

National Executive Committeeman November 2025 Newsletter



Happy Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. This is your monthly update of everything National in The American Legion.

National Commander Dan Wiley will be visiting Arkansas November 12th – 14th. His arrival was delayed one day because he was invited to attend a meeting with VA Secretary Collins. This limits his availability to visit Arkansas Posts to only Thursday and Friday morning. His itinerary is posted on the Department website.

The National Fall Meetings were held in Indianapolis October 6th – 9th. Thank you, Commander Tony Gordon, Jake Greeling, and Kirk Williams, for attending and representing Arkansas within our National Organization.

The NEC met October 8th and 9th. I have attached a link to these minutes and adopted resolutions on the Department website. Here is a brief summary of the Commission reports and actions taken by the NEC:

1. The Finance Commission reported that the new Customer Relationship Management System is under budget and on schedule to be completed by December 2026. They expect to end 2025 with a budget surplus of \$4.3 million. National is employing 257 personnel in authorized positions.
2. The National Securities Commission recommended approval of 3 resolutions: AFE Medal for Honduras Service, MOH for Michael Ollis, and Support for NATO Expansion.
3. The Media & Communications Commission reported that the *Legion* magazine continues as a top-level reader's publication. Paper and production costs increases will be a factor. They are adjusting their methods of delivery for how Americans engage with media.
4. The Convention Commission reported the success of the 2025 convention. Planning is on schedule for the 2026 Louisville, KY convention. Future sites are: 2027 – Kansas City, 2028 – Columbus, 2029 – Indianapolis, 2030 – Salt Lake, and 2031 – Pittsburgh.
5. Americanism Commission reported the success of the 100-years of American Legion Baseball tournament and has additional emphasis on America's 250th anniversary of independence. New essay questions have been developed for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship application. The CFW has approved nine grants totaling \$851,542 for 2026 and TFA has issued 34,251 grants this year. The move to Hillsdale College for the National Oratorical Contested is a success. The Commission has produced a revised "Definition of Americanism."
6. Internal Affairs Commission has set the 2026 membership goal at 1.367 million. The online renewal system is working well. The National Flag Foundation has invited the ALR to escort the American Flag from Pittsburgh, PA to Washington D.C. for the "Light to Unite" July 4th. A toolkit is available to help Posts promote America 250 Activities. Upcoming Training Tuesday schedule includes Service Animals, Community Engagement, and Post Conflict Resolution. The next National Regional Information Conferences will be Jan. 31st and Feb. 7th. CPRs will be revised. Arkansas is one of only 13 Departments that had a 100% CPR submission rate.
7. VA&R Commission brought forward 19 resolutions recommended for adoption. Some of these are significant and will be forwarded for Legislative action. Our VA Claims training (ALAT) has seen 629 completers of the four available courses.

8. VE&E Commission recommended approval of one resolution – Expanding Access to Capital for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses.
9. The National Legislative Commission provided updates on current and pending legislation including 14 bills that affect VA&R. Additional updates were provided on National Security issues including shipbuilding capacity and Defense spending. The NDAA was still not passed within the Senate.
10. Marketing Commission announced that The American Legion is the Official Veteran Service Organization of the Army-Navy Game through 2028. The Commission has developed a large Partnership Portfolio. Our Be The One brand awareness continues to elevate The American Legion's national presence.

Upcoming 2026 National meetings are: Washington Conference March 1-4, Spring Meetings May 4-7, National Convention Aug 28-Sep 3, and Fall Meetings Oct 5-8.

The following Arkansas Legionnaires received these National Appointments:

1. Americanism Council – Gordon Borst, Jon Gifford, Joy Hendrix, Michael McConaughy, Marie Wilbanks
2. Media & Communications Commission – Barbara Johnson
3. Media & Communications Council – Kirk Williams
4. Foreign Relations Committee – Dallas Erdman
5. National Security Council – Kevin Caldwell, Louis Hardy, Kateri Killman, Tim Smith
6. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitations – Dustin Rowland
7. Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee – Dr. Estella Morris
8. Constitution & By-Laws Committee – Mary Erdman
9. Veterans Employment & Education Council – Nathaniel Todd

I thank everyone of these Legionnaires for agreeing to represent Arkansas at National.

Washington Conference / Call-ins – If you are planning on attending the 2026 Washington Conference, please let me know ASAP as I will soon need to be filling our call-in allotments.

One important item that came from these meetings was a report given by National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey. This report titled **Four Rules of an American Legion Program** will have long-reaching implications within our organization. Please read and understand how this affects the SAL. If you have any questions on this or any of the above reports, please give me a call or email.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Strengthening America

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE

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November 6, 2025

LEGAL OPINION

Subject: The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion and the four rules of an American Legion Program

For 50 years, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) has co-existed at all levels of The American Legion. However, this has also created a perception that SAL members have the same rights and privileges as those in The American Legion, and this misinterpretation of the rules, which has gone largely unchecked or uncorrected in some areas, is starting to cause some very real problems for the organization. Recently, this has grown into a larger concern as we hear reports of Posts being audited and, when asked for their membership rolls, submitting the names of SAL members in addition to those of regular members.

This opinion seeks to clarify for everyone that the Sons of The American Legion is a program, not simply a cheaper alternative that comes with the same rights and privileges as a traditional member. Further, leadership at all levels – Post, District, Department and National – must be knowledgeable on what the rules governing veterans and non-profit organizations are and safeguard the integrity of our organization by ensuring that no person or group jeopardizes our future by operating in a manner not consistent with the laws and regulations set by Congress and the IRS.

BACKGROUND

Shortly after the end of hostilities in World War I in Paris, France, LTC Theodore Roosevelt – the oldest son of the former president – had a conversation with George White, a fellow servicemember and editor of The Oregonian, a Portland newspaper; from this discussion, The American Legion would be born. Roosevelt would suggest the immediate establishment of a new servicemen's organization that would include all AEF members, as well as those soldiers who remained stateside as members of the military during the war. Roosevelt and White advocated this proposal ceaselessly until they found sufficient support at headquarters to move forward with the plan. In September 1919, Congress formally recognized the creation of The American Legion when both Houses of Congress passed our congressional charter and signed it into law.

Congress has deemed it in the national interest to afford congressionally chartered organizations some latitude to raise money and lobby Congress that is not available to many other non-profits. As one non-profit trade publication noted:

Above all, 501(c)(19) organizations offer financial, medical, psychological, and social support to veterans, their families, and the community. Through rehabilitation programs, support networks, and advocacy, these groups enhance veterans' mental health, employment opportunities, and overall well-being. These programs strive to secure a better future for those who have served. However, their impact extends far beyond supporting veterans, as they provide vital assistance to entire communities by mobilizing trained veteran volunteers in fields such as logistics, emergency response, and more during disasters.

At the 1932 National Convention in Portland, OR, The American Legion, while in general session, voted to approve Resolution 28, which established a youth program called "the Sons of the Legion." The Committee on Junior Activities called for "The National Organization of The American Legion to approve, encourage, and foster organizations of sons of members of The American Legion." Resolution 456 adopted at the 14th National Convention, states in the two whereas clauses "In the propagation of an organization for such boys' future around a fine idea, and assist in the bringing out the best type of citizenship," and "[a]n organization of this sort will bring the father closer to his son and make a better Legionnaire of him." The first resolve clause states, "One, that The American Legion officially propagate, recognize, and sponsor an organization to be known as the Sons of The American Legion." Upon the adoption of Resolution 456, it was believed, "Because The American Legion is such a unique organization, with eligibility so highly restricted, it can have no successor. But it can have an heir to whom it can bequeath all its treasured heritage."

THE PROBLEM

We are hearing more and more anecdotal evidence (and indeed some is even being sent to us) that various Departments and Posts are incorrectly interpreting the IRS code regarding the SAL, and, crucially, may be taking actions that could jeopardize The American Legion's non-profit status.

Congress sets the membership eligibility criteria for The American Legion, and the laws that govern it are found in Title 36 of the United States Code, Chapter 217, which deals exclusively with our organization. Eligibility is addressed explicitly in 36 USC 21703, a provision most recently amended with the passage of the Legion Act in 2019, and the Internal Revenue Service has promulgated rules based on what the Congressional intent was in the enactment of those laws. For us, the problem arises because Congress and the IRS have created differing rules for veterans of various conflicts, rules that largely do not apply to the SAL.

The IRS, in its Audit Technique Guide for Veterans Organizations, defines a member of a 501(c)19 with the following characteristics:

1. An individual eligible for membership under the constitution and bylaws of the veterans' organization.
2. May attend and vote at membership meetings.
3. Hold office in the organization.
4. Participate in State or National Conventions.
5. Posts remit membership dues for the individual to the central organization.

FOUR RULES OF A SUBSIDIARY PROGRAM

SAL squadrons, detachments, and the national organization are not stand-alone Veteran Service Organizations; rather, they must co-exist through the adoption and sponsorship from a post and cannot have their own EIN or tax-exempt status. This means that the SAL is under the full autonomy of its sponsoring post. If the post chooses to allow the squadron to use the post's EIN and tax-exempt status, that would be predicated on whether the squadron (program) is in full compliance with the Four Rules of a Program. Moreover, the rights and privileges of a program are not the same as those of a Legionnaire, or member of the American Legion Auxiliary. For example, the post bar, restaurant, canteen, or other social activity is intended for Legion members (veterans) of the post, their bona fide guests, and members of the Auxiliary unit, with the revenue remaining in the tax-exempt category. The IRS defines a bona fide guest as an individual a member invites to participate in an activity and pays for his expenses. If the guest pays for his own recreation or food, he isn't a bona fide guest. Social non-members are not eligible for membership in The American Legion. The members of the SAL squadron would be considered social non-members, and therefore, any sales or revenue generated from social non-members may also be subject to Unrelated Business Income (UBI) Tax by the IRS.

The IRS provides an example in the "Tax Guide for Veteran Organizations" (rev. 4-2018.):

Post A has 1,500 individuals who participate in the club's bar and gaming activities. 1,200 are veteran members who are eligible for membership as described in the post's constitution and bylaws. 300 are social non-members. Social non-members are not eligible for membership.

The veterans' organization satisfies the section 501(c)(19) membership requirements because its members are all past or present members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The social non-members are treated as members of the general public for 501(c)(19) purposes. Income from non-member sources may be subject to the unrelated business income tax.

Interpreted by the IRS, SAL members are considered social non-members when they utilize a post's social activities (if the operations are not already open to the general public and paying UBI tax for the income derived), and may generate taxable income if a Legion post member does not sign in that individual and pay for all food and entertainment for the guest. This includes all social or recreational activities of a Post not related to one of the other exempt purposes of a 501(c)19. In all such activities, an SAL member is not considered a member of the organization; therefore, revenue generated by these non-members may be considered taxable income, unless a Legion post member officially signs the non-member into the post and pays for all their purchases and services or another exception to UBI is claimed (such as volunteer labor exception).

In summary, the SAL program should be viewed as a participatory initiative that fosters the development of youth into patriotic Americans as outlined in the SAL Preamble; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, foster and perpetuate a true spirit of Americanism, preserve the memories of veterans from all wars, to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state

and nation, to safeguard the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, to sanctify our friendship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness, and the last phrase; to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands, and to assist in carrying on for God and Country, promotes American values and helps them become productive citizens in our society.

The SAL, as a program, is equivalent to an ALR chapter, Boys' and Girls' State, or Oratorical. All of them are Legion programs, but do not entitle participants or members to equal rights and privileges with veterans eligible for a TAL membership or to privileges commensurate with members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Certainly, no post would assume that a member of the Post's American Legion Baseball team would have unfettered access to the post commensurate with what a Legionnaire enjoys, but some Posts then turn a blind eye to members of the Sons of The American Legion, despite the SAL also being a program.

In order to deal with these issues, we have long had rules governing program operations. Attached to this opinion, you will find our latest incarnation of those rules, along with an acknowledgement section to be signed by the program participant or leader as the Post or Department may determine. Together, these four rules governing Leadership, Rules, Reports and Controls apply to all programs of The American Legion, whether they are our exclusively Youth Programs (Oratorical, Boys State, Shooting Sports, etc.) or programs like the SAL or The American Legion Riders. Regardless of what the program is — whether it be an ambulance service, a rodeo, a yacht club, a cruiser club, or some other program — the four rules apply to each of them.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark C. Seavey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark C. Seavey, Esq.
National Judge Advocate, The American Legion



FOUR RULES OF AN AMERICAN LEGION PROGRAM

The American Legion's most prized possessions are its name, emblem and logo. Its century of existence has built an environment of respect around those three things. Protecting those prized possessions is necessary to ensure that the environment of respect remains in place.

The American Legion's work under the four pillars, particularly the work involving Americanism and Children and Youth, often involves outside organizations and almost always community partnerships. Protecting the three possessions requires that rules be put in place to ensure that protection continues.

Many programs exist to carry forward The American Legion's work. Some are strictly internal, such as Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders, while others are more external, such as American Legion Baseball and Boys State. Regardless of whether they are internal or external, these programs must obey the same set of rules, even though in some cases, seemingly independent organizations are created to assist with the work of a particular program.

All programs, whether strictly internal or organized under a subsidiary corporation or entity, must obey the following four rules. Whether the program in question is chartered by a Post, a County or District, a Department or National as the parent organization, this requirement is in place.

If one or more of these rules is violated, National will need to enforce intellectual property rights against the organization that caused the violation.

Rule #1 – "Leadership" – All elected and appointed leaders must be confirmed by the parent organization after each selection, or as needed.

Rule #2 – "Rules" – All bylaws, amendments and/or standing rules must be presented to the parent organization for confirmation and approval prior to use.

Rule #3 – "Reports" – The program will provide to the parent organization: (a) monthly activities reports; (b) quarterly financial reports; (c) an annual financial statement; and (d) any additional report(s) requested by the parent organization.

Rule #4 – "Controls" – The parent organization may provide the program with the employer identification number (EIN) and the tax-exemption status, with the necessary financial controls over their usage. All program financial accounts must have a minimum of two (2) signatories appointed by the parent organization.

By signing the following statement, you acknowledge that you have read and understand the rules and will comply with those requirements. It is recommended that this form be signed by the program leader and a post officer annually or when there is a change in leadership.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Post	Program Name	
Program Leader	Signature	Date
Post Officer	Signature	Date

The American Legion

Fall Meeting of the
National Executive Committee
Wed-Thu, Oct 8-9, 2025



Resolutions

AMERICAN LEGION

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Register of Resolutions submitted by departments, referred from National Convention or held for study

Number	Year	Meeting	Title	Origin	Referred to:
2	2025	CONVENTION	COAST GUARD ELIGIBILITY FOR AMERICAN LEGION GRANTS AND BENEFITS	AR	AMER
3	2025	CONVENTION	REMOVE ASSIGNED TOPICS FROM ORATORICAL CONTEST	AR	AMER
32	2025	CONVENTION	NATIONAL FLAG CONVENTION	UT	AMER
34	2025	CONVENTION	COMMUNICATIONS STANDARDS FOR NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS	OK	AMER
2866	2025	DEPT CONV	ENGLISH LANGUAGE BE DECLARED AS THE OFFICIAL UNITED STATES LANGUAGE	IL	AMER
2877	2025	DEC	AMEND GRADING CRITERIA FOR THE SAMSUNG AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP	PA	AMER
6	2025	CONVENTION	DUES DISTRIBUTION TO DEPARTMENTS	SD	FN
16	2025	CONVENTION	VERIFICATION SERVICE FOR MEMBERSHIP	CA	INAF
17	2025	CONVENTION	REVISE COST OF PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE MEMBERSHIP	CA	INAF
18	2025	CONVENTION	ESTABLISH NATIONAL ESports PROGRAM	CA	INAF
20	2025	CONVENTION	SONS EMERGENCY FUND	PR	INAF
26	2025	CONVENTION	RED STAR SERVICE BANNER	FL	INAF
2850	2024	DEC	INVESTIGATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	VA	INAF
2864	2025	DEPT CONV	INCREASE INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR VOLUNTEER MILEAGE	IL	INAF
2876	2025	DEC	ENDORSEMENT OF E. MICHAEL STELACIO FOR NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER	PA	INAF
5	2025	CONVENTION	NATIONAL DEFENSE BUDGET REVIEW	MT	SEC
21	2025	CONVENTION	ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL FOR SERVICE IN HONDURAS	IA	SEC
35	2025	CONVENTION	MEDAL OF HONOR FOR MICHAEL OLLIS	NY	SEC
2863	2025	DEC	MERIT-BASED CRITERIA FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL DECISIONS	CA	SEC
2868	2025	DEPT CONV	SELECTIVE SERVICE FOR WOMEN	IL	SEC
1	2025	CONVENTION	DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENTS	LT	VAR
4	2025	CONVENTION	OPIOID TREATMENT RESEARCH	MT	VAR
8	2025	CONVENTION	COMBAT-RELATED TRAUMA AND PARENTAL RIGHTS	NH	VAR
9	2025	CONVENTION	EXPAND THE PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED ON THE KOREAN DEMILITARIZED ZONE	MN	VAR
12	2025	CONVENTION	NOTICE OF BENEFITS ELIGIBILITY OF DESCENDANTS RESULTING FROM THE CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS	CA	VAR
13	2025	CONVENTION	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARE COORDINATION AND INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	CA	VAR
14	2025	CONVENTION	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSESSING CIRCUMSTANCES AND OFFERING RESOURCES FOR NEEDS PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	CA	VAR
15	2025	CONVENTION	NAME ALL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WOMEN VETERANS' ROOMS AND CLINICS AFTER WOMEN VETERANS	CA	VAR
23	2025	CONVENTION	ENSURE EQUAL CARE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM	FR	VAR
24	2025	CONVENTION	SERVICE ANIMAL BOARDING KENNELS AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOSPITALS	FL	VAR
28	2025	CONVENTION	OVERSIGHT OF MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATION OFFICE CONTRACT PROVIDERS	DE	VAR
29	2025	CONVENTION	INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JUDGEShips FOR THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS	DE	VAR
2867	2025	DEPT CONV	DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDE SERVICE DOG ALLOWANCE	IL	VAR
2869	2025	DEPT CONV	IMPROVE SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION (K) AWARD	IL	VAR
2870	2025	DEPT CONV	REDUCING ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC) PAYMENTS FOR 100% DISABLED VETERANS FROM 10 YEARS TO 5 YEARS	IL	VAR
2871	2025	DEPT CONV	VETERANS BURIAL/PLOT ALLOWANCE PAYMENT	IL	VAR
2872	2025	DEPT CONV	UNITED STATES CENSUS TO INCLUDE VETERANS INFORMATION	IL	VAR
2873	2025	DEPT CONV	DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GENERATE REMINDER LETTERS FOR EXPIRING CLAIMS SUBMISSIONS	IL	VAR

Number	Year	Meeting	Title	Origin	Referred to:
2874	2025	DEPT CONV	INCREASE MAXIMUM COVERAGE UNDER THE SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS INSURANCE	IL	VAR
2875	2025	DEPT CONV	GRANT A 10% RATING FOR VETERANS WHO MUST TAKE DAILY MEDICATIONS FOR HYPERTENSION	IL	VAR
2865	2025	DEPT CONV	SURVIVING SPOUSE MORTGAGE ELIGIBILITY	IL	VEE

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

1

Page 1 of 2

No.: 1

Title: Support for NATO Expansion

Origin: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long recognized that European security and preservation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is critical to America's vital national security interests; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion supports the essential role of NATO to maintain international order and the protection of nations' sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes expanding NATO will: 1) strengthen collective defense; 2) stabilize and promote democratic values; and 3) support diverse, multi-ethnic communities and stand against ethnic conflicts; and

WHEREAS, NATO's Article 5 is a vital part of the alliance and should remain in effect, but the mutual defense clause does not apply to partner countries, many of which are potential candidates for NATO membership; and

WHEREAS, The accession of new members adds military capabilities but also political and economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, Future enlargement depends on geopolitical factors, including relations with Russia and the stability of potential candidate countries; and

WHEREAS, NATO enlargement is key to international security, but requires careful planning to maximize its advantages and minimize its negatives; and

WHEREAS, The initial wave of NATO expansion included the strategic inclusion of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic in 1999, which demonstrated Western countries' support for the democratic transition in Central Europe; and

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

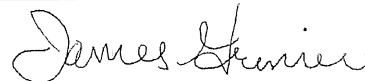
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JAMES E. GRENIER JR., Chairman
National Security Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

1

Page 2 of 2

No.: 1

Title: Support for NATO Expansion

Origin: National Security Commission

WHEREAS, The most recent expansion of NATO membership to Finland and Sweden in 2023 and 2024, respectively, demonstrates NATO's commitment to protecting its members and responding to new security threats, like increasing Russian aggression; and

WHEREAS, The membership also significantly increased NATO's ability to monitor and respond to activities in the Baltic Sea and the Arctic region; and

WHEREAS, Several NATO intelligence services note Russia is stockpiling weapons, expanding its overall force and upgrading and building military infrastructure near NATO's eastern frontier, while NATO's military capabilities, especially those of the European allies, do not match the growing threat the alliance faces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges the president and Congress to conduct a thorough analysis to expand the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in a prompt and timely manner, while ensuring NATO maintains engagement in candidate countries; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion reaffirms its unwavering support for NATO and its efforts to keep the alliance strong by expanding to other countries that will help maintain security, increase NATO resources and boost its capabilities.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

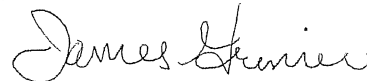
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JAMES E. GRENIER JR., Chairman
National Security Commission

The American Legion
National Executive Committee
Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

2

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No.: 2

Title: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis

Origin: Resolution No. 35 (NY) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis was killed in action while protecting his troops and shielding a Polish soldier from a suicide bomber on Aug. 28, 2013, in Ghazni province, Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis acted with utter fearlessness, intrepidity of the highest order and a willingness to sacrifice his own life so that his fellow soldiers on Forward Operating Base Ghazni could move to bunkers to shield themselves from fire; and

WHEREAS, During a massive attack that began when a car bomb breached the base's eastern perimeter wall and allowed ten insurgents in suicide bomber vests to infiltrate the compound; and

WHEREAS, After linking up with other friendlies Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis joined the fight to repulse the insurgents who had breached their defenses, all while under continuous small arms, indirect, and rocket-propelled grenade fire; and

WHEREAS, The selfless actions of Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis, by closing and engaging with the enemy at close range, diverted enemy fire away from the Task Force Copperhead compound; and

WHEREAS, This diversion provided a window of opportunity for forty-one civilian contractor personnel to egress West to a secure area away from the line of fire; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Michael Ollis' actions directly resulted in the lives of the contractor personnel being saved; and

WHEREAS, During the fight, an insurgent with a suicide bomber vest rounded a corner and began advancing on them while shooting; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis, without body armor, put himself between the insurgent and an allied Polish Army officer, Lt. Karol Cierpica, who had been wounded in both legs and was unable to walk; and

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JAMES E. GRENIER JR., Chairman
National Security Commission



**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**
Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

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No.: 2

Title: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis

Origin: Resolution No. 35 (NY) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis fired on the insurgent and incapacitated him; and

WHEREAS, After stopping the advance he approached the insurgent and the insurgent's suicide vest detonated mortally wounding Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis; and

WHEREAS, Official accounts cite that countless U.S and Coalition Force personnel were affected through the selfless actions of one individual, Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis was recognized by receiving the Silver Star for his actions, which was subsequently upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest military honor that can be awarded to a U.S. soldier; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis' actions are commensurate with those of other Medal of Honor recipients who have shown utter fearlessness, intrepidity of the highest order and a willingness to sacrifice their own life so that their comrades could go on to victory; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8–9, 2025, That Staff Sgt. Michael Ollis be presented the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to President Donald J. Trump, the Secretary of the Army Daniel Driscoll, Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis, Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for action and support.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

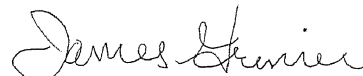
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JAMES E. GRENIER JR., Chairman
National Security Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

3

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 3

Title: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Service in Honduras

Origin: Resolution No. 21 (IA) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, The American Legion is committed to ensuring that veterans and their families receive the proper recognition for their service and sacrifices that they have made on behalf of this great country; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion believes all servicemembers and veterans who serve or have served in hostile environments should be appropriately recognized; and

WHEREAS, The United States Armed Forces maintained a presence in Honduras throughout the 1980s and 1990s, providing training and conducting military exercises with the host nation's military; and

WHEREAS, The presence of the United States Armed Forces served as a deterrent to Nicaraguan aggression in the region and as a means of support for democratic values through civil action in Honduran communities; and

WHEREAS, United States servicemembers were equipped with live ammunition and assisted the Honduran military in training and combat support capacities; and

WHEREAS, United States servicemembers experienced hostile fire and imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, At least one servicemember received a Purple Heart because of terrorist activities; and

WHEREAS, The Defense Casualty Analysis reports that 46 American servicemembers died in Honduras between January 1, 1981 and February 1, 1992; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges Congress to issue an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to U.S. servicemembers who have served in an area of hostility in Honduras from 1981 to 1992.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JAMES E. GRENIER JR., Chairman
National Security Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

4

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 4

Title: Expanding Access to Capital for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

Origin: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has long provided direct support to veterans through programs such as the VA Home Loan Program, which successfully reduces structural barriers to homeownership; and

WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides guarantees and fee reductions for veteran borrowers, yet these tools do not fully resolve systemic barriers to capital access for veteran entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Expanding financing opportunities for veterans through new, innovative or reformed federal programs would strengthen veteran entrepreneurship, enhance economic reintegration and contribute to local and national economic growth; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has consistently supported initiatives that recognize veterans' service by lowering barriers to economic opportunity and ensuring parity with their non-veteran peers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in a regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion strongly urge Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration and other federal agencies to explore and implement expanded access to capital for veteran-owned small businesses through direct, guaranteed or otherwise federally supported loan programs; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion strongly support legislation, regulatory reforms or pilot programs that reduce financial barriers and strengthen the economic outlook for veterans seeking to start or grow businesses, while maintaining appropriate safeguards for fiscal responsibility and long-term program sustainability for the veteran and our nation.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MATTHEW JABAUT, Chairman
Veterans Employment & Education Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

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5

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No.: 5

Title: Ensure Equal Care Under the Department of Veterans Affairs Foreign Medical Program

Origin: Resolution No. 23 (FR) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, Since 1959, Congress has extended or amended the authority of the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide hospital and medical care for service-connected disabilities or conditions for U.S. veterans who are sojourning or residing abroad; and

WHEREAS, Veterans currently rated at 100% Permanent & Total (P&T) have all health-care related costs covered within the continuous United States (CONUS), yet restrictive language in section 1724 of Title 38 U.S. Code authorizes veterans transversing or residing outside the continuous United States (OCONUS) medical reimbursements for only service-connected conditions; and

WHEREAS, CONUS veterans currently rated below 100% P&T disability but above 40% disability rating are able to receive health care without incurring a co-pay, yet OCONUS veterans below 100% P&T disability receive only service-connected health care; and

WHEREAS, Other health-care disparities exist where OCONUS veterans are unable to be reimbursed for certain medical programs that CONUS veterans may, including but not limited to the VA caregiver's program, Aid & Attendance pension and no-cost acute suicide crisis care and associated 90-days outpatient or 30-days inpatient residential treatment care; and

WHEREAS, CONUS veterans can receive post-traumatic stress disorder/traumatic brain injury counseling and peer support, yet these military competency and behavioral counseling supports are nonexistent for OCONUS veterans; and

WHEREAS, The creation of medical treatment class disparities between disabled CONUS and OCONUS veterans should not exist; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urge Congress to amend Section 1724 of Title 38 U.S. Code to expand health-care coverage under the Foreign Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure equal care for veterans worldwide so that veterans outside the continuous United States receive reciprocal access to health care as veterans within the continuous United States.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

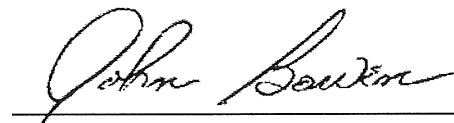
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

6

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 6

Title: Department of Veterans Affairs Foreign Medical Program Protection and Enhancements

Origin: Resolution No. 1 (LT) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, Since 1959 Congress has extended or amended the authority of the secretary of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide hospital and medical care for service-connected disabilities or conditions for U.S. veterans who are sojourning or residing abroad; and

WHEREAS, By FY2025 there were 80,631 overseas veterans enrolled into this Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Foreign Medical Program (FMP); and

WHEREAS, A recent February 2025 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report found that the FMP staff faced a 33% staff vacancy due to a VA zero-growth hiring policy, which contributed to the fact that only 37% of reimbursement claims were processed within FMP's stated goals of within 45 days in FY 2024 and 14% of claims in FY2023; and

WHEREAS, The same February GAO report cited veterans being frustrated by the timely reimbursements or inability to track the status of submitted claims due to the lack of an electronic tracking system, leaving veterans in financial limbo for months; and

WHEREAS, VA has not finalized plans to migrate from paper mail checks to electronic reimbursement funds transfer, not only hindering the process but allowing checks to be susceptible to getting lost, damaged, stolen or fraudulently cashed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urge that the Foreign Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) be exempted from hiring freezes and future staffing reductions so that veterans can be promptly reimbursed; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA incorporate a secure electronic funds transfers mechanism and online interface to more expeditiously submit, track and receive claim reimbursements in a financially secured setting so that veterans do not face undue financial hardship.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

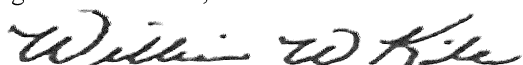
Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

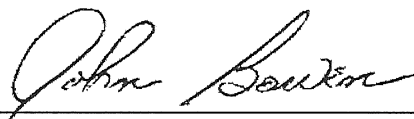
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

7

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

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Page 1 of 1

No.: 7

Title: Implementation of the Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Origin: Resolution No. 13 (CA) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, The Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management (CCICM) Program promises to elevate the standard of health-care delivery for veterans; and

WHEREAS, The primary focus of CCICM is to improve collaboration, communication and coordination within an integrated health-care system, and some VA health-care systems are excelling by creating five transitional care programs supporting the initiative (Coordinated Transitional Care, Home Transitional Care, Complex PACT, Remote Patient Monitoring/Home Telehealth, and Care Coordination Review Team); and

WHEREAS, Through CCICM, the veteran is assigned a lead coordinator also known as a case manager which will be an easily identifiable point of contact for the veteran, their caregiver, health-care team and stakeholders, and the lead coordinator will guide the veteran during their CCICM journey by coordinating one seamless plan of care resulting in a decrease in the utilization of services and cost; and

WHEREAS, Since implementing CCICM at the Orlando VA Healthcare System (OVAHCS), veterans enrolled in CCICM have demonstrated astounding improvement, and these veterans have shown a remarkable 79% decrease in hospitalizations and emergency department visits.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the Department of Veterans Affairs shall fully implement "Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management" nationwide.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

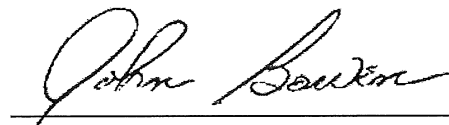
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

8

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No.: 8

Title: Implementation of the Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Origin: Resolution No. 14 (CA) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, Hospitals and health systems, including the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), are increasingly working to identify patients' social risks and address social needs as part of clinical care; and

WHEREAS, Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs (ACORN) is a VHA social risk screening and referral program that aims to identify and address unmet social needs among all veterans to improve health outcomes and advance health equity; and

WHEREAS, ACORN aims to: 1) systematically screen veterans for health-related social needs in nine domains (food, housing, utilities, transportation, education, employment, legal, social isolation/loneliness and digital needs); 2) provide clinical care teams real-time information about veterans' unmet needs; and 3) address identified needs through the provision of resources and referrals, including offering resource guides, support navigating resources, and/or referrals to social work or other relevant VHA and non-VHA services; and

WHEREAS, Positive identification of needs through ACORN will prompt follow-up care to assist veterans, and ACORN resource guides can serve as an effective tool to support veterans in identifying, connecting with, and receiving assistance from VA and community services.; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the Department of Veterans Affairs shall fully implement "Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs" nationwide.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

9

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
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No.: 9

Title: Notice of Benefits of Descendants from the Correction of Military Records

Origin: Resolution No. 12 (CA) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, U.S. Navy sailors were unjustly punished in the 1940s because they were African American, at a time when institutional racism was worse, segregation was the norm, and African Americans were disproportionately disciplined for infractions that arguably did not rise to the severity of their treatment or their punishment; and

WHEREAS, The two famous courts-martial of African American sailors were the "Port Chicago Fifty" for protesting unsafe ammunition handling practices after the deaths of 320 servicemen and the "Philadelphia Fifteen" for writing a letter to a newspaper describing shipboard abuse and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, The American Legion Department of California adopted the resolution titled, "2022-015: Exonerate The "Port Chicago Fifty" and "Philadelphia Fifteen"; and

WHEREAS, It was announced on June 16, 2023, that "The Department of the Navy Announces Correction to Records of the 'Philadelphia 15'" and on 17 July 2024, that "the Secretary of the Navy Exonerates 256 Defendants from 1944 Port Chicago General and Summary Courts-martial"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the secretary of the Department of Defense shall contact all the descendants of the exonerated sailors and to ensure that those descendants get any available benefits that they may be currently entitled.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

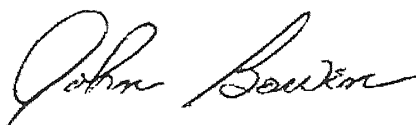
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

10

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 10

Title: Name All Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans' Rooms and Clinics After Women Veterans

Origin: Resolution No. 15 (CA) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, Over 2 million women veterans live in the U.S. today, and the percentage of women veterans has increased from 6.3% in 2000 to 11.3% in 2023, and is projected to reach 17.2% by 2043; and

WHEREAS, It is important that we honor women veterans and naming women veterans' rooms/clinics within existing Department of Veterans Affairs facilities should be encouraged; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, The American Legion Department of California adopted the resolution titled "2023-009: Renaming the Mare Island Clinic, the Delphine Metcalf-Foster VA Clinic" and U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson and U.S. Rep. John Garamendi sponsored the H.R. bills, which did not become public law mainly because Metcalf-Foster is not deceased per Congressional Research Service Report No. R46740 titled Naming Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Facilities; and

WHEREAS, On June 6, 2022, the Salem Virginia Women's Health Clinic officially became the MSG Silverine Vinyard James Women's Health Clinic, with the woman for whom it was named in attendance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the Department of Veterans Affairs should use the Salem Virginia template and shall name all women veterans' rooms/clinics after women veterans.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

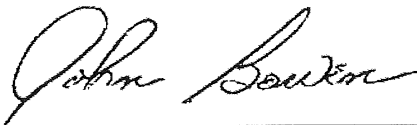
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

11

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 11

Title: Oversight of Medical Disability Examination Office Contract Providers

Origin: Resolution No. 28 (DE) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations are a vital part of the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) disability claims process, used by claims adjudicators in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to determine whether veterans' illnesses, injuries or conditions are connected to their active-duty military service; and

WHEREAS, VA has contracted vendors to perform the vast majority of C&P exams, representing expenditures of more than \$10.4 billion on these contracts from FY 2017 through FY23 and an additional estimated \$5 billion in FY24; and

WHEREAS, VA established the Medical Disability Examination Office (MDEO) in 2016 to manage contractors who perform disability exams for the VA; and

WHEREAS, In May 2024, VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) reported deficiencies at 114 out of 135 VA-contracted examination facilities visited; and

WHEREAS, The MDEO relies on vendors to self-certify compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act and Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards and, according to OIG, "did not provide necessary oversight" of the vendor program, "despite receiving complaints from veterans"; and

WHEREAS, MDEO lacks independent access to VA-contracted facilities, relies on vendors to conduct their own surveys on patient satisfaction and lacks formal standardized procedures and training for the inspection of VA-contracted facilities; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion's service officers, accredited representatives and national staff have reported numerous problems with VA-contracted C&P exams, including poorly trained examiners, unqualified practitioners, questionable "medical facilities," inadequate medical opinions and disrespectful attitudes toward patients; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Benefits Administration, in response to a report issued by the Government Accountability Office in September 2024, promised to complete a plan by January 31, 2025, to improve the quality of C&P Examinations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges Congress to increase its oversight of the Medical Disability Examination Office to ensure more efficient, cost-effective management of VA-contracted vendors that will substantially increase the quality of Compensation and Pension Examinations for America's veterans and dependents.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

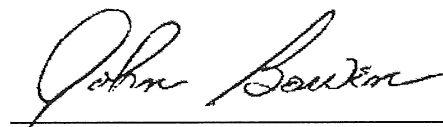
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Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

12

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 12

Title: Increase the Number of Judgeships for the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Origin: Resolution No. 29 (DE) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) provides judicial review of final decisions made by the Board of Veterans' Appeals on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims appeals; and

WHEREAS, 38 U.S.C. § 7253(a) authorizes the appointment of up to seven (7) permanent judgeships to the CAVC; and § 7253(i) is ad hoc and authorizes two (2) additional judgeships on a temporary basis; and

WHEREAS, The temporary authorization of two judgeships expires in 2026 and will be eliminated from the CAVC unless permanently authorized by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, A reduction in the number of CAVC judges is not in the best interest of America's veteran community and its right to due process, as the number of claims submitted for VA benefits continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, Since FY 2017, the court has seen a 121% increase in the appeals it receives annually, with no foreseeable reduction in workload, given the substantial increase in claims submitted under provisions of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges Congress to permanently increase the number of judgeships for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) from seven to at least nine; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress continues to monitor CAVC's caseload and authorizes additional judgeships on a temporary basis as it sees fit.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

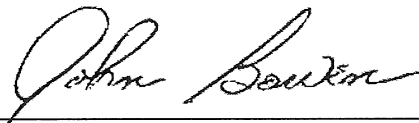
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

13

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

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No.: 13

Title: Opioid Treatment Research

Origin: Resolution No. 4 (MT) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) research shows that pain, combat trauma, pain treatment and the often-challenging process of reintegration after military service are contributory factors in opioid dependence among veterans; and

WHEREAS, Pain medication used to treat combat-related injury, and the prevalence of over-prescribed opioids led to a 50% increase in overdose mortality among veteran populations between 2010-2019; and

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, physiological pain, interpersonal relationships and life events are synergistically producing behaviors that create a risk for overdose; and

WHEREAS, Several privately funded studies show treatment of opioid use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorders with ibogaine and 5MEO-DMT-assisted therapy with trauma-exposed special operations force veterans; and

WHEREAS, The VA reported about 11-20% of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year; and about 12% of Gulf War (Desert Storm) veterans have PTSD in a given year; and about 30% of Vietnam veterans have had PTSD in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, The VA's most recent study in 2020 shows that over 125,000 have committed suicide since the Global War on Terror started in 2001, and that psychedelics have the potential to reduce that rate; and

WHEREAS, Further research in a controlled setting to study ibogaine and 5MEO-DMT is desperately needed and the State of Texas has recently agreed to provide \$50 million towards that effort; and

WHEREAS, MDMA and psilocybin were recently granted the FDA's coveted "breakthrough therapy designation" for the treatment of PTSD and treatment resistant depression and major depressive disorder, respectively, representing a significant improvement over currently available interventions for the treatment of PTSD and depression; and

WHEREAS, Phase 3 clinical trials of MDMA-assisted therapy have found that two-thirds of participants with severe PTSD have experienced complete remission and one-third an 87% reduction in symptoms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges the National Association of Attorneys General to support the use of opioid abatement funds to further research on the safety and efficacy of emerging therapies, which should include psilocybin, ibogaine root, lysergic acid diethylamide, 5MeO-DMT, cannabis and MDMA to treat opioid use disorder & other addictions, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and pain management in veterans and their partners.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

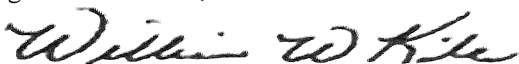
Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

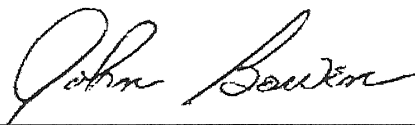
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

14

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 14

Title: Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who Served on the Korean Demilitarized Zone

Origin: Resolution No. 9 (MN) 2025 National Convention

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that veterans who served in certain areas of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides, which has led to various health problems; and

WHEREAS, Agent Orange was used extensively on the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to clear vegetation and reduce concealment for enemy forces during the period of April 1, 1968, to August 31, 1971; and

WHEREAS, Many veterans who served on the Korean DMZ during the above-mentioned period were exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides, but their service has been excluded from the VA's presumptive exposure list; and

WHEREAS, The VA has recognized soil contamination from Agent Orange on the Korean DMZ, and some veterans who served after 1971 are suffering from conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure, yet they remain ineligible for benefits due to the VA's limited presumptive service connection timeline; and

WHEREAS, There is growing evidence that soil contamination from Agent Orange remained in the DMZ area for many years after the last known use of the herbicide, potentially affecting veterans who served beyond August 31, 1971; and

WHEREAS, Veterans who served in the DMZ up to August 31, 2001, may have been unknowingly exposed to toxic herbicides due to residual contamination from Agent Orange, putting them at risk for the same health conditions as those veterans who served within the original presumptive period; and

WHEREAS, These veterans and their families deserve recognition, support, and access to appropriate medical care and benefits for the health effects caused by Agent Orange exposure; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been a vocal advocate for fair treatment of all veterans, ensuring they receive the benefits and recognition they deserve for their service and sacrifices; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges the United States Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand the presumptive exposure for veterans who served on the Korean DMZ to include those who served until August 31, 2001, due to the ongoing risk of exposure to soil contamination from Agent Orange; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls for appropriate funding and research to assess the impact of Agent Orange exposure on veterans who served in this region and to provide them with the medical care, benefits and recognition they are entitled to under the law.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

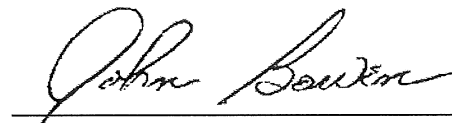
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

15

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 15

Title: United States Census to Include Veterans Information

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2872 (IL) Department Convention

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, For over 230 years our brave men and women have served this country in the armed forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Every ten years the U. S. Census is taken and currently does not ask U.S. citizens to identify if they served in the active military, National Guard or reserve; and

WHEREAS, Veterans benefits and facilities, e.g. national cemeteries, community based outpatient clinics, are allocated to states based on veteran populations which are currently estimated based on sampling; and

WHEREAS, Each census therefore does not accurately reflect the true number of veterans, National Guard and reserve populations and as a result inaccuracies exist; and

WHEREAS, This is a disservice to the men and women who have served our country in time of peace and war; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion strongly support any legislation that mandates the U. S. Census Bureau modify its Title 13, United States Code requirements to include veteran, National Guard and reservist data on any further census.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

16

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 16

Title: Increase Maximum Coverage Under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2874 (IL) Department Convention

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (also known as S-DVI or RH insurance) was established in 1951 to meet the insurance needs of certain veterans with service-related disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The maximum coverage was set at \$10,000 back in 1951; and

WHEREAS, What cost \$10,000 back in 1951 would cost over \$90,000 in 2025 due to inflation; and

WHEREAS, This lower coverage puts a greater burden on the surviving family members to meet the burial and final expenses of a deceased service-connected disabled veteran; and

WHEREAS, SDV-I stopped taking new applications for insurance after December 31, 2022, and was replaced by Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion shall support legislation to increase to \$100,000 the maximum coverage a service-connected disabled veteran can purchase for any old or new insurance policies managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs' service-disabled veterans insurance programs (such as the Service-Disabled Veterans (SDV-I) or Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That 2018 National Convention Resolution No. 75, "Increase Maximum Coverage Under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

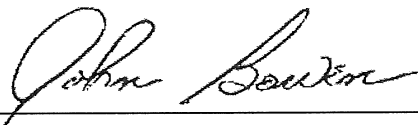
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR, Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

17

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 3

No.: 17

Title: Environmental Exposure

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national veterans service organization dedicated to honoring the service of current and former servicemembers and providing ongoing support to their surviving families; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion has long been at the forefront of advocacy for veterans exposed to environmental hazards such as Agent Orange, Gulf War-related hazards, ionizing radiation and the various chemicals and agents used during Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense's (DoD) disclosure of information regarding various potential hazardous exposures and the current advancement of scientific research continues to reveal new potential environmental threats to servicemembers; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs was congressionally mandated by Public Law 102-4 (1991) to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to review existing peer-reviewed research on herbicides, to include their components, exposure and medical evidence on related health effects; and

WHEREAS, In the last several years new concerns have been raised regarding contamination of stateside and international military installations and locations such as, but not limited to: groundwater contamination at Camp Lejeune, NC; environmental contaminants at Gagetown, New Brunswick located in Canada; Fort Drum, NY; Fort Dugway, UT; post-hostility Vietnam; and Fort McClellan, AL; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs was congressionally mandated by Public Law 112-154 to provide health care to family members of veterans stationed at Camp Lejeune who became ill due to environmental exposures at the base; and

WHEREAS, Major overseas situations regarding exposures such as sodium dichromate in a water treatment facility in Qarmat Ali, Iraq, toxic exposures at the Naval Air Facility in Atsugi, Japan, dioxins and other contaminants at Johnston Atoll, and others; and

WHEREAS, On October 31, 2011, the Institute of Medicine released a report on the long-term health consequences from exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, and currently determined that there is insufficient evidence at this point, but recommended further longitudinal studies over time to determine incidences of chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, H.R.3967, Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022, passed Congress ushering in a modern presumption decision process; and

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

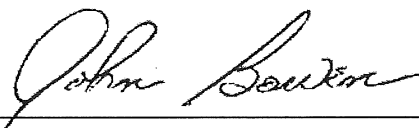
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

17

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 2 of 3

No.: 17

Title: Environmental Exposure

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, According to GAO report 24-106423 the DoD estimated veterans would have access to their own Individual Long Exposure Records by September 2024; and

WHEREAS, The 2025 congressional roundtable series "Beyond The PACT Act" highlighted new and existing veteran cohorts continuing to struggle with accessing benefits, including new research into brain injuries caused by chronic overpressure from explosive testing and delivery; and

WHEREAS, The importance of developing a comprehensive policy that allows for maximum flexibility to respond to new research as it becomes apparent in the timeliest and most proactive manner possible is recognized; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion's comprehensive policy on environmental exposures be an all-inclusive policy recognizing the traditions of previous advocacy on behalf of veterans exposed to environmental hazards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide a full disclosure of all wartime and non-wartime locations to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) where hazardous environmental exposures exist and that armed forces members were exposed through testing, transportation, storage, disposal and environmental contamination; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Defense ensure that current and former members of the armed forces and their next of kin, as well as family members who may have been exposed, have timely access to any records or documentation related to their potential exposure upon request; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge Congress to enact legislation requiring the VA to establish a national center for the research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces and establish an advisory board, responsible for advising the national center, determining health conditions that result from toxic exposure and to study and evaluate cases of exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urge the VA to expeditiously conduct peer reviews and scientific investigations through the National Academy of Sciences within the Institute of Medicine on all locations provided by the DoD; and, be it further

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

17

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 3 of 3

No.: 17

Title: Environmental Exposure

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

RESOLVED, That veterans and their family members reporting to VA medical care facilities claiming exposure to such environmental hazards be provided examinations and treatment which are thorough and appropriate, and that VA physicians demonstrate compassion in responding to the medical needs of these patients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion vigorously advocate for the liberalization of the rules relating to the evaluation of studies involving exposure to any environmental hazard and that all necessary action be taken by the federal government, both administratively and legislatively as appropriate, to ensure that veterans are properly compensated for diseases and other disabilities scientifically associated with a particular exposure; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion continue to closely monitor the development of all ongoing research on the long-term effects of all environmental exposures and point out to the proper officials any perceived deficiencies or discrepancies in these projects, and to ensure that government committees charged with review of such research are composed of impartial members of the medical and scientific community; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion will continue to consult with medical experts in order to ensure the effectiveness of its advocacy; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That 1992 National Convention Resolution No. 228, "Agent Orange Coordinating Council"; 1994 National Executive Committee Resolution No. 4, "Environmental Health Studies Funding"; 2016 National Convention Resolution No. 35, "Agent Orange"; 2016 National Convention Resolution No. 118, "Environmental Exposures"; 2017 National Convention Resolution No. 8 "Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who Served in South Korea" are hereby superseded and rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

18

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 18

Title: Comprehensive End-of-Life Supports for Veterans' Survivors

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national veterans service organization dedicated to honoring the service of current and former servicemembers and providing ongoing support to their surviving families; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense (DoD) Casualty Assistance Program fields DoD Casualty Assistance Calls Officers who provide personalized one-on-one supportive services for survivors of servicemembers who die while on active duty; and

WHEREAS, These robust survivor supports do not exist for veterans who decease, and their surviving spouses or next-of kin family members must secure a death certificate, a DD214, separation documents and bereavement support without assistance; and

WHEREAS, The federally mandated VA Veterans' Family, Caregiver and Survivor Advisory Committee recommended in June 2024 the timely creation of the Survivor Assistance and Memorial Support program to provide survivors with in-person access to dedicated decedent staff within VA facilities for personalized and supportive services at the end of a veteran's life including: selecting a funeral home, requesting an autopsy, death certificate, bereavement support and acquiring other death benefits (such as: Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistant Program under Chapter 35, VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), VA Survivors Pension, VA home loan guarantee or VA Aid and Attendance benefits); and

WHEREAS, By May 2025, the VA Office of Survivors Assistance created a "white glove" survivor's outreach team located at the Philadelphia Regional Benefits Office to better assist survivors in the navigation of the benefits process for DIC claims; yet by mid-July, VA still had 18,441 initial DIC claims, with 39.1% (or 7,203) still pending over 125 days and 246,689 DIC award adjustment claims, with 33.3% (or 82,141 cases) pending over 125 days; and

WHEREAS, Even after the COVID-19 pandemic, families still reported experiencing weeks of delay for the VA to sign off on a loved one's death certificate for "natural causes" which, to the family's chagrin, delayed further burial plans and the release of entitled survivor benefits; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion supports any legislation calling for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be sufficiently staffed and carry out comprehensive end-of-life survivor programs and supports ways to facilitate and ease the administrative barriers faced by bereaved survivors when filing for VA claims and benefits; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the VA to proactively provide or connect surviving families of veterans who die from a service-connected condition, or while receiving care for such conditions, with bereavement counseling, peer supports and any other appropriate resources concerning decedent affairs.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

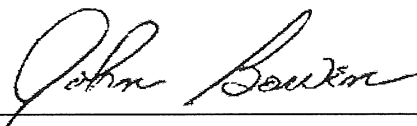
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

19

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

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No.: 19

Title: Ensuring Parity for Survivor Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefit in 1993 for the eligible spouse, child or parent of a servicemember who died in the line of duty or for a survivor of a veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness or who had a rating of totally disabled for at least 10 years prior to their death; and

WHEREAS, Stringent rules apply, such as requiring the veteran to be VA-rated at 100% total disability for 10 consecutive years for the survivor to qualify for DIC; and

WHEREAS, Other rules exist such as requiring the veteran to be VA-rated at 100% total for eight years prior to death to qualify for the enhanced monthly DIC "kicker" payments authorized under 38 U.S. Code § 1311 (a)(2); and

WHEREAS, The above-mentioned requirement is unfair for people living with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, as their life expectancy is much shorter, ranging from 2-5 years; and

WHEREAS, Other inequalities exist in VA's current program when VA's monthly DIC rate only provides 43% (or \$1,653) of a single 100% disabled veteran's compensation, compared to 55% (\$2,107) when a former spouse of a federal employee or retiree files for Basic Employee Death Benefit under the Federal Employees Retirement System; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to review and/or amend its current eligibility criteria for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, including supplemental payments, to provide equitable access to earned benefits; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress seeks parity between VA survivors' programs and other federal survivors' programs, to ensure survivors may obtain the same level of support and benefits enjoyed by other federal services; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That August 1978 National Convention Resolution No. 224, "Urge Legislation to Improve the Dependency and Indemnity Program for Dependent Parents", August 2016 National Convention Resolution No. 255, "Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payments for 100% Disabled Veterans from 10 Years to 5 Years", and August 2018 National Convention Resolution No. 48, "Dependency and Indemnity Compensation For Surviving Spouses" are hereby superseded and rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

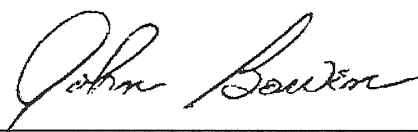
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

20

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 20

Title: Improved Oversight, Accountability and Transparency of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been a forceful advocate for accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) when employees defraud the system, hurt veterans or engage in other wrongdoing detrimental to veterans or their health care; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of VA employees who do not engage in illegal or unethical conduct can be victims of institutional reputation loss by the minority who do; and

WHEREAS, The VA's Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection was created in April of 2017 by an executive order signed in The American Legion's Washington D.C. office, illustrating The American Legion's key leadership in VA accountability; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion was an advocate of the 2017 Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 (2017 Accountability Act), with then American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt speaking in strong support of the bill; and

WHEREAS, Federal courts have gutted key provisions of the 2017 Accountability Act, such as measures that expedited punishment and removal of employees who engage in wrongdoing and removing more reasonable evidentiary requirements for employee misconduct that the bill established; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That Congress should ensure proper oversight and accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including but not limited to ensuring that the VA can hold any employee or contractor swiftly accountable for misdeeds and wrongdoing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA's Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection should function fully independently of the rest of the VA to help Congress, veterans service organizations, and other stakeholders in providing proper transparency and oversight; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That VA should revamp their executive bonus program, providing reasonable bonuses only for quantifiable improvements, including but not limited to improvements to veteran health, VA processes and for judicious allocation of resources; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That May 2022 National Executive Committee Resolution No. 16, "Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protections" is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

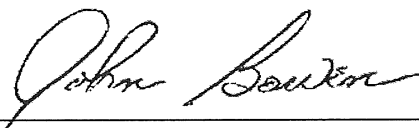
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

21

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 21

Title: Improving Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Oversight and Protections

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, Devised in 1985, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Fiduciary Program was established to protect veterans and other beneficiaries who are unable to manage their financial affairs due to injury, disease and age; and

WHEREAS, VA only determines an individual to be unable to manage their financial affairs after receipt of medical documentation or if a court of competent jurisdiction has already made the determination; and

WHEREAS, Veterans/survivors deemed unable to manage their VA benefits may be assigned a VA-fiduciary to be responsible for accepting and ensuring that VA benefits are used to support the intended beneficiary; and

WHEREAS, A 2010 VA Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) audit of the Fiduciary Program's effectiveness in addressing potential misuse of beneficiary funds identified the Veterans Benefits Administration's failure to examine financial reports, as well as failure to timely respond to misuse allegations in 96% of the cases reviewed; and

WHEREAS, A 2015 VA OIG audit of Fiduciary Program's management of field examinations found that VBA staff did not meet timeliness standards for about 42% of approximately 109,000 pending and completed field examinations during calendar year 2013; and

WHEREAS, A 2021 VA OIG report noted more than 170,000 VA-assigned fiduciaries with 12,000 allegations of fraud made from January 2018 to September 2019, and there existed significant reimbursement wait periods where beneficiaries waited an average of 468 days for VA to make a negligence determination or 228 days to make a misuse determination before the victim of fraud could recoup lost monies; and

WHEREAS, The VA OIG estimated that these untimely field examinations placed ~\$360.7 million in benefit payments and ~\$487.6 million in estate values at increased risk; and

WHEREAS, VA's current Fiduciary Program has been found inadequate in its protection of benefits provided to veterans or designated beneficiaries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion supports legislation requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide more robust protections and oversight over its Fiduciary Program to timely detect or respond to incidents of financial misuse; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That VA enact an expedited recoupment process so that defrauded beneficiaries, next-of-kin or designated estates, can be made whole.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

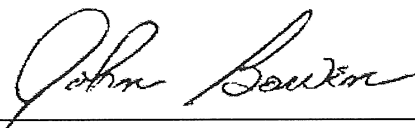
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

22

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 22

Title: Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Bonus Accountability

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion has been a forceful advocate for accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) when employees defraud the system, hurt veterans, or engage in other wrongdoing detrimental to veterans or their health care; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of VA employees who do not engage in illegal or unethical conduct can be victims of institutional reputation loss by the minority who do; and

WHEREAS, The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) found in a 2024 report that the VA had improperly awarded \$10.8 million in unearned bonuses from funds allocated by Congress to recruit "critical skill" employees; and

WHEREAS The OIG also estimated that the VA had improperly awarded about \$341 million in "Recruitment, Relocation, and Retention" bonuses that were improperly documented or justified; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) should revamp their executive bonus program, providing reasonable bonuses only for recruiting purposes or quantifiable improvements, including, but not limited to, improvements to veteran health, VA processes and for judicious allocation of resources.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

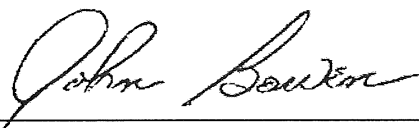
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Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

23

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

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No.: 23

Title: American Legion Members Volunteer at National and State Veterans Cemeteries

Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is a national organization of veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has the vital mission to memorialize the nation's heroes; and

WHEREAS, The NCA also vows to have "no veteran forgotten" and "no veteran left behind"; and

WHEREAS, Recently, the NCA launched a nationwide initiative to acknowledge and collaborate with community-led efforts to restore veteran gravesites within historic private cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Community participants are shown proper ways to safely clean and, if necessary, restore veterans headstones and markers; and

WHEREAS, These efforts show the highest respect for veterans and honor those interred in private cemeteries which are not maintained by the Departments of Defense or Veterans Affairs or the NCA; and

WHEREAS, The VA recognizes that volunteers are a valuable asset to assist in carrying out President Lincoln's charge "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan"; and

WHEREAS, At The American Legion's 106th National Convention, a spokesman from the Monuments Men and Women Foundation briefed the delegates and other guests on the success of the Grave Adoption Program for Fallen Americans in the Netherlands; and

WHEREAS, A similar grave adoption program is long overdue in the United States; and

WHEREAS, American Legion members can demonstrate their commitment to making meaningful impact in the communities they serve through volunteer opportunities that support veterans; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion can be a leader in partnering with other veterans service organizations and non-profit organizations to help adoption efforts and next-of-kin reconnection to the fallen servicemember; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion strongly encourages its membership to volunteer at national cemeteries through either a VA Voluntary Services or Center for Development & Civic Engagement program or by joining a private cemetery support committee at the nearest national cemetery or state veteran cemetery; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That The American Legion look for opportunities to engage with other non-profit organizations' adoption efforts to ensure their continued success in reconnecting surviving next-of-kin to their fallen servicemembers.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

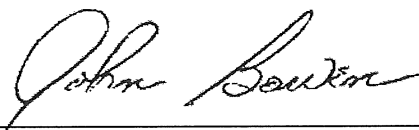
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



JOHN BOWEN, SR., Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

24

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 24

Title: Appreciation to Host City

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The 106th National Convention has been held in Tampa, Florida, August 22 – August 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, There has been a spirit of cooperation and friendship along with mutual helpfulness evidenced by the Legionnaires of Florida, the officers of the convention corporation, the department and by the officials and the people of Tampa, Florida; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That we express our deep appreciation to the Department of Florida; State of Florida, Governor The Honorable Ron DeSantis; City of Tampa, Mayor Jane Castor; including the fire department, police department and other public safety officials; Visit Tampa Bay; and to the 2025 American Legion Convention Corporation of Florida, Clarence Hill, president, around this nucleus was built the moving force that provided for every necessity that made for a successful and enjoyable convention.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

William W. Kite

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Robert E. Newman

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

25

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 25

Title: Authorize Issuance of a Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post

Origin: Membership & Post Activities Committee

Submitted by: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, Application for the issuance of a charter to a post outside of the United States has been received, properly endorsed by officers of the department which will accept responsibility for supervision, and all in conformity with Resolution No. 42, adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting of April 29-30, May 1, 1959; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the national adjutant is authorized to issue a temporary charter to the following post to be affiliated with the named department.

- 1. Punta Cana Post 0809, located in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and affiliated with the Department of Puerto Rico.**

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

William W. Kile

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Mike Cooke

MIKE COOKE, Chairman
Membership & Post Activities Committee

Robert E. Newman

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

26

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 3

No.: 26

Title: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Commission reviewed its resolutions in accordance with the suggested review practices recommended by the National Conventions and the 1961 Report of the Program Study Committee by the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, This review took place during the Internal Affairs Commission meeting held October 6, 2025, in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, This study has found that resolutions should be rescinded because they have been superseded, accomplished, duplicated and/or are obsolete; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the following resolutions are rescinded for the reasons indicated below.

No.	Year	Meeting	Title (Brief)	Reason
6	1936	Fall	Acceptance of Belgrano Trophy	Accomplished
28	1950	Fall	Felt Patch on Legion Cap for Graduates of The American Legion Extension Institute	Obsolete
258	1952	Convention	Completion of World War II Overseas Cemeteries and Memorials	Accomplished
61	1956	Convention	Another Ship be Recommissioned or Renamed "The American Legion"	Obsolete
14	1956	Fall	Recovery of Bodies of Deceased Servicemen Interned in Communist Territory	Obsolete
26	1956	Fall	Rifles be made available to Veterans' Organizations for Ceremonial Purposes	Accomplished
48	1958	Spring	Clarification of The Hanford MacNider Trophy Rules	Obsolete
25	1958	Fall	Verna B. Grimm Memorial Book Collection of The American Legion National Library	Accomplished

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

William W. Kile

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Robert E. Newman

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

26

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 2 of 3

No.: 26

Title: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

10	1963	Spring	Flying The American Flag Over the Remains of the Battleship USS Utah	Accomplished
62	1964	Spring	Changes in "The Manual of Ceremonies" of The American Legion	Accomplished
4	1965	Fall	Establish Child Welfare National Achievement Award	Superseded
2	1965	Fall	National Certificate of Meritorious Service (Child Welfare)	Superseded
4	1965	Pre	The Frederick W. Galbraith, Jr. Trophy	Accomplished
8	1966	Fall	Alvin M. Owsley Trophy Rules Amendment	Obsolete
25	1966	Spring	Change in Regulations for Awarding the Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy	Superseded
1	1967	Fall	Child Welfare Reporting Award	Superseded
31	1971	Spring	Overseas Cemeteries	Obsolete
620	1971	Convention	Service to Viet Vets	Accomplished
13	1973	Fall	Canadian Friendship Award	Accomplished
1	1974	Pre	Canadian Friendship Award	Accomplished
16	1974	Spring	Hanford MacNider Trophy	Obsolete
15	1976	Fall	Resolving the Inequities in the Awarding of the Arthur D. Houghton Trophy	Superseded
31	1976	Spring	To Authorize Presentation of Canadian Friendship Awards	Accomplished
30	1976	Spring	To Authorize Presentation of International Amity Awards	Accomplished
223	1979	Convention	The American Legion Magazine	Accomplished
12	1985	Fall	Research and Development for Program Improvement	Accomplished
14	1987	Fall	Bequest to The American Legion	Accomplished
13	1987	Spring	Bequest to The American Legion	Accomplished
212	1988	Convention	Enola Gay	Accomplished
36	1990	Fall	Korean War Memorial	Accomplished

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

William W. Kile

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Robert E. Newman

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

26

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 3 of 3

No.: 26

Title: Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

26	1991	Fall	Bequest to The American Legion	Accomplished
50	1991	Convention	Tours and Activities at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery	Accomplished
29	1996	Spring	U.S.S. Missouri Relocation	Obsolete
27	2003	Fall	Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery	Accomplished
6	2007	Fall	Support for Renovating USS Arizona Memorial Museum and Center, Honolulu, Hawaii	Accomplished
8	2010	Fall	Bequest (Estate of William E. Smith) to The American Legion	Accomplished
6	2012	Fall	Sons of The American Legion Restricted Account	Accomplished
17	2013	Spring	Include Department Service Officer Website Link on Annual Dues Notices	Obsolete
22	2016	Spring	Establishment and Appointment of Members to the 75 th Anniversary of WWII Commemorative Committee	Accomplished
110	2018	Convention	Support for Congressional Gold Medal for Signal Corps Female Telephone Operators of WWI	Accomplished
107	2018	Convention	Support for the United States WWI Centennial Commission Bells of Peace Program	Accomplished
23	2023	Fall	National Regional Informational Conferences Ad Hoc Committee	Accomplished
15	2024	Fall	Appreciation to Host City	Accomplished

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

William W. Kile

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Robert E. Newman

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 27

Title: Sons of The American Legion Veterans & Children's Fund Donation

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, In the 1970s a Sons of The American Legion Liability Account was established as a restricted fund in the event of emergencies such as membership decline, etc., and temporary funds were needed to meet expenses; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 4-5, 2005 by NEC Resolution No. 6 established a ceiling of \$500,000 (with a variance of +/- 1.5%) for the Sons of The American Legion Liability Fund Account for each budget year ending in the month of December to be reviewed annually by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion at the spring meetings for adequacy and from a fiscal management viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion Restricted Fund is presently over the variance established; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That a donation in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) be made to The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the funds for this purpose be taken from the SAL Liability Account (Account # 2118), Sons of The American Legion restricted fund.

Resolutions Subcommittee Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Resolutions Subcommittee

William W. Kile

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

Robert E. Newman

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

Gaither M. Keener Jr.

GAITHER M. KEENER JR., Chairman
Finance Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

28

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 2

No.: 28

Title: Membership Study Committee

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, National Commander Paul Dillard recommended the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee to Study Membership Processing During the 2022-2023 Year; and

WHEREAS, This committee has developed several important initiatives that are beneficial to The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Inasmuch as membership will always be a challenge; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the Membership Study Committee be established and assigned to the Internal Affairs Commission effective upon passage of this resolution; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the purpose of the Membership Study Committee shall be to evaluate membership processes and procedures to ensure they are efficient and aligned with the organization's long-term goals with a focus on honoring our legacy while adapting to future needs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Membership Study Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed seven members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That of the seven members appointed at the fall 2025 meeting of the National Executive Committee, two shall serve for a term of one year; two shall serve for a term of two years; and three shall serve for a term of three years; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee; and such appointments shall be for terms of three years; and, be it further

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

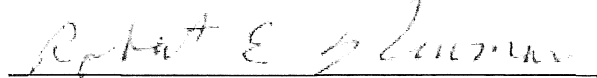
Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

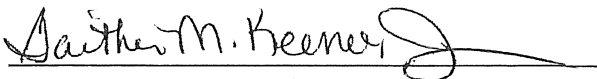
Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission



GAITHER M. KEENER, Chairman
Finance Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

28

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 2 of 2

No.: 28

Title: Membership Study Committee

Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

RESOLVED, That at its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such a capacity for one year; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the national commander may appoint such consultants and representatives as deemed appropriate and necessary; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the "Outline of Authorization: Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees" shall be updated to reflect the above.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

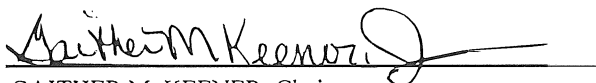
Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission



GAITHER M. KEENER, Chairman
Finance Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

29

Held on
October 8-9, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: 29

Title: Reinstatement of the Charter of The American Legion Department of Colorado

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, The charter of the American Legion Department of Colorado was suspended on June 10, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Colorado has worked diligently to remedy the deficiencies and violations which caused the suspension; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That the charter of the American Legion Department of Colorado shall be reinstated on December 1, 2025; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Colorado shall remain in a probationary status until such time as a department adjutant is hired and trained, and such other benchmarks, as identified in a memorandum of understanding are met, and after review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, the national commander, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said memorandum and the national adjutant, be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such probation is also contingent on the promulgation and acceptance of a separate memorandum of understanding regarding the disposition of the department headquarters building, and after review and approval of same from the national judge advocate, the national commander, be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute said memorandum and the national adjutant, be and is hereby authorized and directed to attest to same; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such full reinstatement will be subject to a separate loan administration agreement which shall cover the total amount of its indebtedness to The American Legion as determined as of December 1, 2025, at the applicable federal rate published by the Internal Revenue Service for long term obligations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the terms of the indebtedness shall be reported to the National Executive Committee at its next regular meeting; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 2, "Suspension of Department of Colorado Charter," approved in special meeting on June 10, 2023, is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions

Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



WILLIAM W. KILE, Chairman
Subcommittee on Resolutions



**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

30

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 2

No.: 30

Title: Definition of Americanism

Origin: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion, founded for God and Country in the aftermath of the Great War, remains unwavering in its mission to serve veterans, defend the Constitution and preserve the sacred ideals upon which our republic was built; and

WHEREAS, The sacrifices of America's veterans, from the beaches of Normandy to the deserts of Iraq and mountains of Afghanistan, stand as eternal reminders that liberty is never free, and that our freedoms have been secured and sustained through courage, duty and honor; and

WHEREAS, The spirit of "Americanism" is more than a concept, it is a living force embodied in the devotion of citizens who cherish freedom, embrace responsibility, and strive to build a more perfect Union; and

WHEREAS, A clear and enduring understanding of "Americanism" is essential to uniting our people, safeguarding liberty and honoring the men and women who have worn the uniform of our nation with valor; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That "Americanism" is hereby defined as a steadfast and heartfelt devotion to the founding principles, enduring values and civic responsibilities of the United States of America, a devotion inspired and exemplified by those who have honorably served in uniform, including:

Loyalty to the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law as the unshakable foundation of American democracy, individual liberty and justice;

Reverence for sacrifice, upholding the dignity of selfless service as demonstrated by veterans and citizens who have placed duty, honor and country above self, even at the cost of their lives;

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. AVIS, Chairman
Americanism Commission

**The American Legion
National Executive Committee**

30

Held on
October 8-9, 2025
Resolution

Page 2 of 2

No.: 30

Title: Definition of Americanism

Origin: Americanism Commission

Commitment to democratic principles, defending the sanctity of free and fair elections, individual rights and accountable governance as the cornerstone of a free people;

Patriotic citizenship, demonstrated through civic responsibility, public service and deep respect for the national symbols and institutions that define the American identity;

Respect for God and Country and all Americans, grounded in liberty, equality and justice for all, regardless of race, religion, creed, gender or cultural background;

Recognition of national unity, embracing the belief that our strength as a nation flows from mutual respect, shared sacrifice and the unbreakable bonds of freedom; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion shall use this renewed and enduring definition of “Americanism” to guide its programs in education, community service, veteran advocacy and patriotic observance, ensuring that the flame of liberty continues to burn brightly for generations yet unborn; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That 1962 National Convention Resolution No. 105, “Definition of Americanism,” is hereby superseded and rescinded.

Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

Signature Chairman, Subcommittee on Resolutions



Committee/Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature



MARK A. AVIS, Chairman
Americanism Commission

The American Legion

Fall Meeting of the
National Executive Committee
Wednesday, Oct 8th, 2025



Morning Session
Commission Reports

Report: National Historian

David W. Lockhart, New York, National Historian

Good morning, National Commander Wiley, nation officers, members of the National Executive committee and guests. I am humbled and honored to be appointed to national historian at the 2025 National Convention in Tampa, Florida. I am proud to represent the great state of New York.

I have worked with the library staff at national headquarters to send correspondence to all department adjutants and historians regarding the rules and direction for this year's department digital history books and for post hard copy and digital history books that will be displayed in best practice showcase at National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I want to encourage department historians to continue to create department digital year books, as last year there were only 6 entries. My goal is to inspire post historians to create post year books and submit at the department level so the departments may present their choice to the best practice showcase at National Convention.

I would like to thank the staff at the Library, Howard Trace, Alyssa Grube, and Debra Brookhart for their assistance and guidance. They work very hard at persevering the history of The American Legion at the Library. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and serve as the national historian.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Lockhart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "L".

David W. Lockhart

National Historian

Finance Commission Report to the
National Executive Committee
October 8, 2025

The Finance Commission met Monday and Tuesday, October 6-7. All commission members were present.

Also present were: Rodney Rolland, National Adjutant; Mark Seavey, National Judge Advocate; and Robert Skinner, Jeremy Ehart, Leslie Clevinger and Glen Sharbono of the Finance Commission NEC Liaison Committee.

Several guests and staff members joined us throughout the course of the meeting.

National officers who reported were:

- National Adjutant
- National Treasurer
- National Judge Advocate

The following commissions reported to us:

- Americanism
- Convention
- Marketing
- Internal Affairs
- Media & Communications
- Membership & Post Activities Committee

Areas within national headquarters that reported were:

- Executive Directors
- Information Technology
- Finance Controller
- Fund Development

Attached is a report that provides payment breakdowns to, or on behalf of, each department.

Authorized national headquarters staff head count remains at 257.

Our IT Director reported to us that the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System is under budget and on schedule to be completed by December 31, 2026.

Other activities by your Finance Commission at this meeting include:

- Approved \$95,100 in 2026 capital expenditures.
- Approved the employment of certified public accountants Crowe LLP to prepare The American Legion's 2025 fiscal year audit and tax returns.
- Recommended that 2027 dues be allocated as follows: \$3 to The American Legion Magazine and \$20.50 to the general fund.

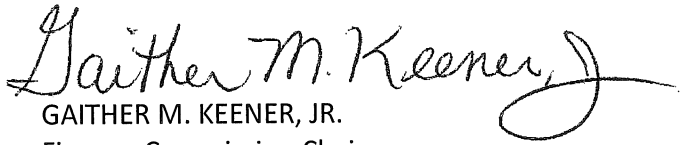
- Named NFP as agent-of-record for The American Legion employee health and life insurance and risk liability insurance programs for the 2026 year.
- Approved renewal of line of credit. This is a \$2,000,000 line with a \$3,000,000 accordion option for a total available line of credit of \$5,000,000.
- Approved The American Legion's investment policy for 2026.
- Approved a 1.5% COLA for national headquarters graded employees effective January 1, 2026.
- Approved \$1,108 in Magazine manuscript write-offs.

We are projecting that we will end 2025 with a surplus of \$4,289,386, and we are requesting approval of a budget for 2026 which has \$76,608,066 in expense and \$76,608,066 in income, for a balanced budget.

Pursuant to Resolution 2, NEC May 2023, The American Legion will recoup the monies paid on behalf of the Department of Colorado while its charter was under suspension.

Resolutions recommended for your approval are provided.

Respectfully submitted,


GAITHER M. KEENER, JR.
Finance Commission Chairman

The American Legion
Payments To or Benefitting Departments
September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025

Department	Direct Mail Fundraising (Dept. share)	Emblem Sales Royalty	Incentives from Mbshp goals	Subtotal Direct payment to Depts	Scholarships awarded	CWF grants awarded	TFA paid	NEF paid	Credit Card/e- check fees	Call-In Travel Expense paid by National	Subtotal Benefiting Depts	Total Impact of TAL payments
Alabama	7,532	2,059		9,591	52,000	-	-	-	9,349	34,930	96,279	105,870
Alaska	1,701	634		2,335	7,768	-	-	-	4,671	33,220	45,659	47,994
Arizona	15,174	3,985		19,159	68,049	-	-	-	26,409	17,029	111,487	130,646
Arkansas	4,319	1,196		5,515	25,144	-	1,500	-	3,385	26,111	56,140	61,655
California	39,594	7,505		47,099	73,000	-	6,000	26,837	58,283	50,386	214,506	261,605
Colorado	1,705			1,705	66,191	-	-	-	12,281	26,358	104,830	106,535
Connecticut	7,167	2,427		9,594	33,750	-	-	-	7,696	28,326	69,771	79,365
Delaware	3,338	730		4,068	5,000	-	-	-	6,616	36,230	47,846	51,914
DC	223	70		293	6,000	-	-	-	741	1,774	8,515	8,808
Florida	41,850	9,345	969	52,164	138,075	-	-	293,956	80,436	43,099	555,567	607,731
France	11		1,000	1,011	2,000	-	-	-	2,055		4,055	5,066
Georgia	15,612	3,819		19,431	88,579	-	1,500	466	16,541	45,563	152,649	172,080
Hawaii	1,672	204	5,000	6,876	9,250	-	-	-	946	16,573	26,768	33,644
Idaho	4,326	1,473		5,799	15,500	-	-	-	3,864	33,703	53,067	58,866
Illinois	24,885	9,911		34,796	46,454	48,185	-	-	21,618	63,053	179,310	214,106
Indiana	27,095	7,683		34,778	33,592	-	7,106	20,000	30,615	52,014	143,326	178,104
Iowa	12,457	9,654		22,111	36,291	-	1,500	22,000	11,018	44,541	115,351	137,462
Kansas	7,980	4,441		12,421	37,644	-	-	10,000	8,059	62,703	118,405	130,826
Kentucky	7,145	2,351		9,496	18,500	-	5,000	-	5,977	13,003	42,480	51,976
Louisiana	5,318	2,193		7,511	16,500	-	-	10,000	5,512	19,626	51,638	59,149
Maine	3,478	2,171		5,649	8,000	10,550	-	-	6,926	41,104	66,580	72,229
Maryland	12,603	3,390		15,993	50,142	25,000	-	-	29,515	80,323	184,980	200,973
Massachusetts	17,153	3,814		20,967	40,250	-	1,500	-	12,259	60,984	114,993	135,960
Michigan	27,817	9,875		37,692	73,109	-	-	-	35,945	63,922	172,975	210,667
Minnesota	21,493	9,842		31,335	18,539	-	-	-	24,960	66,721	110,220	141,555
Mississippi	3,407	1,599		5,006	30,500	-	-	-	2,535	23,316	56,351	61,357
Missouri	11,689	4,087		15,776	61,600	5,000	-	-	11,474	42,846	120,920	136,696
Montana	4,350	2,138		6,488	11,750	-	1,286	-	3,300	15,296	31,632	38,121
Nebraska	9,179	4,402		13,581	17,500	60,000	-	-	11,390	31,784	120,674	134,256
Nevada	4,736	732		5,468	12,250	-	982	-	3,618	14,304	31,154	36,622
New Hampshire	4,780	2,345		7,125	14,000	-	-	-	6,642	21,523	42,165	49,291
New Jersey	16,962	3,634		20,596	22,250	-	1,500	-	-	53,485	94,316	114,912
New Mexico	5,768	1,136		6,904	12,250	-	-	-	4,165	5,643	22,058	28,962
New York	33,945	14,626		48,571	43,790	-	1,500	10,000	35,420	94,368	185,078	233,649
North Carolina	25,178	4,414		29,592	162,276	150,000	-	11,204	18,488	26,397	368,365	397,957
North Dakota	4,207	3,376	2,000	9,583	14,000	-	-	-	4,320	23,028	41,348	50,930
Ohio	27,969	10,648	2,000	40,617	76,510	-	-	-	30,709	60,914	168,134	208,751
Oklahoma	8,047	2,231		10,278	27,573	-	-	2,828	4,954	32,558	67,913	78,190
Oregon	8,364	1,575		9,939	31,250	-	4,000	-	6,627	23,593	65,470	75,409
Pennsylvania	39,053	905		39,958	81,994	-	-	-	47,555	64,282	193,831	233,789
Philippines	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	432		432	432
Puerto Rico	908	324	2,424	3,656	34,389	-	2,500	-	513	10,268	47,670	51,325
Rhode Island	2,472	491		2,963	3,250	-	-	-	1,142	11,180	15,573	18,535
South Carolina	10,273	3,407	2,000	15,680	81,406	3,500	-	12,139	13,330	37,167	147,542	163,222
South Dakota	7,712	3,518	2,000	13,230	31,564	-	1,500	286	6,519	25,685	65,554	78,784
Tennessee	10,813	3,238		14,051	70,095	-	1,485	13,000	10,896	40,129	135,605	149,656
Texas	27,526	7,859	1,691	37,076	237,620	-	-	1,865	32,647	75,298	347,430	384,506
Utah	3,723	1,309	2,675	7,707	32,589	-	4,000	-	3,316	15,520	55,425	63,132
Vermont	2,457	1,643		4,100	5,000	-	-	-	3,812	14,344	23,156	27,256
Virginia	19,011	4,614		23,625	89,423	-	-	-	25,750	49,377	164,550	188,176
Washington	2,355			2,355	58,000	-	1,500	-	12,864	22,208	94,572	96,927
West Virginia	4,217	1,765		5,982	14,000	-	-	-	4,848	21,522	40,370	46,352
Wisconsin	19,796	9,539	2,000	31,335	40,294	25,358	-	-	18,192	49,380	133,224	164,559
Wyoming	1,663	1,125		2,788	4,250	-	-	-	2,806	14,101	21,157	23,944
Totals	632,208	195,452	23,759	851,419	2,290,701	327,593	44,359	434,582	771,021	1,880,811	5,749,067	6,600,486

ADDENDUM A

REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ON ALL RESOLUTIONS NOT BEING REPORTED FOR APPROVAL

October 8-9, 2025

The Finance Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions,
which are presently before this body for disposition.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
6	2025 Natl Conv, Dept. of South Dakota	Dues Distribution to Departments	Reject

Wording to Use in Column

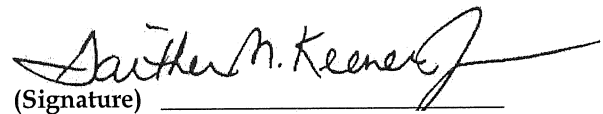
Recommended Action:

Reject

Hold for further study

Dispose of Administratively

Received and Recorded


(Signature) _____

(Submit in triplicate)

REPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY
COMMISSION
TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 8-9, 2025

Following a successful 106th National Convention, the National Security Commission continued to work on several resolutions, engaged in advocacy efforts to prevent a government shutdown that would halt military payments, and continued its efforts to include bill text in the final Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act.

National Security Resolution Screening Committee

The National Security Resolution Screening Committee meeting convened at 5:30 p.m. on September 23, 2025, supported by national staff and attended by the following:

- James E. Grenier Jr. (VA), Committee Chairman
- PNC Clearance E. Hill (FL)
- Devell Durham Jr. (NC)
- Gary E. Walker (WA)
- Michael J. Landkamer (NE)
- Cindy T. Lacoste (MA)
- Theresa L. Pucket (VA) (excused)

On September 23rd, 2025, the National Security Resolution Screening Committee convened to deliberate on Resolution No. 5: National Defense Budget Review, Resolution No. 21: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Honduras, Resolution No. 35: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis, Registered Resolution No. 2863: Merit-Based Criteria for Military Personnel Decisions, Registered Resolution No. 2868: Selective Service for Woman, , and Resolution No.: Support for NATO Expansion. The meeting, chaired by the Committee Chairman James E. Grenier Jr., commenced with a quorum being present. Chairman Grenier opened the session by stressing the importance of transparency in addressing resolution concerns. PNC Clearance E. Hill (FL), Gary Walker (WA), Michael J. Landkamer (NE), Cindy Lacoste (MA), and Devell Durham (NC), respectively, all provided detailed briefings on the background of each resolution.

The committee reviewed and provided **recommendations** on the following resolutions:

- Resolution No. 5: National Defense Budget Review – **Received and Recorded**
- Resolution No. 21: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Honduras – **Approve**
- Resolution No. 35: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis – **Approve**
- Registered Resolution No. 2863: Merit-Based Criteria for Military Personnel Decisions – **Reject**
- Registered Resolution No. 2868: Selective Service for Women – **Received and Recorded**
- Resolution No.: Support for NATO Expansion – **Approve**

National Security Commission Meeting

The National Security Commission convened at 5:30 p.m. on September 24th, 2025, supported by national staff and attended by the following:

- Presiding was Chairman James E. Grenier Jr. (VA)
- Vice-Chairman: Dale Todd (NC)

The Committee Chairman present included: Milton H. Woodle (NC), Thomas Schottenbauer (MN), PNVC Douglas Haggan (FR), Michael Landkamer (NE), William Flanagan (IL), Guillermo Guillen (VA), and 18 Commission members.

Commission Chairman James E. Grenier Jr. (VA) led a discussion on the following resolutions:

- Resolution No. 5: National Defense Budget Review
- Resolution No. 21: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Honduras
- Resolution No. 35: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis
- Registered Resolution No. 2863: Merit-Based Criteria for Military Personnel Decisions
- Registered Resolution No. 2868: Selective Service for Women
- Resolution No.: Support for NATO Expansion

RESOLUTIONS

Commission Chairman James E. Grenier Jr. (VA) led a discussion on the following resolutions to make recommendations to the Fall 2025 National Executive Committee:

Title: National Defense Budget Review

Origin: Resolution No. 5 (MT) 2025 National Convention

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to **received and recorded** this resolution and not move forward for consideration by the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee. The motion carried.

Title: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Honduras

Origin: Resolution No. 21 (IA) 2025 National Convention

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to **approve** this resolution for consideration by the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee. The motion carried.

Title: Medal of Honor for Michael Ollis

Origin: Resolution No. 35 (NY) 2025 National Convention

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to **approve** this resolution for consideration by the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee. The motion carried

Title: Merit-Based Criteria for Military Personnel Decisions

Origin: Registered Resolution No. 2863 (CA) 2025 DEC

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to **reject** this resolution and not move forward for consideration by the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee. The motion carried.

Title: Selective Service for Women

Origin: Registered Resolution No. 2868 (IL) 2025 Department Convention

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to **received and recorded** this resolution and not move forward for consideration by the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee. The motion carried.

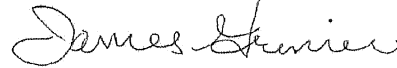
Title: Support for NATO Expansion

Origin: Resolution No., National Security Commission

National Security Commission Recommendation: The Commission moved and seconded to **approve** this resolution for consideration by the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee. The motion carried.

-End Report-

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Grenier Jr., Chairman
National Security Commission

ADDENDUM A

**REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ON ALL RESOLUTIONS NOT BEING REPORTED FOR APPROVAL**

8-9 October 2025

The National Security Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

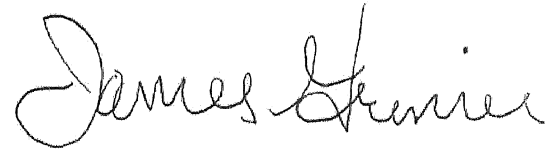
RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
5 (MT)	2025 National Convention	National Defense Budget Review	Received and Recorded
Register Resolution No. 2863	Department of California DEC	Merit-Based Criteria for Military Personnel Decisions	Reject
Register Resolution No. 2868	2025 Department Convention (IL)	Selective Service for Women	Received and Recorded

Wording to Use in Column:

Recommended Action

Reject
Hold for further study
Disposed of Administratively
Received and Recorded

(Signature)



(Submit in triplicate)

American Legion Media & Communications Commission
Report to the National Executive Committee
Oct. 8, 2025

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission oversees multiple top national priorities, largely through promotion and information for members and others, including:

- Veteran suicide prevention through the Be the One mission
- Membership enhancement by developing creative resources and promotions, as well member-engagement activities like the USA 250 Challenge, and membership success stories
- Corporate financial stability through the publication and dissemination of revenue-generating arms of The American Legion, such as corporate partnerships, planned giving, Emblem Sales merchandising and mitigation of U.S. Postal Service cost increases
- Talent management by enhanced coordination with staff in alignment with other divisions, emphatically Marketing

The Media & Communications team operates in many arenas beyond *The American Legion Magazine*, the e-newsletter program, social media, podcast, website, mobile apps, the convention guide and annual report. Media & Communications resources and skill sets are also applied to a variety of needs, from flag education scripts to convention speeches, promotional videos and logbooks to brochures, documents, officer guides, posters and external media message points and responses.

Media & Communications staff and resources have also been – *and are always* – applied to help plan, execute and support such efforts as the 100th anniversary of American Legion Baseball, the 250th anniversary of the United States, American Legion associate sponsorship of the Army-Navy Game, Operation Metrics to better report impact numbers for The American Legion and more.

The Media & Communications Commission oversees most messaging platforms to internal audiences of the national organization and, in the interim, external media outreach and response. Following is a snapshot of some of the primary responsibilities of the commission and the staff it oversees, as well as current status:

- ***The American Legion Magazine***. Ranked first in male readership loyalty among all U.S. periodicals, according to independent research, the magazine is the flagship of the commission. The sea upon which that flagship sails, however, is unpredictable and often turbulent. Key developments for the magazine in 2025 include:

- Cost savings in paper and printing, putting the magazine a combined \$183,625 under budget in those areas.
 - A 12% increase in postage cost imposed in July, following annual increases of 9% or greater in previous years, putting the magazine \$275,670 over budget on postage.
 - Outside ad sales of more than \$4.4 million through the November issue, which is just over \$1 million under budget, plus \$2.47 million in ad placements for corporate partners under the national Marketing Commission.
 - The bottom line through the August issue (most current available) is that the magazine stands at \$92,045 off budget – after ad revenues, marketing revenues, print and paper cost reductions and postage increases are factored.
 - *The American Legion Magazine* continues to uphold the highest values of the organization, examining a range of national topics connected to the four pillars of the organization while simultaneously driving forward such national initiatives as the Be the One mission, the centennial of American Legion Baseball, the 250th anniversary of the nation, key legislative priorities and resolution-driven interests of the organization.
 - As consumer use of printed media continues to change and give way to digital media, the commission supports strategic planning for a new future of *The American Legion Magazine*, and the first of such brainstorming sessions has been conducted and will be scheduled on a consistent basis for the foreseeable future.
- **E-newsletter program.** Audience open rates for e-newsletters produced and distributed under Media & Communications have rocketed in 2025. The average open rate has risen from 18.37% in 2021 to 28.63% in 2025. The e-newsletter audience has also grown in number from about 861,000 in 2021 to 1.04 million in 2025. E-newsletter advertising now stands at \$107,480 to date, already \$32,483 ahead of budget for the entire year.
 - **Legion.org.** Management and administration of the national American Legion website moved into the Marketing Division in September 2024, but Media & Communications staff continue to support it by producing and posting news stories, photos and videos; and providing design assistance, as requested or needed. Media & Communications also handles most outside advertising on legion.org, which

stood at \$57,044 through September, well above the year-end budget of \$22,500. Media & Communications also manages the legiontown.org web platform, where local posts and members can share their stories and photos by category.

- **Thank You Thursday.** This e-mail program for advertisers and corporate allies launched in early 2025 and so far has generated \$240,000 in revenue, largely through sales made by the James G. Elliott Co., which has long been a contracted vendor of the Media & Communications Commission. It is now on pace to nearly reach \$400,000 in revenue.
- **Tango Alpha Lima.** The nationally recognized Tango Alpha Lima podcast addresses topics relevant mainly to the post-9/11 generation of veterans (hosted by post-9/11 veterans) but has sustained a decline in monthly downloads since its 2023 highs. Those higher audience numbers were driven significantly by host and social media influencer Ashley Gutermuth. Since its 2020 debut, Tango Alpha Lima has been downloaded 376,792 times on various platforms, primarily Apple Podcast. The podcast also appears on YouTube, where it has been viewed 121,400 times. Tango Alpha Lima recently moved to Spotify as its primary host and in two weeks there has had another 4,914 views. On Oct. 2, 2025, the Media & Communications team launched “Welcome Home: The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Podcast” on a production contract that adds a revenue stream for the division. Furthermore, Tango Alpha Lima is attracting well-known guests, such as famed documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, country musician Scott Hasting and NFL Insider/Fox Sports broadcaster Jay Glazer.
- **Digital Dispatch:** With a subscriber base of nearly 30,000 twice a month, the Digital Dispatch continues to deliver information and news for American Legion leadership audiences and enjoys an extremely high open rate of about 34%.
- **Social media.** All American Legion social media platforms are continuously gaining followers. As of Oct. 1, the national American Legion Facebook following stood at 190,193. The X following was at 121,276. The national American Legion LinkedIn follower count was 54,178, and the national Instagram audience has grown to 38,919. All of these channels have had consistent and continuous growth.
- **Mobile apps.** The Media & Communications team produces and updates a family of three American Legion national mobile apps, which have largely seasonal

audiences:

- **National Convention:** 8,428 devices downloaded as of Sept. 1, 2025
- **American Legion World Series:** 19,771 downloaded
- **Sons of The American Legion:** 12,488 downloaded

- **Annual/occasional print media:** The Media & Communications group produces or assists in production of most annual printed media, including the Convention Guide, Annual Report, Positions & Programs, Legislative Agenda, Officers Guides, program brochures, rulebooks and more. The Media & Communications team also writes, edits and produces “one-off” publications like “A Century of Citizenship Through Sportsmanship” bookazine on the centennial of American Legion Baseball, “Whole Child” on the Legion’s Children & Youth programs, the Boys Nation Yearbook, toolkits and resources to support certain programs and initiatives like Buddy Checks, as well as stand-alone products like “Measurable Impact,” a graphically designed assembly of performance metrics for the organization, for print or download, now in use in department membership campaigns.

- **Physical displays:** Media & Communications also designs and produces physical media for the national organization, including booths, plaques, truck wraps and pop-ups. Among those in 2025 have been a front-window display in support of America250’s Two Lights On for Tomorrow effort in April to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Paul Revere’s famous ride, as well as pop-up display panels on the history of American Legion Baseball, for the program’s centennial. Media & Communications is also responsible for official portraits of national officers, to include framing and presentation.

- **External media:** In addition to media produced largely for internal membership audiences, Media & Communications resumed external media relations support two years ago, on an interim basis until a long-term solution is achieved. This includes press release writing and distribution, pitching national leadership to media outlets on important stories and external media query response.

- **Logbooks:** Media & Communications Division Executive Speechwriter John Raughter has the difficult and important job of drafting, updating and managing the “run-of-show” logbooks for the national convention, Washington Conference, Spring and Fall Meetings, as well as other events.

- **Awards:** Media & Communications manages no fewer than two major national awards each year, the Fourth Estate Award and the James V. Day “Good Guy” Award, and provides support in many ways for the Patriot Award, Distinguished Service Medal and others.

The Media & Communications Commission understands the evolving nature of the business of messaging and is guiding American Legion staff to address changes, make adjustments where needed, and stand prepared for more unpredictable shifts in the way Americans engage media.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Wallace', written in a cursive style.

David Wallace, Virginia
Chairman

American Legion Media & Communications Commission

Report: Convention Commission October 6, 2025
Michael E. Walton (IL), Chairman

Chairman Michael E. Walton, Illinois, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m., Monday, October 6, 2025. Roll call was taken with all members either excused or present.

Chief Judge David Priester spoke to the Convention Commission regarding the National Color Guard Contests, which were held Friday of convention. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Six (6) color guards competed in four categories with Lady Lake Post 347, Lady Lake, Florida, being awarded the National Commander Color Guard. The JROTC competition class had twenty-four units competing with West Caldwell taking first place in what was another impressive display. There was no band contest this year.

Convention Commission members reported on their assignments during the 2025 National Convention. Reports indicated the local Convention Corporation conducted their duties in outstanding fashion and greatly contributed to the overall success of the National Convention. Chairman Walton and Commission members thanked PNC Clarence Hill, President, American Legion National Convention Corporation of Florida, and his entire Florida team for their support to make the Tampa convention a success. Chairman Walton also thanked the Convention Division staff on the entire convention.

President of the 2025, PNC Clarence Hill, President, American Legion National Convention Corporation of Florida gave his report. PNC Hill thanked the Convention Commission for their support and reported, in his opinion, the 2025 National Convention was a huge success. PNC Hill will provide a final report at the 2026 Spring Meetings. Chairman Walton thanked PNC Hill and his approximately 50 volunteers for conducting the 2025 National Convention.

Chairman Walton gave a report on the planning process for the 2026, 107th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, August 28 – September 3, 2026. Planning for the 107th National Convention of The American Legion is on schedule. Headquarters hotel for the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and FODPAL will be at the Galt House. Contracts between the hotels and the assigned Departments of The American Legion are being completed. Chairman Walton, Convention Corporation personnel, the convention and meetings planning staff, and our convention technical companies plan to conduct a site visit to Louisville in December.

The Convention Commission reappointed Mr. Priester (SAL - CO) as Chief Judge of Contests to serve through the 2026 Fall Meetings. Mr. Priester informed the Commission that he proudly accepts the reappointment to serve as the Chief Judge of Contests for The American Legion. Additionally, the commission appointed Ms. Darcie Priester as an Assistant Chief Judge.

The National Convention Request for Proposal (RFP) will be updated to reflect proposed changes for future national conventions to ensure what we provide to bidding cities is properly reflected within the RFP. The RFP will be updated each year as necessary.

2025 Fall Meetings
Convention Commission
Page 2

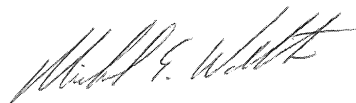
Following are the current cities bidding to host 2032 National Convention of The American Legion: Spokane, Washington; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Reno, Nevada. Charlotte, North Carolina, has decided to withdrawal its bid for 2032.

Washington Conference dates for 2026 are February 28 – March 4, 2026.

Chairman Walton strongly advised that any national call-in for any meeting, air travel be booked 28 days in advance of said meeting.

Dates for future Conventions are the following:

Louisville, Kentucky	August 28 – Sept. 3, 2026
Kansas City, Missouri	August 27 – Sept. 2, 2027
Columbus, Ohio	August 25 – August 31, 2028
Indianapolis, Indiana	August 24 – August 30, 2029
Salt Lake City, Utah	August 23 – August 29, 2030
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	August 22 – August 28, 2031



Michael E. Walton, Chairman
Convention Commission

**REPORT OF THE
THE AMERICAN LEGION
AMERICANISM COMMISSION
MARK A. AVIS (MA), CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 6-7, 2025**

The Americanism Commission met at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Monday and Tuesday, October 6 - 7, 2025. The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m. each day and roll call taken. Americanism Commission members answering the roll were: Chairman Mark A. Avis (MA); Vice Chairman Michael Donnelly (NC); Steve Colcord (IA); Randy Goodman (GA); Herbert Petit Jr. (LA); Scott Paradis (ME); James Watson (TX); Betty Severson (AL); Lyman Brenner (DE); Sandra Crosno (ID); Gerald Theriot (LA); Francis Riter (NY); Lewis Jones (PA); Patricia Dandy (SC); Randy Edwards (UT); Steven Hayes (CO); and Loren Sperry (WA). Including members of the Americanism Commission and guests, there were 73 in attendance.

The Commission was honored to receive remarks from The American Legion National Commander, Dan Wiley (KS) and Sons of The American Legion National Commander, William Clancy III (NY). The Commission was further honored by remarks from Past National Commander Daniel Dellinger (VA), as well as attendance by PNC's John "Jake" Comer (MA), David Rehbein (IA), Daniel Ludwig (MN), Thomas Bock (CO), Charles Schmidt (OR), James LaCoursiere (CT) and Anthony Jordan (ME).

Sons of The American Legion National Americanism chairman Jeffrey Hicks (NJ) brought greetings and presented on the Sons of The American Legion efforts to support American Legion Youth Programs.

Following opening remarks and introduction of distinguished guests, the Digest of Proceedings from the 2025 Spring commission meeting, and the report of the 2025 pre-national convention Americanism Commission meeting were each received and filed.

The Commission recessed on Tuesday, October 7th, at 10:25am after receiving reports from the National Americanism Conference sessions conducted on September 26th-28th. The Committee on Youth Education meetings conducted on October 4th and 5th, and the joint session of the Committee on Children & Youth and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee conducted on Monday, October 6th. A summary of the reports received by the Commission are provided below.

**AMERICANISM COMMISSION EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE 21ST CENTURY AD
HOC COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE NEC, OCTOBER 2019**

While Americanism, Children & Youth programs are not directly referenced in the 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee's report to the NEC, they are implied as critical elements to the committee's emphasis on "Legacy and Vision." Reference is made to The American Legion's focus on strengthening America as a "common thread that most organizations cannot replicate." The continued service of Legionnaires to all Americans, not just veterans, is most clearly displayed in The American Legion's dedication to shaping and educating the youth of America and the continued promotion of confidence in our representative democracy.

In 2025, the Americanism Commission continued its focus on marketing the value of The American Legion's Youth Program to an external audience to include: academia, donors,

civil society organizations, and American families. Improvements in the programs, specifically with Hillsdale College hosting the National Oratorical Competition and Junior Shooting Sports competition for the second year, and Boys Nation having an audience with the Secretary of War in the Pentagon, helped to gain significant citizen awareness of The American Legion's programs. The social media activity of all youth programs in 2025 were at record high, and the addition of the Centennial Classic baseball tournament, celebrating 100-years of American Legion Baseball, received widespread attention and praise. The additional emphasis on America's 250th anniversary of independence helped to firm up relationships with civil society built over the last few years. Chairman Avis used every opportunity to encourage members of the Americanism Commission and Council, as well as Department leadership, to find a seat on their state 250 commissions to ensure a physical presence of Legionnaires at every state function celebrating America in 2026.

**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION
GEORGE POGGE (KS) INTERIM CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 4-5, 2025**

The Committee on Youth Education (COYE) met on Saturday October 4, 2025, in Panorama Rm B and then on Sunday, October 5, 2025, in the Library Rm on the 21st floor of the Sheraton Circle Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was convened at 9 am. Interim Chairman George Pogge (KS) called the meeting to order with the hand salute to our colors. Barbara Washburn (NE) led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Davis (WV) led the POW/MIA Remembrance. Interim Chairman Pogge (KS) offered up the invocation and led the Preamble of our Constitution.

Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager, conducted a roll call; a quorum was present. The following members were in attendance. George Pogge (KS), Interim Chairman, Jim Davis (WV), Vice-Chairman, Hugh Holmes (SD), Tom Marciciak (IL), Jean Williams (NY), Michael Donnelly (NC), and Randy Goodman (GA). American Legion Auxiliary consultants were also present: Barbara Washburn (NE), Judy Ackerman (MN), and Nancy Babis (NY).

The following guests were in attendance and brought greetings: Mark Avis (MA), National Americanism Chairman, The American Legion; Ron Neff (IN), Americanism Director, The American Legion; Lyman Brenner (DE), Kirk Williams (AR); Laura Arand, Program Manager, American Legion Auxiliary; and Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager.

Interim Chairman Pogge (KS) brought greetings to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves to the group.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2025 Spring Meeting. Jean Williams (NY) made a motion to approve the report. Tom Marciciak (IL) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Barbara Washburn (NE) provided a brief report on Education program within the American Legion Auxiliary.

Ron Neff (IN) briefed the committee on the Samsung Scholarship Policy Guide changes. At this time, there are no policy guide changes due to the vacant Youth Education Program Manager position.

Stacy Cope provided the committee with the 2025 Samsung American Legion National Scholars and Runners Up for the committee's review and discussion. A robust discussion took place on how each person grades and ranks applicants, including ones from their own

department. Staff will verify whether or not scores for an applicant are dropped if the grader is from the same department with the system administrator. Jean Williams (NY) made a motion to amend Appendix C of the Samsung SOP to allow all graders to review, grade, and rank all applicants from every department. Jim Davis (WV) seconded the motion. The motion passed. Jim Davis (WV) made a motion to accept the Samsung Scholar Winners and Runners-Up recommendations as they have been presented. Hugh Holmes (SD) seconded the motion. The motion passed. **Enclosure A**

A discussion was held regarding the growing use of AI in the essay section of the application. The idea of implementing a point system based on the percentage of AI used in the essays was considered. However, the discussion was postponed so that staff could research resources to assist graders in determining the extent of AI usage in the essay portions of the application.

The committee reviewed and discussed ideas on potential essay questions for next year's Samsung application. The committee unanimously approved the following questions.

Question 1: Share a memory or incident from your qualifying veteran and what impact it has had on your life.

Question 2: In celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Which of the signers of the Declaration of Independence would you like to sit down with, and what would you like to ask them?

Michael Donnelly (NC) made a motion to allow staff to amend the wording, provided it does not alter their intent. Tom Marciciak (IL) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The committee reopened discussion on the possibility of awarding reduced points to those descendants of qualifying veterans who have served in Korea but after the Korean War era (1951-1953). After a brief discussion, staff will need to review the governing trust documents to determine if such a change is allowed under the terms in the trust before making any changes to the SOP.

The committee has requested that staff reinstitute the monthly Microsoft Teams meeting, starting in November. The meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of every month at 12:00 pm EST. Staff will be responsible for compiling the agenda and minutes from the meeting. The first meeting will take place on November 18, 2025, and then on December 16, 2025.

With no other business for the day, Jim Davis (WV) made a motion to recess the meeting until 9:00 am tomorrow in the Library Room, on the 21st floor of the Sheraton Circle Centre Hotel. Hugh Holmes seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Committee on Youth Education reconvened on Sunday at 9:00 am in the Library Room.

The committee reviewed the recommendations for the Education Certificate. Jean Williams (NY) made a motion to accept and approve 34 people from 15 departments for the Education Certificate. Jim Davis (WV) seconded the motion. The motion passed. The certificates will be mailed to the departments for their dissemination.

The Education Certificate under the purview of the Americanism Commission. Further discussions will take place regarding the criteria and submission process during the Teams meeting in the coming months.

Jim Davis (WV) reviewed the criteria for submitting a name for consideration for the Educator of the Year Award before opening the floor for recommendations. Randy Goodman (GA) offered the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University, a previous recommendation. Jim Davis (WV) recommended Motts Military Museum from Groveport,

Ohio, for the year 2027. The committee was asked to submit any suggestions to staff so that they can be discussed during the monthly Teams meeting.

Ron Neff (IN) provided an update on civics engagement. The Jack Miller Institute is committed to engaging civics in the classroom. The American Legion is excited to have two expert consultants on the Committee on Youth Education who will help further engage civics in the classroom.

In celebration of our nation's 250th, the American Legion is putting together educational toolkits for school-aged kids. The kit includes copies of the three comic books (Our Country's Veterans, Pledge of Allegiance, and Our Country's Flag), a 3 x 5 flag, handheld flags, and a script teaching youth about the flag and how to fold it and present it.

American Education Week will be held from November 17 to 21, 2025. We encourage posts and departments to celebrate those impacting youth through Education. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the School Awards program in your local schools.

With no other business coming before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.

**JOINT MEETING OF THE YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
AND THE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH
HERBERT J. PETIT, JR. (LA), CHAIRMAN
OCTOBER 6, 2025**

The Joint Meeting of the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee and Committee on Children and Youth met Monday, October 6, 2025, in the Michigan Room, 21st floor of the Sheraton Indianapolis Circle Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was convened at 9:55 a.m. EDT. Chairman Petit led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance, and POW/MIA remembrance. Peggy Moon (MN) led the invocation. Roll calls were taken with ten members in attendance, and a quorum declared. Committee on Children & Youth Chairman Herbert Petit, Jr., brought greetings and thanked the committee for the commitment to the children of this nation.

The following special guests were also in attendance and brought greetings and remarks before the Committee on Children and Youth: Dan Wiley (KS) National Commander, The American Legion, Jeff Trout (IL), Chairman, Sons of The American Legion's Committee on Children & Youth; Mark Nave (PA), Chairman, Sons of The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation Liaison; and Jeff Bennett Youth Activities Program Manager.

American Legion Child Well-being Foundation (CWF)

Created by The American Legion in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc. (CWF) now doing business as the American Legion Child Well-being Foundation, is a separate 501(c)3 corporation. Its philanthropic priority is to contribute to the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional welfare of children and youth by aiding progress in the field of child welfare through research, studies, surveys, projects or by supporting programs and activities benefitting the welfare of children and youth. From 1955 to date, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., has awarded more than \$21 million to organizations to assist children of this country.

Dennis Boland (FL), President of the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation, provided a brief update to the Committee on Children and Youth. The CWF Board of Directors has approved nine grants totaling \$851,542 for the 2026 calendar year. President Boland discussed various ways to support CWF at your post, unit, and squadron through the CWF

100% Per Capita Banner program and memorial donations. Additionally, CWF is revitalizing the Children's Action Team (CAT). CAT members work within their departments or detachments to promote awareness and increase CWF donations.

Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) Update

Jeff Bennett, Youth Activities Program Manager, reported on the 22 YCLE programs across the United States, and the importance of why each department should have a YCLE program. Any department looking to start a YCLE program can contact a committee member, or the National Headquarters or a department that currently has a program for information, videos, and tools.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) Program Update

For this current calendar year through September 18th, 34,251, TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with the basic needs of their child(ren). This is an increase over the TFA totals last year at this time.

The Committee on Children & Youth will conduct its biennial review of the Temporary Financial Assistance Program Policy and Procedures as required by Resolution 14 (Spring 2025) titled Temporary Financial Assistance Policy Program Update. Members are encouraged to review the policy and procedures and bring their questions to the Committee on Children & Youth in May 2026.

Children & Youth Resolutions

Over the summer, the Committee on Children & Youth tasked with reviewing all 34 active resolutions relating to the health and safety of our nation's children & youth, did so. This task was to ensure all active resolutions remain relevant today. The committee held discussions on several of the resolutions, notably the duplication of a resolution. Committee members will continue to review the resolutions over the winter months, with any formal recommendations made to the Americanism Commission at the Spring Meetings.

With no other business before the Committee on Children & Youth, the committee stood in recess at 10:50 a.m.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE 65th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DEPARTMENT BASEBALL CHAIRMEN Lewis Jones (PA)

The 65th Annual Conference of Department Baseball Chairmen was held September 27-28, 2025, in-person at The American Legion National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana as a program segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference. Gary Stone (MO), Chairman, American Legion Baseball Committee (ALB), served as the conference chairman. Twenty-six departments were represented by either their baseball program chairperson or designee.

Chairman Stone opened the Saturday morning's session. The invocation was given by ALB committee member, John DuVall (NC). American Legion Baseball Program Manager Steve Cloud (IN) extended welcome and greetings to the conference attendees.

Chairman Stone recognized the departments of the 2025 All-Academic Team winners and the 2025 Ford C. Frick award to the Department of Texas for having the national runner-

up team, League City, TX, Post 554; and recognized the Howard P. Savage award to the Department of Virginia for having the 2025 National Champions, Chesapeake, VA Post 280.

Program Manager Steve Cloud provided a wrap-up of the 2025 season. Cloud reviewed the baseball program's active governing resolutions, rules and policies at the national and department level. Also, Cloud provided updates from meetings with USA Baseball, U.S. Olympic and Paralympics Council and National Federation of High Schools throughout the season.

The 2025 season finished with 2,786 certified teams. This is a decline of 187 teams for last season. The Department of Georgia did not have a program this year.

American Legion Baseball Assistant Program Manager Tom Starnes (IN) provided a review of online team registration issues and updates on registration payment issues, SportsEngine billing, and team refund process and procedures.

Chairman Stone conducted formal discussions on the proposed rule changes submitted which included Rule 1.G: Courtesy Runners, to include post-season play; Rule 1.I: DH Rule, adopt Ohtani rule; Rule 1.S: Pitching Rule, remove appearance in consecutive games/days; Rule 2.A: Player Age, change cut-off date to September 1; Rule 3, 4: Enrollment Number, suggestions to increase/decrease/eliminate; Rule 6.D: Dual Participation, change from regular season to include start of regional play; Rule 6.E: Players per Team, increase roster size from 18 players to 20; Rule 6.E.1: Affiliated Team, change definition to allow Junior/Senior teams with same base school but different school enrollment combination; Requests to add new rules which include adding the safety base at 1B; add new rule to allow one-way electronic communication between manager and catcher; and a suggestion to eliminate team per diem from national tournaments. These recommendations will be reviewed by the ALB Committee for consideration during their Fall Meeting.

Chairman Stone reviewed the 2025-2026 program dates and deadlines. He stressed to the chairmen the importance of communicating these dates to their teams, as there were several national appeals dealing with missed deadline issues.

Program Manager Cloud reviewed the 2026 regional formats that include two super-regional sites in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and Cherryville, North Carolina on a trial basis. Cloud also covered the proposed regional alignments and six-team double elimination pairings that removed the six additional teams needed to field the 64-team pairings. Removing these additional teams will be a significant budget savings.

A robust discussion with the department baseball chairman regarding the impact of moving national tournaments up a week earlier. The survey that was provided to the baseball chairmen, department adjutants and team managers was reviewed. There were 347 responses representing 12% of the total stakeholders solicited and 75% of the respondents were team managers. Findings from the survey show that there is significant conflict between the positive benefits of player retention and the severe negative impact of further compressing an already short regular season.

National Tournament Umpire Assignor and Baseball Committee consultant, Jay DeSantis reviewed the umpire nomination, selection, and promotion process of national tournament umpiring staff. Instructions on sending the forms to the national office prior to the November 1st deadline date were provided.

ALB vice chairman, Jody Moeller (NE) presented information regarding Hudl, a sports management software providing coaches and athletes the ability to review game footage, improve team play, and athlete recruiting.

Conference attendee Judy Leonardi from Department of California baseball marketing volunteer discussed various fundraising ideas and opportunities for department chairmen and how it has positively impacted the California baseball program.

Assistant Program Manager Starnes welcomed the newly appointed department baseball chairmen and reviewed the responsibilities of the position. Starnes conducted a “New Chairman Training” session for new chairmen.

Chairman Stone thanked the attendees for their attention and participation during the conference. He asked committee member John DuVall (NC) for the closing benediction.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE **Gary Stone (MO), Chairman**

The American Legion Baseball (ALB) Committee met via conference call on Tuesday, September 30. Those in attendance were Gary Stone (MO), Chairman; Jody Moeller (NE), Vice Chairman; Committee members Richard Paster (MA); Lewis Jones (PA); Ron Edwards (MT); and Jeral Howard (AR). Also in attendance were consultants Jeff Miller (MN); Jay DeSantis (WV) and Eddie Holbrook (NC); Adjutant Advisory Board members Mark Cauble (NC), Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis; and national headquarters staff Steve Cloud (IN), Baseball Operations Program Manager, Americanism Division, and Tom Starnes (IN), Assistant Baseball Operations Program Manager, Americanism Division.

Program Manager Steve Cloud provided the ALB Committee with a 2025 regional and world series wrap up. The 2025 season finished with 2,786 certified teams. This is a decline of 187 teams for last season. The Department of Georgia did not have a program this year.

A follow up discussion from the department baseball chairman conference regarding the impact of possibly moving national tournaments up a week earlier was held. The survey that was provided to the baseball chairmen, department adjutants and team managers was reviewed. There were 347 responses representing 12% of the total stakeholders solicited and 75% of the respondents were team managers. Findings from the survey show that there is significant conflict between the positive benefits of player retention and the severe negative impact of further compressing an already short regular season. While no changes will happen in 2026, discussions will continue for possible future seasons.

The ALB committee recommends the following rule changes for the 2026 ALB season.

Rule 1.G: Courtesy Runners allow regular and post-season play.

New Rule 1.S: One-Way Communication allows one-way communication between manager and catcher.

Rule 6.D: Dual Participation clarification of “Point of Emphasis” to include player combine events.

Rule 9.L: Minimum Active Players senior team is permitted to bring up players from registered affiliated junior team’s roster not to exceed 18 players prior to the beginning of national tournaments.

New Rule 9.M: Between Inning Time Limit teams have 120 seconds (or 150 seconds for a relief pitcher) to be ready for the first pitch (pitcher holding the ball and touching the

pitcher's plate and a batter standing in the batter's box ready to hit). The 120 second clock (or 150 second clock for a relief pitcher) shall start when all defensive players have started to leave their positions after the last out has been made and stops when the umpire calls "Play" for the first pitch of the first batter of the next half-inning.

Program Manager Cloud briefed the ALB Committee on the 2026 regional formats that include two super-regional sites in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and Cherryville, North Carolina on a trial basis. Cloud also covered the proposed regional alignments and six-team double elimination pairings that removed the six additional teams needed to field the 64-team pairings. Removing these additional teams will be a significant budget savings.

Your committee recommends that Cal Raleigh of the Seattle Mariners be the recipient of the 2026 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year award,

2025 Children & Youth Department Chairmen's Conference **Herbert J. Petit, Jr. (LA), Conference Chairman**

The 19th annual national Children & Youth Department Chairman's Conference was conducted on Saturday, September 27, 2025, in Panorama Room A at the Sheraton Circle Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, IN as a program conference segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference of The American Legion. There were 10 members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and guests in attendance.

- Distinguished guests bringing greetings and remarks included:
 - Melanie Taylor (CA), Chairman, Children & Youth, American Legion Auxiliary
 - Jeff Trout (IL), Chairman, Children & Youth, Sons of The American Legion
- Conference attendees heard presentations and received insight and guidance from:
 - *American Legion Auxiliary Children and Youth Program Update*, Melanie Taylor (CA), -American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
 - *Sons of The American Legion Children & Youth Program Updates* -Jeff Trout (IL), Americanism Chairman- Sons of the American Legion
 - *Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA)*- Rick Lofgren, President and CEO
 - *Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)*, Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager, American Legion National Headquarters
 - *Youth Department Chairman Program Guide Review*, Stacy Cope, Youth Welfare Program Manager, American Legion National Headquarters

Chairman Petit also urged the conference participants to conduct their own children and youth training sessions in their home department or detachment. Presentations from the 2025 Children and Youth Department Chairman's Conference will be posted online after Fall Meetings.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE DIRECTORS CONFERENCE **PNC Clarence Hill (FL), Boys Nation Director**

The 2025 American Legion Boys State Directors Conference was conducted September 26-28, 2025, as a program segment of the annual National Americanism

Conference at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana. There were 152 registered Boys State directors, chairperson, and program staff.

The conference convened on Friday evening in joint session with The American Legion National Americanism conference with greetings from The American Legion Americanism Chairman Mark Avis, and guest speakers were Ruthie Culbertson, Deputy Director of Marketing TAL, Steve Brooks, Social Media Manager TAL, Henry Howard, Deputy Director Media and Communications TAL, and Jeff Stouffer, Director of Media and Communications TAL.

On Saturday the 27th, Boys Nation Director, Past National Commander Clarence Hill, kicked off the Boys State conference a Boys Nation video and talked the importance of the Boys Nation staff applications from Department Boys State programs, with the need to be sent through the Department Adjutant and emailed to boysnation@legion.org

Commander Hill talked about the 9 locations the Boys Nation visited this year to include Ft McHenry and Greenbelt post 136 in MD. Arlington National Cemetery for a special wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a special briefing in the Tomb Guard quarters for twenty of the senators, a briefing for the other 80 senators was held in the Amphitheater. A visit to the World War One memorial with TAPS playing at 1700 and another wreath laying by the Boys Nation. Boys Nation also visited the Supreme court, and a touching wreath laying at the 9/11 memorial of the Pentagon, followed by a tour and a surprise visit by the Secretary of War Pete Hegseth who gave an hour of his time for questions and answers to the Boys Nation, we wrapped it up with Twilight Tattoo joining Boys Nation was Girls Nation on Ft Myer. The US Congress was the next stop with Senator appointments and finally a trip to see The White House concluded the visits for 2025. The Boys Nation President Luke Lawson is from Alabama, and the Vice President Nicholas Frazier is also from Alabama. A special set of visitors joined Boys Nation this year, it was members of the class of 2015 Boys Nation with hopes to help set in motion an Alumni association.

The 2025 Directors conference had 6 departments with presentations for the 152 registered guests from 36 departments, a few nonregistered as well.

The presentations from the Boys State programs of Oklahoma on the importance of Patriotism, from Wisconsin on using photography during Boys State programs, from Colorado on bill and resolution tracking software, from Missouri on using local courts and Bar associations for programming and fundraising, From Texas on real world simulation and real-world effects, and finally from South Carolina on program counselors and engagement. The conference also conducted two breakout sessions with topics of “2025 Highlights and Challenges” and “Fundraising, Recruiting and Alumni engagement”

The conference concluded with the annual door prizes.

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAINS CONFERENCE MICHAEL POLLITT (NH), NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

The American Legion National Chaplains Conference was held on the 27th of September at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis Indiana, as part of the National Americanism Conference. There were twelve chaplains in attendance from The American Legion Family. Also, in attendance The American Legion Auxiliary National Chaplain, Chaplain Nancy Magginis (IN) and the Sons of the American Legion National Chaplain, Chaplain David Jolly (NY). This intensive training went from 8:00am until 5:00pm. Topics covered during the training included: Biggest issues facing Legion Chaplains today (Divorce/Separation, Loneliness/Estrangement, Substance Abuse, and Death (Natural and Suicide); Typical year in

the ministry of a Legion Chaplain; Best Practices: Preparation and Performance for Memorials, Funerals, Public Praying and Speaking, Correspondence (Formal and Informal); Importance of Ministry of Presence; & Biggest Problems facing Legion Chaplains. Intensive presentations were given on Addiction and Veterans, Toxic Spirituality, and Suicide within the Veteran Population.

Americanism Chairman Mark Avis and Program Manager of the Americanism Jeff Bennett visited and provided Audio/Visual and Logistical support for the training, in addition the Sheraton Hotel was excellent.

Most Chaplains paid their own way to attend coming from as far away as Alaska.

AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S CONFERENCE PNC Paul Dillard (TX), Chairman

The annual American Legion Junior Shooting Sports (JSSP) Conference was held September 27, 2025 at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis. PNC Paul Dillard (TX) served as the Junior Shooting Sports Conference chairman. There were 8 departments represented by either their Junior Shooting Sports department chairman or designee; there were a total of 13 attendees present.

Chairman Dillard called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and presided over the opening ceremonies. PNC Dillard turned the meeting over to Neal Warnken for introduction and greetings.

Doug Frahm Chief Range Officer and Department of Nebraska Junior Shooting sports chairman gave a report on how to register for the American Legion Postal match that is currently open. There was a lengthy discussion on the process and how to make it easier.

Hope and Carl Wilson from the Department of Minnesota had several questions about the process. Assistant Chairman Warnken asked Hope if she would tell their story about how hard it was for them to start their club from scratch. Hope explained that getting the funding was the most challenging hurdle.

Broke for lunch at 11:00 A.M.

Chairman Paul Dillard reopened the meeting at 1:00 P.M. with several video that were taken at this year's National finals.

Assistant Chairman Neal Warnken and Randy Holmes with Crossman/Daisy present an easy economical way to start and maintain a Junior Sports Program with the combination of the Challenge air rifle and the single shot daisy precision B-B gun.

Chief Ranger Officer Doug Frahm went through the new rule changes for the upcoming year. We did share with the group that the coaches are pushing the rule on coaching their shooters.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:41 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S ORATORICAL CONFERENCE Dave King (KY), Oratorical Chairman

The Oratorical Chairperson Conference was held September 27th, 2025, as a program segment of the annual national Combined Americanism Conference. David King (KY) served

as the Oratorical Conference Chairman. There were 15 departments represented by their Oratorical chairman or designee; a total of 20 attendees were present.

The Conference was called to order at 0800 hours by the Oratorical Conference Chairman David King from Kentucky. A salute to the Colors of our Nation, a Prayer to the Commander of us all, and a POW/MIA Observance was reverently accomplished.

Greetings were brought to the Oratorical gathering by the American Legion's National Executive Director – James Baca, the National Americanism Chairman – Mark Avis, the National Americanism Director – Ron Neff and the National Oratorical Program Manager – Kim Shriver.

The 2025 National Finals were discussed at great lengths. The consensus from everyone attending was that the move to Hillsdale College has not only been cost effective, but a great success. All attendees gave kudos to Program Director – Kim Shriver for her superb leadership and guidance that made this move so outstanding. The facilities were excellent as was the dining facility. Transportation provided by Hillsdale and the efforts of the College's Staff could not have been better. Changes on how to improve the Finals centered around Staff and Student movements between Contest agenda and room assignments. The Volunteers did an outstanding job in each of their assignments. A major point of emphasis for 2026 is the recruitment of Volunteers for all positions (Moderators, Judges, Timers and more). In order for the National Quarter Finals to begin, approximately 150 Volunteers are needed. It was also pointed out that when someone submits a Volunteer application, a background check is done. Each background check has a cost associated with it. Bottom line – if you volunteer, make sure you honor your commitment.

The 2025 National Finalists were:

First Place – Gina Harjani of Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Second Place – Mary Crosby of Burlington, Washington

Third Place – Elena Andrews of Beresford, South Dakota

A number of Oratorical Videos were shown and were received very positively. Attendees were shown where these videos can be found on The American Legion website. Our website is loaded with resources that can be downloaded and utilized.

Discussions on dates that certifications must be made to National and also the use of Consolidated Reports to show participation in the Oratorical Program were very well received.

The topic “Ways to Mess Up a Good Contest” was discussed with most of the attendees contributing issues that Departments have faced in the past. Lack of program planning and proper instructions to volunteers topped the list.

Department Chair responsibilities were discussed. A Tool Kit was shown with all items necessary to have a good contest. The attendees were advised to follow the Rules/Scripts at all levels of the contest. Emphasis was placed on giving proper/detailed instructions to volunteers. Making sure Department budgets included complete Oratorical expenses were discussed. Each position was brought up and discussed with emphasis on their responsibilities.

A mock contest was held with many of the attendees assuming different positions. Comments/instructions were given as the contest progressed to ensure all elements were understood. The electronic scoring sheet (which can be downloaded from the National website) was brought up to show how it worked and also how to handle a tie.

Participation in the Oratorical Program was discussed. Numerous ways to attract attention were recommended.

The unanimous opinion of the entire group of attendees is to keep the Contest as is with no changes into the rules, the timing or the assigned topics. They were adamant that the assigned topics be kept so as to ensure students research and learn about the Constitution. Many of the past Contestants have been asked about changes to the contests and they have all said that the format is perfect.

The Oratorical Conference was well received. The attendees acted as a working group, discussing ideas, sharing experiences and giving sound advice to the new Department Chairpersons. The attendees showed they are a true American Legion Family by their desire to contribute to the Youth of our Nation and make the Oratorical Program the best of all.

Before concluding the conference, the floor was opened for any questions, closing remarks or best practices. The benediction was given, and the meeting was recessed.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought forth for the Commission to consider.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought forth for the Commission to consider.

AMERICANISM RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

At the meeting of the Americanism Commission at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 6-7 October 2025, a total of seven resolutions were considered. The Americanism Commission discussed and agreed upon recommending the following action for consideration by the National Executive Committee:

Approve

- **Definition of Americanism**

Hold For Further Study

- **Resolution No. 2 (AR) Coast Guard Eligibility for American Legion Grants and Benefits**

- **Resolution No. 2877 (PA) Amend Grading Criteria for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship**
 - **Reject**
- **Resolution No. 3 (AR) Remove Assigned Topics from the Oratorical Contest**
- **Resolution No. 32 (UT) National Flag Convention**
- **Resolution No. 34 (OK) Communications Standards for National Youth Programs**

Received and Recorded

- **Resolution No. 111 (IL) English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language**



Mark A. Avis (MA),

Chairman, Americanism Commission

APPENDIX A

Samsung American Legion Scholarships Recipients List 2025

National Scholars by Region: each receiving a \$10,000 scholarship:

Central Region -	Colby Nixon (IL)
	Peyton Markel (PA)
Midwest Region -	Lillian Frideres (IA)
	Cy Griffith (MO)
Northeast Region -	Lauren Tyree (DE)
	McKinley Keaffaber (VT)
Southeast Region -	Luke David (TX)
	Micah Waguespack (LA)
Western Region -	Elena Roundy (UT)
	Aubrey Moore (WA)

Runners Up by Region: each receiving a \$5,000 scholarship:

Central Region -	Ethan Preyss (IN)
	Alexis McCullough (IL)
Midwest Region -	Bailey Mueller (WY)
	Matthew Watters (MN)
Northeast Region -	David Brophy (NY)
	Ryan Casey (NH)
Southeast Region -	Grady Stahl (FL)
	Erin Smith (OK)
Western Region -	Alyssa Roberts (AK)
	Hudson Blechman (CA)

Samsung American Legion Scholarships Recipients List 2025 (cont'd)

State Finalists: each receiving a \$1,250 scholarship:

AK	Matthew Mayer	NC	Cadence Crowe
AL	Kylie Calame	NC	James Williamson
AL	Aiden English	ND	Elizabeth LaDuke
AR	Victoria Mitchell	ND	Parker Zimmerman
AR	Benjamin Roper	NE	Cissanie Krohe

AZ	Jonathan Korn	NE	Ethan Samuelson
AZ	Ashley Nowacki	NH	Casey Shea
CA	Peyton Edberg	NJ	Riley Timinski
CO	Clare Edwards	NJ	Cary Bloom
CO	Brian Hawkins	NM	Ross Kohler
CT	Remy Socha	NM	Penelope Barry-Hoffman
CT	Jackson Ray	NV	William Phillips
DC	Elizabeth Bartos	NV	Eleanor Davis
DE	Jacob Kaminski	NY	Katherine Mazaroski
FL	Sophia Ross	OH	Douglas Stoudt
GA	Sloane Hudgens	OH	Isabelle DeBruin
GA	Colton Newham	OK	Wyatt Morris
HI	William Kayes	OR	Sasha Holt
HI	Madeline Lucy Nicolas	OR	Roy Jones
IA	Jackson Lampe	PA	Mackenzie Kubistek
ID	Samuel Honeycutt	RI	Nathaniel Samelson
ID	Josephine Klaas	RI	Ava Belanger
IN	Audrey Kixmiller	SC	Caden Taylor
KS	Elizabeth Woods	SC	Caroline Wheeler
KS	Jared Tucker	SD	Johnathan Burleson
KY	Jaxon Ratliff	SD	Brityn Davies
KY	Camille Gordon	TN	River Luce
LA	Hunter Layrisson	TN	Brooke Atkins
MA	Lincoln VanHeynigen	TX	Evelyn Fisher
MA	Alaina Ferree	UT	Jacob Vandenberg
MD	Sophia Leon	VA	Georgia Brennan
MD	Isaac Mister	VA	James Ward
ME	Isaiah Morgan	VT	Sophia Oszurek
ME	Julia Richards	WA	Zachary Jones
MI	Thomas Gunnerson	WI	Amelia Lundberg
MI	McKenna Twa	WI	Jayden Mosley
MN	Sarah Jensen	WV	Sydney Balcerek
MO	Kaitlyn King	WV	Zachary Farnsworth
MS	Mollene Blackstone	WY	Titus Vreeman
MS	Noah Michini		
MT	Eliza Seifert		
MT	Wade Stohlmann		

101 scholarships total: \$251,250

Addendum A

REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON ALL RESOLUTIONS NOT BEING REPORTED FOR APPROVAL

OCTOBER 6-7, 2025

The AMERICANISM COMMISSION recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions that are presently before this body for disposition.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Res. No. 2 2025 Natl Conv	Dept. Of Arkansas	<i>Coast Guard Eligibility for American Legion Grants and Benefits</i>	Hold for Further Study
Res. No. 3 2025 Natl Conv	Dept. Of Arkansas	<i>Remove Assigned Topics from Oratorical Contest</i>	Rejected
Res. No. 32 2025 Natl Conv	Dept. Of Utah	<i>National Flag Convention</i>	Rejected
Res. No. 34 2025 Natl Conv	Dept. Of Oklahoma	<i>Communications Standards for National Youth Programs</i>	Rejected
Res. No. 2866 2025	Dept. Of Illinois	<i>English Language Be Declared as the Official United States Language</i>	Received and Recorded
Res. No. 2877	Dept. Of Pennsylvania	<i>Amend Grading Criteria for Samsung American Legion Scholarship</i>	Hold for further study

(Signature) 

**Mark A. Avis, Chairman
Americanism Commission**

Wording to Use for Recommended Action:

- **Handled administratively**
- **Held for further study**
- **Received and Recorded**
- **Rejected**

The American Legion

Fall Meeting of the
National Executive Committee
Wednesday, Oct 8th, 2025



Afternoon Session
Commission Reports

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
REPORT TO THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 8-9, 2025

The Internal Affairs Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., October 6, and at 8:30 a.m., October 7, in 314A, National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana. We had nineteen members and several guests.

The report consists of the following sections: Standing Committee Reports; Subcommittee Reports; Program Reports; Staff Action Reports; and Actions on Assigned Resolutions.

I. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**MEMBERSHIP AND POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
MIKE COOKE (WY), CHAIRMAN**

The 2026 traditional membership goal is 1,367,356. As of October 7, 2025, the 2026 membership total is 799,809 – 1,772 members behind this same time for the traditional membership report of 2025. These membership results do not include newly acquired 2026 DMS members or encumbered renewals.

The overall intent of DMS has always been to engage these members, educate them about the benefits of being a member of The American Legion and encourage them to transfer into a local post. The total new DMS members acquired to date is 17,780. 20,083 encumbered members have renewed for 2026. These encumbered members should be used to replace those members who transfer to post everlasting or choose not to renew.

During the recent 50% Target Date, 47 departments exceeded the target date – this is thirteen departments more than the 2025 membership campaign. The 55% target is the next target date. This will be on October 15, 2025 – 48 departments have already met this goal.

National Commander Wiley outlined at the National Membership Workshop his six challenges to departments: Be The One, Better Together, Legislative Agenda, The 3 C's, Veterans and Children Foundation, and America 250.

Commander Wiley set a goal for posts and departments to work towards a renewal rate of 90% which in-turn will increase the renewal rate for the organization. Commander Wiley also set a goal to recruit 75,000 new traditional members. We need to increase the number of new members brought in each year if we are going to grow as an organization. To date, we have recruited 19,707. We need 55,293 new members to attain this goal.

The online renewal program continues to be a great tool for members. The 2025 campaign saw 212,105 members who renewed online. Members can set up their membership to auto-renew and now they have the option to renew their membership for three years at a time. 56,580 individuals have taken advantage of the multiyear option – 6,733 have joined and 49,847 individuals have renewed using the multiyear option. Members are encouraged to use one or both options when they log on to renew. When a member selects one of these options, it will decrease the number of renewal notices that will need to be sent out next year.

AUGUST 6-7, 2025

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Membership & Post Activities Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 6-7, 2025.

Present: Mike Cooke (WY), Steve Bartos (NE), Scott Conner (MA), Marty Conatser (IL), Dan Cooper (MI), James DeFrehn (SC), Chris Holt (TX), Terry Hanson (SD), Bonnie Huffman (ID), Richard Klose, Sr. (MT), Celeste Latham (IL), Chuck Mason (IN), Lisa McPhee (MA), Don Pankake (MN), Carmen Rosario (PR), Dennis Teynor (OH), Hayden Woods (OK).

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary – Update from Media & Communications

Jeff Stoffer, Director, and Henry Howard, Deputy Director of Media & Communications, presented exciting developments as the American Legion Family prepares to honor the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026.

Featured Video:

A special America 250 video was shown, featuring Past National Commanders Denise Rohan and Dan Seehafer (both from Wisconsin), highlighting the importance of this historic milestone. More information is available at www.America250.org.

America 250 Initiatives:

Key pathways to celebrate include:

- America's Field Trip
- Kick-Off Celebration
- Celebrating 250 Years of Service
- America Gives
- America Innovates
- America Waves
- Time Capsule
- July 4, 2026, Activations
- The Great American State Fair

American Legion Riders Involvement:

The National Flag Foundation (NFF) has invited the American Legion Riders to escort the American flag from Pittsburgh, PA to Washington, D.C. for the "Light to Unite" national event on July 4, 2026.

Learn more at: <https://nationalflagfoundation.org/>

Youth Engagement:

The "Our Country's Flag" comic book has been updated to resonate with 21st-century youth. The aim is to boost involvement from young Americans at both local and national levels.

Historic Tributes:

Upcoming commemorations include:

- Two Lights for Tomorrow (Paul Revere's Ride)
- Tributes to the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marines
- Battle of Bunker Hill
- A Pledge of Allegiance kick-off on July 4th, 2026, led by PNC David Rehbein (IA)

Promotional Toolkit & Social Media:

A toolkit is in development for the website to help local posts and members promote America 250 activities. Promotion through social media will continue to expand.

USA 250 Challenge:

Henry Howard introduced the USA 250 Challenge — launched by National Commander James LaCoursiere on July 3 — to promote fitness, mental wellness, and community service throughout the year.

- Open to individuals and teams
- Activities recorded in CPR/CSR Reports
- \$30 registration includes a custom USA 250 Challenge T-shirt
- Proceeds benefit the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF)
- Register here: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge>

M&PA Committee: Role in Celebrating America's 250th

Purpose:

To support and amplify The American Legion's efforts leading up to and through America's Semiquincentennial (250th Birthday in July 2026) by driving media outreach, community visibility, and public engagement around patriotism, education, and service.

Key Ways M&PA Can Assist:

1. Develop and Distribute a Media Engagement Toolkit - Support Jeff Stoffer by contributing ideas, templates, and strategies for the national toolkit for posts.

Include:

- Sample press releases
- Social media post templates (graphics & captions)
- How-to guides for engaging local media
- Best practices for event promotion (flyers, calendar listings)
- Talking points for interviews and speeches
- Ensure branding consistency with USA 250 and The American Legion identity.

2. Drive Local Media Involvement - Encourage every post to assign a media liaison or M&PA rep for the 250th campaign.

Promote a "Media First" mindset — every cleanup, parade, classroom visit, or ceremony should include a media plan:

- Invite local papers, radio, and TV
- Submit op-eds or community columns
- Share photos and stories with Department and National channels

3. Promote "Celebrate and Educate" Themes - Use 250th events to revive and amplify:

- Flag education & etiquette
- Vets in the Classroom
- Civics education and citizenship
- Service narratives (highlighting what military and veteran service means today)
- Collaborate with schools, libraries, and civic orgs to host events and forums tied to these themes.

4. Support the USA 250 Challenge
 - Treat the USA 250 Challenge as both a wellness initiative and a media & branding opportunity.
 - Feature participants in local news (human interest stories)
 - Encourage teams to wear the shirts at events
 - Run monthly spotlights on those logging hours for fitness, wellness, and service
5. Connect with America 250 State Commissions
 - Compile a list of state and territory America 250 Commissions
 - Share with posts and departments to help initiate contact
 - Offer M&PA support for messaging, presence, and branding in joint events
 - Where commissions are inactive, encourage the Legion Family to lead
6. Create a National Communications Calendar
 - Help posts plan ahead with a shared calendar of key milestones and ideas (e.g., Battle of Bunker Hill, Paul Revere Ride reenactment, July 4, etc.)
 - Suggest timely angles and hooks to connect with current events or seasonal campaigns
7. Brand Every Event
 - Ensure every 250th activity is visibly connected to:
 - The American Legion brand
 - USA 250 branding
 - The mission of patriotism and education

Toolkit Development: "If We Give Them a Recipe, They Will Cook":

M&PA Committee should offer:

- Simple event “recipes” for posts (e.g., "How to host a Flag Day ceremony + media kit")
- Quick-win templates that posts can customize
- Examples from other posts as models of success (short case studies)

Final Thought:

This is not just about celebration — it’s about reconnection and relevance. The 250th is a rare national moment to:

- Reignite patriotism
- Close divides between veterans and civilians
- Drive membership growth
- Reaffirm The American Legion as a community leader
- Media will be watching — the M&PA Committee must ensure they’re seeing Legionnaires leading the way.

Legion+ App & CRM System Update - Presented by Dave Sutton (IN), Director of IT

The Legion+ App was created to:

- Help posts update their information easily
- Serve as a recruitment and engagement tool

Though not fully launched, the app is on track to be ready by the end of the year.

Key features in progress:

- Integration with Personify for real-time data syncing
- New portal profile management with enhanced security
- Future ability for Post Adjutants and Commanders to approve new recruits directly through the app
- Upcoming tools for billing, donations, and accepting funds online

The IT team is actively seeking feedback from posts to learn: *What do posts need, and how can IT support them better?*

Data Integrity Measures - Important safeguards are being developed to:

- Prevent duplicate sign-ups through the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) system
- Improve member identification using email addresses

New Legion CRM System:

A new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is in development to improve how the Legion manages member data and interactions.

- Testing is scheduled to begin after the Fall Meetings
- Small group remote training sessions will be offered during rollout
- Goal: Better user experience, cleaner data management, improved service to members

Questions or feedback? Contact Dave Sutton at: dsutton@legion.org

Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) Strategy Update - Presented by Chuck Krupa, Senior Direct Marketing Strategist, Office of Fund Development

Changing Strategies for a New Generation:

The American Legion's approach to new member acquisition has shifted dramatically. Previously, recruitment was driven almost entirely by direct mail, which left younger veterans largely unreachable.

Modern Multi-Channel Outreach:

To expand reach and effectiveness, the Legion is now utilizing:

- Snippet videos
- Influencer marketing
- Comedy clips

These digital methods are designed to attract a broader audience — especially younger veterans — into the DMS pipeline.

2026 Membership Acquisition Goals - Target: Recruit 86,000 new members by 2026

Strategy includes:

- Improved renewal process
- Enhanced welcome kit
- A 7-week Email Welcome Series to engage and educate new members

Email Welcome Series Breakdown:

- Welcome to The American Legion – Account setup, benefits, post finder, basic training
- Explore MyLegion – Access member resources
- Connect on Social Media – Stay up-to-date across all platforms

- Be the One Initiative – Suicide prevention awareness
- Legislative Advocacy – Priorities and recent successes
- Legion Programs – Overview of opportunities for involvement
- Emblem Sales – Promote branded merchandise and support Legion programs

Current Results (2025 YTD):

- 70,000 total new members acquired
- 40,500 came via direct mail (new and expired members)
- First-Year DMS Renewal Rate: Currently over 56%, with a projected increase by year's end
- Estimated veteran population: 17.6 million
- Source: https://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp
- Data is available by state, county, gender, service branch, and era

Key Takeaways for Posts & Departments:

- Digital outreach is now outperforming traditional direct mail
- Ensure your post has an online presence to support digital leads
- The welcome journey is critical for retaining new members
- Posts should familiarize themselves with local veteran demographics to tailor outreach

Strategic Planning & Committee Subgroup Updates:

Subgroup A: Aligning with 21st Century Committee Report

Leads: Terry Hanson (SD), Celeste Latham (IL), Chris Holt (TX)

Accomplishments:

- Took the priorities in the 21st Century Report and incorporated them into the Strategic Plan into a simplified, reader-friendly version
- Plan was read, reviewed, and motioned for adoption by Hanson; seconded by Chuck Mason (IN)

Key Focus Areas:

- Reintroduce Post Evaluation Forms from the Officer's Guide
- Incorporate "Be The One" QR code to increase awareness and accessibility
- Modular training strategy:
 - Short, focused segments (5–15 minutes)
 - Avoid long videos to maintain engagement
 - Potential "Train-the-Trainer" model
 - Encourage on-site training by departments/districts (e.g., the Massachusetts model)

Challenges:

- Training delivery: Need creative ways to reach members at the post level
- One size won't fit all, but portions of the plan will suit most departments
- Emphasis on not dropping the ball on training implementation

Subgroup B: Goal Strategies & Target Dates:

Leads: Dan Cooper (MI), Carmen Rosario (PR), Bonnie Huffman (ID)

Main Objective: Support departments in meeting and exceeding membership goals

Proposed Recognition Strategy:

- Market Penetration Incentives:
 - +5% = Plaque
 - +10% = Trophy
 - +15% = Cash Award
 - Inspired by a prior program from PNC Clarence Hill
- “Most Improved” Department Plaque
 - Based on performance as of the May 15th target date

Calculating Market Penetration:

- Divide number of members by estimated veteran population in the state
- Note: Does not account for deaths or out-of-state members

Status:

- Report was accepted and filed for further review and implementation

Subgroup C: Awards Manual Updates:

Leads: Scott Conner (MA), Dennis Teynor (OH)

Goal: Make awards more effective, financially sustainable, and streamlined

Proposed Changes to the Gold Brigade Program:

- Replace annual plaques with certificates (except 5th and 10th year)
- Milestone years (5th and 10th) will still receive plaques
- Year 1 recipients receive branded polos/sweaters/jackets with no year/date to allow for:
 - Patches or hashmarks to be added in future years
- Consider a "Master Recruiter" cap at 5th-year milestone

Future Action:

- Survey Gold Brigade members to offer cash in lieu of plaque/jacket

Status:

- Report was received and filed for continued development

Strategic Next Steps (Recap):

- Subgroup A: Begin implementing training plans
- Subgroup B & C: Continue refining strategies within current group framework

Leading Candidate Briefing – Dan K. Wiley (KS)

- Thanked M&PA Committee for hard work during a difficult year with dues increase
- Reinforced the National Commander’s “Three C’s”:
 1. Communication
 2. Community

3. Camaraderie

- “Be The One” remains top priority
- Strong emphasis on:
 - Clear communication
 - More member training
 - Train-the-Trainer programs
 - Reactivating Buddy Checks
 - Post-level visibility and impact

Training Updates – Erin Bossen (IN), Member Engagement & Training Coordinator

Training Tuesday Schedule:

- September: Resolutions – WHEREAS Clauses
- October: Post Officer Roles & Responsibilities
- November: Service Animals
- December: *No training*
- January 2026: Community Engagement
- February 2026: Post Conflict Resolution
- March 2026: Socializing Resolutions

Initiatives:

- Intake form launched in April – 40+ applicants for Train-the-Trainer roles
- Exploring adding Legion program-based trainings (Oratorical, Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports)
- Servant Leadership model emphasized (10 traits: empathy, listening, stewardship, etc.)
- Columbia University will present on suicide prevention at National Convention
- Upcoming panels at National Convention:
 - Department Legion College leaders
 - Chaplains on veteran spiritual health
 - CPR/CSR best departments showcase

Future Events:

- NRIC 2026: Indianapolis and Atlanta, GA

Ideas or suggestions for training? Email: ebossen@legion.org

Strategic & Organizational Follow-Ups:

Group Actions:

- Group A will form a Subgroup A to:
 - Develop a Post Analysis Form
 - Reintroduce the Post Evaluation Form (from the Officer’s Guide)
 - Add Strategic Plan elements and a “Be The One” QR Code to training documents

Virtual Meetings:

- M&PA Committee will maintain the same virtual meeting day/time moving forward

Final Thoughts:

- Don't limit discussions to just membership. Look at:
 - Training
 - Engagement
 - Retention
- Use pillars of History, Legacy, and Vision
- Provide feedback on what your departments *need*, and national will help support
- Reassess if Training Tuesdays are effective or need to evolve

Key Takeaways:

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
Training	Keep it short, focused, and frequent; use train-the-trainer and post/district outreach.
Programs	Use existing programs as tools for training and community connection.
Language/Access	Translate materials where needed; use digital and in-person strategies.
Post Evaluation	Bring back analysis tools to help posts grow and self-assess.
Youth & Community	Engage younger veterans by connecting through gaming, QR codes, and real-world impact.
Accountability	Create department-level training liaisons and protocols.

The report of the Membership and Post Activities Committee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE HON. VINCENT M. GAUGHAN (IL), CHAIRMAN

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana at 8:30 a.m. October 6, 2025. Present were Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan (IL) and Mark C. Seavey (VA), National Judge Advocate. The chairman noted there were no resolutions before the committee and the state of our constitution is strong.

The report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

SAL COMMANDER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE JOSEPH M. MAYNE (MN), CHAIRMAN

Since the close of the Fall 2025 NEC in Indianapolis, the Sons of The American Legion National Commander's Advisory Committee (SALCA) held five meetings:

- June 10, 2025 (Virtual)
- July 15, 2025 (Virtual)
- August 21-25, 2025 (In Person-National Convention)
- September 16, 2025 (Virtual)
- October 2-5, 2025 (Fall Meetings-Indianapolis)

SALCA Committee Members:

Chairman: Joe Mayne
Vice- Chairman: Chuck Gannon
Member: Cliff Smith
Member: Roy Smith (TAL member)
Member: Frank MacDonald (TAL member)
Member: Gene Sacco
Member: Michael Fox
Member: Don “JR” Hall
Member: Joseph Navarette (first meeting Fall 2025 NEC)
Consultant: Jeff Van Horn

SALCA Meeting Actions-Completed June 10, 2025 - October 5, 2025

- Interviewed prospective National Commander candidates.
- Met with TAL Staff and Volunteer Leadership in Indianapolis on October 3, 2025.
- Delivered the first Committee/Commission Chairman/Vice-Chairman’s Workshop on May 1, 2025.
- Coordinated National Officer and Commission/Committee chairmen and member vetting for appointments with The CONA Working Group.

SALCA Working Projects:

- Membership Training and Development and reorganization of priorities.
- 2025 National Convention after-action review with Convention & Meetings Committee.
- Following up on TAL/SAL Resolution process presented 10/03/2024 ... update on status.
- Status of SAL OOA and Governance Documents.
- Determine submission/processing issues for Consolidated Squadron Reports—Key Issue.
- Pivot on our Strategic Planning Century Committee-now being redirected to SAL IA as a SALCA working group. (Committee On Strategic Planning and Incentives)
- 100th Anniversary Committee Ad Hoc Committee converting to Standing Committee.
- Development of Legacy of Excellence Award through SAL National Honors Council.
- SAL monthly newsletter (The Millennium) distribution growing thanks to Andy Proffet.
- “Flame Spotter” program to identify workers and leaders in Detachments.
- Detachment Development Program ... to engage key states of various sizes with successful, dynamic processes and programs.
- Status of all past Resolutions. (held for further study ... by whom?)

The report of the SAL Commander’s Advisory Committee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

2025 - 2026 SAL NATIONAL COMMISSIONS			
AMERICANISM			
Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Hicks	Jeffrey	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Hammerschmidt	Gerald	*2027
MEMBER	Vozar	Michael	*2026

MEMBER	Higgins, Jr.	Robert	*2026
MEMBER	Sherbourne	Christopher	*2026
MEMBER	Limanek	Jessie	*2027
MEMBER	Vanice	Tyler	*2026
CONSULTANT	Downer, Jr.	Herman	*2026
CONSULTANT	McCrary	Shawn	*2026
COMMANDER REP.	Herrington	Jon "Mark"	*2026

FINANCE

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Cleary	Edward	*2026
MEMBER	Van Horn (IL)	Jeffrey	*2026
MEMBER	Johnson, IV	Glen	*2026
MEMBER	Walter	Michael	*2026
MEMBER	Murdough	Keith	*2026
MEMBER	Skelley (TX)	Thom	*2026

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Hill	William "Bill"	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Kirschner	Michael	*2027
MEMBER	Vrabel, Jr.	Jeffrey	*2026
MEMBER	Murphy, III	William	*2026
MEMBER	Torres	Juan	*2026
MEMBER	Harris	Terry	*2027
CONSULTANT	Kennedy, Sr.	Michael	*2026
CONSULTANT	Blue	Dennis	*2026

LEGISLATIVE

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Kessler	Bernie	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Curtis	Charles	*2027
MEMBER	Donnelly	Michael	*2026
MEMBER	Miller	Larry	*2026
MEMBER	Pulsipher	Noble	*2028
MEMBER	Tolbert	Rodney	*2027
CONSULTANT	Webb	Tim	*2027

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS (M&C)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Chaplin	Kevin	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Crevelli	Robert "Bobby"	*2028
MEMBER	Evans	Doug	*2026
MEMBER	Heiser	Douglas	*2026
MEMBER	Fayer, Sr.	Mark	*2026
MEMBER	Theroux	Gene	*2027
CONSULTANT	Myers, III	Rusty	*2026
CONSULTANT	Mennel	David	*2026
CONSULTANT	Cleary	Edward	*2026

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION (VA&R)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Williamson	Bruno	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Kabella	Todd	*2026
MEMBER	Seegers, Jr.	Edgar "Eddy"	*2026
MEMBER	Sutterlin	William	*2026
MEMBER	DeAngelis	Peter	*2026
MEMBER	Arend, Jr.	David	*2026

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION (VE&E)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	VerStreate, Jr.	Daryl	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Kingston	Jon	*2026
MEMBER	Pearson	David	*2026
MEMBER	Davies (MD)	John	*2026
MEMBER	Narvaez	Angel	*2026
MEMBER	Barry	Robert	*2026

2025 - 2026 SAL SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS			
100th ANNIVERSARY AD-HOC			
Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Vanice	Tyler	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Winkelmann	Kevin	*2026
MEMBER	Cruz-Rodriguez	Juan	*2026
MEMBER	Faust	David	*2026

MEMBER	Garrett	J. Scott	*2026
MEMBER	Gibbs	Greg "Doc"	*2026
MEMBER	Towns, Jr.	William	*2026

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS (CONA)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Matoska	William "Bill"	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Ray	Harl "Butch"	*2026
MEMBER	Brown	Robert "Bob"	*2026
MEMBER	Cerullo	Christopher	*2026
MEMBER	Cisna	Thomas	*2026
MEMBER	Faust	David	*2026
MEMBER	Allisot, Jr.	Donald	*2026
MEMBER	Robichaux	Byron	*2026
MEMBER	Stephens	David	*2026
MEMBER	Cotten	Michael	*2026
CONSULTANT	Cook	Chris	*2026
CONSULTANT	Weinzirl	Larry "Bear"	*2026

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AD-HOC

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Navarreté	Steven	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Curry	Brandon	*2026
MEMBER	Brower	Tim	*2026
MEMBER	Monserud	Michael	*2026
MEMBER	O'Connell	Kevin	*2026
MEMBER	Roberts, III	James	*2026

NATIONAL HONORS COUNCIL (NHC)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Faust	David	*2026
MEMBER	Collier	Kevin	*2026
MEMBER	Fox	Ned	*2026
MEMBER	Hill	William "Bill"	*2026
MEMBER	VACANT		

NEC LIAISON COMMITTEE (NECLC)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Stewart	Jim	*2026
COORDINATOR	Smith	Clifford	*2026

NVC SELECTION COMMITTEE (NVCSC)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Carlton	Christopher	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Nelson	Gary	*2026
CENTRAL	Christie (IL)	Matt	*2026
MIDWEST	Deacon	Michael	*2026
WESTERN	Fox	Ned	*2026
NORTHEAST	Manzo	Robert	*2026
SOUTHEAST	Gower	Steve	*2026

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Matoska	William "Bill"	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Ray	Harl "Butch"	*2026
MEMBER	Cook	Chris	*2026
MEMBER	Hill	William "Bill"	*2026
MEMBER	Wright	Anthony	*2026
CONSULTANT	Monserud	Michael	*2026
CONSULTANT	Skelley (TX)	Thom	*2026
CONSULTANT	Weinzirl	Larry "Bear"	*2026

2025 - 2026			
SAL NATIONAL COMMITTEES			
CHILDREN AND YOUTH (C&Y)			
Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Trout	Jeffrey	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Reachard	Christopher	*2026
MEMBER	Wood	Tracy	*2026
MEMBER	Bourne, Jr.	Elwood	*2026
MEMBER	Shedd	Brian	*2026
MEMBER	Miller	David	*2026
CONSULTANT	Miller, III	Isaac	*2026

CHILD WELL-BEING FOUNDATION (CWF)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Nave	Mark	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Lipman	Sanford "Sandy"	*2026
MEMBER	Chapman	Lyle	*2026
MEMBER	Fleming, Jr.	George	*2026
MEMBER	Coakley, II	Jon	*2026
MEMBER	Sansoucie	John	*2026
CONSULTANT	Meija	John	*2026
CONSULTANT	Cousins	Kenneth	*2026

NATIONAL CONVENTION AND MEETINGS

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Miles	Blair	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Van Patten II	Timothy	*2026
MEMBER	Vassar, Jr.	Tommy	*2026
MEMBER	Sambets	Gerard	*2026
MEMBER	Watry	Allen	*2026
MEMBER	Hall	Clifford	*2026
MEMBER	Curry	Steve	*2026
CONSULTANT	Maxwell	Max	*2026
CONSULTANT	Hartline, Jr.	Ray	*2026
CONSULTANT	Huntley	Richard	*2026
CONSULTANT	Natale	Mark	*2026
CONSULTANT	Johnson, IV	Glen	*2026

MEMBERSHIP AND SQUADRON ACTIVITIES (M&SA)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Ray	Harl "Butch"	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Miller	Jason	*2026
NORTHEAST	Hasselhan, III	Henry	*2026
SOUTHEAST	Williams (VA)	Scott	*2026
CENTRAL	Stander	Phil	*2026
MIDWEST	Hanson	Casey	*2026
WESTERN	Griffis	Matthew	*2026
MEMBER	Krupco	Matthew	*2026
MEMBER	Gray	George	*2026
MEMBER	Pepe	Jason	*2026

CONSULTANT	Brison	Michael	*2026
CONSULTANT	Edwards	Jimmy	*2026
CONSULTANT	Manwell	Gary	*2026
CONSULTANT	Sherman	Michael	*2026

MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT (MT&D)

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	Davis	Shawn	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Cox	Steve	*2026
MEMBER	Hollis	William	*2026
MEMBER	Obremski	Michael	*2026
MEMBER	Kilstrom	Mark	*2026
MEMBER	Monserud	Michael	*2026
CONSULTANT	Parker	Dave	*2026

SUB-COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Title	Last	First	Expires
CHAIRMAN	McCue	Mark	*2026
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Curry	Brandon	*2026
MEMBER	Marsden	Jay	*2026
MEMBER	Clark	Robert "Bob"	*2026
MEMBER	Deal	Thomas	*2026
MEMBER	Sherman	Christopher	*2026
COMMANDER'S REP.	Roberts	Ronald	*2026

II. INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE STEVEN SPERL (AZ), CHAIRMAN

The Training Subcommittee convened in the Internal Affairs & Membership conference room at National Headquarters to evaluate national training strategy, review program implementation, and align priorities with organizational goals, emphasizing cohesion across national training efforts and measurable member impact.

Attendees:

Steven C. Sperl (AZ), Chairman
 John F. DeBisschop, III (CT), Vice Chairman
 Eric W. Measles (CA)
 Jennifer M. Rehbein (IA)
 John W. Knox (MI)
 Timothy J. Collmer (NY)

Patricia Harris (NC)
David J. Clinger (FL), Consultant
David L. Gough (WI), Consultant
Erin E. Bossen (IN), Staff Support

Training Tuesday Update - The subcommittee reviewed Training Tuesday sessions delivered during the reporting window and confirmed attendance thresholds at twenty minutes. Sessions on May 27, 2025 (74 attendees), July 29, 2025 (28 attendees), and September 30, 2025 (35 attendees) produced a total of 126 unique participants, including four staff. Participants valued interactive scenarios, expanded Q&A, and post session materials. The subcommittee will continue the series with Resolutions Workshop IV on the resolved clause, Post Operations focused on officer roles and Post Executive Committee structure, Community Engagement, and Post Conflict Resolution. The group will draft outlines following Fall meetings and target instructor selection by the end of October.

NRIC Review and Planning - The subcommittee reviewed feedback from Denver and Boston and noted strengths in applied learning and peer discussion alongside needs for improved pacing and A/V coordination. The 2026 NRICs are confirmed for Indianapolis on January 31, 2026, and Atlanta on February 7, 2026. The team will prioritize departments within driving range, employ QR code flyers and leader focused information.

National American Legion College (NALC) - Status the National American Legion College (NALC) is scheduled for November 16–21, 2025. The 2025 NALC curriculum has been finalized with emphasis on Servant Leadership, mentorship, and structured, participant centered outcomes. National staff issued acceptance notifications and will distribute read ahead packets following planning meetings. A post cohort survey will measure impact and inform 2026 improvements.

National Instructor Corps & Development Pipeline - National launched the training onboarding process last April and established an instructor pool of approximately forty vetted facilitators. We prioritize this pool first when filling Training Tuesday, NRIC, NALC, Membership Workshop, and ad hoc opportunities. The pipeline remains open—prospective instructors can apply at any time from any department—and National coordinates onboarding and rubric based evaluation to ensure consistent delivery. Coordination meetings with instructors will maintain standards, gather field feedback, and plan for future training opportunities; sessions are scheduled for January 7, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. ET, and April 1, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. ET.

Strategic Integration - The subcommittee continues to align planning with the 21st Century Report and prioritize mentorship, alumni tracking, platform modernization, and inclusive digital access. The group affirmed the need to bridge national efforts with post level impact by sharing adaptable materials and enabling local facilitation.

Next Steps and Assignments - The Training Coordinator maintains a current standardized presentation template and curriculum outlines for NRIC sessions to strengthen continuity and branding. The Training Coordinator will convene the January 7 and April 1 training subcommittee meetings.

The report of the Training Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

21ST CENTURY SUBCOMMITTEE
FRANCIS J. MACDONALD, JR. (MA), VICE CHAIRMAN

Attendees:

Francis J. MacDonald, Jr. (MA), Chairman
Danny P. Muth (TX) – Vice Chairman
Paul Gonthier (AL)
Eric V. Warthen, Sr. (MD)
Sandra E. Davis (MA)
Mark Woodsmall (IN), Staff Support

Fall 2025 Meeting of the 21st Century Subcommittee

On Monday, October 6th, 2025, at 10:00 AM, members of the 21st Century Subcommittee convened to discuss progress that has been made regarding the implementation of the 21st Century Report. Subcommittee members were given a copy of the Strategic Plan that was prepared by the M&PA Committee's 21st Century Subcommittee and had the opportunity to receive a briefing from Chairman Cooke. Chairman Cooke discussed with the subcommittee that the key to moving forward with the work that has been done is to ensure that it is disseminated down to the department and post levels. Chairman Cooke informed the subcommittee that he looked forward to any input that they may have.

During their discussion the subcommittee reviewed and agreed with the base of the M&PA subcommittee's plan. It was then moved that the plan should be distributed to the departments for dissemination to the posts before the end of calendar year 2025. This will allow their work to commence as soon as possible.

The subcommittee recommends that when the Strategic Plan is released the M&PA Committee begin the work of aligning the plan with SMART Goals of how the Strategic Plan is to be accomplished.

- **S – Specific:** Well defined, clear, and stating exactly what is to be accomplished
- **M – Measurable:** It must be something that can be tracked to allow us to know how close we are to achieving it.
- **A – Attainable:** Should be realistic that can be accomplished in the given timeframe and available resources.
- **R – Realistic:** Must be aligned with our broader objectives.
- **T – Time-bound:** the goal must have a specific deadline or target date, thus simplifying the ability to stay on track and maintain accountability.

The report of the 21st Century Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
JAMES R. BOJANOWSKI (NY), CHAIRMAN

Attendees:

James Bojanowski (NY), Chairman
William Roy (NH)
John Britt (SC)
Kirk Thurston (ME), Consultant
Nick Arnett (MO), Staff Support

The primary focus of the 2025 CPR Review Team was to increase the post completion rate across departments and improve tools, communications, and training that support timely and accurate submission of the Consolidated Post Report (CPR).

CPR suggestions/recommendations (2025-2026):

- **Modernize the printed CPR for accessibility and efficiency.**
 - Reduce spare copies of CPR form to one. Posts/Departments may make copies as necessary. Only one copy needs to be filed with national.
 - Increase font size and reformat the CPR form as a concise two-page document.
 - Printed CPR should be 8 ½ by 11, versus the current 14-inch paper.
- **Enhance MyLegion CPR functionality:**
 - Add an option to attach supporting documents/files to MyLegion CPR submissions as stated in the instructions.
 - Implement a post-submission “Print Standard CPR/CSR” option that renders the official form layout for post/department filing, sharing, reporting, and department-level award packets. It is currently a 10+ page printed report.
 - Implement an automatic submit feature: any MyLegion CPR draft with two (2) or more responses auto-submits on July 1 while still permitting manual submission earlier in the year.
 - Ensure departments have access in Personify to pull CPR Status and CPR Summary reports.
 - Maintain parity across all versions (MyLegion, downloadable internet form, and paper) in fields, instructions, and output formatting.
 - Potentially add a line item for Military Honors hours.
- **Recognition and incentives:**
 - Encourage departments to create and distribute awards for CPR submissions (e.g., early submission, quality/impact, completeness) and for districts with high submission rates.
 - Encourage departments to require a CPR submission from each post to be eligible for any department-level post awards.

- **Communications and messaging:**
 - Staff will continue CPR messaging and status reporting in the Dispatch.
 - Request Media & Communications to develop a one-page Legion Magazine article explaining CPR purpose/importance, submission methods (MyLegion, paper), and department/national awards.
 - Encourage departments to publish completion-rate updates late in the Legion year to drive final-month submissions.
- **Best practices and training:**
 - Staff will create and distribute a CPR Best Practices guide for departments (collection tips, internal timelines, district coaching, and quality checks).
 - Execute a CPR-focused Training Tuesday in April 2026.
 - Host a CPR expert panel as part of national convention training offerings.
 - Provide a CPR training session at the Americanism Conference.
 - Continue to integrate CPR content into National Membership Workshop and other national/dept training as appropriate.
- **Reporting efficiency and analytics.**
 - Reduce the number of printed pages for a submitted CPR by generating a summarized output (with detailed data available digitally).
 - Explore an “Impact Report” in Personify that aggregates CPR data into department- and district-level visuals/narratives to communicate local outcomes.

The report of the Consolidated Post Report Review Subcommittee was received and filed by the Internal Affairs Commission.

III. PROGRAM REPORTS

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

Over the past year the Sons of The American Legion continued as a committed member of the American Legion Family and achieved positive gains in all areas. Over the period we increased our support of our Nation’s veterans, children and youth, and local communities.

The SAL was the single largest contributor to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation in 2025 raising \$300,187.13, which is \$0.76 per member. Total donations from the Sons of The American Legion to CWF now exceeds \$10 million since 1987.

For the 2024-2025 Administrative Year, the Sons of The American Legion had 7,740,001 volunteer hours. The monetary value of these hours is equivalent to \$269,274,628.

The 2024-2025 SAL Accomplishments Report is included at the end of this report. These numbers continue to rise as the organization grows in membership and we increase compliance with reporting.

The SAL surpassed the 400,000 members mark shortly before the 2025 National Convention. Our membership goal for 2026 is 409,244 members. As of September 29, 2025, we have 88,276 members which is 21.57% of goal. Our current renewal rate is 19.35%.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION **53RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

At the Fifty-Third Annual National Convention in Tampa, Florida there were 1,055 registered delegates, 21 alternates, 92 guests and 54 Detachments.

We received donations totaling \$111,414.25 from various squadrons and detachments. The breakout is as follows:

\$ 59,876 for the Child Well-Being Foundation
\$ 500 for the Children's Miracle Network
\$ 750 for Fisher House
\$ 1,150 for the Legacy Scholarship Fund
\$ 8,350 for the National Emergency Fund
\$ 22,185 for Operation Comfort Warriors
\$ 16,193 for the Veterans and Children Foundation
\$ 2,460 for other programs

There was one resolution submitted for consideration at the National Convention, an amendment held for further study while The American Legion is reviewing the SAL's Constitution and Bylaws.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FALL **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

One hundred eighty-three (183) National Executive Committeemen, Alternates, Commission and Committee members and guests attended the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee meeting representing fifty-five detachments. The attendance was outstanding showing that our members are truly dedicated to the programs.

We received donations from our members totaling \$12,340 to the following programs:

\$ 9,290 for the Child Well-Being Foundation
\$ 750 for the National Emergency Fund
\$ 1,800 for the Veterans and Children Foundation
\$ 500 for the Children's Organ Transplant Association

Three resolutions were adopted by the SAL NEC:

SAL Resolution 12 – Spring 2025 (Donation of \$250,000 to VCF)

SAL Resolution 4 – Spring 2025 (100% of Quota Membership Award)

SAL Resolution 1 – Fall 2025 (Rename the Public and Media Communications Commission)

The resolution recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee can be found in *Addendum B*.

CONCLUSION

The Sons of The American Legion is continuing to strive to assist The American Legion in all aspects. Our dedication to the veterans and their families can only strengthen our bond within the American Legion Family. We will continue to ensure more productive, in-depth programs so that the Sons of The American Legion will become a stronger asset to The American Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion will continue to work for the benefit of our veterans who helped make this country great and for the children who will help make this country even greater.

On behalf of the members of the Sons of The American Legion, I would like to thank the Internal Affairs Commission and the division staff for their help and guidance. A special thanks to Mr. Robert E. Newman, Mr. James Baca, Mr. Matt Herndon, and Mr. Kevin Mook for their continued perseverance and dedication to the SAL program.

We continue to see increased participation within the commissions and committees of our National Executive Committee from which our further growth is ensured. The war on terrorism, which has put our troops in harm's way, has only strengthened our resolve to ensure the success of the programs of the American Legion Family.

IV. NATIONAL STAFF UPDATES;

Please note: Financial information included in these reports are 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.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Since its creation in 1989, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has awarded nearly \$10M to American Legion members and posts. Up to \$3,000 is available for members, and up to \$10,000 is available for posts that, because of a declared natural disaster, temporarily lose the ability to maintain existing Four Pillar programs within the community.

In 2024 we approved 109 grants (95 individual and 14 post) totaling \$313,697.98. Most of the grants distributed in 2024 were for Hurricanes Helene and Milton. We had NEF grant requests that were approved within the following departments in 2024: Departments of Florida (83), Georgia (1), Indiana (1), Iowa (6), Louisiana (2), New York (1), North Carolina (2), Philippines (1), South Carolina (3), South Dakota (2), Tennessee (4), and Texas (3).

Since Jan. 1, 2025, we have granted \$150,157.76 in emergency assistance to 32 members and eight posts, compared to \$43,411.19 on this date in 2024. So far there have been 147 donations for a total of \$303,779.00.

The trust has \$6,558,756.81 as of August 31, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS (CPR)

Thirteen departments accomplished 100% CPR reporting and were presented with national commander plaques onstage at the national convention. All 75% - 99% were mailed certificates of

commendation and their accomplishments and were applauded onstage. The national reporting average is 66.85% as of the reporting deadline of July 1, 2025.

ALASKA	100.00%	MONTANA	100.00%	TENNESSEE	96.82%
ARKANSAS	100.00%	NEBRASKA	100.00%	FLORIDA	95.26%
DELAWARE	100.00%	NEW MEXICO	100.00%	OREGON	94.59%
INDIANA	100.00%	UTAH	100.00%	OHIO	83.91%
MARYLAND	100.00%	WISCONSIN	100.00%	CALIFORNIA	78.52%
MINNESOTA	100.00%	WYOMING	100.00%	NEVADA	75%
MISSOURI	100.00%	WEST VIRGINIA	97.06%	ALL OTHERS BELOW	75%

Geiger Operations Center continued to collect CPR data until September 12, 2025, from our 11,742 active posts. The additional CPR forms submitted by that date raised the percentage to **76.66 percent** which added important data for national program use and our annual report to Congress.

The 2025-2026 reporting period runs from June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026. We have a CPR launch date for 2025-2026 to be available on Mylegion.org no later than November 12, 2025.

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS (OCW)

Eligibility:

Facilities: Those eligible for OCW assistance include Department of Defense (DoD) and VA medical facilities and clinics, wounded warrior regiments, battalions, or units, Soldier & Family Assistance Centers, or any other DoD medical care facility. State funded veterans' facilities are not eligible for this program. Other non-profit facilities serving veterans or active-duty service members, e.g., USO, Fisher House, etc., are considered on a case-by-case basis. OCW ***is not*** a program designed to provide facilities assistance with building construction, improvements, repairs, or furnishings.

Events: Sponsors of veteran-centric events focused on veterans can apply for a grant to cover the cost of items directly benefiting the veteran (food, take home' items, safety/medical items, consumables). This includes, but is not limited to fishing trips, cookouts, rafting/camping trips, sporting events, and trips to amusement parks. OCW funds ***cannot*** be used for administrative overhead, salaries, rental spaces, or anything that does not directly benefit the veterans involved in the event.

As a rule, OCW does not give grants directly to other non-profit organizations unless the event is sponsored by a post or department and The American Legion receives prominent credit and name recognition for its sponsorship. The American Legion should always be the primary sponsor in these situations, so the public knows that The American Legion is providing the assistance.

Impact:

Nearly 1,000 servicemembers, veterans and their families were directly impacted by Operation Comfort Warriors in 2024, either by participating in an OCW-sponsored event or receiving care at a grant-receiving facility. \$89,639.57 was distributed through 2 individual and 7 event grants. In 2025, 8 grants have been distributed in the amount of \$95,500.00 impacting over 1,300 servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

THE AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY RUN

The National Legacy Run is much more than a once-a-year event, it also serves as the catalyst for department fundraising efforts and in-state legacy runs throughout the year. The American Legion Riders are the only program under The American Legion that includes the entire American Legion Family, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Son's of The American Legion.

To begin our 19th annual run, The American Legion and the broader veteran community continued the exciting mission to raise funds for the Veterans & Children's Foundation. This year's ride traversed 5 states and covered 815 miles starting at Post 8 in South Boston VA, and ending at Wesley Chapel Harley Davidson in Lutz, FL. We left South Boston with over 300 motorcycles lined up behind Ken Nadeau and Dave Heredia, spanning more than 5 miles and averaging 275 motorcycles per day during the run. As we rode the coastline of eastern America, we interacted with 4 American Legion posts, where we enjoyed the hospitality of our Legion Family and community partners. We relished riding past historical bases like Fort Bragg heading into the coastline of North Carolina toward Myrtle Beach. Spreading esprit de corps to our fellow Devil Dogs in Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. Blazing past Fort Stewart's mechanized infantry division into the bold city of Jacksonville, FL.

Throughout the journey we had the distinguished honor of seeing locations like the Woodpeckers Baseball Stadium, where our national commander threw out the first pitch, the Battleship North Carolina, Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown, Bryant Commons Park, POW/MIA Memorial Park and a final leg heading into Northern Tampa Bay, ending in Wesley Chapel Harley Davidson in Lutz, FL.

The final total was over \$855,000 at the national convention.

V. RESOLUTIONS

INTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTION ON ASSIGNED RESOLUTIONS

Approved and Forwarded to the Resolutions Subcommittee:

Resolution No. 24	Appreciation to Host City
Resolution No. 25	Authorize Issuance of a Temporary Charter to a Foreign Post
Resolution No. 26	Rescinding of Internal Affairs Resolutions

Approved and forwarded to the Finance Commission:

Resolution No. 27	Sons of The American Legion Veterans and Children's Fund (VCF) Donation
Resolution No. 28	Membership Study Committee

Other Resolutions:

Disposition of all other resolutions is addressed in Addendum A.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your assistance and for giving us the opportunity to appear before you. Our commission is "Still Serving America."

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert E. Newman".

ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

Attachments: Addendum A – Report to Subcommittee on Resolutions
 Addendum B – List of Sons of The American Legion Resolutions

**REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ON ALL RESOLUTIONS NOT BEING REPORTED FOR APPROVAL**

October 8-9, 2025

The Internal Affairs Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
2850 (2024, DEC)	Virginia	Investigation of the Department of District of Columbia	Hold for Further Study
2864 (2025, DC)	Illinois	Increase Income Tax Deduction for Volunteer Mileage	Reject
2876 (2025, DC)	Pennsylvania	Endorsement of E. Michael Stelacio for National Vice Commander	Receive and File
16 (2025, CONV.)	California	Verification Service for Membership	Reject
17 (2025, CONV.)	California	Revise Cost of Paid-Up-For-Life Membership	Reject
18 (2025, CONV.)	California	Establish National Esports Program	Reject
20 (2025, CONV.)	Puerto Rico	Sons Emergency Fund	Hold for Further Study
26 (2025, CONV.)	Florida	Red Star Service Banner	Reject


ROBERT E. NEWMAN, Chairman
Internal Affairs Commission

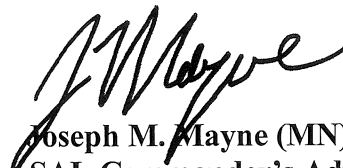
***Internal Affairs Commission Report to
National Executive Committee
The American Legion
October 8-9, 2025***

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

In compliance with Resolution 21 “entitled”, “Establish Procedure for Handling Matters Originating from SAL National Conventions and SAL National Executive Committees”, adopted by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion at its meeting April 30-May 1, 1973, this is to report disposition made by the Internal Affairs Commission of SAL actions taken at the National Executive Committee October 4-5, 2025.

The below recommendations for the SAL National Executive Committee were reviewed by the SAL Commander’s Advisory Committee and the Internal Affairs Commission. The recommended actions are listed below.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
SAL Resolution 4 – Spring, 2025	Membership and Squadron Activities Committee	100% Membership Award	Approve
SAL Resolution 4 – Spring, 2025	Finance Commission	Veterans and Children’s Fund (VCF) Donation	Approve
SAL Resolution 1- Fall, 2025	Internal Affairs Commission	Rename of the Public and Media Communications Commission	Approve


**Joseph M. Mayne (MN), Chairman
SAL Commander’s Advisory Committee**

The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on
May 3-4, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 2

No.: SAL Resolution 4 - Spring, 2025
Title: 100% Membership Award
Origin: Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

WHEREAS, The National Membership Committee needs to establish and implement an incentive program to reward those Detachments that attain their 100% Membership Goal by the established May target date; and

WHEREAS, Each Detachment Commander is the driving force for membership in his Detachment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 3-4, 2025, That the National Executive Committee hereby authorizes the awarding of a \$100.00 Gift Certificate from National Emblem Sales to each Detachment Commander that attains 100% membership by the May target date; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the gift certificate be used by November 30 of the year awarded, and must be used at one time and cannot be used at National Convention or Department Convention locations; and,

RESOLVED, That Resolution No. 4 (NEC, Oct. 1991, Subject: "100% Membership Award") be, and is hereby, rescinded; and, be it finally

SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒
Rejected ☐
Referred to: ☐
Other Action ☐

SAL Resolutions Chairman Name and Signature

signature required

Nedley C. Fox - meeting on 10/03/2025

NEDLEY C. FOX, Chairman
SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions

SAL Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

Daryl VerStreate, Jr. - meeting on 05/02/2025

DARYL VERSTREATE, JR., Chairman
SAL Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

SAL Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

William G. Hill - meeting on 10/04/2025

WILLIAM G. HILL, Chairman
SAL Internal Affairs Commission

SAL Finance Commission Chairman Name and Signature

signature required

Jeffrey Van Horn - meeting on 10/04/2025

JEFFREY VAN HORN, Chairman
SAL Finance Commission

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

Held on
May 3-4, 2025
Resolution

Page 2 of 2

No.: SAL Resolution 4 - Spring, 2025
Title: 100% Membership Award
Origin: Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect immediately following the acceptance of this resolution by The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee; to be awarded at the 2026 Sons of The American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒
Rejected ☐
Referred to: ☐
Other Action ☐

SAL Resolutions Chairman Name and Signature

signature required

Nedley C. Fox - meeting on 10/03/2025

NEDLEY C. FOX, Chairman
SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions

SAL Committee, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

Daryl VerStreate, Jr. - meeting on 05/02/2025

DARYL VERSTREATE, JR., Chairman
SAL Membership and Squadron Activities Committee

SAL Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

William G. Hill - meeting on 10/04/2025

WILLIAM G. HILL, Chairman
SAL Internal Affairs Commission

SAL Finance Commission Chairman Name and Signature

signature required

Jeffrey Van Horn - meeting on 10/04/2025

JEFFREY VAN HORN, Chairman
SAL Finance Commission

The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on
May 3-4, 2025
Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: SAL Resolution 12 - Spring, 2025
Title: Veterans and Children's Fund (VCF) Donation
Origin: Finance Commission

WHEREAS, In the 1970s a Sons of The American Legion Liability Account was established as a restricted fund in the event of emergencies such as membership decline, etc., and temporary funds were needed to meet expenses; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 4-5, 2005 by NEC Resolution No. 6 established a ceiling of \$500,000 (with a variance of +/- 1.5%) for the Sons of The American Legion Liability Fund Account for each budget year ending in the month of December and be reviewed annually by the Internal Affairs Commission of The American Legion at the Spring meetings for adequacy and from a fiscal management viewpoint; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion Restricted Fund is presently over the variance established; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the Sons of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana on May 3-4, 2025, That a donation in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) be made to The American Legion Veterans and Children's Foundation (VCF); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the funds for this purpose be taken from the SAL Liability Account, Sons of The American Legion restricted fund.

SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒

Rejected ☐

Referred to: ☐

Other Action ☐

SAL Resolutions Chairman Name and Signature

signature required

Nedley C. Fox - meeting on 10/03/2025

NEDLEY C. FOX, Chairman

SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions

SAL Finance Commission Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

Jeffrey Van Horn - meeting on 05/02/2025

JEFFREY VAN HORN, Chairman

SAL Finance Commission

SAL Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

William G. Hill - meeting on 10/04/2025

WILLIAM G. HILL, Chairman

SAL Internal Affairs Commission

The Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee

Held on
October 4-5, 2025

Resolution

Page 1 of 1

No.: SAL Resolution 1 – Fall 2025
Title: Rename of the Public and Media Communications Commission
Origin: Internal Affairs Commission

WHEREAS, The Sons of The American Legion currently maintains a standing commission titled “Public and Media Communications Commission”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion commission overseeing the same area of responsibility is titled “Media and Communications Commission”; and

WHEREAS, Alignment in nomenclature between The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion commissions promotes consistency, clarity, and organizational unity; 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 4-5, 2025, That the “Public and Media Communications Commission” be renamed the “Media and Communications Commission” to align with the corresponding commission of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution shall take effect immediately following the acceptance of this resolution by the Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee and The American Legion.

SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions Recommendation

Approved ☒
Rejected ☐
Referred to: ☐
Other Action ☐

SAL Resolutions Chairman Name and Signature

signature required

Nedley C. Fox - meeting on 10/03/2025

NEDLEY C. FOX, Chairman
SAL Subcommittee on Resolutions

SAL Finance Commission Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

Jeffrey Van Horn - meeting 10/04/2025

JEFFREY VAN HORN, Chairman
SAL Finance Commission

SAL Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

Kevin Chaplin - meeting on 10/04/2025

KEVIN CHAPLIN, Chairman
SAL Public Media & Communication Commission

SAL Commission, Chairman Name, and Signature

signature required

William G. Hill - meeting on 10/04/2025

WILLIAM G. HILL, Chairman
SAL Internal Affairs Commission

REPORT OF THE
NATIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION COMMISSION
TO THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 8-9, 2025

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. The meeting was chaired by VA&R Commission Chairman John Bowen, Sr.

The VA&R Commission considered twenty-six (27) resolutions. Twelve (12) resolutions were referred for consideration by the 2025 National Convention, eight (8) resolutions were referred by the 2025 Department of Illinois Convention, and seven (7) resolutions were referred by the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission made the following recommendations to the National Subcommittee on Resolutions:

Nineteen (19) were recommended for approval

(Origin: Resolution 1, Latin America; 2025 National Convention)

Department of Veterans Affairs Foreign Medical Program Protection and Enhancements

(Origin: Resolution 4, Montana; 2025 National Convention)

Opioid Treatment Research

(Origin: Resolution 9, Minnesota; 2025 National Convention)

Expand the Presumptive Period for Veterans Who Served on the Korean Demilitarized Zone

(Origin: Resolution 12, California; 2025 National Convention)

Notice of Benefits of Descendants from the Correction of Military Records

(Origin: Resolution 13, California; 2025 National Convention)

Implementation of the Care Coordination and Integrated Case Management Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

(Origin: Resolution 14, California; 2025 National Convention)

Implementation of the Assessing Circumstances and Offering Resources for Needs Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs

(Origin: Resolution 15, California; 2025 National Convention)

Name All Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans' Rooms and Clinics After Women Veterans

(Origin: Resolution 23, France; 2025 National Convention)

Ensure Equal Care Under the Department of Veterans Affairs Foreign Medical Program

(Origin: Resolution 28, Delaware; 2025 National Convention)

Oversight of Medical Disability Examination Office Contract Providers

(Origin: Resolution 29, Delaware; 2025 National Convention)

Increase the Number of Judgeships for the Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims

(Origin: Register Resolution 2872, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)

United States Census to Include Veterans' Information

(Origin: Register Resolution 2874, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)

Increase Maximum Coverage Under the Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Program

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

American Legion Members Volunteer at National and State Veterans' Cemeteries

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

Improved Oversight, Accountability and Transparency of the Department of Veterans Affairs

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

Improving Department of Veterans Affairs Fiduciary Oversight and Protections

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

Comprehensive End-of-Life Supports for Veterans' Survivors

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

Ensuring Parity for Survivor Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

Environmental Exposure

(Origin: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)

Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Bonus Accountability

One (1) resolution was recommended to hold for further study:

(Origin: Register Resolution 2869, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)

Improve Special Monthly Compensation (k) Award

Two (2) were recommended for rejection:

(Origin: Resolution 8, New Hampshire; 2025 National Convention)
Combat-Related Trauma and Parental Rights

(Origin: Resolution 24, Florida; 2025 National Convention)
Service Animal Boarding Kennels at Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals

Five (5) were recommended to receive & record:

(Origin: Register Resolution 2867, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)
Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Service Dog Allowance

(Origin: Register Resolution 2870, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)
Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payments for 100% Disabled Veterans From 10 Years to 5 Years

(Origin: Register Resolution 2871, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)
Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment

(Origin: Register Resolution 2973, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)
Department of Veterans Affairs Generate Reminder Letters for Expiring Claims

(Origin: Register Resolution 2875, Illinois; 2025 Department Convention)
Grant a 10% Rating for Veterans Who Must Take Daily Medications for Hypertension

VA&R POLICY UPDATE

Legislative Bill Reviews

The Health and Benefits Policy Teams reviewed eight policy-related bills in September, S. 2145 Guard Veterans Health Act, S. 2412 VA Acquisitions Reform Act, S. XXXX Stuck on Hold Act, H.R. 211 Equal Access to Contraception for Vets Act, H.R. 4855 Veteran Families Health Services Act, H.R. 4637 Veterans' Surviving Spouse Equity Act, H.R. 4876 Reproductive Freedom for Veterans Act, and H.R. XXX Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act. This brings the total bills reviewed by the VA&R team since January 2025 to 149.

System Worth Saving Program

The American Legion's Health Policy Team will conduct the final SWS Site Visit for 2025 Des Moines VAMC – Des Moines, IA, November 2025.

Proposed System Worth Saving Site Visits for 2026

Through its System Worth Saving (SWS) program, the American Legion plans to visit four VA medical facilities between March and December 2026 to review the quality of healthcare, access, outpatient wait time, and other critical healthcare outcomes. Site selection will be based on compiled information and rankings related to the complexity and severity of challenges with access, wait time, suicide rates, and other factors at the VA facility. Below is a list of tentative locations we will choose from (not all locations will be visited):

- Portland VAMC – Portland, OR
- Spokane VAMC – Spokane, WA
- Washington D.C. VAMC – District of Columbia, D.C.
- Cheyenne, VAMC – Cheyenne, WY
- Baltimore VAMC – Baltimore, MD
- San Antonio VAMC – San Antonio, TX

21st Century Ad-Hoc American Legion Committee related update

The VA&R Commission is uniquely positioned to assist in the implementation of 21 Century Ad-Hoc Committee recommendations and has taken significant steps towards these goals. The American Legion has an unwavering commitment to reducing veteran suicide. Addressing this challenge requires ensuring that veterans and their families understand suicide risk factors, are equipped to communicate effectively with those in crisis, and know how to access available resources. Our nationally recognized Be the One suicide awareness initiative and the Buddy Check program allows The American Legion to reach out to veterans in meaningful ways, reminding those who served that they are never alone. The inspiring speaker who presented at our VA&R Commission meeting shared powerful, innovative approaches to discuss suicide prevention, emphasizing the strength of peer support, and the impact of hands-on engagement. Together, we are fostering a culture of care, resilience, and solidarity that ensures no veteran is left to face their struggles alone.

The American Legion recognizes the critical role of innovation in advancing VA healthcare. This year, The American Legion partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs for its 2nd Annual Hackathon. This event brought together innovative veterans, students and VA employees to develop and present innovative solutions for improving VA healthcare delivery.

The VA&R Team participated in a broad range of meetings with the VA, national partners, and other VSOs to address key issues impacting veterans. These engagements included quarterly meetings and roundtables.

BENEFITS AND CLAIM SERVICES UPDATE

The American Legion Accreditation & Training (ALAT) School

In December 2023, The American Legion launched a rebranded training program in partnership with Bergmann & Moore, LLC., for Department Service Officers called The American Legion Accreditation and Training School (ALAT). This is the first rebranding since the VA&R Commission was authorized to conduct DSO training in 1985.

The new ALAT features three levels of training: Beginner 101 Course (online), Intermediate 201/Appeals 202 Course (online) and the DSO Symposium 301 (residential, in-person). The new branding conveys a clear focus on accreditation & education for our service officers. This also resonates with both aspiring and existing accredited service officers seeking continuing education in the field. This training is only permitted to members who are seeking to be accredited or current VA-accredited service officers seeking continued education. The Department Adjutants' approval is required for anyone seeking to attend ALAT training.

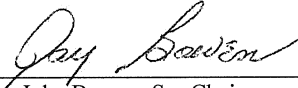
As of June 30, 2025, the new ALAT School has conducted eight (8) Beginner 101 Courses, one (1) Intermediate 201 Course, one (1) Appeals 201 Course, and one (1) DSO Symposium 301 with a total number of graduates 629.

<u>ALAT Training Course</u>	<u>Graduates</u>
<u>101 Course (New VSOs)</u>	<u>283</u>
<u>201 Course (Intermediate)</u>	<u>181</u>
<u>202 Course (Appeals)</u>	<u>111</u>
<u>301 Course (DSO Symposium)</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>629</u>

Proposed Regional Office Action Report Site Visits for 2026

The Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) is a Legion program where staff and local veterans meet with VA Regional Office administrators and employees. This is done to see what they are doing to reduce the claims backlog, how they are staffed, and how new technology is being used to improve the process.

- Milwaukee RO, Milwaukee WI
- St. Paul RO – Minneapolis, MN
- Montgomery RO - Montgomery, AL
- Seattle RO - Seattle WA
- Anchorage RO - Anchorage, AK



John Bowen, Sr., Chairman
National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

**REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ON ALL RESOLUTIONS NOT BEING REPORTED FOR APPROVAL**

October 8-9, 2025

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Resolution No. 8	National Convention (NH) 2025	Combat-Related Trauma and Parental Rights	Reject
Resolution No. 24	National Convention (FL) 2025	Service Animal Boarding Kennels at Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals	Reject
Register No. 2867	Department Convention (IL) 2025	Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Service Dog Allowance	Received & Recorded
Register No. 2869	Department Convention (IL) 2025	Improve Special Monthly Compensation (k) Award	Hold For Further Study
Register No. 2870	Department Convention (IL) 2025	Reducing Eligibility for Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Payments for 100% Disabled Veterans From 10 Years to 5 Years	Received & Recorded
Register No. 2871	Department Convention (IL) 2025	Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment	Received & Recorded
Register No. 2873	Department Convention (IL) 2025	Department of Veterans Affairs Generate Reminder Letters for Expiring Claims Submissions	Received & Recorded
Register No. 2875	Department Convention (IL) 2025	Grant a 10% Rating for Veterans Who Must Take Daily Medications for Hypertension	Received & Recorded

(Signature) _____

**John Bowen, Sr., (CO), Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Commission**

Wording to Use in Column Recommended Action:

Reject

Hold For Further Study

Disposed of Administratively

Received & Recorded

(Submit in triplicate)

REPORT OF
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION
TO THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 8-9, 2025

I. VE&E COMMISSION AND SCREENING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Veterans Employment and Education (VE&E) Screening Committee met virtually via Microsoft Teams on September 16, 2025, with Commission Chairman Matthew Jabaut, (ME) presiding. This meeting focused on reviewing, discussing, and establishing recommendations on the resolutions for the VE&E Commission's consideration.

The VE&E Commission met virtually via Microsoft Teams on September 23, 2025, with Commission Chairman Matthew Jabaut, (ME) presiding. This meeting focused on reviewing, discussing, and establishing recommendations on the resolutions for the National Executive Committee (NEC) consideration.

The Screening Committee and the Commission reviewed and provided recommendations on the following resolutions:

- Res. No. 2865: Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility (IL) **[Received and Recorded]**
- Res. No. 00: Expanding Access to Capital for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (DC) **[Approved]**

RESOLUTIONS

Commission Chairman Matthew Jabaut, (ME), led a discussion on the following resolutions in order to prepare for the May 2025 NEC meeting:

Title: Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility

Origin: Department of Illinois

VE&E Commission Recommendation: The VE&E Commission moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee for consideration.

Title: Expanding Access to Capital for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

Origin: Veterans Employment and Education Commission

VE&E Commission Recommendation: The VE&E Commission moved and properly seconded to present this resolution to the 2025 Fall National Executive Committee for consideration.



(Signature)

Matthew Jabaut (ME), Chairman
Veterans Employment & Education Commission

ADDENDUM A

REPORT TO SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ON ALL RESOLUTIONS NOT BEING REPORTED FOR APPROVAL

September 23, 2025

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission recommends the indicated action on the listed resolutions, which are presently before this body for disposition.

RESOLUTION NUMBER	SOURCE	TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
2685	Dept. Conv. Illinois	Surviving Spouse Mortgage Eligibility	Received and Recorded

Wording to Use in Column

Recommended Action:

Reject
Hold for further study
Dispose of Administratively
Received and Recorded

(Signature) _____

Matthew Jabaut
Chairman Veterans Employment
& Education Commission

(Submit in triplicate)



National Legislative Commission

Fall NEC Report

Sep 26, 2025

Matthew Shuman, Arizona, Chairman

This report summarizes the commission and congressional actions since the 106th National Convention on issues of particular concern to The American Legion. The report is arranged by program areas.

RECENT CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Following the 2025 National Convention in Tampa, Florida, the Senate and the House of Representatives reconvened on September 2nd. Since their return, both chambers have been deep in hearings and deliberations regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 annual appropriations bills.

Tensions are high in Congress as the Federal Government's operation funding is set to lapse on September 30, 2025. The possibility of at least a partial government shutdown beginning in October looms nearer as members from both sides of the aisle continue to cancel meetings with the other side. Leaders from both the majority and the minority are putting the blame on the shutdown on the opposing party's priorities.

In preparation for this possibility, the Legislative Division is preparing a message to the membership to explain what, if any, impact that a government shutdown would have on their access to benefits and answer frequently asked questions.

In mid-September, the House passed 14 bipartisan veterans' bills, including Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act (H.R. 1107), TRAVEL Act (H.R. 3400), VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act (H.R. 3494), and the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act (H.R.2034). The American Legion has testified on 10 of these bills before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Since the 106th National Convention, The American Legion has continued to advocate for policies that improve the delivery of health care, benefits, and rehabilitation services for veterans and their families.

Of the 14 veterans' bills passed in the House, several fall directly under the portfolio of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. These include the Women Veterans Cancer Care Coordination Act (H.R. 1860), which expands access to coordinated cancer treatment for women veterans, and the

Rural Veteran Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025 (H.R. 3951), designed to reduce disparities in benefits delivery for rural veterans. The American Legion strongly supports both measures and continues to work with Senate offices to ensure swift passage.

Finally, the Legislative Division continues to oppose any effort to subject veterans' benefits or health care to PAYGO offsets. The American Legion has made clear to lawmakers that veterans' earned benefits are a moral obligation, not a budgetary bargaining chip.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

On August 25, 2025, The American Legion participated in a roundtable discussion on the status of the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs campus hosted by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano (D-CA). Legionnaire Manuel Vega (CA) represented The American Legion and was joined on the panel by 15-20 other veterans and representatives from other Veterans Service Organizations. Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA) also participated in the discussion.

Participants expressed their concern about ongoing security issues at the West LA VA campus and issues regarding how land allocated to the VA has been used for purposes other than carrying for veterans. Recommendations included improving security before expanding the number of housing units, reforming rules for who is eligible to be housed, and reconstituting a homeless veterans advisory committee to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that has so far not been reconvened under the Trump Administration.

NATIONAL SECURITY

To address issues with domestic shipbuilding capacity, Senator Mark Kelly (D-AZ) and Senator Todd Young (R-IN) reintroduced the SHIPS for America Act, 2020 in April. This bipartisan legislation would revitalize the U.S. Merchant Marine fleet to rebuild domestic shipbuilding capacity and improve the competitiveness of U.S. flagged vessels in international commerce. The Legislative Division has been meeting with the staff of Senators Kelly and Senator Young to see how the American Legion can best support this legislation. A House companion bill was introduced in May 2025 by Rep Trent Kelly (R-MS) that has 78 Republican and Democratic cosponsors.

In July, the Senate Armed Service Committee (SASC) voted 26-1 to advance the FY26 NDAA. The FY26 NDAA authorizes \$925 billion in total national defense spending, \$878.7 billion to the Department of Defense, \$35.2 billion to the Department of Energy and \$10.8 billion for defense-related activities outside NDAA jurisdiction. The House companion FY26 NDAA bill passed the Armed Services Committee on July 15, with a 55-2 vote. Like the Senate version, the 2026 NDAA is largely focused on reforming the Pentagon's acquisition and procurement processes and is set to lift total defense spending to \$1 trillion in the next fiscal year.

On September 10, the House of Representatives voted 231-196 to pass the House version of the FY26 NDAA. The Senate version of the FY26 NDAA has still not been brought to the floor for a vote. National Legislative Division has continued to advocate to Congress that they include the following amendments and text in the final version of the NDAA:

- **Report on reducing frequency of permanent changes of station and naval vessel to onshore rotations (House Rules Amendment 171)** The American Legion supports efforts to provide more stability for servicemembers and their families. Service members and their families bear the brunt of frequent moves through permanent changes of station (PCS). Frequent moves pose a quality-of-life issue for military families, which may negatively impact retention and recruitment numbers. Establishing a report requirement allows for options to reduce the frequency of PCS moves and rotations of Navy service members between assignments to naval vessels and onshore assignments.
- **Prohibition on use of funds to reduce the workforce at public shipyards (Senate Sec. 1108)** The American Legion calls for increased investment toward our domestic shipyards. The workforce at our public shipyards is integral to our national security. This prohibition ensures that none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by the NDAA are used to reduce the workforce at public shipyards.
- **Assess U.S. supply chains for critical minerals essential to defense manufacturing (House Rules Amendment 155)** The American Legion supports Congress to expand key defense industries, including rare earth production. Requiring a GAO assessment report will identify barriers and recommend actions that federal agencies and Congress should take to incentivize domestic production.
- **Reauthorization of Appropriations for the Coast Guard through Fiscal Year 2029 (House Rules Amendment 846)** The American Legion fully supports funding for the Coast Guard to support its critical mission. The Coast Guard plays a critical role in national security, maritime safety, drug interdiction, and disaster response. Reauthorizing appropriations through FY 2029 ensures long-term stability and readiness, enabling the Coast Guard to modernize its fleet, invest in personnel, and maintain vital homeland defense operations.
- **Repeal of the 2002 and 1991 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMFs) (H.R. 1488) Repealing the outdated 2002 and 1991 (House Rules Amendment 806)** The American Legion encourages Congress to repeal and replace outdated AUMFs. Ending these long-expired authorizations prevents their misuse and reflects the changing landscape, ensuring that any future military engagement is based on current threats and clear objectives.
- **HR 1932, *Pay Our Troops Act*:** This bill provides continuing appropriations for military pay for any period during which interim or full-year appropriations are not in effect. If a government shutdown occurs, pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components performing active service, civilian personnel and contractors will not be affected. This bill has 34 Republican and Democrat cosponsors.
- **HR 3332/ S.1740, *Pacific Partnership Act*:** The Pacific Partnership Act will bolster United States engagement with Pacific Islands by developing a coherent strategy for engagement in the region. The American Legion urges Congress to pass this bipartisan measure to deter malign influence in a region of strategic importance to the United States. The House version has 22 Republican and Democratic cosponsors, and the Senate version was introduced by Rep Cortez Masto (D-NV) and cosponsored by Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA).

- HR 488/S 150, *Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2025*: This legislation would require the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and to assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit purposes. The American Legion urges Congress to pass this legislation as a vital component of combatting the influence of criminal organizations in the United States.

AMERICANISM

On August 26, 2025, Representative Tim Burchett (R-TN) introduced a Congressional Resolution commemorating 100 years of American Legion baseball. The resolution recognizes and honors the accomplishments of The American Legion Baseball program in mentoring young Americans in honor of the programs 100th anniversary. The American Legion's youth programs remain an integral part of the organizations mandate, and the legislative division will continue to engage with Congressional offices to honor and support these programs.

The Legislative Division is working with Representative Steve Womack (R-AR) to gather cosponsors for his Flag Protection Amendment. The Amendment was introduced June 13, 2025, as House Joint Resolution 101 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee, and currently has 23 co-sponsors. The resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. The Senate has a companion resolution S.J. Resolution 58, introduced by Senator Mike Crapo, (R-ID) on June 12, 2025.

CONCLUSION

This concludes The American Legion Legislative Commission's Report to the National Executive Committee.

Marketing Commission Overview

The Marketing Commission met in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 6–7, 2025. The commission provided a comprehensive update on The American Legion's |Army–Navy Game partnership, corporate development update, and digital marketing performance.

Army-Navy Game Activation

The commission presented an in-depth review of the Army–Navy Game partnership, outlining both 2024 results and expanded plans for the 2025 activation. As the Official Veteran Service Organization of the Army–Navy Game, The American Legion continues to hold category exclusivity through 2028—leveraging this national platform to elevate awareness, rally public support for veterans, and re-energize pride across the Legion Family.

2024 Recap

- 125th Meeting of Army–Navy drew 9.4 million U.S. viewers, a 31% increase from 2023 and the highest rating since 1989.
- 25 million digital and social impressions; 2.3 RTG via 309 radio affiliates; 929K streams—the most streamed Army–Navy Game on record.
- Legion's media presence reached 4 million viewers across major markets (New York, Boston, LA, Dallas) and over 61 million potential audience reach through USAA Media Row placements and bonus city branding assets in Washington, D.C.

2025 A Look Ahead

- National Media Buy with CBS Sports Network: season-long Armed Forces integration, Army–Navy pre-game studio presence, and CBS Sports Digital coverage (no \$2M in-game :30 spot).
- Enhanced visibility through USAA integration as presenting sponsor—delivering added exposure and activation at no additional cost to the Legion.
- Expanded on-site fan engagement, including three branded activation zones, in-stadium signage, and premium giveaways.
- Purpose-driven fundraising campaign running Veterans Day through year-end, featuring a rivalry-themed challenge, text-to-give, and digital storytelling amplified through CBS media assets.
- Influencer Strategy: leveraging veteran creators to spark friendly rivalry and encourage donations and recruitment across social platforms.
- Membership ticket incentive and Post Watch Party support to drive recruitment and internal engagement.

Partnership Objectives

Through its partnership with the Army–Navy Game, The American Legion aims to:

- Strengthen and grow strategic relationships with key partners, lawmakers, and veteran advocates.
- Elevate brand awareness through storytelling that reflects the heart of our mission.
- Rally public support for veterans through purpose-driven fundraising.
- Re-energize pride and unity within the Legion Family.

Corporate Development Update



The commission presented the results of the Post Partner Survey that captured insights from 556 respondents across multiple posts nationwide. Key findings indicated that posts seek business solutions, fundraising support, and training resources while valuing partnerships that align with Legion values and strengthen local engagement.

Survey Takeaways

- Posts want partners integrated into existing programming—not just sponsorships.
- Members value partners who share mission alignment and community focus.
- Posts face challenges operating as sustainable businesses and would benefit from shared best practices.
- Corporate partners are seen as potential collaborators in recruitment, youth programming, and post modernization.

Action Items

- Develop a plan for evaluating and introducing post-level corporate partnerships.
- Create communication channels highlighting existing national partners and their local integration opportunities.
- Provide resources for Posts to enhance local fundraising and member engagement through partner collaboration.

Digital Marketing Performance

The commission reported continued growth in Legion.org engagement and membership conversions.

Key Highlights

- Army–Navy Game visibility spurred measurable increases in Legion.org traffic, engagement rate, and paid-search conversions. Example: organic sessions rose from 17,040 to 21,968 following media exposure on Sept. 8, 2025.
- Paid Search Campaigns for membership produced 195 conversions during early September; top creative pieces continue to outperform via humor-based and service-identity messaging.
- Influencer and Rivalry Content scheduled for rollout beginning Nov. 1 across CBS, X, Facebook, and Instagram to drive membership, donations, and awareness.

Special Guests

Past National Commander Denise Rohan provided a report on the Veterans & Children Foundation, highlighting its ongoing impact and fundraising efforts. The commission also heard from David Gay, Vice President of Business Development at Centene Corporation who provided updates on Wellcare's expanding veteran healthcare initiatives and its continued collaboration with The American Legion, reinforcing shared goals in health access and veteran well-being.

Summary

The Marketing Commission continues to align strategy with The American Legion's organizational priorities—Value of Membership, Diversified Revenue, and Be the One/Brand Awareness. From Army–Navy Game fully integrated activation plan to new digital engagement tools to actionable insights from the Corporate Partner survey, the commission remains focused on delivering measurable impact, building meaningful relationships, and elevating The American Legion's national presence.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul A. Evenson".

Paul Evenson (SD)
Chairman, Marketing Commission

The American Legion

Fall Meeting of the
National Executive Committee
Thursday, Oct 9th, 2025



Morning Session
Commission Reports

**Interim Appointments
National Executive Committee Meeting
The American Legion
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 8-9, 2025**

Thomas K. Moore (Connecticut), Americanism Council, Member (replaces James M. DeBisschop – resigned)

Jodie L. Pajak (Massachusetts), Marketing Commission, 2026 Member (replaces Christopher J. Manning – resigned)



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST CHARTERS PRESENTED TO THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR CANCELLATION CONSIDERATION
OCTOBER 9, 2025**

The recommendation for each Post submitted for cancellation is based on a review of revitalization potential, specifically considering two key criteria: **community size** and the **local veteran population**.

Sixteen (16) Posts have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2025 Fall meeting proceedings in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 9, 2025.

*** See merging Post information below ***

DEPARTMENT	POST #	NAME	LOCATION
CALIFORNIA	0011	Madera	Madera
	0044**	Monrovia (to merge with Edison Post 0431)	Monrovia
	0881	Adm William A. Moffett	Moffett Field
	0951	Fellowship	Riverside
KANSAS	0185**	Gordon M. Brown (to merge with U S Center Post 0220)	Lebanon
	0188**	Armourdale (to merge with Dwight Cowles Post 0370)	Kansas City
	0257**	Starr-Dreher-Piercy (to merge with Leo McMinimy Post 0181)	Vermillion
MONTANA	0078**	Old Faithful, Inc. (to merge with Ennis, Inc. Post 0065)	West Yellowstone
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0060	Clarence L. Perkins, Inc.	Farmington
	0073	Everett J. Bourdon	Northwood
WASHINGTON	0222	Dr. George Washington Carver, Inc.	Tacoma
WISCONSIN	0193	Triangle B, Inc.	Batavia
	0195	James Munro, Inc.	Beechwood
	0246	Genoa-De-Soto	Cambridge
	0484	Gilles-Weiss	Genoa
	1925	Ryan D. Jopek Camp	Glenbeulah Lake Tomahawk

Respectfully Submitted,
Rodney K. Rolland
National Adjutant



**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
SQUADRON CHARTERS PRESENTED TO THE
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR CANCELLATION CONSIDERATION
OCTOBER 9, 2025**

Seven (7) Squadrons have been submitted and recommended for cancellation consideration during the 2025 Fall meeting proceedings in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 9, 2025.

*** See merging Squadron information below ***

DETACHMENT	SQDN #	NAME	LOCATION
CALIFORNIA	0011	Madera	Madera
KANSAS	0055	Louis B. Weinberg	Troy
	0138	Ernest Brown	Caney
	0175	State Line	Hardtner
		Armourdale	
	• 0188**	(to merge with Dwight Cowles Sqdn 0370)	Kansas City
	0414	David R. Berry Memorial	Kingman
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0060	Clarence L. Perkins, Inc.	Farmington

Respectfully Submitted,
Rodney K. Rolland
National Adjutant

Future Dates of the Four Major American Legion Meetings

Previously Approved by NEC

2026 Washington Conference	March 1-4
2026 Spring Meetings	May 4-7
Commissions and Committees	May 4-5
National Executive Committee	May 6-7
2026 National Convention – Louisville, Kentucky	August 28-September 3
2026 Fall Meetings	October 5-8
Commissions and Committees	October 5-6
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 5-6
National Executive Committee	October 7-8
2027 Washington Conference	February 28-March 3
2027 Spring Meetings	May 3-6
Commissions and Committees	May 3-4
National Executive Committee	May 5-6
2027 National Convention – Kansas City, Missouri	August 27-September 2
2027 Fall Meetings	October 4-7
Commissions and Committees	October 4-5
Commanders and Adjutants Conference	October 4-5
National Executive Committee	October 6-7
2028 National Convention – Columbus, Ohio	August 25-31
2029 National Convention – Indianapolis, Indiana	August 24-30
2030 National Convention – Salt Lake City, Utah	August 23-29
2031 National Convention-Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	August 22-28

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum

Donated by Kelly Barmann: American Legion Tiger Post No. 23 newsletter, December 1940.

Donated by PNC Thomas Bock: framed American Legion Riders sign with signatures from 2006 Legacy Run.

Donated by Robert B. Craig: collection of American Legion national publications, photographs, and badges.

Donated by Jayna L. Gau: American Legion School Award medal, pin, and certificate.

Donated by Gayle Kempf: 1938 American Legion National Convention parade ticket.

Donated by Virginia Leary-Majda: two American Legion School Award medals.

Donated by Connie Lies: collection of American Legion national publications and correspondence.