



*SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION*  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMISSION AND  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

SHERATON INDIANAPOLIS CITY CENTRE HOTEL  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



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One of the items the committee will be working on is a youth initiative for CWF. We want to build off the energy of 6 year old, Henry Hasselhan from the Detachment of New Jersey, who donated \$2,500 at National Convention.

Please encourage your Detachment CWF Chairman to be on the CWF Zoom meetings. We would love to hear from them and exchange ideas and thoughts.

Let's continue to do the great work that we have done and looking forward to a successful year. Thank you.

Paul Hayse (IL) made a motion to accept the Child Welfare Foundation Committee report; seconded by Keith Murdough (NH). Discussion none. All in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

#### Reports of Members:

**Chairman Chris Casey – Upcoming Commission Meetings (virtual)**

3rd Monday (bi-monthly) for future meetings.

- 2023 Dates: October 16th, December 18<sup>th</sup>

**Vice Chairman Gerald Hammerschmidt** – See report below.

**Keith Murdough** – National Children & Youth Academy

I believe we need to have youth in different age groups. Depending on age from registration forms will determine hands on different projects. For example, you shouldn't have a 16-year-old participate in a project with a 5-year-old. I'm sure we have information on parents or guardians from last year, so we could contact them and learn from their experience.

**Bud Neel** – The SONs need to coordinate with the sponsoring Posts on how they can help with the Family Day.

We can also make sure there is a serviceable American Flag flying at the Post, along with Legion and SONs flags, if available.

The Auxiliary received a grant for Americanism and has purchased items for a Star-Spangled Kids kit. The kit contains a comic book on I Pledge Allegiance, flag lapel pins, a roll of flag stickers, book on Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, 4X6 flag, flag key chain, book "Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette and Our Country's flag. Tina Nelsen will email me a copy of the items and quantity in the box. These boxes were provided to every Department Auxiliary Americanism Chairman.

I believe we need to have available pamphlets on every one of our Americanism programs at the family day, or make sure they are available through the Posts, including: Boy's State, Jr. Shooting Sports, Jr. Law, Girl's State, Boy's Nation, Oratorical, Military Kids, Children & Youth, military kids, Operation Comfort Warriors, National Emergency Fund, bicycle safety and Safe Halloween.

A laptop or T.V screen should be available to have a continuous run of all the programs above if someone in the SONs or Post have the knowledge.

Anyone attending Family Day should have a business card available to provide to anyone having questions on any program and follow up with phone call or email from a sign in roster. The volunteer answering questions should be familiar with all the programs assisted by a Legion and Auxiliary member. Three heads are better than one.

**Paul Hayse** – The Central Region met on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, there were only twenty people on the call. With N.E.C being in October the call was more of a formation meeting. Boys Nation and Junior Shooting was brought up. More will be discussed at the next call after N.E.C. Nothing to report on American Legion Baseball.

**Daniel Maurin** – See below.



**Old Business:**

Americanism Action Alert (4th alert was sent in June) feedback requested. The plan is to publish these bi-monthly during the months when the Commission does not host a business meeting.

**Regional Call Representation / Commission Members**

**Northeast** – Keith Murdough (NH) – Main topic was youth/parent initiative, members 16 and under. Talked on FFFH. There were 8 detachments on the September 20, 2023, conference call.

**Southeast** – Daniel Maurin (LA) – Did not really have a report, but he pledged to get more involved later in the year.

**Central** – Paul Hayse (IL) – The Central Region met on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, there were only twenty people on the call. With N.E.C being in October the call was more of a formation meeting. Boys Nation and Junior Shooting was brought up. More will be discussed at the next call after N.E.C. Nothing to report on American Legion Baseball.

**Midwest** – Gerald “Hammer” Hammerschmidt (KS) – On the September 27<sup>th</sup> conference call, I talked about The American Legion Family Day on April 17<sup>th</sup>. I talked about a Youth/Parent program initiative that we are going to decide on. I told everyone that we are going to support Flag Education/Etiquette programs. We are also supporting the Boys State program. We also want to attain a goal for the FFFH. We want to make it something that will be attainable.

**West** – Robert “Bud” Neel (NE) – excused due to squadron business. However, he filed a report. No report for the Western Region since the local Internet provider tower was down for 2.5 days at the time of the Western Region Zoom meeting. Our goals have NOT been approved. The Western Region does NOT provide a copy of its Zoom meeting for national committee/commission members assigned to its region to attend.

**New Business:**

**2023-24 Proposed Goals**

**1. Increase Boys State participation numbers by 10% (Chris Sherbourne)**

As we discussed on the Americanism Commission call Boys State is looking to grow by 10% this year. I spoke with Leadership from the Oklahoma Boys state program who gave a report last week in Indianapolis on how we achieve this goal. In boy's states hay day, the recruiters were WWII vet and in the early 90's these vets began to pass away, we lost the knowledge and experience on how they recruited delegates and got sponsorships. A lot of the post/ squadrons don't send delegates because they say they can't afford to. When in reality most of the post/ squadrons didn't pay for their delegates, they got sponsorships from the community to sponsor the young men because they were explained to the importance of this program and the future of our country. We need to start by adding post/ squadron and district / county liaisons to the boy's state program so we can get the most accurate information out to the post / squadrons so we can teach them how to recruit and get sponsorships. If every post/ squadron sends one more delegate, then they did last year and every post/ squadron that didn't send a delegate send one we will exceed our 10% goal. We also need to get into the schools and see the counselors to get them the info they need about boy's state. Every state has a state counselor within their department of education get with them and have them send all the counselors in your state boys state information. Let's use last year's delegates as recruiters they know the program and know who in their school would be good to go through boy's state. I believe educating our members and our schools is key to growing our boys state programs.

**2. Increase flag education programs by 10% (Daniel Maurin)**

A multi-step process:

- A. Communication to Detachments, Squadrons, etc. Newsletter - ex. Round-Up
- B. Promoting Importance of education
- C. Promote flag education along with other SALAC programs' ex. Legion Family Day



3. Support the Flying Flags for Heroes program by increasing detachment participation by 10%. Twenty-four (24) detachments did NOT participate last year! (William Murphy, III)

2023-24 Action Items

1. American Legion Family Day April 27, 2023 (Bud Neel)
  - Americanism needs to be on display during the event.
2. The Americanism Commission will work to improve the National Children & Youth Academy with the assistance of the Children & Youth Committee. (Keith Murdough, Paul Hayse, and Jeff Trout-C&Y Committee)
  - Develop age-appropriate curriculum with hands on activities
  - Develop a registration form with emergency contact information
  - Develop a participant patch and rocker (year specific)
  - Incorporate The American Legion Auxiliary Junior Patch Program
  - Reach out to former participants (parent/guardians) for feedback
3. Youth/Parent Program Initiative (will propose to the NEC for further action)
  - Future Blood Donor program through the American Red Cross. The program is designed for those 16 and under. See flyer.

Resolutions:

None

For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:

The fillable SAL Flag Appreciation Certificate PDF is available on the national website.

oLegion.org/sons <MEDIA <Publications & Forms <Under "Forms"

Upcoming Conference Calls

**Americanism Commission, October 16, 2023, 7:30 PM (EST)**

[https://legion.zoom.us/j/93540660918?](https://legion.zoom.us/j/93540660918?pwd=YU5nK0JON2Y2OEIwYm9uMlp5Z05WZz09)

pwd=YU5nK0JON2Y2OEIwYm9uMlp5Z05WZz09

- Meeting ID: 935 4066 0918; • Passcode: 571659
- (877) 853-5257 US Toll-free

**Child Welfare Foundation Committee, November 16, 2023, 7:00 PM (EST)**

[https://legion.zoom.us/j/98470314786?](https://legion.zoom.us/j/98470314786?pwd=bEtYRXVrSWlSZ0kvYmc5VjhWQzJsQT09)

pwd=bEtYRXVrSWlSZ0kvYmc5VjhWQzJsQT09

- Meeting ID: 984 7031 4786; Passcode: 780858
- (877) 853-5257 US Toll-free

**Children & Youth Committee, November 13, 2023, 7:00 PM (EST)**

[https://legion.zoom.us/j/95116226587?](https://legion.zoom.us/j/95116226587?pwd=NHRWRTh2OXEvMEI0YmpMNHFkemU4Zz09)

pwd=NHRWRTh2OXEvMEI0YmpMNHFkemU4Zz09

- Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587; Passcode: 799095
- (877) 853-5257 US Toll-free

Thank you for all you do for the Sons!

Closing:

With no further business to consider,

Chairman Chris Casey (NE)

adjourned the meeting

at 8:38 am







The National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 7 titled "American Legion Family Day" at its Fall Meeting in October 2022. The resolution established an American Legion Family Day to be observed annually on the last Saturday of April. On American Legion Family Day, April 27, 2024, posts are encouraged to open their doors to members of their community for the day to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and American Legion Auxiliary. It is a time to give back to those who support the American Legion Family. Start planning your American Legion Family Day now. We are asking for your support and promotion of this special day. Let's spread the word; let's recognize, educate and recruit. Our National American Legion Commander Seehafer has stated that the organization's top priority will be a continuation of the Legion's focus: "Be the One". We are all encouraged to push the number one. Be the One to save one. The Family Day can be filled with a variety of activities. Posts can set up tables with membership brochures and applications for the American Legion family for recruiting new members. A table can also be set up for bringing awareness to our organization's "Be the One", which can include information with available resources. The posts can offer breakfast, lunch and/or dinner throughout the day. Let's remember to include children and young people. Face painting and a bounce house are very popular activities for the children. Americanism can be a topic for educating children and young people of all ages. There are a lot of educational aids and fun projects for all ages on the Emblem Sales website. Order now. A "How to Session" can be scheduled, such as how to fold a flag or how to follow the protocol for flying the flag at half-mast. This is also a great time to introduce Girls/Boys State, Oratorical, Baseball, as well as other American Legion programs. More information will become available in the months ahead. Please put Saturday, April 27, 2024, on your posts' calendars. Let's involve the entire American Legion Family. As our new Sons of The American Legion Commander Donald (JR) Hall says: "We can all make things better by working together".

#### Brian Shedd – C&Y Month

As most of you know, C&Y month is in April, however, I'm not sure that many Legions, Squadrons, or Auxiliary units know this. I will be encouraging all Legions to try and enact at least one C&Y program or activity during the month of April. I also would like to put a newsletter together that explains more about our current C&Y programs, as well as giving some ideas out to our Legions on how they can help build their Jr. Membership. I would like to get more entities on board and get information to strengthen our up-and-coming youth who will one day be our military and leaders of our country!

#### Chris Reachard – Veterans & Children Foundation (VCF)

At the 51st National Convention in Charlotte NC. Americanism Commission Chairman Cassey introduced a resolution to move 250,000.00 from the reserve account to the VCF. This resolution passed without objection. This year's goal for the Detachments to donate to the VCF is \$1.00 per capita. The American Legion Riders have shifted their focus to the VCF Foundation and will be focusing their Legacy Run funds to the VCF. The VCF's goal is to have at least 25 million in reserves. This will help the foundation to be self-sufficient and be able to assist more Veterans and Children during emergency relief efforts.

The Committee and the Americanism Commission will be establishing a suggested per capita for donations to the Foundation.

#### Joe Lohman – National Commander Hall's parent/youth initiative project

The C&Y Committee held an internal meeting on Monday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, to discuss potential events to support Commander Hall's parent/youth initiative project.

#### Discussions/Concerns

- How to involve parents? They are the key to getting our young involved.
- How do we communicate with the parents and youth about the project?
- Need to provide guidance to the Detachments on how to promote the project.

In summary, The C&Y Community has agreed to promote a C&Y program during the American Legion Family Day or at any other Detachment event such as a campout or American Legion family event as designated by the Detachment. The project will consist of promoting a C&Y program (to be announced later) that will involve both the parent/youth with the purpose of educating our family members about this project and potentially raising funds to support the project.

Ronnie Grist (GA) spoke of a children's camp run by the Detachment of Georgia. They are including parents as camp counselors.



Regional Call Representation Reports:

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Chris Rearchard – Attended the Eastern Region call on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Outside of what I reported there were no other discussions on C & Y.

Jeff Trout - The Central Region Zoom meeting was held on 13 September 2023. There was no discussion from Detachments concerning Development Chairman Michael Cotton and I mentioned National Commander Hall's youth initiative.

John Lawrence - Participated in quarterly Mid-western region conference call on 9-26-2023. Present the goals for the committee emphasizing C&Y month and family day.

Joe Lohman – Attended the West Region call on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There was some discussion regarding guidance on how squadrons are to report to National if they completed Commander Hall's 4 pillar challenge. There were no discussions regarding C&Y among the Detachment reports.

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**New Business**

- 2023-2024 Proposed Goals:
  - donate to the VCF is \$1.00 per capita
- 2023-2024 Action Items:
  - Promote and develop newsletter for C&Y month
  - Promote CDR Hall 4 pillar challenge.
  - Commander Hall's youth initiative project
  - American Legion Family Day

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

Next meeting date Monday November 13, 2023 at 7pm EST

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**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://legion.zoom.us/j/95116226587?pwd=NHRWRTh2OXEVMFI0YmpMNHFkempU4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 951 1622 6587

Passcode: 799095

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

877 853 5257 US Toll-free

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider,

Chairman Joseph A. Lohman (MD)

adjourned the meeting

at 7:05 pm .



## Child Welfare Foundation Committee

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Ohio Room  
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark E. Nave (PA)

**Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Mark E. Nave (PA)</u>	Secretary: <u>Scott A. Williams (VA)</u>
Members: <u>Lyle Chapman (GA)</u>	Consultant: <u>Phil Stander (IL)</u>
<u>George Fleming, Jr. (PA)</u>	NEC Liaisons: <u>Paul Hayse (IL)</u>
<u>Sanford "Sandy" Lipman (MI)</u>	<u>David Vulcan (MN)</u>
<u>Jon Coakley, II (OH)</u>	
<u>John Sansoucie (MO)</u>	

Guests: Joe Schultis (IN), Paul Rush (IN), Larry Horne (OR), Keith Barnes (NJ), Allen Watry (WI), Casey Lenort (MN), Bryan Hine (TN), Chris Cook (OK), PNC Chris Carlton (IN), Richard Huntley (ME), Bob Brown (GA), Brandon Curry (KY)

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Nave declared the minutes of the Spring 2023 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Welcome new members David Dieckgraeff (AK), David Vulcan (MN), Paul Hayse (IL), and Michael Greichen (RI).

Chairman Mark Nave – 103K so far this year. 37 Detachments donated. We are \$309K away from \$10M. Goal of \$10 Million by New Orleans in 2024.

The Western Region now has 15 Detachments. Colorado came in highly motivated. West has brought in \$21K. High energy in the Western Region call. Membership linked to CWF donations. John Sansoucie will be the new Western Rep.

Lyle Chapman – We had a Zoom meeting last Thursday September 27th at 8pm Central time. I praised all the 7 Detachments who were over \$1 per member last year. Colorado led with \$9.38 per member. The only problem is they are moving to the West. I told them that our committee has chosen seven grant applicants out of fifteen that were given to us.

Hopefully, we can get a few of those some grants that will not take effect until 2024 with a full year to complete them. I also talked about the new red CWF aprons and the leftovers from the National Convention that we will sell at our NEC. I concluded with "Let's all work together and achieve all our goals for the upcoming year."

George Fleming, Jr. – So far doing good in East Pennsylvania has. We in Northeast donation made (\$14,602.13) we have seven detachments out thirteen donate so far. great job it is early long way to go. We have Pennsylvania leading in Northeast with (\$6,831.28). Next is New Hampshire with (\$2,617.85) don't forget the dollar per member banner program. We be doing a 50/50 raffle. We be selling items at the NEC meeting. Please all detachment I like to get a CWF chairmen information from each detachment. If want me to come visit fundraising event for CWF I travel

Sandy Lipman – I am proud to welcome the new detachments to the Central region (Kentucky, West Virginia and for this year Georgia); and am looking forward to working with each detachment and their membership. We are off to a flying start with \$31,805 already donated!! This is approximately 1/3rd of our entire total of \$99,961.13. Excellent work so far. Her is the breakdown as of 9-15-23: Georgia \$70, Illinois \$3430, Michigan \$4663, Minnesota \$3374, Kenyucky\$500, West Virginia 2375 and our top so far Ohio \$17,393. It always amazes me, the dedication of our brothers to the Central Region and we thank you for continuing the fabulous work that you all do! As I have not yet received any information on the Central call I cannot at this time report on anything new from



the body overall. Sorry to not be on the zoom but I will be at our Fall conference and will try to find a way if I can get on. Please feel free to contact me at sandylipman95@hotmail.com if anything is needed or questions answered. Also Email letters have been sent out to the Detachments in the Central

Jon Coakley, II – Gentlemen, unfortunately with the new changes to the new meeting schedules, I was unable to attend the Southern call. My apologies to NVC Linwood for missing it. I now have the new map of the regions along with the schedule of meeting days and time. I look forward to being on the next call. I'd also like to say welcome to John Sansoucie to the committee. I look forward to working with him.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Jon Coakley II from Ohio. This is, I believe, my 5th year on this committee. With a one-year break in there. CWF has always been my go-to charity. As the old saying goes, To Make a Difference in the Life of a Child. And the SAL is doing that. I am also the ANEC for Ohio as well as a PDC for the Detachment. I am currently the adjutant and finance officer for my squadron in Grove City, Ohio. I look forward to seeing us hit \$10 million!

John Sansoucie – Let me start by saying what a pleasure it is getting to work with the Western region. Getting to work with the Western region gives me a chance to see how others operate. What works and what doesn't work. Being from Missouri, I have always worked with the Central region since I joined 26 years ago. I am proud to have been a National Vice Commander for that region, proud to have seen how others operate, but I never got to see how those outside of my region worked. I know that we will work well together with the passion we have for the Child Welfare Foundation.

To those who do not know me, I have been a member for 26 years in the Detachment of Missouri. I have held every office in my squadron, currently Commander. In the Detachment I have served in all the offices as well, currently Senior Vice Commander. My biggest honor was holding the office of National Vice Commander. Being so involved with the Legion family of course means I have a huge support group, my family: Christine, my wife, and our children, Nicole, and Nathan, who are all members of the Legion family. Nicole and Nathan have been members since birth. We currently reside in De Soto Missouri and attend church in Festus, Missouri where I am an Elder for the church. Finally, I am the sales manager for F.L. Porter Foods, a food and paper distribution company.

**Old Business:**

Talked about the National Convention and donations. Little Henry's donation for CWF was the highlight for the Convention. Table with leftover Merchandise for CWF from Convention this weekend. Can do Consignments through Stacey Cope at National HQ.

**New Business:**

Small list of applicants versus previous years. Meeting with CWF Board this weekend to finalize the grant recipients.

New Meeting formats – will meet the 3rd Thursday on odd number months. Send CWF Updates to Round Up as well as CWF Fundraising events. Zoom Meetings are open meetings. Working on the Parent – Child initiative. This will help the children become more active in the sons. Children could sell age-appropriate items that the Committee could provide. The CWF Committee needs to find ways to support and move forward with this initiative.

Getting close to reaching \$10M donations. Recognize the Detachment that pushes CWF over \$10 Million in donations.

**Resolutions:**

There were none.

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

Wing Fest in PA; American Flag Quilt; Several ideas were suggested for 2024 Merchandise. Mugs, tumblers, Cajun Sauce, etc.

**Closing:**

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



at 7:32 pm

## Century Committee

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at: 7:30 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Circle Centre Room  
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)

**Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH)</u>	Secretary: <u>William "Bill" Towns, Jr. (OH)</u>
Vice Chairman: <u>PNC Joe Gladden (MD)</u>	Consultants: <u>PNC Joseph Paviglianti (NY)</u>
Members: <u>PNC Thomas E. Cisna (IL) – Excused</u>	<u>William "Bill" Towns, Jr. (OH)</u>
<u>PNC Joe Mayne (MN)</u>	NEC Liaison: <u>Jim Stewart (NV)</u>
<u>PNC Gene Sacco (CA)</u>	Leading Cand.: <u>Joseph R. Navarrete (NM) – Excused</u>
Regional Reps: <u>[E] Malcolm Mahoney (MA) – Excused</u>	Trailing Cand.: <u>William M. Clancy, III (NY) – Excused</u>
<u>[S] Tyler Vanice (VA) – Excused</u>	National Adjutant: <u>Anthony Wright (PA) – Excused</u>
<u>[C] Jeff Vrabel, Jr. (OH)</u>	National Liaison: <u>Kevin Mook (MD) – Excused</u>
<u>[M] (vacant)</u>	
<u>[W] Bobby Crevelli (CA)</u>	

Guests: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Subcommittee Members: PNC Kevin Winkelmann (TX), Chairman; PNC Bob Worrell (IN), Vice Chairman; PNC Doc Gibbs (NY). Jim A. Mariner (NM); Ryan Maker ( ); Chris Cook (OK)

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Chairman Vrabel declared the minutes of the July 23, 2023 conference call approved as published.

**Old Business:**

Recap of CENTCOM activities over the last two years. PNC Joe Paviglianti as first chairman reported that the committee started at the Arizona National Convention to create a strategic plan to lead into the next century. There were several offsite meetings in Illinois, and Nevada. A third-party organization was given to help obtain these goals. The organization did not meet the needs of the committee, so they were released. At the Milwaukee Convention Chairman PNC Joe stepped down and was replaced by Chairman Jeff Vrabel, Sr. The committee came up with the five keys of the strategic plan, Membership, Americanism, Youth, Brand Awareness, and Operations. A document call "Thirty Questions to Start the Conversation" was developed to get people talking about the organization. Four surveys were developed and sent out. Two venders were selected from Requests for Proposals that were sent out. After committee interviews, one was selected to work with. After review from The American Legion the outside vender was cancelled. At the Charlotte Convention PNC Joe Gladden was added to the committee as Vice Chairman and will chair the committee starting Sunday.

**New Business:**

- a. Plans for 2023-2024 administrative year by Vice Chairman Joe Gladden. The plan will be to feed off the previous work and information and determine, where do we want to be in 2032, and how do we get there. How do we want to be recognized nationally in conjunction with what TAL will allow. Brand awareness, and ways to help TAL membership.
- b. Vice Chairman Gladden went over documents that 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary subcommittee Vice Chairman PNC Bob Worrell had presented on the objectives and ideas of the subcommittee. See attached files.
- c. PNC Gladden asked the members what is your understanding of what the Committee should be doing?



- i. Member Bobby Crevelli (CA) To set goals, create an interest for younger members, and make a plan for membership growth.
- ii. Member Jeff Vrabel Jr. (OH) Stated a big question is how we sustain members whose membership is paid by a father or grandfather. Address issues at hand.
- iii. PNC Joe Paviglianti (NY) To create a reason for young members to join. Create a strategic plan to get us to 2032.
- iv. Chris Cook (OK) Hours that must be committed between meetings and monthly calls may not be possible for younger members. This is not just to create younger members to be national leaders but to help them be active at the squadron and detachment level.
- v. PNC Gladden talked on starting programs that parents and children can work together on to keep the family involved. What the desired outcome should be set and then build the plan around how to achieve it.
- vi. Chairman Vrabel read his report that was given to the Oversight Committee at the DC Conference.
- vii. Bill Towns (OH) questioned that the original 5 keys were set should be continued.
- viii. PNC Doc Gibbs Has input from TAL be asked to see what they are expecting and will allow? PNC wants to speak to TAL JA with these questions.
- ix. PNC Bob Faust (CA) Time is running fast. In 1932 young Legionnaires formed the Sons of the American Legion to sustain the programs. Detachments need a program like Boys State to promote and implement. PNC Gladden informed about Maryland starting a Detachment level Jr. SAL with officers.

**Resolutions:**

None.

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

Bill Towns (OH) There is a need to collect and save old documents, photos, and items for the 100th Anniversary, including finding ways to finance shipping. Bill to write an article requesting donations and asking each detachment to provide a contact point for this program.

There is a need to look into starting an Archival Committee to collect and store SAL History.

Member Bobby Crevelli submitted a written review of his interpretation of the platform document presented by Chairman Vrabel and discussed at the July meeting. Members are to look it over.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Jeff Vrabel, Sr. (OH) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm .



## Finance Commission

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am on October 7, 2023 in the Board Room  
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William G. Hill (MD)

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>William G. Hill (MD, 2024)</u>	Secretary:	<u>Robert J. Avery (NY)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Jeff Van Horn (IL, 2024) - Excused</u>	NEC Liaisons:	<u>Bill Kelly (FL)</u>
Members:	<u>Steve Honigfort (OH, 2024)</u>		<u>Dave Hanson (IN)</u>
	<u>Robert Thompson (SC, 2024) - Absent</u>		
	<u>Jeremy Revell (VT, 2024)</u>		

Guests: David Lee (NY)

**Old Business:**

Review FY '2023 current budget reconciliation. Prepare feedback if necessary to The American Legion Internal Affairs, based on any findings. No reconciliation information provided beyond March 2023.

Review FY '2024 revised budget. Revisions based on committee realignments, if necessary.

No material changes based on adjustments made to merge expenditures for the SAL Oversight Committee and SAL Advisory Committee.

**New Business:**

Chairman Hill has had discussions with MTD regarding the new SAL University and any associated costs. Initial details pertaining to the overall expenditures have been submitted to the NEC for review. We will assist with a final outline, showing the details and appropriate expenditures to be submitted to TAL for final review and approval.

The Commission discussed expense check distribution, which takes place this afternoon at 4:00 PM.

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

David Lee from the Legislative Commission noted that the expenses surrounding the Washington Conference have increased and the Commission needs to keep that in mind for budgeting purposes.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman William G. Hill (MD) adjourned the meeting  
at 8:15 am



## Internal Affairs Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am on October 7, 2023 in the Meridian East Ballroom of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman William M. Clancy, III (NY).

### Roll Call:

Chairman: William M. Clancy, III (NY, 2025)

Secretary: Anthony W. Wright (PA)

Vice Chairman: Chris Michel (DE, 2025) (E)

NEC Liaisons: \_\_\_\_\_

Members: Kenneth Sutton (CA, 2024)

Richard "Dickie" Huntley (ME, 2024)

Juan R. Torres (TX, 2026)

Wade Hudson (IL, 2026)

Guests: Daryl VerStreate, Jr. (NY), Carl Albern, Jr. (NJ), Eddy Seegers (TX), Earl Ruttkofsky (MI), Wayne Madson (IL), Chris Cook (OK), Cliff Boyer (PA), Bill Towns (OH), Bill Kelly (FL) and Kevin Collier (AK).

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Clancy declared the minutes of the Spring 2023 meeting approved as published.

### Reports of Committees:

Convention Committee – Chairman Chris Byrd (NC) was excused from the NEC meeting.

The Internal Affairs Commission referred the resolution back to the membership committee for further study to investigate and recategorize the membership categories. Motion by Ken Sutton, Second by Dickie Huntley to refer the resolution back to the membership committee for further study to investigate and recategorize the membership categories.

Member Training & Development Committee – Chairman Mike Cotton (DE) not present at the Internal affairs meeting.

Membership Committee – Chairman Daryl VerStreate, Jr. (NY) gave his report. The membership report has been pre-submitted to the National Adjutant. The membership committee presented a resolution titled "to make eligible all Detachments for all National Awards". The membership committee unanimously passed this resolution during their committee meeting. IA voted to return this resolution to Membership for further study so as to not lend any unfair advantage to Detachments that are under 200 members.

### Reports of Members:

#### Old Business:

Execution of New Appointee Notification Process: All appointees will receive a certificate within the next few weeks via USPS to certify that they've been appointed to a National Committee and/or Commission. These certificates will be distributed through the National Headquarters.

Welcome Letter Initiative: The commission will develop a welcome letter available online for squadrons to download to send to new members. The form will be editable to make it adaptable to local squadrons.

SAL TV Initiative: YouTube videos of National events as well as local events. National Headquarters has this in place and will work with the SAL to make sure we do things within copyright guidelines.



**New Business:**

**IA Supporting AL Family Day**

- Inclusion of Family Day on CSRs
- Liaise with Emblem Sales to Offer Items that complement American Legion Family Day
  - SAL Branded games - beanbag toss / Fuzzball etc
  - Posters Highlighting 10 Ideals and 5 Point Program
- Include mention of Family Day in the Welcome Letter
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**Restructure of IA Responsibilities**

- All Commission Members will be assigned responsibilities and expectations. It will be expected that members will provide a written report during the Zoom meetings as well as in-person meetings.
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**23'/24' Meeting Schedule - 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month (6PM EST)**

- 10/26, 12/28, 2/22/24, 4/25, 6/27, 8/22

**Resolutions:**

No. SAL Resolution 1 – Fall 2023  
 Title: Endorsement of Dan Ashley (AZ) for National Vice Commander  
 Origin: Detachment of Arizona  
 Action: Received less than 30 days before the NEC meeting; held for the Spring 2024 meeting.

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

Bill Towns (OH): As we allocate funds from the reserve funds every few years, can we look into providing funds to the library and museum to assist with archiving the SAL items at National Headquarters? It was suggested that the process begins with a resolution being developed to indicate the purpose and financial analysis.

Additionally, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee is trying to secure items for the book that will be made available for the book.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman William M. Clancy, III (NY) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting  
 at 9:10 am .



### Convention Committee

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Ohio Room  
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Vice Chairman Tommy Vassar (LA)

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Christopher Byrd (NC,2023) - Excused</u>	Secretary:	<u>Anthony W. Wright (PA)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Tommy Vassar, Jr. (LA, 2024)</u>	NEC Liaison:	<u>Larry Ford (MD)</u>
Members:	<u>Allen J. Watry (WI, 2022)</u>	Members:	<u>Joseph Guidice (NY)</u>
	<u>Gerard Sambets (FL, 2025)</u>		<u>Peter Booth (NY)</u>
	<u>Brandon Curry (KY, 2026)</u>		<u>Ben M. Baldwin, Jr. (NM)</u>
	<u>Charles E. "Chuck" Treat, II (AZ)</u>		<u>Steven R. Navarrete (NM)</u>

Guests: SONA Liaison Bob Brown (GA)

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, Vice Chairman Vassar declared the minutes of the Spring 2023 meeting approved as published.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Christopher Byrd (NC, 2023) – Excused

Vice Chairman Tommy Vassar, Jr. (LA, 2024) – Has had good contact and coordination with the Department Legion Convention Corporation. The National Convention Corporation will be in New Orleans on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

Our pin design is almost complete which will look similar to the emblem they have on their shirts they wear at National Convention.

We're in the planning process of working on a Friday night social which may be at a post close to the convention center or possibly across the river in the area.

Allen Watry (WI, 2022) – Here to lend support to the future convention cities representatives and share ideas.

Gerard Sambets – (FL, 2025) – Discussion and planning with our department has begun. We would like to develop a coin instead of a pin. I am here to learn and receive ideas for use to have a successful convention in 2025.

Brandon Curry (KY, 2026) – Kentucky will soon have a new individual for the National Convention Committee.

Ben Baldwin, Jr. (NM) – New members who is excited to participate.

Steven Navarrete (NM) – Looking forward to being engaged in the future conventions.

Bob Brown (GA) – SONA Liaison stated many changes are coming.

**Old Business:**

There was none.

**New Business:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 730 pm eastern for convention zoom.



**Resolutions:**

None

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

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Vice Chairman Tommy Vassar, Jr. (LA, 2023) adjourned the meeting  
at 9:00 pm.



## Member Training and Development Committee

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Michigan Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Michael S. Cotten (DE)

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Michael S. Cotten (DE)</u>	Secretary:	<u>Raymond Jarvis (NY)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Shawn Davis (MN)</u>	Consultants:	<u>Ronald E. Roberts (MS) – Excused</u>
Members:	<u>Scott Baker (PA)</u>		<u>Timothy D. Aboudara, Sr. (CA) – Excused</u>
	<u>Frank Meraz, Jr. (CA)</u>	Advisor:	<u>Mike Monserud (IA) – Excused</u>
	<u>Mike Obremski (MD)</u>	NEC Liaison:	<u>Dennis George (NY) – Excused</u>

Guests: Tom Marsden (NJ); Scott Thornton (OH)

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Shawn Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee’s conference call on September 4, 2023 as published, seconded by Scott Baker. The motion carried.

**Reports of Members:**

Chairman Mike Cotten confirmed the PowerPoint for tomorrow’s NEC class has been modified and approved by the Advisory Committee. It was sent to National Adjutant Tony Wright and Brian Compton.

**SAL University**

- The outline and topics have been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Committee.
- The budget has been reviewed by Commander Hall and will be forwarded to the Finance Commission for further review.
- The draft program has been approved by the Advisory Committee; the final version will be complete by December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The application form is being developed and will be sent out once the national American Legion has approved it.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

All the committees and commissions have been asked to find a way to increase youth participation in our programs. All committee and commission members are further asked to find ways to increase awareness of the National Commander’s project.

Shawn Davis made a motion to purchase the shirts, pins, padfolios, and 5-Star and 10-Ideals medals for the Spring 2024 SAL University program, with the funds to be taken from the Committee’s budget line item, seconded by Frank Meraz. The motion carried.

**Resolutions:**

None

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

Chairman Cotten personally thanked all the Committee members and the guests for their efforts in developing the SAL University program. An outstanding job by all involved!

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, Chairman Michael S. Cotten (DE) adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.