



*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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## Americanism Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am on October 7, 2023 in the Circle East Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Chris Casey (NE).

### Roll Call:

Chairman: Chris Casey (NE, 2023)

Secretary: Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)

Vice Chairman: Gerald Hammerschmidt (KS, 2025)

PNC Advisor: Danny J. Smith (CO) – Excused

Members: Keith Murdough (NH, 2024)

NEC Liaisons: Francis E. Riddell, Jr. (HI)

Robert “Bud” Neel (NE, 2024) – Excused

Charles T. “Abe” Abrahamson (ID)

Paul Hayse (IL, 2025)

Carvin L. Chapman (MI)

Daniel Maurin (LA, 2026)

John Hook (NH)

Consultants: Christopher Sherbourne (OK, 2024)

William Murphy, III (MA, 2024)

Guests: Jeff Trout (IL), Sean Deiter (PA), Ernie Laberge (MA), NVC Terry Harris (KS), Jeff Lee (VA), Larry Horne (OR), Michael Vozar (IL), Gerard Sambets (FL), Casey Lenort (MN), Keith Barnes (NJ), Gene Therox (MA), NVC Linwood Moore, NVC Robert Bristo (MN), Mike Holley (MI), National Commander Donald L. “JR” Hall, Jr. (MD), National Commander’s Aide Thomas G. Deal (MD), and National Historian Jeffrey Thorne (MD).

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

### Reports of Committees:

**Children & Youth Committee** – Chairman Joe Lohman (MD) had to return to work in Maryland and Vice Chairman John Lawrence was not present, so no report was filed with the Commission during its meeting. The Children & Youth Report would be heard in the NEC meeting later today.

**Child Welfare Foundation Committee** – Chairman Mark Nave (PA) gave his report. Good morning Americanism Commission and thank you Chairman Casey for the opportunity to speak to the commission. As of the latest CWF Cross Tabs report from September 28<sup>th</sup>, \$103,867.13 has been donated by 37 detachments, which is a \$24,894.21 (31.5%) increase from this time last year. We are well on our way to reaching \$10 million dollars in total donations. Based the current amounts, the Sons have a raised \$9,690,867, which leaves us at \$309,133 away from reaching this goal. Let’s continue the great work that we have always done raising funds.

This weekend the CWF Committee will be selling our merchandise outside the meeting room. We have our red Sons for Kids apron selling for \$25. The phone charger is selling for \$10. The CWF polo shirt is going for \$50 along with the baseball cap going for \$25. The CWF challenge coin is going for \$10. Stop by and purchase items. If you want to a large purchase or get items on consignment, contact Stacy Cope of the Americanism Division at headquarters.

The committee welcomed a new committee member, John Sansoucie from the Detachment of Missouri was a past National Vice Commander. John will be assigned to the Western region. Let’s welcome John to the committee.

The committee has been hard at work since National convention reviewing grant applications for the 2024 year and have submitted our recommendations to the CWF Board. The applicants will be awarded at the CWF board meeting, October 8<sup>th</sup> and communicated shortly after.



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 Chaiman 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](https://legion.zoom.us/j/93540660918?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=bEtYRXVrSWISZ0kvYmc5VjhWQzJsQT09)

[pwd=bEtYRXVrSWISZ0kvYmc5VjhWQzJsQT09](https://legion.zoom.us/j/98470314786?pwd=bEtYRXVrSWISZ0kvYmc5VjhWQzJsQT09)

• 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](https://legion.zoom.us/j/95116226587?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 Reachard – 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 concernin 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 all 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=NHRWRTh2OXEvMEI0YmpMNHFkemU4Zz09>

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





- 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: William G. Hill (MD, 2024)

Secretary: Robert J. Avery (NY)

Vice Chairman: Jeff Van Horn (IL, 2024) - Excused

NEC Liaisons: Bill Kelly (FL)

Members: Steve Honigfort (OH, 2024)

Dave Hanson (IN)

Robert Thompson (SC, 2024) - Absent

Jeremy Revell (VT, 2024)

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:	<u>William M. Clancy, III (NY, 2025)</u>	Secretary:	<u>Anthony W. Wright (PA)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Chris Michel (DE, 2025) (E)</u>	NEC Liaisons:	<u></u>
Members:	<u>Kenneth Sutton (CA, 2024)</u>		<u></u>
	<u>Richard "Dickie" Huntley (ME, 2024)</u>		<u></u>
	<u>Juan R. Torres (TX, 2026)</u>		<u></u>
	<u>Wade Hudson (IL), 2026)</u>		<u></u>

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
- 

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.
- 

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 .



## Membership Committee

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Circle Centre+East Rooms of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Daryl VerStreate, Jr. (NY).

**Roll Call:**

Chairman: <u>Daryl VerStreate, Jr. (NY)</u>	Secretary: <u>Jeffrey E. Hicks (NJ)</u>
Vice Chairman: <u>Casey Hanson (SD)</u>	Consultants: <u>George Gray (GA)</u>
Members: <u>Jason Miller (MD)</u>	<u>Jack Youngs (ID)</u>
<u>Matt Verkuilen (MN)</u>	<u>James Walters (PA) – virtual (online)</u>
	NEC Liaison: _____
Regional Chairs: <u>[N] Robert Manzo (MD)</u>	National Vice Cdrs.: <u>[N] John Cook (NH)</u>
<u>[S] Thomas Skelley (TX)</u>	<u>[S] Linwood Moore (VA)</u>
<u>[C] Harl "Butch" Ray (IL)</u>	<u>[C] Robert Bristo (MN)</u>
<u>[M] Michael Monserud (IA)</u>	<u>[M] Terry Harris (KS)</u>
<u>[W] Dan Ashley (AZ)</u>	<u>[W] Jimmy Fisher, Sr. (CA) – absent</u>

Guests: Don Allisot (ME), Steven Cox (PA), Michael Vozar (IL), Rick Allen (IL), David Mennel (MI), Terry Hanson (SD), Bob Phillips, Jr. (NJ), James Lastovka (IA), Carvin Chapman (MI), Dale Toenies (AK), Juan A. Cruz (PR), Daniel F. Maurin (LA), Joe Roberts (AZ), William D. (Bill) Kelly (FL), Marc Chaney (OR), Robert Bascou (NJ), and Linwood Moore (VA).

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Review of Committee Appointments**

**Recruiting (Casey Hanson and George Gray)** – Report submitted and emailed out to the committee. Recruitment work was started last year under Thom Skelley and will be sent out to regional reps. Looking for feedback.

**Retention/Revitalization (Jason Miller and Jack Youngs)** – Big thing to drive home that we need to constantly follow up with members that we have through our Buddy Checks. Keep them involved and teach them what the programs are. A couple of ideas were listed on report that was sent out previously.

**Awards/Misc. (Matt Verkuilen and Jim Walters)** – Spreadsheet being created. IRA Reporting Form: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M\\_W\\_rxEN4DHS3Q22lui\\_h\\_fzs3y2Ermpnxhkr0LA5TIM/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M_W_rxEN4DHS3Q22lui_h_fzs3y2Ermpnxhkr0LA5TIM/edit#gid=0)  
Turn red if over 1 – using Q as check field. Where are forms housed when completed? (Question from James Walters). Once approved, the regional membership chairman and NVC will retain a copy of the completed form for the archive in addition to ensuring the spreadsheet is up-to-date. Edit suggestion – verify only 1 IRA pin per person is allowable. Suggestion (Thom) create new awards for 10-15-20 pin (Gold Silver Bronze). Small awards based on detachments (ex. Hawaii/Philippines) to add categories to recognize smaller detachments (under 200 members). Requirements 103% ensure growth. Realign categories. Get Thom access to sheet – needing access code. Demo of National Awards Tracker. Deadline for report submission – TBD.

- i. **Overview of Membership Workshop (Saturday, October 7, 2023, 8 AM to 12 Noon, Sheraton)**  
Overall theme: **We don't know what we don't know - Figuring out where to start**  
Premise: Doing a collective "brain dump" of what's on our minds of how to improve and enhance areas within membership and even "slightly" outside of membership that could impact membership.



Agenda Item 1: Introduction of workshop and overview of plan for the session

Discussion 1 (20 minutes): Roundtable discussion of each participant's background/passions/hobbies/etc. Who they are/where they are from/Legion work so far, etc.

Activity 1 (20-30 minutes): Utilizing large tablet paper and post-it notes, each participant will write down ideas of what should be improved or pain points related to the SAL related to membership and overall functioning. Once written the participants will add these post-it notes to one of the four tablet papers specifically:

1. Recruitment
2. Retention
3. Awards
4. Misc. (not specific to membership but would help membership)

--BREAK--

Activity 2 (~60 minutes+): Review each tablet paper individually and do the following:

Combine duplicates or similar ideas into groups/consolidate where needed (clarify where needed)

1. Translate/group tasks into "projects"
2. Determine priority of projects (high, medium, low)
3. Determine which projects to focus on first - assign rest to "pipeline" for future completion
4. Assign project managers or who point person will be on each project.

--BREAK--

Discussion: How we move forward and use this information. In other words, this becomes the agenda items for our business meetings where each "group" can give an update on the project/projects they are working on and we can discuss questions/add support etc.

Remainder of time (if any): General membership discussion of best practice ideas - what is currently going well within each detachment and nationally.

Adjournment

#### **Reports of Members:**

**Chairman Daryl VerStreate, Jr. (NY) –**

##### In Process:

1. Commanders Challenge
2. If anyone would like to do a mini revitalization please let their Regional Chair or NVC know and I will supply a list of anyone who has not renewed dues in a particular squadron in the last three years. In an effort to increase the retention rate.
3. Core Members read-only to my legion for Detachment access
4. Still in the works is an chairman book that can be handed down

##### Completed

1. Committee assignments (attached)
  - a. Recruiting
    - i. Casey Hanson – Core
    - ii. George Gray - Consultant



- iii. 5 Regional Reps
  - b. Retention/Revitalization
    - i. Jason Miller – Core
    - ii. Jack Youngs - Consultant
  - c. Awards
    - i. Matthew Verkuilen – Core
    - ii. Jim Walters - Consultant
  - d. Commercial – Presentation
    - i. Thom Skelley – Regional Rep
    - ii. George Gray - Consultant
2. Fall Meeting Membership Workshop planned and flyer created (attached)
  3. Commander challenge flyer (attached)
  4. Casey Hanson appointed as Vice Chair
  5. Matt Verkuilen appointed as Scribe

### Theme

The committee more or less came up with it all on their own. Everyone says 400. The goal is 400,000 and to arrive at 105%. Shooting for the stars.

### **Matt Verkuilen (MN) (Awards):**

#### In progress:

- Work being done to confirm update status of membership awards forms and when they will be posted on the website
- Clarification of awards literature to ensure that the text and criteria is consistent across all publications

#### Completed:

- Updates to IRA tracking spreadsheet have been completed with detachments realigned to their new regions in some cases [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M\\_W\\_rxEN4DHS3Q22luh\\_fzs3y2Erm\\_pnxhkr0LA5TIM/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1M_W_rxEN4DHS3Q22luh_fzs3y2Erm_pnxhkr0LA5TIM/edit#gid=0)
- Membership Workshop to be held at Fall SAL meetings has been planned and will be facilitated by Matthew Verkuilen, Casey Hanson, and Jason Miller with help from others). Workshop will be an interactive brainstorming activity that will then be grouped and reviewed by the committee into projects for this year and subsequent years.

**Jim Walters (PA) (Awards):** Working on a new spreadsheet that will track when detachments reach 100% among other awards areas. Spreadsheet is Excel-based with data imported from national membership reports.

### **George Gray (Commercial/Presentation):**

1. Spent time talking with Thom Skelley about the work on the video project that he, Matt Chastain and I have been contemplating for some time. I think that is in the final approval phase.
2. Sent a couple emails to Daryl about communication going forward.

**Jason Miller (MD) (Retention):** After reviewing Membership Reports here in Maryland and talking to Squadrons in both Maryland and across the country, it seems that many of the Squadrons that are behind on membership are not utilizing mylegion.org. I have heard various reasons for this including, the resistance to change and going digital, access not working and not being able to get the issue resolved. As far as the quick renewal option (QR Code/Website) I am hearing a lot of concern as to how and when Squadrons will receive their portion of the membership. I have been able to clarify this for Maryland but I am unsure if it's the same across the board. If we are going to push this and hopefully get all Squadrons to utilize it, I think we all need to be receptive to the struggles and concerns Squadrons are having and what if anything we can change to make it easier, etc.

Secondly is retention, I feel that sometimes we get caught up in the numbers and many automatically become focused on recruitment. Although we should always strive to recruit new members, we need to be sure to keep them and more importantly get them involved! Some of those things that could help with this are;



- Invite the new member to the first Squadron meeting, introduce them to the membership.
- Take advantage of the new "Welcome Kit" and personalize it to work for your Squadron. Report of Activity as of October 2, 2023 Daryl Verstrete, Jr., Chairman
- Form a "Welcoming Committee"
- Sit with them and find out what interests them and what they are passionate about. Find something for them to get involved in that fits within those interests.
- Sit down with them and get them registered for mylegion and show them how to take advantage of it, including possibly getting setup for automatic renewal.
- Encourage them to take the online basic course so they have a better understanding of what the American Legion is, how we came about and the programs we support.
- Be sure to be open to new ideas and take into consideration something a new member may offer.
- Be sure to check in on your members. Be there in their time of need. So many times we hear about members saying they only hear from their Squadron or Post when it comes time to renew. Any other time they do not care or want the help.

I can go on and on, as this is something I am passionate about and it's so important. I actually think it's something fairly easy, however human nature many times gets in the way and we are our own worst enemies. (Ego's, power struggles, close mindedness etc.)

**Consultant Jack Youngs (ID) (Retention):** We will be getting together for the first time as a committee and laying out our plans and goals for the future.

We have had some issues arise out of Arizona:

1. Dual members with two (2) member numbers.
2. Transmittal Charge Backs.
3. Members being transferred from one squadron to another without transfer paperwork.
4. New members signing up at squadrons and then getting mailers from national getting these folks to establish a mylegion account then being told they owe more money for dues.

With the above issues we don't know as of yet if any of them also affects more Detachments than just Arizona.

**Casey Hanson (SD) (Recruitment):** Membership is off to a great start! I hope we use this momentum to continue to collect membership. We should be reaching out regularly to our respective detachments and communicating with them on the membership report! Our communication must be encouraging, positive, and confident. Detachments should be looking at the weekly Report of Activity as of October 2, 2023 Daryl Verstrete, Jr., Chairman reports, as the numbers don't lie. These reports tell us how much work we have done and how much we have left to do. Even though it's one report, you should look at the two important numbers separately...renewals and membership percentages. Your renewal rate will always be included in your membership, to me that's as far as those numbers should relate. We all agree renewals need to improve and that's where the foundation begins, but don't let that stop you from recruiting new members also. A new member is no less important than an existing member. We were all new members at one time. We need to do the best we can in both those categories, renewals and membership. I am working on a recruiting flyer, that can be placed on tables or possibly sent out. I will send to the regional Chairman as they will be working with me on the recruiting aspect, and once we get it finalized I'm hoping I can send to Matt for him to do his magic and make it look pretty. Keep up the membership effort and remember to overload the beginning of the year, because it gets harder to collect the second half.

#### **Northeast Region Reports**

**Chairman Robert Manzo (MD)** – As usual, the East having the largest size of membership is off to a slow start, but they will catch up later in the year. Offered strategies for success in renewing members.

**NVC John Cook (NH)** - No report.

#### **Southeast Region Reports**



**Chairman Tom Skelley (TX)** – Check in with Kevin/Brian re IRA Blue Brigade forms on website. Regional Reps are getting the IRA forms now first and then get forwarded to National Vice Commander. Ensure content is correct (MV).

**NVC Linwood Moore (VA)** – Offered friendly banter to stoke competition with other regions.

#### Central Region Reports

**Chairman Harl “Butch” Ray (IL)** – Have they received last year’s form for this year? Don’t want to miss someone that filled out the wrong form. In “fun time” where membership is running on autopilot. Getting harder real quick and encourage them to get membership in.

**NVC Robert Bristo (MN)** – Retention is one of the key factors in making our membership successful. Getting new members is just as important, with the understanding that is not just to replace the ones that did not renew. This is the message everyone needs to hear and know. People who are already members need to spread the word about our Sons of The American Legion and its rewards of being a member. Stop the secret and let the people know who we Report of Activity as of October 2, 2023, Daryl Verstrete, Jr., Chairman are. This is the message which brings about great results. Goals are not met by being silent, only by being outspoken.

#### Midwest Region Reports

**Chairman Mike Monserud (IA)** – Shared a personal story about his grandfather’s military service in WWII. Encourage renewals by reminding members WHY they belong to the SAL, it is because of our family member’s military service. Ask about officer reports when talking with squadrons about membership. Offer help to complete officer reports while visiting squadrons.

**NVC Terry Harris (KS)** – Friendly banter with other regions trying to stoke competition.

#### Western Region Reports

**Chairman Dan Ashley (AZ)** – Shout out to those at 100% nothing else to report.

**NVC Jimmy Fisher, Sr. (CA)** – Absent. No report.

#### **Old Business:**

Status of Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) Program for the SAL – PNC Chris Carlton (IN) appointed, and the NEC approved, a PUFL ad-hoc committee, chaired by PNC Kevin Winkelmann (TX) (who has a PUFL program in his Detachment). Please express your opinions and constructive feedback to PNC Winkelmann about PUFL so he and his committee can consider those items in their deliberations.

A QR Code is being considered and developed to assist members with renewals of their SAL membership. National SAL Public Media and Communications Chairman Kevin Chaplin (VA) has taken this task on. The QR codes will be on the 2024 renewal postcards. Daryl VerStrete, Jr. (NY) questioned the QR code compatibility with Apple products and other Internet technology providers. Past Membership Chairman Thom Skelley (TX) was confident the QR code provides universal access to the online SAL renewal portal. Daryl’s concern was with iPhone pay applications (Google Pay, etc.) or with PayPal. Chairman Skelley pledged to investigate further and provide a follow-up later but believes it will require a credit card.

Past Membership Chairman Thom Skelley (TX) showed a new PowerPoint video aimed at promoting SAL membership (recruitment, renewals, and revitalization). He sought feedback on the presentation. Members in attendance captured their feedback on notecards that were then submitted to Thom for consideration. The video had been beta tested with a few detachments and constructive feedback was received. The end goal is to place this video on social media for widespread exposure and/or distribute via email to local squadrons for their use.

The Committee is seeking approval to create a membership video (4 to 5 minutes infomercial) that showcases the SAL and can be shared through social media. The Committee knows of a professional production company in Georgia. The script has been proposed.



A sample of this company’s work has been sent to the Advisory Committee. Video budget is about \$8,000 and \$500 for a new voice-over narrative.

Dan Ashley – main thing showing - \$9 due to per capita.

**New Business:**

Schedule for Fall Meeting (7:30 to 9:00 PM, Friday, October 6, 2023)

Committee Dinner at Weber Grill on Friday afternoon.

Commander Challenge flyer – awarded to (clarify criteria so flyer is correct)

Be The One – Casey article

Commercial/Presentation (Thom Skelley and George Gray) – National working on getting a contract done at the conclusion of Fall 2023 meetings. Tim Abradeou and Kevin Mook are working on the contract estimated at \$8,500.

**Resolution:**

**No. \_\_ To make eligible all Detachments for all National Membership Awards**

Motion by Thomas Skelley (TX) to approve the Resolution as worded. Harl “Butch” Ray (IL) seconded. Discussion: Questions and comments from William D. (Bill) Kelly (FL) and Juan A. Cruz (PR). Thomas Skelley (TX) noted only \$50.00 would be needed for the additional plaque or award created from this resolution. Vote: All in favor (Chairman VerStreate (NY) abstained), none opposed.

**Motion carried.**

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

None at this time.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Daryl VerStreate, Jr. (NY) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting  
at 8:44 pm .



## Legislative Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Circle Centre Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Blair Miles (AL).

### Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Blair Miles (AL, 2024)</u>	Secretary:	<u>Harold Thompson, Jr. (NE)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Bernie Kessler (OH, 2026)</u>	NEC Liaisons:	<u>Rev. Thomas Glander (AL)</u>
Members:	<u>Charles Curtis (CA, 2024)</u>	PNC Liaisons:	<u>Byron Robichaux (LA)</u>
	<u>David Lee (NY, 2025)</u>		
	<u>(vacant) (____, 2025)</u>		
	<u>Wayne V. Madson (IL, 2026)</u>		

Guests: Carl Radosevich (NM), David Hanson (IN), Robert Bristo (MN), Samuel Johnson (IA), David Mennel (MI), Carl Alber, Jr. (NJ), William D. (Bill) Kelly (FL), & Ned Fox (CA).

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

There being no objections, Chairman Miles declared the minutes of the Fall 2022 meeting approved as published.

### Reports of Members:

Chairman Blair Miles – **GOALS**

**GBE Award** – Last year we had a goal of **8** candidates for the GBE Award. We only had **5** applicants. Last year, we completely overhauled the application process to the whole thing. The intent was to simplify the process, thus, attract more applicants. We were also working on compiling a contact list consisting of Detachment Legislative Chairmen for the whole country. We did create a much bigger contact list, but very few were actually Legislative Chairmen. They were nothing more than a Detachment contact that we hoped would pass on our information. With the idea that the NVC's will pass along all information sent from the Committees and Commissions, we're confident that the number of GBE Award applications will increase this year. We are also going to "fine tune" the Scoring process with our next few meetings so that we're ready to select a winner next summer. For this reason, we are setting a goal of **9** GBE Award applications for consideration.

**Washington Conference** – Communication is the key!!! For the first time in history, we had 3 busses for the Wreath laying outing. The previous goal wasn't a specific number of busses, as much as it was to really promote the interest of the conference itself. Again, with the help of the NVC's distributing our information, our actual goal will always be **NOT** to have less participation than the year before. We understand the cost concerns and have been provided an avenue to stay informed of cost restraints. There are always many photos taken by the National Historian at this event, but not many people get to see them. If a request can be made of the Historian to send all of his photos to the NVC's for mass distribution, more people will see what we accomplished, and may become interested in the next one. **The 2024 Washington wreath laying ceremonies on February 25, 2024 at 11:15 am.** The cost has gone up this year. There will be again a group tram pass at Arlington. **The Wreath Laying reservation form must be filled out and submitted by February 3, 2024.** The Group rate for the tram pass is **\$16.00** per person. Wreaths can be purchased by each Detachment or Squadron and cost is **\$200.00** each. Box Lunches are **\$10.00** **If No form or check, no wreath, no lunch, no seat on bus. Both Squadrons and Detachments can purchase wreaths and place them in Washington.**

**Voter Voice** – Last year began with a total of **256** signed up for Voter Voice. By the time Charlotte rolled around, there were **1,418**. 3 of the reasons for this were:

1. Commission members were taking the idea of signing people up, back to their Detachment meetings.



2. Commission members set up a table outside the meeting rooms of the NEC and grabbed people coming and going to their meetings. (We only did this at the Spring meeting)
3. Again, with communication being the key, the correspondence from the Legislative Commission Chairman, through his Commission members, reached more people than in the previous years.

By setting up a table at **BOTH** NEC meetings, as well as the **National Convention**, we should see a nice increase in numbers by New Orleans. We will also be suggesting that any Buddy Check phone calls being made, to include the status of Voter Voice. With all of these things being considered, we believe a goal of **2,500** is very obtainable.

At the Monday morning Transition meeting, we were tasked with creating a new facet to our Commission, targeting 16-year-olds and below. We have a Commission member who has a great idea that will be explained in-depth at the Fall NEC Legislative Meeting. It's too involved to lay out here in this email, but if you attend our meeting in Indy, you'll learn much more. If you can't attend our meeting, I will have an in-depth report shortly afterwards. Some research needs to be done to ensure we're able to do this. I am hopeful that we will be up and running with this very soon.

**Responsibility assignments:**

- A. There will be at least 2 Commission members, as well as the Chairman stationed outside the main doors of both the Fall & Spring NEC Meetings in order to capture new "Voter Voice" members. We also hope to occupy a table in the back of the room at the National Convention in New Orleans. This request will be made to Mr. Mook for the table and space.
- B. Each Commission member has been assigned a specific Region to attend their Conference Calls. If they can't attend, they will let me know and someone will step in, in their place. The goal is to ALWAYS be represented on NVC calls.
- C. As always, each Commission member will have a specific task with regards to making the Washington Conference look effortless. *i.e.*, wreaths, lunches, etc.

Vice Chairman Bernie Kessler– Are you aware that the Legislative Commission is probably the most important Commission this organization have? It is because you fill out CSR's and CPR's that allow the National Legislative body to take to Congress and say, "This is what we do, now, do your part and support our military and their families."

What I love about being a member of the Sons of The American Legion is meeting people that don't know me at all and as time passes I try to get them to trust in me and believe in themselves. That effort leads to our success and makes us a witness to your stories, passion, insecurities and dreams.

When The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" program was initiated, they said this.

"All Legionnaires are encouraged to renew their commitment for continued service to this country by being politically active as individuals. By working together as an organization, we can make a difference by promoting an informed populace, participation in our government, and involvement in its electoral process. We cannot forget that in this country, our government is "of the people, by the people and for the people." It cannot survive as a democratic republic unless the people participate. That is our task."

We, as the Commission, have been tasked with finding avenues to educate our youth 16 years and younger. While they are not yet of voting age, there are still a few avenues we can explore...and we are looking for ideas from you.

How many of you remember an after-school TV show called "Schoolhouse Rock"? It was basically cartoons. Do you remember "How a Bill becomes a Law"? It is a 3-minute cartoon on YouTube. I have a few of the handouts that were done by the National Organization in 1996 that I can share but not enough for all of you. This is what was done 25+ years ago. That is all I want to say about legislation.

What can we do about the youth of our Country? I have been to Washington, DC enough to know that taking care of our Veterans, is, as it should be, the most important pillar of our organization. We also support Americanism and Children and Youth. Sadly, I don't



read a lot about that in the Commanders testimony to Congress. We have child exploitation, sex and drug trafficking. Our borders are not secure enough to protect the youth of our own country and the one that are being forced to come here. So, what are your ideas that you would like to see this Commission explore that is geared towards our youth?

We need to hear from you to put together a plan that is beneficial to all of us. Our information is out there, or we can give it to you after the meeting. I believe you are welcome on our Zoom Conference calls to submit your thoughts.

In conclusion, I like the fact that there are six 'I' in the words, "inspiring individuals". That's the goal of everyone at the head table and should be the goal to move you to action.

So...Be informed...Stay informed and have a passion for who you are and what you represent.

Charles Curtis – No report at this time.

David Lee – No report at this time.

Wayne Madson – No report at this time.

**Old Business**

There were no items presented.

**New Business**

Chairman Miles (AL) reminded the meeting attendees about the Legislative Commission's Conference calls are bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month as follow, October 12, 2023, December 14, 2023, February 8, 2024 April 11, 2024, June 13, 2024, and August 8, 2024. Call -in number are 877-533-5257 Meeting ID 937 1376 7924 Passcode 172 912. Start time 7:30 PM eastern time:

**Resolutions:**

No Resolutions:

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion: None**

**Closing:** Hand Salute

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Blair Miles (AL) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting  
at 7:15 pm .



## Public and Media Communications Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Illinois Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Kevin Chaplin (VA).

### Roll Call:

Chairman: Kevin Chaplin (VA, 2023)

Secretary: Lyle Larson (KS)

Vice Chairman: Robert Hill (MD, 2025) - Excused

Consultants: \_\_\_\_\_

Members: Doug Heiser (IN, 2023)

Doug Evans (KS, 2024)

NEC Liaisons: Jeff Lee (VA)

Brandon Roberts (GA, 2024) - Excused

Joseph Wysochanski Jr. (PA)

Webmaster: Gene Theroux (MA, 2025)

Terry Pressley (NC)

Guests: David Dilts (OH), Bill Towns (OH), Gary P. Nelson (NJ), Henry Hasselhan (NJ), Mark McCue (MA), Jeff Vrabel Sr. (OH), Ryan Maker (OH).

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

### Reports of Members:

Chairman Kevin Chaplin – Showed Video of 2023 Snapshots of Service winners.

Doug Heiser – Report on Snapshot of Service

Doug Evans – Report on importance of making sure if you place an ad with media to identify who and where your organization is.

Gene Theroux – Report on task assignment.

### Old Business:

Chairman will continue to gather metrics on the work that is already in place.

Chairman is working on resolution to get cut-off dates for Videos of Service to match up with Snapshots of Service.

### New Business:

Chairman introduced Jeff Vrabel as Newsletter Editor. Jeff went over the new procedures to create a monthly newsletter. National will send out over 100,000 emails to members. Jeff will continue the roundup for a while. The newsletter has been nonexistent since 2018. Jeff answered several questions from the floor.

Doug Heiser (IN), Draft a letter to send to state adjutants to try to get as many email addresses as possible.

Chairman tasked the Commission to think of ways to complete the Parent Youth Initiative from CENTCOM. Several ideas were brought up and the Commission will follow up on some of these thoughts.

Mark McCue (MA) asked if something can be done to control Facebook pages put out by other National Committees and Commissions.

### Resolutions:



None

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

Doug Heiser (IN). Try to get the why I'm a member link to the Facebook page or the web site. Try to simplify the web site.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Kevin Chaplin (VA) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting  
at 7:30 pm .



## Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Meridian East Ballroom of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Bruno Williamson (IL).

### Roll Call:

Chairman:	<u>Bruno T. Williamson (IL, 2026)</u>	Secretary:	<u>Anthony Wright (PA)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Eddy Seegers, Jr. (TX, 2024)</u>	NEC Liaisons:	<u>Bob Phillips, Jr.</u>
Members:	<u>Bill "Buster" Sutterlin (OH, 2023)</u>		<u>Maxwell Rice</u>
	<u>Jeffrey L. Gibson, Sr. (AL, 2024) - Exc.</u>		<u>Jamey Holloway (GA)</u>
	<u>Seth A. Rippe (NE, 2025) - Excused</u>	Consultant:	<u>Gabriel Cinquegrana (NY, 2024) - Excused</u>

Guests: Sean Deiter, Sr (PA), Ernie LaBerge (MA), Gerard Sambets (FL), Jim Marier (NM), Bill Kuehner (TX), Jon Kingston, Steve Pintarich (CT), Patrick Gryskiwwicz (WI), Jamey Holloway (GA), Charles Keith (WY), James Lastovka (IA), Ray Giehll (IN), and Jim Coates (NY)

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

### Reports of Members:

Chairman Bruno Williamson -I would like to thank the members of the Commission for their work prior to the NEC & Friday evening. Seth Rippe; Eddy Seegers; Jeff Gibson & Bill "Buster" Sutterlin.

We discussed last year's goals & if they were not accomplished what we needed to do to get that done.

**The first goal** from last year was to have Veteran Administration Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representatives (Reps) & and Deputy Representatives (Deps) of the Sons of the American Legion certified by the Sons of the American Legion National VAVS Representative (REP). And to increase the number of VAVS Representative & Deputy Representatives in our Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMC's). A resolution was brought forth at the Fall 2022 NEC to make this so. It was approved by SAL Oversight, IA & and the NEC. This became effective at the Spring 2023 NEC. So, the first part of this goal was met. We are now our own certifying officer. The second half of the goal, while technically not met; will shortly explode due to us controlling our VAVS rep/dep destiny.

I cannot begin to explain what a game changer this is for the Sons That we control our destiny in this regard. The rep/dep application was reworked, and we only need to have our Detachments VAR chair/vice & Detachments Adjutant/Asst to sign off prior to sending the application to our Certifying Representative who will then forward that on to the Veterans Administration Central Office (VACO) in Washington D.C. for approval.

**Moving Forward** - the SAL is a voting member of the National Advisory Committee (NAC). Veterans Service Organizations (VSO's), approximately 100 members meet each year in the spring to bring forth ideas and resolutions to be submitted to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs advocating for our veterans. The executive board of the NAC is comprised of 26 of those VSO's and they meet additionally in the fall. It took a bit of work, but the SAL has been on the E board several times as it is a 3-year term. I bring this all up because you must be a voting member of the NAC. This means you **must have** representation in at least 30 Veterans Administration Medical Centers (VAMC). We currently stand at 29 VAMC's with 35 rep/deps, as of the National Convention. And now that Gabe Cinquegrana is our Certifying Officer (CO) he is working on all the inaccuracies from prior certifications; 11 rep/deps in 6 facilities and he is waiting on VACO approval for 15 rep/deps in 9 facilities. This will give us 65 rep/deps; but more importantly, we will be in 44



VAMC's. So, my **goal** for the year is for the SAL to be in **55 VAMC's**. Our National Certifying Officer Gabe has a brilliant idea of each VAVS rep/dep recruiting 1 Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteer for their VAMC. The hope in that: is you would possibly be training your replacement down the road.

**The second goal** was to establish a second VAR volunteer award. The Charles Rigsby Award only recognizes the work being done at VAMC's. In many cases, those facilities are not close for our members to volunteer. So, they are working elsewhere at post homes, State VA Homes, Fisher Houses etc. The thought was to create a 2<sup>nd</sup> award to recognize those great works that we Sons do in other places. After much consideration, the commission decided against this and instead add to the Rigsby award to also include all VAR volunteering done elsewhere. The commission last year the commission made a draft of the new application by adding a paragraph above section I, giving credit for all VAR volunteering. **And we are working on a Resolution to submit in the spring to make this happen.**

**The 3rd goal** was to promote TAL Veterans & Childrens Foundation (VCF); this foundation feeds and houses children of military personnel & veterans facing urgent, unexpected hardships. It prevents eviction, keeps the power on and fulfills basic needs. The foundation also covers training & accreditation for service officers.

**And last years 4<sup>th</sup> goal** – to promote The **Be The One** (BTO) initiative which was promoted by both the VAR & VEE commissions last year. Having served as vice chair of VEE last year. I have talked with VEE chairman Jim Coates about both commissions working together with the issues of veterans' suicide awareness. Together we are also working with Rudebusch VAMC in Indianapolis with the expectation of having a VA S.A.V.E. (signs, ask, validate, encourage); Estimate Time of Separation – Sponsorship Program (ETS -SP) training at a future NEC.

We discussed the goals for this year: promoting & raising awareness to Commander Hall's VAR project **Operation Comfort Warrior**, & the chairman's program **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF)**.

**Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services - VAVS** – to increase our representation to 55 VAMC's & to increase our Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteers.

**Rigsby Award** – having the changes made to the application in time for this year's national convention.

**NAC** – There is no past resolution saying that our National VAVS Representative will receive a call to go to one or both meetings. So, the commission will be presenting a resolution that our National VAVS Representative receive a call for these meetings. I would like to thank Scott Thorton our resolution research guru for his work on both the Rigsby award & NAC resolution hunt.

**Youth/Parent initiative** – working on programs for our youth 16 and under

**Social Media** – I have restarted the National VAR Facebook site that we first started in 2010 and I've renamed it: Sons of the American Legion National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

**Commission Members** – we have all been given a region of responsibility. I have the west; **Seth Rippe** the mid-west; **Bill "Buster" Sutterlin** the Central; **Jeff Gibson** the Northeast and **Eddy Seegers** the Southeast. After the fall NEC each member will have a program to research and report on.

**National Veterans Assistance Day (NVAD)** – continue to promote this day, May 18, 2024

**Women Veterans-** women veterans are becoming the fastest-growing population we need to promote and support them.  
Va.gov/womenvet

Chairman Williamson stated that the members will be assigned tasks for the Commission tonight.

**Old Business:**



**Charles Rigsby Award** – will need to do a **resolution** to add the new paragraph in the application & I would like for us to be able to present it at the Spring NEC.

**Veterans & Childrens Foundation** - continue to promote.

**Be The One** – continue to promote.

**New Business:**

**Operation Comfort Warrior** – Commander’s project

**National Veterans Creative Arts Festival** – Chairman’s project

**National Advisory Committee (NAC)** - there is no existing resolution approving our National VAVS Representative to receive a call for up to 2 meetings each year. So, we will need to do a resolution to send our National VAVS Representative to those meetings each year. And I would like us to have that ready to go for the spring NEC.

**VAVS** – Gabe Cinquegrana - Excused

**Youth/Parent Initiative** – cent/comm has asked all the commissions to come up with a program to include youth 16 and under.

**National Veterans Assistance Day (NVAD)** – is May 18, 2024

**Be The One / V.A. S.A.V.E. (signs, ask, validate, encourage/expedite)** - Working together with VEE we are hoping to do a seminar at a future NEC.

**Fisher House poster** – this joint poster has been out since 2009 & was designed by Fisher House and was approved by IA. We need to update it.

**Mission Plan** – is for information purposes for our blue cappers who aren’t what and or where to start with VA&R.

**Face Book** – I’ve restarted the National VAR site & and renamed it: Sons of the American Legion National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Discussion ensued regarding ideas for 16 and under members. Jamey Hallway discussed that the Detachment of Georgia has a youth campout.

**Resolutions:**

None

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

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Bruno Williamson (IL) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting  
at 7:30 pm .



## Veterans Employment and Education Commission

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm on October 6, 2023 in the Meridian East Ballroom of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman James M. Coates (NY).

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>James M. Coates (NY, 2023)</u>	Secretary:	<u>Clifford Hall (GA)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>James H. Stewart (DE, 2025)</u>	NEC Liaisons:	<u>Jon Kingston (TX)</u>
Members:	<u>Fred Vaccarella (VA, 2024) - Excused</u>		<u>Jacob McCerty (WV)</u>
	<u>Dennis Henkemeyer (MN, 2024)</u>		<u>Eddie White (MT) - Excused</u>
	<u>William Stem (MD, 2025)</u>		
	<u>James A. Noble (NJ, 2026)</u>	Consultant	<u>Chuck Treat (AZ) - Excused</u>

Guests: Pat Grynskiewicz (WI), Jimmie Martin (IN), Bear Weinzirl (MD), Eddie Seegers (TX), Henry Hasselhan (NJ), Bill Kuehner (TX), Bruno Williamson (IL)

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Reports of Members:**

Have ready at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**Old Business:**

The vote to endorse the trifold Brochure passed during the NEC Pre-Convention Meeting. Five hundred additional copies were distributed during the convention.

We can now focus on having the brochure put up on the TAL website and made available for downloading by Detachment District County and Squadron levels. Moving forward we would like to work toward creating a short video promoting VE&E. but this depends on photographs, short videos, etc, provided by the membership.. Contact Kevin Mook, the National Liaison for more copies.

Marvin Nay Award plaque and cap have been received and given to Fred Vaccarella to present to Evan Glendinning.

Discussion of the draft letter from the chairman to nominees for the Nay award who did not receive it. The purpose is to acknowledge and thank them for their work and contributions, and to encourage them to resubmit. Feedback from those receiving these letters has been positive. Hope to get more applicants for this award.

**New Business:**

Goals for the coming year:

- Follow directions given during the Transition meeting to improve messaging and communications to the detachments through the conference calls and summary reports. Coordinate with the National Organization and all detachments better.
- Promote Commander Hall’s challenge to squadrons of \$1.00 from each member for the following programs:
  - VA&R /VE&E: Operation Comfort Warriors ( \$1.00 per member)
  - Americanism: Boys State in your Detachment. (\$1.00 per member to local Boys State}
  - Children and Youth : CWF (\$1:00 per member to CWF
  - National Security: Each Detachment to hold at least one Blood Drives Support of conduct at least 1 blood drive )
- Potential is over \$300,000.00 for 3 Pillar and a blood drive for each Detachment (55)
- Promote the Be the One Program . the S.A.V.E./and the ETS-SP (Existing Term of Service Sponsorship Program)



- Continue to build our networks and contacts with the TAL VE&E commissions at National and Detachment levels

**Resolutions:**

None

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

Once again; we will have each Member assigned to a region to contact the VE&E members in that region and coordinate with them.

Consider which region you will represent and report on it at the October meeting.. (Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at 8PM)  
( Third Thursday of every other month at 8 PM)

Should have at least 1 representative from each region on the Zoom meetings

Look into Veteran and VE&E program on line in your state and region

Potential Programs for youth Think about programs we can use for the C&Y such as:

- Youth camp and education programs over the summer.MD and GA spoke on their
- Flag Etiquette and Americanism
- Bust Bullying
- Suicide prevention

Possibility of starting a VE&E Facebook page and catering to youth and youth programs. Items that will make youth curious and come to see what it is all about . Must have a moderator to control the contact and insure it is appropriate for the Lgion Family and youth  
Contact media and communications for additional guidance

Possible Fundraisers for Squadrons and Detachments to benefit Suicide prevention, Honor Flight and Wreaths across America

- Bottle and Can Drives
- Car Washes
- Walk a thon.
- Breakfasts or dinner

If you do not have a listing, of all the National Commission and Committee schedule, contact Chairman Coates to get one!!!

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman James M. Coates (NY) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting  
at 8:47 pm .



## Subcommittee on Resolutions

### Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am on October 7, 2023 in the Ohio Room  
of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Nedley C. Fox (CA) .

### Roll Call:

Chairman: Nedley C. Fox (CA)

Secretary: Harold E. Thompson, Jr. (NE)

Members: Jay Marsden (MO)

PNC Michael Fox (CA)

Camille LeJeune, Jr. (LA)

Steve Ward (KS)

Jeffrey Shannon (SD) - Absent

Brandon Curry (KY)

Mark McCue (MA)

Guests: Chris Sherman (WI), Gary Leach (CA), Bill Sutterlin (OH), Bob Phillips (NJ), Kevin Chaplin (VA), Mark McCue (MA), Robert "Bob" Brown (GA)

### Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

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

### Resolutions:

No. SAL Resolution 1 – Fall 2023

Title: Endorsement of Dan Ashley (AZ) for National Vice Commander

Origin: Detachment of Arizona

Motion: To hold until the National Adjutant put the time and date received SAL Resolution 1 – Fall 2023

Maker: Camille LeJeune

Second: Steve Ward

Discussion: That it was received less than 30 days before the meeting.

Action: Held to the spring 2024 meeting.

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

### Closing:

With no further business to consider, Chairman Nedley C. Fox (CA) adjourned the meeting  
at 8:29 am .



*SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION*  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NATIONAL COMMISSION AND  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

APPENDIX

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

SHERATON INDIANAPOLIS CITY CENTRE HOTEL  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Sons of The American Legion – 2023 Final Budget

Inc. Acct #	Purpose	Description	2023 - Final Budget	Reconciled		Under/Over
				As of Mar 31, 2023	Diff +/-	
474 500	Membership Dues	Revenue from Annual Membership dues paid to the National Organization	\$ 1,850,000.00	\$ 430,644.61	(\$1,419,355.39)	
474 600	Registration	Convention Monies	\$ 33,565.00	\$ -	(\$33,565.00)	
491 500	Other	General Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00	
		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,883,565.00</b>	<b>\$430,644.61</b>	<b>(\$1,452,920.39)</b>	
Exp. Acct #	Purpose	Description	2023 - Final Budget	Reconciled As of Mar 31, 2023	Under/Over Diff +/-	
500000	TAL - Staff Wages	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$254,202.00	\$0.00	\$254,202.00	
502000	TAL - Staff Wages - Overtime	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$0.00	(\$49,000)	(\$49,000)	
510000	TAL - Staff Benefits	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$16,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,000.00	
566000	S.A.L. Grants - Other	S.A.L. Scholarships – Boys Nation & Jr. Shooting Sports	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00	
571 500	Prog - Awards		\$0.00	(\$29,000)	(\$29,000)	
572 250	Program Operations - General	Nat'l Leadership - Cell, Technology, Per Diem and items related to the National requirements support	\$23,700.00	\$0.00	\$23,700.00	
	Expenditures					
581 500	Prog - Food & Beverage	Food & Beverage	\$0.00	(\$5,209.11)	(\$5,209.11)	
581 750	Prog - Ground Transportation	Ground Transportation	\$0.00	(\$3,565.76)	(\$3,565.76)	
586000	Program Operations - Misc/Other	Other items not aligned to a specific allocation line	\$62,684.00	(\$2,960.53)	\$62,387.95	
596 250	Printing	All Printing – brochures, in-house, vendors, newsletters, renewal postcards & citations	\$45,000.00	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	
596 500	Postage	All Postage – newsletters, postcards, list class, metered, UPS, FedEx	\$0.00	(\$28,843.81)	(\$28,843.81)	
597 500	Program Operations	Expenses w/Program activities for All Commissions / Committees	\$264,658.00	(\$5,788.57)	\$258,869.43	
601 500	Travel - Airfare	Officer Airfare	\$205,725.00	(\$19,526.68)	\$186,198.32	
603000	Travel - Food & Beverage	Food & Beverage	\$1,000.00	(\$42,722)	\$997,278	
603 500	Travel - Ground	Mileage, Tips, Cab Fare, Gas	\$163,162.00	(\$1,557.22)	\$161,604.28	
604000	Travel - Housing	Officer Housing	\$49,658.00	(\$1,840.41)	\$47,817.59	
604 500	Travel - Per Diem	Officer Per Diem	\$290,853.00	(\$2,920.00)	\$287,933.00	
606000	Prog. - Wreaths	Nat'l Convention, Washington Conference, various locations	\$1,200.00	(\$512.00)	\$688.00	
652000	Office Ops.	Stationery & Supplies, Outside Services & Fees, Publicity & Promotions	\$2,400.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	
653000	Office Ops - Outside Services	Prepaid email service-High Road Solutions	\$400.00	(\$75.62)	\$324.38	
660 500	Office Ops.	Cell Phone	\$2,400.00	(\$2,500.00)	\$2,150.00	
680000	Postage	1st Class Postage	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	
681 500	Postage	Bulk Mail Center Postage	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	
682 500	Postage	FreightExpress	\$6,000.00	(\$2,695.61)	\$3,304.39	
683000	Postage	Mail Center Freight	\$0.00	(\$350.33)	(\$350.33)	
805 500	Allocation - Document Center	Services charged by Document Center	\$20,500.00	\$0.00	\$20,500.00	
806000	Allocation - Emblem Sales	Services / Supplies by Emblem Sales	\$20,000.00	(\$12,320.81)	\$7,679.19	
806 500	Allocation - Employee Benefits		\$0.00	(\$5,499.99)	(\$5,499.99)	
811 500	Allocation - Mailing Services		\$0.00	(\$8,791.57)	(\$8,791.57)	
TBD	Allocation - Operational Support	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – GOC	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
TBD	SAL National Convention		\$132,798.00	\$0.00	\$132,798.00	
TBD	Allocation - American Legion	The American Legion - Programs	\$102,725.00	\$1.00	\$102,726.00	
TBD	Program Operations	IT / Digital Services	\$50,000.00	\$2.00	\$50,002.00	
TBD	SAL - Program Development	Membership - (New, Awareness, Advertising, etc.) / How to Support the American Legion	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,883,565.00</b>	<b>(\$95,158.26)</b>	<b>\$1,788,406.74</b>	
		<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ 335,486.35</b>	<b>\$ 335,486.35</b>	

**Sons of The American Legion – 2024 – Draft Budget**

Inc. Acct #	Purpose	Description	2024 - Draft Budget
470000	NMI or Other event/program	Funds from participation in the NMI or Training breakfast event	\$3,500.00
474500	Membership Dues	Revenue from Annual Membership dues paid to the National Organization	\$1,850,000.00
474600	Registration	Convention Monies	\$25,000.00
		<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,878,500.00</b>

Exp. Acct #	Purpose	Description	2024 - Draft Budget
500000	TAL - Staff Wages - Employee	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$165,202.00
502000	TAL - Staff Wages - Overtime	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$1,000.00
503000	TAL - Staff Wages - Vacation Accrual	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$1,200.00
510000	TAL - Staff Benefits - Payroll Taxes	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$13,217.00
516000	TAL - Staff Benefits - 401(k) employer	SAL National Commander and staff supporting the SAL program	\$3,305.00
566000	S.A.L. Grants - Other	S.A.L. Scholarships – Boys Nation & Jr. Shooting Sports	\$23,500.00
572250	Program Operations - General Expenditures	Natl Leadership - Cell, Technology, Per Diem and items related to the National requirements support	\$8,000.00
581500	Prog. - Food & Beverage	Food & Beverage (NEC, Convention, etc.)	\$20,000.00
586000	Prog. - Miscellaneous	Prog. - Miscellaneous Operating Expenses / General Administrative Items	\$37,689.00
596250	Printing	Printing – (In-house & Vendors) Brochures, renewal postcards & citations	\$60,000.00
597500	Program Operations	Expenses w/Program activities - Americanism, VAVS, IA, Legislative, VE&E, etc.	\$131,532.00
601500	Travel - Airfare	Natl Officers, NEC, Chairman and authorized call-in *Airfare*	\$276,613.00
603000	Travel - Food & Beverage	Food & Beverage	\$1,000.00
603500	Travel - Ground	Natl Officers, NEC, Chairman and authorized call-in *Mileage, Tips, Cab Fare, Gas*	\$164,473.00
604000	Travel - Housing	Natl Officers, NEC, Chairman and authorized call-in *Housing*	\$67,285.00
604500	Travel - Per Diem	Natl Officers, NEC, Chairman and authorized call-in *Per Diem**	\$239,233.00
605000	Travel - Other	Other Travel Expense	\$2,000.00
638000	Office Ops.	DMS Mailing Kit Prep, Stationary & Supplies, Outside Services & Fees, Publicity & Promotions	\$2,800.00
660500	Office Ops.	Cell Phone	\$1,200.00
680000	Post - 1st Class Postage	1st Class Postage	\$500.00
681500	Postage	Bulk Mail Center Postage	\$120,000.00
682500	Postage	Freight/Express	\$6,000.00
TBD	SAL National Convention	Convention facility, staging, AV, credentials, Youth Activities, SAL portion of Insurance, etc.	\$103,175.00
805500	Allocation - Document Center Services	Services charged by Document Center - Membership Cards & Registers	\$20,500.00
806000	Allocation - Emblem Sales	Services / Supplies by Emblem Sales	\$10,000.00
806500	Allocation - Internal Employee Services	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – TAL	\$20,000.00
807000	Allocation - Imaging Services	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – GOC Building (MIS Data Processing)	\$1,500.00
808000	Allocation - Input Services	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – GOC Building (MIS Data Processing)	\$25,000.00
811500	Allocation - Mailing Services	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – GOC Building (Mailing Services)	\$15,000.00
813500	Allocation - Office Supplies	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – General Office Supplies	\$2,500.00
TBD	Allocation - Digital Services	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – Online Membership Processing	\$114,700.00
TBD	Allocation - Operational Support Services	Services charged by Nat'l HQ – TAL	\$120,376.00
TBD	Allocation - American Legion	American Legion - Charities/Programs	\$50,000.00
TBD	SAL - Program Development	Membership - (New, Awareness, Advertising, etc.) / How to Support the American Legion	\$50,000.00
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$1,878,500.00</b>
		<b>INCOME minus EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

Financial information included in this report is for management use only. It does not constitute a financial statement and has not been subjected to audit, review or compilation by an independent Certified Public Accountant. 03/2023

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

Held on  
October 7-8, 2023

**Resolution**

Page 1 of 1

**No.: SAL Resolution 1 – Fall 2023**

**Title: Endorsement of Dan Ashley (AZ) for National Vice Commander**

**Origin: Detachment of Arizona**

WHEREAS, the Sons of The American Legion is a program of The American Legion comprised of male 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, Dan Ashley has distinguished himself as capable and willing to represent the Detachment of Arizona as an elected national officer by his dedication and sacrifice for the good of The American Legion Family; 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 7-8, 2023, that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona hereby endorses Dan Ashley for the high office of National Vice Commander at such future time and year as may become available; and be it further**

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

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Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved

Rejected

Referred to:

Other Action  Held for Spring 2024 meeting

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Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

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WILLIAM M. CLANCY, III (NY), Chairman  
Membership Committee

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Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

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