

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



**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA  
May 6-7, 2017**

**MINUTES OF THE  
SPRING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
May 6-7, 2017**

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) called the Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, May 6, 2017 at the Sheraton Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana.

National Chaplain Richard A. Ellwein (MT) gave the invocation.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) called for the Sergeant-At-Arms Danny J. Poole (MI) to place the POW/MIA flag on the empty chair which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Kenneth L. Yanke (CO).

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) called for the National Sergeant-At-Arms to place the blue star service banner.

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) then called on National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders, NECmen and Alternate NECmen.

Present were: E (excused)

**National Officers**

Jeff C. Frain (AZ)

Joseph A. Korba (NJ)

William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL)

Michael L. Lawler (WI)

Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)

Joseph B. Keiser (NV)

Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)

Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE) - E

Anthony W. Wright (PA)

James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL)

Robert J. Avery (NY)

David M. Ridenour (IN)

Scott A. Williams (VA)

Scott J. Thornton (OH)

Richard A. Ellwein (MT)

Michael Kane (PA)

Joseph Paviglianti (NY)

Danny J. Poole (MI)

Lyle G. Larson (KS)

Brian K. Waters (PA)

Raymond P. Giehl, III (IN)

Matthew Chebro (GA)

Charles E. Treat, II (AZ)

National Commander

National Vice Commander – East

National Vice Commander – South

National Vice Commander – Central

National Vice Commander – Midwest

National Vice Commander – West

National Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Assistant Adjutant

National Chaplain

National Historian

National Judge Advocate

National Sergeant-At-Arms

National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms

Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Kevin L. Collier (AK) – Immediate PNC	Kevin N. Winkelmann (TX)
Michael Seaton (CA)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Robert McBride (OH)	Steve C. Laws (NC)
Robert Faust (CA)	Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Michael J. Deacon (IA)
David P. Stephens (IN)	William L. Sparwasser (MD)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas P. Bible (MN)	Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)
David R. Faust (WI)	Thomas E. Cisna (IL)
Robert A. Worrel (IN)	Mark E. Arneson (GA)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	David L. Dew (TX)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	James K. Roberts, III (FL)
John T. Dietz (KY)	Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)
William E. Matoska (MD)	Joseph W. Gladden (MD)
Byron J. Robichaux (LA) - E	Michael W. Moss (CO)
Richard L. Cook (OK)	

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) entertained a motion to accept the 2016 Fall NEC meeting minutes as read and corrected noting the *correction to page 19 under discussion regarding a change to “A motion was made by Michael A. Pipher (IN) that the National Adjutant is directed to provide all commission and committee chairmen with the email addresses of all N.E.C.’s, and, all commission and committee chairmen are directed to provide each N.E.C. member with emailed reports and/or executive summaries of all meetings or conference calls conducted by their respective commission or committee outside of the regular N.E.C. weekends”*.

***So moved by National Vice Commander Michael L. Lawler (WI), seconded by Ronald E. Moore (FR). Motion carried.***

At this time National Commander Frain (AZ) asked first time attendees of the Spring NEC Meeting to stand for recognition and to please share this information.

### **Commander’s Announcements:**

Commander Frain (AZ) wanted to personally thank everyone on behalf of the Frain family for all the cards and flowers for his Mother’s funeral. Stating you guys’ generosity pretty much saved him there and he wanted to say thank you. The flowers and the cards were so overwhelming the members of the Sons’ that drove clear up to Michigan to be there with me the Indiana, Wisconsin and the Michigan boys’ thank you. You got me through a hard time and I really appreciate it, and my family says thank you.

Commander Frain (AZ) advised we have been trying for years to go, and we are going back to Normandy, France and he will be your Sons Commander representing the Sons.

Commander Frain (AZ) called for the National Sergeant-at-Arms to bring forward to the stage Sons of The American Legion Leading Candidate for National Commander Danny J. Smith (NE) and Leading Candidate for National Commander of The American Legion Denise H. Rohan (WI).

***SAL Leading Candidate for National Commander Danny J. Smith (NE)*** welcomed everyone to Indianapolis, said it was an honor and a privilege to be here this morning. That privilege was given to him by his father's service in the United States Airforce during the Korean War. His father is the only link that he has to this organization, and if not for his father's service and dedication to serving others this would have never been possible and that's something that he will never forget and he'll never take for granted. You all are eligible for this organization through someone who has served this country and also this organization. So please always remember that, somebody has sacrificed so that you can be a part of this great organization.

It's my honor to introduce an individual who has given and given to this organization and to this country. She comes to us from the great state of Wisconsin, she is a paid up for life member with the Auxiliary and along with more importantly being a member of The American Legion. Denise Rohan joined The American Legion in 1984, earning her eligibility for membership by service in the United States Army during the Vietnam War era. She served her country as an instructor in the quarter master core at Ft. Lee, Virginia separating from service at the rank of specialist in 1976. Following her service in the United States Army, Denise was employed with the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the Assistant Bursar of student loans retiring in 2012.

In her thirty three (33) plus years as a member of The American Legion, Denise has compiled an exceptional resume at all levels, including in this service record she has served as chairmen or member of the following committees: Americanism, Badger Legionnaire and Public Relations, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National and Homeland Security, Finance, Membership and Post Activities. As an officer Denise has served The American Legion as Post Commander, District Commander and Department Commander among others. While Post Commander Denise established Sons of The American Legion Squadron 0333 and also chartered Boys Scout Troop 0333.

On the National level she has served on the Legislative Commission, Veterans Policy Oversight Committee, Vice Chairmen of Americanism Council, Veterans Employment and Education Commission Chair, National Membership and Post Activities Chair, National Association Department Historians, American Legion Vice President and a facilitator at National American Legion College. Her dedication and can do attitude as earned her many awards of the years of service including, Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary Veteran of The Year, Wisconsin Female Veteran of The Year, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker Accommodation and President George Bush Lifetime Achievement Award.

Coming from a family that has a rich heritage of service to their community and their church Denise developed an exceptional standard of values and beliefs she promotes in her daily life. Holding in high regard these values: family comes first, integrity matters and justice should prevail, service not self, honesty is a given and humility is a gift. These core values make Denise the exceptional legionnaire she is today, an exceptional excellent candidate for the high office of The National Commander of The American Legion. Ladies and Gentleman please join me and give a warm welcome to leading candidate for the National Commander of The American Legion Denise Rohan from the Department of Wisconsin.

This concluded his remarks.

***The American Legion Leading Candidate for National Commander Denise H. Rohan (WI)*** welcomed officers, guests and fellow American Legion family members. For the last several years her family has been very busy assisting different re-connect events with our National Guard and Reservists in the Department of Wisconsin. We are helping the military families and the military active duty people as well. And the more we work with the National Guard and Reserves from all of the branches we are

learning about the military going purple as they join forces for training and operational support across the globe.

What a great concept that all the branches of the military “purpled-up” and began working together for a common good, joining forces certainly makes sense. During your meetings this weekend please take a moment to stop and remember, remember and reflect why you joined this great family and why you continue to be an active member of this family. Think about all the great things that you accomplish as individuals and in your Squadrons. Now imagine the impact that we will have when the entire American Legion Family “purples up”. Working together and joining forces to serve our Nation’s veterans, and working on the programs that are spelled out on our four (4) pillars.

Strengthening our internal American Legion Family and then going out and making sure that our veterans are being treated as we would want our family members to be treated. Helping them get the benefits that they have earned and they deserve. Then helping them to build a strong national defense, by taking care of those currently serving and the hero’s families before, during and after their deployments. Making sure that all of the children of this nation are safe and they’re treated like we want our children, our nieces, our nephews and our grandchildren to be treated. Making sure that we are always living an example of what it really means to be an American, because for God and Country she believes that we were put on this earth to take care of each other, keep each other safe and to be brothers and sisters no matter what our race, our religion, our age or our gender.

TAL Leading Candidate for National Commander Denise H. Rohan (WI) thanked everyone for continuing to make this Nation strong, and for always putting our families first.

This concluded her remarks.

***SAL Leading Candidate for National Commander Danny J. Smith (NE)*** thinks we are going to have a great year next year with the leaders that have been selected to join him hopefully if elected. SAL Leading Candidate Danny J. Smith (NE) would like to invite everyone next door starting at 11:00 for a luncheon reception that the candidates are going to have for you folks to join us for some lunch with your regional candidates for National Vice Commanders who will be out there to greet you. Have a great day and look forward to talking to each of you this weekend.

This concluded his remarks.

Commander Frain (AZ) advised of appointments and resignations. ADHOC Committee - Stephen Silberkraus (NV) has resigned his position and filling his position will be Joe Navarrete (NM). Also, appointing PNC John Dietz (KY) to this committee.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the resignations and appointments for the ADHOC Committee, so moved by Camille A. LeJeune, Jr. (LA), seconded by Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL). Motion carried.***

Commander Frain (AZ) called for the National Sergeant-at-Arms to escort SAL National Liaison John Kerestan to the stage for remarks.

***SAL National Liaison John Kerestan*** welcomed everyone to the Spring National Executive Committee Meetings, National Management Institute training and for the fine Indiana weather we are having this week. He has a few administrative announcements this morning and will try to keep this short.

First, of all next Wednesday, May 10, 2017 is the SAL 100% Membership target date, so far we have six (6) Detachments that have achieved 100% and congratulations. Hopefully we will have many more and many close. First, of all the membership target date next week is also the cut-off date for the pre-printed membership cards for 2018. So when you get back check with your Departments to see if they have

anything to transmit and have them transmit anything they can for name, address, date of birth, email we need to have all that in by the target date. Right after the target date we will post everything and run an extract of the membership file and they will use that information to pre-print the 2018 membership cards.

Speaking of the 2018 pre-printed membership cards, in your packets there is a flyer that shows the 2018 membership card, both the membership card for The American Legion and the SAL have been redesigned. The portion that's transmitted to National Headquarters we've added a section for email address, date of birth and telephone number. The data that we have in the system currently will be printed on the cards, so once these squadron Adjutants receive the cards have them check the email addresses when the people renew just write in over the top of the old email address or scratch it out and write the new email address. Then when the cards are transmitted back to the Departments and to National we can update the records accordingly. That should really give us a boost in capturing dates of birth and correcting email addresses.

The reservation process for these meetings went pretty well, really good and thank you, people are reading your emails. Again I caution you on these reservation forms they are not real difficult to fill out, take a second look at it before you scan and transmit back to us. Through my new assistant, Brian who's taking minutes we found a lot of errors with ID#'s, caught a lot of errors in the addresses. The addresses that we have on file in our system were different then what you listed on the forms. Guys if you're entitled to a reimbursement and we send that check out, we don't know where that check is going to go. It may go to another address, so be careful when you fill that out. Also, especially on the reservation dates some people had that they were arriving on a Thursday and other sections of the form said they were arriving on a Friday. So just a little caution on that when completing those forms.

Next item this is for the NEC's only, Section 2 Article 7 of the Constitution says "the NEC can transact business via email and allow thirty days (30) for that process". We don't do this very often, we did it last Fall and I think a time before that it had been 3-4 years prior to that. I don't think we have done it more than twice in the last ten (10) years, but when those are sent out to you, you need to respond one way or the other. We had eighteen (18) Detachments that did not respond to that Resolution, we had enough votes and the Adjutant had to call some NEC's to get your vote and we finally got that Resolution passed. So please read your emails.

Last some of you might have heard some rumors, those rumors are true. I announced my retirement and plan on retiring November 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be two (2) months shy of thirty one (31) years. I do plan on if everything goes alright on being in Reno and at the Fall meetings and at that time I will probably get up and make a few comments, good comments and a whole lot of thank you's. In the meantime my replacement is on board and if you haven't already met him, we picked a little fella to take my place. He is here with us this morning and at this time I would like to introduce Paul Brown, Paul would you please come up to the stage.

This concluded his remarks.

***SAL National Liaison Paul Brown*** I'm honored to be taking on the challenge to stepping into John's shoes, John has been involved as Liaison to the organization for quite a long time. It's real easy to step up here and go glad to be here, glad to be part of the team but I want you to know that I'm a member of the SAL and my membership through both my father and my grandfather. Just know from me that you are going to get the best support from me in my role, to progress in the organization as much as we can. Thank you very much glad to be here.

This concluded his remarks.

Commander Frain (AZ) called for the National Sergeant-at-Arms to escort National CWF President Dennis Boland (FL), National Executive Secretary CWF Jason Kees and CWF Committee Chairmen Christopher Carlton (IN) to the stage.

**National CWF President Dennis Boland (FL)** good morning, I bring you greetings from our Board of Directors of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Seeing how someone already stole my thunder I appreciate that very much to have dual members. If you notice there is a \$100 pin on my cap which I just got in Arizona the other day. You know in 1953 luckily a gentleman from the Department of Arkansas at the foresight Garland Murphy who was Department Commander at that time thought of the ideal of the Child Welfare Foundation. To start off the Child Welfare Foundation he donated mineral rights up in North Dakota that he had and to this day we are still drawing funds from those mineral rights that he donated.

But in 1955 the Child Welfare Foundation we gave \$22,500 to three (3) children's organizations, the Delinquency Control, National Association of Retarded Children & The National Society Preventing Blindness. Last year as you know we gave \$618,606 to twenty (20) children's organizations. I don't know if a lot of you know but the Board of Directors received a book of all the grantees and the Sons of The American Legion and the Auxiliary received that same book. Your committee comes back to the Board of Directors and said we would like to see you do this, these are the grants that we would like you to give out to. Of the twenty (20) I believe we had ten (10) that the Sons of The American Legion recommended. Of those they were Angel Flight West Bethany, Christian Service Books Aloud, Building Better Days, Child Find of America, Inc., Childhood Leukemia Foundation, The Children's Brain Tumor Foundation, The Keys Program, National Meningitis Association, Inc., Our Military Kids and The American Legion Oratorical Contest.

Those are grants that you wanted and it seems like the Board of Directors think on the same guidelines that you think. So we're proud to be able to give the grants that you see were fit to be given. The grant total for these organizations totaled \$280,092 that will directly impact the lives of tens of thousands of kids across the country. You know I never use to join anything, my wife got me involved god bless her she has passed away. When she got me involved in The American Legion and I went to the All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida and I toured the neo-natal part of the hospital and I saw a child, it's going to a little exaggeration but not by much that could fit in my hand. And I knew that because of the Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary we gave that child life. That child was able to move on and grow up.

These are things that a lot of you don't hear, and I would like to give you some other scenarios of grants we have given out. A lot of you probably don't remember "retinitis pigmentosa" we gave a grant to them, and because of that grant they found out that vitamin C retards they're handicap which is (they start getting tunnel vision until they completely go blind). But without the money that we raised to give to them a lot of children would be blind automatically instead of retarding or blindness.

Autism, you might have heard just on the news the other day a deputy jumped into a pond where a child was almost drowning and saved that child, that child was autistic. A young lady at our Children & Youth seminar made a presentation and we gave them a grant for what they call "red box". Basically her child, she had a child that was autistic and what a lot of people don't know is that autistic children they know they wander but they don't realize the two things they don't wander to is water and railroad tracks. In 75% of the time when children are found they will be dead, these are things that families of autistic children need to know because of what you have done that is available to them.

Spinoza Buddy Bear I'm sorry to say I think they went out of business and we're no longer with them but when we were with them there was a child in the hospital and the doctor's kept asking him what was wrong with him. And all he could say is "I hurt, I hurt" and they couldn't figure it out, the doctors. And at night time the nurses noticed that he was speaking to his Spinoza Buddy Bear, they put a recording in

the buddy bear and found out what exactly was wrong with that child because he was telling his Spinoza Buddy Bear what was wrong with him that he couldn't tell to the doctors. That is just awesome.

KODA (Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates) I'm sure you are all aware of KODA, a children's organ transplant association. What a phenomenal job that they do helping children receive transplants, and the most important part is the families don't normally have to pay a penny for the transplant. To coincide with that we have Angel Flight, Angel Flight is only allowed to fly a certain amount or distance but when they fly to that distance someone else will pick them up. So if someone in Florida needs to be in Washington, Angel Flight will make sure that the child gets there. And thank God now they are even doing our military veterans. Young marines coloring book, it's all about bullying and we so much about it on the news now these are things that hopefully like me they come from your heart and sometimes they almost bring tears to your eyes, without you it's just amazing that we call it The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation when really the Sons of The American Legion has taken it under their wing as any program you have done. You excel in every one of them, Special Olympics, Children's Miracle Network and Child Welfare Foundation it's just unbelievable as you can see the line growing back in the room to give money.

Last weekend, John Kerestan mentioned about the weather last weekend I was fortunate to be at Hualapai Mountain outside Kingman, Arizona before I went I typed in the weather and it said it was going to be 75 degrees during the day and 50 degrees at night. Well I didn't go the other 2,000 foot elevation and it was 35-40 degrees at night, and dummy from Florida in my Florida attire but I had one heck of a time and the Detachment of Arizona had one heck of a time and they donated \$21,000 to the Child Welfare Foundation. But at the same time they donated probably close to \$50,000 to other Special Olympics, Boys State and other programs within their state. I've been to other states who has requested me and they have done the same things, so I'm not just saying how great Arizona is even though they are. You are all great because every time I go to one of your states your whole heart is into giving, giving and giving. It's not about you, it's not about the clause, it's about the cause and that's what makes you guys so great. Last year the Sons of The American Legion donated \$360,299 nearly 55% of the \$653,000 from last year that was donated. So far this year you're at \$386,703 putting the SAL at \$7,285,361 in donations. As of last week there is \$564,566.65 donated to the Child Welfare Foundation, your \$435,433.35 shy not you, the Legion Family.

This concluded his remarks.

Commander Frain (AZ) called for donations for Child Welfare.

Total Donations Received – **CWF** - \$111,457.00; **NEF** - \$9,850.00; **Endowment Fund** - \$1,000.00  
**OCW** - \$6,940.00; **LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND** \$300.00

Also \$12,591.00 donated to other various Legion charities.

This concluded the donations submitted.

Commander Frain (AZ) called for announcements.

Reminder the religious service will begin at 6:45am tomorrow morning in this same room.

Mike Sawicki (IN) announced NMI would be downstairs at 1:00pm.

Caucuses announced at this time.

Christopher Carlton (IN) CWF Committee Chairmen announced they have a CWF table set-up and they're doing a raffle.



Commander Frain (AZ) advised a \$100.00 cut above the rest pins still available for CWF donations.

There were no further announcements.

At this time the General Session was adjourned at 9:54 am with a right hand salute to the colors.

**The Spring Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, May 7, 2017.**

With colors being in place and following a right hand salute, National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) declared the National Executive Committee Spring Meeting reconvened.

National Chaplain Richard A. Ellwein (MT) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Michael L. Lawler (WI) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Joseph A. Korba (NJ).

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) then called on National Adjutant Brian J. O’Hearne (MA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders, NECmen and Alternate NECmen.

Present were: E (excused)

**National Officers**

Jeff C. Frain (AZ)	National Commander
Joseph A. Korba (NJ)	National Vice Commander – East
William D. Kelly, Jr. (FL)	National Vice Commander – South
Michael L. Lawler (WI)	National Vice Commander – Central
Kenneth L. Yanke (CO)	National Vice Commander – Midwest
Joseph B. Keiser (NV)	National Vice Commander – West
Brian J. O’Hearne (MA)	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE) - E	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	National Assistant Adjutant
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL) - E	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert J. Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David M. Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott A. Williams (VA)	National Assistant Adjutant
Scott J. Thornton (OH)	National Assistant Adjutant
Richard A. Ellwein (MT)	National Chaplain
Michael Kane (PA)	National Historian
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)	National Judge Advocate
Danny J. Poole (MI)	National Sergeant-At-Arms
Vacant	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond P. Giehl, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Matthew Chebro (GA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Charles E. Treat, II (AZ)	Aide To The National Commander

### **Past National Commanders**

Kevin L. Collier (AK) – Immediate PNC	Kevin N. Winkelmann (TX)
Michael Seaton (CA)	Clifford A. Smith (MA)
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Robert Faust (CA)	Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)	Michael J. Deacon (IA)
David P. Stephens (IN)	William L. Sparwasser (MD)
Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)	Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Douglas P. Bible (MN)	Raymond P. Giehl, Jr. (IN)
David R. Faust (WI)	Thomas E. Cisna (IL)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)	Mark E. Arneson (GA)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)	David L. Dew (TX)
John T. Dietz (KY)	James K. Roberts, III (FL)
William E. Matoska (MD)	Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)
Byron J. Robichaux (LA)	Joseph W. Gladden (MD)
Richard L. Cook (OK)	Michael W. Moss (CO)

### **National Executive Committeemen**

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

Commander Frain (AZ) asked that all veterans please stand and be recognized.

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

At this time Americanism Commission gave their report.

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

### **Children and Youth Committee – reported by John P. Waite (NH), Chairman**

Mr. Waite (NH) the Committee met on Friday evening, guest speaker Kim Harvey from Angels & Doves spoke which was the CWF grant recipient this year. Spoke about bullying in schools as well as bullying and suicide prevention. John Lawrence (LA) spoke on family support, Tom Marsden (NJ) spoke on child safety and Jim Gaddis (CO) spoke on The American Legion Endowment Fund which has been in place for ninety-two (92) years. The entire committee will focus the remainder of the year to donations to the Endowment fund as there has only been \$7,000 donated to that fund this year. We ask all Detachments to do what they can with Endowment Fund donations.

Ronnie Grist (GA) spoke on Children & Youth month, noted that many Children’s Hospitals do not receive donations during the summer months, arts and craft items are an example of donations that can be made. Ronnie Grist (GA) also read **S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring 2017 titled “Digitally Disconnect Our Kids”** which the Committee did accept. The Children & Youth Conference is September 15-17, 2017 and asking everybody to send one representative from each Detachment. We need the NEC and

Alternate NEC help with most Conventions coming up soon to get contact information for the Children & Youth Committee Chairmen and please get it back to him at waitejohn@comcast.net or see any of the other committee members. The e-Newsletter that was started in the Fall will be going out after these meetings, and when you get it please forward it all the way down to the Squadrons. The last edition will be in August, and we encourage all Detachments to send information in and we will include it. Need to stress the importance of the consolidated reports, please go back to your Detachments and make sure those reports get filled out this year.

This concluded his report.

Michael Pipher (IN) asked Children and Youth Committee Chairmen if conference calls have still been going on since the Fall NEC meeting and why NEC hasn't been receiving a synopsis of those calls and to please make sure NEC gets them moving forward.

**Child Welfare Foundation Committee – reported by Christopher A. Carlton (IN), Chairman**

Christopher A. Carlton (IN) we raised money and we're still doing it. It's been an exciting year and ever since I've been a Sons member this the highest I've seen with raising money. Wants to thank everyone for participating this weekend, it's something we've never done before our Committee besides just selling merchandise out there; we made it a little bit more fun. Just by selling tickets which we will draw here in a few minutes.

This is the Spring NEC and this is the last time I will get to see all of your pretty faces until Convention, CWF for the fiscal year ends May 31, 2017 at the end/close of business, we will start on a new year June 1<sup>st</sup> and we will continue to raise money. It takes a lot of time to put something together to raise money and wants to thank everyone for all of your help.

Mr. Carlton (IN) will submit the CWF meeting minutes from Friday evening to the National Adjutant.

Chris Carlton (IN) advised there were twenty-six (26) "cut above" pins sold which was \$2,600 and as of last night after the raffle and from selling we raised \$1,308 (not including ticket sells that were done right before this meeting) with a grand total of \$3,908. We hit a record approximately so far of \$505,708 with a month still to go.

**S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring 2017 titled "Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2017 Budget"** was read and approved by Committee.

This concluded his report.

***Americanism Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS)*** – reported we are working with Public & Media Communications on two items for tri-fold pamphlets for Boys State and American Legion baseball. We are hoping to get the individuals who participate in these programs signed up and to be part of the Sons. The tri-fold was voted on and they are still working on and have the approval to go forward.

We are also working on a flyer for Children & Youth Conference and Americanism Conference the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks in September so we can get the word out there is a Conference and to who is eligible to go and learn. We discussed the consolidated report form, how it can be filled out online but if you complete online you still have to print it and make three (3) copies (1 for Squadron, 1 for National and 1 for Detachment). So if you do fill out consolidated report online remember to print it or it won't go through, and it is fillable in Microsoft excel online. Make sure you stress the importance of the form, I think last year we had a high of 1,400 I would like to see 1,600-1,800 or even 2,000. We will also have an article on the web of what can be filled out on the consolidated report and how to fill out available in the next week or two.

Also voted on two resolutions at the meeting.

**S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring 2017 “Digitally Disconnect Our Kids”**

**S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring 2017 “CWF Donation of \$5,000 from the 2017 Budget”**

Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS) advised both resolutions were approved by the Commission. Also, had **S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Spring 2017** but withdrew it.

This concluded his report.

Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL) attended CWF meeting but didn't sign in.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Americanism Commission report minus the Resolutions, so moved by Keith P. Kearns (NE), seconded by Fr. Gary P. Gummersheimer (IL). Motion carried.***

At this time Resolution Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) read two (2) Resolutions:

**S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring 2017 titled “CWF Donation of \$5,000 from the 2017 Budget”** A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the **S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring 2017**, seconded by Fr. Gary P. Gummersheimer (IL). Motion carried.

**S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring 2017 titled “Digitally Disconnect Our Kids”** A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept **S.A.L. Resolution 9 – Spring 2017**, seconded by Phillip A. Cook (NH). Motion carried.

At this time Finance Commission gave their report.

### **FINANCE COMMISSION** **William G. Hill (MD), Chairman**

***Finance Commission Chairman William G. Hill (MD)*** wants to remind everyone to turn in travel vouchers either a half hour before registration and we run through registration and the following morning from 7:00am to right before the meeting starts at 8:30am. When you come down to do that please bring your receipts and understand or have a rough ideal of what your mileage may have been to and from the airport from your home. Key thing please make sure you bring your receipt that is important. Unless you have a printed receipt we can attach your expense report it doesn't do any more than that if your just showing us a picture on your phone. Wants to make sure everybody is happy with the automated process that we have right now, Robert W. Rosenboom (IA) deserves the credit for automating this.

We had our meeting yesterday and all commission members were in attendance. Under old business we did a finalization of review of the 2016 final numbers through December 31<sup>st</sup> and discussed those with the commission and where we were and we passed that information. We also reviewed 2017 budget from the numbers passed in the Fall, we did an analysis up through March 31<sup>st</sup> and are tracking that information and right now we are in sync and where we should be with the budget. We went over the draft budget for 2018 and provided that information, again it was a draft budget, and we based the budget on the projected membership numbers of 367,948 members from the membership report. We use the \$2.00 and that's are bottom line budget and what we consider for revenue therefore we match expenses right up to that same dollar amount and that was done and reviewed. Earlier in the year we had conversations with all of the Commission chairs letting them about 2018 budget and how we are working that, they have all provided feedback and/or working on additional items and will continue to

provide information over the summer. Reminder the 2018 budget will be reviewed and approved at our Fall NEC meeting in October and the final 2018 budget will be done.

Mr. Hill (MD) advised three (3) resolutions came before the Finance Commission:

**S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Spring 2017 titled “National Convention Call-In for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion”**, that resolution was reviewed and tabled by the Finance Commission for additional review and potential revisions from the submitter.

**S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Spring 2017 titled “CWF Donation of \$5,000 from the 2017 Budget”** which was reviewed and approved as written.

**S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring 2017 titled “Expense Authorization for VAVS NAC Executive Committee”** reviewed and approved with revisions on extra wording (adding the word expense).

This concluded his report.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Finance Commission report, so moved by Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL), seconded by John M. Wright (CT). Motion carried.***

At this time Internal Affairs Commission gave their report.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION**

**Mark A. Tansel (IN), Chairman**

**Convention Committee – reported by Leslie J. “Jim” Stewart (NV), Chairman** we will have a shuttle system that will be going up and down Virginia Street at National Convention in Reno, Nevada to all of the Convention Hotels. Also, shuttle will be going over to the Grand Sierra Resort over by the airport and will be putting information from the shuttle company RTC on the website. The RTC fares are pretty reasonable its \$5.00 for 24hrs and he will get the information out on the website for everybody.

The National Convention Corporation of Nevada has also contracted with destination Reno for tours and will be provided on the website. Due to a lack of interest there is no golf tournament this year, however if anybody is interested in playing golf we have plenty of nice golf courses in Reno and in the Reno area and if you're interested please contact him and he will get you that information. Mr. Stewart (NV) along with Emblem Sales has designed an attractive 2017 pin for Convention this year (double posted rubber-back pin) and has plenty of them to sell for \$3.00 each or four (4) pins for \$10.00. All monies from the selling of the pins will go to the Child Welfare Foundation. There is also a pre-sale form available on the website and was also provided in the packets. Pins will be available for pick-up at the Convention.

The Friday night August 18, 2017 dinner is going to be located at Post 0012 which is located at the Reno Elk Lodge across the street from the Convention Center. We anticipate cocktails starting at 5:00pm, dinner starting at 6:00pm (buffet style) and serving lines going on throughout the night and the cost for the dinner is \$25.00 and all proceeds will also be donated to Child Welfare Foundation.

The Legion family parade will be on Sunday, afterwards there will be an after party along with food trucks outside of the Reno Ballroom along with live band and air conditioning.

This concluded his report.

**Member Training & Development – reported by Jeff Hicks (NJ), Acting Chairman** NMI this weekend and a lot of other activities going on. Dual member Ronald E. Roberts (MS) is developing a presentation

on resolutions which is still being worked on and once presentation is completed the MTD Committee will review it and provide feedback and move it on to Internal Affairs for review and approval.

There is talk underway for resuming the Detachment Adjutants course and is still in the planning stages, need to come up with a curriculum first and then justification for its need and when that gets completed hopefully we can implement the course at this level or a regional level. Also, discussing a stipend for NMI attendees since it is a three (3) year commitment so there is some concern about the financial obligation involved. There was a resolution submitted prior to this Spring NEC which it was returned by the Legion Internal Affairs for further study. If anyone has any prospective students for NMI please go through your NEC men and file the application with Don Culver (KS) using the deadline of February-March timeline the earlier the better.

Also updating the Commanders course for Fall, all Commanders are invited to come to that at the Fall NEC as well as anyone else who is interested in attending. Only the sitting Commanders will receive a call-in, if anyone else is attending you will not get a call-in. As always Chairman Sawicki (IL) if there are any training ideas that you want the MTD Committee to look into please contact Chairman Sawicki or anyone on the MTD Committee for us to look into those ideas and suggestions. Looking into a religious emphasis program and more details to come from that.

National Management Institute training was yesterday from 1:00pm-4:00pm and had sixty five (65) students in attendance and a lot of great information was given out along with a great networking opportunity for our students, the instructors were PNC David R. Faust (WI) and PNC Joseph W. Gladden (MD) as instructors and were assisted by Gary Denmon (NY) from MTD. NMI I was revised this year by the MTD Committee including social media do's and don'ts as well as leadership skills. NMI II was led by PNC Kevin N. Winkelmann (TX) and PNC Steve C. Laws (NC) and Jeff Hicks (NJ) assisted from MTD Committee and the discussion was time management and administrative skills. NMI III was led by PNC David P. Stephens (IN), PNC Michael W. Moss (CO) and PNC Byron J. Robichaux (LA) and assisted by Kevin I. Ivery (PA) from MTD Committee those topics included integrity, ethics and credibility. Wants to thank all PNC's and everyone on the Committee for helping out on behalf of Chairman Sawicki who taught these classes.

At this time asked that NMI I and NMI II attendees to please stand and be recognized. Also, asked that all graduates from the class NMI III to please stand and be recognized. Congratulations to all of you and kindly remind you of Commander Frain's theme this year knowledge is power, all of you have now received all the knowledge that can be imparted to you from NMI please take that knowledge back to your Detachments and utilize that power and make this SAL the best that it can be.

This concluded his report.

**Membership** – reported by **Seth A. Rippe (NE), Chairman** the committee met Friday night and had 53 guests in attendance to discuss the Membership Committee and how we have been doing this year. He wants to start by saying thank you to all the Vice Commanders and the Committee who have done a fantastic job in working hard on membership. He also wants to thank everyone in attendance, why because membership is everyone's business. The Committee has conducted four phone calls since the Fall NEC meeting to discuss membership challenges, target dates, communication and general business.

The theme for this year as you heard mentioned previously is “knowledge is power” we can't expect to recruit, renew or reinstate members if we can't tell them why they should belong to this organization. By giving them the knowledge about this organization their membership becomes meaningful, there are a lot of programs in this organization; share the knowledge of those programs with the members. Get them involved, find out what they are passionate about and feed that passion. If your current members aren't involved find out why, get them involved. An active member is a vested member and renewals come much easier when a member is vested in our organization.

The Commanders challenge “be a superhero and sign up three (3) American heroes today”. You’ve heard and seen throughout the year our Vice Commanders all have a superhero alter-ego they have been going by and have had a lot of fun with it. We have had some great competition throughout the year, the goal of this challenge is to build our parent organization. We can’t expect to grow our organization if we can’t grow our parent organization. By growing The American Legion we can sign up not only a new legionnaire but sign them up as a Son if they are eligible to be a dual member, then sign up their sons and grandsons and certainly don’t forget about the American Legion Auxiliary.

As of May 4<sup>th</sup> ten (10) SAL members currently have received National Commander Schmidt’s Legion incentive for meeting this challenge. As in the past we are also recognizing our own individual recruitment efforts for members who have signed up five (5) new members to our organization. As of Friday night in the membership meeting reported that forty six (46) of our members have already received their individual recruitment pin for the year. If anyone needs help filling out the form help them fill out the form, encourage them to fill out the form and get that recognition; not just for them but for our organization.

We have met five (5) of the eight (8) target dates nationally just narrowly missing two of them by less than 1%, that 1% was probably transmitted to National the day of. Make sure that you are going back to your Detachments and encouraging them to transmit that membership at least a week prior so there is plenty of time to receive and process. As of May 4, 2017 membership is at 92.008% approximately 500 members ahead of where we were this same time last year, with a renewal rate of 82.47% we’re chasing last years all time high renewal rate of 89%. A 90% renewal rate is attainable, however even at 90% we’re losing over 36,000 members every year. That’s like losing the Detachment of Indiana every year, so a 90% renewal rate sounds great but that’s way to high gentlemen or way to low we need to raise that number even higher, we need to shoot to 95%. Our 100% target date is May 10, 2017 and I want to congratulate the six (6) Detachments who’ve already met the goal.

The Committee has also been pushing for the collection of emails and birth dates for the upcoming year. As you heard Mr. Kerestan say yesterday the 2018 membership cards have undergone a makeover, and there have fields added to now collect both pieces of information. This information is necessary in order to explore opportunities for using email notifications for renewals versus the standard postcard and the potential for paid up for life programs. The last few years these subjects have come up, last year we only had approximately 11,000 email addresses so we can’t pretend to be moving in the direction of going electronically if we can’t get that number up. So stress the collection of those email addresses this year, also birth dates there are some Detachments who have really pushed hard some Detachments have 90%-95% of their birthdates collected. We need to collect 95% of the birthdates for the entire organization, so please make sure you are pushing that this year.

Finally, the Committee received a motion to explore or investigate online renewals, we took it to the Internal Affairs Commission yesterday and the Internal Affairs Commission approved us moving forward with the investigation of an online renewal program. Which we will report back to the Internal Affairs Commission.

This concluded his report.

***Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Mark A. Tansel (IN)*** we had a couple of pieces of old business to go over and we got both of those issues resolved. One of the issues was from the Fall NEC meeting regarding the 501C3, the other was about the divisionary split and both issues were resolved.

Internal Affairs Commission had three (3) Resolutions:

**S.A.L. Resolution – 1 Spring 2017 titled “Endorsement of Edward M. Cleary (AZ) for National Vice Commander”**

**S.A.L. Resolution – 2 Spring 2017 titled “Endorsement of David L. Van Duisen (WA) for National Vice Commander”**

Both resolutions received and filed. Another resolution came before the Commission

***S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring 2017 titled “Update to Squadron Handbook to Recognize Women Veterans”*** which was amended in concurrence with the Detachment of Wisconsin which was approved as amended.

Would also like to thank the Commission for all of the hard work that’s been going on behind the scenes, not only with MTD and the NMI but also with the Commission itself.

This concluded his report.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Internal Affairs Commission report minus the resolutions, so moved by David L. Bishop, Sr. (NY) seconded by Gary P. Nelson (NJ). Motion carried.***

At this time National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) suspended reports and called to the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort to the stage special guest National Commander of The American Legion Charles E. Schmidt.

***American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt*** unfortunately this is our last NEC meeting before the year ends, hope everybody has had a good year. On the way up from Louisville this morning I looked at the stats for the Sons of The American Legion membership and congratulations to you all because you are ahead of the game. Tell us how you do it, because looking the American Legion side we are a little on the shallow side right now but hopefully we are going to have some discussions this week to kind of rectify that. Anyways, I bring you greetings from 2.2 million American Legion members and appreciate all that you have done.

We have visited about forty four (44) Departments and almost that many Detachments and appreciate the hospitality that you all extended to us. We are getting towards the end of the American Legion year where we kind of take stock of where we have been and what we’ve done, and in just a few more months we will all meet in Reno and prepare for the next year. We will be bringing up this year’s business as well as to prepare for the election of new officers, in between time it’s a busy time for the American Legion Family. We just had the Oratorical program about two weeks ago, outstanding kids. Again it makes you proud and restores your faith in the future of our country.

Coming up we have The American Legion baseball world series and also Boys Scout this year and we are going to have a jamboree which is every two years and of course The American Legion Legacy Ride coming up and leading us into Reno. As you look at all those things that happened as a result of the good things we do somebody out there in that Post, Unit or Squadron made something good happen, and of course part of my theme this year is “carry The American Legion legacy forward”. By doing that make something good happen, and I know the Sons have been very instrumental and involved in making many of those activities and youth activities.

We had a very good Washington Conference and there were Sons up there as well, so many of you walked the halls of Congress to your Representatives and shared those legislative priorities with them. I think they listened because the latest traffic we got was the Appeals Modernization Bill is starting to get some traction. In fact during that Washington Conference for those of you that were there, talking about our Legislative priorities, and we had the report to Congress as we are mandated by Congress. We took the time to tell them pretty direct about that Appeals Modernization Bill, a veteran or veterans should not have to wait years, to find out the appeals on their claims are going to be approved or denied.

The day after we testified we went back on Capitol Hill called on Congressman Rowe, Chairman of the House of Veterans Affairs Committee and said Chairman Rowe please get that bill out of your Committee and on to the House. We left his office and went to the Speaker of the House and sat down



with Mr. Ryan, said Speaker Ryan get this bill out of the House and get it to the Senate. We walked out of his office and went down the hall and visited Senator Tester (MT) who is the majority leader on the Senate side for the Veterans Affairs Committee. I said Senator Tester you called me in California when I was visiting you told me how elated you were at being assigned to this Committee and that you're ready to work for veterans. I said Senator the American Legion has been working for veterans since 1919 and we are always ready. So when that bill comes out of the Senate please work with your Committee and get it on the floor and let's get this done.

So we need to be cognitive on what's going on Capitol Hill, looking at our legislative web page about what's happening and when it comes up to the House or even on the full floor of the Senate. We all want to harmonize together as The American Legion Family to take care of veterans because we have been taking care of veterans, their families and standing up for the United States of America since 1919. Of course you gentlemen joined us in 1932, that's who we are and that's what we do. All those programs that we do whether it's our youth, giving youth an opportunity or advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill which we do every day.

It takes members and membership that does it, and I congratulate you on what you've been doing on membership. I haven't seen any figures yet but I'm imaging you have done it again with Child Welfare Foundation, I wouldn't doubt it. It takes members to make something good happen, there are so many people yet to hear about The American Legion. I have to commend Commander Jeff by challenging you all too just sign up three (3) new members or three (3) heroes I guess it is. Of course through those veterans most likely there is a male descendant that's eligible to be in The Sons of The American Legion, and remind legionnaires we need to do it for the Sons as well and also the Auxiliary, because the Auxiliary is looking for legionnaires too we're all in this together. I wish you all a great NEC meetings I think you're probably towards the end of your agenda, I appreciate each and every one of you and what you all do day in and day out, month after month and year after year. May God bless each one of you and our greatest country The United States of America.

Also, we are taking Commander Frain with us to our European trip and tell the American Legion story and it's never been done before and hopefully there will be many people eligible to join The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion and Auxiliary.

This concluded his remarks.

At this time Commander Frain (AZ) called for Resolutions Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) for the reading of Internal Affairs Commission resolutions:

**S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring 2017 titled “Update to Squadron Handbook to Recognize Women Veterans”**

***The resolved clause: The Squadron Handbook installation of officers ceremony beginning on page 17 of the 2016 edition be updated as follows:***

**Installation Ceremony, page 17, Paragraph 2: the amendment will be to strike “he shall then call upon sergeant-at-arms to bring before him the officers he is to install”.**

**Replacing with: “The sergeant-at-arms shall be called upon to bring forth the officers to be installed”.**

**Installation Ceremony, Page 17, Paragraph 7: to strike “fathers”**

**Replacing with: “sponsoring veterans”**

**Installation Ceremony, Page 18, Acting Historian: the collection of the records of your fathers, to strike “fathers”**

**Replacing with:** *“the collection of records with your Post of The American Legion is of historical value*

**Installation Ceremony, Page 20, Paragraph 5:** *words to strike “he hands the gavel to the new Commander and the installing officer takes a seat”*

**Replacing with:** *“the gavel is handed to the new Commander and the installing officer takes a seat”*

**Discussion:** Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) asks for a ruling from the Judge Advocate the resolution was not written or quoted as it is printed in the handout and that will be what we vote on. Is the presentation of a portion of the resolved clauses good be pronounced or the entire reading of the resolved clauses.

**SAL National Judge Advocate Joseph Paviglianti (NY)** He thinks that it is appropriate that Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Resolutions presented the corrected document, read it aloud he can certainly re-read it and re-print it; but it is acceptable that the verbal document and the verbal adjustments were made and they can be voted upon.

**S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring 2017** *titled “Update to Squadron Handbook to Recognize Women Veterans” A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept S.A.L. Resolution 8 – Spring 2017, seconded by Ronald E. Moore (FR). Motion carried.*

At this time Legislative Commission gave their report.

## **LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION**

**David W. Lee (NY), Chairman**

***Legislative Commission Chairman David W. Lee (NY)*** The Legislative Commission met on May 6<sup>th</sup> and wants to thank the Commission members for all there assistance throughout the year in all the programs.

The George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans Advocate of the Year Award, I hope everyone is aware at our last Convention that we presented a cap for the first time to the awardee. Who is going to be the second person to receive a cap, we have members around this country doing the work for our veterans, going to their House and speaking to their House Representatives; going to the Capitol speaking and writing letters. We need to let The American Legion know and we need to let The American Legion Family know the work we’re doing. By doing that is reporting and getting this information on, we need to receive this information in a timely manner as we need this information to be judged. When you’re filling out this paperwork please look at the instructions, last year we had a very good candidate and we couldn’t really judge it because the application was not filled out appropriately. Very disappointing for the person who possibly could have been the award winner, nothing against the person who did win but give that person a fair chance that they are due.

Information that is in the packets is communicating with elected officials, we reviewed this information.

This concluded his report.

***Christopher L. Cook (OK) made a motion to accept the Legislative Commission report as published. Seconded by Alternate NEC Brandon K. Curry (KY). Motion carried.***

At this time Public and Media Communications Commission gave their report.

## **PUBLIC AND MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**Michael C. Fox (CA), Chairman**

**Public and Media Communications Commission Chairman Michael C. Fox (CA)** First order of business, is there any NEC that is not receiving emails from him. Everyone in your packet has a copy of our report from the meeting so I don't think I need to go over all that information. Some of you don't read the National update or the Legion magazine or go onto Legion Town, several articles have been submitted. Legion Town does have one article from a gentleman from Pennsylvania a story about an Eagle Scout, we've also had some publications in the Auxiliary magazine.

The Public and Media Communications Commission has drafted a five (5) year strategic plan that was taken to the strategic ADHOC Committee for review for possible implementation into their master plan that's going to be presented to The American Legion. Also, have turned over some paperwork explaining the importance and why we need to get our own website, how we can utilize social media to attract the youth.

The Commanders video was done at the last NEC meeting has been completed. When he gets back home he will send all of the NEC's and the PNC's an email with a pass-coded link that's going to be downloaded to "**you tube**". The only people that will be able to view that is if you get an email from him with that link on their. So if a week passes and you have not gotten an email from him, please contact him that means he missed you.

We have worked fairly well with many of the Commissions and Committees, gentlemen remember when you get something that is distributed to you it is also going to your Adjutants. Please make sure that information gets passed to the blue cappers. Communication is up at an all-time high this year within the organization on the upper levels but we need to make sure it gets all the way down.

This concluded his report.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Public and Media Communications Commission report, so moved by Phillip A. Cook (NH) seconded by John M. Wright (CT). Motion carried.***

At this time VA&R Commission gave their report.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION**

**Clint D. Bolt (VA), Chairman**

**Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Clint D. Bolt (VA)** wants to thank all of the guests and spouses of the guests that attended our VA&R meeting yesterday, also wants to personally thank Past National Commander Steve C. Laws (NC) for being our liaison for sharing words of wisdom and guiding us throughout the year.

Wants to talk about the Washington Conference he attended on behalf of the Sons with VA&R Commission. The American Legion has given him a seat at the front table (front and center) when he usually speaks it's usually about the past years accomplishments, hours of service and dollars raised. This year the Chairman for The American Legion asked him to speak on Operation Comfort Warriors because throughout the past year the Sons of The American Legion across the country have been doing more and more on behalf of Operation Comfort Warriors. I applaud each of you for everything you're doing for OCW our presence is known, The American Legion is taking notice of it and keep up the good work.

National Veterans Assistance Day is coming up which was started in 2008 by Past National Commander Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN) which can be a Squadron effort to participate that day. It can also be an individual effort, Ray Giehll (IN) has always reminded us it doesn't have to be on that particular day, but we would encourage each of you we want to see this grow as we move along. A couple of weeks ago he attended the VA Volunteer Service National Advisory Committee meeting in Tampa, Florida representing the Sons of The American Legion. This year they have a male and female volunteer of the year award competition which is just like our Charles B. Rigsby competition, this year the Charles B. Rigsby award winner Gabe Cinquegrana (NY-Sqdn 256) was our submission in this competition.

We thought our choice for the winner was really good and didn't think anyone else could beat Gabe this year. Wants to thank Mike Pipher (IN) for flying up to New York, spending a day with Gabe and putting that in the update which was a first. This year we didn't make it, called Gabe on the phone and had to tell him ahead of time "I'm sorry Gabe you weren't the winner this year". I'm going to have to announce to you the winner that beat us out was The American Legion. Their nominee for male volunteer of the year was the winner. The winner for The American Legion was David Miller, who had over 15,000 hours of volunteer service at the Bay Pines VA Campus in Bay Pines, Florida. This is the first time The American Legion has ever won that award, so as good as he felt about our nominee this is the first time The American Legion ever won. The American Legion Auxiliary has won that award three (3) times. So it's tough competition a lot of great volunteers across the country from a lot of organizations.

The James H. Parke Scholarship was proud to present our donation at the scholarship luncheon of \$1,000 we are continued supporters of this scholarship. This year's winner received a \$20,000 scholarship, there was a second place prize of \$5,000 then five (5) \$2,000 winners also announced. None of them were Sons of The American Legion. He would really like one day that a Sons member would be the recipient of one of these scholarships. Recipients have to be at least in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and no older than nineteen (19) years of age, at least serve one hundred (100) hours at the VA and the deadline for the scholarship application is November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have younger members encourage them to volunteer because it can pay big dividends such as that scholarship.

This year he was offered an appointment on the Executive Committee of National Advisory Committee to the VA Volunteer Services, when he received the letter it took all of about sixty (60) seconds to accept. Then had to decide who to get to sit in this position for the first time for the Sons, chose Doug Murphy (GA). Doug has logged in over 15,000 hours of voluntary service, received a Presidential certificate, past Charles B. Rigsby winner and Doug will represent each of us in the best possible light that we can be represented. It was really good to see The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons member Doug Murphy (GA) sitting there with the Executive Committee. We had two (2) resolutions presented one of which was deferred for a later date.

**S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring 2017** titled "The Sons of The American Legion expense authorization for VAVS NAC Executive Committee appointment" which was approved by our Committee.

This concluded his report.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission report minus the Resolution, so moved by Michael Pipher (IN) seconded by Linwood A. Moore (VA). Motion carried.***

At this time Commander Frain (AZ) called for Resolutions Chairman John T. Jennings (FL) for the reading of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission resolution:

**S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring 2017** titled "***The Sons of The American Legion expense authorization for VAVS NAC Executive Committee appointment***" ***A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Spring 2017, seconded by Rodney J. Tolbert (MI). Motion carried.***

At this time Veterans Employment & Education Commission gave their report.

## **VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**Larry C. "Bear" Weinzirl (MD), Chairman**

*Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Larry C. "Bear" Weinzirl (MD)* our mission station was reiterated which is "to assist The American Legion in ensuring that America's Veterans have the opportunity to provide, with Honor and Dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families". Our Commission is utilizing the National Vice Commanders, NEC's and Detachment Adjutants this year to distribute that dates and locations of "hiring our hero job fairs" nation-wide to the Detachments where they are being held. Our Commission has already distributed information on over 150 of these job fairs and will continue to do so. Sons are also providing volunteer assistance at these fairs when requested.

This year we are continuing to encourage every Detachment to form its own VE&E Commission or Committee. Each of our Commission members has been assigned a region this year and they are participating in their assigned regions conference calls to push this initiative. If your Detachment has not done so yet please consider forming your own VE&E Commission or Committee and then encourage your Districts and Squadrons to do the same.

Another major focus of our Commission this year has been military to civilian credentialing, it's a scary job market right now but the training and experience that our veterans received in the military makes them highly marketable. The Department of Defense provides some of the best vocational training in the nation for its military personnel and there are many occupational career fields in the armed forces that can easily translate to a civilian counter-part. However, these many occupations; there are many occupations in the civilian workforce that require a license or certification. Every year skilled service members leaving the armed forces miss out on the chance to quickly move into good high paying jobs because they must undergo lengthy and expensive re-training in order to meet civilian licensure and certification requirements often for the same type of job they held in the military. Our Commission continues to actively investigate support credentialing initiatives in the individual states.

Another major focus of our Commission this year is "ending veteran's homelessness". At our meeting yesterday he presented a power point that he created outlining some suggestions on how Detachments, Districts and Squadrons can assist us with this initiative. Just a few things that you can do to assist us are promoting veterans employment, encourage property owners and landlords to house veterans exiting homelessness, collect and distribute move-in essentials for these veterans and support emergency shelters with donations.

Chairman Weinzirl (MD) placed on the SAL website a brochure created by the VA for first responders, these emergency workers are many times in contact with homeless veterans on a daily basis. This brochure gives the first responders information that they can provide to this down on their luck veterans including a phone number which offers them assistance 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. Chairman Weinzirl (MD) personally printed out some of the brochures and approached the local fire and police department in his home town, not only did they agree to put these brochures in all of their vehicles but we received front page coverage in our county newspaper for doing so. So please consider trying this in your area.

You can also research organizations in your state to assist with veteran's homelessness and throw support behind them. One sector organization in my home state is MCVET (The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training), last year the Detachment of Maryland donated not one (1) but two (2) vans to this outstanding organization. Chairman Weinzirl (MD) requested Committees and Commissions to research and find similar organizations in their region, after the power point presentation yesterday our members each presented examples of organizations that they identified of possibly deserving SAL support (details of their findings can be found in the published minutes).

In closing I'm sure you will agree with Chairman Weinzirl (MD) that no veteran should ever be unemployed or homeless. Please consider assisting SAL National Veterans Employment and Education Commission towards this end.

This concluded his report.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Veterans Employment and Education Commission report, so moved by David L. Johnson, Jr. (MA) seconded by Leonard E. Free (NJ). Motion carried.***

At this time Sub-Committee on Resolutions gave their report.

**RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman**

***Resolutions Committee Chairman John T. Jennings (FL)*** met yesterday afternoon at 1:00pm and would like to recognize the Committee members and we had ten (10) guests in attendance. We reviewed eleven (11) resolutions, out of the eleven resolutions three (3) were accepted, two (2) were received and filed and the remainder of resolutions were being held or returned back to the Committee or Commissions for review.

New business since Chairman Jennings (FL) wasn't able to attend the FALL NEC meeting October 2016, talked about education and possible free-formatting resolutions and putting information out on the website that could be researched. The materials have been sent and some of the materials have been posted on the SAL National website. There will be a pre-formatted resolution form available after the Resolutions Committee approve it with instructions, a checklist and hyperlinks to get information to fill out the resolution.

As your Chairman of Sub Committee on Resolutions we do need resolutions however we need resolutions with substance, we need resolutions that are appropriate to our organization and what will bring us the best bang for our buck. As simple as the resolution were that came out of Children & Youth about taking the cellphones and disconnecting our youth is probably one of the better resolutions to be so simple. So you ask yourself questions what can I do and how can I make a difference, it can be done but when you start the process it's not just a simple process.

Our Committee had several emails and we worked several resolutions this year through VA&R Commission and Americanism Commission. Bob Brown (GA) was very active with the Americanism Commission Chairman Hammerschmidt (KS) also Legislative shot us some emails and we are there to assist you. If you have problems or questions with resolutions email us we will get webinars there are a lot of things we can do but if we don't know that you have a need we cannot as a Committee do what you ask us to do as supply you with information and help on resolutions.

This concluded his report.

***A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Sub Committee on Resolutions report, so moved by John T. Jennings (FL) seconded by Tim J. Tuma (ND). Motion carried.***

**ADHOC STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**PNC WILLIAM L. SPARWASSER (MD), CHAIRMAN**

*ADHOC Strategic Planning Committee Chairman William L. Sparwasser (MD)* wants to begin this update and we have a set of concrete timelines that this Committee needs to be moving towards to achieve the final goal of presenting a package by the Spring NEC 2018 for future focus and plans for progressional movements of this great organization.

I want to step aside for just a moment and give you an analogy of our Committee, we currently have five (5) PNC's on it the NEC approved the additional PNC John T. Dietz (OH) on Saturday morning. However, John has been working in the background with us for a few weeks. John is pretty much up to speed with where we are, yesterday you approved another NEC representative Joe Navarrete which joined us yesterday. We also have three (3) more spots we have requested additional help on and have asked the Commander to present three more folks from the NEC that will help us drive this program forward. Let me make sure you understand that the program we are building represents 365,000 members of the Sons of The American Legion and it doesn't represent this room as a select group, we've had the pleasure of having many people walk into our sessions on Friday and Saturday to offer up opinion.

Here's your invitation there is no closed door on this because we can't do this without the opinion of everyone in this room, every Commission and Committee we have, every blue cap member down at the Post level, every District Commander, County Commander, every area Commander and the respective members of those particular levels of the organization. It's our job to make this happen, a Committee group of seven to nine men are not going to be the nucleus of driving this force forward you have got to help make this happen. We're stripping the organization down and rebuilding it in the most effective manor so that the business at the end is the most effective to do business. Does everyone understand when I say a business to top heavy? How do you think we are? How do you think we need to fix it? PNC Chairman Sparwasser (MD) thinks you got the point this Committee is literally in the process of stripping this entire organization down to bare bones nothing.

We have a leader, we have an Adjutant, we have Committees and Commissions, they have a chair and vice-chair and pretty much that's all we see right now. Because we have to look at all of the pieces to the puzzle that make that puzzle come to life, we got to look at training, how to improve membership and development of our membership. How do we attract younger members that's the important thing because guess what folks we're not getting any younger. When I look out at this room over the last thirty (30) years some of the folks that he got involved with early on in his national career they are not here now. We can't let that continue so let's build for the future, let's bring those younger members out.

We need to continue to drive that home, we need that younger birth person out here helping us go forward. Because guess what they're visionaries, they're millennia they are people looking at the future not only of our organization but other organizations they're members of millennial. The Committee was meeting on conference calls from March 13-16 and it's been back and forth emails, from Commander Collier's (AK) initiative that was then just a few pages long then is now a four inch binder of plans, of thoughts of where we are and how do we fix what could be broken. If it isn't broken do we fix it now or do we build plans for it to grow in the future.

The big goal Spring 2018 is the clean clear concrete objective to reach this Committee. What does that mean, between now and your Convention we will be working at the Convention. The door will be open for opinion, conversation, discussion, suggestions the door will never close it's your organization you need to help us move it forward. The National Adjutant and Mr. John Kerestan and Chairman Sparwasser have had discussions about where we can occupy some space on Friday at the free Convention session. There is some room for us, we have some requests that he is going to pass on before the weekend is over to the Adjutant and to John and Paul.

We want to have a table sitting out front with all the propaganda which is really just information gathering tools and promotional pieces that we're going to need to help build this plan. There is a SWOT questionnaire that was put together by PNC Roberts which is very long and cumbersome and has a lot of details the Committee has taken that whole SWOT survey and have now made it even bigger and broken it down by based on level of involvement with the organization. So we can get a better feeling of where we are and the structure of the hierarchy of the organization. Target here is grassroots; blue cap the guy who makes the difference, the boots on the ground the folks raising the money the folks producing the many hours and does not discount the efforts of this NEC their Committees or Commissions, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and their members.

But let's face it we wouldn't be here if it weren't for 360,000 members, we wouldn't be here if it weren't for the opportunities and legacies left behind by our fathers and grandfathers. We wouldn't be here if The American Legion didn't see wisdom in promoting and developing a program that I don't believe at any time they thought would grow as much as it's grown. Now we've grown to a point that Chairman Sparwasser is going to call a little out of control, now it's time to reign it in. Now it's time to look at how we educate our members, it's now time to look at what our NEC looks like, what our Commissions/Committees look like and how we educate the Commissions/Committees.

Let me give you a vision we do a lot of training out here, we train 60-65 people folks in the Spring under NMI I, II & III which is one of the most valuable tools he thinks we ever put together. PNC Matoska (MD) was the driving force behind it. Chairman Sparwasser was the pleasurable chairman with the support of Joe Paviglianti (NY) and PNC Joe Mayne (WI) when that all started to happen in 1997. He has seen where it's been and seen where it's going and sees a visionary future for it and the Committee sees another visionary future for it.

You have the top of the pyramid here, you've got your National Commander, Vice Commanders, National Adjutant, staff support, Commissions & Committees, Chair and Vice Chair as well as NEC. We're not spending enough of our energy training and teaching you what is required of you and how to be the most efficient chair, vice-chair, NEC and ANEC, Adjutant, Commander and Vice Commander you can possibly be to this organization. It's time to step up to the plate we need to train you, you are our trainers. How do you think you get the information down to the specific Detachments most expressively, it's the NEC job to make sure that it happens.

Between the NEC, ANEC, Commissions/Committees, chairs and vice chairs we have got a disconnect and there is a big piece of the wheel that's broken and we're trying to figure out how to re-engage the disconnect. It all comes back to the grassroots of the training, we have to train you to be less disconnected. We have become complacent and we've become accustomed to the positions we hold and we forget that we have members at home that need to hear about it. Chairman Sparwasser (MD) is using Maryland since he's from there and knows the level of accountability they place against our NEC and ANEC and all of our chairmen and vice-chairmen who represent the organization out here. You better have a DEC report and it better be iron clad and before we get home that NEC is going to have a report in his email box of what when on this whole weekend. We all should be doing business the same way, there is no way to go around it, we need to do business that way.

So here we are we're training these sixty five (65) people in the Spring probably less than half of those folks make it back into this organization, why? Their intention wasn't too become a part of a big organization they're intention was to build a foundation back home and strengthen the Detachment. Well we are still missing a boat, fifty-five (55) Detachments probably only thirteen percent (13%) of those Detachments have information funneled down to the blue caps. Now you have the initiatives of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion sitting in three different positions in the organization we call ourselves The Legion Family. We say we're The Legion Family, we promote the programs of The American Legion Family we support the initiatives but we are three individually driven groups when it comes to how we teach our members how to do the best job we can across the board.



So when this Committee was put together Jim Roberts (FL) had his hands full I know and when we transitioned and he received the nod that everything was ready to pick the ball up and try to run with it. The first conversation Chairman Sparwasser (MD) had with Internal Affairs of The American Legion was you realize how big this tree is you're trying to cut down? He believes the support he has of the NEC is strong enough to move it in the direction that not only we need to be, we should be, we have to be in tangent with our parent organization.

Now here is the brush stroke of the thought, training we need to train the top teach all of our future leaders and current leaders how to lead. For some it's a refresher, for some it's brand new because a lot of guys who come up we had seventeen (17) people come and knock on our door and sit down with us. What he heard the most was, when we got our job we really didn't know what our job was. We didn't understand how to efficiently and effectively do our job because we really didn't know our job. You will know your job if this plan is approved, that he guarantees. He is talking to the trainers here, If you guys can't train our members and follow the directives of The American Legion and we just work at the Squadron and Post levels then we just be done with. We need you trainers, we're going to make sure you are trained properly as we move forward.

Anytime there is change there is always a little bit of hemorrhage because we don't like change. It's just not something we are comfortable with, change is some cases is probably the worst cancer some guys can even tolerate even think about. We have one valuable asset to The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion Riders they're a program just like we are. We are trying to develop a state relationship and it's not an easy task, when he looks at how all this happens he comes back to the NEC. It's your responsibility to teach your Detachments what needs to be done and/or teach a facilitator within your Detachment.

Wants to make sure since this was the first report from the Committee, everybody is walking around saying when is all this going to be done. The objective is to be done by Spring 2018 we're on task with that objective. Wants everyone to be prepared for something, the Chairman of Sub Committee on Resolutions he promises he is going to busier than he has ever been in his entire life because a change like this is going to require massive resolutions. Internal Affairs is also going to busy everyone is going to busy, this isn't a one time out and out and we're gone. We have a lot of a long term deal here and we have to fix this, and if we don't fix this the first time out of the box what's going to happen? We need to prove that we are not sixteen year olds in this room, we're grown adults and professionals. Let's show them how professional we are, and Chairman Sparwasser (MD) is adding for the first time in a long time there are two people now who have a direct connection to Internal Affairs that are members of the Sons. The Commander, Brian O'Hearne (MA), Chairman Sparwasser (MD) is dealing directly with Internal Affairs on your behalf, directly talking to the Sub Committee on your behalf. We are having extensive dialogue with Paul Brown (John Kerestan's replacement). Here is the bottom line we have people on all levels of this organization over at American Legion National Headquarters listening to what we are saying now, he was in Washington for many hours sitting down with Bob Newman (IN) (American Legion Internal Affairs Chairman) talking about where Chairman Sparwasser thinks Sons need to be. We need to put the best foot forward and need to come out of the box or we cannot re-visit the box we have got to go forward the first time. If we miss the ball and don't carry the ball we're not going to get into the end zone and score.

We broke down the SWOT, we touched on the development of SOP's not only at the chair level but across the board, job descriptions across the board. Everyone needs to be required of them when you sign on to be a member of this National level organization, you need to know your job and what you're expected to do. The PNC's stepped back and said we need to understand intimately how that chairman perceive their role, how they function what tools they use to operate. There is only one way we can do that is by interviewing and spending time with those chairmen. PNC Huntzinger (PA) will be calling ambassadors and whomever is in charge, working with Convention and Internal Affairs and want to understand how you operate. We want to understand what tools you need in addition to what you already have to operate. So that when we build this program that is all inclusive there is no question about what

do I do, when do I do it, how do I do it, and who I report it to. Mr. Sacco (CA) is going to be working with Children & Youth, Child Welfare and Public Relations. We look at Public Relations and it's a pretty valuable instrument that we have sorely used and have not used it in the capacity that it should be used and need to look at how to use it. PNC Dietz (OH) will handle Finance, Membership and MTD and Chairman Sparwasser (MD) is going to handle VA&R, VE&E and Sub Committee on Resolutions.

We just want to understand how you are functioning, we want to understand the tools that you currently have and what tools do you think you need. The Committee is now going to engage from a weekly to a bi-weekly conference call, the last conference call we had lasted well over an hour, there is a lot of information that goes back and forth. Out of those conference calls there is a lot of information that ends up going back to Internal Affairs, back over to Headquarters at John Kerestan's level back to Jack Querfeld then he gets the information back to share to the Committee.

When we get back home we are going to have extensive conference calls because we have a goal and here are the goals. Our target of July/August to have a SWOT draft completed for testing (preparing to start testing the electronic version of the survey form). After Convention 2017 we will then test that SWOT to small core group. By Fall NEC 2017 a full version of SWOT should be complete and roll out to use. By Spring 2018 we expect to have a completed plan ready to implement or present to the NEC for approval to take it to Internal Affairs and ask for approval to implement the plan. We are on task and that presentation that we give you will be all inclusive of how many ever resolutions and back-up documents, ROI forms everything that we need to do to be effective in getting business done and getting this approved by IA with minimal change. So that come the Commander in 2019 we should be fully engaged with this whole new, revised, rebuilt organization. That is our goal.

This concluded his report.

*A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the ADHOC Strategic Planning Committee report, so moved by John M. Wright (CT) seconded by Linwood A. Moore (VA). Motion carried.*

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

Commander Frain (AZ) for appointments to the Convention Chairmen at this time for Americanism - Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Constitutional Amendments - John T. Jennings (FL), Credentials - Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE), Internal Affairs - Mark A. Tansel (IN), Membership - Seth A. Rippe (NE), Finance - William G. Hill (MD), Legislative Rules - David W. Lee (NY), VA&R - Clint D. Bolt (VA), Children & Youth - John P. Waite (NH),

*A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the appointments of Convention Chairmen, so moved by Phillip A. Cook (NH) seconded by Lawrence F. Cullen, Jr. (DE). Motion carried.*

Commander Frain (AZ) appointment to add Michael C. Fox (CA), Joe Roberts (AZ) and Seth Rippe (NE) to the Strategic Planning Committee.

*A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the appointments to the Strategic Planning Committee, so moved by Fr. Gary P. Gummersheimer (IL) seconded by Ned Fox (CA). Motion carried.*

National Commander Frain (AZ) called For The Good of the Sons.

## FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

**Fr. Gary P. Gummersheimer (IL)** would like to take this opportunity to have everyone who was working with the National High School Oratorical contest to please raise their hand or stand to be recognized. Fr. Gary would encourage everyone to go back and get involved with your Department to be involved with their part of the program, which is a phenomenal program and the Legion gave away money to High School students for college scholarships which was \$140,000 given away in one weekend and we need to support them in this activity and where we need the support the most is to get the participation from the local communities.

Fr. Gummersheimer (IL) can find money anywhere to send people to Boys' State but can't find the boys because there are too many other things going on out there. We need to step in to those positions especially where Posts have lost their longtime chairman of Boys' State who always had that contact with the High School. That's where we need the work, that's where we need to stand up and be accounted for, he applauds everyone for the work that you do and thanks you all for everything you have done for our family and encourage you to do more.

**PNC Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)** would like to approach the podium and face the NEC and got up two years ago with a list of names that had twenty one (21) names for appointments. The list this time had seventy (70) names on it, twenty-seven (27) Detachments which we could use more of. Everybody can't get an appointment but it is great to have this big pool of people to get appointments. Don't think you have to be a regular person here, we're trying to get younger members you see Michael Fox (CA) you see Chris Carlton (IN) you see Seth Rippe (NE) that are all brand new chairmen that are younger members. PNC Giehll, Jr. (IN) was asked to appoint Jeff Hicks which people said he would be great for MTD and when the Committee appointed him, PNC Giehll, Jr. never seen him until this morning and he gave that report and it looks it was a darn good deal from what he's heard. So send us names and give us a pool to pick from and just wanted to thank everyone for the large pool of names.

**PNC Roland D. Matteson (AZ)** he and his wife are very active in the American Legion and Auxiliary and wants everyone to know that yesterday was there fiftieth wedding anniversary and are celebrating here. PNC Matteson (AZ) donating \$50.00 to CWF.

With no further business to come before the National Executive Committee, National Chaplain Richard A. Ellwein (MT) gave the benediction.

Following a right-hand salute, National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) declared the 2017 meeting of the National Executive Committee adjourned at 11:34 am.

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6 – 7, 2017

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**No.: SAL Res 1 – Spring 2017**  
**Title: Endorsement of Edward M. Cleary (AZ) for National Vice Commander**  
**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Edward M. Cleary has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Arizona as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona hereby endorses Edward M. Cleary for the high office of National Vice Commander West at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Arizona and the Department of Arizona with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Chuck Treat and Department Adjutant Angel Juarez are on the submitted resolution.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:   
Rejected:   
Referred to:   
Other Action:  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

*Mark Tansel*  
Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John T. Jennings*  
John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6 – 7, 2017

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**No.: SAL Res 2 – Spring 2017**

**Title: Endorsement of David L. Van Duisen (WA) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Internal Affairs Commission**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, David L. Van Duisen has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Washington as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Washington hereby endorses David L. Van Duisen for the high office of National Vice Commander West at such future time and year as may become available; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that the above resolution was endorsed by the Detachment of Washington and the Department of Washington with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Commander Tom Rancourt and Department Commander Wayne Elston are on the submitted resolution.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved:   
Rejected:   
Referred to:   
Other Action:  Received and filed

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name and Signature

*Mark Tansel*  
Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John T. Jennings*

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6 – 7, 2017

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**No.: SAL Res 3 – Spring 2017**

**Title: National Convention Call-in for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion**

**Origin: Mississippi NEC Ronald Roberts**

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

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion has a call-in to the National Convention for National Executive Committeemen of The American Legion; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeemen are expected to attend both the Pre-Convention and Post-Convention National Executive Committee meetings; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017, that a call-in equal to The American Legion’s for American Legion National Executive Committeemen is established for the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committeemen to the National Convention; and be it finally

**RESOLVED**, that this call-in take effect with the 2018 National Convention.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

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John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*William Hill*

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William Hill (MD), Chairman,  
Finance Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

**May 6-7, 2017**

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**No.: SAL Res 4 – Spring 2017**  
**Title: Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 from the 2017 Budget**  
**Origin: Child Welfare Committee**

WHEREAS, The Child Welfare Foundation is a vital part of the Sons of The American Legion since its inception in 1987; and

WHEREAS, There is a constant and vital need for funding of many programs and grants that can assist children in need; and

WHEREAS, Donations by the Sons of The American Legion have provided greatly needed assistance to these children in our country; and

WHEREAS, The support and recognition provided by The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation has further established our organization as a true partner in the goals and principles of the "Legion Family"; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017 that a donation in the amount of Five Thousand Dollars, (\$5,000) be made to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. And be it further;**

**RESOLVED, that the donation be made in memory of Past Internal Affairs Commission Chairman Larry Besson; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, that the funds be taken from the 2017 Child Welfare Foundation Donation budgeted line.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee  
*John Jennings*

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John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Chris Carlton*

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Chris Carlton (IN), Chairman  
Child Welfare Foundation Committee

Finance Committee Recommendation:

*William Hill*

William Hill (MD) -Chairman  
Finance Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

**May 6-7, 2017**

Page 31 of 1

**No.: SAL Res 5 – Spring 2017**

**Title: The Sons of The American Legion expense authorization for VAVS NAC  
“Executive Committee” appointment**

**Origin: VA&R Commission**

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is a member of the VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC), and

WHEREAS, to reinforce the best volunteer care for our Veteran’s by expanding our involvement in the VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC), and

WHEREAS, For the first time ever The Sons of The American Legion have been appointed to a two (2) year appointment on the NAC “Executive Committee”, and

WHEREAS, this new position will require travel to the VAVS NAC annual meeting in the spring and travel to the NAC “Executive meeting” in the Fall in Washington D.C., now therefor be it

**RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017 that we accept the appointment to the VAVS National Advisory Committee, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the travel expense be authorized beginning with the Fall 2017 Executive meeting.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee  
*John Jennings*

John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Clint Bolt*

Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman  
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Finance Committee Recommendation:

*William Hill*

William Hill (MD) -Chairman  
Finance Commission



**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

**May 6-7, 2017**

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**No.: SAL Res 6 – Spring 2017**

**Title: Proper Respect for The Flag of the United States and The National Anthem when Participating in the Programs of The Sons of The American Legion**

**Origin: Americanism Commission**

WHEREAS, Since its founding in 1919 The American Legion and The Sons of The American Legion, established as a program in 1932, has supported The United States of America and its Constitution, including all the tenants of the First Amendment, none the least of which are freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition and

WHEREAS, The Flag of The United States and The National Anthem holds equal importance and reverence for the freedoms that were fought for starting with the American Revolution and countless conflicts since in the defense of Democracy, and

WHEREAS, The preamble of The Constitution of The Sons of The American Legion says that we will “foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism” and “to adopt in letter and Spirit all the great principles for which The American Legion stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country”, and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion vehemently rejects using disrespect of The Flag of The United States or The National Anthem as a platform for publicly expressing protest or disrespect to either icon; 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 May 6 -7 2017, that the Sons of The American Legion expects all members and participants in its programs to show proper respect to The Flag of the United States, and as well to The National Anthem; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, The Sons of The American Legion acknowledges all citizens’ rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition but those rights should not infringe on the reverence of, or be used to protest or disrespect The Flag of The United States or The National Anthem and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion recommends to all Detachments and Squadrons that they make it clear to all participants in advance of the program that**

*Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation*

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

*Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature*

*Gerald Hammerschmidt*

Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Chairman  
Americanism Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6-7, 2017

Page 2 of 2

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**No.: SAL Res 6 – Spring 2017**

**Title: Proper Respect for The Flag of the United States and The National Anthem when Participating in the Programs of The Sons of The American Legion**

**Origin: Americanism Commission**

**The Sons of The American Legion has the expectation of proper respect at all times for The Flag of the United States, and The National Anthem; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That if any participant of any program of the Sons of The American Legion cannot or will not live up to that expectation, the individual should not be a participant in the Sons of The American Legion programs.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

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John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Gerald Hammerschmidt*

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Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS), Chairman  
Americanism Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

**May 6-7, 2017**

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**No.: SAL Res 7 – Spring 2017**

**Title: The Sons of The American Legion expense authorization for VAVS NAC James H. Parke Scholarship Foundation Board member**

**Origin: VA&R Commission**

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion are financial supporters of the VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) James H. Parke Scholarship, and

WHEREAS, VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) gives away these scholarships totaling approximately \$35,000.00 every year at the annual meeting of The VAVS NAC, and

WHEREAS, these scholarships are administered through The James H. Parke Scholarship Foundation Board, and

WHEREAS, these board seats are by election and are for a three-year term, and

WHEREAS, if elected requires that the board members be present at the annual meeting of The VAVS NAC, and

WHEREAS, this position requires travel to the annual meeting of the VAVS NAC and comes with travel expense for the amount of \$1500.00 yearly, and be it

**RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular sessions in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017 that an annual budgeted line item be added in the amount of \$1,500 (one thousand, five hundred), and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the travel be authorized beginning with the Spring 2018 board meeting, and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, that these funds will only be used for the James H. Parke Scholarship Foundation board and are subject to the same guidelines associated with other travel.**

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee  
*John Jennings*

John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Clint Bolt*

Clint Bolt (VA), Chairman  
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

Finance Committee Recommendation:

*William Hill*

William Hill (MD) -Chairman  
Finance Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6-7, 2017

Page 35 of 1

**No.: SAL Res 8 – Spring 2017**

**Title: Update to Squadron Handbook to Recognize Women Veterans**

**Origin: Detachment of Wisconsin**

WHEREAS, Women have long been an important part of our American military and women veterans are an important part of our American Legion Family; and

WHEREAS, there are portions of our documents and ceremonies that, by their language, may not properly recognize their contributions and vital role; now therefore let it be

**RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017, that the Squadron Handbook, Installation of Officers Ceremony beginning on page 17 of the 2016 edition, be updated as follows:**

**Installation Ceremony, Page 17, Paragraph 2:**

The installing officer, who shall be either a department officer of The American Legion, a member of the Detachment Sons of The American Legion Committee, a post officer of The American Legion or a duly-appointed representative, shall preside following the opening ceremony. The sergeant-at-arms shall be called upon to bring forth the officers to be installed.

**Installation Ceremony, Page 17, Paragraph 7:**

**INSTALLING OFFICER:** “You have been chosen to fill the various offices of this squadron. You will, I know, vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you, and fulfill in every way the obligations that trust entails. You will at once familiarize yourselves with the duties of your particular offices and you will proceed upon those duties in the same spirit of devotion and endeavor that characterized your sponsoring veteran’s service in any of the Great Wars, out of which came their basis for membership in The American Legion and your own in the Sons of The American Legion.

**Installation Ceremony, Page 18, Acting Historian:**

**ACTING HISTORIAN:** “Historian, to you is entrusted the recording of all current records of this squadron. The collection of records of your post of The American Legion is of historical value, and the keeping of a record of squadron activities will, through you, become of priceless heritage to future generations.”

**Installation Ceremony, Page 20, paragraph 5:**

The gavel is handed to the new commander and the installing officer takes a seat.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Mark Tansel*

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman  
Internal Affairs Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6 – 7, 2017

Page 36 of 1

**No.: SAL Res 9 – Spring 2017**  
**Title: Digitally disconnect our kids**  
**Origin: Children and Youth Committee**

**WHEREAS**, today parents struggle to balance the benefits of modern technology with the health risks of children spending less and less time outdoors and more time interacting with their screens

**WHEREAS**, online activities are so exciting and addictive, it can be a challenge to pull kids away for a healthier activity causing higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure among children, and

**WHEREAS**, the Sons of The American Legion, work toward the betterment of all children, and

**WHEREAS**, we, the Sons of The American Legion cannot expect children to live an active balanced life, if we do not model and promote these healthier behaviors, now therefore let it be,

**RESOLVED**, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 6-7, 2017, that the Sons of The American Legion encourage all Detachments, Districts and Squadrons to take a greater role in promoting and organizing outdoor and/or unplugged activities.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

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John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*John Waite*

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John Waite (VT), Chairman  
Children and Youth Committee

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6 – 7, 2017

Page 37 of 40

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**No.: S.A.L. Resolution 10 – Spring, 2017**

**Title: Funding Request for Busing at the National Wreath Laying Ceremony**

**Origin: National Legislative Committee**

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

**WHEREAS**, The Sons of The American Legion are proud possessors of a priceless heritage; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Legion Washington Legislative Conference attendance by members of the Sons of The American Legion is growing significantly; and

**WHEREAS**, The Sunday morning wreath laying ceremony has also grown to record numbers and that the need to accommodate the members of American Legion family that wish to attend has also grown; now let it be

**RESOLVED**, that the need for a second bus is necessary, and let it be finally

**RESOLVED**, that the above resolution was endorsed by the National Legislative Committee.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

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John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*David Lee*

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David Lee (NY), Chairman  
Legislative Commission

Finance Committee Recommendation:

*William Hill*

William Hill (MD) -Chairman  
Finance Commission

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution  
National Executive Committee**

May 6 – 7, 2017

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**No.:** S.A.L. Resolution 11 – Spring, 2017  
**Title:** Creation of Triple Nickel Ribbon  
**Origin:** Detachment of Iowa

**WHEREAS,** There are several distinguishing award ribbons for membership; and

**WHEREAS,** the awards presented for prestigious Triple Nickel are nice they are attached to the walls on the Department office; and

**WHEREAS,** only when people are at the Department office do they see that the prestigious award had been awarded to the Detachment; now let it be

**RESOLVED,** by Squadron No. 29, the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Iowa in a regular meeting assembled in Washington Iowa on October 16, 2012, a ribbon be created for the prestigious Triple Nickel Award; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** with the Triple Nickel Ribbon this would be a way of recognizing the honor when our flags are presented; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** once the ribbon has been created it be given retroactive to all Detachments that have earned said ribbon; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** the Sons of The American Legion National Membership Committee be directed to create the ribbon; and be it finally

**RESOLVED,** on February 2, 2013 at the Detachment of Iowa, Sons of The American Legion Conference, the Detachment supports this resolution one hundred percent.

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Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved   
Rejected   
Referred to:   
Other Action

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

*John Jennings*

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John Jennings (FL), Chairman,  
Sub Committee on Resolutions

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

*Seth Rippe*

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Seth Rippe (NE), Chairman  
Membership Commission

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REPORT TO  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MAY 10 – 11, 2017**

**Disposition of Action of  
Sons of The American Legion**

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the SAL National Executive Committee May 6-7 2017.

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
SAL Res 1 - Spring 2017	Endorsement of Mr. Edward M. Cleary (AZ) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
SAL Res 2 - Spring 2017	Endorsement of Mr. David L. Van Duisen (WA) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
SAL Res 4 - Spring 2017	Child Welfare Foundation Donation of \$5,000 in memory of Past Legion Internal Affairs Chairman Larry J. Besson (IL)	Approved
SAL Res 5 - Spring 2017	Expense and Appointment authorization for the National VAVS National Advisory Committee (NAC) Washington DC	Approved
SAL Res 8 - Spring 2017	Update to Squadron Handbook to Recognize Women Veterans providing Installation Ceremonies	Approved
SAL Res 9 - Spring 2017	Digitally Disconnect Our Kids Youth Promotion	Approved

**The above recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee were reviewed and approved by The American Legion Internal Affairs SAL Subcommittee and the Internal Affairs Commission.**

**The following were additional actions taken by the SAL National Executive Committee:**

<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
SAL Res 3 - Spring 2017	National Convention Call-in for National Executive Committeemen of the Sons of The American Legion	Held for Study
SAL Res 6 - Spring 2017	Proper Respect for The Flag of the United States and The National Anthem When Participating in the Programs of The Sons of The American Legion	Withdrawn by the Americanism Commission, Legion already passed the resolution
SAL Res 7 - Spring 2017	The Sons Of The American Legion Expense Authorization For VAVS NAC James H. Parke Scholarship Foundation Board Member	Held by Commission
SAL Res 10 - Spring 2017	Funding Request for Additional Busing at the National Wreath Laying Ceremony	Referred to Legislative Commission
SAL Res 11 - Spring 2017	Creation of Triple Nickel Ribbon	Referred to Membership Committee