

PROCEEDINGS

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SONS OF THE  
AMERICAN LEGION

Pre-Convention Meeting

Charlotte Convention Center - Exhibit Hall C2  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Friday, August 25, 2023, 10:20 a.m.

Reported by:  
Denise L. Hinxman, CSR, RDR, CRC

Captions Unlimited of Nevada  
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... At 10:20 a.m., Friday, August 25, 2023, the Pre-NEC meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was called to order by National Commander Christopher Carlton, and the following proceedings were had:

**Call to Order**

**Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander**

Sergeant-at-Arms, please secure the doors.

Thank you. Good morning.

... chorus of good mornings.

Will everyone please rise.

... Gavel.

**Posting of the Colors**

**Chris Carlton (IN) National Commander**

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

Two.

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

Please uncover.

**Invocation**

**Jeff Gibson, Sr. (AL), National Chaplain**

This is going to be a short one, guys. I'll

get back with you all at 1:00 o'clock, amen.

Delegates: Amen.

Jeff Gibson, Sr. (AL), National Chaplain:

All right, let's go to the Lord in prayer. Let's keep everyone that we lost over the years, those going through trials and tribulations, let's keep them in our prayers.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity.

Lord, bless this meeting and bless this leadership. Thank you for giving us an awesome year, Father, and keep us together, Father. We ask this in your name. And all the saints said amen.

*... chorus of amens.*

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: In memory of our departed comrades and the comrades of all veterans, let us stand in silence.

**POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony**  
**Chris Carlton (IN) National Commander**

To maintain a high awareness that a constant vigil should be maintained so that no POW or MIA will be left unaccounted for, the Sons of The American

Legion designate a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all meetings. This is a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for, as a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing.

Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor. The POW/MIA flag is in place at this time.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

I call upon National Sergeant-at-Arms Greg Wagner to lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

*... Pledge of Allegiance recited.*

**Preamble to the Constitution of the SAL  
Chris Carlton (IN) National Commander**

Cover.

I now call on Jack Youngs to lead us in reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion.

*... reciting the Preamble of the  
Constitution of the Sons of the American Legion.*

**Blue Star Banner Ceremony  
Chris Carlton (IN) National Commander**

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

The Blue Star Service Banner is in place.

*... Gavel.*

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: I will call on National Adjutant Anthony Wright to read the Roll Call to the Pre-Convention meeting.

**Reading of the Meeting Call  
Anthony Wright (PA) National Adjutant**

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 1 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion, the National Commander of the Sons of The

American Legion hereby calls for a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to be held August 25, 2023 in the Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
National Adjutant Anthony Wright will now call the roll.

**Roll Call**

***Anthony Wright (PA) National Adjutant***

**National Commander\_\_**

Christopher A. "Chris" Carlton.

**National Vice Commanders**

East: Ernest E. "Ernie" Laberge, Massachusetts -  
Excused.

South: Ronald E. "Ron" Roberts, Mississippi.

Central: David J. "Dave" Mennel, Michigan.

Midwest: Michael L. "Mike" Kirschner, Colorado.

West: Jack A. Youngs, Idaho.



**National Adjutant**

Anthony W. Wright, Pennsylvania.

**National Assistant Adjutants**

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

James E. "Ed" Sheubrooks, Florida.

Robert J. Avery, New York.

Scott A. Williams, Virginia.

Scott J. Thornton, Ohio - Excused.

Jeffrey E. Hicks, New Jersey.

Clifford Hall, Georgia

**National Chaplain**

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

**National Parliamentarian**

Gary Leach, California.

**National Historian**

Stephen J. DeFeo, Indiana.

**National Sergeant-At-Arms**

Greg J. Wagner, Indiana.

**National Assistant Sergeants-At-Arms**

Brian K. Waters, Pennsylvania.

Greg Falco, New York.

Lyle G. Larson, Kansas - Excused.

Mark T. Fayer, Sr., Maryland.

Matt Griffis, Arizona.

**National Commander's Aide**

David A. Miller, Indiana.

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS****Immediate Past National Commander**

Michael C. Fox, California.

**PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS**

Michael K. Seaton, California - Excused

Robert A. McBride, Ohio - Excused

J.R. Stillwell, Illinois - Excused

Robert H. Faust, California.

James R. Hartman, Maryland.

Charles E. Gannon, Maryland.

David P. Stephens, Indiana.  
Christopher R. Cerullo, New York.  
Frederick L. Hartline, Sr., Ohio - Excused.  
Douglas P. Bible, Minnesota.  
David R. Faust, Wisconsin.  
Robert A. Worrel, Indiana.  
Eugene L. Sacco, California.  
Joseph M. Mayne, Minnesota.  
Byron J. Robichaux, Louisiana.  
Richard L. Cook, Oklahoma.  
Kevin N. Winkelmann, Texas - Excused.  
Clifford A. Smith, Massachusetts.  
Michael J. Deacon, Iowa.  
Earl R. Ruttkofsky, Michigan.  
Raymond P. Giehll, Jr., Indiana.  
Thomas E. Cisna, Illinois - Excused.  
James K. Roberts, III, Florida - Excused.  
Joseph W. Gladden, Maryland.  
Michael W. Moss, Colorado - Excused.  
Kevin L. Collier, Alaska.  
Jeffrey C. Frain, Arizona - Excused  
Greg K. "Doc" Gibbs, New York.  
Joseph Paviglianti, New York.

**Roll call of Detachments**

Alabama, (Both).

Alaska, (NEC).

Arizona, (Both).

California, NEC.

Delaware, (NEC).

Florida, (Both).

France, (Alternate).

Georgia, (Both).

Hawaii, (NEC).

Idaho, (Alternate).

Illinois, (Both).

Indiana, (Both).

Iowa, (NEC).

Kansas, (NEC).

Kentucky, (NEC).

Louisiana, (Both).

Maine, (NEC).

Maryland, (Both).

Massachusetts, (Both).

Michigan, (NEC).

Minnesota, (NEC).

Mississippi, (Both).

Missouri, (NEC).

Montana, (NEC).

Nebraska, (Both).

Nevada, (NEC).

New Hampshire, (NEC).

New Jersey, (Both).

New Mexico, Alternate.

New York, (Both).

North Carolina, (NEC).

Ohio, (Both).

Oklahoma, (NEC).

Oregon, (Both).

Pennsylvania, (Alternate).

Puerto Rico, (NEC).

South Carolina, (Alternate).

Texas, (NEC).

Vermont, (Alternate).

Virginia, (Alternate).

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

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: I now declare this 2023 Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion regularly convened.

As a point of housekeeping business, I would remind everyone addressing the Chair to please use one of the microphones in the aisles.

And it would help if you would tell us where you're talking from the floor so we can recognize and identify. Please name yourself, title and your detachment before speaking. This will help ensure that we maintain order and give our court reporter a better opportunity to document the proceedings correctly.

Thank you.

At this time I will have National Adjutant Anthony Wright read the minutes from our last meeting.

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes**  
***Anthony Wright (PA) National Adjutant***

"At 8:00 a.m. Saturday May 6, 2023, the National Executive Committee was called to order by

National Commander Christopher Carlton.

National Commander Carlton, good morning, everyone. The NEC responded good morning..."

Shawn Davis (MN): Commander, Shawn Davis, NEC Detachment of Minnesota, the microphone ain't working. I'd make a motion that we waive the reading of the minutes.

... Seconded.

Shawn Davis (MN): Waive the reading and accept the minutes.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: You make a motion to accept the minutes?

Shawn Davis (MN): As distributed and waive the reading.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: As distributed, subject to corrections or additions.

Steven Cox (CA): Steven Cox, I second the motion.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: There's been a motion made and seconded. Is there any discussion?

John Lawrence (LA): Mr. Commander, John

Lawrence, Alternate NEC from Louisiana. Our NEC LeJeune had to step out.

Mr. Commander, NEC members and guests, I stand today as an Alternate NEC for the great state of Louisiana to comment on the minutes and events from the May 23rd meeting.

The Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion are organizations governed by our constitution and bylaws. December of last year, the Legion rolled out new constitution and bylaws for our organization.

These were not approved by this body. They were not approved by the membership, nor were they approved by National Convention. A select few stand behind the veil of The American Legion have ignored -- no, they have deliberately bypassed the written procedures and changed our constitution and bylaws.

Unfortunately, with them hiding behind The American Legion, we must accept this because it came from the Legion. However, the chosen few were not finished.

During our May NEC meeting, the chosen few



specifically and deliberately chose not to follow the written procedures and changed the rules of the NEC and the Uniform Code of National Convention.

There are no compelling reasons why we should usurp the power of this body.

By taking this action, the self-appointed chosen few have told the NEC, "You do not matter."

They have told all the members of this organization, "You do not matter."

They have told the delegates to our National Convention, "You do not matter."

Proud possessors of a priceless heritage. Is this how we honor the sacrifices of our mothers and fathers that they made for our liberty to uphold and defend the constitution?

I believe this applies to our constitution and bylaws of this great organization.

To combat the autocracy -- it's time to combat the autocracy of the chosen few. The self-appointed chosen few are working to undermine our organization.

Why do we convene the National Executive

Committee or National Convention if a small group are going to hand down changes without passing them in front of the organization for approval?

Our Past National Commander and dual member while wearing his Legion hat on stage at our Spring NEC --

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
Excuse me, sir.

John Lawrence (LA): Yes, sir.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
I've just been informed by our parliamentarian that this is discussion on the content of the motion made, which, what I've been told is this being a speech, do you have any concerns, discussion about the motion itself?

John Lawrence (LA): This concerns the minutes of the meeting that we approved. You asked for discussion on the meeting minutes. And this relates to things that happened at the meeting and that are in the minutes.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: I understand, but you need to state the discussion, not

a speech.

John Lawrence (LA): I am stating my opinion in discussing what happened at the meeting, to bring it to the forefront so that everyone here is clearly aware of how these changes came down and that they were not presented to this body for approval.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: Do you have any other discussion on the minutes?

John Lawrence (LA): I would like to finish my presentation. Are you censoring the members of this organization now, too?

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: No, sir. What I'm trying to do is conduct a meeting.

John Lawrence (LA): Yes, sir.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: If you want to bring something up like that under the Goods, I would propose that. But right now there's a motion on the floor that's been seconded.

Is there any other discussion? Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

*... chorus of ayes.*

John Lawrence (LA): Nay!

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: All opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

... *Gavel.*

At this time, I ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort National SAL Liaison Kevin Mook to the podium for remarks.

**Greetings**

***Kevin M. Mook (MD) National SAL Liaison - The American Legion***

Gentlemen, here's the good part: I don't have anything prepared. That's a good thing.

... *Applause.*

But what I do want to bring up, bring to your attention, note at the top of the SAL national flag, there's a flag topper on it. Remember at my first meeting with y'all, in the spring of last year, I said, hey, would that be a good idea? It's done. It's now available at emblem sales.

... *Applause.*

We switched it out at all of our national flags. But it is available.

The next thing that's coming is Fridays, y'all are wearing redshirts for a reason, right? Just

because it's Friday. No, to it's to remember everyone deployed.

Wouldn't it be kind of cool to have one that says "Sons of the American Legion" on it? That is sold at emblem sales. It's coming. It's coming.

And we now also have a welcome pack for new members. In the very near future -- I know better than to tell you when -- but in the very near future we'll be able to put -- people will be able to join online. That's the next step.

So we'll get rid of -- we have headquarters squadrons that are already built up in Personify, but they're built as 9999, most of them.

We'll get those changed and we'll make it to the equivalent of the Legion DMS program, so if someone joins online in the first two years and stays -- I'll explain all that later. But it's a resolution that I'm writing in the very near future that will happen.

Commander.

**Commission Reports**  
**Chris Carlton (IN) National Commander**

At this time, we will receive some of our Commission reports. I call on National Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Bill Clancy to the podium along with National Membership Committee Chairman Thom Skelley. And Finance Commission is on deck.

**Report of the Internal Affairs Commission**

***William M. Clancy, III (NY), Chairman***

Good morning. Since our spring NEC meeting, the Internal Affairs Commission has continued our work on a number of initiatives including a welcome letter and promoting the newly developed welcome kit, which is available from Emblem Sales, which I thank Mr. Kevin Mook to help to bring to fruition. Detachments can now -- I think we've talked about it in the past, but it's now available at Emblem Sales.

Since spring we received two resolutions which we have acted upon. And I can read them and I'll try to read them very quickly.

SAL Resolution 1, Pre-Convention 2023. The title is Authorize the National Adjutant to Correct Misstatements of Fact or Inconsistencies of Language in Adopted Resolutions Without Changing Intent. The

origin is Internal Affairs Commission.

"Whereas, resolutions adopted at National Convention or by the National Executive Committee of The Sons of the American Legion sometimes contain erroneous references to federal statutes or the official number of the bill pending before the Congress, or the intent of the resolution is obscured by language inappropriate to the purpose of the actions sought in the resolution or by the erroneous application of facts or law; and, whereas, it is recognized that such a situation develops under conditions calling for immediate action at a National Executive Committee meeting or at a National Convention; and, whereas, those charged with the responsibility of carrying out the action sought are frequently hampered by the imperfections of the resolution wording; and, whereas, no officer, representative or employee of the Sons of the American Legion is authorized to make any changes in or additions or corrections to any resolution adopted at a National Executive Committee meeting or a National Convention;

And, whereas, this situation is so serious as to warrant prompt and corrective action being taken now; therefore be it resolved by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Legion, in regular meeting assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 25th, 2023, that the National Adjutant be and hereby is empowered and directed to make such changes in resolutions as may be necessary to eliminate factual misstatement or language inconsistent with the clear intent of the resolution when taken as a whole -- and as evidenced by the deliberation of the body from which such resolution emanated.

This resolution was read at the IA meeting this morning, which took place after the IA convention meeting and was approved by the IA commission.

Resolution number 2 -- Pre-Convention 2023. The title being, to Rename the National Membership Committee.

Origin, from the National Membership and Squadron Activities Committee.

Whereas the Sons of the American Legion Resolution NEC7-74 created the National Membership and



Squadron Activities Committee as a standing committee of the National Executive Committee; and, whereas, said resolution defined the purpose, scope, function, authority and membership of the committee;

And, whereas, the increase in national membership and need for clarity and continuity suggested a revision to the original resolution.

It is now in order; therefore, be it resolved by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 25th, 2023, that the National Membership and Squadrons Committee be renamed as the National Membership Committee;

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

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

And be it further resolved that the

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

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

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

And be it further resolved that there may be one authorized National Commander's representative on the committee who shall serve with voice and vote and a number of consultants and/or advisors to the committee as deemed appropriate and necessary who shall serve with voice but no vote;

And be it further resolved that the National

Vice Commanders of the Sons of the American Legion shall serve as ex-officio members of the committee with voice but no vote;

And be it finally resolved that Sons of the American Legion resolution NEC7-74 is hereby rescinded.

This was, as well, acted upon by the Internal Affairs Commission this morning at our meeting and it was approved.

Butch Ray (IL): Mr. Commander, Butch Ray, NEC from Illinois. Point of order. I'm confused that these resolutions are not being read by a member of the NEC. Did these go through the Subcommittee of Resolutions previous to these being read?

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: From my understanding they went through this morning. We have the internal --

Nedley Fox (CA), Resolution Subcommittee Chairman: Good morning, good morning. No, they have not gone to the committee. Didn't receive them until Sunday. The committee will meet after we're done today at some point.

The resolutions will be presented, one way or another, at the post-convention. Anybody has any issues you need to go back and read what the book says.

The Subcommittee on Resolutions is supposed to meet two hours prior to the meeting. They're due in the Adjutant's office, in their hand, resolutions, at least 30 days prior.

Giving it to us on a short window, we have not had the opportunity to get the group together. But we will be able to give you a recommendation at that point.

There is one resolution that we are prepared to present to the NEC at the proper time that dealt with the tri-fold. But the other ones, not happening.

Chris Cook (OK): Chris Cook, NEC, Oklahoma, correction. The resolutions that have to be presented 30 days prior to our meeting are any resolutions pertaining from a Detachment. Any resolution presented by the committee or commissions can be presented up until the day that the subcommittee meets. Thank you, Commander.

Butch Ray (IL): Thank you, Commander.  
You've answered my questions for now.

William M. Clancy, III (NY): As I would add, as the Internal Commission Chair, there's obviously been some timing issues of different people having a meeting.

Our meeting was this morning, so these two resolutions have gone through Internal Affairs and been acted upon by the Subcommittee of Resolutions. So at least note they've been through our commission.

Butch Ray (IL): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

William M. Clancy, III (NY): That's my report.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: I will entertain a motion to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report, minus the resolutions.

Marc Chaney (OR): I will make that motion to accept the Internal Affairs report, minus the resolutions.

... Seconded.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: A motion has been made and seconded.

Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor of accepting the Internal Affairs Commission report, minus the resolutions, signify by saying aye.

... *chorus of ayes.*

All opposed by saying nay.

The motion carries.

... *Gavel.*

I call on National Subcommittee on Resolutions Chairman Ned Fox.

**Action on the Internal Affairs Commission Resolutions  
Nedley C. Fox (CA), Chairman Subcommittee on  
Resolutions**

I would ask, when you submit resolutions and go through the Adjutant's office, and if you're referencing an old resolution -- as an example, on one that's before us is -- from the national, I think it was the membership, yes, National Membership and Squadron Activities, it's reference NEC Resolution 774.

If you want the committee to be able to find it -- what did that resolution say, as opposed to what you're wanting to do, so that we can at least have an

opportunity to give you, to review it and present it.

It doesn't matter personally. We are not to take a position that I like it or don't like it. That's not the job of the Subcommittee on Resolutions. Ours is to make sure it meets the criteria for an effective resolution, that it doesn't go against any policy or procedure of The American Legion, and then the NEC or the convention has the opportunity to accept or reject.

So, anybody from membership, you have a resolution that is before us that we hope to act on for Sunday's post-convention. But if anybody has NEC Resolution 7-74, we would love to have that in our hands, please.

Resolutions that the committee has seen that came forward over a month ago -- and this is SAL Resolution No. 3, and it was the endorsement of the Sons of the American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Commission Tri-Fold Brochure.

Whereas, Sons of The American Legion is a volunteer program of The American Legion; and, whereas, the Sons of the American Legion are obliged

to adopt in letter and spirit all the great principles for which the American Legion stands;

And, whereas, the Sons of the American Legion, Veterans Employment and Education, VE&E, Commission is dedicated to supporting The American Legion by assisting The American Legion in ensuring that American's veterans can provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families;

And, whereas, the Sons of the American Legion VE&E Commission encourages the Sons of the American Legion at national Detachment and Squadron levels to assist in such vital endeavors.

It is incumbent upon the Commission to communicate these vital endeavors to the Sons of the American Legion at all levels;

And, whereas, the Sons of the American Legion VE&E Commission has assimilated a beneficial collection of references and information associated with veterans employment, education, homelessness and veterans in crisis assistance;

Now, therefore be it resolved by the



National Executive Committee of the Sons of the American Legion, in regular meeting, assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 25th, 2023, that the National Executive Committee hereby recommends the Sons of the American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education tri-fold brochure is made available for distribution to the national Detachment and squadron levels of the organization as deemed appropriate by The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education committee.

And this came in from Jim Coates, the chairman of National Veterans Employment and Education Commission. And it has been reviewed and blessed by William G. Hill, chairman -- National Finance chairman.

It's the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Resolutions that this resolution be approved.

... Written SAL Resolution 3 -  
Pre-Convention, 2023.

**The Sons of The American Legion  
Pre-Convention National Executive Committee  
Held on  
August 25, 2023  
Resolution**

**No.: SAL Resolution 3 - Pre-Convention, 2023**  
**Title: Endorsement of the Sons of The American Legion**  
**National Veterans Employment and Education Commission**  
**Tri-Fold Brochure**  
**Origin: National Veterans Employment and Education**  
**Commission**

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

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion are obliged to adopt in letter and spirit all the great principles for which The American Legion stands; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Commission is dedicated to supporting The American Legion by assisting The American Legion in ensuring that America's veterans can provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion VE&E Commission encourages the Sons of The American Legion at the national, detachment, and squadron levels to assist in such vital endeavors, it is incumbent upon the Commission to communicate these vital endeavors to the Sons of The American Legion at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion VE&E Commission has assimilated a beneficial collection of references and information associated with veterans employment, education, homelessness, and veterans in crisis assistance; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina on August 25, 2023, that the National Executive Committee hereby recommends the Sons of The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Tri-Fold Brochure is made available for distribution to the national, detachment, and squadron levels of the organization as deemed appropriate by The American Legion National**

**Veterans Employment and Education Commission.**

NEDLEY C. FOX (CA), Chairman  
Subcommittee on Resolutions

JAMES M. COATES (NY), Chairman  
National Veterans Employment and Education Commission

WILLIAM G. HILL (MD), Chairman  
National Finance Commission

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:

I'll entertain a motion to accept.

Nedley Fox (CA), Resolution Subcommittee

Chairman: As an NEC, and also the chairman of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, I make a motion that we accept SAL Resolution No. 3, which is the endorsement of the Sons of the American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Commission Tri-Fold Brochure.

Bob Brown (GA): Mr. Commander.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:

Sir.

Bob Brown (GA): Bob Brown, NEC, Georgia. I second that recommendation and motion.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:

There's been a motion and second. Is there any discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor?

All opposed.

... Gavel.

The ayes have it.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: I now call National Finance Commission Chairman Bill Hill to the podium for his report. VE&E is on deck.

**Report of the Finance Commission**

***William G. Hill (MD), Chairman Finance Commission***

Commander, NEC from the National Finance Commission, we've held one meeting since the Spring NEC. We held a virtual meeting. Basically at the meeting we went over the reconciliation of funds for the 2023 budget year.

And as of that time, the meeting was July 8th, if I recall correctly, at that time our 2023 funds were reconciled through May and are on track to stay within the budgets that were outlined.

There was no additional information at that time. Again, this is an NEC presentation for Finance Commission. We had nothing else at that time to present. However, on the other side of this, for the Convention Finance, which occurs at 11:30, I'll give

you an update on that tomorrow afternoon.

That is my report, Commander.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
I'll entertain or accept the Finance Commission  
report.

Robert Manzo (MD): Bob Manzo, NEC Maryland.  
I move to accept the report.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
There's been a motion made.

Is there a second?

Bill Kelly (FL): Bill Kelly, NEC Florida.  
I second.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
There's been a motion and it's been seconded. Is  
there any discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor of  
accepting the Finance Commission report signify by  
saying aye.

All opposed by saying nay.

... *Gavel.*

The ayes have it.

I call National Veterans Employment and

Education Commission Chairman James Coates to the podium for his report.

If there are any other -- we'll try and move this along -- any other committees that need to report, please make your way towards the stage.

Is he not here?

I'll now call upon CENTCOM Chairman Jeff Vrabel for a report.

**Report of CENTCOM**

***Jeff Vrabel (OH), National CENTCOM Chairman***

Good morning, gentlemen. Since your committee has been working on two different surveys, the surveys went out to Detachments and they went out to National Executive Committee and alternates again so that we could gather more information and get you some results as far as what you would like to see the Century Committee do.

Also, an update on our third-party vendor. A third-party vendor was selected and The American Legion asked us to wait on using that vendor. It was a little expensive, to be honest with you. So that is in the -- brakes have been put in on that so far.

We also, in our committee, since we hadn't had a piece of paper put together really for a strategic plan moving forward, one was drafted and put together as a baseline to use in the event that we had a vendor come on board.

We would have the basic information of what the committee had done in the previous two years moving forward.

You will receive that email shortly that contains that document so that you can review it and provide feedback to us as we move forward.

We have the five keys of what the CENTCOM committee has decided it wanted to do moving forward. And we will take all feedback we can get from you as we work towards the century university.

Does anyone have any questions for me?  
Okay, thanks.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
I'll entertain a motion to accept the CENTCOM Committee report.

Greg Spaulding (IN): Greg Spaulding, NEC  
Indiana: I make the motion.

Shawn Davis (MN): Shawn Davis, NEC

Minnesota: I second.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:

There's been a motion made and seconded to accept the CENTCOM Committee report. Any discussion?

Hearing none, all those in favor say aye.

All those opposed, nay.

... *Gavel.*

The ayes have it.

#### **Old Business**

Is there any Old Business to be brought before the National Executive Committee?

Hearing none, we'll move to New Business.

#### **New Business**

Is there any New Business to be brought before the National Executive Committee? Is there any New Business? Is there any New Business to be brought before the National Executive Committee?

Hearing none.

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

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



Clifford A. Smith (MA), Past National  
Commander: Mr. Commander, Past National Commander  
Cliff Smith from Massachusetts.

I would like to see all the duly elected  
NECs for the ensuing year right behind that screen  
right there immediately following this.

It will take about three minutes. I need to  
talk to you. It's very, very important.

Joe Mayne (MN): Mr. Commander.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
Yes, sir.

Joe Mayne (MN): Joe Mayne, Detachment of  
Minnesota. I want to let NEC know and we'd also like  
to have the delegates know there's a volunteer survey  
in the back of the room. It will be there all  
weekend.

We're asking as many people to fill it out  
as possible. I appreciate the time.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
Yes, sir.

John Lawrence (LA): Mr. Commander,  
Alternate NEC John Lawrence from Louisiana.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:

Yes, sir.

John Lawrence (LA): Being that I was in error earlier with the wrong timing on my comments, I'd like to just wrap it up real succinctly.

The problem that I have that I was trying to explain to everybody is the procedure that was used in delivering our new constitution and bylaws and rules of NEC and code of conduct for convention, that it was not presented to this body for consideration.

Not necessarily what is in those documents, but the procedures that were used. And I would like to submit my full comments for the record.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:

Thank you, sir.

Marc Chaney (OR): Mr. Commander, Marc Chaney, NEC from Oregon. I have two comments I'd like to make. Brian Compton just walked in, and I want to thank him for all the work he does. I think him and Kevin need a round of applause.

... *Applause.*

And then number two, we have documents we

have to fill out and we submit for this convention. When we submit them and then they don't get passed along and our delegates aren't recognized in their convention meeting, there's an issue there because we have new people from every state coming.

And they're told, you know, as an NEC I tell my guys, you go here, you go here -- you're going to have roll call.

And then their names aren't on that list. I have an issue with that. So those are my commends. Thank you, Commander.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander:  
Anything else For the Good?

### **Final Announcements**

Are there any Final Announcements at this time?

Nedley Fox (CA), Resolution Subcommittee Chairman: Ned Fox, NEC California. Those who serve on the Subcommittee of Resolutions, if we could meet after today's session, after the 1:00 opening, if we could meet afterwards, I'd like to share these resolutions that we have that are pending so that

hopefully we can get those squared away for post-convention.

Thank you, Commander.

Chris Carlton (IN), National Commander: If there is no further business to come before this National Executive Committee meeting, I call upon National Chaplain Jeff Gibson, Sr. to lead us in the closing prayer. Please rise and uncover.

... Gavel.

**Benediction**

***Jeff Gibson, Sr. (AL) National Chaplain***

Oh Heavenly Father, may God watch us, may God keep us until we come back together again. These and all blessings we ask, amen.

**Closing**

***Chris Carlton (IN) National Commander***

Cover. Until we meet again, let us remember that our obligation to our Country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state and nation be ever a main objective of the Sons of The American Legion. Let us ever be watchful of the honor

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

**Salute the Colors**

With the Colors of our Nation in place,  
right-hand salute. Two.

**Adjournment**

I now declare this 2023 Pre-Convention Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion adjourned.

*... Gavel.*

*... At 11:07 a.m., Friday, August 25, 2023, the Pre-NEC Meeting of the Sons of the American Legion was adjourned.*

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## CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

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

That on Friday, August 25, 2023, I was  
present and took verbatim stenotype notes of the SAL  
National Convention entitled herein, and thereafter  
transcribed the same into typewriting as herein  
appears;

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

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

Dated at Reno, Nevada, this 3rd day of  
September 2023.

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DENISE HINXMAN, CSR, RDR, CRC