please stand up for a moment?

(Applause)

So for me personally, I want to say thank you for what you've done for me and my family because without the sacrifice of the veterans, I wouldn't be able to do what I do and I wouldn't feel safe for my kids. So for all seven of my children, my lovely soon to be bride. The only difference is I guess is a piece of paper. She's got the bank account.

So I want to say thank you to all of you. Thank you very much. Tom, go ahead sir.

Oral Report of Legislative Commission

Thomas Deal, Maryland

Good morning.

...The National Executive Council responded, "Good morning!"

COMMISSIN CHAIRMAN DEAL: The Legislative Commission meet Friday at 10:23 a.m., actually Saturday. Let me start off again. The Legislative Commission met Saturday, October 2 at 10:23 a.m. Three Commission members in attendance, one excused, one vacancy and a guest.

I do want to introduce our vice chairman, Blair Miles, please stand, member Bernie Kessler, David Lee, Richard Humphrey and the newest one that was put on today, David Sousa. Thank you, guys, you do a great job, but everything you do I couldn't do it without you.

Opening ceremonies were performed. We do have a little bit of old business. The George B. Evans Veterans Advocate of the Year Award was announced in Phoenix at the National Convention, and Gilbert Mares of Squadron 43 Detachment of California won this award. At this time, we'd like to present his cap. I know he's not here, but I asked Ned Fox if he could accept this cap for him, if he would please come forward.

This is a cap that you get engraved and there's a lot of guys out there doing a lot of great work to earn this cap. We need more nominees for this cap. Ned, I want to thank you for submitting this name and accepting this award on behalf of Gilbert Mares.

NED FOX: Thank you. Guys, I know a lot of you have been on the conference calls over the past year, prior years, come on, we all have those advocates out there in each detachment.

Let's submit, let's make this award even tougher for the Legislative Commission. Thank you, guys.

(Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN DEAL: Thank you. We've been asking everyone to set up, sign up for alerts and at the voter voice. Right now if you get on the American Legion voter voice, there's five items on there that you can send a note to your senators and congressmen by simply clicking the button, putting your address and your name and you can get to all five of them within two minutes. It will send a notice out.

I do want to just highlight what those five are on here just to pique your interest. The first one is buddy checks, and there's a lot more information on that. If you click on it, you'll see all the information associated with it.

Buddy checks, provide for veterans affected by toxic exposure and burn pits, open the VA to all World War II veterans exempted by the Veterans Healthcare Eligibility Act of 1996. No. 4 is demanding the GI bill for reserve and national guard. And No. 5 is share legislative priorities with your members of Congress.

Those are five things that I don't know about anybody else in this room, but I've told everyone in my meeting no one has received an alert from voter voice. I've been preaching all year since up for voter voice.

So I'm going to get an answer as to why the SAL is not getting notifications on voter voice or if it's simply not working at all. So that's one of the questions that David Lee had asked. So we'd like to get an answer to that question because it's very -- we need to get this done. We need to speak up and help our veterans. This one way we can do it very easily.

If you need help, feel free to call me, e-mail me. It's not hard. If you go right to your Google search American Legion voter voice will take you right to their site and very easily you can see where you're at. Like I said, if you need help, call me. It's an easy way to help our veterans.

I want to talk about the Washington Conference. It's announced as February 27 to March 2 with the tours of the memorials on February 27. The bus schedule will be coming out as soon as we get it finished. We're still working some details out of that. But the Arlington wreath laying will be 11:15 on that day. We do know that right now.

Goals for this year, Legislation Commission got new goals for this year, increase the George B. Evans Award. You saw us give that cap away. We had four nominees. We need more nominees this year. The Commander gave us a stiff amount that he wants us to have, and I think we can do it. I'm hoping we can do it. We're going to try.

We need to increase the number of detachments legislative chairman. We need your name if you're a detachment legislative chairman. Detachment commanders please send me, e-mail me, your detachment legislative chairman so we can get their information.

And the last is increased participation in Washington Conference and plan another event. We had 29 detachments participate the last time we were able to do it. So we're looking for more. We can make this happen. That's some goals that we can accomplish. I just need your help.

Conference calls for the Legislative Commission are bimonthly starting in December. Commander Fox did address the Commission and acknowledged the changes this year for the betterment of the organization and emphasized legislative goals for the year. And the meeting was adjourned in proper format at 11:59.

Mr. Commander, that's my report.

...Commission Chairman Deal submitted the report of the Legislative Commission.

Legislative Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:23 AM on October 2, 2021 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD, 2023)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Thomas G. Deal (MD, 2023)</u>	Members:	<u>David Lee (NY, 2022) – Excused</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Blair Miles (AL, 2024)</u>		<u>Richard Humphrey (CO, 2022) – Absent</u>
Secretary:	<u>Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)</u>		<u>Bernie Kessler (OH, 2023)</u>
	National Assistant Adjutant		<u>David Rippe (NE, 2024) – Resigned</u>
Liaison:	<u>Michael Moss (CO) – Absent</u>		<u>David Sousa (NV, 2024) – To be approved</u>
	Past National Commander	P.R. Liaison	
Guests:	<u>Robert Bascou (NJ); Joe Wysochanski (PA); Don Hall, Jr. (MD); Ray Jarvis (NY); H. Larry Steele (MT); and Mark McCue (MA); 10:30 AM - Greg Spaulding (IN); 10:49 AM – William D. Kelly (FL)</u>		

Opening Prayer: Vice Chairman Blair Miles (AL, 2024) invoked the blessing of God.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Deal (MD).

Introductions: Led by Chairman Deal (MD). Both Commission members and meeting attendees went around the room and introduced themselves. Those in attendance so noted above. David Lee (NY) was at the Commander’s Class, so he was excused. Chairman Deal (MD) introduced National Assistant Adjutant Hicks (NJ) as the Commission’s new Secretary, the successor for David Ridenour (IL), who retired as a National Assistant Adjutant at the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix, AZ, after many years of service to the National SAL.

Reports of Members:

None given at this time.

Old Business:

Chairman Deal (MD) spoke on the **George B. Evans Grassroots Advocate of the Year Award**. Gilbert Mares from Hollywood Squadron 43, Detachment of California, won the award for last year and was announced on stage at National Convention in Phoenix. We need more nominees this year. Since Gilbert could not attend National Convention in Phoenix, Chairman Deal (MD) hoped to present the award to Gilbert on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at the closing session of the 2021 Fall NEC meeting.

Chairman Deal (MD) continued to report on the **VoterVOICE Action Center**, www.votervoice.net/americanlegion/home If you go to The American Legion voterVOICE site, you will see 5 Action Items that you can very easily send Congress and your representatives asking for their support. They are:

1. Tell your Senators and Representatives to Support Buddy Check Week, S.4657/H.R.2898 today. Campaign to encourage members to email their representatives and senators in support of a bill that would require VA to designate one week a year as Buddy Check Week (modeled directly after TAL Buddy Check Program).
-
2. Provide for Veterans Affected by Toxic Exposure, S952 This past year we talked a lot about The Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act would cover a wide range of cancers and respiratory illnesses as presumptive conditions, including: asthma that was diagnosed after service, head cancer of any type, neck cancer of any type, respiratory cancer of any type, gastrointestinal cancer of any type, reproductive cancer of any type, lymphoma cancer of any type, lymphomatic cancer of any type, kidney cancer, brain cancer, melanoma, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, emphysema, granulomatous disease, interstitial lung disease, pleuritis, pulmonary fibrosis, sarcoidosis.
-

3. Open the VA to all WWII Veterans The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all veterans who served during the Mexican Border Period and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. It is time to do the same for our World War II veterans.
 -
4. Demand the GI Bill for Reserve and National Guard
 -
5. Share the American Legion’s Legislative Priorities with your members of congress

In the absence of Commission member David Lee (NY), Chairman Deal (MD) inquired from those in attendance how many had registered for VoterVOICE Action Center? How many have received notice about the five (5) legislative items above? Nobody in attendance received the notices. Most had registered for VoterVOICE but are not receiving notices about important legislation pending in Congress. Chairman Deal (MD) was concerned that The American Legion may not be including the SAL on these notices. Need to confirm.

National Assistant Adjutant Hicks (NJ) informed Chairman Deal (MD) of the following items that lingered from the Spring 2021 NEC meeting minutes for the Commission’s renewed consideration:

Discussion about slides - they have some old ones that were submitted to strategic planning. David Lee (NY) said they have someone that was interested in updating them and asked if he could let the process get started and make it look new. Chairman Deal (MD) said that he was interested if he wanted to do it. He will get the old slides to him so he can change them, update them, and add to them. [Follow-up: Chairman Deal (MD) stated the slides are in progress as far as he knew. No new update to provide.]

Chairman Deal (MD) said that S.A.L. Resolution 12 – Fall, 2020 regarding call-In approval for the S.A.L National Chaplain to the Washington Conference was returned to the Commission by the N.E.C. at the Fall Meeting, pending the outcome of The American Legion’s call-ins review. [Follow-up: Chairman Deal (MD) stated the resolution was pulled by the Legislative Commission and would not be going forward.]

Bernie Kessler (OH, 2023) questioned the future status of Resolution 12 – Fall, 2020 after learning what was said at the Opening Session of the Fall 2021 NEC meeting earlier this morning, whereby the Legion is allowing the SAL to have more leeway to run its own operations but would remain a program of the Legion. Chairman Deal (MD) agreed that knowing what we just learned earlier today, there may be renewed hope for Resolution 12. Time will certainly tell. Chairman Deal (MD) revealed that only the chairman and vice chairman of Legislation received a call-in for Washington Conference. All other Commission members attend out-of-pocket. There is much to do at Washington Conference that requires the entire Commission to be present, not just the chairman and vice chairman. Finance was not the cause for withdrawing the resolution. The issue was that the Legion wanted the Commission to give up a call-in to an NEC meeting in exchange for a call-in to Washington Conference. The Commission believed this counterproposal was not in its favor, so the resolution was withdrawn.

New Business:

Chairman Deal (MD) discussed the following items:

The Legislative Commission received **new goals for this year** from National Commander Fox (CA). **Legislative Goal 1:** Increase Detachment Legislative Commissions; **Goal 2:** Increase submissions to 20 for the George B. Evans Veterans Advocate of the Year Award; **Goal 3:** Increase SAL participation in the Washington Conference and plan another event. In 2019, 29 Detachments participated in Washington Conference.

Washington Conference will be Sunday, February 27 – Wednesday, March 2, 2022, with the tours on Sunday, February 27, 2022. Bus schedule draft is submitted, and we would like some feedback. Meetings Monday, Commanders call and know before you go on Tuesday. Commander’s Testimonial to Congress on Wednesday. Full schedule will be published closer to conference. There will again be a group tram pass at Arlington. Regular rate is \$15 per person. Group rate is \$11 per person. Group tram pass will be given out as a group, so we can bypass the sales office window.

Greg Spaulding (IN) commented that it should be stressed to all Arlington visitors that they need to **bring a government issued photo identification**. Without one, visitors will not gain entry. Greg recommended the photo id requirement be indicated on the reservation form to get the word out.

Wreaths cost the same \$150.00 each. Box Lunches are still \$8.00. Form needs to be submitted by Thursday, February 10, 2022. **No form nor check, no wreath, no lunch.**

Conference Calls are Bi-monthly on the 1st Thursday of month in December, February, April, June, and August. **Call-in numbers are (712) 775-7031 | Access Code: 988 284 103#** | Chairman Deal (MD) believed the start time would 7:00 PM Eastern Time, but this needed to be confirmed. No call in October since so close to the Fall 2021 NEC Meeting. Meeting schedule to be broadcasted across the country via email.

A bill before Congress is Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2021. Bill S.189 — 117th Congress (2021-2022). This bill has been sent to the President's Office for signature on September 27, 2021. This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase the amounts payable for wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Specifically, the VA must increase the amounts by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in benefits for Social Security recipients that is effective on December 1, 2021. The bill requires the VA to publish the amounts payable, as increased, in the Federal Register. The VA is authorized to make a similar adjustment to the rates of disability compensation payable to persons who have not received compensation for service-connected disability or death. Please take time to thank your senators and representatives for their support on this bill.

Vice Chairman Blair Miles (AL, 2024) announced that he would be the Detachment of Alabama's legislative representative.

Commission Member Bernie Kessler (OH, 2023) reminded about next year's midterm elections. He suggested focusing on the candidates running for office to get our message of support for veterans out into the political arena. Research their legislative agenda. See what the candidates' legislative priorities are. Follow their candidacies.

Don Hall, Jr. (MD) exited the meeting room at 10:45 AM.

Commission Member Bernie Kessler (OH, 2023) spoke about Ohio Congressman Anthony Gonzalez, Republican, and his decision not to seek re-election. He voted to impeach Trump. Ohio Senator Rob Portman, Republican, decided not to seek re-election and now there are about seven (7) candidates running for his open seat in the Primary. Not to mention, several Democrats have thrown their names into the ring also.

Ray Jarvis (NY) mentioned that some states are in the process or will be soon redistricting congressional districts based on the 2020 Census. New York will be losing either one (1) to two (2) congressional seats due to redistricting. Greg Spaulding (IN) announced that Indiana will be redistricting. Ray Jarvis (NY) thought that Florida was gaining a congressional seat.

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

At 10:49 AM, National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Commission. He acknowledged a lot of changes happening at the National SAL level. Hopefully for the better. Our SAL program cannot sit idle and yet hope to progress into the future in a positive direction. We can learn a great deal from change if we have an open mind and are willing to step out of our comfort zone. Speaking of changes, Commander Fox emphasized the goals set forth for the Legislative Commission this year. As an example, the SAL program could be doing more at Washington Conference. We need to balance our business meetings with community engagement. If we need more buses at Washington Conference, Commander Fox pledged to do whatever he can to help facilitate that request.

Chairman Deal (MD) informed Commander Fox that he was actively looking for cemeteries (outside of Arlington) in the Washington, D.C. area to place flags on those veterans' graves while at the Washington Conference.

William D. Kelly (FL), having arrived at the end of the meeting, spoke on legislative initiatives being pursued in Florida. Unfortunately, Bill can no longer serve on the Legislative Commission due to his new role as the NEC for the Detachment of Florida. But Bill still pledged to be on the Legislative calls throughout the year to stay abreast of new legislative efforts.

William D. Kelly (FL) provided a brief update on J. J. Jennings' health status. The Commission was thinking about him and wished him well with his recovery.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, _____ Chairman Thomas G. Deal (MD, 2023) _____ adjourned the meeting at 10:59 AM .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there's no objection, we will move the Legislative Commission to file. No objection, move to file. Matt, Public and Media Communications. On deck will be Seth Rippe for VA&R and VE&E with Joseph Navarrete.

**Oral Report of Public and Media Communications Commission
Matthew Parsons, California**

So here begins your audience participation part of your performance of your afternoon. So I need your help. So obviously everybody in this room is half asleep from their festivals and whatnot last night. Where are the pinkie boys?

So let me introduce the Commission. It starts with two stomps and a clap, and I need everybody in here to help me do this and make this work really well. Otherwise, I'll just be here all by myself looking stupid.

(Stomp and clapping)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN PARSONS: So we're a terrible band. We've got Jen Thorough on keyboards. We've got Kevin Chaplin on drums. We've got Doug Heiser on bass. We've got Brandon Roberts on the key tar. We gave him a really cool instrument. We've got Doug Evans on rhythm guitar. We've got Mark McCue on lead guitar. And I'll take vocals.

All right. Enough of that. So Public and Media Communication, we operate under the three C's, right, content, communication and inspiration. I couldn't think of another C, and I wanted to test if you were actually asleep or awake.

So content, this year we're going to push content in a very positive way on social media putting out videos, putting out new and interesting content for people as they open up their social media. We realize that a lot of people turn to social media to give themselves peace and joy in their day. And they turn to social media in times when they may be experiencing something dark in their life.

We've already gone through the veteran suicide rate of 22 per day. Sometimes that one might be when they turn on their social media and realize that there's positive content coming out of the organization that they're a part of, and we are going to put positive content in play on social media platforms.

We recorded a couple of videos yesterday that will be edited down and put out. The center of those two videos is to get outside of our four walls. You've heard Commander Fox talk about getting outside of our four walls, and our video content this year is going to aim to do that.

So the first video is basically kind of every man video. It introduces people without their names. It tells you what they do for a living without their cap on their head, and it says I work in

mortgage finance and I'm a member of the Sons of the American Legion. And it's just that simple relate ability that we're going to put out a video series that touches people in ways that are relatable, make the Sons relatable in jobs that they do. They may sit there and go you know what, that's something is for me.

The other video that we're going to do or that we recorded yesterday is a promise video. And basically what you see in veterans, you see promises that are not kept all the time. But we as Sons of the American Legion, our mission is to honor those veterans and we promise to be worth those sacrifices that those families make, those veterans make, and the video is aimed at that, promising to be worth that sacrifice.

Goals this year, we have six lofty goals. They're all centered around helping brand our organization and taking our organization to the next step. We've set out the tasks under those goals. We're going to hit all of those metrics and we're going to knock those goals out of the park.

There's some things that we have to do that will help streamline convention, fun things, positive things, directional things, social media things, website. We're potentially talking about developing an app that is actually a game that kids Dominick's age can actually play and enjoy. And at the end of it, it's a call to action to either join, renew your membership or learn more information about the Sons or the American Legion family, good stuff.

Snapshots of service will be back. We'll be supporting Flying Flags for Heroes. We're going to have brainstorming sessions. We're going to have a Google calendar that Seth Ripple started last year. We're going to put out a Google calendar and a hard calendar as well that will be e-mailed out to NEC's.

We expect you guys in the NEC to be our boots on the ground and get that information down to your detachments and down to your squadrons. We want the information to go out as far down as it possibly can go and that's going to be largely on your shoulders.

The second C was communication. We're going to drive communication in positive directions and positive ways, keep the conversation relevant. You heard Mr. Cassell talk about the rebranding of our log. This is a great step. I'm going to work with Dean and we're going to get a Sons' version of that so that we can put that out and maybe if Jimmy Johnson signs up as a member, he might just kind of slyly walk by and slap a Sons sticker on the side of that car for free.

So the last one is inspire. So we come to these meetings two a year. We've got two, and then we also see each other at national conventions, and it's great to be back in person. But that role of inspiration rests on all of us. If we don't leave here all of us are trying to hurry and catch a flight and check out at noon -- by the way there is no wiggle room on that -- we all have to catch that same time limit.

Now, if we don't leave here completely inspired by one another, we have failed. We have failed in this meeting. We should leave here completely charged to run that wall, if that wall was on fire, and be inspired to be better, to be better for veterans, be better for their families.

We get around. We socialize. We drink. We have camaraderie. It lasts all weekend. But how many of us in this room know why you joined. I know why Michael joined. He was made to. His dad enlisted him when he was born.

But how many of us actually know the passion of why you joined this organization. Get at those levels, get at those levels of discussion in their camaraderie so that you can get at the passion because it's the passion that keeps people showing up. It's that passion that Dave Page

drags his grandson here, but why is Dominick going to -- along the lines, he's going to get his own passion and hear something from this room or somebody that's going to keep him interested.

If we can't get to that level of passion, then we've got a job to do, and it starts right there. Public and Media Communication is going to try to get at that passion, and they're going to try to find ways to harness your passion and inspire you to do more. Do more for veterans, do more for their families, do more for the communities. You can always do more to save one life. Do it, be it, live it. This is our brand. This is our brand. You know, Commander Fox has said that he wants to come to your detachment, but he doesn't want to sit in meetings. He wants to get out in the public. Why, because it's this that matters.

If you put 50 covers on guys' heads and you go to a Red Sox's game, it's going to get noticed. It's going to be relevant because somebody is going to go look at these goofy guys, you know, what on earth is that. It starts that conversation. It's that conversation, especially if you're with Cliff, then it's way goofy. I'll take my 20 bucks after this.

But the point is the same. We've got to be better for each other. We are our brother's keeper, iron sharpens iron and it makes us all better. It makes it us all stronger. Our committee met at 10:28 on Saturday and We adjourned at about noon.

Sorry, guys, I went a little long, but honestly we're going to do some great things this year and it's going to be an exciting time. So I hope you guys leave here completely inspired by one another and are ready to do anything for this organization. So that's my report.

...Commission Chairman Parsons submitted the report of the Public and Media Communications Commission.

Public and Media Communications Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:26 am on October 2, 2021 in the Circle West Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Matthew F. Parsons (CA, 2022).

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Matthew F. Parsons (CA, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>Kevin Chaplin (VA, 2023)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Mark B. McCue (MA, 2022)</u>		<u>Doug Heiser (IN, 2023)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott J. Thornton (OH)</u>		<u>Brandon Roberts (GA, 2024)</u>
	<u>National Assistant Adjutant</u>		<u>Doug Evans (KS, 2024)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Thomas Cisna (IL) - Absent</u>		
	<u>Past National Commander</u>	Webmaster:	<u>Gene Theroux (MA)</u>
Guests:	<u>Cliff Boyer (PA); J. Bruce Ruthven (NY); Lenny Free (NJ); Chris Affolter (AR); Henry Cleveland (VT); Ray Samko (MA); Jacob McCarty (WV); Dennis Henkemeyer (MN); PNC Kevin Collier(AK); NVC-S Jason Roberts (GA); Jack Youngs (ID)</u>		

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Parsons declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Matt Parsons: The focus of the Commission is to promote content and let the world know who we are and what do. We want to push what has been done in the past and get the organization's identity out there. We want to

record short videos about the organization and publish them to increase our visibility. We should record Sons at events in the community to demonstrate what we do in service. Social media can be a great benefit in promoting our efforts for the organization to the public, but we need to avoid all of the politics and negative posts.

Goals for this year:

- Revamp the national website to include detachment newsletters
- Improve accessibility to update the content by our webmaster
- Improve the branding of national publications from the S.A.L. – Much of what goes out currently is prominently branded with The American Legion, the S.A.L. name isn't as visible and much of our content isn't viewed because it doesn't look like it's ours.
- Digitize the *National Update*
- Increase member email by 50% and increase member contact – we need to know where we are today as a base.
- Create a photo booth at the national convention to be fun and functional
- Redevelop the S.A.L. mobile app to be informative and useful – in the style of “choose your own adventure” stories (we need an app developer)
- Snapshots of Service will continue to be a focus to highlight our members doing things in their communities

Monthly Conference Calls

- A common Google Calendar will be maintained and updated with current meeting details
- Working to standardize on a meeting solution

Flying Flags For Heroes

- National Commander Michael Fox's project

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. Not everyone likes getting a pat on the back, but we do need to work hard at getting our name and activities out there for the public to be informed. That publicity can help in keeping members active and getting potential members interested in joining.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, _____ Chairman Matthew F. Parsons (CA, 2022) adjourned the meeting
at 12:01 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no objections, we will move the Public and Media Communications Commission report to file.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER DEAKIN: Mr. Commander, Past National Commander Mike Deakin, I have no problem with that. My problem is I think when Dennis Boland came in, we missed MT&D under the Internal Affairs report. I'd like to know how the class went yesterday for the commanders, and I haven't heard anything.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: We will be getting to MT&D. No objections, Public and Media Communications report move to file.

Oral Report of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Seth Rippe

Mr. Commander, Past National Commanders, distinguished guests and fellow Sons, I'd like to start by recognizing the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission that met yesterday for the purpose of business. Our vice chairman Joseph Roberts from Arizona, Gab Cinquegrana from New York, Robert Manzo from Maryland, Eddy Seegers, Jr., from Texas and Richard Pond, Jr., from New Hampshire.

Gentlemen, our theme for the year is leadership through action, not through position. I've sure you've heard the expression actions speak louder than words. I can tell you what we want to accomplish as a Commission today, but the real measure of success is whether or not come National Convention next year we actually achieved what we set out to do.

In an effort to measure ourselves, Commander Fox has asked the Committees and the Commissions to establish some goals for the year. The VA&R Commission will be focusing on the following goals this year.

First, to promote Veterans National Assistant Day May 16. Established in 2018 to underscore the importance of our work on behalf of those who served, we will be asking how do you celebrate VNA Day in May.

Last year on the CSR's we logged 1,804 hours and \$12,529 in donations to VNA. Using an electronic and social media campaign, we will bring awareness to this day and aim to increase both of those by 20 percent.

Second, we want to increase the Charles Rigsby Volunteer of the Year to 20 applicants. Gentlemen, last year we only had three applicants. I know there's a lot of more work being done out there. Now that by no means diminishes what those individuals did. In fact, I want to congratulate James Coats, last year's winner. Gentlemen, a round of applause for him.

(Applause)

What he was able to achieve during a pandemic when things were shut down, when we weren't able to get into place, what he achieved should be inspiring to all of us. I know that you can think of that one individual back home who's doing the same thing. He doesn't do it for the recognition, but wouldn't it be great to honor him by nominating him for the volunteer of the year award.

Finally, our last goal is to increase our VA reps and depts by ten percent nationally. At National Convention, Chairman Ray announced that we had 35 reps and depts at 155 VA facilities across the nation. Today, 28.

The Commission is already beginning to identify areas of opportunities to improve the approval process, to make quarterly meetings more accessible and to create some Sons' specific reps and depts handbooks.

Now, these goals are not the only areas we will be focusing on this year. We will continue to join the regional calls and have our own monthly call that will be on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time starting in October. We will disseminate information from the VA as well as share various VA programs from across the country, like the Fisher House, Operation Comfort Warrior, My Life or My Story.

One such program that you may remember previous Chairman Butch Ray discussing comes out of the detachment of California, Helmets for Heroes. You've probably seen these before, but I just want to reiterate what an inventive program this is. It's simple. You put these banks in your posts, in local restaurants, coffee shops, even on your own dresser. You'd be amazed how much a little change adds up.

Last year during a pandemic while multiple businesses were still closed, California collected over \$48,000 for VA programs. That is great.

(Applause)

If you have programs like this back in your detachment or in your squadron, let us know and then we'll utilize the PMCC to make sure that we, through the various platforms we have available to us at the national level, then make sure that everybody knows about these programs because everybody out there can take advantage of these things.

Under new business, we discussed Resolution 7 fall 2021, which will be read shortly in support of American Legion National Commander's Dillard's project for the year, the Veterans and Children's Foundation, the VCF. That's what we collected some money for yesterday, Gentlemen. The VCF provides vital support for military and veterans parents in unexpected financial crisis and support for American Legion service officers in their efforts to obtain care and earn benefits for the opportunities for disabled veterans in their families.

So you're going to hear a little more about that in the resolution. Is James Coats in the room? Can you please approach the podium for the purpose of a presentation?

While he's approaching, I also want an opportunity to recognize Gabe. Hopefully, all of you know by now, but Gabe was named the VA Male Volunteer of the Year Award. This is the very first time that the Sons has received this honor. And since last spring, we held this virtually, and Gabe was not able to make the National Convention. I want to give a round of applause to congratulate him in person for his award.

(Applause)

Thank you, Gabe, for all you do for us and our veterans. Mr. Commander, please present the Rigsby Award winner his cover.

(Standing Ovation)

James, thank you for all you do for our veterans. I know that you do not do it for the recognition, but I hope you wear this cover with pride. Would you like to address the delegation and say a few words?

NECMAN JAMES COATS (NY): First of all, I'd like to thank the detachment of New York, and I just want to reiterate what's been said a couple of times already. We know we've got a lot of people out there that are deserving of these awards, but we're not getting the applications in. So please let's send those applications in in recognition of those people. Thank you.

(Applause)

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN RIPPE: I want to thank those who attended our Commission meeting yesterday and thank all of you for your participation this upcoming year. Sir, this concludes my report.

...Commission Chairman Rippe submitted the report of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am on October 2, 2021 in the Ohio Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2022)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY, 2023)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Joseph E. Roberts (AZ, 2022)</u>		<u>Robert Manzo (MD, 2023)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Scott A. Williams (VA)</u> National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Eddy Seegers, Jr. (TX, 2024)</u>
Liaison:	<u>James Hartman (MD)</u> Past National Commander		<u>Richard Pond, Jr. (NH, 2024)</u>
Guests:	William Yeagy (MD), Larry Ford (MD), Tom Klinger (FL), Steven Cox (PA), Tom Glander (AL), Matthew Thalasnor (NJ), Robert Phillips Jr. (NJ), David Rippe (NE), Gary Lang (OH), Patrick Gryskiewicz (WI)		

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Rippe declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Chairman Rippe Congratulated Gabe Cinquerana on his VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year Award.

Chairman Rippe said SAL National Commander Fox' theme for this year is Leadership through action. VA & R Goals for the 2021-22 year are 1) increased emphasis on Veterans National Assistance Day on May 16:2) Increase the Applications for the Charles Rigsby Applications to 20. Congratulations to James Coates as the winner for 2021! 3) Increase our Reps and Deps Nationally by 10 %. Commission is working on process improvement plan to make this more readily available to our younger members.

Participation in Regional Conference Calls will continue by the VA & R Commission Regional Reps. Commission Monthly Calls will continue on the 4th Monday of each month 7pm Central Time.

Chairman Rippe promoted other VA & R programs to include – Fisher House, OCW, and others previously mentioned. Chairman Rippe talked about the Helmets to Heroes program out of California.

Reports of Members:

Gabe Cinquegrana: Commission Member Cinquerana discussed the VAVS Hospital/Medical Center Representative Certification Form for the Sons of the American Legion. He also discussed the importance of VAVS Reps and Deps and how this drives SAL representation on the National Advisory Board. He also discussed the SAL VAVS Representative & Deputy Representative Handbook. Sons Reps and Deps specific guideline materials are available.

Old Business:

Recognition of Gabe Cinquerana as National VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year.

New Business:

VCF is National Commander Dillard's Project for this year.

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2021
Title: Donation of \$500,000.00 to the Veterans and Children Foundation from the S.A.L. Reserve Fund
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission / National Commander Michael Fox
Motion: Joe Roberts
Second: Eddie Seegers
Discussion: None

Action: Motion Carried.

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Chairman Rippe – thanked former chairman Ray for a smooth transition in leadership.

PNC Bolt is recovering from COVID. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. He said that this is the most important program in honoring our father’s and grandfather’s legacy.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2022) adjourned the meeting

at 11:04 am .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no objections, we will move the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission report to file minus the resolutions. So moved to file VA&R. Well, let's go to the resolutions.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall 2021
Title: Donation of \$500,000 to the Veterans and Children's Foundation from the SAL Reserve Fund.
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission
National Commander Michael Fox

WHEREAS, In the 1970s, a Sons of The American Legion Liability Account (now called the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund) was established as a restricted fund for use in the event of emergencies such as membership decline, etc., and temporary funds were needed to meet expenses; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 11-12, 2017 by N.E.C. Resolution No. 4 established a ceiling of \$750,000 (with a variance of +/- 1.5%) for the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund for each budget year ending in the month of December to be reviewed annually by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion at the Spring meetings for adequacy and from a fiscal management viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 4 adopted at the Fall, 2017 meeting of The American Legion National Executive Committee further empowers the Sons of The American Legion to request permission to transfer funds from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund to any approved charity that supports America’s veterans and youth with the approval and consent of both the Internal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund is presently over the variance established; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the National Executive Committee hereby approves the donation of \$500,000.00 from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund to The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion hereby recommends to the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion that said funds be distributed from the Sons of The American Legion Reserve Fund.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: It was approved by Chairman Seth Rippe of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, approved by Bill Hill, Chairman of Finance. It was discussed in the subcommittee, and it was approved to come before you for further actions. Commander, that is Resolution No. 7.

ANEC MICHAEL COTTON (DE): Commander, Michael Cotton, alternate NEC detachment of Delaware, would like to approve this Resolution 7, make a motion to approve.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Mike Cotton makes a motion to approve Resolution No. 7. Is there a second?

ANEC JEFF LEE (VA): Commander, Jeff Lee, alternate NEC Virginia, seconds that motion.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: We have a motion and a second. The motion is to approve Resolution No. 7, duly seconded. Is there any discussion? Any discussion? Hearing discussion, I will call for the vote. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Opposed nay. Motion carries.

Veterans Employment and Education Commission.

Oral Report of Veterans Employment and Education Commission Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete, New Mexico

Good morning gentlemen.

...The National Executive Council responded, "Good morning!"

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN NAVARRETE: The Veterans Employment and Education Commission meeting was held on Saturday, October 2 at 10:30 a.m. We had five Commission members in attendance with one excused. Our goals for the year are increasing the detachment participation by ten percent, encouraging local job fairs and employment opportunities and provided resources to end veterans' homelessness.

As the new chairman to the Commission, I would like to thank the previous chairman Tom Skelley from Texas for all of his help in the transition and over to the new Commission, as well as all of the Commission members. I would like to recognize the Commission members right now. Our vice chair who you just saw receiving an award, Mr. James Coates; Member William Sheehan, Nick Arceo, Fred Vaccarella and Doc Pfeiffer.

Our regional reports were very detailed and highlighted several key accomplishments throughout the nation. The idea brought forward not only by the Commission members, but what's happening in the regions proves that there's a lot of work going on in the VE&E Commission.

A quick discussion was held around previous presentations, the operating procedures that are currently being used to help set up VE&E Commissions within other detachments, and the Commission also working on consolidating their e-mail distribution list so they can help get out more communication more effectively.

A review of SAL Resolution No. 1, fall 2021, lead to the approval and moving forward to you, which you'll hear in just a moment. We're looking at new ideas to get more information out to all of our members and you will see a lot of changes in the coming months.

First leading candidate, Chris Carlton addressed the committee and encouraged us to keep up all of the great work. With no further business, we adjourned our meeting at 11:03. That is my report minus the resolutions.

... Commission Chairman Navarrete submitted the report of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission.

Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am on October 2, 2021 in the Circle Centre Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM, 2022)

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Joseph R. Navarrete (NM, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>William Sheehan (MA, 2022) Excused</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>James M. Coates (NY, 2023)</u>		<u>Gregory N. "Nick" Arceo (CO, 2023)</u>
Secretary:	<u>Lyle G. Larson (KS)</u> Acting National Assistant Adjutant		<u>Fredric Vaccarella (VA, 2024)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Eugene Sacco (CA) Absent</u> Past National Commander		<u>Richard M. "Doc" Pfeiffer (IN, 2024)</u>

Guests: Jeff Lee (VA), Tim Conway (OH), Robert L. Bristo (MN)

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Navarrete declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Joseph Navarrete: Thanked the Commission for all their hard work and encouraged them to continue. The mission statement was read.

The goals for this year are as follows.

Increase Detachment VE&E participation by 10%.

Encourage local job fairs and employment opportunities.

Provide resources to end Veteran's Homelessness.

Vice Chairman Jim Coates: We sent out updates and are working on getting our contacts updated. Still sending out weekly updates. Employment opportunities will be sent out to assure more people know about these things. Please make sure we nominate people who deserve to be recognized for awards that are available.

William Sheehan: No report

Nick Arceo: Working on Contact list. Communication is the key to success with this Commission. Please keep in mind to nominate deserving members for the Marvin P Nay award as well as other awards that are available. Keep trying to get

each Detachment to start a VE&E Commission. Suggested Operating Procedures information is available to help start the Detachment VE&E Commission.

Fred Vaccarella: We have started a VE&E in Virginia. We have already had 2 job fairs. Trying to get more Detachments to start a VE&E commission. We are updating our mailing list and our contact points. Trying to find different ways to help homeless Veterans get back on their feet and become self-sufficient.

Doc Pfeiffer: Trying to get contact points from all the Detachments. Sending out updates to all we have.

Old Business:

PowerPoint was created and sent to the PNC Panel for their feedback, The chairman will keep the Commission members updated on the PNC panel suggestions and will move this forward as possible.

Suggested Operating Procedures for Detachments distributed, This is now available, and it has been sent out.

Improving regional messaging distribution and how can we track information from the Detachments. We should be getting a list of VE&E Commission members from each Detachment in the coming year. In addition, we will formulate an email distribution network including the Detachment Commanders and Detachment Adjutants. Just imagine what our distribution network would look like and how many people we could reach, The Commission is working on getting this accomplished. Hope to have information available soon.

Tri-Fold Brochure is awaiting Legion approval, Working on getting the Legion suggestions accomplished. The Chairman will check on this and inform the Commission Members on progress made.

New Business:

None

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2021
Title: Recognizing Recipients of the “Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award”
Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission
Motion: Approve resolution as presented
Maker: Richard M. “Doc” Pfeiffer (IN)
Second: Fredric Vaccarella (VA)
Discussion: None
Action: Passed Unanimously

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Commission. Addressed the Commission and thanked them for their hard work. Keep pushing our mission goals.

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Joseph R. Navarrete (NM, 2022) adjourned the meeting
at 11:03 am .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are any no objections, we'll move Veterans Employment and Education Commission's report minus the resolutions to file. Move that to file.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall 2021
Title: Recognizing Recipients of the “Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award”
Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award was established by the adoption of S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2020 by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of this award have demonstrated outstanding contributions to the principles of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, including veterans homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Recipients of the Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award deserve to be recognized by all with an awarded custom Sons of The American Legion Uniform Cap for their Veterans Employment and Education work; and

WHEREAS, the established budget for recognition purposes of the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission will cover the expense of a custom Uniform Cap from American Legion Emblem Sales; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 2-3, 2021, That the National Executive Committee hereby approves the awarding of a custom Sons of The American Legion Uniform Cap to the annual recipient of the “Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award;” and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the awarding of the custom Marvin P. Nay Award Uniform Cap take effect retroactively for the 2021 recipient of the award and for all recipients in future years.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: It was approved Chairman Bill Hill, Finance. It was discussed in the subcommittee, and it was approved to come before you for further actions. Commander, that is Resolution No. 1.

ANEC NICK ARCEO (CO): Nick Arceo, Alternate NEC Colorado, I'd like to make a motion to accept this Resolution No. 1 for the Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veteran Employment and Education Year Award.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: We have a motion on the floor to accept Resolution No. 1 for the Marvin B. Nay Award. Is there a second?

NECMAN SUTTERLIN (OH): Bill Sutterlin, NEC Ohio seconds that.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: We have a motion and a second. The motion is to accept Resolution No. 1 for the Marvin P. Nay Award. Is there any discussion?

Hearing no discussion, I will call for the vote. All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. Motion carries.
At this time I'd like to call up Century Committee Chairman Joseph Vaccalorni.

Oral Report of Veterans CENTCOM Chairman Joseph Vaccalorni

Good morning; is it still morning? As we've all been told, we've got to be out of our rooms. So it is still morning. First of all, NECmen, thank you very much for transitioning the Century Committee from an Ad-Hoc Committee to a permanent standing committee of the NEC. I should say permanent; it's assigned for five years.

So my report to you is going to be a little different than some of the reports that we've heard from other Commissions and Committees because quite honestly. I view where we're at right now in CENTCOM as building the airplane while we're flying in it. And we're going through a lot of discovery. We're going through a lot of learning, and we have big and broad and bold tasks ahead for all of us. And I want to re-emphasize that for all of us.

And I actually loved what Bill said relative to the resolution and that is please read it. Through the process of the presentation, the approval you hear from the tops and bottoms. You hear the bookends of it, what do we want to view it as. Read the resolution and you'll get a better sense of exactly what CENTCOM is about.

And I hope what you walk away with is it's about us. It's about all of us, our organization and truly developing a strategic plan for our future. But we don't start the creation of that strategic plan without a lot of discovery. And you certainly don't do that in a vacuum or in a four-hour session.

This organization needs and has been tasked to acquire a true strategic plan to move us into our 100 years. As the Commander expressed this morning with the young gentleman who's not here anymore getting on the chair, it's truly about bringing in the youth. And we've been talking about it, talking about it and really discussing it for a long time. And I think everybody, if I asked the question, if we need to have younger members in our organization, everybody is going to raise both hands, I hope, to really emphasize the need for that, absolutely.

But that statement alone doesn't achieve the result. We have to have a plan to do it and we have to analyze why we're not doing it and what the path is to get it done. Within my business world, I use the phrase all the time, let's create the company that, if existed, would put us out of business.

That means that we identify what our strengths are, what our weaknesses are, accentuate the strengths, fix the weaknesses. So think of it this way, create, build, dissect our organization so that there isn't an organization that could take our members away. Those members that can be taken away are the members we're looking for, young participative members.

So we've got to think in the realm of what do we need to do and be very honest with ourselves and be very transparent. I will absolutely pledge to you, because that's the only way the Commander allowed me to even participate in this, is to be transparent, honest and very communicative. We're going to do all of the above.

We started with a survey. Thank you all for taking it. I think most of you took it because we had 115 respondents. There's a lot of information, a lot of data there. It was kind of an opening transitional survey, if you will. It wasn't meant to be all inclusive. It was meant to be hey, let's start a conversation.

I will assemble all of the information and all of the feedback that came from you all. I'll pass you through the National Adjutant. You'll see the information coming from him, to be perfectly honest with you, because he has the e-mail list and you get a lot of e-mails from Tony anyway. So it's kind of a natural way to pass down the communication so it doesn't get lost in somebody's spam filter or whatever the case may be.

So you'll see the results come from me through him, so the path is easy. I also say it's just the beginning. We will have many other surveys as we move forward to get your feedback, get your insight.

We also want to establish in the next couple of weeks a ZOOM call, open to all NEC members so that the CENTCOM group can go through and give you a little bit more of an overview of exactly what our goals and exactly what our tasks are going to be and how you can help us achieve that.

Down that path, there's a request I have for those detachments commanders who might be here or the NEC to pass to the detachment commanders, we want to build a field team for CENTCOM. I want to have a field team out there representative of every single detachment. I want to have somebody that we can bring into the fold, not every meeting that we hold, because a lot of them are going to be just a little crazy in nature because that's how, I think, some of us work to get results back out. But I can assure you we'll have sessions where we'll bring your field team into us.

In addition to that, along the way -- it's not going to be next week or next month, but along the way, we want to be able to give that field team member information so they can begin the task within the detachments.

Another goal and objective of ours to actually go out and participate in detachments or regional meetings, whatever the case may be, come and talk to the sessions, come and talk to your detachments, give updates of where we are at, what we're doing, also being able to do while there, a focus group with the members of this organization.

Now, focus groups doesn't mean that every single person at the meeting is going to come in there. Focus groups means just that. We want to get a broad swarf of the different levels of our memberships and different types of members that we have out there and come in and have conversation, a structured conversation. This is what we are thinking, what do you think about that. We heard this, what are your thoughts on that.

That's how we can build a true complete strategic plan that will move us down to the next century. That's our goal. The CENTCOM reports to the NEC, as you have just established. We also report to the SAL Oversight Committee of the American Legion Internal Affairs Commission. So we go to you and we also go to them.

There will be a whole lot of folks keeping us on track because it's going to start with you all and that couldn't be any better. There's no other way to get something accomplished than that. So I'm excited where we can go.

We are just starting, we really are. In future meetings and in interim steps, I will assure these members of the NEC you will know what the CENTCOM group is doing. I absolutely guarantee you that. We have a lot of work ahead of us and we're going to keep the airplane flying as we're putting additional engines on it and go even faster.

So the next time that I'm in front of you, I'm going to take a little tip from Matt and I'm going to bring my own musical. I think it's just appropriate. It was maybe the highlight so far. So thank you, Matt.

I look forward to your feedback. I look forward to your conversations and please look forward from CENTCOM good, clear updates and a few more surveys will be on their way. Thank you, Gentlemen.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no objections, we will move the CENTCOM Committee's report to file minus any resolutions. The report moves to file. Now, I would like to call on our Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Chris Cook, I believe for his final time today, to give his final report.

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN COOK: If you call me up again, it's going to be your fault.

Oral Report of Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Chris Cook, Oklahoma

Gentlemen, the Subcommittee on Resolutions met yesterday at 11:20. It was a very well attended meeting. My members that were present, I had Jay Marsden from Missouri, I've got Bill Kelly from Florida and John Chang from New York.

We met, we discussed. We acted upon everything we discussed about, Gentlemen. We are here to assist you in any way on getting these resolutions to be brought before this NEC. Utilize this.

We had long discussions about some of these resolutions. We acted upon them, and we had to take course of actions on some of them. Gentlemen, the meeting went way too long. Good discussions, but that's not where that discussion should have been held at, in my opinion.

Gentlemen, bring those resolutions before, let us know what's going on. We can be there and help you in your meeting to help with those resolutions. I have tasked my committee to create a fillable template for resolutions to be used at any level of this organization. And attached with that, I would like to submit also a do's, do not's and what to know on resolutions. It's not going to be how to write a resolution. It's just going to be things that you should put in there, things you should avoid and any verbiage that is specific to a resolution.

Gentlemen, there's a cadence to that, if you all realize that. I was able to read them in a little bit faster tone than I did yesterday in my meeting for those were attending. Gentlemen, that is my report.

...Resolutions Subcommittee Chairperson Cook presented the following resolution:

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 am on October 2, 2021 in the Circle Centre Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Christopher L. Cook (OK).

Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Christopher L. Cook (OK)</u>	Members:	<u>Joe Keiser (NV) – Excused</u>
Secretary:	<u>Anthony W. Wright (PA)</u>		<u>Jay Marsden (MO)</u>
	National Adjutant		<u>John Chang (NY)</u>
Liaison:	<u>(none assigned)</u>		<u>Bill Kelly, Jr. (FL)</u>
	Past National Commander		
Guests:	Rick Cook (OK), Jay Cook (OK), Joe Paviglianti (NY), Gene Sacco (CA), Michael Seaton (CA), Steve Gower (VA), Jon Kingston (TX), Raymond Jarvis (NY), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Mark Cannito (SC), Bob Faust (CA), Scott Merrill (NH), Bill Clancy (NY) and Mark Tansel (IN)		

Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Cook declared the minutes of the Spring 2021 meeting approved as published.

Reports of Members:

Chairman Chris Cook: No report

Joe Keiser: No report

Jay Marsden: No report

John Chang: No report

Bill Kelly, Jr.: No report

Old Business:

Chairman Cook reported that the 6 resolutions from the Spring NEC meeting were all accepted by the SAL Sub Committee and Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion.

New Business:

None

Resolutions:

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2021

Title: Recognizing Recipients of the “Marvin P. Nay Outstanding Veterans Employment and Education Contributor of the Year Award”

Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Motion: Jay Marsden

Second: Bill Kelly

Discussion: Chairman Cook indicated that this resolution has the approval of the Finance Commission

Action: Motion carried by voice vote

No. S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2021

Title: National Commander Recommendation Committee

Origin: Detachment of Oklahoma

Motion: x

Maker: x

Second: x

Discussion: The resolution was returned to Oklahoma by the Internal Affairs Commission for further review and consideration.

Action: x

No. S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2021

Title: Leadership Selection Committee Formation

Origin: Detachment of Oklahoma

Motion: x

Maker: x
Second: x
Discussion: The resolution was returned to Oklahoma by the Internal Affairs Commission for further review and consideration.
Action: x

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2021
Title: Create the “Squadron Commander of the Year Award”
Origin: Membership Committee
Motion: Bill Kelly
Second: Jay Marsden
Discussion: None
Action: Motion carried by voice vote

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2021
Title: Funding for 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
Origin: 50th Convention Commemoration Committee
Motion: Jay Marsden
Second: John Chang
Discussion: It was discussed to add the verbiage Ad-hoc to the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee in the body of the resolution.
Action: Motion carried by voice vote

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2021
Title: Creation of Standing Committee and Funding for Century Committee (CENTCOM)
Origin: Ad-hoc Century Committee / National Commander Michael Fox
Motion: By Jay Marsden to amend the 3rd Whereas clause to strike “Past National Commander Advisory Board” and to state the “Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee of The American Legion Internal Affairs Commission” in the place of.
Second: John Chang
Discussion: The Finance Commission has an itemized document with the cost analysis. Gene Sacco discussed the procedure that resolutions going forward will need to have a cost analysis in the body or attached to the resolutions.
Action: Motion carried by voice vote

No. S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Fall, 2021
Title: Donation of \$500,000.00 to the Veterans and Children Foundation from the S.A.L. Reserve Fund
Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission / National Commander Michael Fox
Motion: Bill Kelly
Second: John Chang
Discussion: None
Action: Motion carried by voice vote

No. S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Fall, 2021
Title: Donation of \$130,000.00 to American Legion Baseball from the S.A.L. Reserve Fund
Origin: Americanism Commission / National Commander Michael Fox
Motion: Jay Marsden
Second: Bill Kelly
Discussion: None
Action: Motion carried by voice vote

No. S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Fall, 2021
Title: Creation of Standing Committee and Funding for the Century Committee (CENTCOM)
Origin: Ad-hoc Century Committee / National Commander Michael Fox

Motion: John Chang

Second: Bill Kelly

Discussion: It was discussed to add the verbiage Ad-hoc to the 50th Convention Commemoration Committee in the body of the resolution.

Action: Motion carried by voice vote

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

National Commander Michael Fox (CA) addressed the Committee. X

Leading Candidate for National Commander Chris Carlton (IN) addressed the Committee. X

Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Christopher L. Cook (OK) adjourned the meeting
at 12:55 pm .

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no objections, we will move the Subcommittee on Resolutions report to file. Report to file.

At this time I would like to call up MT&D Chairman Mike Monserud to give us an update and final report on the Commander's class.

Member Training and Development Committee

Michael Monserud, Chairman, Iowa

Gentlemen, yesterday we had a Commander's class that was held right here in this room. We did it following your NEC meeting. We had 17 commanders and we had 7 guests. For the changes that we had to do and last minute a few things we had to do, I thought it was a pretty good class.

We did pass out a lot of information. We did -- is Chuck Treat here? Yeah, we do have those books updated, the blue books, from -- sorry, I call it the Chuck book. It's the Jeff Fraine book. We have some of those. If you guys want one, please contact me. I will give you my business card and get ahold of me and we will send those to you.

We still have a few of the zip drives left that has all of that book and anything that we could find on the organization in it. So if you guys can download that. Without further ado, Mr. Cotton, the gentlemen that attended the Commander's class yesterday, could you please start lining up over here for presentation of your certificates.

Presentation of Certificates

George Creambauhm, Alabama

John Hook, New Hampshire

David Fuller, Wisconsin

Tom Arresta, Texas

William Anchors, Pennsylvania

Dennis Albright, Ohio

David Lee, New York

Henry Hasselhand, New Jersey

Zack Pendle, Michigan

Gene Thorough, Massachusetts

Mark Fare, Sr., Maryland
Jeff Trout, Illinois
Brian Carter, Florida
James Ubanks, California
Bob Wade, Arkansas
Dan Ashley, Arizona

CHAIRMAN MONSERUD: Gentlemen, if you attended the classes and you didn't register as the commander, there are seven of you, we don't have the certificates for you, but we gave you all that information yesterday. So we appreciate you coming for that.

Gentlemen, that was it. That was the ones that registered as commanders. Again, our trainings that we provide, the detachment commander's class, the NECmen class we want to develop, the ambassador class for National Vice Commander, and NMI classes, these are all classes that you guys need to help us incorporate into the people that we have to train.

So the more people that reach out to my committee and myself, the better training we're going to have, the better we can shape our future for our leaders. So please, I don't care if you think it's not that important or you don't quite think we need to put it in, please send it to us. We can figure out if we need it or not or where it fits in there because the more information, we have the better training we can have, which means a better organization we can be.

So thank you, Gentlemen. Mr. Commander, that's my report.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: If there are no objections, we will add MT&D report to the report from yesterday that will be his final report. If there are no objections, report moved to file.

Is there any old business?

NECMAN BILL KELLY (FL): Mr. Commander, Bill Kelly NEC, Florida. At the post NEC I asked a question and you said that you would take it under advisement and get back to us to make this a priority this year to resolve the MSAL squadron reporting problem. Do you have a report on that, please?

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Absolutely. So I believe if I remember correctly, I said I was going to make it a top priority for our organization because I know it's crucial in moving forward. So to update the NEC, on Fridays they've had one so far. They will continue to have more every Friday at 11:00. Detachment adjutants have met with the director of IT on my legion. They're doing a Q&A session.

So if anybody has any questions within your detachment, squadron members, district members, even you guys as NEC, get that information to your detachment adjutant so that he can bring those questions or issues, comments, concerns when they have their meeting on Friday at 11:00 a.m. eastern time.

If your detachment adjutant is not available, I'm sure there will not be any problem with whoever does the membership, one representative from your detachment to be on that call. I know some people are working and not available, but one representative from each detachment. Right now, currently they're preferring adjutants, but if there's somebody else that would like to handle that that the adjutant wants to direct, not a problem.

If you have not gotten that e-mail or your detachment adjutant has not gotten that e-mail, please let us know. Everybody should have gotten that. Does that answer your question, sir?

NEC BILL KELLEY: Yes, thank you very much, Commander.

NATIONAL LIAISON GEORGE: Ken George, Sons of the American Legion, National Liaison. Let me clarify a little bit of that, please, if you don't mind. One, the meeting is at 11:00 a.m., on Fridays. We understand that a lot of people can't make that. We get that. We are recording the meetings and we are posting them to the Adjutants tab of SAL of Legion.org/sons/adjutants. There will be tab in there and you'll be able to watch the video. The next two sessions are cancelled because obviously we had the NEC and the next week a lot of the staff take off after the conclusion of the American Legion NEC. We will resume in three weeks with the meetings.

Those links will stay on the recording of the meetings so that you can watch it in your own time. You don't have to watch it all at once. And there's a lot of good questions being asked.

One of the things, just so that you understand, the buildout for the new software, the Legion, they have to get it straight first and then they can go to the SAL. They're making that transition now. So you should start seeing some improvements over the next few weeks. Membership reports are starting to get a little more consistent. One of the other challenges is the charters. They're working on that one. We're working and Brian, I want him to give him a lot of credit, Brian Compton. He is actually on the phone with them probably daily, if not a couple of times a day, trying to work out those details.

So it's not falling on deaf ears. We are doing everything we can, but the resources are slim because we just don't have a million people to work on this problem. It's a handful people and we're going across multiple divisions. So thank you for indulging me.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Yes. Thank you for that. Is there any other old business?

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

Is there anything for the Good of the Sons?

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Mr. Commander, Past National Commander Cliff Smith, can I approach the podium, please. I need to go up there.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Yes.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Commander. First of all, to our esteem National Chaplain, as being the son of a preacher man, I want to tell you how much we enjoy your inspiration and your enthusiasm. You're a blessing to all of us.

(Applause)

I have an important thing that I want to discuss with all you NECmen. We're forming a new NEC liaison committee, and one NECman will be placed on each Committee and Commission as a representative for the NEC. You're going to be receiving an e-mail over the next few days. In this e-mail, there's going to be a list in there of three different Commissions or Committees that you would wish to be considered to be.

I would also put down which one is also your most compassion because we're trying to link the people up on these Committees that is really their real compassion. I need this information no later than October 31. If you can see me afterwards and give me your card, if you want to write my e-mail down it's Cliff106@juno.com. If you want to drop me a note and tell me who you are and what detachment you're from or I can get this information after the meeting. Meet me up here and write your name and address down on a piece of paper or give me one of your business cards so I can get this out to you right away. Thank you very much.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Is Past National Commander David Stephens in the room? Sergeant-at-arms, can you bring him up for me, please.

(Applause)

I appreciate you coming up here, and I'm not sure what you guys got going, but I wanted to say thank you personally from me to you. For all of you that don't know, Mr. Stephens has been working very hard over the last few months to put the field trip as Cliff would say together. He's the one that was the backbone of everything that happened, being the representative here.

So from the bottom of my heart, I want to say thank you because this would not have happened without you. I want to present you with this certificate of appreciation with deep appreciation for your visionary planning and organizing the Flying Flag for Heroes ceremony in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday, October 2, 2021.

So from me to you thank you.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHENS: I brought Chuck up here because, of course, everybody knows he's the Americanism Chairman. So we've all been working on this very hard. Sorry about the rain that pulled out riders because they had called me yesterday morning and I said safety first. We didn't want anybody getting hurt because with that rain, thank God and our Chaplain, it stopped raining yesterday.

We did try to get a microphone and all of that out there but realized on Friday there wasn't any electricity out to that podium area. So just to let you know, we did try. We really worked hard. I think I went about five or six times up to the cemetery and working with the Zionsville American Legion family and also the Cicero American Legion family, which our National Commander will be visiting Zionsville on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday evening we'll be going up to Cicero, Indiana and we'll placing flags on the cemetery there. And we'll stop by the post for a meet and greet with our National Commander. So at this time hopefully, this will be a surprise for him.

Michael, something for you this time. This is to certify that this American flag was flown during the Flying Flags for Heroes program in honor of Michael C. Fox, National Commander, Sons of the American Legion, Lincoln Memorial Gardens on October 2, 2021, Whitestown, Indiana. Attested by Chuck Treat, Americanism Chairman and myself as the -- I guess I could say the Little Chuck.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER STEPHENS: This is one way, Michael had mentioned yesterday, stepping up to plate. I hate to say this, but it's been four years since I've been National Commander, but I'm still here because my passion is here. And you guys can bring all that passion when you go back home.

I mean this just inspired me even more to be able to do this for Mike when he called me and asked me to be a part of it. So when you get back home, bring that passion with you. You've got it right here. Take it back home and share it with your members in your own detachments. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Is there anything else for the Good of the Sons?

PARLIAMENTARIAN ROBERTS: Out of the 50 plus NEC meetings I've been at that's including the pre and post National Conventions, this one was the most professionally run using parliamentary procedures. So I want to thank all of you.

(Applause)

PARLIAMENTARIAN ROBERTS: We learned how to make a motion and everything. I've had a lot of people say Ron, why did you join or how did you get recruited into the Sons. I don't see them back there, but I'm going to tell you the story of how I got recruited.

Everybody knows the man from Massachusetts with the strange bread and the strange accent, right? Everybody calls him Cliffy, if you really know. I was standing outside the hotel in Minneapolis several conventions ago and he was standing with a thinner guy. And I was wearing my Legion cap, and he came over right in front of me like Cliffy usually does. There he is. I'm talking about you, young man, how I got recruited by somebody from Massachusetts. Like I said, he came over and stood right in front of me real close like, that far in front of me, sort of invading personal space. And he said I see you're a Legionnaire, did your dad or your granddad or anybody like that in your family serve in the military. I said they all did for four generations. He said well, are you a member of the Sons of the American Legion, and I said what's the Sons.

He says obviously you aren't. Don and I didn't know Don Culvert. I didn't know his name because he never introduced him. He says Don, give me an application; I handed out all of mine. So he had been busy them couple of days before. He said fill this out, get up to your department and join the Sons of the American Legion.

Now, by the way, Don, he looks like he'd be a good guy for future leadership, put him in NMI One. I said, Mr. Hill, what is NMI One. He said you'll find out when you come to Indianapolis, be there at the first meeting. That's how I got recruited into the Sons of the American Legion. Be careful what you ask for, just ask someone.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SACCO: Mr. Commander, Gene Sacco Past National Commander from California. I'm up here to give all of you information about Michael's homecoming, but before I do that, I want to take two points of personal privilege. One, we have a Past National Commander of the American Legion sitting in the rear of the room, one of the biggest, if not the biggest backer of the Sons of the American Legion. Will you please welcome Jay Comber?

(Applause)

And I just saw him, the current chairman of the SAL subcommittee, George West.

(Applause)

Last point of personal privilege, yesterday at the Flying Flags for Heroes, I stayed back and helped Dave Stephens and the Zionsville Legion family remove all the flags from the graves and put them back in the boxes and everything. And I just wanted to share with you that that Flying Flags for Heroes event meant so much to that Legion family in Zionsville.

They were thrilled to be part of it. I, as far as being part of the CENTCOM, when we were asking them questions about some challenges and opportunities they have in their local squadrons, the squadron commander and a few others were more than willing to talk.

So you can also use that Flying Flags for Heroes event in your own states as a way to help us on CENTCOM because it gives you a great way opportunity to talk to squadron members and Legion family members about not only Flying Flags for Heroes, but about the Sons program going forward.

Michael's homecoming, it's going to be -- there's some flyers being passed out right now. It's going to be mid March of next year, 2022. His homecoming will actually be on March 19. We're proud to announce that his actual gala will be at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California.

Included in the ticket price to this banquet will be an actual tour of the library. You'll be able to tour the library. You'll be able to tour Air Force ONE exhibit. And I'm being told by the library that if everything goes well, there will be a special World War II exhibit that will be there at the library during the time of Michael's homecoming.

So it's going to be a fantastic event on March 19. Prior to March 19, starting on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, there's going to be a St. Patrick's Day celebration at a local post. We're also going to have a dinner and a casino night with some other fun things to do. The following evening, which is Friday, the 18, as well, and also I think on Friday morning, the 18, we're arranging a tour from the hotel to Hollywood Post 43 for a breakfast and also a tour of the post.

Hollywood Post 43 is really unlike any post out there when it comes to the movie entertainment industry. It's definitely a great historical place to see. And I encourage you all to take advantage of that as well.

For all of you coming from out of the town, the hotel that we're going to be using is the Double Tree by Hilton in Monrovia, California, and there's a special rate on the flyer. There's a website. Right now it's already been activated. You can go to that website, make your hotel reservation and get the special rate for the hotel.

And then as far as transportation to and from the hotel for any events, there will be chartered bus service that will be taking all of you, if needed, to the different events, taking you and also returning you back to the hotel. Anybody renting a car for this event, because I know some of you were thinking about taking a vacation going to Disney Land, things like that.

If you have a rental car, the hotel in Monrovia is pretty central to like Orange County, where Disney Land is, pretty central from the standpoint of the distance to the Santa Monica, the Pacific Ocean and to Simi Valley.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, depending on traffic, is usually between 50 and 55 minutes from Monrovia, all freeways. So it's a very easy place to get to. But obviously you don't need a rental car if all you're going to be doing is attending these different events.

Last, but not least, on the flyer, you can mail to us the bottom half of the flyer, your information as far as you are attending, you can write us a check to all events. All of the events are priced separately or it's not a problem to give us a credit card and we can take care of everything that way as well.

There will be a registration desk at the hotel that we can -- so when you get to the hotel, we'll check you in and we'll give you the tickets to the different events that you've signed in for or purchased.

There will probably be some information coming out before the end of the year, some updates and everything regarding the homecoming. But this is going to be a fabulous event. And if anyone has never been to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, it is truly spectacular, and the library is reason enough to come out to see it.

So if anybody has any questions, feel free to see me in the back of the room later. Otherwise, we hope all of you consider coming out to California. You'll have a very very good time. Thank you.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: You're welcome. In case anybody is flying, the best airport would be Burbank airport.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER SACCO: I'm sorry about that, that is true. The best airport to the Monrovia hotel, the Double Tree, fly into Burbank if it's not too expensive or inconvenient. You're only about 20 minutes away from the hotel.

If you fly into Los Angeles, depending on what time you get there, there's plenty of shuttle services. Again, you don't have to rent a car, but it's about 30 miles, a little less than 30 miles, probably between 20 and 25 miles from the hotel to LAX. We don't measure everything in miles in Southern California. It's all measured in minutes and hours.

So depending on what time you land, it could take you up to an hour, an hour and a half to get to Monrovia from LAX. So I definitely would encourage you to fly to Burbank. Also, you have the other airport which is Ontario. You could fly to Ontario as well.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: And if you are coming into Burbank, which is where I live, e-mail me and we'll try to coordinate and schedule to pick people up and transport them, if we need to, from Burbank.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Thank you. At this time if anybody has any donations, please make your way on up for donations.

NECMAN JR HALL (MD): Commander, JR Hall from detachment of Maryland. I want to make an announcement. Thank everybody for coming over last night to Ta Ta Room. We raised \$2,420.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Is there anything else for the Good of the Sons?

COMMISSION CHAIRMAN MATT: Matt Parsons, Chairman of Public Media and Communications. I just wanted to point out, a couple of us were talking about our blue star banner, and I think we missed an opportunity. We always post the blue star banner, but I know that there are families in this room that are blue star families. Are there any blue star families still here, or did they all run to go check out? Thank you. Thank you all.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: So I'll start this off. I received a \$1,000 check from the Detachment of Mississippi for NEF.

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I sacrificed my hair for child welfare. We took up donations and collected at our DEC last week a grand total of \$2,372 for child welfare and then took cash collection \$213 more for child welfare from our DEC.

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: From the detachment of Delaware Squadron 24 \$250 for Child Welfare Foundation, from Squadron 28 \$500 for the National Emergency Fund, \$250 for the National Endowment Fund and \$1,000 for Child Welfare Fund.

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: From the detachment of Pennsylvania, \$7,697 for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: I've got donations from a few posts in detachment of Virginia, Post 2 in Petersburg \$250 to CWF, \$250 to NEF, Post 67 in Hampton \$100 to CWF, Post 284 in Colonial Heights \$300 to NEF and \$300 to CWF. Also Post 25 in Newbert News \$350 to OCW, \$100 to CWF, totally \$1950.

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Detachment of Arizona \$500 for Operation Comfort Warriors, \$500 for the National Emergency Fund and \$500 to CWF.

(Applause)

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: From Hagan Grand Squadron 521 \$100 to CWF

(Applause)

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Is anything else for the Good of the Sons? Are there any final announcements at this time?

Detachment of Virginia, if you could see me as soon as we're finished right here, we have a question on the checks.

If there's no further business to come before this National Executive Committee meeting, National Chaplain, Mr. Gibson, will lead us in a closing prayer. Please uncover.

Benediction

Jeff Gibson, Sr., National Chaplain, Alabama

We had a good weekend, all praises due to our Lord and Savior. I want you all to travel home safely. Remember, I love you and there's nothing you can do about it. And when you get home, check on your buddies. Check on your buddies, the person that was to your left or right. Keep a check on them, man, because we don't know what hard times they're going through.

Let us go to the Lord in prayer. May the Lord bless us and keep us, may he grant us strength to live through trouble times, may he fill us with grace equal to every need and his peace will pass all understanding, may he grant us wisdom and the will to do justice, to love mercy, to walk humbly with him, may he surround us with his love and lead us in the path of everlasting life. Amen.

... The National Executive Committee responded, "Amen!"

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Please cover. Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever the 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.

With the colors of our nation being in place, join me in offering a right-hand salute by the numbers, one, two.

Sergeant-at-arms, could you please retire the POW/MIA Flag. Please uncover.

...The Sergeant-at-Arms removed the POW/MIA flag from the empty chair.

NATIONAL COMMANDER FOX: Cover. Gentlemen, as you depart, you have a duty and responsibility. The national organization needs all of us to continue working on the same page as we did here this weekend, moving forward working with the Century Committee or CENTCOM to develop a strategic plan, adapt and overcome and go back and have some fun. I now declare this fall 2021 meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adjourned.

...At 11:56 a.m., Sunday, October 3, 2021, the National Executive Committee meeting of The Sons of The American Legion was adjourned. Sine die.