

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



INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
October 8-9, 2016

**MINUTES OF THE
FALL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
OCTOBER 8-9, 2016**

National Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) called the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion to order Saturday, October 8, 2016 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 to place the POW/MIA Flag on the empty chair which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander William “Bill” Kelly Jr. (FL) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Michael L. Lawler (WI).

National Commander Frain (AZ) then called on National Assistant Adjutant Anthony W. Wright (PA) 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) - E	National Adjutant
Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)	National Assistant Adjutant Emeritus
James “Ed” Sheubrooks (FL) - E	National Assistant Adjutant
Robert Avery (NY)	National Assistant Adjutant
David Ridenour (IN)	National Assistant Adjutant
Anthony W. Wright (PA)	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
Lyle G. Larson (KS)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Brian K. Waters (PA)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Raymond P. Giehll, III (IN)	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Wes Fulton (NE) - E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Matthew Chebro (GA) – E	National Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms
Charles E. Treat, II (AZ)	Aide To The National Commander

Past National Commanders

Kevin L. Collier (AK) –Immediate PNC
Michael Seaton (CA)
Robert McBride (OH)
J.R. Stillwell (IL)
Charles E. Gannon (MD)
David P. Stephens (IN)
Douglas P. Bible (MN)
Eugene L. Sacco (CA)
Roland D. Matteson (AZ)
Joseph M. Mayne (MN)
John T. Dietz (KY)
William E. Matoska (MD)
Byron J. Robichaux (LA)
Kevin N. Winkelmann (TX)

Clifford A. Smith (MA)
Steve C. Laws (NC)
Neal C. Warnken (KS)
Michael J. Deacon (IA)
Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI)
Raymond Giehll, Jr. (IN)
Thomas E. Cisna (IL)
David L. Dew (TX)
James K. Roberts, III (FL) - E
Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)
Joseph W. Gladden (MD)
Michael W. Moss (CO)
Richard L. Cook (OK)

National Executive Committeemen

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

Commander Frain (AZ) declared the 2016 FALL meeting of the National Executive Committee convened.

Commander Frain (AZ) asked if there were any objections to the minutes from the 2016 SAL National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ronald Roberts (MS) stated “*one glaring correction to the minutes, bottom of page 27 “You were not elected by one unanimous vote by the National Adjutant you were elected by acclamation, the motion was properly made, seconded and voted by the entire body at the National Convention.”*”

Commander Frain (AZ) stated all the minutes were sent out as fast as we could, we know there are going to be corrections, so as they come in we will correct them and send them out as corrected.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the 2016 SAL National Convention Minutes in Cincinnati, OH, so moved by Mark Severance (CA), seconded by William “Willy” B. Williams (OR). Motion carried.

Commander Frain (AZ) asked if there were any first time attendees here and if so to please stand for recognition. He advised we are to be moving forward this year with helping the Legion grow. The membership theme is “Be a Superhero” sign up three (3) American heroes and he’s assigning everyone to find three (3) new veterans to help our parent organization grow. They are coming down to an all-time low, and we need to help them up.

We as Sons we're growing in our membership and we need to help them. There are approximately 20 million eligible veterans out there to sign up.

Commander Frain (AZ) advised a resignation was accepted of Gary Simone with Internal Affairs and Jay Cook (OK) was appointed in his place. A motion was made by Alabama to accept, seconded by Idaho.

Commander Frain (AZ) then called on National SAL Liaison John Kerestan (IN) for remarks.

Mr. Kerestan began by welcoming everyone to Fall NEC meetings in Indianapolis. Mr. Kerestan stated unfortunately we are missing some of our members due to the hurricane in the coastal areas, and our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families during this time. There is a lot to cover this morning and we'll try to do this very quickly and should be able to keep it under an hour at least.

Mr. Kerestan advised we have lost our assistant Denise Lhamon after 10 years she accepted another position at the American Legion Headquarters in the Membership Division under Billy Johnson and this will be her last meeting with the Sons. John advised she's been his right arm all these years, also she's put up with me all these years. (*Applause was given to Denise, she said she would still accept peanut M&M's*). Denise is being replaced by Brian Compton who is a new Sons member Squadron 64 in Indianapolis. Mr. Kerestan said so Brian can now look forward to working with me for the next 10 years.

Mr. Kerestan advised first item to go over is reservations, they went well and thank you for early submissions and getting them in on time, email works best when reserving.

The second item is membership renewals, the first SAL renewal postcard went out September 30, 2016. There were 313,012 mailed renewal postcards that should be hitting the mailboxes anytime. Renewal postcards are sent out three (3) times a year in September/January/March. Mr. Kerestan congratulated SAL for a renewal rate of 89.16% (current) which is an all-time high for SONS. You are working renewals out there and please keep that up for 2017.

The next item 2018 membership cards, we will be printing those around May/June 2017. The Legion and SAL membership cards will be completely re-designed for 2018. The cards will include items such as the date of birth, email address, and there will be a spot for dual membership. That will be on the national portion of card, so when you renew members you can write written information on the card, and when we receive the cards at National Headquarters we can extract that data and put it on the membership system. He advised he will have a draft proto-type card in the spring next year in case anyone wants to look at it.

The next item is the SAL newsletter which was mailed just prior to the National Convention to all members, we also emailed that newsletter to everyone that had an email address on the system. Mr. Kerestan said you know they say emails, Facebook and Twitter are the keys to the future but sometimes I have some doubts, and I have some facts to back up my statement. When we extracted the system to get emails when sending the newsletter we had 12,150 emails addresses on the system. Folks, we have 365,000 members, the 12,150 emails that we have on the system only 11,367 emails went through. So that tells us we have around 1,000 or so email addresses that are bad. Okay, so now we're working with a number of 11,367 emails that went through, only 3,544 members opened the email which is less than a third of the emails that were sent out. Out of the 3,544 members that opened the email only 1,473 clicked on the link to read the SAL newsletter. Bottom line is only 1,473 members read the SAL newsletter out of 11,367 emails that went through. We have a lot of membership tools out there that are available i.e. member data forms, and mySAL. Speaking of mySAL we only have 31 detachment

adjutants using mySAL out of 54 detachment adjutants available. So there are around 20 detachment adjutants that are not using mySAL at all. Now let's talk about squadron adjutants using mySAL, there are only 1,243 squadron adjutants using mySAL out of a possible 6,100 squadrons. We need the other 4,900 squadron adjutants to get on the system.

Last item to discuss, there was a magazine article that was causing a lot of discussion, thanks to Michael C. Fox (CA) we received your draft of the article and it has been forwarded to the editors in the Magazine division of the American Legion Headquarters for review. Mr. Kerestan advised he will try to find out more information about when the article will be published and in what issue as soon as the information is available he'll get that information out to the leadership.

This concluded his remarks.

Commander Jeff Frain (AZ) called for donations and asked if there were any dual members in the meeting today and thanked them for their service.

Total Donations Received – **CWF** - \$21,894.00; **NEF** - \$1,700.00; **Endowment Fund** - \$250.00

This concluded the donations submitted. Commander Frain (AZ) called for announcements.

Past National Commander Raymond Giehll, Jr. spoke to NEC and reminded them that this is the time when they interview for National Chaplain for next year and if you have someone you would like to be interviewed please see PNC Giehll, Jr., PNC Bill Matoska (MD), PNC Earl R. Ruttkofsky (MI), John Balvrey (MT), Gary Swanlund (WY) and Joe Navarrete (NM) those are people all on the committee.

Alternate NEC David L. Rippe (NE) stated on behalf of leading candidate Danny Smith and Vice Commanders everyone is invited to attend a reception and luncheon from 11:00am – 2:00pm in the Meridian East Room.

Mike Sawicki MTD Chairman announced Commanders Class in this room when this meeting goes into recess and will start registration, so all commanders be here.

Caucuses announced at this time.

Commander Frain (AZ) announced religious service at 6:45am tomorrow morning in this same room.

There were no further announcements. At this time the General Session was adjourned at 9:15 am with a right hand salute to the colors.

The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion reconvened at 8:45 a.m., Sunday, October 9, 2016.

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

National Chaplain Richard A. Ellwein (MT) gave the invocation. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by National Vice Commander Joseph B. Keiser (NV) and the Preamble to the Constitution led by National Vice Commander Kenneth L. Yanke (CO).

National Commander Frain (AZ) then called on National Assistant Adjutant Anthony W. Wright (PA) to call the roll of National Officers, Past National Commanders, NECmen and Alternate NECmen.

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David L. Dew (TX)	James K. Roberts, III (FL) - E
Christopher J. Huntzinger (PA)	Joseph W. Gladden (MD)
Michael W. Moss (CO)	

Detachment Delegates

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

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 (VT) reported the meeting was opened with the Children & Youth mission statement that was adopted last year at the Fall NEC. Guest Speaker Kim Harvey Co-Founder of Angels & Doves spoke about bullying, bullying prevention and suicide.

Chairman Waite talked about rolls of the children and youth committee, main goal is to support Commander Frain with CWF and American Legion Baseball. Each committee-men was assigned with a category, John Lawrence is working on family emphasis, Jim Gaddis is working on The American Legion Endowment fund and Ronnie Grist is working on Children & Youth month which is in April, Halloween safety, and previous CWF grant recipients.

Chairman Waite attended & presented at the Children & Youth conference in Indianapolis September 16th & 18th which can be found online at legion.org/cyconference in full, minus the FBI's presentation. Chairmen Waite encourages NEC to go back to their states and put a line item in the budget for next September 15th-17th to have somebody come and attend that meeting.

Chairman Waite gave a report of The American Legion C & Y Conference last month where Riley Steiner was a guest speaker. Next year's Conference will be September 15-17, 2017. Highlights included presentations of the Family Support Network, FBI on internet crimes against children, Legacy and Samsung Scholarships, Our Military Kids and Angels and Doves. Two CWF grant recipients made a presentation as well. The Sons should support the organizations that are recipients of sponsored grants by us.

Chairman Waite advised as a committee we decided to continue the electronic newsletter which is sent Fall/Winter/Spring and will pass to National Vice Commanders to have them send out as well.

New Business:

Ronnie Grist will be researching additional resolutions for the Committee to consider at the Spring meetings.

S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2016: Support The American Legion on Children’s Organ Transplant Association.

S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2016: Support The American Legion on Our Military Kids.

Damon Bradtmueller (IN) offered the assistance of the PR Commission to get the word out on C & Y projects.

Ronald F. Grist (GA) spoke regarding two younger SAL members from Georgia who pulled a veteran from a trailer fire, saving his life. The boys will be honored at their Youth Champion Dinner.

Acting Resolutions Chairman Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) advised of changes to Resolutions presented by the committee. S.A.L. – Resolution 4 – Fall 2016 & S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall 2016 were read.

A motion was made by Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) to accept S.A.L. - Resolution 4 – Fall 2016 and seconded by Michael A. Pipher (IN), motion was carried.

A motion was made by Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) to accept S.A.L. - Resolution 5 – Fall 2016 and seconded by Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL), motion was carried.

At this time Commander Frain (AZ) suspended reports, and had the Sergeant-At-Arms Escort guest **Mary E. Davis (WA) -National Auxiliary President** to the stage.

National Auxiliary President Mary E. Davis (WA) stated she is looking forward to working with Commander Frain (AZ) and the Sons of the American Legion and The American Legion who this year all come from the Western Region.

National Auxiliary President Mary E. Davis as two projects. First, is planned giving which is continuing to give to the organization. Second, is that the scholarship amounts have been raised so that each division will receive three (3) scholarships at \$5,000.00 each. The cost of education has risen considerably as well as the cost to the student going to school has allowed a lot of them to take out loans and pay on them for the rest of their lives and would like to see them recognize The American Legion Family as an organization or as organizations that care about them, that they know who the scholarship came from and they will know who we are.

She asks that everyone embrace Commander Frain’s (AZ) add three (3) new members which will really help all of us, the more people we have to help our work with our veterans and our activity duty military and our children across the nation the more hands we have to work, the more work we get done.

National Auxiliary President Mary E. Davis stated she wanted to wish everyone to have a wonderful fall conference and thank you for having her as a guest.

This concluded her speech.

At this time Commander Frain (AZ) had the Sergeant-At-Arms escort **Denise Rohan (WI) - Leading Candidate for The American Legion National Commander** to the stage.

Leading Candidate for The American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan (WI) stated she is both proud and humble to stand before you as leading candidate for National Commander of The American Legion.

She said she is very excited to be on this journey, and is thankful for the opportunity to begin working with SAL leading candidate Danny Smith and the Auxiliary's National Vice-President Diane Duscheck as we prepare for Legion year 2017-2018 coming in Reno, Nevada this August.

During this past year she said she had the opportunity to travel across this country and meet and learn about a lot of The American Legion Families across this nation. She had a chance to talk to some of you and look forward to meeting others of you gaining wisdom, friendship and your support.

She further stated in her words - The American Legion strategic plan asks posts to conduct a post responsibility audit, and part of that audit asks the question. Would your community miss The American Legion if they were no longer there? I want to put a twist on that question and say, would your American Legion Post miss your Squadron if you were no longer there?

Because I believe that our Legionnaires who don't understand, or they don't remember how good they have it because of their SON'S Squadrons, and how hard you all work.

And as I move into the role of leadership, even at the posts and department level. I have really always stressed how important it was that we all worked as an American Legion Family. That is always The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, our Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Riders, because when we join our forces we make extraordinary things happen across this nation. When you look at The American Legion and our four pillars and our long range plan to strengthen our organization, to me is all about putting our families first.

We are and should always be, one big happy family.

I also believe that sometimes we have to stop all the things that we are doing in the communities and make sure that our internal families are taken care of. Because having a strong family foundation at home, and that's in our posts, our units and our squadrons; is what makes the work we do in our communities all that stronger. The community sees us working together as a team, a family, and that's what they want to become part of.

But, as you already know The American Legion Family is not only about our family, we're not the only ones we are taking care of, veterans became brothers and sisters when we went to basic training, some of those bonds were strengthened on the battle field. We have each other's backs then, and we need to continue to have each other's backs now that we are here at home.

Taking care of each other and making sure that those who served and their families receive the benefits that they earned is what our American Legion Family is all about. We want to make sure that all veterans and their families are treated like we want our families to be treated whether there members of this organization or not. Then when we send our military personnel off on deployment across the globe it's The American Legion Family who is there asking them what we can do so they have one less worry on the battle field.

Our heroes' responses are always the same take care of my family first. They are not worried about what troubles they may face over there, they want to make sure that their families here at home don't have any struggles. It's a time when the Sons of The American Legion step forward and offer their children a G.I. Josh Dog and a time when you actually stop and listen to those children and their concerns about their parent being deployed. It may also be your chance to share your own personal stories about your fear, when your own parent was deployed and the fear that they may not come home.

Now you have the Veterans & Employment Education Commission working alongside the parent legion commission to help our military families, their spouses and our veterans find meaningful employment. Because giving our veterans the feeling of self-worth, is a sure fire way to strengthen the family units of home.

Then there's that work that you do on behalf of our nation's children, and the donations you make on behalf of Child Welfare Foundation, all of the Children and Youth programs, the National Emergency Fund and the National Endowment Fund. The work you do is so amazing, and when our nation's children see our American Legion Family stepping up and giving back to our communities they are seeing first-hand what it means to be an American.

It's about service not about ourselves giving back to our communities is what The American Legion Family does on almost a daily basis. It's our blood drives, our safe Halloween programs, anti-bullying campaigns, volunteering at VA hospitals and nursing homes. The lists goes on and on because taking care of families is in each and every one of your hearts.

Which is why I have chosen the theme of "Family First", for next year's Legion year.

It is our relationship with God, it's our personal family, Legion Family, veteran's families, military families and our entire Nation's families. Thank You, for being someone's super hero, for all of you are always putting our families first. Thank You.

This concluded her speech.

At this time Commander Frain (AZ) had the Sergeant-At-Arms Escort guest **Charles E. Schmidt (OR) - The American Legion National Commander** to the stage.

American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt (OR) asked is there anyone proud to be a Sons of The American Legion member. It's great to be with you this morning, and starting our Fall conferences. It's a time to reflect after the convention, I had a good time in Cincinnati how about you all? Cincinnati is going to become a special city in my heart, it was a great convention.

Now were back out on the trail again, another American Legion year our family works together. I've had an opportunity since Cincinnati to visit six departments and got to meet several Sons in many places. Sons are involved in a lot of things supporting posts and their communities with projects. The Sons bring value to The American Legion, and that's each and every one of you.

This coming year I've asked all Legionnaires to just sign up one new member, just one. Now if somebody goes off and signs up two, three or four that's fine. I don't think anybody is going to complain about that. Also, I've asked them while they are talking to prospective veterans or perhaps spouse of a veteran to also mention The Sons of The American Legion and also the Auxiliary. We can all help one another, because looking at you guys' membership numbers, you're doing pretty good. Somehow you know the secret, so maybe you should tell us, the Legion. We need to help one another so we can grow this organization.

I think you have heard me say before each and every one of us is a stake holder in this organization. Whether it's in the Legion and some of you are dual, whether you're Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion we are stakeholders in this organization. Which means responsibility but also we own a little piece of it. Something that is history and tradition is also service and sacrifice. So we have responsibility to keep and maintain and sustain our American Legion Family. I've asked Legion members, let's help out the Sons too like they have helped us out.

I would also like to increase participation in our youth programs, we have some great youth programs and the Sons help out immensely in those programs. Whether it's to help sponsor a young man or young woman in a post but also to help administer some of the programs. You know our job in those programs is to make opportunities happen. Give young men and women an opportunity, an opportunity that they don't get any place else. At the National Convention when it starts out and we have the five youth champions, Wow! Anybody see those? Outstanding!

When I was in Tennessee this past summer as a candidate, the young man who became the Boy's Nation President, he was the Boy's State Governor. When I heard him talk I thought, Wow. That young man is going to be hopefully standing in the Senate floor or the United States Senate or the House of Representatives. Then the oratorical champion, Whoa! He was awesome too, I don't think he even skipped a beat with his comments. But his message, if you think of the message of those two young men and then I think of the ladies who won the shooting sports, somebody made something happen to get those kids to that level.

That's our responsibility, give those young people a chance. Speaking of the junior sports, my department happens to have one of those female champion shooters. It's because somebody from the Department of Washington came down and shared a story and young chairman put that program together and we eventually had a champion, our organization had a champion. Somebody made something happen so those young kids could have an opportunity. Of course the Boy Scout, baseball player and now they have the law enforcement cadet program, which I think is growing pretty fast. Kids really seem like they like that program. So let's expand and let's participate and increase the participation in those programs because there are a lot of young people that need exposure to those programs. After all they are the future of this country, and what better ways to get some values maybe set some high standards by participating in American Legion programs.

Also, I've asked everyone to stay tuned to our web page to our legislative center. We have a program on there that tracks all the legislative bills in the House or the Senate that's relative to The American Legion and check/follow the status of it. About 2 weeks ago the House of Representatives passed **HR-5620** in regards to the modernization of the appeals process, a process that The American Legion has a resolution on. However, when it got to the House something else was added onto it such as VA accountability and we put out a call on that too. Let's get the House to approve this bill, particularly for the modernization of the appeals process.

Because there's veterans who have filed claims, claims that were denied. Of course that veteran has the right to appeal, so it goes over in the appeals pile. The appeals pile has grown and grown and grown, veterans who have filed appeals on their claims have been waiting months if not years. In fact more specifically there's been about 80,000 appeals that are five (5) years or more old. Veterans should not have to wait that long, not from a grateful nation that sent them into the service for combat or maybe sacrifice.

So this is interesting how it came about, everybody understood there was something that had to be done. Of course we're friends of the VA, and friends are honest with friends. As a result the VA or some other service organization got together and said let's figure out a process to expedite, they all came together and figured out a process which was submitted to the House, and the House passed it. Of course we know the 114th Congress is coming to end at the end of the year. So whether that bill gets up to the Senate, I'm not overly optimistic.

Those that were running for re-election went home to their districts to campaign for themselves. We know next month we have a presidential election, then right after we go into the holiday season, then we

go into the inauguration season if you want to call it that. Then by that time it will be time for the 115th Congress to reconvene with some new members and their going to take some orientation. So I'm not overly optimistic that the bill reaches the Senate.

I thought it would be wonderful and great for veterans who had claims and have waited for years would have perhaps the best Christmas present if their claims would come to the table. But I don't know, however I've told the legislative staff, if it hits the Senate were going to have a call to action. Because I know on the Legion side we have 2.2 million Legionnaires waiting to harmonize in support of that. I know that we can count on the Sons of The American Legion and the Auxiliary to harmonize with us. Because we're all in this together as a family, we are going to support who we need to support. In this case those men and women's claims that have started to gather dust, that's not the way it should be. So you keep track of the legislative center on The American Legion website www.legion.org also if you have comments let your Congressmen and Senators know.

Of course it's voting season and a lot of Posts have been helping try to Get Out the Vote, some posts are even providing shuttle service to the polls. Once the election is over, we as an organization don't care who wins the election. We don't care who's on that aisle or this aisle, what we do care is what's in the middle aisle and that's where we're at. The issues that affect our men and women in uniform, those who will wear the uniform someday and the national security of our country and the programs that help our veterans. That's what we care about, all we want is both sides to come in the middle and let's discuss those issues, no personalities involved. Issues that are good for people based on the legislative priorities. I know that we can have support from the Sons of The American Legion to help make that happen. Because we're all in it together.

Hopefully we will have a great conference, at least on the Legion side we had over 300 resolutions I hope we don't have to go through all of those because we'll be here awhile. I wish each and every one of you a great conference this coming week, and I want to thank each and every one of you and you're important to this family and to the Sons of The American Legion. I want to thank you all for what you do, what you continue to do. I have told some of you in the past that I have five (5) grandsons in the Sons and the oldest grandson Alex has just graduated from Air Force basic training, so he is looking to become a dual member. Grandpa is going to give him his first Legion card and he's still going to be an SAL member.

This concluded his speech.

At this time Commander Frain (AZ) called guest **Dennis Boland - Child Welfare Foundation President** to the stage.

CWF President Dennis Boland advised right now we have \$257,533.00 in donations, that's not counting what you guys have brought in this weekend. That's \$60,000.00 ahead from last year, there is only \$742,467.00 left to go. You guys are the greatest and we ask so much of you, and you give, and give and you give.

This concluded his speech.

At this time Americanism Commission reports resumed.

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

Mr. Carlton (IN) introduced members of the CWF Committee and advised NEC to contact anyone of them with any questions. Childhood Leukemia Foundation, National Autism Center, Books Aloud, Angel Flight West these are a few of the examples of the organizations and programs that the CWF Committee recommended to receive grants. This was the first honor and challenge after National

Convention we were given from The American Legion because of our contributions, which as of May 31, 2016 the SAL nationally has raised over \$360,000.00.

This year for 2016-2017 the CWF Committee has the privilege of being National Commander Jeff C. Frain's (AZ) project to raise money and awareness. We said it would be a slice of heaven when we reach seven (7) \$7,000,000.00, we achieved that goal at our National Convention this August in Ohio. Commander Frain (AZ) said there will be no debate, we will reach eight (8) \$8,000,000.00 in donations this coming year. With this task, the goal of \$8,000,000.00 Commander Frain (AZ) has instructed us not to put a dollar amount per member on each detachment, or deplete any of their funds or take away from their programs that they support. We do want to raise money, as much as we can to reach our goal and we're asking the detachments just to dedicate one if not more fundraisers or events for the Child Welfare Foundation.

The CWF Committee will dedicate this year to sending information out, being conference calls or answering your questions and emails and doing what we can to help your detachment reach its goals. We will be exploring new ideals and even re-visiting old ones, to help improve our committee.

At Convention Commander Frain asked, are you ready? Then he said knowledge is power, now our committee is asking, are you excited? Commander Frain also stated we are not going to limit you how much to raise, rather this committee will give you a tool as to where you stand. The CWF Committee wants to bring back some excitement to raising money and for this great cause.

One way we have planned to do it is, think about baseball. Like in baseball, every detachment is going to start out as a single "A" team. When a detachment reaches \$.50 a member they will become a double "AA" team, \$.75 an "AAA" team. When you've reached a \$1.00 a member then you're a major league team. We also announced designated hitters each month, depending on the size of the contributions you may give. Let's not forget "MVP's", if you want to become an "MVP", you'll need your detachment commander to submit a story to our committee about that special event, that special fundraiser that you did. This should include what the activity was with details, with how much money was raised. Hopefully there will not be one MVP, but many. We would like to see at least one (1) from each region.

I have said over the weekend that I can see your commitment, because we're all here. Now it's time to get excited, because of what we are doing. So let's us think about when we were in High School or College at a pep rally, I would like everybody to repeat after me these three (3) things.

- 1.) *I raise money.*
- 2.) *You raise money.*
- 3.) *We raise money.*

Now I'm going to ask a question three (3) times and these are the answers. CWF, the youth, the children. Anybody that has a donation, please bring it up now.

New Business: There was none.

Americanism Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS) – reported assigned detachments to every commission member. The assignments of Regions to the Commission Members are as follows: Jim Borgman -Central; Tom Chebro - South; Ernest Laberge - Midwest; Donald Allisot - East and Gary Lang -West. We need the names of members on your commission for Americanism so we can get the information out, like we said knowledge is power. If we're not getting information out, you are not learning anything and not getting the knowledge.

Like American Legion National Commander Schmidt said “Get Out the Vote”, we can help in many ways. One way we can help is getting people to and from the voting sites, and two is your Squadron can assist with caregiving and watching your kids.

If you have any pictures from Convention with Americanism get it to me, my email is on the website and we can get that up on Facebook.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Americanism Commission report, so moved by Wayne W. Foster (ID), seconded by Ronald E. Moore (FR). Motion carried.

At this time Internal Affairs Commission gave their report.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman

Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) called for the following reports to be given:

Convention Committee – reported by *Leslie J. “Jim” Stewart (NV)*

Convention is going to be in South Reno next year at the convention center. There will be several convention hotels, as well as we are working with the convention authority as well as the RPC to have shuttles going from convention hotels to the convention center. There will be a golf outing, please make a note. The annual Friday dinner will be on August 18, 2017, across the street from the Convention Center at Post 12.

The after parade party will be in downtown Reno, ½ mile long ending on 4th street which is the Reno Ballroom and music and bar stations will be available indoors with air conditioning. We had to negotiate with the Food Truck Convention which will be in town at the same time and they have agreed to park their food trucks all around the Ballroom so you will have multiple choices of cuisines to choose from. Advised the National Vice Commanders if they would like to have any dinners or meetings other than at the Convention Center I will look into it. Already made arrangement for 4 Corners to have their party at my local post and already made arrangements for the Legion College Alumni Dinner.

Old Business:

Past Convention Chairman gave his report and some insight on what to do for the next convention.

New Business:

We are in the process of working on our convention pin, I have issued it to the Commander and waiting to see if he likes it or not.

This concluded his report.

Member Training & Development Committee – reported by *Mike Sawicki (IN)*

Commanders class was a success, the newly elected Commanders in the class donated \$192.00 to CWF. NMI training needs the NECmen to get with Don Culver (KS) to get a short paragraph for your candidate for training in NMI I. NMI II & NMI III they will be getting their calls for the spring and please get information in and seats are still available. Religious emphasis is back in Americanisms hands, and we’re going to help them out with that moving forward. NMI I is going to be revamped and going to add some new things including social media do’s & don’ts. Going to revamp and work on Commander’s class.

This concluded his report.

Membership Committee – reported by Seth A. Rippe (NE)

This year the theme is “Knowledge is Power” and the committee is using that to help increase membership and renewals. They are using this to help the Legion Family grow, challenging each member to sign up 3 new American Legion Members. Also, we will have monthly regional challenges with Vice Commanders for our super-hero theme. They are also focusing on obtaining email addresses for as many members as possible. Regional challenges will happen once a month, we exceeded the 10% target date by almost 10,000 more members from this time last year, we are now at an 18% membership rate and everyone try to hit the 25% target date which is right around the corner. Southern region is currently at 27.5% so everyone keep up the good work.

Old Business: The commission again discussed the issue that was suggested at the 2015 Fall NEC meeting by Jim Gelwicks (CO) to gather participation data to find out how the new call-in is affecting the organization. Chairman Tansel advised they will continue to study the issue and report back at a future meeting.

New Business: PNC Joe Mayne spoke to the Commission on starting a sub-committee to start planning for a time when and if the SAL becomes a stand-alone organization. PNC Michael Seaton informed the group that the Legion is looking into this happening. Don Culver (KS) expanded on a few of the points that will need to be addressed if this division was to take place. The members will discuss a course of action in forming a sub-committee in future meetings and the results of their findings will be reported at the Spring meeting.

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2016: *Endorsement of Michael S. Cotton (DE) for National Vice Commander.*

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2016: *Amend the Composition of the Strategic Initiative Committee.*

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2016: *Establish a Per Diem for National Management Institute Attendees.*

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 John M. Wright (CT), seconded by Gary P. Nelson (NJ). Motion carried.

At this time Acting Resolution Chairman Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) read three (3) Resolutions.

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2016 *titled “Endorsement of Michael S. Cotton (DE) for National Vice Commander”. This S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2016 was reviewed, received and filed. No further action needed.*

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2016 *titled “Amend the Composition of the Strategic Initiative Committee”. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept the S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2016, seconded by Linwood A. Moore (VA). Motion carried.*

S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2016 *titled “Establish a Per Diem for National Management Institute Attendees. A motion was made by John Jennings (FL) to accept S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2016, seconded by Christopher L. Cook (OK). Motion carried.*

At this time Finance Commission gave their report.

FINANCE COMMISSION
William G. Hill (MD), Chairman

Chairman William G. Hill (MD) reported the Commission reviewed the expenditures of the 2016 budget thru August 31, 2016. The proposed budget of 2017 was discussed along with the details of where and what each program has. Options were looked at and the Commission has guaranteed to go back and do data mining on any information to collect as much information as possible specific to what's being provided to the programs and money being spent in specific areas.

There was a discussion brought to the Finance Commission from Internal Affairs Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) for Membership Training & Development a \$300.00 stipend for NMI students. Chairman Hill (MD) advised there would need to be a resolution presented and funds will need to be located that could be allocated for the expense. There was a motion to approve the proposed 2017 budget. Motion was carried.

Old Business: There was none.

This concluded his report.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Finance Commission report, so moved by Wayne W. Foster (ID), seconded by David L. Bishop, Sr. (NY). Motion carried.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
David W. Lee (NY), Chairman

Legislative Chairman David W. Lee (NY) reported the legislative bill **HR-5620** that he agrees with American Legion National Commander that this bill will more than likely not get through this Congress. Another bill addressed at this meeting was **HR-5392** "No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Un-Answered" and if veterans are calling a crisis line and it's not getting answered that's wrong, sad and shouldn't be happening. Also bill **S-3258** "Protecting Veterans Credit Act of 2016" is when someone goes to a local physician because they can't get to the VA, the bill gets directly billed to the veteran and turned over to collection agencies because the veteran can't pay for it.

The "George B. Evans Grassroots Veterans' Advocate of the Year Award" is being awarded to Roy Santiago Squadron 872 Detachment of California and the cap being presented on stage for all the work he has done.

The Washington Conference will be held February 26, 2017 at the Washington Hilton Hotel located at 1919 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington DC, 20009. Commander Frain (AZ) will be laying a wreath at the "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" February 26, 2017 at 9:15am. The bus from the hotel will be leaving at 7:30am, we will try to make this time a little later next year if possible. There will also be two other wreath's laid one (1) at the Korean Memorial at 11:15am and one (1) at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 12:15pm. The cost of the wreaths this year will be \$150.00, and lunches again will be \$7.00.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

This concluded his report.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Legislative Commission report, so moved by Linwood A. Moore (VA) seconded by Wayne W. Foster (ID). Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC/MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Michael C. Fox (CA), Chairman

Public/Media Communications Chairman Michael C. Fox (CA) reported they are working with M.T.D. on social media guidelines something will be presented at the Spring meetings. Also, working on brand new Boys State & Baseball flyers towards the youth and bringing them in on membership. There are over 90,000 youth annually that participate in American Legion Baseball for example and currently we have nothing working towards getting new youth interested, but that is going to change.

We need to get the media involved in our organization, we need to let the general public know what we do and what we're about. Snap Shots of Service took about 10 years to get off the ground, an email went out to every Adjutant and NEC in the country, and at the National Convention in Reno we will be displaying all photos that are submitted so everyone can see.

This year sixteen (16) Detachment Commanders showed up for the first time and did an interview consisting of five (5) questions so we can put that out on YouTube, Facebook and our website to help promote our organization.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

This concluded his report.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Public/Media Communications Commission report, so moved by Phillip A. Cook (NH) seconded by Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL). Motion carried.

At this time VA&R gave their report.

VA&R COMMISSION
Clint D. Bolt (VA), Chairman

VA&R Commission Chairman Clint D. Bolt (VA) reported The American Legion and Sons of the American Legion have been participating in VA for 70 years. At Convention some numbers were reported and he would like to update. We had 195 regularly scheduled volunteers, and today we have 203, we had 66 VA Representatives. & Deputies, today we have 68, we also had a presence in 48 VA Hospitals, today it's 50.

There is one (1) other person who is going through the process to become certified at this time and I want to thank all of you for all the work you do and getting back with your Detachments and finding those volunteers to work at those Hospitals. Our numbers are going up and I would like to deliver some really solid numbers to Commander Frain next year at Convention.

At this time there was a special presentation, in 1990 the National Volunteer of the Year Award was started, in 1994 the name was changed to the Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award. Each year the winners name is added to a long prestigious list of volunteers that have been a Volunteer of The Year recipient.

At this time Chairman Clint D. Bolt (VA) had the National Sgt.-At-Arms escort Immediate PNC Kevin Collier (AK) and the 2016 Charles B. Rigsby Volunteer of the Year Award Winner Gabe Cinquegrana NY-Squadron 256 to the stage for recognition. He received the VAVS cap along with a challenge coin & pin presented by Immediate PNC Kevin Collier (AK).

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

This concluded his report.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the VA&R Commission report, so moved by Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL) seconded by David L. Bishop, Sr. (NY). Motion carried.

At this time Veterans Employment & Education Commission report was given.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION
Larry C. Weinzirl (MD), Chairman

Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Larry C. Weinzirl (MD) reported the VE&E Commission again this year is utilizing the National Vice Commanders to issue date/location information on over 90 job fairs. The VE&E Commission would like all Districts, Detachments and Squadrons to form their own VE&E commission/committee. Chairman Weinzirl (MD) has assigned

each commission member to a region this year and they are participating in conference calls to encourage the formation of VE&E commission/committees at all levels of the organization.

This year the commission proposes to create a “VE&E On-Board Certificate Award” for presentations to all Detachments who establish their own VE&E commission/committee and to the region with the most Detachments by percentage doing so, these awards would be presented at SAL National Convention.

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2016 was approved by the commission and forwarded to the Sub-Committee on Resolutions.

The Commission will also be focusing this year on military and civilian credentialing, the commission is investigating the status of credentialing initiatives in individual states and plans to work closely with the Legislative Commission this year in pushing for the approval of credentialing legislation.

Also, this year focusing on veteran’s homelessness, The American Legion supports the efforts of the public and private sectors agencies and organizations that aide homeless veterans and their families. All departments have a homeless veteran’s task force chair-person and an employment chair-person. The SAL VE&E Commission will work closely with these chair-persons to help aide homeless veterans and their families.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

This concluded his report.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the VE&E Commission report minus the resolution, so moved by Fr Gary P. Gummersheimer (IL) seconded by Ronald E. Moore (FR). Motion carried.

At this time Acting Resolution Chairman Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) read **S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall 2016.**

S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2016 titled “VE&E On-Board Award”. A motion was made by Robert S. “Bob” Brown (GA) to accept S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2016, seconded by Wayne W. Foster (ID). Motion carried.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

John T. Jennings (FL), Chairman

Acting Chairman for Sub-Committee on Resolutions Robert S. “Bob” Brown reported reviewed six (6) resolutions, one (1) which was a candidate and the four (4) were acted upon, and one (1) being held for further review.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

A motion was entertained by Commander Frain (AZ) to accept the Sub-Committee on Resolutions report, so moved by Robert S. Brown (GA) seconded by Rev. Thomas C. Glander (AL). Motion carried.

Discussion:

Michael A. Pipher (IN) wants all NEC to receive a distribution list from all committee/commission meetings and conference calls moving forward. A motion was made by Michael A. Pipher (IN), seconded by Robert S. "Bob" Brown (GA). Motion carried.

Old Business: There was none.

New Business: There was none.

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

FOR THE GOOD OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

PNC Clifford A. Smith (MA) stated he appreciates being an instructor for M.T.D. Committee and doing Commander's School. Mr. Smith would like to recognize Mr. Ronald E. Roberts NECmen (MS) for doing a terrific job and kudos.

Michael Kane (PA) stated anyone that was at the NEC Breakfast this morning and had their picture taken with SAL Commander Frain (AZ) and would like their picture email him directly at electric eagle1@yahoo.com.

Also, reported for Breast Cancer Month there was \$2,000.00 raised for the Susan B. Coleman Fund and since the beginning of the program they have raised over \$6,000.00 and wants to thank everyone.

Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) reported the CA Department Historian Lillian Moss donated \$20.00 to CWF.

Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) asked for any other donations at this time. There was another \$80.00 donated to CWF.

David L. Johnson, Jr. (MA) Plymouth Squadron 40 raised \$500.00 for CWF, NEF \$250.00 & Endowment Fund \$250.00.

Commander Frain (AZ) also advised there is also a check 11,000.00 from California to CWF.

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

The Sergeant-At-Arms Danny J. Poole (MI) retrieved and retired the POW/MIA Flag.

Following a right-hand salute, Commander Jeff C. Frain (AZ) declared the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 26 - 28, 2016

No.: SAL Res 1 – Convention 2016
Title: Constitutional Change to Eligibility wording
Origin: Detachment of Ohio

WHEREAS, Membership eligibility is clearly defined in Article III, Section 1, of the Detachment of Ohio Constitution, and Article IV, Section 1, of the National Sons of The American Legion Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Section 1 currently reads, “All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, and the Persian Gulf War, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.”; and

WHEREAS, The National Organization of The Sons of The American Legion now advertises membership eligibility requirements as, “All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.”; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of the War on Terrorism is a factor in membership eligibility; and

WHEREAS, The Detachment of Ohio, at their Detachment convention adopted the following resolved clause:
“RESOLVED, By the Detachment of Ohio, Sons of The American Legion in Annual Convention assembled in Chillicothe, Ohio on May 20-22, 2016, that the Detachment Constitution Article III, Section 1, be amended to read, “Section 1. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.”; and”

WHEREAS, The Detachment of Ohio, had also adopted the following resolved clause:
“ RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the 2016 National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion for consideration on revising the Sons of The American Legion National Constitution Article IV Eligibility Section 1 to read, “Section 1. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.” now, therefore, be it

Convention Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

John Jennings

John Jennings, Chairman
Constitutional Amendments Convention Committee

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26–28, 2016, that Article IV, Section 1 of the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion be amended to read:

“Section 1. All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for Membership in the Sons of The American Legion.”

Convention Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

John Jennings

John Jennings, Chairman
Constitutional Amendments Convention Committee

**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Convention
August 26 - 28, 2016**

No.: SAL Res 2 – Convention 2016

Title: Endorsement of Jay E. Marsden (MO) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Missouri

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, Jay E. Marsden has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Missouri as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26–28, 2016, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Missouri hereby endorses Jay E. Marsden for the high office of National Vice Commander 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 Missouri and the Department of Missouri with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant John Kopp and Department Adjutant Lowry Finley-Jackson are on the submitted resolution.

Convention Committee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to:
- Other Action

Convention Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

Mark Tansel

Mark Tansel, Chairman
Internal Affairs Convention Committee



**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
October 8-9, 2016**

No. S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2016
Title: Endorsement of Michael S. Cotten (DE) 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, Michael S. Cotten has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Delaware as elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of the American Legion Family; now therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Sons of The American Legion in National Executive Committee assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 9-10, 2016, That the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Delaware hereby endorses Michael S. Cotten for the high office of National Vice Commander East 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 Delaware and the Department of Delaware with indicated National action submitted for the local resolving clause. The signatures of the Detachment Adjutant Michael S. Cotten and Department Adjutant Ric Santos are on the submitted resolution.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
 Rejected
 Referred to:
 Other Received and Filed
 Action: _____

Commission / Committee, Chairman Name,

Signature
 Mark Tansel

 Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman
 Internal Affairs Commission

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature

Bob Brown

 Bob Brown (GA), Acting Chairman
 Subcommittee on Resolutions



Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
 October 8-9, 2016

No. S.A.L. Resolution 2 – Fall, 2016
Title: VE&E On-Board Award
Origin: National Veterans Employment and Education Commission

WHEREAS, the Mission Statement of the Sons of The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Commission is to “Assist The American Legion in ensuring that America’s Veterans have the opportunity to provide, with dignity and honor, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families”; and

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Commission assists The American Legion with disseminating information on Veterans’ hiring fairs and benefits available for these Veterans down to the Detachments, Districts, Squadrons and to the Veterans that may benefit from the existence of these hiring fairs and benefits; and

WHEREAS, SAL Resolution 2 Fall 2015 approved that the Sons of The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Commission encourage all Detachments, Districts and Squadrons to create their own Veterans Employment and Education Commissions/Committees to assist in getting valuable information on hiring fairs and benefits available out to America’s Veterans in their individual states; be it

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion at the National Executive Committee Meetings assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana October 8 and 9, 2016 that the Sons of The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Commission create the VE&E On-Board Certificate Award for those Detachments creating their own VE&E Commissions/Committees as well as for the Region with the most Detachments, by percentage, creating these VE&E Commissions/Committees prior to August 1, 2017; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission produce VE&E On-Board Certificate Awards for presentation to these Detachments and this Region; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission present the first of these VE&E On-Board Certificate Awards at the National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion assembled in Reno, Nevada on August 18-20, 2017 and present VE&E On-Board Certificate Awards annually at future National Conventions of the Sons of The American Legion to any new Detachments participating.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to: _____
- Other
- Action: _____

Commission / Committee, Chairman Name.

Signature

Larry Weinzirl

 Larry Weinzirl (MD), Chairman
 Veterans Employment and Education Commission

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature

Bob Brown

 Bob Brown (GA), Acting Chairman
 Subcommittee on Resolutions



**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
October 8-9, 2016**

No. S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2016
Title: Amend the Composition of the Strategic Initiative Committee
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, S.A.L. Resolution 7 – Spring, 2016, approved by the Spring 2016 Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee, subsequently approved by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion, created the “Strategic Initiative Committee” and

WHEREAS, the Committee and its members were assigned to serve until the presentation of its final report, designated to occur at the Fall 2018 meeting of the Sons of The American Legion, and

WHEREAS, the committee membership is comprised of five (5) Past National Commanders, which were duly appointed at the Spring 2016 NEC meeting, and

WHEREAS, based on the significance of the purpose of this committee, and its broad-reaching agenda and benefit to the organization, it has been recognized that the committee would be advantaged to expand the membership of this ad-hoc committee to provide a wider range of expertise, insight and perspective, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Sons of The American Legion at the National Executive Committee Meetings assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana October 8 and 9, 2016 that the membership of the Strategic Initiative Committee be amended to include up to an additional 4 (non-PNC) members, appointed by the National Commander to serve through the conclusion of the committee’s work, scheduled to be completed by the Fall 2018 N.E.C. meeting.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to: _____
- Other
- Action: _____

Commission / Committee, Chairman Name,

Signature

Mark Tansel

 Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman
 Internal Affairs Commission

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature

Bob Brown

 Bob Brown (GA), Acting Chairman
 Subcommittee on Resolutions



**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
October 8-9, 2016**

No. S.A.L. Resolution 4 – Fall, 2016
Title: Support The American Legion on Children’s Organ Transplant Association
Origin: Children and Youth Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is an organization dedicated to promoting 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 has taken special interest in supporting Children and Youth programs outlined by the parent organization, The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion actively supports the Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA), a national organization that helps alleviate the financial burden of families who have children or young adults requiring a transplant; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Children’s Organ Transplant Association of Bloomington, Indiana, was awarded \$40,000.00 for project “Miracle Makers: COTA Volunteers in Action”, a grant from the Child Welfare Foundation sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion, which provide opportunities for COTA patients across the country to raise awareness of the need for more organ and tissue donors and have continued to provide grants since; and

WHEREAS, members of The American Legion have been asked to support and work with COTA fund raising efforts for the health and well-being of our nation’s children and youth in need of organ transplant; and

WHEREAS, the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion previously has passed Resolution NEC9-S10 supporting COTA during the May 1-2, 2010, committee meeting; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 7-9, 2016, that the Sons of The American Legion continue to support The American Legion’s original Resolution 33 “Children’s Organ Transplant Association”, which was adopted by the Executive Committee of The American Legion on May 6-7, 2009.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to: _____
- Other
- Action: _____

Commission / Committee, Chairman Name,

Signature

John Waite

 John Waite (VT), Chairman
 Children and Youth Committee

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature

Bob Brown

 Bob Brown (GA), Acting Chairman
 Subcommittee on Resolutions



Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee

October 8-9, 2016

Page 1 of 1

No. S.A.L. Resolution 5 – Fall, 2016
Title: Support The American Legion on Our Military Kids
Origin: Children and Youth Committee

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is an organization dedicated to promoting 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 has taken special interest in supporting Children and Youth programs outlined by the parent organization, The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion actively supports Our Military Kids (OMK) a national organization that helps alleviate the financial burden of families who have children wanting to maintain a normal life while a parent is active duty and deployed; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Our Military Kids, was awarded \$25,000.00 for an educational project, a grant from the Child Welfare Foundation sponsored by the Sons of The American Legion, which provided aid to children of active duty servicemen to continue with their activities and have continued to provide grants since; and

WHEREAS, members of The American Legion have been asked to support and work with OMK fund raising efforts for the health and well-being of our nation’s children and youth in need of financial help; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 7-9, 2016, that the Sons of The American Legion continue to support Our Military Kids.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to: _____
- Other
- Action: _____

Commission / Committee, Chairman Name,

Signature

John Waite

John Waite (VT), Chairman
Children and Youth Committee

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature

Bob Brown

Bob Brown (GA), Acting Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions



**Sons of The American Legion Resolution
National Executive Committee
October 8-9, 2016**

No. S.A.L. Resolution 6 – Fall, 2016
Title: Establish a Per Diem for National Management Institute Attendees
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion is an organization dedicated to promoting all the great principles for which The American Legion stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country; and

WHEREAS, Achieving those aims requires knowledgeable and experienced leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion National Member Training and Development Committee is tasked by the National Executive Committee with conducting the annual National Management Institute (NMI) program to provide its future leaders with valuable information to become better leaders; and

WHEREAS, The members who attend the NMI program make a three-year commitment of their time to do so at their own expense; and

WHEREAS, It would lessen the financial burden of the NMI attendees if the National Organization could offer a per diem call-in to them, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular session assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 7-9, 2016, that the Sons of The American Legion establish a \$100.00 per diem for the Spring, 2017 National Management Institute attendees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the per diem amount be increased to \$300.00 per attendee in 2018 and beyond.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

- Approved
- Rejected
- Referred to: _____
- Other
- Action: _____

Commission / Committee, Chairman Name, Signature

Mark Tansel

 Mark Tansel (IN), Chairman
 Internal Affairs Commission

Resolutions Subcommittee Chairman Signature

Bob Brown

 Bob Brown (GA), Acting Chairman
 Subcommittee on Resolutions

Finance Commission Chairman Signature

William G. Hill

 William G. Hill (MD), Chairman
 Finance Commission

***Internal Affairs Commission Report to
National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 12-13, 2016***

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

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 12-13, 2016.

	TITLE	ACTION
SAL NC 1-16	Constitutional Change to add “War on Terrorism” under eligibility criteria	Approved
SAL NC 2-16	Endorsement of Jay E. Marsden (MO) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
SAL NEC 1-F16	Endorsement of Michael S. Cotton (DE) for National Vice Commander	Received and Filed
SAL NEC 2-F16	Veterans Employment and Education Commission On-Board Award	Rejected
SAL NEC 3-F16	Amend the Composition of the SAL Strategic Initiative Committee Members	Approved
SAL NEC 4-F16	Support The American Legion on Children’s Organ Transplant Association	Rejected
SAL NEC 5-F16	Support The American Legion on Our Military Kids	Rejected
SAL NEC 6-F15	Establish a Per Diem for SAL National Management Institute Attendees	Hold for Further Study