

THE 101ST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE
DIVISION, THE AMERICAN LEGION

TRANSMITTING

THE 101ST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: In compliance with current public law, we herewith transmit for printing as House documents The American Legion's 101st Annual Report, The American Legion's Proceedings of the 101st Annual National Convention, and The American Legion's Proceedings of the 102nd Annual National Convention.

LAWRENCE MONTREUIL,
Legislative Director, National Legislative Division.

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FOREWORD

This booklet has been prepared for the information of members of The American Legion. The final report of the national organization for the period ending December 31, 2019, and balance sheet as of December 31, 2019, and surplus analysis, January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, are included in the Summary. To make a quick distribution, speed has been necessary. Every precaution has been taken to avoid errors, but some may have occurred in the rush of events and the haste of editing and printing. Permission is hereby given to quote from this publication without further consent.

Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant

NATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL OFFICERS THE AMERICAN LEGION, 1919 to Date

Note: In the following list it should be noted that the terms of each group of officers expire with that particular convention under which they are listed.

**indicates deceased*

HONORARY COMMANDERS

General of the Armies of the United States John J. Pershing*
Marshal of France Ferdinand Foch*

PARIS CAUCUS

Paris, France, March 15 - 17, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 and 1958 National Convention)

Permanent Chairman: Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1926 National Convention)

Chairman Pro Tempore: Thomas W. Miller*, Delaware (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1968 National Convention)

Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention)

At the Paris Caucus an Executive Committee was elected to complete arrangements, the chairman and secretary of which were:

Chairman: Milton J. Foreman*, Illinois (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1921 National Convention)

Secretary: George A. White*, Oregon

ST. LOUIS CAUCUS

St. Louis, Mo., May 8 - 10, 1919

Temporary Chairman: Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. *, New York (Voted title of Past National Commander at 1949 National Convention)

Permanent Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley*, Texas (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1919 National Convention)

Vice Chairmen: John J. Sullivan*, Washington; Fred Humphrey*, New Mexico; P.C. Calhoun*, Connecticut (Voted titles of Past National Vice Commanders at 1933 National Convention)

Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania (Voted title of Past National Commander at the 1955 National Convention)

Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles*, Colorado

1st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 10 - 12, 1919

Chairman: Henry D. Lindsley*, Texas, Past National Commander

Vice Chairman: Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri

Secretary: Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania

Treasurer: Gasper G. Bacon*, Massachusetts

Chaplain: Thomas H. Wiles*, Colorado

2nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 27 - 29, 1920

Commander: Franklin D'Olier*,

Pennsylvania

Vice Commanders: James O'Brien*,

California; Allan A. Tukey*,

Nebraska; Joyce S. Lewis*, Minnesota;

Alden B. Chambers*, Massachusetts;

William Follett*, Oregon

Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana

Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts

Chaplain: Rev. Francis A. Kelly*, New York

Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

3rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 1921

Commander: Frederic W. Galbraith, Jr. *, (died June 9); Succeeded by John G.

Emery*, Michigan

Milton Foreman*, Illinois, Past National Commander

Vice Commanders: John G. Emery*,

Michigan; Thomas Goldingay*, New Jersey;

Claudius G. Pendill*, Wisconsin; James G.

Scrugham*, Nevada; E. Jackson Winslett*,

Alabama

Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington

Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana

Chaplain: Rev. John W. Inzer*, Tennessee

Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts

Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

4th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., Oct. 16 - 20, 1922

Commander: Hanford MacNider*, Iowa

Vice Commanders: H. Nelson Jackson*,

Vermont; George L. Berry*, Tennessee;

Raymond O. Brackett*, Massachusetts;

Charles H. Kendrick*, California; John A.

McCormack*, Colorado

Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Earl A. Blackman*, Kansas
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

5th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 16 - 19, 1923
Commander: Alvin M. Owsley*, Texas
Vice Commanders: Edward J. Barrett*, Wisconsin; Watson B. Miller*, District of Columbia; E. Erle Cocke, Sr.*, Georgia; Robert O. Blood*, New Hampshire; Chiles P. Plummer*, Wyoming
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. William P. O'Connor*, Ohio
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

6th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 15 - 19, 1924
Commander: John R. Quinn*, California
Vice Commanders: Lester F. Albert*, Idaho; Celora M. Stoddard*, Arizona; William B. Healey*, Pennsylvania; F. Ryan Duffy*, Wisconsin; Dr. I. Thurman Mann*, North Carolina
Adjutant: Lemuel Bolles*, Washington
Resigned 2-1-24; Succeeded by Russell G. Creviston*, Indiana
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Ezra Clemens*, Minnesota
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

7th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 5 - 9, 1925
Commander: James A. Drain*, Washington
Vice Commanders: Frank H. McFarland*, Kansas; Eugene P. Armstrong*, Connecticut; A. L. Perry, Panama; Peyton H. Hoge, Jr., Kentucky; William Stern*, North Dakota
Adjutant: Russell G. Creviston*, Indiana, Resigned; Succeeded by James F. Barton*, Iowa
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph M. Lonergan*, Illinois
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

8th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pa., Oct. 11 - 15, 1926
Commander: John R. McQuigg*, Ohio
Bennett C. Clark*, Missouri, Past National Commander

Vice Commanders: Joseph Y. Cheney*, Florida; Hughes B. Davis*, Oklahoma; Vincent A. Carroll*, Pennsylvania; Raymond B. Littlefield*, Rhode Island; Judge James A. Howell*, Utah
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. William E. Patrick*, California
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

9th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., Oct. 18, 1927
Paris, France, Sept. 19 - 22, 1927
Commander: Howard P. Savage*, Illinois
Vice Commanders: C. Thomas Busha, Jr., Montana; Stafford King*, Minnesota; John G. Sims*, Tennessee; John E. Curtiss*, Nebraska; Dr. John G. Towne*, Maine
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Treasurer: Robert H. Tyndall*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph L.N. Wolfe*, Pennsylvania
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

10th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 8 - 11, 1928
Commander: Edward E. Spafford*, New York
Vice Commanders: John T. Raftis*, Washington; Ralph T. O'Neil*, Kansas; Paul R. Younts*, North Carolina; Dan Spurlock*, Louisiana; John M. Henry*, Minnesota.
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Chaplain: Rev. Gill Robb Wilson*, New Jersey
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois

11th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Ky., Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 1929
Commander: Paul V. McNutt*, Indiana
Vice Commanders: Lawrence E. McGann, Jr., Illinois; George W. Malone*, Nevada; Edward L. White*, Connecticut; Miller C. Foster*, South Carolina; Walton D. Hood*, Texas
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Chaplain: Rabbi Lee J. Levinger*, Delaware
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois

12th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., Oct. 6 - 9, 1930
Commander: O.L. Bodenhamer*, Arkansas

Vice Commanders: Milt D. Campbell*, Ohio; John J. Dugan*, Delaware; Morton M. David*, Colorado; Frank Schoble, Jr. *, Pennsylvania; Willis M. Brewer*, Michigan
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Chaplain: Rev. George F. Kettell, D.D. *, New York
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois

13th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 21 - 24, 1931
Commander: Ralph T. O'Neil*, Kansas
Vice Commanders: Bert S. Hyland*, Vermont; Roland B. Howell*, Louisiana; Harry B. Henderson, Jr. *, Wyoming; Dr. James A. Duff*, West Virginia; Dr. Neal D. Williams*, Missouri
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Chaplain: Rev. Joseph N. Barnett*, Wisconsin
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Scott W. Lucas*, Illinois to 6-24-31; Succeeded by Acting Judge Advocate: Robert A. Adams*, Indiana

14th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Ore., Sept. 12 - 15, 1932
Commander: Henry L. Stevens, Jr. *, North Carolina
Vice Commanders: Richard F. Paul*, Massachusetts; Forrest G. Cooper*, Mississippi; Roy L. Cook*, New Mexico; Frank N. Brooks*, Washington; Harold L. Plummer*, Wisconsin
Adjutant: James F. Barton*, Iowa
Chaplain: Rev. Harris A. Darche*, Illinois
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana

15th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 2 - 5, 1933
Commander: Louis A. Johnson*, West Virginia
Vice Commanders: Russell Meadows*, Arizona; Robert D. Flory*, Nebraska; William E. Easterwood, Jr. *, Texas; John J. Maloney*, Maine; Chas. A. Mills*, Florida
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas
Chaplain: Rev. Irwin Q. Wood*, Idaho
Treasurer: Bowman Elder*, Indiana
Historian: Eben Putnam*, Massachusetts (died January 22, 1933); Succeeded by Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana

16th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., Oct. 22 - 25, 1934
Commander: Edward A. Hayes*, Illinois
Vice Commanders: Charles R. Mabe*, Utah; Robert L. Gordon*, Arkansas; Miguel Munoz*, Puerto Rico; Ed W. Carruth*, Kansas; Charles L. Woolley*, Rhode Island
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas
Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. White*, Massachusetts
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Remster A. Bingham*, Indiana

17th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 23 - 26, 1935
Commander: Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. *, California
Vice Commanders: Daniel J. Doherty*, Massachusetts; Harold J. Warner*, Oregon; John K. Kennelly*, North Dakota; Milo J. Warner*, Ohio; Quemoy Melton*, Georgia
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas
Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Park W. Huntington*, Delaware
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: James A. Drain*, Washington
Judge Advocate: James A. Drain*, Washington

18th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 21 - 24, 1936
Commander: Ray Murphy*, Iowa
Vice Commanders: Raymond F. Gates*, Connecticut; Dr. I.E. Whitlock*, Florida; Oscar W. Worth wine*, Idaho; Dr. F. Whitney Godwin*, Virginia; Louis R. Proust*, Wyoming
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas D. Kennedy*, Missouri
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

19th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., Sept. 20 - 23, 1937
Commander: Harry W. Colmery*, Kansas
Vice Commanders: Salvatore A. Capodice*, California; Leo A. Temmey*, South Dakota; Leonard Sisk*, Tennessee; J. Fred Johnson, Jr. *, Alabama; Jack Crowley*, Vermont
Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas
Chaplain: Rev. Bryan H. Keathley, D.D. *, Texas

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

20th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 19 - 22, 1938

Commander: Daniel J. Doherty*,
Massachusetts

Vice Commanders: Drury M. Phillips*,
Texas; Phil M. Conley*, West Virginia;
Harry M. Johnson*, Montana; James F.
Daniel, Jr. *, South Carolina; James R.
Mahaffy*, Hawaii

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Frank J. Lawler*, Illinois

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

21st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 25 - 28, 1939

Commander: Stephen F. Chadwick*,
Washington

Vice Commanders: Edward J. Quinn*,
Maine; Charles W. Crush*, Virginia; Earl T.
Ross*, Nevada; James T. Crawley*,
Mississippi; Henry C. Oakey*, Wisconsin

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas

Chaplain: Rev. Jerome L. Fritsche*,
Nebraska

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

22nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., Sept. 23 - 26, 1940

Commander: Raymond J. Kelly*, Michigan

Vice Commanders: Leo E. Ray*, New
Hampshire; Charles Q. Kelly*, Arkansas;
Matthew J. Murphy*, Illinois; James B.
Fitzgerald*, Maryland; H. Elwyn Davis*,
Colorado

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas

Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Patrick N.
McDermott*, Iowa

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

23rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 15 to 18, 1941

Commander: Milo J. Warner*, Ohio

Vice Commanders: Erwin A. Froyd*,
Wyoming; James L. McCrory*, Nebraska;
Harold P. Redden*, Massachusetts; Edward
R. Stirling*, Pennsylvania; Alcee S.
Legendre*, Louisiana

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas

Chaplain: Rev. Brigadier William G. Gilks*,
Texas

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

24th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 19-21, 1942

Commander: Lynn U. Stambaugh*, North
Dakota

Vice Commanders: W. C. Sawyer*, Arizona;
William DeLacy Allen*, Georgia; Charles E.
Booth*, West Virginia; V. M. Armstrong*,
Indiana; John F. Sullivan*, Vermont

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas

Chaplain: Rev. Frederick J. Halloran*, New
Jersey

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

25th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 21 - 23, 1943

Commander: Roane Waring*, Tennessee

Vice Commanders: John T. Batten*,
Alabama; Arthur J. Connell*, Connecticut;

Fred G. Fraser*, District of Columbia;

Herman H. Lark*, Missouri; Jefferson Davis
Atwood*, New Mexico

Adjutant: Frank E. Samuel*, Kansas, (died
July 25); Succeeded by Donald G.

Glascoff*, Michigan, Acting Adjutant

Chaplain: Dr. Paul De Forrest Mortimore*,
Idaho

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

26th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 18 - 20, 1944

Commander: Warren H. Atherton*,

California

Vice Commanders: Martin V. Coffey*,

Ohio; E.A. Littlefield*, Utah; Robert 'Roy'

McMillan*, North Carolina; Edward Al

Mulrooney*, Delaware; Hector G. Staples*,

Maine

Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan

Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F.

McManus*, Kansas

Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama

Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

27th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 18 - 21, 1945

Commander: Edward N. Scheiberling*, New
York

Vice Commanders: Bascom F. Jones*, Tennessee; Frank E. McCaffrey*, Rhode Island; Dan M. McDade*, Oregon; Ray S. Pierson*, Kansas; William P. Shadoan*, Kentucky
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. DeWitt C. Mallory*, Florida
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

28th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco, Calif., Sept. 30 – Oct. 4, 1946

Commander: John Stelle *, Illinois
Vice Commanders: R. Graham Huntington*, New Jersey; Fred LaBoon*, Oklahoma; Sam L. Latimer, Jr. *, South Carolina; H. Dudley Swim*, Idaho; Jeremiah Twomey*, Massachusetts
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Smith*, Iowa
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: John R. Ruddick*, Indiana, (died 7-13-45); Succeeded by Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

29th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., Aug. 28 – 31, 1947
Commander: Paul H. Griffith*, Pennsylvania
Vice Commanders: Joseph W. Brown*, New Hampshire; Martin B. Buckner*, Michigan; Richard C. Cadwallader*, Louisiana; Ernest H. Dervishian*, Virginia; Edward J. Sharkey*, California
Adjutant: Donald G. Glascoff*, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Arthur L. Rustad*, Minnesota
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

30th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., Oct. 18 - 20, 1948
Commander: James F. O'Neil*, New Hampshire
Vice Commanders: LeRoy William Barns*, South Dakota; Albert A. Cree*, Vermont; Richard B. Ott*, Washington; Myron R. Renick*, West Virginia; Joe W. White*, Georgia
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Frank L. Harrington*, Montana
Historian: Thomas M. Owen, Jr. *, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

31st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Philadelphia, Pa., Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 1949
Commander: S. Perry Brown*, Texas
Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. *, (NY), Past National Commander
Vice Commanders: James Lane*, (AL); Leonard W. Moody*, (AR); James Annin*, (MT); Walter E. Alessandroni*, (PA); Edward J. Kelly*, (CT)
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, (NE)
Chaplain: Rev. Thomas Grice*, (CA)
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, (AL)
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, (IN)
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, (IN)

32nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 9 – 12, 1950
Commander: George N. Craig*, (IN)
Vice Commanders: Milton G. Boock*, (MN); David H. Fleisher*, (MO); Frank E. Lowe*, Maine; J. E. Martie*, (NV); Dr. D. R. Perry*, (NC)
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Edward J. Carney*, O.S.A., Massachusetts
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

33rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., Oct. 15 – 18, 1951
Commander: Erle Cocke, Jr. *, Georgia
Vice Commanders: Joe H. Adams*, Florida; Herbert J. Jacobi*, District of Columbia; Felix Pogliano*, Colorado; Lewis K. Gough*, California; Fred C. Bramlage*, Kansas
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Rabbi David Lefkowitz*, Louisiana
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

34th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New York, N.Y., Aug. 25 – 28, 1952
Commander: Donald R. Wilson*, West Virginia
Vice Commanders: Adolph F. Bremer*, Minnesota; Frank R. Kelley*, Massachusetts; Thomas E. Paradine*, New York; Oscar B. Rohiff*, Wyoming; Audley H. Ward*, South Carolina
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Rev. Olaf G. Birkeland*, Wisconsin
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

35th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 31 – Sept. 3, 1953
Commander: Lewis K. Gough*, California
Vice Commanders: William R. Bourdon*, Arizona; Lyon W. Brandon*, Mississippi; Wilbur C. Daniel*, Virginia; Harry V. Groome*, New Jersey; J. Addington Wagner*, Michigan
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. John E. Duffy*, Ohio
Historian: Monte C. Sandlin*, Alabama
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

36th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., Aug. 30 – Sept. 2, 1954
Commander: Arthur J. Connell*, Connecticut
Vice Commanders: John A. High*, New Hampshire; Dr. Deward H. Reed*, New Mexico; Truman C. Wold*, North Dakota; Thomas W. Bird*, North Carolina; Herbert M. Walker*, Pennsylvania
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Dr. Tom B. Clark*, Oklahoma
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

37th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami, Fla., Oct. 10 – 13, 1955
Commander: Seaborn P. Collins*, New Mexico
Eric Fisher Wood*, Pennsylvania, Past National Commander
Vice Commanders: Leonard L. Jackson*, Louisiana; Patrick H. Mangan*, Jr., Vermont; Howard C. Kingdom*, Ohio; Dr. Carl J. Rees*, Delaware; Robert L. Shelby*, Utah
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska
Chaplain: Rev. Albert J. Hoffman*, Iowa
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

38th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 3 – 6, 1956
Commander: J. Addington Wagner*, Michigan
Vice Commanders: Guy Stone*, Georgia; John H. Van Horn*, Alaska; L. Everett Page*, Texas; Gilman H. Stordock*, Wisconsin; James V. Day*, Maine (resigned Jan. 1, 1956); Succeeded by William J. Holliman*, District of Columbia
Adjutant: Henry H. Dudley*, Nebraska (resigned); succeeded by E. A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rev. Joseph MacCarroll*, New Jersey
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

39th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlantic City, N.J., Sept. 16 – 19, 1957
Commander: W. C. 'Dan' Daniel*, Virginia
Vice Commanders: Gaylor M. Brown*, Iowa; George T. Lewis*, Jr., Tennessee; Carl R. Moser*, Oregon; John E. Stay*, Pennsylvania; J. Edward Walter*, Maryland
Adjutant: E. A. Blackmore*, Wyoming
Chaplain: Rev. Bernard W. Gerdon*, Indiana
Historian: Robert T. Fairey*, South Carolina
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

40th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 1 – 4, 1958
Commander: John S. Gleason, Jr.*, Illinois
Vice Commanders: William A. Cottrell*, Hawaii; Ramon R. Guas*, Puerto Rico; Harry W. Miller*, West Virginia; Leo A. Lemos*, Rhode Island; Isadore E. Levine*, Indiana
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Feltham S. James*, South Carolina
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey
Treasurer: Neal Grider*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

41st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 24 – 27, 1959
Commander: Preston J. Moore*, Oklahoma
Vice Commanders: C. D. DeLoach*, District of Columbia; John W. Collins*, Pennsylvania; James B. Kerrigan*, Missouri; Robert Charles Smith*, Louisiana; James C. Bangs*, Idaho
Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming
Chaplain: Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Twiss*, Massachusetts
Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Ralph B. Gregg*, Indiana

42nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Fla., Oct. 15 – 20, 1960
Commander: Martin B. McKneally*, New York
Vice Commanders: William A. Brennan, Jr.*, Indiana; A. Layman Harman*, South Carolina; Nate V. Keller*, Minnesota; (died

7-25-60); Succeeded by Irven Frank Gianotti*, Minnesota (appointed 9-14-60); Willard W. Brandt*, North Dakota; Charles McGonegal*, California; (died 1-27-60); Succeeded by Corydon T. Hill*, California (appointed 5-4-60)

Adjutant: E. A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rabbi Robert I. Kahn* D.H.L., Texas

Historian: Mrs. Charles A. (Emily) Herbert*, New Jersey

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

43rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colo., Sept. 9 – 14, 1961

Commander: William R. Burke*, California

Vice Commanders: George K. Walker*, Massachusetts; James M. Wagoner*, Ohio; Vincent J. Maxheim*, Iowa; Dr. Harry H. Kretzler*, Washington; R. C. Godwin*, North Carolina

Adjutant: E. A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rev. William H. Moss*, Tennessee

Historian: Glenn B. Hoover*, Iowa

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

44th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Las Vegas, Nev., Oct. 5 – 11, 1962

Commander: Charles L. Bacon*, Missouri

Vice Commanders: Walter W. Barnard*, Montana; Edward T. Hoak*, Pennsylvania; Wilson H. Morrison*, Michigan; J. Milton Patrick*, Oklahoma; Edward Wysocki*, New Jersey

Adjutant: E. A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Robert G. Keating*, Connecticut

Historian: Earl David Young*, Colorado

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

45th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Fla., Sept. 6 – 12, 1963

Commander: James E. Powers*, Georgia

Vice Commanders: Harold D. Beaton*, District of Columbia; James W. Doon*, New Hampshire; Claude A. Hamilton*, South Dakota; Paschal C. Reese*, Florida; Victor F. Whittlesea*, Nevada

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rabbi Albert M. Shulman*, Indiana

Historian: H. Armand de Masi*, Italy

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

46th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dallas, Texas, Sept. 18 – 24, 1964

Commander: Daniel F. Foley*, Minnesota

Vice Commanders: Earl D. Franklin, Jr.*, Colorado; Emilio S. Iglesias*, Vermont; Garland D. Murphy, Jr.*, M.D., Arkansas; George Emory Sipple*, Wisconsin; Harry Wright*, Mexico

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. John J. Howard*, Virginia

Historian: H. Armand de Masi*, Italy

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

47th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Ore., Aug. 20 – 26, 1965

Commander: Donald E. Johnson*, Iowa

Vice Commanders: David Aronberg*, Kentucky; Herbert D. Black*, South Carolina; Ward W. Husted*, Wyoming; Edward H. Lynch, Jr.*, Connecticut; Joseph Paul*, Michigan

Adjutant: E.A. Blackmore*, Wyoming

Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Morris N. Dummet*, Louisiana

Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

48th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Washington, D.C., Aug. 30 – Sept. 1, 1966

Commander: L. Eldon James*, Virginia

Vice Commanders: Dr. A. R. Choppin*, Louisiana; William E. Galbraith*, Nebraska; Robert O. Phillips*, Philippines; William J. Rogers*, Maine; Tom Soleng*, Arizona

Adjutant: E. A. Blackmore*, Wyoming (died 4-21-67); Succeeded by Earnest N. Schmit*, North Dakota (Appointed 5-4-67)

Chaplain: Rev. Alfred C. Thompson*, New York

Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana

Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

49th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., Aug. 25 – 31, 1967

Commander: John E. Davis*, North Dakota

Vice Commanders: Robert M. Fritz*, Indiana; Lewis W. Emerich*, Texas;

Harry V. Klein*, Pennsylvania; Frank L. Orfanello*, Massachusetts; James A. Tadlock*, New Mexico
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Anthony J. O'Driscoll*, New York
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

50th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., Sept. 6 – 12, 1968
Commander: William E. Galbraith*, Nebraska
Thomas W. Miller*, Nevada, Past National Commander
Vice Commanders: Coleman Nolen*, Oklahoma; Louis R. J. Malo*, Rhode Island; Roscoe D. Curtiss*, Tennessee; Dr. Edwin L. Peterson*, Utah; Marvin W. Roth*, Wisconsin
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Edward P. Nolan*, Pennsylvania
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

51st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 22 – 28, 1969
Commander: William C. Doyle*, New Jersey
Vice Commanders: C. Russell Huber*, Alaska; John A. Jones*, West Virginia; Howard E. Lohman*, Minnesota; Lewis E. McCray*, Alabama; Maurice Parisien*, Maine
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. C. J. Olander*, Mississippi
Historian: Harold A. Shindler*, Indiana
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

52nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Portland, Ore., Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 1970
Commander: J. Milton Patrick*, Oklahoma
Vice Commanders: Kent T. Lundgren*, Michigan; Roland D. Marble*, Mississippi; Raymond F. Mudge*, New Hampshire; Earl R. Norgard*, Oregon; Gilberto M. Font*, Puerto Rico
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. William D. Curtis*, Minnesota
Historian: John A. May*, South Carolina
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

53rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 1971
Commander: Alfred P. Chamie*, California
Vice Commanders: Claude Carpenter*, Arkansas; Max Hanson*, Idaho; Robert E.L. Eaton*, Maryland; Gabriel T. Olga*, Massachusetts; John E. Gilbert*, Pennsylvania
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Milton B. Faust*, North Carolina
Historian: Howard M. Swinney*, Kentucky
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

54th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 18 – 24, 1972
Commander: John H. Geiger*, Illinois
Vice Commanders: Howard W. Fann*, Kentucky; Arthur M. MacCarthy*, Florida; Roy Sweet*, Vermont; Harry G. Wiles*, Kansas; Wallace C.S. Young*, Hawaii
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Paul J. Schwaab*, Nebraska
Historian: G. Greer McCallister*, Ohio
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

55th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 17 – 23, 1973
Commander: Joe L. Matthews*, Texas
Vice Commanders: Tim T. Craig*, North Carolina; Sam Gray*, California; Donald L. Gruenbaum*, Ohio; Albert J. Moeller*, New Jersey; Raymond J. Novak*, South Dakota
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. L. P. Fitzpatrick*, Iowa
Historian: Mrs. Loretta O. Phillips*, California
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New York

56th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Miami Beach, Fla., Aug. 16 – 22, 1974
Commander: Robert E. L. Eaton*, Maryland
Vice Commanders: John N. Roberto*, Connecticut; Frank C. Brooks*, Washington; Gilbert E. Sheeks*, Indiana; Merrick W. Swords, Jr.*, Louisiana; N. E. Brown*, South Carolina
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana

Chaplain: Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry*,
Missouri
Historian: R. Robert Filter*, Wisconsin
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

57th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 15 – 21, 1975
Commander: James M. Wagoner*, Ohio
Maurice Stember*, New York, Past National
Commander
Vice Commanders: Boyd H. Clemens*,
North Dakota; Jack W. Flynt*, Texas; Jay E.
Harville*, Tennessee; Donald H. Jeffery*,
Pennsylvania; William A. Lindsay*,
Montana
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Harvey T. Goodling*,
Oregon
Historian: Nolie C. Deas, Sr.*, Florida
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

58th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 20 – 26, 1976
Commander: Harry G. Wiles*, Kansas
Vice Commanders: John W. Adams, Jr.*,
Kentucky; Fred W. Anderson, Jr.*, Nevada;
Leo F. Malloy*, Massachusetts; Thomas W.
Miller*, Arkansas; James F. Walker*,
Minnesota
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Claude E. Smithmier*,
Georgia
Historian: Mrs. Dorothy Crimes*, Colorado
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

59th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Denver, Colo., Aug. 19 – 25, 1977
Commander: William J. Rogers*, Maine
Vice Commanders: Lloyd J. Berken*,
Wisconsin; Thomas B. Coll*, District of
Columbia; Robert B. Grauberger*,
Colorado; Frank A. Kelly*, Georgia; Wilbur
Walker*, Virginia
Adjutant: William F. Hauck*, Indiana
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. James C. Tuxbury*,
North Dakota
Historian: Alton H. Carpenter*, New York
Treasurer: William Francis Polen*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

60th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., Aug. 18 – 24, 1978

Commander: Robert Charles Smith*,
Louisiana
Vice Commanders: Eugene V. Lindquist*,
Minnesota; Roger A. Munson*, Ohio; John
J. O'Connell*, Rhode Island; Chester
Phillips*, West Virginia; Irving B. Selmer*,
Wyoming
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen*, Minnesota
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Walter D. Power*,
Maryland
Historian: Arnold J. Stockstad*, North
Dakota
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

61st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, Aug. 17 – 23, 1979
Commander: John M. Carey*, Michigan
Hamilton Fish*, New York, Past National
Commander
Vice Commanders: L. Max Connolly*,
Arizona; Alvin F. Grauerholz*, Kansas;
Joseph F. Ward*, New Jersey; John H.
Wienand, Jr.*, Alabama; Nathan M. Wolfe*,
South Carolina
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen*, Minnesota
Chaplain: R. Drew Wolcott*, Mexico
Historian: Harry H. Kretzler, M.D.*,
Washington
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

62nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Boston, Mass., Aug. 15 – 21, 1980
Commander: Frank I. Hamilton*, Indiana
Vice Commanders: G. Y. Fails*, New
Mexico; Keith A. Kreul*, Wisconsin; Bob
Legan*, Arkansas; Max E. Robinson*, North
Carolina; Lawrence R. Spaulding*, New
Hampshire.
Adjutant: Frank C. Momsen*, Minnesota
Chaplain: Rev. Karl E. Kniseley*, California
Historian: Phillip Haddad, Oklahoma
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

63rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 28 – Sept. 3, 1981
Commander: Michael J. Kogut*, New
York
Vice Commanders: Ralph M. Godwin*,
Mississippi; Keith H. Gwilliam*, Utah;
Matthew W. Jamieson*, Michigan; Robert
W. Lowry*, Nebraska; Dr. Almo J.
Sebastianelli*, Pennsylvania
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan

Chaplain: Rev. George S. Macres*,
Minnesota
Historian: Neal S. Sundeen, Arizona
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 20 – 26, 1982
Commander: Jack W. Flynt*, Texas
Vice Commanders: Frank T. Markovich*,
Missouri; Dan C. McDonough*, Alaska;
Percy C. Miller*, Tennessee; Melvin 'Doc'
Simon, Vermont; David A. Wade*,
Maryland
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. George R. M. Rumney*,
Virginia
Historian: Bernard J. Chisholm*, Minnesota
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

65th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 19 – 25, 1983
Commander: Al Keller, Jr.*, Illinois
Vice Commanders: Robert C. Gabrielson*,
South Dakota; Margaret M. Malone*, New
Jersey; H. Melvin Napier, Indiana; Jack C.
Plato*, Oregon; Leo O. Walker*, Oklahoma
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. John D. Kempf*, Ohio
Historian: James W. Conway*,
Massachusetts
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Bertram G. Davis*, New
York

66th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 3 – 5, 1984
Commander: Keith Kreul*, Wisconsin
Vice Commanders: J. Leslie Brown, Jr.*,
Kentucky; Roberto Gonzalez-Vazquez*,
Puerto Rico; Charles R. Green*, Ohio;
Robert W. Groccia*, Massachusetts, John N.
Lockhart*, Hawaii
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: James Clay McKee, Utah
Historian: Herberta T. Stark*, New
Hampshire
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
Maryland

67th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., Aug. 23 – 28, 1985
Commander: Clarence M. Bacon*, Maryland
Vice Commanders: Robert S. Turner,
Georgia; Harold E. Collett*, Idaho; Ronald

D. Birk*, Kansas; Stewart Kunde*,
Minnesota; Stephen J. Mikosky*,
Pennsylvania
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr.*, New
York
Historian: Roy B. Mahoney*, Florida
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
Maryland

68th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 29 – Sept. 4, 1986
Commander: Dale L. Renaud*, Iowa
Vice Commanders: Bernard Black*, South
Carolina; Norman Conn*, California; Vito
M. DeFilipp*, Maine; Miles S. Epling, West
Virginia, H. F. 'Sparky' Gierke*, North
Dakota
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Dr. Gordon L. Patterson*,
Nebraska
Historian: Ethel M. Matuschka*, Wisconsin
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
Maryland

69th NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 21 – 27, 1987
Commander: James P. Dean*, Mississippi
E. Roy Stone, Jr.*, South Carolina, Past
National Commander
Vice Commanders: William M. Detweiler*,
Louisiana; Doris R. Gross*, Washington;
Donald E. Neil*, Delaware; Allen L. Titus*,
Indiana; Ervin F. Van Dyke*, Wisconsin
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Fr. Arthur J. Jakobiak*, New
Mexico
Historian: J. Ruffin Apperson*, Virginia
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
Maryland

70th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Ky., Sept. 6 – 8, 1988
Commander: John P. 'Jake' Comer,
Massachusetts
Vice Commanders: Neale V. Cabral*,
Connecticut; Joe Frank, Jr., Missouri; W. P.
'Bill' Peterson*, Montana; Paul B. Phifer,
Jr.*, Virginia; F. Leon Reed*, Arkansas
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Jerry Salvesson*, Minnesota
Historian: Edward F. Brennan*, Illinois
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
Maryland

71st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore, Md., Sept. 5 – 7, 1989
Commander: H.F. 'Sparky' Gierke*, North Dakota
Vice Commanders: Thomas L. Gabel*, Ohio; Harvey Holcomb*, Texas; Archie Pozzi, Jr. *, Nevada; Ray G. Smith, Sr. *, North Carolina; John P. Tipping*, New York
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. F. Robert Davidson, Michigan
Historian: Richard A. Stevens, Sr. *, Louisiana
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

72nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 28 - 30, 1990
Commander: Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
Vice Commanders: Vincent E. Blank*, Iowa; Joseph E. Caouette*, New Hampshire; Andrew J. Cooper*, Alabama; Gerald Goetzing, South Dakota; Vinton R. Guy*, Colorado
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Lynn S. Kearsley*, Idaho
Historian: C. Carl Pilgrim*, South Carolina
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

73rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 3 – 5, 1991
Commander: Robert S. Turner, Georgia
Vice Commanders: Lewis Adams*, Nebraska; James T. Anderson *, Wyoming; Fred M. Ingellis*, Mississippi; Harry F. McDowell*, Florida; George E. Sampson*, New Jersey
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Michas M. Ohnstad, Minnesota
Historian: Harold Matthew Branton*, Texas
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

74th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 25 – 27, 1992
Commander: Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania
Vice Commanders: James 'Jim' G. Brouillette*, Vermont; Thomas P. Cadmus*, Michigan; Ronald C. Murphy*, Arizona; Lawrence F. Roy, Oklahoma; Lee R. Stolfus*, Kansas
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan

Chaplain: Rev. Donal M. 'Jack' Squires*, West Virginia
Historian: Bettie M. Canon*, Montana
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

75th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 3 – 9, 1993
Commander: Roger A. Munson*, Ohio
Vice Commanders: Joseph V. Adams*, Pennsylvania; Paul Andrejewski*, Minnesota; Robert E. 'Jack' David*, South Carolina; John William 'Bill' Murphy*, Arkansas; Louis A. 'Tony' Santillanes*, New Mexico
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. James R. Wagner, Mississippi
Historian: Delfo Barabani*, Massachusetts
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

76th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 6 – 8, 1994
Commander: Bruce Thiesen, California
Vice Commanders: Juan H. Cintron*, Puerto Rico; Douglas A. Mason*, Utah; John J. Mulhern*, Massachusetts; K. W. Ohl*, Indiana; Curtis O. Twete, North Dakota
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Msgr. Raymond J. Kozlowski*, New York
Historian: Marjorie T. Simpson*, Georgia
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

77th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 4 – 6, 1995
Commander: William M. Detweiler*, Louisiana
Vice Commanders: Joseph T. Craig*, Alaska; Silas M. Noel, Kentucky; Calvin E. Patton*, Maryland; H. Gordon Burleigh*, New York; Vernon K. Grosenick*, Wisconsin
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Roy L. Pryor*, South Carolina
Historian: M. LaReine Maxey*, Nevada, (died 10-7-94); Succeeded by Carl S. Wipperman*, Washington (appointed 10-19-94)
Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. *, Maryland

78th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 30 –Sept. 5, 1996
 Commander: Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
 Vice Commanders: Keith Baker*, Iowa;
 William L. Ciciotte*, Maine; Robert D.
 Scott, Oregon; C. Darrel Haskell, South
 Dakota; Ralph J. Reel*, Tennessee
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: Joseph E. Reynolds*, Texas
 Historian: R. Paul Tenney*, Vermont
 Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

79th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Orlando, Fla., Aug. 29 – Sept. 4, 1997
 Commander: Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
 Vice Commanders: Wilson R. Timmons*,
 Florida; Orland H. Taylor*, Hawaii; Roger
 L. Wild*, Nebraska; Albert M. Robotti*,
 New Jersey; Robert L. Bowen, Virginia
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: Charles H. Richmond*, Oklahoma
 Historian: Barbara 'Bobbe' Stuvengen*,
 Wisconsin
 Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

80th NATIONAL CONVENTION

New Orleans, La., Sept. 4 – 10, 1998
 Commander: Anthony Jordan, Maine
 Vice Commanders: Erwin Gus Williams,
 Connecticut; Conrad A. Chisholm*, Idaho;
 Norris W. Preston*, Missouri; Gerald L.
 Moore*, Ohio; Robert E. Vass*, West
 Virginia
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: Rev. Henry E. Eisenhart*,
 Pennsylvania
 Historian: Tommy Mills*, Mississippi
 Treasurer: Webber LaGrange, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

81st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Anaheim, Calif., Sept. 3 – 9, 1999
 Commander: Butch L. Miller, Virginia
 Vice Commanders: Leo P. Burke*,
 California; Roger L. Tingler, Georgia;
 James W. Gravenstein, Kansas; Fernando
 M. Goulart, Rhode Island; John D. Morris*,
 Texas
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: Rev. Robert J. Sweeney*, New
 York
 Historian: Robert L. Klipstine*, Ohio

Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

82nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 1 – 7, 2000
 Commander: Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
 Vice Commanders: James F. Fraughnaugh*,
 Alabama; Milton W. Lobstein, Michigan;
 Robert Skallerud*, Minnesota; Robert F.
 Neville, New York; L. Harry Easley*,
 Washington
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: David R. Brown, Louisiana
 Historian: Robert Mead*, Nebraska
 Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

83rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 24 – 30, 2001
 Commander: Ray G. Smith*, North Carolina
 Vice Commanders: Charles C. Ragsdell*,
 Arkansas; James E. Koutz, Indiana;
 Henry P. Bradley, Massachusetts; John C.
 Pellegrini, Montana; William A. Weatherly*,
 South Carolina
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: Calvin C. Turpin*, California
 Historian: James Buterbaugh, Kansas
 Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

84th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 27 – 29, 2002
 Commander: Richard J. Santos, Maryland
 Vice Commanders: Russell H. Hanseter,
 Wisconsin; Charles R. John*, Oklahoma;
 Terry D. Lewis*, Pennsylvania; James F.
 Mareschal*, Missouri; Dale R. Salmen*,
 Nevada
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
 Chaplain: David F. Russell, Virginia
 Historian: Walter L. Davis, Michigan
 Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
 Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*,
 Maryland

85th NATIONAL CONVENTION

St. Louis, Mo., Aug. 26 – 28, 2003
 Commander: Ronald F. Conley,
 Pennsylvania
 Vice Commanders: Jefferson 'Jeff'
 Luginbuel*, Colorado; Roy L. Kirkham,
 Louisiana; Robert M. Johnson*, Maryland;
 Robert G. Bournival, New Hampshire;
 Donavon R. Mason*, South Dakota
 Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan

Chaplain: Rev. Norris A. Keirn, Indiana
Historian: Donald F. Simons, Texas
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

86th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2, 2004
Commander: John A. Brieden, III, Texas
Vice Commanders: Richard G. Denbow, Iowa; Michael Dennis Helm, Nebraska; Fang A. Wong, New York; Clinton E. Thompson, North Carolina; Todd E. White, Wyoming
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. Dr. William J. P. Doubek, III, Missouri
Historian: Fae Casper, Georgia
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

87th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 23 – 25, 2005
Commander: Thomas P. Cadmus*, Michigan
Vice Commanders: Marco A. Valenzuela*, Arizona; Charles W. Barrett, Georgia; Samuel Barney*, Ohio; Wayne B. Richey, South Carolina; Linda M. Thayer, Vermont
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Rev. James T. Akers*, Kansas
Historian: W. Frazier Brinley, Connecticut
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

88th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 29 – 31, 2006
Commander: Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
Vice Commanders: Willard F. Coffey, Michigan; James H. Hall*, New Jersey; Taurino J. Trevino*, New Mexico; Sebastian T. Roll*, North Dakota; Michael E. Harris, Virginia
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
Chaplain: Steven E. Wright, Utah
Historian: Johnny B. Keel, Louisiana
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

89th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Reno, Nev., Aug. 28 – 30, 2007
Commander: Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
Vice Commanders: Bryon W. White*, Alabama; Elgin Wahlborg, Kansas; Lloyd H. Woods, Maine; Robert C. Lahiere, Tennessee; Allan C. Setterberg, Utah
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan

Chaplain: Stanley Gruneich, South Dakota
Historian: Michael J. Miskell, Pennsylvania
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

90th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 26 – 28, 2008
Commander: Martin F. Conatser, Illinois
Vice Commanders: Peggy G. Dettori, Alaska; Thomas L. Burns, Jr., Delaware; Randall A. Fisher, Kentucky; Donald Hayden, Minnesota; David A. Korth*, Wisconsin
Adjutant: Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan
(Voted title of Past National Commander, effective 10/16/2008)
Chaplain: Rev. Elliott L. Foss, Jr., Georgia
Historian: James M. Holmes*, Indiana
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

91st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Louisville, Ky., Aug. 25 – 27, 2009
Commander: David K. Rehbein, Iowa
Vice Commanders: James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Connecticut
Michael J. Landkamer, Nebraska
James W. Davis, West Virginia
Harley W. Ray, Oregon; Dellan 'Shorty' T. Simmons, Texas
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Rev. Lawrence 'Larry' Vollink, Michigan
Historian: Charles J. Zelinsky, Illinois
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

92nd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 30, Sept. 1, 2, 2010
Commander: Clarence E. Hill, Florida
Vice Commanders: Morris M. Bentley, Idaho, Dr. Gordon B. Browning*, Maryland, Mark A. Avis, Massachusetts, James C. Morris, Ohio, Eugene Schumacher, South Dakota
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Rev. John L. Beaver, Alabama
Historian: James T. Higuera, California
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr.*, Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr.*, Maryland

93rd NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 30 – Sept. 1, 2011
Commander: Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
Vice Commanders: Russell J. Henry,

Louisiana; John M. Mella, Michigan; Carlos Orria-Medina, Puerto Rico; Eugene R. Pytka, Rhode Island; William F. Schrier, Washington
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin
Historian: James Fratolillo, Massachusetts
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

94th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 28 - 30, 2012
Commander: Fang A. Wong, New York
Richard M. Pedro*, New York, Past National Commander
Vice Commanders: Mervin G. Gunderson*, Montana; James H. Hales, Jr., Pennsylvania; Milton G. Heifner, Iowa; Larry D. Sheets*, Florida; David N. Voyles, Missouri
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Gerald Theriot, Louisiana
Historian: Robert B. Craig, Nebraska
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

95th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Houston, Texas, Aug. 27 – 29, 2013
Commander: James E. Koutz, Indiana
Vice Commanders: Jeanette Rae, Nevada; John E. Neylon, New Hampshire; Glenn A. Hickman, Ohio; James H. Holland, South Carolina; David R. Hall, West Virginia
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Ronald Derrick, Idaho
Historian: N. Larry Rozier, North Carolina
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

96th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Charlotte, N. C. Aug. 26 – 28, 2014
Commander: Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia
Vice Commanders: Douglas W. Wooddell, Colorado; Robert E. Newman, Indiana; William A. Rakestraw, Jr., New Jersey; Wayne D. Satrom, North Dakota; Paul E. Dillard, Texas
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Daniel A. McClure, Iowa
Historian: Charemon Dunham, South Dakota
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

97th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore, Md. Sept. 1 – 3, 2015
Commander: Michael D. Helm, Nebraska
Vice Commanders: Paul O. Sanford, Kansas; Douglas C. Haggan, France; Richard W. Neville, North Carolina; William R. Bryant, Virginia; Gerald L. Jacobs, Wyoming
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Tierian ‘Randy’ Cash, North Carolina
Historian: Susan B. Mason, Florida
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

98th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 30, 31, Sept. 1, 2016
Commander: Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
Vice Commanders: George E. Cushing, Arizona; Jimmy F. Lane, Arkansas; John W. Hargreaves, Maine; Alan A. Davis, Sr., Minnesota; David L. Gough, Wisconsin
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: H. C. Ted Kelley*, Pennsylvania
Historian: James E. Copher, Minnesota
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

99th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Reno, Nev., Aug. 22 – 24, 2017
Commander: Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
Vice Commanders: Paul Martel, Florida; Fae Casper, Georgia; Douglas L. Boldt, Nebraska; Paul L. Espinoza, New Mexico; Vincent James Troiola, New York
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Harvey H. Klee*, Texas
Historian: Paul D. Bennett, Missouri
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr., Maryland

100th NATIONAL CONVENTION

Minneapolis, MN, Aug 28 – 30, 2018
Commander: Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
Vice Commanders: Larry J. Marcouillier, Denver; William J. Flanagan, Illinois; Bobby D. Bryant, Oklahoma; Byron I. Callies, South Dakota; Paula R. Stephenson, Utah
Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia
Chaplain: Robert A. Vick, Florida
Historian: Richard T. Dubay, Michigan
Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr., Indiana
Judge Advocate: Kevin J. Bartlett, Michigan

101st NATIONAL CONVENTION

Indianapolis, IN, Aug. 27-29, 2019

Commander: Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

Vice Commanders: James E. Pisa, Alaska;

Paul I. Spedalieri, Connecticut; John F.

Milburn, Maryland; James E. Wallace,

Michigan; Steve Sweet, Mississippi

Adjutant: Daniel S. Wheeler, Virginia

Chaplain: Phillip G. Salois, Rhode Island

Historian: Frederick S. Doten, Nevada

Treasurer: George A. Buskirk, Jr. *, Indiana

Judge Advocate: Kevin J. Bartlett, Michigan

The American Legion 101st Annual Report

FOREWORD

The American Legion continued to have a strong year under the leadership of National Commander James W. Oxford, North Carolina. Membership was strong with nearly 2 million veterans in more than 12,000 posts throughout the nation and overseas. We recorded another year of rewarding service to America, her veterans, and their families.

The American Legion National Headquarters is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition to the Indianapolis facilities, offices are maintained in Washington, DC, to house those organizational functions requiring a close working relationship with the Congress and the appropriate agencies of the federal government. The editorial and advertising staffs of *The American Legion Magazine* are located at The American Legion's Indianapolis Headquarters.

Reports of the national officers, the national commissions, financial statement with accompanying data, and a report of the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary are included.

Throughout the year, the two organizations continued to provide vital leadership to the nation and, through our activities and programs, contributed significantly to the preservation of the American way of life. We are proud of our accomplishments and look forward to the challenges ahead in the coming year.

Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant

EXCERPTS FROM CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

ARTICLE II

Nature

Section 1. The American Legion is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in the Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention or meeting of the Legion.

Section 2. The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.

ARTICLE III

Organization

Section 1. The American Legion shall be organized in Departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one Department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one Department in each territory and insular possession of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Posts in the territorial and insular possessions of the United States and foreign countries, and shall designate the Department under whose jurisdiction they shall function, but this shall in no way affect the status of Departments already established.

ARTICLE IV

Eligibility

Section 1. An individual is eligible for membership in The American Legion only if the individual -

(1) has served in the Armed Forces of

(A) the United States at any time during -

(i) the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918; or

(ii) any time after December 7, 1941; or

(B) a government associated with the United States Government during a period or time referred to in subsection (A) of this section and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and

(2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period or time; provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably during or after any of said periods; provided, further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during any of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject themselves to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Post.

Section 4. No person, who has been expelled from The American Legion by a Post, and such expulsion reported by the Department to the National Headquarters within thirty (30) days, shall be admitted to membership in another Post without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, such person may then appeal to the Executive Committee of the Department of the expelling Post for permission to be admitted to membership in another Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

ARTICLE V

National Convention

Section 1. The legislative body of The American Legion shall be the National Convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. The time and place of the National Conventions shall be determined by the National Executive Committee, which shall have authority to change such time and place for sufficient reasons to it appearing.

Section 3. In the National Convention each Department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the meeting of said convention, and whose registration fees, as fixed by the National Executive Committee, for its total authorized delegate strength, have been paid; and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegates shall be chosen not less than two weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any other manner specified by any Department Constitution.

Section 4. Each duly registered delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any registered delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the registered delegates present from one's Department. Alternates for registered delegates shall have all the privileges of registered delegates, except that of voting. A registered delegate is a person who has received one's credentials after one's registration fee has been paid.

Section 5. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

Section 6. The National Executive Committee shall provide a Uniform Code of Procedure for the orderly organization and operation of National Conventions with continuing power of revision, and said Code shall be applicable at all National Conventions

unless it is amended, suspended, or repealed by a majority vote of the total authorized representation at a National Convention.

ARTICLE VI

National Officers

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, and five National Vice Commanders, who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No persons shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander or National Vice Commander.

Section 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of The American Legion, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy; however, no Past National Commander, or Past Past National Vice Commander shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint the National Adjutant, National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate, National Chaplain, and National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds, which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Section 4. All Past National Commanders, while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of The American Legion, with vote, to be exercised by them with their respective Departments.

ARTICLE VII

National Executive Committee

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the administrative power of The American Legion shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice Commanders, and one National Executive Committee Member and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to act only in the absence of the National Executive Committee Member.

Section 2. The term of office of such National Executive Committee Member and alternates shall be two years. The term of office of each National Executive Committee Member and alternate shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing after their election and shall end at the adjournment of the second next succeeding annual National Convention.

Section 3. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates to the National Convention with vote, which vote shall be exercised with their respective Departments, except that the vote of the National Commander shall be exercised only in their capacity as chair of the National Convention.

Past National Commanders

John P. Comer, Massachusetts
 Miles S. Epling, West Virginia
 Robert S. Turner, Georgia
 Dominic D. DiFrancesco, Pennsylvania
 Bruce Thiesen, California
 William M. Detweiler, Louisiana
 Daniel A. Ludwig, Minnesota
 Joseph J. Frank, Missouri
 Anthony G. Jordan, Maine

Butch L. Miller, Virginia
 Hon. Alan G. Lance, Sr., Idaho
 Richard J. Santos, Maryland
 Ronald F. Conley, Pennsylvania
 John A. Brieden, III, Texas
 Thomas L. Bock, Colorado
 Paul A. Morin, Massachusetts
 Martin F. 'Marty' Conatser, Illinois
 Robert W. Spanogle, Michigan

David K. Rehbein, Iowa
 Clarence E. Hill, Florida
 Jimmie L. Foster, Alaska
 Fang A. Wong, New York
 James E. Koutz, Indiana
 Daniel M. Dellinger, Virginia

Michael D. Helm, Kansas
 Harold D. Barnett, Georgia
 Charles E. Schmidt, Oregon
 Denise H. Rohan, Wisconsin
 Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

National Executive Committee Members

Willis Frazier, Alabama
 Steven L. Huisman, Alaska
 Judith S. Beischel, Arizona
 Mary V. Erdman, Arkansas
 Lawrence Van Kuran, California
 Thomas J. Florez, Colorado
 D. Joseph Jackson, Connecticut
 Robert L. Michael, Delaware
 George E. Roundtree, D.C.
 Dennis R. Boland, Florida
 James M. Settle, France
 Charles F. Wessinger, Georgia
 David R. Carlson, Hawaii
 Robert L. Skinner, Idaho
 Tom Marciciak, Illinois
 Jerry L. Jordon, Indiana
 Jerry D. Sebben, Iowa
 David O. Warnken, Kansas
 William O. Moore, Kentucky
 Charles D. Aucoin, Louisiana
 Lloyd H. Woods, Maine
 Patricia A. McCoy, Maryland
 James E. Brehio, Massachusetts
 Michael D. Wood, Mexico
 John W. Knox, Michigan
 William C. Barbknecht, Minnesota
 Robert E. Gosa, Mississippi
 Kenneth J. Goth, Missouri

David A. Driver, Montana
 William D. Crosier, Jr., Nebraska
 Ronald L. Michalski, Nevada
 Kenneth B. Maynard, New Hampshire
 Charles K. Robbins, New Jersey
 Paul L. Espinoza, New Mexico
 William R. Kearsing Jr., New York
 Jeff W. Joyner North Carolina
 Robert L. Krause, North Dakota
 Robert M. Klostermeier, Ohio
 Timothy W. Smith, Oklahoma
 Robert A. Millar, Oregon
 E. Michael Stelacio, Pennsylvania
 Lawrence E. Wade, Philippines
 Angel O. Narvaez Negron, Puerto Rico
 David A. Williams, Rhode Island
 Michael D. Strauss, South Carolina
 James Huls, South Dakota
 David G. Alexander, Tennessee
 C. W. Sparks, Jr., Texas
 Terry D. Schow, Utah
 Frederick E. Latour, Vermont
 Michael F. Mitrione, Virginia
 Dale F. Davis, Washington
 William W. Kile, West Virginia
 Robert L. Shappell Wisconsin
 Terry E. Miller Wyoming

Alternate National Executive Committee Members

Hardwick "Rico" Hall, Sr., Alabama
 James L. Van Horn, Alaska
 Andres Jaime, Jr., Arizona
 C. Jacob Greeling, Arkansas
 Kenneth A. Kramlich, California
 John W. Bowen, Colorado
 Robert S. Murray, Connecticut
 Jeffrey K. Crouser, Delaware
 Carlton T Durham, D.C.
 Arthur J. Schwabe, Florida
 Hans J. Stockenberger, France
 Phil Youngblood, Georgia
 Marvin R. Siegfried, Hawaii
 George A. Woodman, Idaho

Willard W. Erickson, Illinois
 Edward J. Trice, Indiana
 Dennis J. Soppe Iowa
 Gaylord K. Sanneman, Kansas
 Michael W. Moses, Sr., Kentucky
 Rudolph A. Bourg, Sr., Louisiana
 Randall G. Kluj, Maine
 David J. Johnson, Maryland
 Michael P. Davis, Massachusetts
 Jerry A. King, Mexico
 Jerry D. Lynch, Michigan
 Peggy Moon, Minnesota
 Steve Sweet, Mississippi
 Thomas K. Goodin, Missouri

Peter Hal Rice, Montana
 Frederick C. Craigie, Nebraska
 Yvette L. Weigold, Nevada
 Robert E. Dionne, Sr., New Hampshire
 Berley Hanna, Jr., New Jersey
 Edward Cheatham, Jr., New Mexico
 W. Michael Bowen, New York
 Patricia A. Harris, North Carolina
 Dean Overby, North Dakota
 Stephen M. Masowick, Ohio
 John L. Bloxom, Oklahoma
 Jim Willis, Oregon
 Paul M. Kennedy, Pennsylvania
 Stanley Gene Wylazlowski, Philippines

Isaac Rodriguez, Puerto Rico
 Neil M. Tack, Rhode Island
 Robert D. Scherer, South Carolina
 Dennis O. Brenden, South Dakota
 George Harper, Jr., Tennessee
 Kenneth W. Mueller Texas
 Richard G. Fisher, Utah
 David Woodward, Vermont
 Linden B. Dixon, Jr., Virginia
 David C. Hodgeboom, Washington
 Frank L. Cooley, West Virginia
 Dale H. Oatman, Wisconsin
 Douglas Uhrig, Wyoming

**EXCERPTS FROM BY-LAWS OF THE
 AMERICAN LEGION
 ARTICLE I
 National Executive Committee
 Commission, Committee, and Employees**

Section 6. There shall be the following standing commissions: Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Marketing Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

The commissions shall consist of such number of members of The American Legion as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. Appointments to such commissions shall be made by the National Executive Committee upon nomination by the National Commander. The National Executive Committee is empowered to assign duties and responsibilities to all standing commissions and committees and to group standing committees with commissions for the purpose of efficient supervision and coordination of activities.

Section 7. The National Executive Committee shall provide for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of the affairs of The American Legion, and prescribe their duties and emoluments.

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
 James W. Oxford, North Carolina**

This is an unprecedented time in American Legion history. When I addressed the National Convention and National Executive Committee in 2019, nobody, least of all me, could have imagined that after August 2020 I would still be the national commander.

My term as commander could be divided into two distinct periods – B.C. and A.C. – before COVID-19 and after COVID-19. This extension certainly wasn't something that I sought. But, as we all know, the coronavirus has caused us all to improvise & adapt. We are all disappointed that we couldn't meet in Louisville. We're disappointed that we couldn't meet last spring and that all of our national youth programs had to be cancelled this year. But The American Legion has never been about self. This isn't about us.

Families that lost loved ones are beyond disappointed. Same with small businesses that have closed as a result of the pandemic. Disappointment is an understatement to those who have lost jobs. So we continue to serve. Now, perhaps more than ever. We are needed.

You are needed. I need you, The American Legion needs you and your communities need you.

I'd like to read to you a brief message. "Someone in your life needs to hear that they matter. That they are loved. That they have a future. Be the one to tell them." These were some of the final words of Army veteran Ronnie McNutt, who live-streamed his suicide on social media.

Did you catch his final plea? "Be the one to tell them."

Folks, we are not professional counselors. But we are people who care. We are veterans and approximately 20 of our brothers and sisters-in-arms take their own lives each day in America.

Do you think our Enhanced Buddy Checks could make a difference? All Ronnie McNutt was asking was for people to reach out, love them. Tell them that they matter. Tell them that you appreciate how they defended us in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam or wherever they may have served. Then tell them that you are available to help out and to be their friend and advocate.

Always keep the Crisis Hotline Number handy and follow-up to ensure that the veteran gets the help that he or she needs. Let them know that they do matter to The American Legion.

We are pleased that Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa has drafted legislation to require the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a Buddy Check week. While the Buddy Check concept was originated by us, we are concerned with the well-being of all of America's veterans. This bill will require VA to provide educational opportunities for veterans to learn how to conduct wellness checks and will increase resources to the Veterans Crisis Line during the designated week. The suicide rate was a crisis among veterans before the COVID-19 pandemic. The shutdowns, economic consequences and isolation have added gasoline to this fire.

Another fire seems to be the heated political vitriol that is dominating this election season. Some of our members have expressed frustration with us because we don't chime-in on the top story of every news cycle. Let me read to you Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The American Legion. It states, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking office or preferment."

Sadly, even when you discuss public policy, no matter how issue-oriented the intent, it is viewed by too many who are ready to pounce, exploit or misinterpret according to partisan agendas. Our neutrality when it comes to elections is not only mandated by our constitution, but it actually serves us well in a practical sense. It is the reason why The American Legion works well with Democrats, Republicans and Independents in Congress. The fact is, nearly every successful veterans bill of consequence has had bipartisan support. Our nonpartisanship also helps us maintain a productive relationship with the White House regardless of which party is in the Oval Office.

At the same time, we want veterans to vote. Veterans have fought for, and in many cases, died for this constitutional right. We don't tell veterans who to vote for. We just ask them to be informed about issues that are important to them and cast their vote accordingly. And this is another area where our Enhanced Buddy Checks can make a difference. Maybe a veteran is struggling to understand the local rules or the registration process. Maybe another veteran needs a ride to the voting precinct. Maybe someone would like to vote early or cast an absentee ballot. Those of us who are able, could probably help out. But it's up to us to ask and offer that assistance.

Now, getting back to B.C. – Before COVID. I believe we could have made our membership goal last year if not for COVID-19. We had momentum and we were in striking distance when we went into the Washington Conference, which was very successful. Then, as the conference was winding down, the world changed dramatically.

The NBA shut down, travel screeched to a halt and we learned a new term, "social distancing." From the beginning of this crisis, we recommended that Legionnaires follow

the guidance of their local authorities. But it was not easy for a close-knit family such as ours to suddenly become distant.

Feeding the hungry, supporting health care workers and donating personal protective equipment to those in need became priority one for so many of our American Legion posts. Departments and posts held blood drives, virtual meetings and enhanced buddy checks. Last month, the Department of Texas conducted an online or virtual job fair for veterans and their spouses. We improvised. We adapted.

We can do the same for membership. You are the leaders of your departments. Membership is still our lifeblood. Without members, there is no American Legion. I recently reminded all the department commanders that most of them only get to serve one year. This is their shot. Their opportunity. And their legacy.

What will your legacy be? When Legionnaires in, I don't know, the year 2050, look back on the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020, what will they say about the National Executive Committee of this period? Will your actions be mentioned in future American Legion history books and magazines? Will the NEC of 2020 be mentioned on an American Legion timeline as being pivotal to a new era of growth?

When the crew of Apollo 13 was seriously endangered, the successful response by the engineers was called NASA's finest hour. This pandemic has seriously tried America's flexibility. If we don't have a large army of Legionnaires to operate food drives, donate facemasks and conduct Buddy Checks, who will do these things?

Who will provide emergency relief when a hurricane, tornado or wild fire devastates a community? Let us not forget the millions of people who have been impacted by the wildfires out west and the hurricanes that severely damaged parts of Louisiana, and states of the southeast.

In addition to our national programs, there are many posts and departments that offer their own support. 2020 is a year that many would like to forget. But I truly believe it could be our finest hour. We are meeting differently and we are serving differently, but we are still serving.

We have to do a better job of communicating with the public. Only about half our posts submit Consolidated Post Reports. This is unacceptable. We use this data in so many ways. Whether it's used in a report to Congress, interviews with national media outlets or reminding advertisers why they should associate with The American Legion brand, the CPRs are our opportunity to say, "Yes, The American Legion accomplished great things in 2020. While society shut down, The American Legion did not. We came to the rescue of veterans, military members, their families and the youth of America!"

Even if your posts had no activities to report, please send in those CPRs. It is very easy to do. If a post has not been active, the CPR can let us know that perhaps a revitalization is needed. Regardless, information is a good thing. There is no reason why we cannot have 100 percent participation in submitting CPRs. Please share this important request with all of your district and post commanders. I mentioned this to the department commanders and adjutants, but you can mention it again. It's that important.

Considering our current environment, we do an adequate job of attracting new members. It's renewals that cause us to fall short of our goals. We need to do more than simply welcome the new members to our organization. We need to call them regularly. We need to Buddy Check them. We need to listen to their concerns and provide support whenever we can. If a new member's only communication from us is an annual dues notice, he or she won't be a member for long.

We need to be responsive and efficient when a member joins or renews. Please remind your post adjutants and post commanders to check their mailboxes often. We have been receiving a number of calls from people who have renewed weeks ago but are upset that their checks haven't been cashed. It's just a matter of communication with your members and those who wish to be members.

Since the founding of The American Legion, America has benefited from having the most efficient and professional military in the world. We need to show that same efficiency

and professionalism as the nation's leading veteran's organization. We need to be an active and visible reminder that it isn't the price of admission that makes The American Legion great, it's the price we all paid to be eligible.

An organization is only as good as its people, and the people of The American Legion already have a track record of honorable service to their country. Even when we're apart, we can do great things. Our "100 miles For Hope" is an opportunity to have fun, exercise and donate to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The campaign ends on Veterans Day, but it isn't too late to participate. I usually knock three miles out during each of my walking sessions. Our professional joggers and runners can probably do more.

If you need a little inspiration, I'd like to read to you a posting that we put on our Legiontown website on August 21. It was submitted by Charlie Parker of Murrieta, California. "I am new to The American Legion," Charlie wrote. "I attended my first meeting at Post 852 last night. I'm attaching a photo of me just as I finished my 25th mile. I have 75 miles to go and 83 days in which to do it. It will be a challenge because both I and my wife have multiple doctor appointments during that period. I am a wheelchair user and my wife had a stroke three years ago. I am her primary caregiver. I wonder, am I the only 100-mile swimmer?"

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the type of dedicated servants we have in our American Legion. With a few exceptions, not many sectors expect growth this year. Let us be the exception. Let our legacy for 2020 be our finest hour.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER Bruce C. Feuerbach, Iowa

In the first part of August 2019 as a national vice commander candidate along with the national commander candidate we were invited to attend national officers orientation in Indianapolis. This was also a great time for us to meet the department commanders and adjutants that we would be working with. This was some great training for incoming hopefuls. From there we all flew to the Washington D.C. American Legion office spending a few days there getting trained as to what we could expect in the coming year if we were elected. Here again the training was excellent. I was honored to have Past National Commander David K. Rehbein deliver my nomination speech. He did an outstanding job. Later that day on August 29, 2019 I was elected to the high office of national vice commander.

As a national vice commander my main goal is to represent the national commander when he is not present, pass on his goals, ideas, and to promote membership. Also, it is one of my duties to visit each of my assigned departments, up to two visits, one as an official visit and one that is membership oriented. My departments were as follows, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. My wife, Velda, a 39-year auxiliary member, accompanied me on several of my trips.

My first official trip was to the Department of Texas. Velda and I arrived on September 26, 2019 at the Omni Hotel, Austin, Texas. I gave greetings and encouragement to several of the Department of Texas commissions and committees. Had the opportunity to visit the Department of Texas Headquarters building. Attended the Sons of the American Legion Award night. Had the opportunity to bring greetings to the Texas American Legion Auxiliary. Gave an address to the Texas Department Executive Committee. Also had the opportunity to visit Department Adjutant Bill West's post home. Left for home September 29, 2019 in the afternoon.

On October 4 and 5 I had the honor of attending National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp's homecoming. During her homecoming Velda and I traveled to Tama, Iowa twice, visiting the John Deere Museum and Prosthesis Medical Center. We all enjoyed a farm to table dinner in a local farmer's machine shed. On Saturday, a formal banquet was enjoyed by all at the Meskwaki Hotel in Tama.

In October at the Fall Conference in Indianapolis as a national vice commander it was my duty to have a breakfast to meet and greet the department commanders of the Midwest Region. At that time, we had a round table discussion about this year's goals and how we were going to achieve those goals. Velda and I had the opportunity to go to the Ye Kings dinner banquet. Got to share a toast with the new adjutants being inducted. Also was honored to witness my department adjutant, John Derner, from Iowa get elected as Ye King. Attended the National Executive Committee meeting at National Headquarters. As a grand finally Velda and I attended the national commander's banquet to honor the National Executive Committee.

My second trip in October was to Mahanomen, MN. The purpose of my visit was to promote membership. Spoke to the delegation and we also had a hospitality of the districts to include a band for the evening festivities.

On November 2 attended my district conference in the Department of Iowa. On November 3 traveled to Kansas to participate in a membership rally. Our delegation attended 8 posts. We also attended a German POW camp in Concordia, Kansas and toured the museum. We also went to a barbed wire museum in La Cross Kansas. Attended an Honor Flight homecoming in Wichita Airport. Had the opportunity to speak and welcome them home. Headed back home to Iowa on November 6th.

Veterans Day, 2019 flew to Washington D.C. on November 10 and attended a Veteran's Day breakfast on November 11. The Honorable Robert Wilkie, Secretary of the Veterans Affairs, was the guest speaker. Was honored to be present to hear from Vice President Michael Pence at Arlington National Cemetery. Later that day it was a true honor along, with National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp, to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.

November 17 Velda and I were invited to attend, and I spoke at the Shellsburg, Iowa American Legion Auxiliary birthday party. On November 18 thru the 23 I participated in the Iowa membership tour. We visited approximately 20 posts. Some of the highlights were meeting and greeting the legionnaires of Iowa, promoting membership everywhere we went. Was honored to present a 73-year continuous membership certificate to a WWII Veteran from Post 169, Montezuma, Iowa. Also had the opportunity to attend the funeral of Private Channing Whitaker, WWII Veteran, who was finally laid to rest on U.S. soil.

On December 6, 2019 attended Christmas party at the Iowa Department Headquarters. December 13, I along with Department Commander James Kessler went to visit the Iowa Service office in Des Moines, Iowa. We also made an official visit to the Marshalltown Iowa Veterans

January 9, 2020 arrived in Kearney, Nebraska for their Midyear Conference. Spoke to the Nebraska Department Executive Committee to bring greetings and report on Iowa's Internal Affairs Commission. Had lunch at Kearney's Post home. Gave a speech to the American Legion Family. Had the opportunity to attend the Nebraska Oratorical Contest on January 11, 2020. After parting remarks left at 11 a.m. on January 12.

In February on the way to Nebraska I stopped in Des Moines for their mid-winter conference on the 13th. While there I attend the Internal Affairs Commission meeting that I am a member of. Arrived at Nebraska February 14 for two district conferences to promote membership and Commander Oxford's message. The conferences were in Pawnee and Beatrice, Nebraska. Returned home on February 17.

On March 2 Velda and I were invited to the American Legion Birthday supper in Belle Plaine, Iowa where I was given the opportunity to speak. On March 7 Velda and I flew to Washington D.C. for the Washington Conference. I attended the National Security Commission meeting. Attended the National Membership Chairman's membership meeting. Held a national vice commander break out session for my eight departments along with many guests attending on March 8 to promote membership and Commander Oxford's goals. The Iowa Delegation had appointments to visit with both Senators and the congressional representatives. All meetings went well promoting the American Legion

agenda and ideals. March 18 I was honored to present some 5th grade essay contest winners (What the Flag Means to Me), at the Benton Community Middle School in Norway, Iowa.

In mid March the Covid 19 epidemic was getting to be very serious business. All of the travel appointments I had were cancelled to include the National Convention.

During that time I had to revamp my correspondence with more e-mails, conference calls, Zoom telephone calls, and regular telephone calls. Buddy checks became a major talking point and vital in keeping our American Legion going strong.

The National Executive Committee passed a resolution for those willing to serve may continue in their current positions till the end of the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Thank you. I am proud and honored to serve another year.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER **David L. King, Kentucky**

While attending the Washington Conference in February of 2019, I appeared before the Southern Caucus Screening Committee for an interview as a candidate for the high office of national vice commander for the Southern Region. With the positive recommendation of this committee, I was again interviewed at the National Headquarters during the Spring Meetings. With another positive recommendation from Indianapolis, I was called in to Indianapolis for the August 2019 Membership Workshop and national officer orientation.

The national officer orientation was attended by then leading candidate for national commander Bill Oxford, trailing candidate Paul Dillard, national vice candidates Rich Heigert, Bruce Feuerbach, Frank McDonald, Robert Liebenow and myself, the American Legion Auxiliary leading candidate for national president Nicole Clapp, trailing candidate Kathy Daudistel, and the leading candidate for the Sons of The American Legion Clint Bolt. I was totally impressed with this team during orientation. During this past year, I have come to admire them, respect them and be thankful I could be a part of this great group of Americans.

This detailed orientation covered personnel and financial matters, marketing, all programs in the Americanism Division, legal matters, media and communications, internal affairs, membership and much more. I must compliment the National Adjutant Dan Wheeler and his staff for being the utmost professionals in their positions for The American Legion.

On 11 August 2019, along with the afore mentioned group, I traveled to Washington D.C. for orientation from the headquarters staff in the national office located there. Topics of veterans employment and education, media relations, national security, legislative, veterans affairs and rehabilitation and more were briefed to us. Again, The American Legion has excelled in employing such a great team.

On the 29 August 2019, I was honored by the nomination and election as a national vice commander for the Southern Region at the National Convention in Indianapolis. Following the Convention, my first official duty was to attend the Post Convention National Executive Committee meeting. New officers were introduced, appointments ratified and portfolios of information was given to all new national vice commanders. Following this meeting, I attended the reception for the newly elected national commander, Bill Oxford of North Carolina.

I had the opportunity in Lexington, Kentucky on 4 September 2019 to meet with Kentucky Congressman Andy Barr and Tennessee Congressman Phil Roe. Congressman Barr is member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Congressman Roe is the ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. We discussed legislative priorities of the American Legion. Both of these Congressmen are friends to veterans.

As a 2018 Inductee to the Kentucky Veterans Hall Of Fame, I attended the 2020 inductee reception and ceremony on 6 September 2019. The veterans inducted into this hall

of fame, are all outstanding contributors to their community, state and nation long after they put away their uniforms.

During the month of September 2019, I phoned the department commanders, district commanders and post commanders to congratulate and encourage the growth of newly activated posts. New posts were 1831 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; 555 in Mint Hill, North Carolina; and 310 in Stockbridge, Georgia. I offered assistance and encouraged them to use the Four Pillars of The American Legion as a "Foundation for the Future".

I attended the National Americanism Conference 27-29 September 2019 in Indianapolis. Serving as the national oratorical chairmen, meetings were held to discuss consistency in contests, getting more students involved, rule changes and working with the National High School Speech and Debate Program. No matter how long someone has been involved with this program, these meetings always generate new and better ideas for this contest.

Also in September, I made contact with many of the southern departments to schedule visits at conferences and membership drives.

During the dates of 12-17 October 2019, I took part in the Fall Meetings in Indianapolis. I attended the Department Commanders and Adjutants Conference, the orientation for new National Executive Committeemen and the National Executive Committee at headquarters. I chaired the Southern Region breakfast and attended the national commander's reception and dinner.

Also in October 2019, National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp and members of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation visited both campus of the veterans hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. I accompanied them on their visit and met with the Lexington VA director.

On 26 October 2019, I attended/spoke at the Kentucky Fall Conference.

On 2 November 2019, while camping with family at a Kentucky State Park, I tripped over a tent rope and suffered multiple fractures to my ankle. Sedation, putting my foot back in place and surgery took place, leaving me with very limited mobility for the next 10 weeks. Commander Oxford had me scheduled to attend Veterans Day Ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. It was a very sad phone call to him stating what had happened and that I was unable to attend. National Vice Commander Bruce Feuerbach attended and laid a wreath at the memorial. During my convalescence, I telephoned many departments with encouragement and news.

On 7 January 2020, I was taken to Lexington Man o War Post 8 for the national commander's visit. Although still in a cast, I was able to scooter around.

10 January 2020 had me wheel chairing through the airports on the way to visit the Department of Arkansas. Department Commander Doyle Batey, Adjutant Bob Renner and NEC Mary Erdman picked me up in Little Rock and took great care of me. I brought greetings to their mid-winter conference and was able to be a part of their DEC and committee reports. I also had the pleasure of a television interview to explain the American Legion's purpose for the conference. All went well. The Department of Arkansas has some very dedicated Legionnaires working on all programs of The American Legion.

Still traveling by wheelchair, on 17 January 2020, arrived in Louisiana. Department Commander Byron Comeaux, Adjutant Tony Betts, and NEC Charles Aucoin were outstanding hosts. Leading national candidate Paul Dillard and National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp were also in attendance. I was able to scoot into a number of committee meetings and also the Auxiliary meeting. I was very impressed with the conference and especially Commander Byron's youth activities on Saturday evening. Louisiana is Legion Family.

Now on crutches on 9 February 2020, I conducted the Department of Kentucky Area B Oratorical Contest at Lawrenceburg Post 34. Every District within Area B had a contestant. I recommend everyone attend or watch on line an Oratorical Contest. It will brighten your day and give you hope for the future.

13 February 2020, still on crutches, found me in the Department of North Carolina, still being shadowed by the Leading Candidate Paul Dillard. Department Commander James Moore, Adjutant Randy Cash and NEC Jeff Joyner were indeed true ambassadors of the Tar Heel State. Started the visit by touring the new headquarters building and all I can say is WOW. They have gone all out with technology and facilities. Attended as many of the committee meetings as I could, brought greetings to the conference and enjoyed the friendship of all of the Legion Family. Special thanks to Jim Mayhew for the barbecue cole slaw. I would be remiss if I didn't mention North Carolina's membership team led by Nancy Phillips. If we could clone Nancy, American Legion membership would be growing every year. She is an outstanding Legionnaire, a leader, an organizer and a valuable asset to our organization.

On to the Department of Virginia on 28 February 2020. Department Commander A. B. Brown, Adjutant Dale Chapman, and NEC Mike Mitrione have the Department of Virginia full speed ahead. I must give a special thanks to an old friend and outstanding Legionnaire, Linden Dixon, the Alternate NEC. Even while I was still on crutches, Linden made sure I made all the meetings and events on time. It was also a pleasure to be at the same venue as the National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp. Virginia is fortunate to have five past national commanders to guide this department.

I attended the Washington Conference on 7-11 March 2020. Chaired a breakout session of Southern Region department commanders and adjutants on Sunday. Discussed membership and programs. Monday was the ANAVICUS breakfast and installation. I also attended the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation meetings, the Commander's Call and the Know Before you Go Brief. Highlight of the conference was the commander's testimony before Congress on Wednesday.

As COVID 19 then became a part of our lives, cancellations of meetings, conferences, conventions, visits, baseball, oratorical, parades and more greatly affected The American Legion. I have reverted to phone calls, Buddy Checks and virtual meetings.

In closing, let me thank The American Legion Family for allowing me to serve and be a part of the greatest veterans organization in the world. The friendships made, the knowledge gained, and the experiences will be in my mind and heart forever. Thank you again and may God bless each of you, The American Legion and The Greatest Country in the World. HOOAHH!

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER Francis J. MacDonald, Massachusetts

As the national vice commander for the Northeast Region, I was charged with assisting and supporting the national commander's programs for the following departments: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, France, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. My term began in July 2019 with a visit to the National Headquarters in Indianapolis for a week of orientation as well as to participate in the annual Membership Workshop along with the national commander, his aide, the national president of the American Legion Auxiliary, the national commander of the Sons of The American Legion and the other four national vice commanders. We received very detailed and informative briefings from all the division directors and toured the Geiger Center. Training was also provided on media interviews and talking points of The American Legion. We then traveled to the Washington D.C. office where we were briefed on legislation, veterans employment and education, national security and veterans affairs and rehabilitation.

At the National Convention Indianapolis, Indiana, I was elected by the Convention delegates to the office of national vice commander. Immediately following the close of convention, we attended the National Executive Committee meeting where I was introduced as the national vice commander for the Northeast Region.

My term started off quick with a stop off in Pittsburgh, PA on the way home from convention to present the American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year Award to Neil Walker of the Miami Marlins. Neil's hometown is Pittsburgh and presenting the award there allowed for his family, friends, and members of his sponsoring Legion post to be in attendance.

In September I was asked to be the principle speaker at the Department of Massachusetts annual POW/MIA ceremonies aboard the battleship Massachusetts. Later in the month I supported a multiple department (Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Vermont) membership drive at the Eastern State Exposition. Then I made my first official visit to the Department of Maine for their fall conference where we discussed the membership process and paying membership online. Finished the month out with a multiple district revitalization in western Massachusetts with Kevin Mook, membership liaison for the Northeast Region.

In October, I attended the Fall Meetings and National Commander Oxford's reception in Indianapolis. I also attended the National Executive Committee meeting. Later in the month I attended the Department of New Hampshire fall conference where we discussed the various programs as well as membership processing.

I started November off by representing the American Legion at the annual Military Awards Programs for the Massachusetts Military Support Foundation at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. On Veterans Day I presented the American Legion wreath at the national cemetery at Bourne Massachusetts. My next visit was with the Department of Rhode Island for their membership meeting and Department Commanders Testimonial Dinner. Between meetings the department brought my wife and I to a visit of Fort Adams State Park and the community of Newport, Rhode Island. Later in the month I attended the Department Commanders Testimonial Dinners for the commanders of Department of Connecticut and Massachusetts where I brought the greetings of the national organization and talked on the importance of buddy checks.

During the Month of December, I attended Christmas gift shops at the VAMC Brockton, Massachusetts and Bedford, Massachusetts as well as at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

My next visit was in January where I attended the Department of Connecticut Mid-Winter Workshop where I presented two programs on using myLegion. Many in attendance were amazed that a national vice commander would take the time to present a training program.

In early March I attended the Washington Conference where a meeting was held with the members of the Northeast Region to discuss what they are doing to increase membership and stop the loss of members. I also attended National Commander Oxford's Reception. Immediately following this conference, I had the honor of attending the Commander Annual Report to the Joint Session of the Veterans Affairs Committees of the U.S. Congress.

Then without warning COVID-19 hit and all planned travel for the remainder of the year came to a halt and a new normal began.

We held monthly conference calls discussing ways to improve our membership numbers. Each department explained what they were doing to reach higher goals with everyone striving for 100% or better. Sharing this information, each department was able to hear what different ideas are working for some and may work for them. The Northeast region had a good year staying in first place in membership for most of the year.

As I visited with each department, either in person or via conference calls, the enthusiasm and support of our programs was evident. We will continue to march forward and strive once again to be the Top Region! While travel is still somewhat restricted, we will use whatever means available to support and grow The American Legion in the Northeast Region.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
Richard A. Heigert, Missouri

Prior to being elected to the office of national vice commander at the 101st National Convention of The American Legion, I, along with my fellow officers, were treated to several days of education in early August 2019 regarding the principles and operations of the organization. Included in this training was the Annual Membership Workshop where I was introduced to my region – the Central Region – consisting of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Topics of discussion included National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford’s designated programs for the 2019- 2020 membership year, those being the Legion Coin sales through December 2019 followed by the Veterans and Childrens Foundation through the remainder of the year. Emphasis on membership was given to Retention and focused on “Buddy Checks” as a means of keeping post members involved, giving them a sense of belonging to their post and providing a sense of security for those in need. Other recruiting and retention methods discussed included conducting “revitalizations” at the post and district levels and individual training of members through the Basic Training Course. Training was also conducted on the use of MyLegion.org and direct submission of membership to National Headquarters through the use of E-check by post adjutants.

Also included were briefings on all of the various American Legion commissions and committees, their functions and significance to the operation of the total organization.

Following our election to our respective offices on 28 August 2019, the real work began in earnest with my first visit to the Department of Michigan for their Fall Conference 19–22 September 2019. Under the guidance of National Executive Committeeman John Knox I was privileged to speak to each of their department committees as well as address the whole American Legion Family in their separate general sessions and their Department Executive Committee.

5 October 2019 found me in Warrensburg, Missouri where the Missouri Veterans Home – Warrensburg was celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion and I spoke on the Four Pillars as the founding principles of The American Legion. The next day I traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana to participate in some revitalization training by the Department of Indiana followed by two days of revitalization activities from Post 500 for the entire Indianapolis area. Excellent training was presented by Doug Chace of the national staff along with Richard Brown and Billy Johnson of the Department of Indiana staff.

Three days later I was back in Indianapolis for Commander Oxford’s Homecoming celebration and the Fall Meetings. This was also a chance to meet with the department commanders for my region at breakfast and discuss where we were at on membership and renewal status. The week also included participating in the Commanders and Adjutants Workshop and the NEC meeting.

The next day, 18 October 2019, it was back to my home state of Missouri for the Department Fall Conference. As chairman of the Department Distinguished Guest Committee, I had the privilege of greeting next leading candidate Randy Fisher at the St. Louis Airport and transporting him to Jefferson City for the conference. Also in attendance for the conference was Doug Chace, national membership coordinator for my region. Along with Gary Grigsby, senior vice commander for Missouri, we conducted a Membership Commission Workshop on Friday evening. The weekend concluded with participation in the General sessions along with several committee meetings of the Department of Missouri.

7 November 2019 found me in the Department of Wisconsin for some membership visits in the Greater Milwaukee area. Thursday was visits to Cedarburg Post 288 and Saukville Post 470. On Friday I participated in a Buddy Check/Revitalization at Mayville Post 69 with the Wisconsin NEC Robert Shappell, my host for the weekend. I was also interviewed by a reporter from the the Dodge County newspaper, who just happened to

grow up in my home county in Missouri. The afternoon was then spent at Greendale Post 416 for another Membership/Buddy check event followed by a centennial celebration dinner hosted by the local Auxiliary unit. On Saturday we were off to Kenosha Post 21 where we participated in a two-hour Veterans Day radio program on station WLIP AM-1050. The final event for the visit was with Grafton Post 355 for a Veterans Day Dinner.

November 14–16, 2019 I was honored to be invited to Illinois for their 83rd Egyptian Past Commanders Jamboree in Marion. Events included a visit to the VAMC in Marion and meeting at The Haven. November 22–25, 2019 I was excited to be on a membership tour of Missouri. Posts visited were Mexico Post 26, Laddonia Post 510, Hannibal Post 55, Shelbina Post 376 on Friday followed by Macon Post 29, La Plata Post, Kirksville Post 20, Milam Post 228, Trenton Post 31 and Chillicothe Post 25 on Saturday. The trip concluded with visits to Boonville Post 52, Tipton Post 304 and Sunrise Beach Post 624 on Sunday. These posts were all located in the four Districts of Zone 1.

My next visit was to Indiana for their Winter Conference in Indianapolis on 10-12 January 2020. NEC Jerry Jordon and Commander Allen Connelly were the gracious hosts for my visit and I was given extensive time to address the department attendees on the goals of our National Commander Bill Oxford. I also attended several committee meetings and addressed the Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Riders at their meetings.

The last visit I was able to make in January was for the Department of Illinois Membership Caravan from January 15 to January 25, 2020. This is indeed a long winter trip covering all five Divisions in the state of Illinois. In addition to visiting nineteen different posts, I also got to visit two Illinois Veterans Homes in Monteno and Quincy. At the Quincy Veterans Home I helped present nine TVs on behalf of the Department of Illinois and Operation Comfort Warriors. This was followed by television interviews with two local stations. Topics discussed throughout the tour were membership, to include revitalizations, buddy Checks, the Legion Act and retention; CPR's; Veterans and Children's Fund; Legislation and remaining non-partisan during the coming years elections when representing The American Legion.

My final trip prior to all travel being curtailed for the COVID-19 pandemic was to Washington, D.C. for the Annual Legislative Conference. I attended several committee meetings and hosted the Central Region for discussions on membership during the Membership Workshop on Sunday. On Tuesday I visited with Senator Josh Hawley (my liaison assignment) and Senator Roy Blunt from Missouri along with several of the representatives from Missouri. I was accompanied by liaisons and other members of the Missouri delegation. I also attended Commander Oxford's testimony to the Joint House and Senate Veterans Committees on Wednesday.

Shortly after arriving back in Missouri, we were notified that our travel schedule was cancelled for the remainder of the year and following the cancellation of the Annual National Convention, that all national officers would be retained for the 2020-2021 membership year. Since that time, I have continued to keep in contact with my departments through conference calls and individual phone calls. Since my scheduled visits to both Ohio and West Virginia were cancelled and I was not able to visit either state, they will be my first priority for the 2020-2021 membership year. Also, my 2nd visits to Michigan and Wisconsin were also cancelled and I will give preference to those two states also for the coming year.

I feel that the quarantine and lack of face-to-face contact with our individual posts, districts and departments greatly affected our achieving the membership goals set for 2019-2020 but the lessons learned using media technology will greatly enhance the attainment of goals for the coming year.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER

Robert D. Liebenow, Oregon

The Western Region is made up of 15 departments. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Philippines, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

As members of The American Legion, we are here to help veterans and their families, whether it be monetarily or health issues. Our service officers handle thousands of claims each year. This could be first time claims or reevaluating existing claims. They bring millions of dollars to their local communities. More than that, they help improve the quality of life for our veterans.

Our members volunteer countless hours every year at VA hospitals and veteran's homes. Their time cannot be counted in monetary value but in the joy and comfort they bring to our veterans. From coffee carts to magazines or just setting and talking, they make a difference each and every day.

Post members volunteer thousands of hours and donate 10's of thousands of dollars each year to our children and youth programs. Boys State, American Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical Contest, Boy Scouts, Junior Shooters Program, Jr. ROTC, and Youth Law Cadet Camps, just to name a few.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, departments, posts, and individuals have stepped up and helped to fill their local food banks and deliver food to those who cannot get out. They open their post homes to the needy when the weather gets bad and furnish clothing and blankets to those out in the cold.

As I travel the Western Region, it is amazing to see the work that veterans do to help their fellow veterans and their families. The time and work they put in to improve their communities, states, and nation. Through my service in the U.S. Navy, I have the privilege to be a part of this great organization. The members of The American Legion can be proud of the part they play in the lives of our veterans and their families, and their communities.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Edward L. Harris, Jr., Indiana

I was appointed national chaplain at the close of the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana held from August 23-29, 2019.

I am a life member of the African Methodist Church. I have served as a Sunday School teacher and a district Sunday school superintendent. I served as a member of the board of stewards and as president of the Church Lay Organization. I also sang in the Senior Choir, Men's Chorus and the Indiana Conference Lay Male Choir.

I entered the United States Army in 1948 and served in the Korean War from 1950 to 1951 in an Artillery Battalion as a sub-machine gunner, battalion radio operator and battalion mail clerk from north of Pusan to the west side of the Chosen Reservoir.

I received the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars and the United Nations Service Medal and two Combat Service Bars.

I served in the Cold War in West Germany from 1957 to 1960. There, in a Corporal Missile Artillery Battalion, I also served as the battalion officer records clerk, the officer efficiency reports clerk and the courts and boards clerk.

I served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 as a member of the Fourth Infantry Division in the Pleiku located in the Central Highlands, as the NCOIC of the Enlisted Records Branch that became a Provisional Operational Company when ordered. At this order, I became the unit's first sergeant. The branch's OIC captain became the commanding officer with two lieutenants as platoon leaders.

I received the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Vietnam Service Medal with Four Campaign Stars. Additionally, I received the Army Accommodation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

I joined The American Legion in 1997 and was elected as post chaplain that same year. I remained as post chaplain for twelve years. After a highly disappointing first American Legion funeral, I began seeking official up-to-date publications at that time. The heavily worn and dogeared one that was part of my first experience was never to be again. I received a copy of the 1997 Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, made a large-font copy of the American Legion funeral and began developing the military pageantry before and after the American Legion funeral. This before and after pageantry was well received and became a retention and recruiting asset.

I developed a church visiting program in which Legionnaires of the post in their American Legion uniform would sit together while visiting churches of various denominations in the area. This program was well received by the Legionnaires and members of the various churches that we visited.

as post chaplain I introduced a resolution that was adopted to establish the "Avenue of The Flags", which is dedicated to the sixty-seven or more African American members of the armed forces who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor and continuing onward to recognize future recipients. Since its establishment in the late 1990s, it continues to honor these heroic men today. Also, in the late 1990s I established and conducted the first American Legion Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service in Indianapolis which has continued annually since that time. I have invited the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps to be a part of this ceremony and they have been extensively involved for many years.

I developed a college scholarship for Indianapolis high school students participating in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Program in the honor of a fellow Legionnaire Charles Croomes following his transfer to Post Everlasting.

I later advanced to district chaplain, where I have served for eighteen years.

I offered a resolution stating that when a district commander died, and the family requested an American Legion funeral, the district would conduct this service. This resolution was adopted.

Further, I conducted a training session for post commanders and post chaplains on their responsibilities to inform and to solicit participation of Legionnaires in the many services that The American Legion has for their Legionnaires.

I had the privilege of serving as the Department of Indiana chaplain on several occasions.

I had the extremely high honor of serving as national chaplain of The American Legion on four occasions. I even had an occasion to perform as the national chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary on one occasion.

The extremely exalted highlight moments of my American Legion life were during the occasion after the close of the 101st National Convention. Prior to the National Executive Committee meeting at the close of the 101st National Convention, Americanism Director Jill K. Druskis gave me my pre-briefing of what would happen during the upcoming meeting. The "Roll Call" of the members of the National Executive Committee was a memorable occasion because I was able to recognize many of the names from personal contact. Then came the actual installation, with the additional thrill of having the director perform the actual "Capping Ceremony." Adding to the elation of the moment was being escorted to my seat on the dais. I was able to see my family in attendance as well as a few members of my American Legion post. I was called to give the benediction. After the meeting was closed, several of the past national commanders came up to the dais and shook my hand and gave words that I will always treasure.

The National Department Chaplains Conference was September 20-22, 2019. It began with a New Chaplains Training Session conducted by Past National Chaplain Norris A. Keirn, who is now chaplain of the Department of Indiana. After his training session, he presented the attendees with many copies of the "Faith Comes by Hearing" sets. Immediate Past National Chaplain Father Philip Salois gave his annual report. I was privileged to present my annual theme, "The Big Four," which consists of the following: 1) Four Chaplains Sunday held on the first Sunday in February; 2) placing American flags on

Veterans' graves and holding the Post Everlasting Memorial Service in May; 3) Veterans Day Memorial Services on November 11; and 4) Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Services on December 7. [Noting, this Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service has been conducted with the cooperation and participation of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.] A presentation was made on suicide prevention by Christina Sutton, MSW, LCSW from the Department of Veterans Affairs followed by a breakout session to discuss the provision of assistance by the chaplains. On Sunday morning, I led an interfaith worship service. Past National Chaplain Father Philip Salois conducted a Catholic Mass.

The participation of Immediate Past National Chaplain Salois and Past National Chaplain Keirn, and staff member Shriver as well as the side-by-side participation and guidance of Deputy Director Jeff Hendricks contributed greatly to the success of the Department Chaplains Conference.

The Fall Meetings gave me my first opportunity to sit in the national chaplain chair in the National Executive Committee's conference room. The first opportunity to sit in the chair was closely akin to the experience of being installed. There were other occasions on which I was privileged to give the invocation and benediction. I also found the "Ye Steivos" dinner to be extremely enjoyable and a wonderful life experience.

The Washington Conference presented another opportunity to give our thanks for the many blessings that afford us the ability to continue to support not only our membership, but all our fellow veterans. This was highly evidenced during the legislative session. Each of the presenters was well informed on their subjects and evidenced a deep committed dedication to their mission.

The final session gave me the ability, along with the invocation to read the POW-MIA Creed and during the benediction I was able to give a special thanks for all of their dedication to all of the past national commanders sitting there on the front row.

Let me conclude my annual report by stating that it was my great pleasure and honor to have been given the opportunity, at the Washington Conference, as the national chaplain of The American Legion to give a prayer for our National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford and his presentation delegation before he gave his testimony before Congress.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIAN **James A. Mariner, New Mexico**

First, I want to thank National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford for the appointment as national historian with our screening team, national team of officers and members. It is an honor and privilege to continue to serve The American Legion organization. When I got a call from Past National Commander Tom Bock that I was being considered for national historian it was a wow moment and many years that I was thinking about being the first national historian from the Department of New Mexico.

The start of our membership year 2019-2020 began at the end of our 101st National Convention with the election of our National Vice Commanders Richard "Rich" A. Heigert (MO) Central Region, Bruce C. Feuerbach (IA) Midwest Region, Francis "Frank" J. MacDonald Jr. (MA) Northeast Region, David "Dave" L. King (KY) Southeast Region and Robert "Rob" D. Liebenow (OR) Western Region. At the Post National Convention, National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting our NEC would approve National Commander's James W. "Bill" Oxford appointments of National Chaplain Edward L. Harris Jr. (IN), National Historian James "Jim" A. Mariner (NM) and National Sgt-At-Arms David S. Shore (NC) then we were installed.

As national historian the first task was overseeing our National History Book Contest for four categories for posts and departments. Here we need to thank our National Library-Museum Director Howard Trace, Curatorial Assistant Ruth Rankin and all our professional National Library-Museum staff because without them it would take weeks to judge the entries instead of two days at the fall NEC Meeting. Special thanks go out to Past National Vice Commander and Past National Historian Fae Casper for her running the National

Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) meeting where elections were held where Robin Singleton was elected as NADHAL President. Also, thanks to Past National Historian W. Frazier Brinley and Past National Historian Charemon Dunham for their assistance in the tabulating of the judges scores. Of course, all the NADHAL members who assisted with the judging we want to thank. After the judging of our 2018-2019 National History Book Contest a report was given to our NEC where the winners were announced as follows:

One-Year Department Narrative History Contest

First award: Department of North Carolina

Second award: Department of Indiana

One-Year Department Yearbook History Contest

First award: Department of Missouri

Second award: Department of Nebraska

Third award: Department of Georgia

Certificate of Participation

Department of North Carolina

Department of Colorado

Department of Wisconsin

Department of Ohio

Department of West Virginia

Department of New York

One-Year Post Narrative History Contest

First award: Carroll Post 143, Carrollton, Ga.

Second award: CSM Gary W. Crisp Post 289, Clarksville, Tenn.

Third award: Pony Express Post 359, St. Joseph, Mo.

Certificate of Participation

Missing Man Post 667, Universal City, Texas

Harold A. Todd Jr. Wisconsin Motor Post 537, Milwaukee, Wis.

Adams, Hanna, Moore Memorial Post 156, Ellicott City, Md.

Oregon Post 67, Ontario, Ore.

Frank B. Bartlett Post 7, Buckhannon, W.Va.

American Legion Post 250, Middleburg, Fla.

One-Year Post Yearbook History Contest

First award: Julius L. Shryer American Legion Post 430, Durant, Iowa

Second award: Codrington County Post 17, Watertown, S.D.

Brunswick Post 9, Brunswick, Ga.

Third award: Frierson-Nichols Post 8, Winter Haven, Fla.

Certificate of Participation

Park Post 23, Livingston, Mont.

Bates-O'Brien-Howe-Wiegel-Roelli Post 214, Darlington, Wis.

Warren F. Hoyle Post 82, Shelby, N.C.

Martin Wallberg Post 3, Westfield, N.J.

Harry White Wilmer Post 82, La Plata, Md.

Harry Higgins Post 88, Ashland, Ohio

Blackwell-Frazier Post 142, Hominy, Ohio

Elmont Post 1033, Elmont, N.Y.

Canby Post 122, Canby, Ore.

Women Veterans of Southwest Missouri Post 1214, Springfield, Mo.

Milton Post 139, Milton, W.Va.

Horry County Post 111, Conway, S.C.

H. U. Wood Post 245, Seguin, Texas

Scotts Hill Post 243, Regan, Tenn.

Alley-White Post 52, Mountain Home, Ark.

Charles S. Hatch Post 79, Berwick, Maine

In October and November 2019, I attended and participated at our District 1 meeting in Pecos, attended the New Mexico Military Museum in Santa Fe opening after remodeling the museum's auditorium with presentations from the museum's director, staff and Major General Kenneth A. Nava on New Mexico's military history and attended the Los Alamos combined organizations Veterans Day ceremony.

December 2019, we had a visit from National Vice Commander Robert "Rob" D. Liebenow (OR) Western Region in addition to his tour of New Mexico there was a membership drive at Post 13 in Albuquerque for Districts 9 and 11. Participating was our Past National Vice Commander and New Mexico NEC Paul L. Espinosa, New Mexico Alternate NEC Edward Cheatham Jr., National Historian James "Jim" A. Mariner from our national staff we had Michele Steinmetz, member engagement coordinator with a good turnout from department officers, members and our American Legion Family. Later I participated in another membership drive at Post 1 in Santa Fe for District 1.

January 2020, we had a good delegation of our American Legion Family at Veterans Day at our state capitol with the theme of New Mexico POWs and MIAs. Then we had our National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford's New Mexico visit where he toured many posts, Veterans Administration Medical Center, met with our New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, New Mexico Military Museum and Los Alamos National Laboratory where discussion was on veterans employment with the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

February 2020, attended American Legion Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp (IA) at Post 1 on her New Mexico visit. We held our Department of New Mexico Mid-Winter Conference where at our banquet we had numerous speakers including our Secretary of New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Judy M. Griego, Brigadier General (retired). At the end of February, I attended and participated in New Mexico's 1st annual American Legion College where we had Kenneth George, member engagement coordinator from our national staff.

March 2020, attended and participated in our Washington D.C. Conference with our New Mexico Delegation talking to our congressional representatives and Senators or with their offices about our American Legion issues walking the halls of the White House is an experience I'll never forget. Then hearing our National Commanders James W. "Bill" Oxford's testimony to Congress was another amazing experience. Then just as we were getting ready to leave, sporting events were being cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19 worldwide pandemic. This reminds us of the flu worldwide pandemic when The American Legion was being formed in 1919 is what our WWI sailors and soldiers were experiencing coming home from France, but they did not have the technology that we have today. Today many lifestyle changes have taken place including teleworking from home keeping safe with masks, shields and social distancing giving all of us an abrupt change to the electronic age. Our National Association of Department Historians of The American Legion (NADHAL) has two committees working on electronic history books and electronic judging in this new time of change. Currently we will still use the traditional hard copy that we've used for many years. Where we will continue preserving and recording in the traditional form until we can test and work out any problems with electronic history books and judging. Currently working on an electronic meeting with NADHAL this October or November 2020 because our "History Is Important" for our past, present and for our future. Just as we did after WWI we continue to carry on our four pillars of Veterans, National Security, Children and Youth and Americanism while we are building "A Foundation For The Future."

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE**Kevin J. Bartlett, J.D., Michigan**

From October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 as National Judge Advocate I have managed a large number of lawsuits throughout the country in which The American Legion has been served and/or contacted for legal purposes. All of these matters are being handled as required and in conjunction with our co-counsel as needed.

Attorney Mark Seavey joined the legal division this year. During the 20 years he has been on The American Legion staff, only interrupted by his military duties in an Army infantry division in Afghanistan, he previously worked in the Media and Communications Division and Legislative Division.

For the reporting year I have rendered over 1,300 written and oral opinions on questions which have been submitted by Departments, Posts, National Officers, staff and individual members of our organization.

In accordance with established American Legion policy, I reviewed the manuscripts of every single article destined for future publication in The American Legion Magazine, The Dispatch and all other AL publications for the purpose of expunging statements or materials questionable in character which might subject The American Legion to a libel suit. For the reported date over 2,300 manuscripts were reviewed along with reviewing 130 videos and over 600 veteran's memorials. We also reviewed 91 contracts, numerous license agreements and 25 podcasts.

The area which received a lot of attention this year was in our trademark protection and internet infringement business. All American Legion-owned trademarks were reviewed, and the appropriate ones were renewed. Copyrights were filed as needed. We actively pursued all known trademark infringers and actively removed nearly 6,000 producing trademark violators off of the internet.

The American Legion filed all necessary IRS returns, reports and documents for the calendar year in connection with all of The American Legion programs and plans.

All submitted DD-214's were reviewed and numerous list protection agreements, cease & desist letters, post tax letters and tax indemnity letters were sent out. We were consulted on countless resolutions, while co-drafting new ones as requested.

I traveled a number of times to our Washington DC office to assist the staff there on matters pertaining to their division. I spoke and attended a number of events around the country for The American Legion. Concurrently I conducted nearly 1,000 Buddy Checks and visited at least 9 different posts and 1 district meeting.

Regarding my position as General Counsel for The American Legion Auxiliary there were nearly 100 written opinions rendered, a number of contracts reviewed and numerous oral opinions given during the 20+ meetings attended, countless telephone consultations and 80+ hours of work this year for the ALA.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**Chanin Nuntavong, California****Executive Director of Government and Veterans Affairs**

Executive Director Chanin Nuntavong is the liaison with all government agencies, in particular those associated with veterans affairs and benefits.

James Baca, New Mexico**Executive Director of Marketing and Communications**

Executive Director James Baca is responsible for corporate development, marketing and media outreach.

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Howard Trace, Indiana (SAL), Director

The mission of The American Legion Library is to provide an information storage and retrieval system for The American Legion. Indexing of documents continues, and internal and external materials are added to the collection regularly.

The Digital Archive continues to grow at a rapid pace and includes more than 12,400 items. A new archival management system and a virtual museum exhibit platform have both been implemented. The first virtual exhibit featured Past National Commander Franklin D'Olier.

Reorganization of the photo collection continues, with the majority of the portraits and National Convention photos separated into their own collections to provide better accessibility and protection of these highly requested materials. Digital photographs stored on optical media and outdated systems are being reviewed and selected images are being transferred for preservation.

There were very few researchers prior to limitations being placed on building visitors because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff have continued to field research and reference requests and many requests that might have required a visit to the building in the past can now be handled with material provided publicly on the Digital Archive.

Books and Pamphlets cataloged	154
Museum Collection Items Added or Assessed	614
Items added to Digital Archive.....	3,222
Pages Digitized.....	24,410
Correspondence Written by Staff	901
Prominent Legionnaire Questionnaires Sent.....	372
Prominent Legionnaire Questionnaires Received.....	128

Significant Gifts to the National Headquarters Library and Museum

Donated by the Department of North Carolina: 34 promotion and training video cassettes; Oratorical Contest pamphlets.

Donated by Past National Commander Denise Rohan: DVD of "The Hello Girls: A Lincoln Penny Films Production."

Donated by Bernard Gilliland: Speech given by Bernard Gilliland, Post 1, Paris on March 15, 2019, at the site of the Paris Caucus.

Donated by Paul L'Heureux, Adjutant, Department of Maine: Magazines focused on the Department of Maine; Department 100th Anniversary Membership Directory; Biographical sketches of 100 State Commanders (print and digital copies).

Donated by Richard R. Orlando: Digital files of autobiography, "From a Boy to a Man: Three years in the Life of Nicholas A. Orlando (1943-1945)."

Donated by Tracy Tomaselli: "Post History of Charter members of American Legion Post 48 Guilford, CT."

Donated by James Koenighain: Iowa Post 298 100th Anniversary book.

Donated by Randy Cash, Adjutant, Department of North Carolina: Variety of national publications and four audio PSA reels.

Donated by National Historian Jim Mariner: Department of New Mexico History and Every Department has a Story placemat.

Donated by Jill Blackburn: Photo of the 1938 National Convention Night of Champions.

Donated by the Department of Illinois: Bound volumes of the American Legion Magazine 1919-1925.

Donated by James Hubbard: American Legion 50th anniversary postage Stamps.

Donated by the Frederick W. Schubert: Sheet Music collection and Legion Airs songbook.

Donated by Joseph Y. Bumbleburg, Department of Indiana Judge Advocate: Nail clipper/pocketknife from Father Edmund Murray's mass.

Donated by Nancy Kent: "History of Highland Post No. 206 of the American Legion 1922-1945" (CA).

Donated by Kathryn W. Lerch: "Major John G. Emery in World War I: Early Leader of The American Legion."

Donated by Mike Hauser, Adjutant, Frank Gallino Post 130 (CA): Two copies of the Frank Gallino Post 130 Commemorative DVD set (100th anniversary).

Donated by Dawn Blasingame: 1958 Squadron Handbook.

Donated by Paulette Cary: Genevieve Cary's memorabilia from the 1937 American Legion Pilgrimage.

Donated by Kathleen McLoughlin: Panoramic photo of Legion members at U.S. Capitol, September 19, 1940.

Donated by Willard Holt: "The American Legion Weekly," June 6, 1924; "Facts about The American Legion," 1920s; American Legion membership cards, 1944; Testimonial of Appreciation cards, 1931 and 1932.

Donated by The American Legion Auxiliary: American Legion Convention Coin, 1931; National Aerial Roundup pin, 1935.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

Richard W. Anderson, Connecticut, Chairman

Jill Druskis, Nebraska, Director

The Americanism Commission of The American Legion was created by a recommendation adopted by the National Convention of The American Legion held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1919. It read: "We recommend the establishment of a National Americanism Commission of The American Legion whose duty it shall be to endeavor to realize in the United States the basic ideal of this Legion of 100 percent Americanism through the planning, establishment and conduct of a continuous, constructive educational system."

It is the objective of the Americanism Commission to translate Americanism precepts, principles, and ideals in a clear and practical manner to Legion posts and other groups and individuals, including young Americans.

While the Americanism program consists of a broad, objective, general plan that features wide-range community service, and sound citizenship and youth development, the efforts of the Americanism Commission are educational in nature and embrace these specific objectives:

- Promote understanding of the principles of a democratic government, and bringing more citizens to think seriously about the duties of citizenship;
- Give sound, practical service in our communities, and working to make communities better and safer places in which to live;
- Emphasize religion, encouraging its continuation in the life of every citizen;
- Encourage education in every possible manner, presenting school awards and scholarships, sponsoring, and conducting oratorical contests, cooperating with youth education and citizenship groups, promoting proper flag etiquette and display, and sponsoring objective youth development programs;

- Do important work for the youth of America, sponsoring American Legion Baseball, American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, American Legion Boys State, American Legion Boys Nation, American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program, American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, Boy Scouts of America activities, and many other citizenship and objective training activities;
- Work for the assimilation of immigrants through schools of citizenship and other agencies.

Additionally, the Americanism Commission has continued attentiveness in legislative matters affecting our way of life. Among legislative initiatives of The American Legion are: (1) continuing efforts to effect a constitutional amendment which would give Congress the authority to enact flag protection laws; (2) coordinating a nationwide effort to combat the secular cleansing of our American heritage through Establishment Clause lawsuits; (3) establishing English as the official language of the United States; and (4) amending the U.S. Flag Code in order to clarify the intent of some stated display procedures and to include contemporary, accepted patriotic practices.

This commission has the responsibility for supervision and coordination of four standing committees: American Legion Baseball Committee, Committee on Children & Youth, Committee on Youth Education and Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee.

The following is a summary of several programs that are the responsibility of the Americanism Commission and have been conducted during the 2019-2020 American Legion program year.

American Legion Boys State/Boys Nation

The American Legion believes that if the United States is to maintain its form of government, it must have a citizenry that has a fundamental understanding and interest in its operation. This is what The American Legion Boys State program does for the young men of our nation. It teaches the fundamentals of American government at the state level.

It was 85 years ago that Legionnaires in the state of Illinois first recognized the need for a program that would help high school boys understand and appreciate the government they were learning about in the classroom. It was a time in the history of this nation when un-American ideas significantly threatened its future. Established in 1935, the overarching concept of American Legion Boys State, then and now, is to show young people that beyond a doubt, our form of government is good; however, its preservation depends upon intelligent, informed and loyal citizens, in combination with an honest and impartial administration of government activities.

Each year, over 19,000 young Americans take part in American Legion Boys State, and throughout its over eight decades of history, the program has graduated well over 2,000,000 young men. These young men are chosen as the brightest within their communities, gathering to form fictitious political parties. Within these parties their political platforms are introduced, built upon, debated, and voted for through proper parliamentary procedures. Elections are held, positions filled, and a state governor rises from among the ranks.

Ten years after the inception of Boys State as a program of The American Legion, the National Organization recognized the need for a similar program at the national level and, in 1946, established American Legion Boys Nation. Boys Nation provides a practical, hands-on education to youth delegates about the structure and function of our nation's federal government. In 2019 Boys Nation celebrated its 74th anniversary session.

From each of the 50 American Legion Boys State programs, a rigorous selection process produces two outstanding graduates from each program who go on to represent their state as an American Legion Boys Nation "senator" during the week-long program in Washington D.C. The week of government training in the nation's capital combines lectures, forums, and committees with visitations to federal agencies, institutions, and

memorials in order to punctuate the importance of our nation's creation and the sacrifices necessary for its conservation. In addition, The American Legion provides unique occasions by facilitating visits to the White House and the offices of U.S. Senators. This valuable time is used to deliberate topics of importance to the participants' generation with their own elected officials. This opportunity crafts a truly unique and educational experience for both the Boys Nation senators and our nation's leadership.

These young men are charged with writing legislative bills and resolutions to be presented, debated, and conceivably passed in the Boys Nation Senate. The entire process occurs over the time span of one week, accomplished through the organization of fictitious party conventions, creation of party platforms, and guidance from the program's legislative team of counselors. One of the program's many highlights is the nomination, debate and election of an American Legion Boys Nation President and Vice President. Lou Acevedo of Maryland was elected President and Thomas Penley of Montana was elected Vice President during the 2019 session of American Legion Boys Nation. The 75th anniversary session of American Legion Boys Nation in 2020 was canceled due to health and safety concerns which arose from the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic.

The volunteers who staff this program is comprised primarily of former Boys State/Boys Nation participants. Most specifically, junior counselors are program alumni, who during their tenure as a delegate at American Legion Boys Nation, were unknowingly evaluated for their leadership abilities, understanding of government, and grasp of legislative processes. Those who surpass their peers in these areas receive the honor of invitation to return as program staff. Boys Nation senior counselors and administrative staff are primarily comprised of Boys State directors and staff chosen for their technical abilities and unwavering faith in the American Legion Boys Nation program.

Boy Scouts of America

In 2019 The American Legion chartered 2,385 Scout units in local communities across the nation which involved nearly 58,000 young people and 21,650 adult leaders. Its commitment to the principles of Scouting dating back to the Legion's first National Convention in 1919.

The American Legion continues to support the Boy Scouts of America because of its unique ability to provide opportunities to young people for leadership training, peer fellowship, life skills development and community service.

The American Legion selected Michael McPhie from Irvine, California, as its 2020 Eagle Scout of the Year. Selection is based upon a Scout's outstanding religious, school, community, and scouting program achievements. McPhie will receive a \$10,000 scholarship from The American Legion.

The three runners-up are Noah Ventura of Alexandria, Virginia; James Simpson of Wayne, Nebraska; and Ryan Cannon of Millburn, New Jersey. Each runner-up received a \$2,500 scholarship.

In 2019 a total of 3,430 new Eagle Scout recipients received a certificate of achievement from The American Legion honoring their milestone.

Since its inception in 2003, there have been 679 American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members who have received the Scouting "Square Knot" award to recognize their dedication and work to assist in furthering the Scouting programs of The American Legion.

Citizenship and Naturalization

Citizenship & Naturalization efforts of Americanism include: (1) promoting grassroots involvement at the post level in understanding, appreciating and actively participating in the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship and American government; (2) developing new ideas and initiatives aimed at promoting grassroots involvement at the post level in assimilating prospective citizens/legal immigrants into local communities and American society; and (3) monitoring and maintaining a portfolio

of resolutions specific to the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship and the assimilation and naturalization of prospective citizens/legal immigrants.

The Americanism Commission strongly urges American Legion posts, districts, and departments (states) to undertake activities and collaborate with the U.S. Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to help newly arriving legal immigrants and legal residents become assimilated and seek citizenship.

Flag Education

The American Legion is a nationally recognized authority regarding proper display of the United States Flag. Each year, thousands of letters, phone calls and electronic mail messages are routinely answered pertaining to the proper display, use of and respect for the American Flag.

The American Legion continues distribution and sale of *For Which It Stands*, a multimedia instructional resource about the history of the flag of the United States, the significance and meaning of our flag and respecting and caring for our flag. It is intended primarily for use with students in the upper elementary and middle/junior high school grades.

In 2019 over 49,585 individuals and organizations received email notification each time the flag of the United States was to be displayed throughout the entire nation at half-staff. Subscribership to The American Legion's flag alert notification service continues to grow every year.

The American Legion continues its campaign to protect the United States flag from physical desecration. All 50 state legislatures have passed memorializing resolutions in support of a constitutional amendment to give Congress the authority to enact flag protection laws. Working with other organizations of The American Legion-founded Citizens Flag Alliance, The American Legion shepherded a flag protection Constitutional amendment through the House of Representatives during several Congresses. In June of 2006, The American Legion spearheaded a drive for the amendment in the U.S. Senate, coming within one vote of passage there. Legislation was again introduced in the 116th Congress.

American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest

The American Legion has awarded over three million dollars in college scholarships since 1938 to high school students participating in its annual High School Oratorical Contest.

Each contestant must give a prepared oration on some phase of the United States Constitution, giving emphasis to the duties and obligations of a citizen to our government. The prepared oration must be the original effort of each contestant, taking no less than eight minutes, nor more than ten, for delivery. Each contestant must also give an assigned topic presentation on a constitutional topic that is randomly selected during the contest from the four topics having been identified for each contest year. Assigned topic orations must take no less than three minutes, nor more than five, for delivery.

In 2019 funds totaling \$188,000 in college scholarships were awarded to oratorical contestants from each department (state), with the contestant emerging as the first-place national champion receiving a \$20,000 scholarship. Funds for these awards are provided by The American Legion. In addition to the scholarships awarded by the National Organization, there are scholarships awarded by intermediate organizations of The American Legion to participants in local levels of competition.

The 82nd Annual National Oratorical Finals Contest was held at Indianapolis, Indiana, in April 2019 with 53 American Legion department finalists competing. The three finalists emerging in 2019 were: first place – Patrick Junker of Waukee, Iowa; second place – Caleb Maue of Homer Glen, Illinois; and third place – Eden Carnes of Friendsville, Tennessee. The 83rd Annual National Oratorical Finals Contest of The American was scheduled to be held in Indianapolis in April 2020, however, it was canceled due to health

and safety concerns arising from the ensuing COVID-19 global pandemic. Fortunately, 53 American Legion departments were able to complete their state-level oratorical contests earlier in the year and each of those department winners were awarded a \$2,000 scholarship made possible through a grant provided by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

The American Legion continues to enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA).

Junior Shooting Sports Program

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a national Americanism program administered through American Legion post-sponsored Junior Shooting Clubs. The purpose of the program is to provide rifle safety and marksmanship training for young people and to offer a wholesome recreational activity through organized competition. In 2019 the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports program had 1,550 active clubs with almost 15,000 young people participating.

In 2019 the 29th Annual Junior Shooting Three Position Air Rifle National Championship was conducted at the USA Shooting range facility on the campus of the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The championship climaxed two rounds of postal matches that began the previous November. Competition is divided into two disciplines: the precision three position air rifle and the sporter three position air rifle. Medals are awarded to the top scorer in both disciplines, and to top scorers in the prone, kneeling and standing positions.

The two marksmen to win national titles for the 2019 The American Legion's Junior 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship were Makenzie Sheffield of Granbury, Texas, in the precision discipline; and Jaden-Ann Fraser of Church Hill, Tennessee, in the sporter discipline. Each champion received scholarships totaling \$5,000 from The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

The 30th annual national championship in 2020 was canceled due to health and safety concerns that arose from the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. Fortunately, the two round national postal tournament involving 1,359 entrants that began in November 2019 was completed before the widespread effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The top marksmen in the precision and sporter disciplines after the second round of that national postal tournament received a \$2,500 scholarship made possible through a grant provided by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Service to God and Country

A program of fundamental Americanism, "Service to God and Country," seeks to prevent the spiritual decay of America by charging the electorate with a spirit of unquestionable Americanism, respect for law, reverence for authority and awareness of our human rights and freedoms.

"Service to God" emphasizes regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, while "Service to Country" attempts to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state, and nation. These objectives are aimed at preparing young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities by teaching them moral and spiritual values, renewed interest in our nation's history, self-discipline, self-reliance, and ideals of loyalty and honesty.

Each year a conference for the department chaplains of The American Legion is held under the direction of its National Chaplain. Program information is provided for further dissemination to district and post chaplains who coordinate the program at the local community level.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE
Gary Stone, Missouri, Chairman
Steve Cloud, Indiana, Program Manager

In 2019 the team sponsored by American Legion Post No. 56 in Idaho Falls emerged as national champion of the 93rd American Legion World Series, achieving the first World Series win for a team from the state of Idaho. The 2019 season of American Legion Baseball saw 3,415 teams registered to play American Legion Baseball. There were 54,788 players, representing 49 states and Canada, who wore a Legion baseball uniform in 2019.

The 2019 George W. Rulon American Legion Baseball Player of the Year was Trevor Marsh, a player of the 2019 American Legion Southeast Regional championship team from Randolph County, North Carolina, and sponsored by American Legion Post No. 45.

Disappointingly, in 2020 it was necessary to cancel the 95th season of American Legion Baseball and the 94th World Series tournament due to health and safety concerns associated with the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic.

Many American Legion players have gone on to distinguish themselves in Major League Baseball and have been honored with election to the Hall of Fame. Eighty-one Hall of Fame members played American Legion Baseball, including 2019 inductees Roy Halladay, Mike Mussina, Lee Smith, and Harold Baines. Other American Legion Alumni inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame include Tony Gwynn, Tom Seaver, Johnny Bench, Carl Yastrzemski, Brooks Robinson, and Paul Molitor.

American Legion Baseball is a fully compliant Pure Baseball youth baseball program, following an initiative supported by USA Baseball in accordance with the U.S. Center for Safe Sports. Pure Baseball features mandatory guidelines in accordance with Public Law 115-126 Child Sports Act of 2017 to educate and train parents, players and coaches in abuse awareness and foster long healthy playing careers for young athletes.

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH
Herbert J. Petit, Jr., Louisiana, Chairman
Stacy Cope, Indiana, Program Manager

The American Legion has been a staunch supporter of America's children and youth since the organization's founding in 1919. The young people of our nation continue to be of paramount concern to the Committee on Children & Youth, as its commitment strengthens and it seeks ways to improve the well-being of all children.

Through the decades following our founding, The American Legion has become a strong advocate for children's rights and has remained at the forefront of the child welfare movement. The early years were devoted to progressive childcare and protection programs. Through the efforts of The American Legion and its affiliated organizations – the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders, as well as other independent organizations such as the Eight & Forty – many states and communities improved their own child welfare provisions.

The development of new and expanded public programs designed to provide economic security for children made it possible for our organization to turn its attention to other problems affecting young people. To date there is no area of child welfare that has gone untouched by the collective hand of The American Legion. The very program of Children & Youth itself is unique from any agency – private or governmental – in its ability to expand into every area of concern for child welfare and child health.

At its 33rd annual convention in 1951 The American Legion adopted a resolution which for a third time re-emphasized the three major principles of its child welfare programs, with those principles remaining as a firm foundation yet today:

1. Maintaining the integrity of the American family home;

2. Utilizing and cooperating with existing sound facilities for children instead of attempting to establish competitive and duplicating resources; and
3. Maintaining a whole child program designed to meet the physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual needs of children.

While these principles represent the heart of a whole child program, its action is rooted in:

1. Prevention – Finding solutions to obstacles before they become long-lasting problems;
2. Education – Providing information to our members and the general public on timely issues involving children and youth;
3. Legislation – Maintaining knowledge of new and existing laws, needed amendments, and the administration of laws that affect young people at the national, state, and local levels;
4. Material aid – Providing direct assistance in the form of cash, clothing, food, and time.

For its over 100-year history, The American Legion's Children & Youth Programs have contributed to significant advancements in the area of child welfare. The American Legion has and will maintain a deep, community-centered interest in children in order to find new, and perhaps presently unknown, approaches to child welfare problems. There is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow. Our survival may well depend upon the quality of care, education, and training that we, as parents and citizens, provide for all children today.

The American Legion is proud of its Legionnaires, as well as the members of its affiliated and supporting organizations, for their efforts on behalf of our nation's youth. Their efforts in the area of child welfare are a living testament to the ability of an organization of free men and women to adapt itself to evolving needs, while maintaining high principles and taking on increased responsibilities under those principles.

2019-2020 Children & Youth Programs

The American Legion has long demonstrated a strong concern for the safety of this nation's young people. Legion volunteers regularly disseminate child safety information to parents, children, and community leaders. Making children safety conscious, in the home and outside, is necessary to assuring that they have an opportunity to play and grow into responsible adults and citizens.

As long as Halloween activities are sponsored and promoted in our various communities by duly appointed and elected officials, the Committee on Children & Youth of The American Legion believes that children and parents should know how to make this observance as safe as possible. To assist in this effort, the Committee on Children & Youth produces and distributes a brochure, "Make Halloween a Fun and Safe Night," to educate children and parents about trick-or-treat safety.

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death and disability among our nation's youth according to a 2018 article in the New England Journal of Medicine. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 12,000 children and young adults, ages 1 to 19 years, die from unintentional injuries each year. Stanford Children's Health states that falls are the leading cause of nonfatal injury for children, with children ages 19 and under accounting for about 8,000 fall-related visits to hospital emergency rooms every day. In homes, playgrounds and parks, the potential for serious injury is always present. To help educate the public, the Committee on Children & Youth produces "Play it Safe", an electronic brochure to inform parents about the six most common causes of death among children and prevention strategies.

The American Legion is very concerned about youth suicide as a major threat to the welfare of our nation's youth. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, suicide is the second largest cause of death among 10 to 24-year-olds. In 2019 the Journal of American Medical Association reported that the suicide rate among adolescents appears to be the highest since the government started collecting such statistics in 1960. The United Health Foundation reports that in 2017 there were more than 6,200 suicide deaths among adolescents and young adults ages 15-24. Suicide is a senseless tragedy but may possibly be preventable. The Committee on Children & Youth produces an electronic brochure entitled "Know the Warning Signs of Youth Suicide", designed to assist youth and adults in understanding some of the warning signs and facts about suicide.

The American Legion is also mindful of the pressures facing young people today, as well as the destructive consequences of drug use. Alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and marijuana are often readily available and considered to be the entryway to a life of drug dependency and delinquency. Gateway drugs are so-called because the use of these drugs often leads to drug abuse, addiction and to the use of other drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and LSD. The teenage years are challenging and pressure from peers to use drugs can be extremely intense; however, individuals are ultimately responsible for their own behavior. Decisions made today can have far-reaching effects on one's life for years to come. To help combat this problem and educate our nation's youth about the dangers of gateway drugs, the Committee produces an electronic brochure titled "Gateway Drugs...Choose not to Use". This tool can equip parents and children with the facts about gateway drugs and help children lead a healthy lifestyle.

As sure as The American Legion is the largest veterans' organization in the world, there are veterans' families who require assistance. Rent may possibly be overdue, or veterans' children are hungry because a parent is sick, disabled, deceased, or left the family. Whatever the reason, these children become the concern of The American Legion, and the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program is a vital tool our organization uses to help meet the maintenance and health needs of qualifying veterans' children.

Begun in 1925 as a form of direct aid to veteran's children, TFA remains unique in the social-work field even today and is still a very active program. Made possible by The American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation, the TFA program assists the households of qualifying veterans and military servicemembers meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities, and medical needs for their minor child(ren) when they are unable to do so. Through TFA, a Legion post may call upon the national level of The American Legion for cash grant assistance to help meet the basic needs of qualifying veterans' child(ren). Funds may be granted when it has been validated through assessment and investigation that the minor child(ren) are in need and that no other sources are available or those available are insufficient.

The minor child may not be older than 17, or 20 if still enrolled in high school or is physically handicapped. The minor child must be the biological child, stepchild, or in the legal custody of, a qualifying veteran. A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, OR any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion. Active duty applicants are considered without being a member of The American Legion. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to \$1,500 is permitted for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran. During calendar year 2019 there were 3,277 minor children of 1,777 Legionnaires and service member throughout 44 states who received \$1,141,903* in non-repayable cash grant assistance from the national level.

(*subject to final audit)

Children & Youth Expenditures

The Committee on Children & Youth annually records children and youth activities of The American Legion Family, which includes posts of The American Legion, squadrons of The Sons of The American Legion, and units of The American Legion Auxiliary. Additionally, activities of salons of Eight and Forty are recorded as well. The contributions

and expenditures of departments (states) and of the National Organization of The American Legion were obtained for the 12-month reporting period of June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020 (see Table No. 1). Table 2 illustrates a historical record of expenditures from national temporary aid funds by American Legion department (state) according to years.

During the same reporting period the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation recorded \$503,223* in donations from members of the American Legion Family and individuals from across the country. Also, during the same reporting period, the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance program expended over \$100,435* in grants to 205 children of 82 veterans. Table 1 shows that for the 2019-2020 reporting period The American Legion and its affiliated and supporting organizations reported a combined grand total of \$15,287,167* in expenditures and contributions to benefit over a half million children throughout America.

(*subject to final audit)

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION
Michael Westergren, Arkansas, Chairman
Jeff Hendricks, Indiana, Interim Program Manager

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship continues its tradition of awarding needs-based scholarships to children of fallen Post-9/11 service members as well as children of those Post-9/11 veterans receiving a combined total disability rating of 50% or more assigned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Children of fallen Post-9/11 service members remain our highest priority in awarding this scholarship.

We again this year hit a record milestone for awards. This is credited in part by the continuous improvement of our application system that gives applicants examples of what is required to apply and a more streamlined process. For 2020 there was \$667,931 awarded in American Legion Legacy scholarships awarded to a total of 35 applicants, exhausting the total amount available to award. These awards may be used for undergraduate or graduate-level education at a nonprofit and regionally accredited institution of higher learning.

In addition to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship, our scholarship programs include American Legion National Oratorical scholarships, American Legion Boys Nation scholarships, American Legion Junior Shooting Sports scholarships, American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year scholarships, American Legion Baseball Leadership and All-Academic Team scholarships, and the Samsung American Legion Scholarship.

Samsung Electronics gifted The American Legion with a \$5 million endowment in 1996 as means of showing appreciation for U.S. veterans who came to Korea's aid during its struggle against communist forces in the Korean War. As a result, the Samsung American Legion Scholarship program established a series of scholarships. Being good stewards of this generous endowment, The American Legion has continued to nurture and grow these funds through the years and since inception of the scholarship over \$6,501,500 Samsung American Legion scholarships have been awarded. This is achieved by awarding scholarships to (10) \$10,000 national scholars, (10) \$5,000 runners-up, and (80) \$1,250 department (state) finalists in conjunction with the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs. Samsung continues to believe in The American Legion's visionary leadership for educating and growing patriotism in the youth of America. Regrettably, Samsung American Legion scholarships were not awarded in 2020 due to the vast majority of American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs throughout the nation having canceled due to health and safety concerns associated with the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that gripped the globe.

The American Legion continues to believe that education is key to a united and informed citizenry. As such, we strive to improve our scholarships, education programs and youth development programs in a manner showing our dedication to the education of

America's youth. The promotion of Americanism to our future leaders threads throughout every American Legion scholarship and program. The resources that we provide to our Legion Family and communities at-large are specifically developed to aid in the expansion and culturing of such values among 21st-century youth.

YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

Larry L. Price, South Dakota Chairman

Todd Burris, Program Manager

The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement (YCLE) program is an excellent vehicle through which young people may be empowered to realize early on that peace officers stand as staunch supporters for moral and legal rights, and that the dedication and impact they have within our local communities, states, and nation should be regarded with respect and appreciation. The YCLE program serves as an influential steppingstone for those high school students considering a career in law enforcement as they become familiar first-hand with professional practices and concepts of policing during a week-long program conducted at a law enforcement training academy.

There are currently twenty-one departments that offer an YCLE program: Arizona; Connecticut; Delaware; Florida; Illinois; Indiana; Kansas; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; Oregon; Nebraska; North Carolina; Ohio; Pennsylvania; South Carolina; South Dakota; Vermont; Virginia; and Wisconsin. The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee was formed in order to develop strategies and methodologies for promoting the YCLE program and its growth throughout the nation, as well as working toward an ultimate goal of pursuing the development of a national capstone program – the vision is that this national capstone program would be analogous of what The American Legion Boys Nation program is to The American Legion Boys State program. Electronic materials are available on The American Legion website at www.legion.org/youthlaw providing information for American Legion departments working with law enforcement agencies to adopt and further promote the program.

AMERICANISM COMMISSION EXECUTIVE SECTION

Richard W. Anderson, Cromwell, CT – Chairman

Roberta C. Poulos, Ridgeland, SC – Vice-Chairman

Douglas Boldt, Callaway, NE – National Commander's Representative

Eugene Thompson, Marseilles, IL – Consultant

Steve M. Tatro, Dunkirk, MD – Consultant

Gary Stone, Independence, MO – Chairman, American Legion Baseball Committee

Herbert J. Petit, Jr., Kenner, LA – Chairman, Committee on Children & Youth

Michael Westergren, Beebe, AR – Chairman, Committee on Youth Education

Larry L. Price, Redfield, SD – Chairman, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee

AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.

Dennis R. Boland, Florida, President

Stacy Cope, Executive Secretary

In 1954 The American Legion endorsed the separate incorporation of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Since then, the foundation has granted over \$17 million dollars to other non-profit youth-serving organizations. The foundation exists to contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children and youth and to add to progress in the child welfare field through research, studies, surveys, projects or in other ways, including but not limited to all, youth activities now or hereafter sponsored by The American Legion.

At its annual meeting in October 2019 the board of directors approved a total of \$697,282 through 23 grants awarded to nonprofit organizations for projects to be

completed during the 2020 calendar year. These grants have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded for 2020:

Adoption Exchange Association of Linthicum, Maryland, was awarded \$18,947 for their project, “Every Child Deserves a Family.” This grant will provide a website to share useful information with other agencies to facilitate adoptions.

American Legion Auxiliary of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded \$1,843 for their project, “American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Indivisible Project”. This project will purchase the “Indivisible” books to teach junior members about the American Flag. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion supports this grant.

American Legion Auxiliary of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded \$120,500 for their project, “American Legion Auxiliary National Youth Programs Scholarships.” This grant will provide academic scholarships in the following areas: Girls Nation, Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship and Honorary National Junior Scholarship. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Childhood Leukemia Foundation of Brick, New Jersey, was awarded \$29,700 for their project, “Hope Binder.” This project will offer 12 sections of templates and resources to help families begin to feel a degree of control over their circumstances. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was awarded \$30,000 for their project, “Teach for the Starz(!); Online Resources for Child Liver Transplant Patients and their Families.” This project will create an online portal of resources for children and their families who have received a liver transplant. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Cornelia De Lange Syndrome Foundation of Avon, Connecticut, was awarded \$21,258 for their project, “Parent Resources and Handbook for Children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.” This grant will fund the updating, printing, and distribution of their handbook.

CureSearch for Children’s Cancer of Bethesda, Maryland, was awarded \$33,000 for their project, “Supporting American Families Facing a Pediatric Cancer Diagnosis.” This grant will fund the creation of a CancerCare mobile app which will allow parents to track the treatment plans, medications, and appointments for their children. It will also provide an Ella Barbie doll to help children better understand hair loss.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Chicago, Illinois, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, “Mental Health Education and Wellness Tools for Children and Youth.” This project will create an online database of tools and resources for children and youth who suffer from mood disorders and promoting this awareness during the national marketing campaign.

Gratitude Initiative of Red Oak, Texas, was awarded \$10,500 for their project, “Gratitude Initiative Promotional Materials for US Army IMCOM.” This project will create and produce a webinar to help children of Army families prepare for the transition into college.

Lifeline Pilots of Peoria, Illinois, was awarded \$25,000 for their project, “No Cost Air Transportation for Medically Fragile Kids. This project will fund air transportation for children who are receiving treatment outside their local area.

Marc Apodace Jr. Children’s Glioma Cancer Foundation of Thornton, Colorado, was awarded \$8,540 for their project, “Educational iPad Program.” This project will fund iPads and the software for children who have been diagnosed with cancer and lost the ability to communicate with family and their doctors.

National Braille Press of Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded \$19,725 for their project, “ReadBooks!” This grant will fund resource books for parents with visually impaired children to introduce their children to Braille as an effective method of reading

and writing and help encourage parents to learn Braille to help their children. It will also provide a braille book for the visually impaired child.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of Alexandria, Virginia, was awarded \$12,839 for their project, "Reconnecting with Your Child: Building Relationships after Suspected Sexual Exploitation." This grant will fund the production and distribution of information on how to reconnect with someone who has suffered sexual exploitation.

National Hemophilia Foundation of New York, New York, was awarded \$19,200 for their project, "Navigating life with a Rare Bleeding Disorder." This project will create both a kid friendly and parent guide to help them understand their diagnosis while explaining what comes next. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Patient Airlift Services of Farmingdale, New York, was awarded \$46,190 for their project, "PALS Outreach for Children's Health and Welfare." This grant will fund the printing and distribution of materials to increase awareness of their services to families of children in need of treatment outside their local area, while also recruiting new pilots.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children of Livonia, Michigan was awarded \$5,000 for their project "Braille Books for Blind Children Ages 6 and older." This grant will provide braille books to those children who are visually impaired over the age of six. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Songs of Love of Forest Hills, New York was awarded \$25,000 for their project "Songs of Love Outreach Project." This grant will fund the printing and distribution of profile forms and song request forms that will help create personalized songs for seriously ill children up to the age of 21 with no charge to them. This grant will also update and maintain the website which provides detailed information on how to request a song.

Sportsman Alliance Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, was awarded \$20,000 for their project "Heritage Hunting and Fishing Project." This grant will expose 5,000 youth to hands on training and real-life outdoor experience in hunting and fishing, while teaching them safety, wildlife conservation. This grant will also create online educational videos.

Talk about Curing Autism of Irvine, California was awarded \$21,540 for their project "Autism Journey Guides and Educational Materials." This grant will print and distributed 4,000 copies of their recently updated "Autism Journey Guide" and educational information to families who have recently been diagnosed with Autism.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded \$5,000 for their project "Academic scholarships for top scorers of the 2020 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament." This grant will provide academic scholarships for each youth having the top score in the Sporter and Precision disciplines after the second round of the 2020 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded \$17,500 for their project "Academic scholarships for 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and Runners-Up." This grant will provide academic scholarships for youth selected as the 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and three runners-up.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded \$106,000 for their project "Academic scholarships for 2020 American Legion department oratorical winners." This grant will provide academic scholarships for youth whose American Legion department reported them as their department oratorical winner prior to the March 31, 2020, deadline.

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded \$75,000 for their project "The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program-2020." This grant will provide temporary financial assistance to the minor child(ren) in the home of a veteran to maintain shelter, food, utilities, and clothing. The Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary support this grant.

The American Legion Child Welfare board of directors meeting that was set for May 3, 2020, in Indianapolis was postponed due to health and safety concerns associated with

the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic, therefore, the following officers were extended in their current board positions until Spring 2021: Dennis R. Boland of Florida, president; Peggy Moon of Minnesota, vice president; Joseph J. Frank of Missouri, secretary; and Robert S. Turner of Georgia, treasurer. Administrative personnel appointed by the board were Shawn Long, assistant treasurer; and Stacy Cope, executive secretary.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND

Vincent M. Gaughan, Illinois, President

In 1925, World War I veterans, widows and children continued to struggle to return to a regular life. The members of The American Legion, aware of the vital responsibilities entrusted to them by those who had served, knew the time had come to take action. More than 900,000 Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary members and other American citizens joined the campaign, raising nearly \$5 million and establishing the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

Since those early days, over \$30 million has been distributed to disabled veterans and the children of those who served our great nation. Gifts and donations are added to the endowment trust, which is administered by the American Legion Veterans and Children Foundation. The foundation, whose members are selected by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, takes great care to ensure that these gifts are wisely invested. Income from fund investments is then passed on to The American Legion national organization to administer programs of Children & Youth (C&Y) and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R), which include funding for the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program, Department Service Officer school and Board of Veterans Appeals training.

During calendar year 2019, the American Legion Endowment Fund transferred trust earnings of \$126,823 to The American Legion to support TFA. Donations to the American Legion Endowment during this time totaled \$856,179*. It is important to note that due to the structure of the fund as an endowment; only the earnings on the fund are spent, ensuring that donations will continue to support veterans and their children for generations.

During this program year the American Legion Endowment Fund started a major fundraising campaign to help promote awareness of the TFA grant program offered through the Americanism Commission's Committee on Children and Youth and Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation programs, which includes department service officer training. The American Legion provides these services to the veteran and their family free of charge. The campaign seeks to raise \$25 million over the next several years to help cover the cost of training for department service officers and to provide grants for qualified veterans and military service members with minor children in the home who need assistance in meeting their children's basic needs.

At the board of directors meeting held virtually on May 5, 2020, the following officers were elected: Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan, president; James Koutz, vice president; and Anthony Jordan, treasurer. Administrative personnel appointed by the board were Shawn Long, assistant treasurer, and Stacy Cope, secretary.

Under the 1969 Tax Reform Act, the American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation retains its tax-exempt status. Gifts, therefore, are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent permitted by law, and bequests are deductible for federal inheritance tax purposes to the extent permitted by the Federal Tax Act.

(*subject to final audit)

Table No. 1 Children & Youth Expenditures and Number of Children Served

Region and Department	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Region Part Reporting	Temporary Financial Assistance by National	Contributions to Child Welfare Foundation by Posts and Units	Direct Aid from Posts, Units and Departments	Contributions to Other Child Serving Agencies by Legion and Auxiliary	Other Expenditures for Children by Legion and Auxiliary	Department Administrative Expense by Legion	Total Number of Children Served	Total Aid	Legion Lines 3 thru 8
REGION 1										
Connecticut	68%	\$3,000.00	\$1,827.43	\$9,890.00	\$8,550.00	\$34,117.00	\$18,626.00	5,758		\$78,013
Maine	99%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,409.00	\$7,494.00	\$52,338.00	\$5,175.00	2,993		\$72,417
Massachusetts	64%	\$2,897.64	\$2,272.00	\$24,400.00	\$25,447.00	\$74,950.00	\$28,012.00	6,742		\$187,939
New Hampshire	51%	\$0.00	\$1,509.64	\$10,925.00	\$15,624.00	\$184,594.00	\$1,150.00	4,837		\$213,803
Rhode Island	43%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,050.00	\$2,500.00	\$15,065.00	\$600.00	246		\$22,215
Vermont	86%	\$0.00	\$270.00	\$22,636.00	\$16,580.00	\$74,063.00	\$7,575.00	2,765		\$121,214
TOTAL:	71%	\$5,897.64	\$5,879.07	\$79,216.00	\$79,198.00	\$435,128.00	\$61,141.00	23,341		\$683,811
REGION 2										
Delaware	59%	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$3,820.00	\$10,949.00	\$21,850.00	\$615.00	1,004		\$37,059
D.C.	22%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$520.00	\$1,000.00	\$730.00	\$0.00	271		\$2,250
Maryland	100%	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$98,991.00	\$51,855.00	\$346,987.00	\$27,176.00	16,122		\$528,489
New Jersey	59%	\$0.00	\$1,718.90	\$60,800.00	\$26,533.00	\$220,968.00	\$13,444.00	3,899		\$303,484
New York	41%	\$0.00	\$4,527.94	\$150,514.00	\$72,434.00	\$297,724.00	\$31,017.00	16,986		\$556,217
Pennsylvania	59%	\$0.00	\$1,018.00	\$185,278.00	\$60,171.00	\$348,042.00	\$37,938.00	8,435		\$632,445
Virginia	79%	\$0.00	\$5,945.00	\$200,119.00	\$179,196.00	\$783,072.00	\$34,894.00	26,492		\$1,202,116
West Virginia	79%	\$0.00	\$596.75	\$22,068.00	\$4,910.00	\$52,128.00	\$18,524.00	6,730		\$98,099
TOTAL:	67%	\$0.00	\$17,301.49	\$721,918.00	\$406,938.00	\$2,651,491.00	\$183,608.00	79,843		\$3,386,158
REGION 3										
Alabama	73%	\$1,818.50	\$2,219.00	\$36,117.00	\$28,549.00	\$217,923.00	\$60,028.00	4,829		\$346,655
Florida	55%	\$5,982.00	\$23,781.00	\$280,428.00	\$467,187.00	\$467,827.00	\$46,827.00	14,142		\$1,414,186
Georgia	5%	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$1,823.00	\$29,010.00	\$213,777.00	\$46,724.00	8,764		\$364,409
Kentucky	63%	\$2,587.47	\$4,510.00	\$68,738.00	\$36,100.00	\$161,255.00	\$7,440.00	8,318		\$268,630
North Carolina	100%	\$4,723.87	\$300.00	\$69,199.00	\$9,538.00	\$123,270.00	\$12,033.00	5,689		\$208,064
South Carolina	73%	\$1,500.00	\$3,203.63	\$13,568.00	\$11,917.00	\$53,973.00	\$18,928.00	2,868		\$83,418
Tennessee	97%	\$16,838.14	\$1,496.17	\$30,449.00	\$17,594.00	\$117,288.00	\$16,106.00	9,364		\$190,771
TOTAL:	63%	\$33,418.98	\$38,683.86	\$648,383.00	\$527,141.00	\$1,341,683.00	\$212,987.00	63,886		\$2,396,137
REGION 4										
Arkansas	54%	\$0.00	\$580.00	\$9,142.00	\$5,320.00	\$27,277.00	\$3,904.00	871		\$46,403
Louisiana	32%	\$0.00	\$412.00	\$19,175.00	\$4,948.00	\$31,803.00	\$34,004.00	1,364		\$90,378
Mississippi	20%	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$17,284.00	\$9,428.00	\$104,489.00	\$989.00	11,352		\$132,287
Oklahoma	99%	\$0.00	\$1,448.59	\$23,003.00	\$20,038.00	\$76,191.00	\$25,460.00	5,104		\$146,139
Texas	74%	\$4,119.03	\$1,500.00	\$13,568.00	\$11,917.00	\$73,690.00	\$28,873.00	8,189		\$139,723
TOTAL:	68%	\$4,119.03	\$14,868.58	\$173,878.00	\$113,624.00	\$616,342.00	\$83,128.00	63,886		\$1,918,934
REGION 5										
Illinois	47%	\$6,481.92	\$2,627.50	\$94,694.00	\$30,455.00	\$233,630.00	\$20,456.00	43,071		\$388,344
Indiana	100%	\$17,337.91	\$4,437.00	\$27,601.00	\$13,375.00	\$156,503.00	\$7,371.00	14,702		\$207,140
Michigan	79%	\$0.00	\$2,513.00	\$72,973.00	\$35,983.00	\$146,686.00	\$11,880.00	15,824		\$289,029
Minnesota	74%	\$0.00	\$454.44	\$83,120.00	\$17,871.00	\$114,968.00	\$13,228.00	8,339		\$199,687
Ohio	99%	\$2,860.00	\$1,205.00	\$283,478.00	\$104,484.00	\$671,904.00	\$51,221.00	56,240		\$1,124,152
Wisconsin	67%	\$0.00	\$2,746.00	\$69,478.00	\$76,452.00	\$304,545.00	\$44,673.00	22,729		\$600,724
TOTAL:	74%	\$26,679.83	\$22,983.24	\$718,716.00	\$330,842.00	\$2,634,456.00	\$181,641.00	184,288		\$3,216,312
REGION 6										
Iowa	64%	\$0.00	\$321.80	\$45,217.00	\$30,432.00	\$150,989.00	\$35,472.00	15,546		\$261,842
Kansas	59%	\$0.00	\$180.00	\$27,601.00	\$13,375.00	\$64,253.00	\$7,371.00	11,702		\$96,716
Minnesota	70%	\$0.00	\$7,992.32	\$253,978.00	\$28,048.00	\$378,910.00	\$10,224.00	11,210		\$675,150
Nebraska	98%	\$0.00	\$2,519.32	\$35,962.00	\$25,812.00	\$17,332.00	\$6,860.00	18,465		\$148,485
North Dakota	59%	\$0.00	\$617.00	\$87,202.00	\$65,499.00	\$134,597.00	\$2,963.00	24,067		\$209,868
South Dakota	82%	\$2,804.52	\$2,162.90	\$13,900.00	\$3,975.00	\$63,563.00	\$3,308.00	2,233		\$119,733
TOTAL:	72%	\$2,804.52	\$13,803.34	\$463,868.00	\$187,139.00	\$893,454.00	\$66,198.00	66,223		\$1,767,219
REGION 7										
Arizona	79%	\$12,081.68	\$675.00	\$65,778.00	\$114,225.00	\$177,042.00	\$16,888.00	118,851		\$386,690
California	94%	\$2,793.91	\$26,359.12	\$208,827.00	\$100,375.00	\$408,253.00	\$197,370.00	65,383		\$943,978
Colorado	69%	\$10,275.00	\$1,769.92	\$37,047.00	\$49,091.00	\$103,560.00	\$5,785.00	8,091		\$207,468
Hawaii	57%	\$0.00	\$180.00	\$1,310.00	\$300.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	110		\$22,290
Nevada	92%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,755.00	\$2,090.00	\$54,950.00	\$1,700.00	1,133		\$63,495
New Mexico	100%	\$0.00	\$1,499.00	\$65,338.00	\$15,285.00	\$119,636.00	\$12,639.00	7,539		\$214,396
Utah	82%	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$18,970.00	\$4,296.00	\$163,000.00	\$2,180.00	362		\$80.00
TOTAL:	86%	\$25,166.59	\$36,637.94	\$492,625.00	\$288,582.00	\$1,847,871.00	\$236,582.00	201,499		\$2,227,408
REGION 8										
Alaska	71%	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$60,325.00	\$17,956.00	\$72,604.00	\$1,920.00	3,677		\$153,155
Idaho	100%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,650.00	\$2,085.00	\$34,136.00	\$9,835.00	17,834		\$66,716
Montana	100%	\$2,404.00	\$0.00	\$11,976.00	\$20,354.00	\$38,451.00	\$3,305.00	3,521		\$76,490
Oregon	100%	\$0.00	\$1,053.62	\$29,740.00	\$22,169.00	\$115,434.00	\$3,780.00	9,998		\$172,187
Washington	77%	\$0.00	\$4,242.28	\$29,279.00	\$22,817.00	\$60,983.00	\$6,795.00	5,028		\$124,088
Wyoming	98%	\$0.00	\$5,362.47	\$12,400.00	\$7,660.00	\$31,394.00	\$675.00	10,443		\$57,711
TOTAL:	82%	\$2,404.00	\$11,838.37	\$164,388.00	\$63,641.99	\$353,902.00	\$28,489.00	49,897		\$696,245
REGION TOTALS:	72%	\$106,435.59	\$161,965.79	\$3,272,433.00	\$1,699,482.00	\$8,872,817.00	\$1,046,836.00	704,537		\$15,138,023
FOREIGN										
France	59%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,800.00	\$0.00	\$40,800.00	\$50.00	182		\$48,650
Mexico	20%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,857.00	\$0.00	\$9,089.00	\$80.00	300		\$16,023
Philippines	50%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,245.00	\$650.00	\$4,575.00	\$1,780.00	300		\$8,136
Puerto Rico	30%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,302.00	\$880.00	\$56,965.00	\$2,374.00	938		\$75,341
TOTAL:	37%	\$0.00	\$8.00	\$32,204.00	\$1,230.00	\$111,448.00	\$4,284.00	1,810		\$149,144
GRAND TOTALS:	71%	\$106,435.59	\$161,965.79	\$3,304,637.00	\$1,700,712.00	\$8,984,317.00	\$1,045,100.00	706,347		\$15,287,167.38

TABLE #1 REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE 1, 2019 - MAY 31, 2020

Child Welfare Foundation by National Legion 850,783.00
 Child Welfare Foundation by National Auxiliary 363,052.78
 Child Welfare Foundation by BPOD 89,478.42
 Child Welfare Foundation by Individuals 842,142.78
 Requests to Child Welfare Foundation 844,191.84
 C.W.F. by Sons of The American Legion 252,944.80
 CFC United Way 33.00
Total 8903,223.42

TABLE NO. 2
EXPENDITURES FROM NATIONAL TEMPORARY AID FUNDS TO DEPARTMENTS/ AGENCIES TO YEARS

	1925-1946	1946-1966	1966-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	2016-4thQ 2020	Grand Total
Alabama	\$29,181.33	\$51,167.06	\$76,790.45	\$152,617.32	\$137,824.69	\$110,931.35	\$53,046.36	\$611,588.56
Alaska	\$0.00	\$1,827.56	\$1,850.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$2,165.98	\$0.00	\$8,343.54
Arizona	\$26,091.70	\$8,752.00	\$21,240.31	\$192,830.21	\$299,528.72	\$462,229.53	\$112,319.76	\$1,142,290.23
Arkansas	\$33,873.20	\$25,962.22	\$2,881.07	\$55,994.98	\$16,181.61	\$29,959.04	\$0.00	\$166,962.12
California	\$30,106.15	\$16,026.45	\$1,950.00	\$7,569.00	\$30,634.44	\$194,533.72	\$117,422.08	\$397,231.82
Colorado	\$41,821.11	\$22,618.11	\$1,395.00	\$12,205.83	\$17,592.15	\$172,131.92	\$83,436.01	\$391,600.13
Connecticut	\$1,854.00	\$440.00	\$450.00	\$1,192.00	\$7,871.56	\$32,258.56	\$21,815.33	\$66,791.46
Delaware	\$2,036.00	\$1,000.00	\$475.00	\$2,636.00	\$8,497.64	\$12,491.00	\$0.00	\$27,133.64
DC	\$2,570.00	\$1,203.50	\$600.00	\$26,136.75	\$23,919.00	\$6,375.63	\$0.00	\$39,294.88
Florida	\$33,341.28	\$25,520.50	\$2,530.00	\$27,060.88	\$64,469.81	\$457,310.37	\$268,462.82	\$879,686.66
Georgia	\$99,894.07	\$86,084.42	\$4,865.00	\$8,498.51	\$12,861.80	\$64,941.92	\$28,822.14	\$273,767.86
Hawaii	\$870.00	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$6,198.40	\$2,767.97	\$25,500.00	\$38,206.37
Idaho	\$7,593.50	\$5,771.85	\$7,368.39	\$20,228.20	\$195,485.15	\$244,318.48	\$16,219.98	\$496,964.43
Illinois	\$30,220.79	\$4,243.53	\$10,525.73	\$92,128.56	\$278,545.19	\$29,619.85	\$141,033.31	\$646,416.56
Indiana	\$31,850.08	\$9,066.40	\$2,920.00	\$126,545.18	\$173,400.66	\$511,401.98	\$186,541.05	\$1,041,728.36
Iowa	\$17,493.08	\$597.00	\$3,928.45	\$13,782.47	\$227,865.82	\$166,627.05	\$42,073.56	\$472,367.43
Kansas	\$20,766.80	\$42,094.35	\$8,923.00	\$9,241.54	\$6,291.60	\$61,187.11	\$11,353.25	\$168,827.66
Kentucky	\$23,843.50	\$45,527.00	\$64,854.96	\$44,238.96	\$12,445.22	\$163,802.00	\$46,082.89	\$399,894.93
Louisiana	\$23,400.50	\$36,454.30	\$3,395.00	\$7,340.45	\$33,897.24	\$1,505.12	\$54,268.28	\$175,907.49
Maine	\$3,618.94	\$1,910.26	\$2,676.55	\$15,912.00	\$22,305.05	\$15,627.26	\$0.00	\$62,960.80
Maryland	\$5,887.00	\$3,390.57	\$3,383.00	\$4,770.00	\$31,620.94	\$50,067.60	\$32,618.56	\$131,766.74
Massachusetts	\$2,754.50	\$455.00	\$150.00	\$4,850.00	\$18,888.67	\$22,670.48	\$60,800.19	\$110,348.84
Michigan	\$23,895.33	\$33,281.24	\$15,348.82	\$14,912.24	\$52,676.66	\$80,139.96	\$76,813.16	\$296,966.41
Minnesota	\$8,610.77	\$23,322.79	\$11,840.33	\$137,579.21	\$89,538.19	\$41,094.05	\$11,446.25	\$323,431.61
Mississippi	\$40,293.63	\$63,254.14	\$117,892.56	\$51,214.88	\$84,291.78	\$59,465.38	\$0.00	\$418,382.38
Missouri	\$53,073.08	\$47,799.64	\$11,056.00	\$17,969.51	\$38,984.13	\$149,530.46	\$0.00	\$316,122.82
Montana	\$5,414.25	\$1,688.85	\$1,575.30	\$38,571.40	\$57,913.91	\$97,516.22	\$18,481.65	\$221,141.88
Nebraska	\$18,470.10	\$17,795.88	\$17,531.06	\$3,373.25	\$739.49	\$19,801.41	\$0.00	\$77,730.89
Nevada	\$695.00	\$786.00	\$7,272.00	\$995.00	\$18,818.94	\$81,194.64	\$0.00	\$107,691.88
New Hampshire	\$4,250.50	\$4,941.50	\$0.00	\$53,557.78	\$12,610.00	\$23,124.23	\$0.00	\$88,484.42
New Jersey	\$8,996.53	\$1,848.00	\$4,478.00	\$55,576.20	\$53,194.80	\$48,721.86	\$0.00	\$172,912.21
New Mexico	\$20,074.30	\$53,096.74	\$58,723.89	\$111,071.87	\$49,282.39	\$40,257.73	\$0.00	\$332,488.82
New York	\$7,887.54	\$4,803.00	\$1,150.00	\$33,784.24	\$63,432.27	\$47,376.53	\$0.00	\$178,453.88
North Carolina	\$48,597.50	\$81,019.80	\$9,740.00	\$20,750.18	\$68,774.55	\$278,311.46	\$19,304.55	\$704,497.84
North Dakota	\$28,017.45	\$11,788.21	\$5,771.32	\$6,499.40	\$11,426.94	\$13,963.32	\$0.00	\$78,486.84
Ohio	\$23,930.43	\$5,116.25	\$11,613.89	\$11,357.85	\$13,289.44	\$108,007.82	\$31,557.82	\$204,873.32
Oklahoma	\$40,458.05	\$85,406.47	\$88,956.03	\$158,914.96	\$203,764.51	\$483,767.24	\$0.00	\$1,028,267.26
Oregon	\$1,250.50	\$13,750.15	\$24,595.95	\$42,465.83	\$14,796.00	\$252,933.02	\$120,896.55	\$478,478.80
Panama	\$675.00	\$534.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,809.00
Pennsylvania	\$22,847.41	\$651.00	\$19,204.85	\$38,183.37	\$29,380.12	\$169,089.68	\$0.00	\$279,356.43
Puerto Rico	\$17,057.00	\$57,754.00	\$55,499.50	\$43,420.00	\$11,100.00	\$16,844.64	\$0.00	\$201,876.14
Rhode Island	\$1,562.00	\$1,641.00	\$1,080.00	\$18,499.38	\$16,182.72	\$5,049.90	\$0.00	\$43,995.00
South Carolina	\$68,453.05	\$26,893.34	\$5,339.00	\$600.00	\$13,610.16	\$86,964.71	\$51,302.58	\$262,862.84
South Dakota	\$42,430.27	\$16,362.05	\$725.00	\$20,680.36	\$5,356.30	\$1,000.00	\$7,009.49	\$107,671.49
Tennessee	\$31,144.77	\$54,613.20	\$20,604.30	\$56,068.79	\$36,581.35	\$94,079.68	\$62,142.86	\$388,214.86
Texas	\$35,373.50	\$47,392.43	\$26,714.50	\$7,884.74	\$31,484.75	\$236,342.07	\$136,806.14	\$622,601.13
Utah	\$11,125.48	\$3,248.00	\$3,396.00	\$12,014.42	\$14,034.34	\$31,707.70	\$0.00	\$67,826.84
Vermont	\$1,824.30	\$9,291.50	\$0.00	\$4,925.00	\$6,904.26	\$7,701.44	\$0.00	\$29,706.70
Virginia	\$45,310.31	\$29,037.78	\$17,836.00	\$21,300.40	\$68,509.94	\$377,640.08	\$183,049.02	\$781,313.53
Tennessee	\$3,378.00	\$427.50	\$625.00	\$66,884.89	\$511,131.69	\$742,910.02	\$137,539.32	\$1,462,894.42
West Virginia	\$27,629.98	\$11,395.94	\$3,460.00	\$17,750.68	\$40,628.59	\$113,016.71	\$49,239.04	\$283,120.94
Wisconsin	\$15,881.98	\$8,067.25	\$9,878.00	\$16,242.78	\$74,327.21	\$95,856.52	\$0.00	\$226,253.74
Wyoming	\$8,180.00	\$1,993.00	\$1,360.00	\$979.00	\$13,748.91	\$34,232.42	\$0.00	\$60,481.23
Other Dept	\$650.00	\$173.50						\$723.50
Miscellaneous	\$19,489.21							\$19,489.21
TOTAL	\$1,421,872.96	\$1,089,878.73	\$777,326.21	\$1,828,240.98	\$3,327,267.81	\$6,968,291.54	\$ 2,816,343.72	\$18,016,008.84

CONVENTION COMMISSION

Michael E. Walton, Illinois, Chairman
Bridget A. Robinson, CMP, CMM, Georgia, Director

The 101st annual National Convention of The American Legion convened in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 23-29, 2019. National Commander, Brett P. Reistad of Virginia called the National Convention to order at 8:30AM on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, welcoming Legionnaires to Indianapolis and thanking them for their continuing service to our Country and to our veterans. The 101st National Convention began with the opening ceremony, which included Admiral Charlie Ray, Vice Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, who addressed nearly 6,000 American Legion Family members on Tuesday morning. A special guest to the Convention was The Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of The United States. Other guest speakers addressing the 101st National Convention of The American Legion were The Honorable Donald M. Benton, Director, U.S. Selective Service System; The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of State; The Honorable Todd Young, U.S. Senate; The Honorable Mike Braun, U.S. Senate; The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana; The Honorable Joseph Hogsett, Mayor of the City of Indianapolis; 2018-2019 Department Commander of Indiana Rodney E. Strong and, James E. Koutz, President of the 2019 National Convention Corporation welcomed Legionnaires to the National Convention.

There were many highlights during the 2019 National Convention, but four events conducted at the National Convention deserve special mention. On Friday, August 23, the Color Guard Contest took place. The Color Guard contests were well attended by contestants and observers. Eleven color guards competed in four categories with Harrisburg Post 472 from Houston, Texas, being crowned again as National Champions. Additionally, five bands participated in the Competitive Concert Band Contest on Saturday, August 24, with Band of the Tonawandas being crowned National Champions. The Patriotic Memorial Service, featuring the Indianapolis Women's Chorus and the Meek Sisters, as well as the parade, both held on Sunday, August 25, were attended by nearly 2,000 American Legion Family members. On Tuesday, August 27, the National Commander's Banquet for Distinguished Guests was held at the Indiana Convention Center. The banquet featured The Fab Four as the entertainment and was attended by over 2,300 Legionnaires and guests.

CONVENTION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

The Convention Commission conducted three regular meetings during the year. Revisions of our request for proposal (RFP) continued in 2019. This process is extremely important as it provides an equal opportunity for all cities to be evaluated the same way during the site visit process. It is the commission's desire to continue to attract new cities that desire to host an American Legion National Convention, providing "blue cap" Legionnaires and their families with varied and enjoyable conventions on an annual basis.

Future conventions and dates:

Phoenix, Arizona	Aug. 27 – Sept. 2, 2021
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Aug. 26 – Sept. 1, 2022
Charlotte, North Carolina	August 25 – 31, 2023
New Orleans, Louisiana	August 23 – 29, 2024

FINANCE COMMISSION

Gaither M. Keener, Jr., North Carolina, Chairman
Shawn T. Long, CPA, Indiana, National Treasurer
Robert Bradley, Indiana, Corporate Controller

The primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for the National Executive Committee, handle funds under that budget, and exercise reasonable oversight to see that the various divisions and departments of the national organization operate within appropriations. The Finance Commission includes seven members, with the national adjutant as ex-officio secretary and the national commander and national treasurer as ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are the executive directors of the Washington and Indianapolis offices and the finance director and liaison observers from the National Executive Committee.

The national organization had a net operating surplus of \$2,438,949 for 2019. We received \$18.50 dues per member, allocating \$15.50 to the General Fund and \$3 to The American Legion Magazine. Income of the national organization derives from annual membership dues, interest on investments, magazine advertisements, Emblem Sales, contributions and other approved activities.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the auditor’s report, found in the 2020 Annual Report.

MAIL

June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

Incoming Letters and Parcels.....	820,336
Incoming Parcels	1,829
Outgoing Letters (Excl. Emblem Sales)	6,600,249

Freight & Express

June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020

UPS/FedEx - Out - Cartons	76
UPS/FedEx - Out - Pounds.....	21,294
UPS/FedEx - In - Packages.....	1,068
UPS/FedEx - Out - Packages.....	2,780

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Robert E. Newman, Indiana, Chairman
John W. Querfeld, Illinois, Director

The National Internal Affairs Commission was established by resolution of the National Executive Committee in 1947. The original charge for this constitutional commission still remains: to formulate and recommend policies and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to activities conducted for organizational purposes.

Among those purposes are all those not properly the responsibility of any other national commission, as well as membership strategies, post formation, clerical and records administration for posts and individual members and special projects. The Commission provides guidance and assistance to the National Adjutant on necessary administrative operations. Under the broad interpretation of those purposes not properly the responsibility of other commissions, Internal Affairs oversees awards, constitutional discipline, and commemorative activities. The Commission also monitors legislative and other regulatory activities that potentially affect American Legion posts and departments, recommending appropriate courses of action.

The Commission has four standing committees assigned to it for supervision and coordination: American Legion Riders Advisory Committee, National Convention Resolutions Assignment, Constitution and By-Laws, and Membership & Post Activities.

The Internal Affairs Commission also provides guidance for the following programs:

Sons of The American Legion -- For 22 consecutive years, the Sons of The American Legion (SAL) continued to grow its membership to over 360,000 members, but for 2020, they will fall short of making their annual goal due to COVID-19 restrictions across the country. Even with these restrictions, it has not stopped the SAL in providing meals for veterans, help elderly veterans, and perform "Buddy Checks" which involves health and welfare.

As for membership achievements, a total of three detachments achieved 100% membership or higher, and ten reached over 90%. Many squadrons struggled to make their goal and gave every effort to achieve it. For 2020-21, the SAL set its goals to surpass what they projected to attain for 2019-20.

The SAL is very tenacious in supporting The American Legion programs and continuing to be a reliable volunteer base with Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services (VAVS), American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF), and The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. In 2019, according to the activity reported from the Consolidated Squadron Reports (CSR), the SAL has provided:

- Over 200,775 volunteer hours in VA homes and hospitals, equaling \$5.1 million in labor costs and over \$900,000 in cash donations.
- Over 774,000 volunteer hours, equaling \$19.6 million in labor that supported **Americanism programs** with over \$1.3 million in donations.
- Over 45,000 volunteer hours, equaling \$1.1 million in labor directly supporting **Child Welfare Foundation** with \$322,845 in donations. To date, the Sons of The American Legion have contributed over \$8 million to **The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation**.
- Contributed a combined equivalent of cash donations and volunteer hours that exceed \$28 million, based on \$25.43 per volunteer hour.

Since 1932, the Sons of The American Legion have continued to be an integral component of The American Legion Family and to our local communities.

The American Legion Riders -- The American Legion Riders (ALR) has organized chapters in over 2,100 American Legion posts, and an estimated 121,000 members in 54 departments consisting of 50 states, two U.S. territories, and two foreign countries.

This year like all other American Legion programs it has been a challenge due to COVID-19 restrictions across the country, but the ALR chairman did not let that stop them from assembling his committee and setting out and forging an aggressive plan.

The ALR raises money annually for many charitable causes, most notably The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. This fund awards education scholarships to children of 9/11 veterans who were either killed in action or assessed with a 50% or higher service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Since 2006, the annual American Legion Legacy Run has conducted 15 consecutive Legacy Runs, totaling over 20,000 miles, and helping our organization raise over \$11 million for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund.

National Emergency Fund – Since 1989 the National Emergency Fund (NEF) has provided over \$8 million in grant assistance to members and posts across the Nation. From January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, The American Legion provided \$88,445 in grant monies to American Legion and SAL members and to American Legion posts. During the same period, the National Emergency Fund received donations totaling over \$467,000. This prepares us to support future natural disasters.

Every dollar contributed to the fund is used for providing financial assistance to members of The American Legion Family. The grants are to be used for immediate needs – lodging, food, and clothing – and not as a substitute for insurance. In order to qualify, members must have been displaced or evacuated from their primary place of residence and be a member in good standing at the time of loss and when applying for an NEF grant. Monies to support the administrative costs of maintaining this fund and to conduct fundraising are absorbed through existing budget areas.

The National Emergency Fund is unique, and members know they can turn to The American Legion for immediate financial assistance, without payback. Through the generosity of American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members, the National Emergency Fund will continue to meet the needs of our American Legion family in the aftermath of local, state, and national weather-related disasters.

Consolidated Post Reports -- The Consolidated Post Report (CPR) was developed in 1975 to document the various activities a specific post has accomplished during the twelve-month reporting period, June 1st through May 31st. The CPR may be the most important post document submitted each year. The combined information is referenced when the National Commander and others speak to our representatives and validates our ability to testify on behalf of all veterans. An individual post story and impact is amplified when we speak with a collective voice. During the 2019-2020 reporting year, 70% of posts submitted a CPR.

Throughout the reporting year, American Legion post members provided:

- 597,973 volunteer hours provided to our communities
- 77,881 pints of blood donated by 48,576 American Legion members
- 3,606,069 community service hours at a cost of \$7,904,600
- 115,692 funeral honors performed at a cost of \$2,239,989
- 1,747 American Legion baseball teams sponsored at a cost of \$4,632,688
- 1,891 Scout Units sponsored representing 42,859 Scouts at a cost of \$1,800,358
- \$4,430,634 donated to school assisted programs and scholarships
- 13,530 Boys State Sponsored at a cost of 3,422,530
- \$1,039,413 donated to the Temporary Financial Assistance Fund
- \$506,105 donated to the National Emergency Fund
- \$5,450,348 in total donations to Children and Youth activities

The National American Legion College -- National American Legion College (NALC), hosts many talented young ambitious Legionnaires at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis for a week of intensive training. These students return to their departments with enhanced knowledge and appreciation for The American Legion. They are taught the core values and contributions of the organization and are challenged to think critically and creatively working as a team confronting The American Legion.

Candidates for the NALC are veterans who demonstrate potential for higher leadership roles. Student candidates are nominated by their respective departments and rank ordered by a selection committee. In 2019, we had 58 students attend the National American Legion College.

There are over 800 graduates making a difference in leadership roles and membership teams across the country. Many have moved up the ranks to department and national level positions while others are used in various leadership and teaching roles within their respective departments. Graduates are encouraged to utilize the skills and knowledge by coordinating with their fellow graduates to develop a training platform that will benefit and enhance their department's knowledge and leadership base.

American Legion Basic Training -- Basic Training is The American Legion's on-line, self-paced training program free to American Legion Family members. It is the quickest way for those who want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veteran's service organization. It is a great introductory course to learn the organization and its history. Since August 2017, the BASIC TRAINING course has been taken by over 5,900 American Legion Family members. Courses on a variety of topics are being developed to expand the on-line training available.

Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) -- From January 1, 2020 through August 14, 2020, Operation Comfort Warriors approved 22 grant requests totaling over \$175,000 for veterans and organizations serving veterans' needs in 15 different states providing everything from entertainment access to critical personal care needs.

Every dollar contributed to the fund is used to:

- Demonstrate to wounded warriors that those who have come before them will continue to stand by them in their service to our great nation.
- Support individuals and programs that help wounded warriors wherever they are and in whatever stages of recovery they are in.
- Provide items and events that empower wounded warriors and their families to face their difficulties and come out stronger on the other side.

Few programs illustrate The American Legion's commitment to wounded, injured or ill military service members and veterans more than Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW). OCW defines a "wounded warrior" as those veterans who have or those service members who are still serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces and who have become wounded, injured, or ill. OCW supplements the high-quality care provided at military and Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities and transition units throughout the United States and abroad. OCW was established to provide those "non-essential" items not typically found as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

Henry P. Bradley, Massachusetts, Chairman

The Resolutions Assignment Committee meets at least three days before the convening of the national convention. This committee has the responsibility to receive, consider and transmit all resolutions – with or without recommendation – to the appropriate convention committee for a report to the convention. During an average year, between 200 and 300 resolutions will be assigned.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Hon. Vincent M. Gaughan, Illinois, Chairman

The National Constitution and By-laws of The American Legion can only be amended by the duly elected delegates at a national convention.

However, the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, established by the authority of the National Executive Committee in 1939, authorizes this committee to study and make proper recommendations concerning all of the matters that pertain to the constitution and by-laws, as well as matters relating to the Uniform Code of Procedure, which provides rules and regulations for the revocation, cancellation or suspension of department and post charters of The American Legion.

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

John “Jay” Bowen, Colorado, Chairman
Matthew E. Herndon, Indiana, Deputy Director

Membership and programs go hand in hand to make The American Legion an organization able to provide people and resources to serve the needs of veterans and their families.

The Committee has oversight of the implementation of the recommendations of the 21st Century Relook Committee whose charge was to update the original 21st Century report and chart the path for membership operations over the next 10 to 15 years.

Membership:

Final 2018 membership – 1,881,901

Final 2019 membership – 1,809,212

2020 membership projection – 1,763,000

57th Annual National Membership Workshop – The 57th Annual National Membership Workshop was held virtually from Indianapolis on August 3-6, 2020. This was the first time the membership workshop was not held in person and it was very successful.

There were eight training modules centered around the theme of “Growing a Post.” It was hosted live through Microsoft Teams with National Headquarters staff as the presenters and the moderators.

The goal of the workshop remained the same as in the past and that is to provide these essential membership workers with the tools, knowledge, and the desire to conduct an effective American Legion membership program. Whether they are involved in membership recruitment or program implementation, the workshop teaches Legionnaires to help veterans and provide communities the essential programs to maintain a quality of life for which all veterans fought and served to preserve.

When the workshop concluded, the attendees were prepared to face day-to-day membership challenges with a better understanding of The American Legion as it relates to matters involving retention and the ability to recruit new members and retain the ones who are already members.

New Post Development/Revitalization – The Membership & Post Activities Committee developed a training program in January 1996 designed to assist posts, districts, and departments in developing and revitalizing posts. The program provides training workshops to interested volunteers, along with practical, hands on field application.

The success of the program is evident, based on the many post and district revitalizations and new posts developed in the past 24 years. Many departments have succeeded in revitalizing posts without any direct assistance from National Headquarters staff. Whether departments request field assistance or just send members to the training workshop, positive results follow if they adhere to the guidelines established. All departments are encouraged to participate in this program. However, success requires a commitment from every level of leadership.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Vincent J. Troiola, New York, Chairman
Lawrence Montreuil, Virginia, Director

This report covers activities of the Legislative Commission from August 24, 2019 through August 24, 2020. During this period, the Commission met one time to review the legislative program and to make recommendations to the National Executive Committee.

Reports of these meetings are contained in the published proceedings of the National Executive Committee.

PURPOSE, PERSONNEL, AND ORGANIZATION

The Legislative Commission represents The American Legion before the Congress of the United States on all legislative matters in which The American Legion is officially interested. The Commission also assists the National Executive Committee in formulating an appropriate legislative program for each session of Congress. The Commission consists of 35 members and 5 National Executive Committee liaisons.

To further assist the Commission in its work, the National Executive Committee created the National Legislative Council in 1975, composed of Legionnaires whose judgment and advice are respected by their Members of Congress. There is one council member for each Member of Congress. A Council Chairman heads the Council, and is assisted by a Vice Chairman in each Department. The Chairman, Vice Chairmen and general membership of the Council are appointed by the National Commander upon recommendation by the Departments.

The professional staff of the Commission (the Legislative Division) concentrates on implementing the legislative mandates of The American Legion; these mandates are expressed in resolutions adopted at the annual National Convention and by the National Executive Committee at each of its regularly scheduled meetings. The Legislative Division is located in Washington, DC and consists of the director, a senior legislative associate, two legislative associates, a legislative associate/grassroots coordinator, and an administrative assistant. The director and associates are registered lobbyists and submit semi-annual lobbying reports to Congress; in addition the Legion submits quarterly reports on legislation which our organization lobbies Congress. Because The American Legion is a federally chartered organization, an annual report is also prepared and submitted to Congress.

116th Congress, 2nd Session

The Second Session of the 116th Congress began on January 15, 2020. Congress has been consumed by partisanship and the House is currently at odds with the Administration on several fronts that impact the legislative agenda. Additionally, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shifted congressional attention towards necessary relief packages. This has led to a flurry of congressional activity during March and April with the passage of several relief packages, most notably the CARES Act. However, since then, both parties have been unable to agree on a further relief package, which both agree should occur. Negotiations have stalled at this time and there seems to be no deal in sight as both parties have introduced their own bills in the respective chambers of Congress that they control.

Congressional Conferees for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which has passed for 59 consecutive years, are slated to be confirmed in October to negotiate the final package. However, both the House and Senate versions have language which would require the renaming of certain military installations named after Confederate officers. President Trump has indicated that he may veto the bill if those provision remained in the NDAA.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

The American Legion has produced eighteen letters of support and testified six times before the Senate and the House of Representatives on topics surrounding veterans' healthcare. The majority of the letters of support were directed to members of Congress who sought The American Legion's support and input before introducing the legislation. The Legislative Division has been aggressively pursuing various legislative matters to ensure that veteran's healthcare needs are met across several policy areas. Toxic Exposures, Mental Health, and Women Veterans issue have been the focuses of effort.

The American Legion has testified several times before the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) on topics ranging from women veterans, mental health, and harassment. On July 23rd, Health Policy Deputy Director, Katie Purswell, testified on 20 bills relating to veterans' health and healthcare accessibility. The American Legion was also invited to join several roundtable discussions with other large VSOs hosted by the HVAC's Women Veterans Task Force (WVTF). The American Legion is continuing to generate support among members of Congress for S. 514/H.R. 3224 - *Deborah Sampson Act*, which improves the quality and availability of care provided to our women veterans.

Mental Health and suicide prevention continue to be a priority for both The American Legion and Congress. To this end, The American Legion has focused its efforts on S. 785, the *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019*. This piece of legislation, introduced by Senator Tester, seeks to address veterans' suicide by improving outreach and expanding mental health care options for veterans. S. 785 has several significant provisions to support this goal, including expanding innovative healthcare options, such as telehealth and alternative therapies, reaching veterans, bolstering VA's mental health workforce, and providing a more robust system of oversight VA services. In September, The American Legion testified before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) on S. 785. This bill would be one of the largest and most comprehensive mental health bills to pass through Congress since H.R. 203 – Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act.

Legislation related to toxic exposures, such as expanding presumptive conditions for Agent Orange exposure or burn pits, continues to gain momentum on Capitol Hill. The American Legion submitted a letter of support for S.4393, the *TEAM Act of 2020*, which was recently introduced. This legislation would potentially be the most comprehensive toxic exposure and burn pits bill if enacted. S.3444, the *Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2020*, was introduced by Sen. Tester and was added as an amendment to the NDAA. If enacted this bill would provide a presumption of service-connection for parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism for veterans exposed to certain herbicide agents while serving in Vietnam.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Since October 2019, The Legislative Division has submitted five letters of support for legislation that falls under Veterans Employment and Education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on all Americans in one way or another, but some unique challenges for our nation's student veterans arose early in the pandemic. As colleges and universities around the country began to close their doors to in-person classes, student veterans were left asking how these changes would affect their earned G.I. Bill benefits. Seeing these challenges, The American Legion quickly supported legislation to address student veterans' issues and Congress acted quickly to pass the *Student Veterans Coronavirus Act of 2020*. The bill was signed into law on March 21st by President Trump, a week before the passage of the *CARES Act*.

The American Legion continues to advocate for H.R. 4625, the *Protect the GI Bill Act*, ensuring that schools receiving GI Bill funding inform prospective students of the cost of attendance, how much their benefits cover, student outcomes, and more. The bill also empowers State Approving Agencies (SAAs) to flag or suspend new enrollments to schools that violate these requirements.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Since the Fall of 2019, The American Legion has submitted five letters of support regarding national security-related topics in conjunction with the National Security Division.

The American Legion submitted numerous letters of support to ensure the Coast Guard is paid during government shutdowns. This includes S.21, the *Pay Our Coast Guard Act*, and H.R. 367, the *Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019*. These bills would continue

appropriations for Coast Guard pay if an appropriations act expires before the enactment of a new one. The U.S. Coast Guard is the only military branch working without pay during the government shutdown. The repeated and all too common threat of government shutdowns brings severe hardship on our Coast Guard members and their families. No member of the U.S. military service should ever live in fear of not being paid.

The American Legion submitted two letters of support regarding H.R. 2500, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020*. The American Legion supports a defense budget that complies with the Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy in order to modernize the U.S. military to protect against any aggression, especially in a time of growing great power competition. It is also imperative that the government provide fair compensation for all military personnel.

The American Legion also submitted two additional letters supporting S. 1678 - *Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019* and the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.

The American Legion continues to support legislation to grant citizenship for honorable service. The American Legion is continuing to work with a variety of offices to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge. This would ensure that immigrant veterans would not be at risk of being deported.

AMERICANISM

In February 2019, Representative Steve Womack (AR) introduced a House Joint Resolution (HJ Res) as a constitutional amendment to protect the flag. The legislation was then assigned to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration where it now boasts 19 cosponsors. A Senate companion measure was introduced on June 14, 2019 (Flag Day) as a Senate Joint Resolution (SJ Res), and currently has nine cosponsors. The American Legion will continue to seek passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag because it is the right thing to do.

Looking forward to the 117th Congress, The American Legion is looking for potential sponsors to introduce legislation to amend the United States Flag Code and modify it to reflect current, accepted patriotic practices. The American Legion passed Resolution No. 19: *Flag Code Amendment* in 2016 to codify these patriotic practices.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The American Legion has worked with Senator Joni Ernst on introducing a bill to require VA to establish a "Buddy Check Week." The bill would require VA to work directly with VSO's on programming and educational tools to help reach veterans in a crisis and provide for additional resources for the Veterans Crisis Line during the designated Buddy Check Week. In May of 2019, The American Legion passed Resolution No. 18: *Buddy Check*- to require Legion-wide Buddy Check Week, and we look forward to advocating for VA to adopt a similar program.

MARKETING COMMISSION

James M. Rohan, Wisconsin, Chairman
Dean Kessel, North Carolina, Executive Director

The American Legion Marketing Commission was formed in October 2015 to work in concert with all American Legion commissions and committees to build awareness and support for the mission and programs of the American Legion. To promote same to active duty military, guard and reserve components, military veterans and retirees, and the general public. To accomplish that mission, it is staff's duty to strategize and execute the organization's activities to promote membership growth, strengthen the fundraising program, maximize merchandising opportunities, nurture corporate alliances, and achieve greater brand awareness. In its fifth year, the commission continues to oversee multiple

initiatives to better integrate marketing efforts executed by all divisions and to provide professional support for departments, districts, counties, and posts.

Efforts are still underway to upgrade the digital media infrastructure that aims to improve the user experience for those who wish to learn about The American Legion, join, donate, buy merchandise, engage in a corporate alliance and participate in programs.

The American Legion national website continues to produce an increase in visitation year over year, and a jump of access to legion.org via mobile devices. Increases in online joining and renewal continue to be reflective of the visitation growth. The website infrastructure is designed in such a way that departments, districts, counties and posts can replicate it to better synergize the user experience and to improve brand consistency at every level.

As these developments have occurred, the commission has overseen day-to-day performance in key areas of the organization's business, including membership, fundraising, corporate relationships, merchandising and branding.

The American Legion National Headquarters has developed a team of staff members and agencies to improve brand awareness through high-profile events, such as The American Legion Legacy Run, National Poppy Day, National Convention, American Legion Baseball World Series and a major Veterans Day parade in New York City, as well as the 500 Festival Parade in Indianapolis.

The Buddy Check Toolkit was updated and redesigned and a COVID-19 Response Toolkit was created that included safety tips, resources, social media posts and a press release for use by departments and posts. To help raise awareness about the Buddy Check program with external audiences, celebrity outreach took place, and a Talent Toolkit was created to provide celebrities with information about Buddy Checks and a sample script.

The American Legion Marketing Commission continues its work with staff and agencies to establish long-term strategic plans to deliver an effective, cohesive and best-in-class marketing program that maintains the integrity of the organization and its legacy while applying the most modern tools of communication.

EMBLEM SALES COMMITTEE

Sally Nay, Massachusetts, Chairman

Richard B. Keith, Indiana (SAL), Director

The American Legion emblem is the exclusive property of the National Headquarters. The sale of the emblem, emblem pins, merchandise carrying the emblem and other items of organizational equipment is the responsibility of the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The following tables show gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire calendar year 2019 and for the first six months of 2020.

January 1 to December 31, 2019
(12 months)

Gross Sales	\$14,311,384
Cost of Goods Sold.....	7,854,432
Overhead	5,065,024
Operating Profit	1,391,928
Total orders processed for the year of 2019 was 111,296.	

January 1 to June 30, 2020
(6 months)

Gross Sales	\$5,385,077
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Cost of Goods Sold.....	2,916,517
Overhead	2,043,562
Operating Profit.....	424,998

Total orders processed for first 6 months of 2020 was 46,855.

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Walter Ivie, Texas, Chairman

R. Jeffrey Stoffer, Montana (SAL), Director

Henry Howard, Deputy Director

The American Legion Media & Communications Commission oversees the vast majority of print and digital media products delivered from National Headquarters, including the monthly magazine, website, a new podcast, social media channels, e-newsletters and more. The commission also supervises portions of the organization’s media outreach program, including news releases, press conferences, speeches, appearances in external media and more.

In addition to fulfilling obligations for dozens of print and digital media products as well as media queries, Media & Communications Division staff members promote initiatives by the national commander, key volunteer leadership, American Legion departments and other National Headquarters divisions. The Media & Communications Division also supports and helps coordinate marketing initiatives and corporate relationships.

The flagship of the media program is *The American Legion Magazine*, the nation’s best-read and most widely circulated veterans magazine, according to an independent audit. With a circulation of about 1.85 million households and a readership exceeding 3 million, *The American Legion Magazine* ranks No. 1 in readership frequency, according to a survey by researcher GfK MRI. That means subscribers have read three out of the last four issues more often than readers of the other nearly 200 U.S. magazines surveyed. Its content is general interest, driven by the organization’s main areas of engagement – patriotism, defense, veterans, children and youth, national and international affairs.

The Media & Communications Division draws most of its revenue from advertising sales into the magazine while additional revenue comes from the website, e-newsletters, the monthly *Dispatch* leadership publication and other media products. Overall, sales totaled \$8,047,710 for 2019. The bulk of the rest of the division’s operating revenue comes from a \$3 per member allocation.

Starting in March 2020, the division’s activities continued to progress while staff members largely worked remotely due to the coronavirus. While it’s been several months of adapting to social-distancing norms and other changes, staff members have capably fulfilled their duties and responsibilities. The division has continued to provide inspiring stories of American Legion members helping their communities during the crisis, fulfilling promotional requirements for various programs, answering questions via social media accounts, launching a new podcast and more.

Also notable is the national commander’s 100 Miles for Hope campaign, which challenged American Legion Family members to walk, run, cycle or cover 100 miles any way imaginable in the 100 days from Aug. 3 through Veterans Day. The challenge, which drove funds to the American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation, which assists disabled veterans with free consultation on their benefits and helps military and veteran families in need, was conceived, implemented and promoted by the Media & Communications Division.

The division’s media channels and assets include:

- **Print.** This category includes *The American Legion Magazine*; The American Legion *Dispatch* (monthly leadership newsletter); The American Legion Annual Report; The American Legion National Convention Guide

(shelved in 2020 due to the pandemic having canceled the convention); the National Commander's Testimony to Congress; brochures and internal documents and additional print media as assigned from national leadership, including event programs; and other specialty products. Additionally, the division fulfills editing and designing needs of more than 200 brochures and documents associated with other National Headquarters divisions.

- **Web.** The American Legion national website at www.legion.org is the nation's most-visited veterans web platform and serves as a gateway to virtually all American Legion media products and channels. From a redesign in April 2016 until the pandemic hit in the first quarter of 2020, the website's monthly traffic more than doubled – receiving more than 1 million page views per month. Visitation slowed during the pandemic as national programs were canceled, but the upward trajectory is expected to return once normal operations resume. The website offers news, videos and photography; transactional engagement through donations, membership and merchandising; entrance to special-interest microsites such as Legiontown USA, where veterans and family members are invited to create and share their own content; and the American Legion Basic Training module. Legion.org is also the entry point to the organization's interactive and transactional platform supporting American Legion Baseball. The American Legion's video vault, called LegionTV, houses the organization's current video content in one microsite. Additionally, an American Legion collection of downloadable videos is available on www.vimeo.com.

- **E-mail.** The division produces a portfolio of popular e-newsletters, led by the weekly American Legion Online Update, which reaches more than 930,000 subscribers every Thursday with links to the top stories of the week on the Legion.org platform. Another e-newsletter with nearly as many subscribers (860,000) is the National Commander's Message, which goes out twice monthly, typically to promote a particular subject or program. The Online Update and the National Commander's Message receive open rates around 25-30 percent on a frequent basis — a rate far above the industry standard. Other e-newsletters include Dispatch, Flag Alerts, The American Legion Riders, The American Legion Baseball Dugout and the Ham Radio Club. Each newsletter has an open rate equal to or above the industry standard.

- **Social.** The American Legion has a fast-growing network of social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Instagram. The American Legion's Facebook community is a little over 156,000 followers, and the national Twitter following has more than 113,000 followers. In the past year, the number of Instagram followers has surged, now eclipsing 10,000.

- **Podcast.** On April 1, 2020, The American Legion launched its first podcast, called Tango Alpha Lima. The audience grew rapidly through regular promotions of the weekly episodes, hitting 5,000 total downloads in August. That month represented four times as many downloads as recorded in the first month. The podcast features three co-hosts, all of whom are American Legion members and post 9/11 veterans. The weekly episodes alternate between a roundtable discussion of issues of interest to the military community by the co-hosts to an interview with a featured guest. This was a strategic move to bolster audience and reach, after establishing a cadence for the co-hosts and production team.

- **Smartphone apps:** The American Legion Media & Communications Division has produced and developed a collection of smartphone mobile apps, including a general American Legion app introduced in 2014 that has generated more than 52,000 downloads; an American Legion World Series app, which has

been downloaded 13,600 download times; along with an annual National Convention app and a Sons of The American Legion app.

- **Media outreach.** The division is responsible for promoting the organization's programs, messages and priorities to outside media and key stakeholders. This includes the writing and distribution of press releases; regular engagement with national broadcast, print and web media producers; twice-annual radio show tours by the national commander; the development and delivery of media events and press conferences; timely alerts and audience quantification.

- **Training:** Division staff members provide media training to volunteer leadership as well as post members. Each year, the national volunteer leadership team is briefed on media engagement. The media team also supports a training workshop at national convention each summer for volunteers.

- **Supporting posts, departments:** Division staff members work with American Legion department and staff members to promote various events. For example, when the coronavirus hit, the division reworked the Buddy Check kit to make it relevant and timely for the circumstances at hand. American Legion posts embraced the change and used the kit as a resource to reach out to veterans in need in their communities. Other media kits, resource information, videos, posters, flyers, press releases and other materials have been designed and distributed for departments, districts and posts to use in order to generate awareness of programs like the American Legion Legacy Scholarship.

- **Internal communication groups.** The division has been actively engaged with two communication groups that help promote Legion activities and programs. After the national convention in 2019, the National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) was disbanded. In its wake, The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) was created, under the supervision and with support of the Media & Communications Commission. This was a strategic move to add stability in the communication association's oversight and focus more on arming members with the resources and training they desire. The commission chairman appoints three members of the commission or council to serve on a subcommittee and work with a staff liaison. Division staff members provide training and resources to these members so they can efficiently and effectively promote the Legion in their communities. In the four months since TALMA launched in April, membership has grown from zero to more than 300; a private TALMA Facebook group has more than 100 members; and virtual training sessions have been held monthly. Staff also supports The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC). These amateur ham radio operators interact with others inside and outside The American Legion, and provide critical communication support in times of natural disasters.

- **Physical.** The American Legion Media & Communications Division produces a variety of physical displays, including parade floats, plaques, billboard designs, convention booths, banners, posters and other forms of physical media for the organization.

The goal of this integrated approach to American Legion media is to maximize efficiencies, resources and talents to deliver the organization's message in a well-branded, effective strategy that aims to improve internal and external awareness, generate membership, inform visitors, stimulate interactions and ease transactions. These tools are used for veterans outreach, which includes promoting the many values, programs and interests of The American Legion.

Overall, the media and communications program is built to replicate and represent the values and interests of The American Legion, from the individual member to the local post to the state department to the national headquarters, internal and external, and beyond.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Steven A. Brennan, Maryland, Chairman
Rhonda Powell, Alabama, Director

At 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 25, 2019, 299 delegates and alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security initially met in the Indianapolis Convention Center, level one, rooms 120-126 with Mr. E.C. Toppin (North Carolina) as Chairman, and Ken Trumbul as Secretary. After the initial meeting, the following convention committees met, held elections, and discussed the resolutions assigned to their respective convention committees:

Aerospace	Rick Oertel (VA), Chairman Ted DeMicchi (WI), Secretary
Conventional Armed Forces	Charles E. Kruger (MN), Chairman Alvin Diaz (AK), Secretary
Foreign Relations	Paul Espinoza (NM), Chairman Michael Landkamer (NE), Secretary
Law and Order & Homeland Security	George Wehrli (FL), Chairman Richard Keiser (NY), Secretary
Military Benefits & Quality of Life	Steven Brennan (MD), Chairman Shirley Douglas (FL), Secretary
National Guard and Reserve Forces	William Goede (MN), Chairman Thomas Saunders (VA), Secretary
Unconventional Forces and Intelligence	Doug Haggan (FR), Chairman Jeremy Ehart (KS), Secretary

At 10:30am, Sunday, August 25, 2019, the delegates and alternates assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security met in the Indianapolis Convention Center Sagamore Ballroom Level two, sections one and two. The seven committees attended breakout sessions in The Indianapolis Convention Center Level one rooms 120-126. The convention committee reconvened in Sagamore ballroom one and two. Reports of all Convention Committees were read and their recommended actions on resolutions considered. A total of eight resolutions were assigned to the Convention Committee on National Security or prepared by the Committee to meet issues which were held to be of concern to The American Legion and germane to its principles and objectives. The Convention Committee authorized the Chairman to sign the report of the Convention Committee on National Security on behalf of its delegates and make technical and administrative corrections to the resolutions reported out of the Committee.

AEROSPACE COMMITTEE
Rick Oertel (VA), Chairman
NO RESOLUTIONS

CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE
Charles Kruger (MN), Chairman

REFERRED TO STANDING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 10
SUBJECT: ROLE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION IN ELECTROMAGNETIC
PULSE DEFENSE
ORIGIN: Montana

RECEIVED AND RECORDED

RESOLUTION NO. 46
SUBJECT: STATE FUNERAL FOR THE LAST WORLD WAR II MEDAL OF
HONOR RECIPIENT
ORIGIN: Virginia

FOREIGN RELATIONS
Paul Espinoza (NM), Chairman

RECEIVE AND RECORD

RESOLUTION NO. 14
SUBJECT: TAIWAN STRAITS DIALOGUE
ORIGIN: Alaska

APPROVED

RESOLUTION NO. 41
SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF THE POW/MIA FLAG
ORIGIN: Ohio

WHEREAS, In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of POW/MIA Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs, following approval by the League's Board of Directors at a meeting held January 22-23, 1972, POW/MIA flags were manufactured for distribution; and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 1989, an official League flag – flown over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 – was installed in the US Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress; and

WHEREAS, The League's POW/MIA flag is the *only* flag ever displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda where it stands as a powerful symbol of America's determination to account for US personnel still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation"; and

WHEREAS, The importance of the POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's UNRETURNED VETERANS, other than "Old Glory," the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, displayed since 1982 in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day; and

WHEREAS, Passage by the 105th Congress of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act required that the League's POW/MIA flag fly six days each year: Armed

Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day. It must be displayed at the White House, the US Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the headquarters of the Selective Service System, major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense, all Federal cemeteries and all offices of the US Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the specific dates stipulated, the Department of Veterans Affairs voluntarily displays our POW/MIA flag 24/7. The National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and World War II Memorials are now also required by law to display the POW/MIA flag daily - most State Capitols have adopted similar laws, as have local governments nationwide; and

WHEREAS, It has been reported in the news and on social media outlets that the POW/MIA flag has been taken down and replaced by another supplemental flag which is a disgrace to America's UNRETURNED VETERANS and their families; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2019, That the American Legion takes a stand in protecting the integrity of the POW/MIA Flag; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, That The American Legion urges the U.S. Congress to pass resolution for not replacing the POW/MIA flag with any other symbol.

LAW AND ORDER & HOMELAND SECURITY
George Wehrli (FL), Chairman

APPROVED W/ AMENDMENT

RESOLUTION NO.16

SUBJECT: COAST GUARD PAY DISCRIMINATION

ORIGIN: Montana

WHEREAS: The longest government shutdown in American history caused undue hardship in a discriminating manner by withholding pay to thousands of United States Coast Guard members, chartered in the Department of Homeland Security, while continuing to pay all other active duty members of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS: 14 U.S. Code § 1 - Establishment of Coast Guard states: "The Coast Guard, established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States at all times."; and

WHEREAS: Every member of the Armed Forces of the United States shall complete a DD Form 4, Enlistment/Reenlistment Document Armed Forces, including Section H, Paragraph 22A

22a. IN A REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend

The Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God; and

WHEREAS: U. S. Coast Guard members are members of a military service and a branch of the Armed Forces of the United States at all times; and

WHEREAS: U. S. Coast Guard members affirm the Confirmation of Enlistment Oath (DD Form 4); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2019, That The American Legion advocates for the President of the United States and the United States Congress take measures to ensure all active duty members, of the U. S. Coast Guard, Armed Forces of the United States, shall not experience discrimination in the future. To include pay and benefits the same as the other Armed Forces received.

REFERRED TO STANDING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO.20
SUBJECT: OPPOSE DEPORTATION OF NON-CITIZEN IMMIGRANT VETERANS
ORIGIN: Texas

REJECTED

RESOLUTION NO.45
SUBJECT: PENALTIES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS
ORIGIN: Ohio

MILITARY BENEFITS AND QUALITY OF LIFE
Steven Brennan (MD) Chairman

APPROVED

RESOLUTION NO. 40
SUBJECT: GOLD STAR CHILDREN ACCESS TO BASE EXCHANGE
ORIGIN: Florida

WHEREAS, The American Legion (TAL) and the nation have a responsibility to ease the grief of children who have survived the loss of a parent that died in the performance of military service; and

WHEREAS, A historic role of TAL has been to support the entire military "family", including widows and surviving children; and

WHEREAS, The Headquarters, Defense Human Resources Activity, has informed TAL, that the current policy of the Department of Defense (DoD) is to end their access to Base Exchange, Commissary and Morale, Welfare and Recreation facilities upon the survivor's attaining an age of 21 to 23 years; and (DoD Manual 1000.13, Vol.1 attached)

WHEREAS, The death of a military parent is a permanent loss to the surviving dependent, the current policy merely extends benefits temporarily; and

WHEREAS, These benefits aiding the children of our fallen comrades will support the morale of active troops and support the military family; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28, 29, 2019, That The American Legion shall sponsor and support efforts to ensure the Base Exchange, Commissary and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) access for all (Gold Star) children of service members who died on active military duty, regardless of age will not cease.

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES
William Goede (MN), Chairman

NO RESOLUTIONS

UNCONVENTIONAL FORCES & INTELLIGENCE
Doug Haggan (FR), Chairman

NO RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Commander, National Officers, and Fellow Delegates. I am particularly pleased to announce the winners of the National Blood Donor Awards for this past year.

Category I - Departments with 100,000 or more members

Post & Individual Participation: Florida

Category II - 70,000 to 99,999 members

Post & Individual Participation: No submission

Category III - 40,000 to 69,999 members

Post & Individual Participation: No submission

Category IV - 25,000 to 39,999 members

Post & Individual Participation: Massachusetts

Category V - 10,000 to 24,999 members

Post & Individual Participation: Montana

Category VI - less than 10,000 members

Post & Individual Participation: No submission

Many of our Departments participated in the ROTC Awards Program this year. 879 medals were awarded to deserving cadets in Senior ROTC and Junior ROTC Units. The winning Departments for 2018-2019 are the Departments of Connecticut, Montana, and Florida. On behalf of The American Legion and its nearly 2 million members, job well done to the Departments and to our youth of America enrolled in ROTC programs.

Report Of National Security Commission
To The National Executive Committee
October 14-15, 2019

The meeting of the National Security Commission took place during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 27th-29th. The National Security Commission and its seven committees along with the council continue to review developments in the national security and foreign relations arenas. The 101st National Convention adopted 3 resolutions which, when added to the more than 80 existing resolutions, comprise the Commission's policy and legislative agendas for the year ahead.

On Tuesday, October 1st and Wednesday, October 8th extensive conference call meetings took place with the members of the National Security Commission and staff. On the calls for the commission were E.C. Toppin (MD), Commission Chairman; E. C. Toppin (NC), George W. Wehrli (FL), Chairman, Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee; and Douglas C. Haggan, (IN), Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee. Staff on the call was Freddy Gessner, Deputy Director and Thomas Good, National Security Policy Advisor.

Reviewed were six (6) resolutions which were referred to the standing Commission from the National Convention and two (2) from Department Executive Committees. Three resolutions were recommended to be approved: Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program; Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans; and To Oppose the Exclusion of Transgender American from the Military. The recommended actions for the one resolution that was not recommended for approval is noted on Addendum A.

The Commission Chairmen were also provided an update with highlights of the National Security Division's activities since National Convention. Noteworthy items include coordinating for the National Commander several desk briefings with specialists at the Pentagon in preparation for the upcoming Indo-Pacific travel engagements. The Division has hosted and visited the Japanese embassy on several occasions to coordinate a Congressional reception this Spring. The Division has also met with officials from the Australian Government and the American Australian Association to include the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Prime Minister Scott Morrison in preparation for the National Commander's upcoming travel engagements.

National Security Strategy:

1. Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life
2. Promote American prosperity
3. Preserve peace through strength
4. Advance American influence

National Defense Strategy:

1. Rebuilding military readiness as we build a more lethal Joint Force
2. Strengthening alliances as we attract new partners
3. Reforming the Department's business practices for greater performance and affordability

The following are brief updates on several critical areas for your review:

CURRENT THREAT ENVIRONMENT

It is increasingly clear that China and Russia want to shape a world consistent with their authoritarian model—gaining veto authority over other nations' economic, diplomatic, and security decisions. China is leveraging military modernization, influence operations, and predatory economics to coerce neighboring countries to reorder the Indo-Pacific region to their advantage. As China continues its economic and military ascendance, asserting power through an all-of-nation long-term strategy, it will continue to pursue a military modernization program that seeks Indo-Pacific regional hegemony in the near-term and displacement of the United States to achieve global preeminence in the future. The most far-reaching objective of this defense strategy is to set the military relationship between our two countries on a path of transparency and non-aggression.

China:

China's rising military capabilities and increased assertiveness in the East China Sea pose a challenge to the Japanese Ryukyu Islands and by extension the United States, which maintains a strategic military presence on the largest island of Okinawa. Along with the islands of Taiwan and the Philippines, the Ryukyu Islands represents a geographic chokepoint for China's naval and civilian activities. As a strategic impediment to China's power projection, the island chain has been a major focal point of Beijing's recent military modernization and expansion.

The PRC's rising military capabilities coincide with increasing Chinese aggression beyond the country's borders. China has unilaterally attempted-successfully to this point-to change the status quo in the South China Sea. It has constructed artificial islands on reef to assert territorial and military claims and argued, contrary to international law and

custom, that the entire sea falls under its exclusive economic zone. The United States has conducted freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea, and the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague has ruled against China's territorial claims. Nevertheless, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has nearly completed construction of military facilities on the artificial islands and stationed PLA forces to include nuclear-capable bombers. It has even quietly installed defensive anti-ship cruise missiles, surface-to-air missiles, and electromagnetic communications-jamming systems on the reefs.

Russia: The Post-INF Treaty Crisis

Russia seeks veto authority over nations on its periphery in terms of their governmental, economic, and diplomatic decisions, to shatter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and change European and Middle East security and economic structures to its favor. The use of emerging technologies to discredit and subvert democratic processes in Georgia, Crimea, and eastern Ukraine is concern enough, but when coupled with its expanding and modernizing nuclear arsenal the challenge is clear.

The 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, negotiated and signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, was one of the most far-reaching and successful nuclear arms reduction agreements in history. The treaty led to the verifiable elimination of 2,692 U.S. and Soviet missiles based in Europe. It helped bring an end to the Cold War nuclear arms race and paved the way for agreements to slash bloated strategic nuclear arsenals and withdraw thousands of tactical nuclear weapons from forward-deployed areas.

The pact served as an important check on some of the most destabilizing types of nuclear weapons that the United States and Russia could deploy. INF-class missiles, whether nuclear-armed or conventionally armed, are destabilizing because they can strike targets deep inside Russia and in Western Europe with little or no warning. Their short time-to-target capability increases the risk of miscalculation in a crisis.

Despite its success, the treaty has faced problems. A dispute over Russian compliance has festered since 2014, when the United States first alleged a Russian treaty violation, and has worsened since 2017 when Russia began deploying a ground-launched cruise missile, the 9M729, capable of traveling in the treaty's prohibited 500-5,500 kilometer range.

The Trump administration developed a response strategy in 2017 designed to put pressure on Russia to address the U.S. charges, but in October 2018, President Trump abruptly shifted tactics and announced the United States would leave the agreement. On Feb. 2, 2019, the Trump administration formally announced that the United States would immediately suspend implementation of the INF Treaty and would withdraw in six months if Russia did not return to compliance by eliminating its 9M729 missile.

U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that the Russians possess four battalions of 9M729 missiles (including one test battalion). The missiles are "nuclear-capable," according to the Director of National Intelligence, but they are probably conventionally armed.

Without the INF Treaty, the potential for a new intermediate-range missile arms race in Europe and beyond becomes increasingly real. Furthermore, in the treaty's absence, the only legally binding, verifiable limits on the world's two largest nuclear arsenals come from the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), which is due to expire in February 2021 unless Presidents Trump and Putin agree to extend it by up to five years.¹

On Aug. 18, less than two weeks after the official collapse of the INF Treaty, the United States tested a ground-launched variant of the Tomahawk sea-launched cruise missile that would have been prohibited by the treaty. The test was a clear signal that the United States can and will pursue such systems in the absence of the INF Treaty.

¹ <https://www.armscontrol.org/issue-briefs/2019-08/post-inf-treaty-crisis-background-next-steps>

In a statement, the Defense Department said the “test missile exited its ground mobile launcher and accurately impacted its target after more than 500 kilometers of flight. Data collected and lessons learned from this test will inform the Department of Defense’s development of future intermediate-range capabilities.”

The launcher used in the test is the same one, though in a different configuration, that is currently fielded in Romania and is soon to be deployed in Poland as part of NATO’s Aegis Ashore missile defense system. The INF Treaty banned the possession or testing of all nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.

Putin stated that in light of the test and comments from U.S. officials calling for the deployment of new intermediate-range missiles, “I instruct the Defense Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and other competent agencies to analyze the level of threat posed to our country by the above actions of the United States, and take exhaustive measures for a reciprocal response.”

China also expressed its concerns about the U.S. test. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Aug. 20, “We advise the U.S. side to abandon outdated notions of Cold War thinking and zero-sum games, and exercise restraint in developing arms.”

At the request of Russia and China, the United Nations Security Council met Aug. 22 to discuss the collapse of the treaty and the U.S. missile test.

Russia’s First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyanskiy said that “because of the U.S.’s geopolitical ambitions, we are all one step from an arms race that cannot be controlled or regulated in any way.”

Acting U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jonathan Cohen responded by saying, “We are here today because the Russian Federation preferred a world in which the United States continued to fulfill its INF Treaty obligations, while the Russian Federation did not.”

The Trump administration’s push for new intermediate-range missiles has been controversial in Congress. The House version of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would prohibit the Pentagon from spending money to develop new missiles until it meets several conditions. The Senate version does not have a similar provision, and the two versions are currently being reconciled.

In addition to the test of a ground-launched cruise missile, the Defense Department is also planning to test later this year an intermediate-range ballistic missile with a range of about 3,000 to 4,000 kilometers.²

Jon Huntsman Jr., the U.S. ambassador to Russia, announced his resignation effective Oct. 3.³

North Korea: Style vs. Substance

North Korea is destabilizing regions through their pursuit of nuclear weapons or sponsorship of terrorism. North Korea seeks to guarantee regime survival and increased leverage by seeking a mixture of nuclear, biological, chemical, conventional, and unconventional weapons and a growing ballistic missile capability to gain coercive influence over South Korea, Japan, and the United States.

Earlier this year, President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meet in Hanoi, Vietnam for their second summit. The talks end without a signed agreement; however, Trump and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated that the two sides had made progress but that North Korea had called for sanctions to be lifted “in their entirety” in exchange for partial denuclearization which the United States rejected. North Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs Ri Yong Ho later deliver a statement at a press conference stating that North Korea had requested the partial removal of sanctions in exchange for a

² <https://www.armscontrol.org/blog/2019-09-13/us-russian-nuclear-arms-control-watch>

³ <https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2019-09/news-briefs/us-ambassador-russia-resigns>

permanent halt of nuclear and ballistic missile testing and the full and verifiable dismantlement of the facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear complex.

Later in March, South Korea and the United States decided to terminate the annual Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military drills. A UN Panel of Experts reports that North Korea continues to evade sanctions. President Trump then tweeted that he ordered the removal of additional large-scale sanctions on North Korea.

In an April meeting between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and President Trump in Washington, D.C. Trump reiterates his preference for a "big deal" with North Korea to "get rid of the nuclear weapons" in comments to press, but kept the door open for "various small deals that could happen." Trump also says that he would support joint economic projects between the two Koreas at the right time, but that now is not that time and that sanctions would "remain in place" until denuclearization is complete. Also during April, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin meet in Vladivostok, Russia and agree to forge closer ties.

Shortly after in May, North Korea tested a salvo of rockets and a short-range ballistic missile that has not been tested before and test fired two short-range ballistic missiles, including the new missile tested in May. President Trump said he did not consider North Korea's missile tests a "breach of trust" by Kim Jong Un or a violation of UN Security Council resolutions. The United States announces that it seized a North Korean vessel, the *Wise Honest*, for sanctions evasion. The vessel was detained in 2018. North Korea describes the seizure as a "complete denial" of the Singapore summit statement.

Iran: On the Brink. U.S. Unilateral in Approach

Iran is competing with its neighbors, asserting an arc of influence and instability while vying for regional hegemony, using state-sponsored terrorist activities, a growing network of proxies, and its missile program to achieve its objectives.

Recent events within the Straits Of Hormuz and Saudi Arabia oil refinery attack show a new emboldened approach to sanctions. Earlier this year, Iran attempted to launch a satellite using its Simorgh launch vehicle, but the satellite failed to enter orbit. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo characterizes the launch as "continued defiance of the international community and UN Security Council Resolution 2231," although the launch did not violate the resolution. The annual Worldwide Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence Community assessed that "Iran is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities we judge necessary to produce a nuclear device." It added that "Iran's continued implementation of the JCPOA has extended the amount of time Iran would need to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon from a few months to about one year."

IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano reiterated that Iran was implementing its nuclear-related obligations under the JCPOA and stated that attempts to "micro-manage or put pressure on the agency in nuclear verification" are "counter-productive and extremely harmful" in remarks to the IAEA staff. Although Amano didn't name who was putting pressure on the agency, he was likely referencing Israeli and U.S. efforts to persuade the IAEA to investigate what they deem a "secret atomic warehouse" in Iran, which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described in his September UN General Assembly speech.

Germany, France and the United Kingdom established a "special purpose vehicle" to facilitate transactions for non-sanctioned trade with Iran, called the "Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges" (INSTEX). The United States and Poland host a ministerial summit on the Middle East in Warsaw where U.S. Vice President Mike Pence explicitly calls on "our European partners to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal." Several European foreign ministers boycott the summit.

In March, The International Atomic Energy Agency reported that Iran was implementing its nuclear-related commitments. The IAEA's quarterly report finds that Iran's stockpile of heavy water is 124.8 metric tons, below the 130-ton limit and that Iran's

stockpile of uranium enriched to 3.67 percent uranium-235 is 163.8 kilograms, below the 300-kilogram limit. Iran announced that it registered its counterpart to the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX).

The U.S. Treasury Department designated 31 Iranian entities and individuals for past involvement in Iran's nuclear weapons program under an executive order targeting the proliferators of weapons of mass destruction and then designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States will not issue any additional sanctions waivers for states to continue importing Iranian oil on May 2. The United States also announced that it would extend waivers to allow certain nuclear cooperation projects in Iran to proceed, but end others. The United States extended waivers for the Arak reactor conversion, the Fordow facility conversion, the Bushehr nuclear reactor and the Tehran research reactor for 90 days, but ended waivers for the transfer of enriched uranium out of Iran, the transfer and storage of heavy water outside of Iran and the construction of additional reactor units at Bushehr.

In May, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton announced that the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and a bomber task force are being deployed to the U.S. Central Command region to "send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attack on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force." Some news outlets reported that officials in the intelligence community claim Bolton is exaggerating the threat posed by Iran.

Shortly after, Iran announced that it will no longer be bound by stockpiles limitations on enriched uranium and heavy water reserves in the JCPOA and could restart construction on its unfinished heavy water reactor at Arak and resume higher level enrichment in the future if the other parties to the agreement do not deliver on sanctions relief. The United States then announced new sanctions targeting Iran's industrial metal exports.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the French, German and UK foreign ministers urged Iran to continue to meet its commitments under the JCPOA and reject "any ultimatums" in a joint statement. The leaders also urge countries not party to the JCPOA "to refrain from taking any actions that impede the remaining parties' ability to fully perform their commitments."

Iran announced it will quadruple uranium enrichment output at Natanz and says it would surpass the 300 kilogram limit on uranium gas enriched to 3.67 percent set by the deal.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Tehran and delivered a message from U.S. President Donald Trump to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei says Trump is "not deserving to exchange messages with" and says he will not send a response. Khamenei says that there is no sense in negotiating with the United States after Trump has "thrown away everything that was agreed upon."

The United States accused Iran of attacking two tankers in the Gulf of Oman. Iran denied that it was behind the attack. Iran announced it will breach the 300 kilogram limit on uranium gas enriched to 3.67 percent within 10 days. Iran then shot down a U.S. surveillance drone, claiming the drone was in Iranian airspace. The United States said the drone was in international airspace. Shortly after, the United States sanctioned the Supreme Leader of Iran and his office.

Violent Extreme Organization:

We will be forever vigilant and keep the fight from the Homeland, We must use the whole of Government approach to dissuade and prevent terrorist organizations and ideology against the United States Homeland and our citizens, allies and partners overseas.

REBUILDING MILITARY READINESS AS WE BUILD A MORE LETHAL FORCE

DEFENSE BUDGETING

Congress did not complete the actions on appropriations before the end of the fiscal year on 30 September 2019. The house passes a Continuing Resolution (CR) in September 2019 that funds the Government through 21 November 2019, which the Senate passed on 26 Sept and President Trump signed on 27 September 2019.

FY20 NDAA - When passed, the FY20 NDAA will mark the fifty-ninth consecutive year the Congress has enacted sweeping legislation in support of a strong, comprehensive national defense. The NDAA is the primary vehicle to execute Congress’s important constitutional obligation to “provide for the common defense.” To do so, the NDAA must take care of our greatest asset: Our service members.

The Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee’s proposal focuses on improving the lives of our men and women in uniform, authorizing a 3.1 percent pay increase and implementing reforms to improve the quality of military housing.

Beyond the budget numbers exists a need to increase the accountability of how defense resources are allocated and spent. Over the last year, the principle has been simple – funding allocated for defense programs should be spent on defense programs. Building and modernizing military capabilities and overall military readiness has been jeopardized by the threat or willful diversion of fiscal support from authorized and appropriated military construction projects, critical training and maintenance functions, and overseas contingency operations.

The topline budget differences between the bills and the Presidential Budget Request (PBR) are as follows:

	FY19 PBR	FY19 HASC NDAA	FY19 SASC NDAA	FY19 HAC-D Defense Appropriations
Base budget	\$750 billion	\$655.9 billion	\$655.7 billion	\$622.1 billion
Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO)	\$165 billion	\$69 billion	\$75.9 billion	\$68.1 billion

The defense appropriations bill has more than \$622 billion in base defense spending and nearly \$68 billion in overseas contingency funds, which is well below the White House request and in line with spending targets outlined in the annual defense authorization bill approved earlier this summer.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The administration’s FY 2020 budget proposal continues defense spending increases to align U.S. military forces with a national defense strategy (NDS) focused on great power competition. This strategy prioritizes capability over capacity.
- Thus, the FY 2020 budget prioritizes modernization to compete with China and Russia and maintains the higher readiness levels achieved in the FY 2017-FY 2019 budgets. It expands force structure only a little. Even defense buildups have limits and require trade-offs.

- However, day-to-day operations for ongoing conflicts, crisis response, and allied engagement continue to put high demands on forces.
- These unrelenting operational demands require force structure and drive the services to a high-low mix: high for great power conflict, low (or less high) for day-to-day deployments and regional conflicts.
- Although widely supported, the NDS has been criticized by some for being underfunded and by others for being too aggressive, while the proposed FY 2020 budget has been criticized for not making sufficient changes to align with the NDS.
- The future presents two major risks for sustaining force plans: (1) a lack of real growth in future budgets; and (2) softening public support.
- The measure funds a 3.1 percent pay raise for troops starting next January.

STRENGTHENING ALLIANCES AS WE ATTRACT NEW PARTNERS

INDO-PACIFIC ENGAGEMENTS

Following initial briefings from INDO-PACOM in Hawaii, the National Commander will travel to Taiwan to reaffirm our Nation's continued partnership with Taiwan. Since the Taiwan Relations Act, enacted by the United States Congress in April 1979, authorized continued "commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan" in the wake of the U.S. decision to establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China.

By authorizing the American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) and other provisions, the TRA created a framework for relations between the U.S. and Taiwan which has enabled their partnership and friendship to thrive in the absence of diplomatic relations.

This year the National Commander will travel to Australia and will engage with U.S. and Australian senior government Ministers and business leaders. The relationship between Australia and the United States is unique in its breadth, depth, and length, and is characterized by genuine cultural affinity and a spirit of collaboration. The American Legion will strive to be a responsible partner for the next one hundred years of Mateship.

The two countries' contemporary relationship encompasses many shared fields of endeavor; including defense and security cooperation, extensive trade and investment links creating jobs for Australians and Americans, cultural exchanges, sporting rivalry, education participation, research and development, and tourism.

There is no doubt that the mateship between Australia and the United States will further develop and strengthen over the next hundred years.

EUCOM ENGAGEMENTS

From May through June of 2020 the National Commander will visit the European theater and will reengage with current partners and new. Germany hosts a large U.S. military presence as well as Landstuhl Military Hospital, both will be revisited.

Poland and the United States are joined by a strategic partnership based on commonly professed values, traditional ties of friendship and respect for mutual interests. The strengthening of the alliance with the United States and the increase of American forces in Poland is one of the top priorities of the Secretary of Defense and will host the 3rd largest military exercise in Europe since the Cold War. The National Commander has been invited to engage the troops and military leaders around the time of the exercise.

Italy hosts U.S. military installations which support the missions of EUCOM, AFRICOM and CENTCOM. It provides a platform for readiness and power projection throughout the AOR. The National Commander will engage with U.S. forces in Italy to gain a better understanding of their mission as well as engage with commanders to inform them of how The American Legion supports their mission.

CONGRESSIONAL RECEPTION

The National Security Division has held several meetings with officials from the Embassy of Japan in preparation for two events including a panel that will take place during Washington Conference, focusing on military families. Japan hosts more deployed U.S. servicemembers than any other country, more than 19,000 plus families.

Additionally, the National Security Division is working with the Legislative Division and the Embassy of Japan to host a Congressional reception, in early 2020. The reception will provide a forum for Japanese and Congressional officials to discuss how they can better assist deployed U.S. servicemembers and learn best practices to share with their own government.

POW/MIA UPDATE

Full funding of DPAA is something we continue to be concerned about. The effects of continuing resolutions and threats of government shutdowns are crippling to DPAA efforts. Without guaranteed funding recovery teams are threatened with having to end their mission and return stateside short of mission dates. Mission planning is impacted as well. The difficult mountains of Vietnam can only be excavated during the warm months and without guaranteed funding opportunities may be missed.

Unaccounted for From Past Conflicts

WWII	Korean War	Vietnam War	Cold War	Iraq & Other Conflicts
72,0652	7,608	1587	126	5

The National Security Commission thanks National Commander Bill Oxford, our NEC Liaison and the distinguished members of the National Executive Committee for their continuing support for Commission efforts to take care of troops and "provide for the common defense."

Advance Report Of The
National Security Commission
To The
National Executive Committee
March 9, 2020 – March 11, 2020
Steven A. Brennan (Maryland), Chairman

The National Security Commission convened on March 9th during the 60th Annual Washington Conference at the Washington Hilton in Washington, D.C. The following report is a summary of this session:

The Commission was honored to welcome National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford; who addressed our Commission with a simple message "This information you are receiving today is inspiring, because when we think about whom we are and what we do, National Security is one of our primary pillars..." He stressed, "I hope you realize the value of the contributions that you all are making to the American Legion and to this Country."

National Commander Oxford addressed some key policy areas that the National Security Commission covers, particularly the importance of his recent trips to the Far East and the Indo-Pacific Region (South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and Hawaii), with National Security discussions related to China and North Korea; all supported by our National Security Division.

The program proceeded in the following sections:

- Opening remarks and roll call

- U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) and the future of American conflicts
- Army Lieutenant General Karen H. Gibson and the state of present day national security
- Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Deputy Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency
- Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairperson of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families
- Director Donald M. Benton, Selective Service Administration

Chairman Steven Brennan (Maryland), National Security Commission, discussed resolutions that will be considered by the National Executive Committee during the Spring Meetings in Indianapolis. These resolutions include the American Legions position on support for Georgian Conflict and the pharmaceutical independence long-term readiness reform. Other resolutions that are being urged to come to a vote are: the opposition to excluding transgender Americans from the military; funding for protection of the national power grid against electromagnetic pulse attack; and oppose deportation of non-citizen immigrant veterans.

I. USGLC: Strengthening Diplomacy and Development alongside Defense (and the future of American conflicts)

Sean Sorbie, Director of Veterans Outreach, USGLC moderated a panel with Retired Air Force General Richard Hawley and Craig Wold, General Counsel, US Aid for International Development (USAID) on a verity of national security topics; including the costs and ramifications of pulling out of our current conflicts; focused mostly on the Middle East region and Africa. The panel had major discussions on the discrepancy between what is actually spent on the U.S. International Affairs Budget and what Americans think is spent – and the importance of this since the U.S. is currently facing numerous threats from terrorism to pandemics, and that these threats cannot be solved by the military alone, but requires diplomacy and USAID to adequately address such challenges.

Experts in the field continue to implement a strategy that will develop diplomacy in future engagements. Many of these strategies include the “hearts and minds” approach, although mostly ineffective in Afghanistan it had short term gains in Iraq. While war is destructive, chaotic, and at times unpredictable we as Americans must push for a better tomorrow and a greater good for the world. Gen. Hawley opined that, “I can’t imagine how bad things could get” if the U.S. diminished and retreated on the global scene. “In almost every case where we end up with problems, it was because we didn’t adequately invest in diplomacy and development assistance.”

While America has been largely bogged down in conflicts like Iraq and Afghanistan other peer or soon to be peer adversarial nations are setting up military installations and ports of entry. China has been particularly unsettling to the United States in recent memory. While America is shifting away from large conflicts in the Middle East we must be vigilant to avoid a power vacuum, blow back, and a possible terrorist haven. It was such havens that orchestrated the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Looking to the future America must build, maintain, and harbor good relations with our allies and potential allies. There are more than two billion people that live in conflict areas around the world, whether that be in war zones, civil unrest, and natural disasters. These people and areas are much more susceptible to extremism and future wars.

II. The state of present-day national security

Army Lieutenant General Karen Gibson addressed the commission on a verity of National Security topics. LTG Gibson served in the U.S. Army for more than 30 years. While doing so she has served in a multitude of joint and operational intelligence duty

assignments in the U.S., Middle East, Afghanistan, Africa and Korea and commanded from the company level to the brigade.

Later in LTG Gibson's career she had a heavy focus on ISIS in Iraq from 2014-2017. She discussed the most likely dangerous actors and non-state actors that posed a serious threat to America. One area that has been dubbed the "new wild west" is the cyber sphere. There are millions and even billions of dollars lost each year to cyber pirates that are state sponsored and non-state led actors. While it is necessary to secure our borders, they are not always physical in nature. America must remain diligent in securing our critical cyber infrastructure. One of the main players is China. They have consistently stolen and hampered other nations in copyright infringement, currency, and data. While it is nothing new and has been a factor for the past 20 years, other threats come from North Korea, Iran, and Russia.

Other topics discussed included weapons of mass destruction (WMD) attacks. The main threat pertaining to Russia and the United States, emerging and disruptive technologies, artificial intelligence, 5G, space force, and pandemics. While we go into the new decade we must remain steadfast with our allies, invest in our future, and continue to safeguard the United States.

III. POW/MIA update

The Commission was provided an update on the POW/MIA mission by Ms. Fern Sumpter Winbush, Principal Deputy Director for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) and Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairperson of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families.

DPAA's mission statement since its inception has always been to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. This mission is encompassed by their core values which consist of compassion, integrity, teamwork, respect, and innovation.

The DPAA can make this possible by a cloud-based case management system (CMS) and public portal. This includes the pace and scope of wars and conflicts throughout our nation's history to pinpoint locations and battle spaces.

Ms. Winbush thanked the American Legion "for your steadfast support, especially your continued march on the Hill to ensure that DPAA is fully funded every year... We could not do what we do every single day without organizations like you that will stand up and fight." With the help of the U.S. Congress, the DPAA is increasing their field and laboratory operations because of a budget increase of \$30 million in 2019, and \$24 million in 2020.

IV. Selective Service System update

The Commission was provided an updated on the Selective Service System by Director Donald Benton, appointed the 13th Director of Selective Service by President Donald J. Trump on 11 April 2017. In this capacity, Director Benton directs an independent agency of the Executive Branch to provide trained and untrained manpower to the Department of Defense when directed by the President and the United States Congress, supporting America's all volunteer force during a national emergency.

Mr. Benton began his presentation by briefing the Commission on the importance of the Selective Service to the nation. The Selective Service System and the registration requirement for America's young men provide our Nation with a structure and a system of guidelines which will provide the most prompt, efficient, and equitable draft possible, if the country should need it. America's leaders agree that despite the success of the All-Volunteer Force, registration with Selective Service must continue as a key component of national security strategy.

He also provided an update on the National Commission on Military, National and Public Service which is scheduled to release its final report on March 25th. The report will provide a recommendation to Congress on whether the national needs the Selective

Service. It will also provide a recommendation on whether women should be required to register for the Selective Service. As of writing this report to the NEC, the final report can be downloaded at: <https://inspire2serve.gov/reports>.

V. National and Regional Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year Selection Subcommittee

Prior to the Washington Conference, the Chairman of the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee (Chairman George W. Wehrli, Florida) appointed an awards selection subcommittee to review all the nominations that had been received during 2019 from the Departments for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year and Firefighter of the Year award programs. The Subcommittee met Monday, March 9th, in the International Ballroom West in the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., to select the 5 Regional Firefighter of the Year winners and the 5 Regional Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Winners. From the Regional winners the National Law Enforcement Officer and National Firefighter of the year winners were selected.

The winners and runners-up have been contacted and the Regional winners will receive their awards during their respective Department Conventions. The National winners were scheduled to receive their awards on stage from the National Commander during the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. The American Legion took the extraordinary step of cancelling this year's 2020 National Convention in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Alternate measures are being considered by leadership for the appropriate and safe presentation of the awards.

VI. Joint American Legion / Embassy of Japan Panel and Reception

On Monday evening, March 9, 2020, The American Legion cohosted two events on Capitol Hill with the Embassy of Japan. Titled: "Friends and Partners: The Diamond Jubilee of the U.S. - Japan Alliance," it served to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan. The panel discussion focused on the challenges and opportunities, as well as the pride and solidarity, of military families from both the U.S. and Japanese perspectives. A reception followed. A summary of the two events is below:

Gathering at the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center, U.S. and Japanese military veterans and their spouses took part in a panel discussion that focused on the challenges faced by military families. The panel consisted of: Retired U.S. Army Chief of Staff General George Casey Jr. and his wife Sheila Casey, and former Chief of Staff for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Admiral Yutaka Murakawa and his wife Noriko Murakawa.

The panel was moderated by Kathy Roth-Douquet, the founder and CEO of Blue Star Families, which has more than 150,000 members in their network, including chapters all over the world. Blue Star Families claims to touch more than 1.5 million military family members every year.

Roth-Douquet said that her organization believes that "in the 21st century, supporting our troops means supporting military families," noting stressors on military families includes those related to finances, feelings of isolation and the difficulties of being separated during deployments.

Noriko Murakawa, who served as the Chairwoman of the Association for Spouses of Executives of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense from 2016 to 2019, said through a translator that having to move around frequently was difficult, and when she was younger her husband often had to go to work right after the move. "Oftentimes he was not there for us when we moved in the furniture," she said. "It was hard not having him around as we settled into our new home."

GEN. George Casey – who served 41 years in the Army, including as the 36th U.S. Army Chief of Staff from 2007-2011 – was born into a military family. "As an Army brat,

I've been a member of the military my entire life," he said. "There are inconveniences. But there are, in fact, serious challenges, and my family experienced both.

"Inconveniences are like I went to four high schools in three different countries. That was a lot of moving around, but I had a very strengthening experience. The separations are more than an inconvenience."

GEN. Casey's father, George Sr., was an Army Major General and in command of the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam when he died in 1970 in a helicopter crash in South Vietnam. George remembered driving his father to the airport for what would be his last tour in Vietnam. Casey remembered his mother having tears in her eyes as her husband left.

"I looked at my mother and I said, 'You've been doing this your whole marriage. It must get easier,'" GEN. Casey said. "And with tears in her eyes, she looked at me and said, 'No dear, it only gets harder.'"

Sheila Casey, the current Chief Operating Officer of The Hill, said her family moved 25 times during George's military career. "With each of those moves early on, it's finding a place to live, finding schools for your children ... relocating your job and hoping you can find one comparable or better," she said. "Moving can be stressful, but it also opens up the door to new adventures."

Early on, Sheila said, there were many separations for short periods of time. But when her husband served as the senior coalition commander in Iraq from June 2004 to February 2007, the separation was almost three years.

"When he first left for Iraq he was supposed to be gone for a year," Sheila said. "I was not looking down the barrel of 32 months. With those separations, in some instances there can be an isolation as well. When George went to Iraq for 32 months, I was the only one on the base where I lived on whose husband was gone."

"But the things I learned early on ... is that you learn to depend on your friends around you, and how that group unites and becomes a family."

Through a translator, Adm. Yutaka Murakawa – who served as the 33rd Chief of Staff for the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force from 2016 to 2019 – said moving around regularly could be burdensome, but "it was wonderful to gain rich experience through living in different places. My wife and I will never forget our interactions (in different locations)."

Noriko Murakawa said she remembers a time when military service in Japan was considered dishonorable. She even remembered asking Yutaka shortly after they first met why he prepared for war and trained to kill.

"He answered, 'Nobody wants war. War is the worst date of the world, and somebody has to be ready for the worst,'" Noriko said. "At that time it was all clear to me. That was something nobody taught me in school."

GEN. Casey said that despite the moving and separations, "aside from having my dad around for longer, I wouldn't have changed a minute of it. I feel like as a family we grew significantly."

Sheila said that in being part of a military family, you don't think of the challenges on a daily basis. "But as I look back and think about the people we served with, the friends that we made and the friends that we still have – the fact that you really are a part of an organization that is bigger than yourself," she said. "It's filled with people who really are working as a team. It's not about yourself. It's about the collective. I think I'm most proud ... that I was a part of that group."

A reception followed the roundtable and was attended by Japanese ambassador to the United States Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, as well as members of Congress that included Rep. Mark Takano, the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; and Sen. Angus King, who sits on the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Rep. Takano said the relationship between Japan and the United States is "deeply personal" to him because his great uncles served in the 442nd Regiment in World War II.

The unit was composed almost entirely of second-generation American soldiers of Japanese ancestry and is the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

“In the decades since World War II, the United States and Japan have come together to forge a better and brighter future for the citizens of both our countries,” Rep. Takano said. “Our partnership should serve as a model to the world that when shells, ships and planes’ roar have fallen silent, economic trade, cultural exchanges and a shared vision for our peoples creates an unbreakable bond.”

Noting he’s visited Japan multiple times, Sen. King said “the important thing to emphasize is the strength and importance of the alliance between the United States and Japan. Japan is the cornerstone of the alliance in the Indo-Pacific region, which is becoming more and more and more important ... to maintaining peace in the world.

“If you look at world politics, one of the things that distinguishes us from the Chinese and the Russians is allies. They have clients, but they don’t have allies. We have allies, bound together with bonds of friendship and mutual interests.”

Ambassador Sugiyama thanked The American Legion for co-hosting the event. “It is a very good feeling when The American Legion and government of Japan host an event together. It shows how far our friendship has come.”

American Legion National Commander Bill Oxford attended both the panel and the reception, and while doing so referenced the “special relationship” the United States has with Japan, referring to it as “an alliance that has been called a gold standard of defense treaties. But it’s more than just an alliance. It’s a tried-and-true friendship.”

Report of the National Security Commission
To the National Executive Committee
Spring 2020

The American Legion took the extraordinary step of cancelling this year’s 2020 Spring National Executive Committee Meeting in compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the Report of the National Security Commission to the National Executive Committee was not generated. The safety of our members and compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions and guidelines made this decision not only prudent but necessary. The American Legion has taken copious actions to prevent the spread of infections by adhering to federal guidance that restrict large public gatherings and urge social distancing. Local American Legion services such as Buddy Checks, blood drives, meal delivery and volunteer assistance remain the top priority of the organization as we navigate during these challenging times of uncertainty. Because no one can say with any certainty when and in what manner these measures will be lifted, a virtual platform has been established to assist with communicating and carrying out the business of The American Legion.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

One of the most important parts of the work of the National Security Division is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony as well as letters of support on issues on servicemembers quality of life, national security, and foreign relations. The National Security Division has submitted the following five (5) letters of support.

Dear Conferees:

As you and your colleagues conference the FY 2020 National Defense Appropriations Act, The American Legion urges your support for the inclusion of *Section 516* of the House bill in the final conference report. *Section 516* authorizes the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to enhance the preparation of students in the Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) for careers in computer science and cybersecurity.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 20, *National Cybersecurity Strategy*, our nearly 2 million members support legislation to develop policies to enhance interagency

cybersecurity, develop programs that educate citizens on cybersecurity, and grow the U.S. cybersecurity workforce. The Department of Labor projects that by 2026, the United States education system will only be able to fill 19 percent of computer-related job openings. *Section 516* would prepare JROTC students for employment in these fields while ensuring that the future workforce can meet defense industry demands. The American Legion believes that promoting cybersecurity training and education is vital to ensuring the protection of the United States from cyber and other electronic attacks.

We respectfully request you support the inclusion of *Section 516* in the 2020 NDAA, and thank you again for your continued commitment to the men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

Dear Conferees:

As you and your colleagues work to finalize the fiscal year (FY) 2020 Consolidated Appropriations bill, on behalf of nearly the 2 million members of The American Legion, I urge your support for the inclusion of Senate Appropriations Committee-passed language authorizing 4,000 visas for the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program.

Since 2009, this program has been a critical life-line for those Afghan interpreters who have risked their lives supporting U.S. forces and diplomats. They have played an indispensable role during the U.S. mission in Afghanistan by serving as bridges to the local populace. It is vital that this program continue in order to properly honor the service of these individuals and encourage others to assist the U.S. in future conflicts.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 16, Recognition for Afghan and Iraqi Combat Translators, our nearly 2 million members support legislation that would recognize the efforts of these Afghan interpreters, “who stood shoulder to shoulder with, assisted and protected U.S. military service members, U.S. diplomats and government agents.”

We respectfully request your support for the inclusion of the Senate Appropriations Committee-passed language authorizing 4,000 additional visas for the Afghan SIV program. Thank you again for your continued commitment to the men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

Representative Yoho,

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for House Resolution 910 - *A resolution commending the people of Taiwan on holding free and fair democratic presidential and legislative elections, and congratulating Madame Tsai Ing-wen on her re-election to the presidency of Taiwan.*

The people of United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a close friendship that has been buttressed by our shared commitment to democratic values. Members of The American Legion, as veterans of wartime service in the defense of liberty, have a special appreciation for these values. The free and fair democratic elections conducted by the Republic of China are commendable and serves as a reaffirmation to our mutual commitment to the principals of self-government.

American Legion Resolution No. 38: *Taiwan Straits Dialogue*, recognizes Taiwan as, “a long-time friend, ally, and major trading partner of the United States.” Thus, we strongly support House Resolution 910, as it recognizes the mutual friendship with an important ally and is consistent with America’s interest in maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership on this matter.

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Reed,

As advocates of our nearly 2 million members, we remain committed to helping military family’s transition from the Armed Forces to civilian life. We write to express our support for Section 570F in the House-passed NDAA (H.R. 2500), which would establish a pilot program for the purposes of creating a one-stop online application for members of the Armed Forces and veterans participating in the Transition Assistance Program (TAP).

The current iteration of TAP offered to transitioning servicemembers, their families, and caretakers has evolved over time to address contemporary needs. Recently identified inefficiencies now call for another evolution of TAP to further streamline the program.

The existing program is primarily in-person and often during the final days in the military, which has led many separating military personnel to feel as if they are “drinking from a firehose,” as quoted in a recent Government Accountability Office (GAO) report. Additionally, reporting for TAP is currently processed by paper, which leads to many inaccuracies. The GAO report cited that the Department of Defense (DoD) lacked data for nearly half of National Guard and Reserve members, which has resulted in DoD misstating the actual performance of TAP in its public reporting. Lastly, since TAP is administered during their time in service, many servicemembers are not given adequate time to take part in the program by their commanders, as they feel it interferes with mission readiness.

This provision is designed to address the gaps in TAP by introducing a technological solution that provides a personalized transition dashboard for veterans to access on their desktop or via a mobile device application. This dashboard will provide veterans with employment opportunities, education, health care, financial benefits, and more. Moreover, the platform will provide employers with much needed resources to help them connect with veterans and expand on the skills learned while in service that would translate to their chosen industry.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 102, *Expansion of the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program (TAP) to Include Ancillary Programs and Services*, our nearly 2 million members support legislation to encourage, “technology innovations in support of the Transition Assistance Program.” It is critical that this process be brought into the 21st century to ensure the success of servicemembers who are transitioning.

We respectfully request you support the inclusion of Section 570F in the House-passed NDAA and request that it remain as the House and Senate negotiate in conference. Thank you again for your continued commitment to the men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer,

On behalf of the nearly two million members of The American Legion, we are pleased to express support for Section 221 of S. 2297 *Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019*. This provision, known as the “Pay Our Coast Guard” provision, ensures appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires. Presently, the Coast Guard is the only military branch working without pay during a government shutdown. We urge you to address this issue immediately and permanently by ensuring this provision is included in the Coast Guard Authorization Act.

On a daily basis our Coast Guard personnel carry out missions that are vital to our national security. It is an absolute necessity that that they be able to operate without distraction during these repeated, and all too common, government shutdowns. In order to conduct operations as normal, this provision provides funding to ensure Coast Guard members receive pay and allowances during government shutdowns.

Last year, The American Legion distributed more than \$1 million in grants to Coast Guard families through its Temporary Financial Assistance program. This attempt to ameliorate the financial hardship of our service members, while welcomed, was not enough to assist all those in need. The repeated and ubiquitous threat of government shutdowns brings severe hardship on our Coast Guard men and women who do not have the same assurances of being paid in these situations as the members of the other armed services. No member of our military service should ever live in fear of not being paid.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 23, *Support for the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard*, passed in 2017, we support legislation that fully funds the United States Coast Guard to achieve its numerous vital missions. It is imperative that we address this issue permanently, as it is becoming an unacceptable norm for the men

and women that protect our nation. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership and support of our servicemembers.

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION

Ralph P. Bozella, Colorado, Chairman
Chanin Nuntavong, California, Director

The following report covers the activities of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission and Division during the program year from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Resolutions

The 101st Annual National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Fall 2019 Meeting of the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, approved positions expressed in resolutions submitted to those bodies through the Convention Committee on Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, respectively. The approved resolutions are as follows:

2019 National Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana
August 23-29, 2020

Resolution Number	Title	Origin
11	Environmental Exposures at Fort McClellan	KS
17	Department of Veterans Affairs Provide Dental Care for Veterans with a Complicating Medical Condition	MN
18	Payment for Emergency Transportation to a Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility	MN
28	Department of Veterans Affairs to Provide a Wider Variety of Sleep Apnea Equipment	IL
32	Veterans Burial/Plot Allowance Payment	IL
52	Antidepressant Harms Analysis	MI
58	Department of Veterans Affairs Accreditation of Individual Claims Agents	VA&R
59	Establish Green Alert System Interagency Group or Committee for Veterans in Crisis	VA&R

2019 National Executive Committee Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 16-17, 2019

Resolution Number	Title	Origin
5	National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee	VA&R
11	Abolish Premium Penalty for Delayed Enrollment in Medicare Part B for Veterans Eligible for Medical Benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs	FL

Resolution Number	Title	Origin
12	Rescinding Resolutions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission	VA&R

Commission/Committee Meetings

VA&R Commission Meetings

The VA&R Commission met twice during this program year. The first meeting was held on August 24, 2019, during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The second meeting took place in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9, 2020. It was the 97th consecutive year the VA&R Commission met.

The first meeting was held in the JW Marriott Hotel, White River Ballroom, Section F, First Floor, on Saturday, August 24, 2019. The following officials addressed the Commission: Dr. Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Steven Lieberman, Principle Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Kay Burnett and Lesly Roose, Project ATLAS Presenters, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lee Becker, Chief of Staff, Veterans Experience Office, Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Jennifer MacDonald, VA MISSION Act Lead, Department of Veterans Affairs and Dr. Kameron Matthews, Deputy Under Secretary for Health/Community Care, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The second meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Jefferson Room, Concourse Level, on Monday, March 9, 2020. The following officials addressed the Commission: Dr. Paul R. Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Lawrence B. Connell, Chief of Staff, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Cheryl Mason, Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs; Bill Brassard, Senior Director, Communications, National Shooting Sports Foundation; Dr. Richard Stone, Executive-In-Charge, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs and Dr. Matt Miller, Acting Director for Suicide Prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Health Administration Committee Meetings

Members of the Health Administration Committee met twice during this program year. The first meeting was held on August 24, 2019, during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The second meeting took place in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9, 2020.

The first annual meeting was held in the JW Marriott Hotel, White River Ballroom, Section G & I, First Floor, on Saturday, August 24, 2019. The following officials addressed the Committee: Dr. Jonathan Nebeker, Deputy Chief Medical Informatics Office of Information and Technology, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Mark Erwin, Deputy Director Whole Health, Office of Patient Centered Care, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The second annual meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Piscataway Room, Lobby Level, on Monday, March 9, 2020. The following officials addressed the Committee: Dr. Chris Nowinski, Co-founder and CEO of the Concussion Legacy

Foundation (CLF), and Co-founder of the Boston University CTE Center and VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank; and Mr. Mark Mellott Ph.D., Senior Director of Strategic Communications and Engagement for Cerner Corporation.

National Cemetery Committee Meetings

Members of the National Cemetery Committee met twice during this program year. The first meeting was held on August 24, 2019, during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The second meeting took place in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9, 2020.

The first annual meeting was held in the JW Marriott Hotel, White River Ballroom, Section E on Saturday, August 24, 2019. The following officials from VA's National Cemetery Scheduling Office addressed the Committee: Division Chief Steve Ecker and Eligibility Division Chief Jerry Sowders.

The second annual meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Shaw Room, First Floor Level, on Monday, March 9, 2020. The following official addressed the Committee: Mr. Les Melnyk, Chief of Public Affairs and Outreach, National Cemetery Administration.

TBI/PTSD Committee Meetings

Members of the TBI/PTSD Committee met twice during this program year. The first meeting was held on August 23, 2019, during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The second meeting took place in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 9, 2020.

The first annual meeting was held in the JW Marriott Hotel, White River Ballroom, Room 211, on Friday, August 23, 2019. The following officials addressed current and Complementary and Alternative Therapies to the Committee: Dr. Frank Bourke, CEO of the Research and Recognition Project; Mr. Michael Hartford, Chief of Staff for the Marcus Institute for Brain Health; and Mr. Travis Fields, Lead Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The second annual meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Embassy Room, Terrace Level, on Sunday, February 24, 2020. The following officials addressed emerging therapies with the Commission: Dr. Naclerio and Dr. Cunningham from TruGenomix; Dr. Mulvaney from Regenerative Orthopedics and Sports Medicine in Annapolis, Md.; and Mr. Drew Trojanowski, former Special Assistant to the President, Task Force member concerning the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS).

Veterans Benefits Committee Meetings

Members of the Veterans Benefits Committee met twice during this program year. The first meeting was held on August 24, 2019, during the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The second meeting took place in conjunction with the 60th Annual Washington Conference on March 09, 2020.

The first annual meeting was held in the JW Marriott Hotel, White River Ballroom, Section F, First Floor on Saturday, August 24, 2019. The following officials addressed the Committee: Ms. Cheryl L. Mason, Chairman of the Board of Veteran Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Michael Stephens, Director, Indianapolis Regional Office, Department of Veterans Affairs.

The second annual meeting was held at the Washington Hilton, Jefferson Room, Concourse Level, on Monday, March 9, 2018. The following officials addressed the Commission: Judge Robert Davis, Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and Mr. Glenn R. Bergmann, Bergmann & Moore, LLC.

Awards

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy

National Executive Committee 2006, Resolution No. 2, *Revised Rules Governing The Award Of The William F. Lenker National Service Trophy*, established the current rules governing the National Service Trophy. This award is to be presented annually to a department of The American Legion that excelled in the welfare and rehabilitation work for war veterans and their dependents. At the 101st National Convention, in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Department of Colorado received the award for 2019.

Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Provider and Physician of the Year

National Executive Committee 2017, Resolution No. 7, Department of Veterans Affairs Health-care Provider of the Year, and Resolution No. 8, Department of Veterans Affairs Physician of the Year, established awards presented by The American Legion. These awards recognize the contributions that VA health-care providers and physicians have made to the veterans they serve.

At the 2020 Washington Conference, Registered Nurse Mary Ballard of the Oklahoma City VA Healthcare System and Dr. Megan Press of the Minneapolis VA Medical Center received these awards, respectively, for 2019.

VA Voluntary Service Award

National Executive Committee 2015, Resolution No. 21, *Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Award*, established the award presented by the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. This award is presented to the outstanding volunteer hospital worker from the department of the National Commander at the Washington Conference. At the 2020 Washington Conference, Mr. Robert G. Scruggs, The American Legion's VAVS representative at the Asheville VA Medical Center, received the award for 2019.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

Who We Serve

We serve veterans and their families directly or indirectly through the VA&R Commission, its committees, and subcommittees.

Our Services

We assist veterans with:

- Access to high quality and timely healthcare through the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Processing service-connected disability claims and appeals
- Certifying, training, and tracking American Legion accredited service officers and representatives
- Assisting with representation before Veterans Law Judges, Veterans Law Courts, and Decision Review Officers located at VA Regional Offices
- Coordinating and organizing VA volunteer hours
- Access to debt management services when resulting from VA overpayments
- Assistance and representation before Military Evaluation Boards, Military Discharge Review Boards and Physical Evaluation Boards

- Access to combat veteran pensions for indigent veterans
- Assistance with insurance and pension programs through the VA
- Assistance with burial benefits and services provided by VA's National Cemetery Administration
- On-site representation and site visits at VA Medical Centers and Regional Offices around the country and abroad

Additional Duties

While our primary duties involve direct veteran representation, the VA&R Division supports the VA&R Commission and its Committees administratively at all meetings and gatherings of The American Legion, to include National Executive Committee meetings, National Convention, Washington Conference and as required.

The Division staff also participate in congressional research and testimony; evaluation of policy in relation to veterans law; attendance at professional briefings, seminars, workgroups, and similar types of sessions at both the national and local levels.

Staff members conduct regular visits to Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and Regional Offices to analyze their strengths and weaknesses. We also host two resident service officer training courses annually that teach and refresh a range of advanced skills for claims processors.

The Division director oversees and manages a contractual relationship with the law firm Bergmann & Moore, LLC, one of the nation's foremost authorities on veterans law. Services range from training to legal representation of our veteran claimants, to amicus and Supreme Court briefs written and submitted on behalf of The American Legion.

Personnel and Organization

National Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Director	1
Deputy Director for Claims Services	1
Deputy Director for Health Policy	1
Deputy Director for Veterans Benefits	1
Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialist	2
TBI & PTSD Programs Coordinator	1
Claims Service Coordinator	3
Health Policy Coordinator	3
Administrative Assistant	1

VA Board of Veterans Appeals, Washington D.C.

Team Leader, BVA	1
Team Trainer, BVA	2
Veterans Disability Claims Specialist	8
Claims Administrative Coordinator	2

John H. Geiger Operations Center, Indianapolis, Indiana

Team Leader, BVA	1
Team Trainer, BVA	2
Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialist	1
Veterans Disability Claims Specialist	8

VA Regional Office, St. Paul, MN

Team Leader, PMC	1
Veterans Benefits Specialist	2

VA Regional Office, Milwaukee, WI

Veterans Benefits Specialist	1
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VA Regional Office, Philadelphia, PA

Veterans Benefits Specialist	1
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Total VA&R Division Staff	44
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Legislative Activities

The VA&R Division staff participated in a total of eight (8) hearings:

Date	Committee/Subcommittee	Testimony	Subject
19-Sep-19	House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations	Gerardo Avila	Toxic Exposure: Examining the presumptive disability decision-making process.
25-Sep-19	Senate Veterans Affairs Committee	SFR	Toxic Exposure: Examining the presumptive disability decision-making process
22-Oct-19	House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs	SFR	Pending Legislation
30-Oct-19	House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs	SFR	Preparing for Blue Water Navy Claims - VA Status Update on Implementation
20-Nov-19	House Veterans Affairs Committee	Melissa Bryant	H.R. 3495: Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act
29-Jan-20	House Veterans Affairs Committee	SFR	Caring for Veterans in Crisis: Ensuring a Comprehensive Health System Approach
5-Feb-20	House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations	Tammy Barlet	Examining How the Department of Veterans Affairs Supports Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma
11-Feb-20	House Veterans Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations	Melissa Bryant	Achieving Health Equity for America's Minority Veterans

Informational Services and Distribution

The American Legion has several pamphlets and brochures available upon request to veterans and organizations in need. The VA&R Division offers the following publications:

- System Worth Saving Annual Report
- Agent Orange Benefits & Programs
- From Crisis To Confidence
- Gulf War Era Benefits & Programs
- Know Your Benefits
- Longman-Gordon Report – VA Healthcare: A System Worth Saving
- Missing In America Project Brochure
- Post Service Officer Guide
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Service Officer Code of Procedure
- The Road Home – Treatment of TBI and PTSD
- The War Within – Treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress
- Veteran Suicide White Paper
- Veterans Affairs Service Brochure
- Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Handbook
- What To Do Before a Veteran Dies

Claims Services

The Claims Services staff assist veterans, servicemembers, and their families on issues pertaining to the filing of disability and pension claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the appeal of denied claims to the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), burial benefits and memorial affairs, the Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Evaluation Process, and Discharge Review and Correction of Military Records.

Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA)

Veterans Disability Claims Specialists represent veterans before the BVA. They review VA claim files, interview claimants in preparation for personal or virtual hearings, write informal hearing presentation (IHPs), and act as counsel on behalf of claimants at their BVA hearings.

During this program year, The American Legion represented approximately 19,000 claimants seeking benefits. For claims receiving dispositions, 11,062 (76.5 percent) were determined to have been either inadequately developed or erroneously denied by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). As of June 30, 2020, there were 2,354 legacy cases and 1,125 AMA cases assigned to The American Legion. Our Veterans Disability Claims Specialists prepared nearly 16,000 informal hearing presentations (IHPs) during the program years, for a monthly average of more than 1,300.

The American Legion has found that VA Regional Offices continue to develop veterans' claims inadequately and deny them without good cause. Far too often, VBA fails in its duty to assist veterans when adjudicating their claims. The VBA's lack of proper claim development initially results in further adjudication of those claims, thus extending the time veterans must wait for final decisions to be made. Through continuous professional training and thorough knowledge of VA laws and regulations, American Legion staff achieve more favorable outcomes in their advocacy efforts. Bergmann & Moore, LLC, provides critical training to new claims specialists so they may successfully represent claimants. Additionally, Bergmann & Moore's legal team provides unit and individual training that covers significant changes to federal law or regulations, and recent Court decisions that have an effect on veterans law.

Memorial Affairs

Claims Services staff ensure that veterans and dependents are honored at their final resting places in VA national cemeteries, Arlington National Cemetery, state, tribal or private cemeteries. They provide assistance on National Cemetery Administration (NCA) burial benefits, including headstones, markers, medallions, Presidential Memorial Certificates, military honors, burial flags, burial allowances and survivor benefits.

Discharge Review and Correction of Military Records

Title 10, United States Code, sections 1552 and 1553, provide statutory authority for the existence and operation of the Military Discharge Review Boards and the Boards for Correction of Military Records. The American Legion was instrumental in the creation of these boards shortly after World War II and since then has represented former servicemembers petitioning them for relief.

Assistance is provided by representing applicants before such boards, educating veterans on their due process and how to apply, review and submit applications, and conducting outreach to veterans with “bad paper” discharges. The American Legion is the only major veterans service organization that still helps veterans to apply for discharge upgrades.

Applications for upgrades involve a wide variety of issues, including character of service upgrades, narrative reason for discharge changes, entitlement or amendment of physical disability severance or retirement, issuance or reissuance of military awards and decorations, requests for military personnel files and service medical records, and administrative corrections to official military records.

Since the beginning of March, Claims Services has two Senior Veterans Disability Claims Specialists in its Washington, D.C. office who help veterans with disability claims, appeals, discharge upgrades and other matters related to veterans benefits. From March 2 through June 30 of 2020, these staff members assisted 58 veterans with discharge upgrade applications and/or correction of military records. They also helped another 532 veterans with disability claims and other benefits-related matters.

Health Policy

The Health Policy staff ensures that VA remains the healthcare system of choice for veterans. The Health Policy portfolio includes: Hospitals, Clinics and Vet Centers, Caregivers, Telehealth Services, VA Veterans Canteen Service, VA Voluntary Service, Mental Health, Suicide Prevention, Substance Abuse, Military Sexual Trauma, PTSD, Polytrauma/TBI, Women Veterans Health Care, Vaccines and Immunization, Seniors (Geriatrics and Extended Care), Minority Health, Rural Health, Spinal Cord Injuries and Disorders, Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services (Amputation, Audiology & Speech Pathology, Automobile Adaptive Equipment, Blind Rehabilitation, Chiropractic Care, Home Improvements and Structural Alterations, Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service, and Recreation Therapy).

System Worth Saving (SWS)

In 2003, then-National Commander Ron Conley visited and assessed the delivery of health care at more than 60 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities across the country. Commander Conley assessed the delivery of health care delivered to the nation’s veterans to determine if the VA health care system was truly worth saving.

The following year, The American Legion passed a resolution making System Worth Saving (SWS) a permanent program under the National Commander. The American

Legion's National Executive Committee later realigned the program under the VA&R Commission.

Annually, commission members and staff conduct a series of site visits to VA medical facilities and regional offices. While on site, they meet with veterans, their families, and VA administrators and employees to discuss successes, challenges and limitations. Each site visit culminates with a report that informs the members of The American Legion, and provides additional insight to the President of the United States, members of Congress, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. After nearly two decades, The American Legion has conducted more than 150 System Worth Saving visits to VA facilities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines.

The American Legion remains true to its original charter of 1919: "... to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to the country." Since then, The American Legion remains committed to mutual helpfulness by ensuring that VA continues as an intact and properly funded entity to care for veterans and their families. The American Legion believes in the quality of care at VA facilities and we stand behind our commitment to a "System Worth Saving."

Health Policy Coordinators conduct SWS site visits to VA medical centers managed by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The purpose of SWS site visits is to identify best practices at medical centers, identify challenges and make recommendations to help overcome them. Health Policy staff selects VA/VHA sites through a ranked selection process and via recommendations to the VA&R Commission.

Health Policy staff ranks and recommends visits to VA/VHA health facilities based on requests from American Legion departments, reports from VA's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO), VA's Nationwide Access Reports, Strategic Analytics for Improvement and Learning (SAIL) model and the media.

A site visit consists of a veterans town hall meeting, a visit to the local VA medical center, and a meeting with the facility's executive leadership. At the end of each SWS site visit, a report is issued that is shared with the medical center, VA's secretary and under secretary of health, members of Congress and the President of the United States.

An SWS site visit usually lasts two and a half days, beginning with a veterans town hall meeting on the evening of the first day. The second and third days consist of visits to the local VA healthcare facility, and meetings with the executive leadership and departmental staff to discuss challenges and best practices.

During the first half of this program year, Commission members and Division staff conducted seven site visits to VA facilities in 2019:

- July 22-24 - Martinsburg, VA Medical Center, Martinsburg, WV
- August 5-7 - Illiana Health Care System, Danville, IL
- September 23-25 - Washington, DC VA Medical Center, Washington, DC
- October 22-24 - Lexington VA Medical Center, Lexington, KY
- November 4-6 - Salisbury VA Medical Center, Salisbury, NC
- December 2-4 - Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System, Montgomery, AL

At the beginning of 2020, due to COVID-19 pandemic, slated SWS site visits were cancelled but will resume in the near future.

TBI and PTSD Programs

In 2019, The American Legion declared suicide prevention as one of its top priorities. Increasingly concerned by the number of veterans taking their own lives, The American Legion established a Suicide Prevention Program and aligned the program under the TBI/PTSD Committee. This committee reviews methods, programs and strategies that can be used to treat TBI and PTSD. In order to reduce veterans' suicide, this committee seeks to influence legislation and operational policies that can facilitate quality healthcare for veterans -- regardless of their era of wartime service.

To stay informed on suicide prevention issues, the TBI/PTSD Programs Coordinator attended the 2020 Suicide Prevention Summit, which covered topics such as: Utilization of Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) in Diverse Settings; Treating Chronic Ideation and Suicide Prevention in the Age of Coronavirus; and Working with Disaster-affected Clients.

To stay informed on suicide prevention issues, the TBI/PTSD Programs Coordinator planned, organized, and executed a suicide prevention event titled, “Preventing Suicide: Educate, Inspire Mobilize.” The event took place on September 12, 2019, and was held at the Washington, D.C. Headquarters Building on the 7th Floor. Participants in the discussion included suicide survivor Cliff Bauman; Dr. Howard and Jean Somers (parents of Daniel Somers, who died from suicide); Dr. Mathew Miller, acting director of the VA office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and a representative of the Wounded Warrior Project. The event was moderated by Dr. Heather Kelly, Director of Military and Veterans Health Policy for the American Psychological Association.

Additionally, the TBI/PTSD Programs Coordinator attended 16 webinars pertaining to PTSD, TBI, and veterans’ suicide, such as: PREVENTS National Public Health Campaign Launch; What Can I Do to Protect Role for Myself, My Family and My and Integrative Patients During COVID-19?; and Blood Biomarkers for Assessment of Mild TBI and Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy.

VA Voluntary Services

The American Legion’s Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program continues to support VA initiatives that support the care and treatment of veteran patients in VA medical facilities. During the past program year, Legionnaires volunteered at 195 VA facilities, which included VA medical centers, community clinics, Vet Centers, Fisher Houses, state Veteran’s Homes and national cemeteries.

A total of 3,551 regularly scheduled volunteers contributed 311,359 hours, and 6,862 occasional visits contributed an additional 27,262 hours, for a grand total of 388,621 hours volunteered by Legionnaires – saving VA nearly \$10 million in 2019.

Veterans Benefits

The Veterans Benefits staff improves the quality of veterans’ lives by developing policy and activities relative to the VA’s benefits programs, as well as providing services as dealing with the VA Debt Management Center, VA Pension Management Center, and the VA Life Insurance program.

Regional Office Action Review (ROAR)

Part of the SWS program includes visits to VA Regional Offices. These ROAR site visits include a review of randomly selected claims adjudications to evaluate the overall development of VA claims, interviews with VA employees, and discussions with local American Legion claims representatives.

The VA&R identified 13 VA regional offices for Regional Office Action Review (ROAR) site visits in calendar year 2019. The locations were submitted and approved during the 2019 National Executive Committee meeting. During this program year, Commission members and Division staff conducted 6 site visits to VA facilities in 2019:

- July 23-24: New Jersey VA Regional Office, Newark, New Jersey
- August 15-16: Connecticut VA Regional Office, Hartford, Connecticut
- September 10-11: Rhode Island VA Regional Office, Providence, RI
- October 24-25: Baltimore VA Regional Office, Baltimore, MD
- November 5-6: North Carolina VA Regional Office, Winston-Salem, NC

- December 3-4: Alabama VA Regional Office, Montgomery, AL
Additional ROAR site visits scheduled for 2020 were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Department Service Officers (DSO) School

Since 1985, The American Legion has authorized the VA&R Commission to conduct Department Service Officer (DSO) schools bi-annually for accredited representatives of The American Legion. This bi-annual school represents the organization's ongoing commitment to developing a network of highly trained and experienced service officers to effectively advocate for veterans and their families.

The purpose of the DSO school is to provide current information about changes in veterans law, VA regulations and VA adjudication policies. The DSO school enables American Legion service officers and other accredited representatives to improve their advocacy skills.

The program of instruction includes training suitable for new service officers and advanced training on issues relating to claims processing, disability ratings, personal hearings, development of appeals, and the interpretation and application of precedential decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The American Legion conducted two sessions of DSO School during this program year:

- Summer: August 8-10, 2019 (Sheraton Indianapolis City Center Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.)
- Winter: March 11-13, 2020 (Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.)

Pension Management Center (PMC)

The VA PMC processes adjustments of benefits for individuals in receipt of nonservice- connected disability pension, death pension and dependency indemnity compensation. Nonservice-connected pension is a need-based benefit available for "most at need" wartime service veterans and their dependents. The American Legion's Veterans Benefits Specialists are located in St. Paul, Minnesota; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They expedite the delivery of benefits when beneficiaries meet the criteria for receipt in order to reduce a financial hardship. This is accomplished by reviewing all claims for accuracy, ensuring that supporting material is included, acting as the counsel and presenting verbal arguments on behalf of a claimant before VA, and preparing claimants for their hearings. This program year, the following activities were reported: 8,950 new pension claims and 195 appeals.

Debt Management Center (DMC)

The VA DMC assists veterans and dependents facing collection actions or garnishment of VA benefits for debts owed to the VA. Assistance is provided by acting as the point of contact between the beneficiary and DMC, submitting documentation to stop garnishment of funds, establishing payment plans when appropriate, requesting waivers of debt, reviewing all casework presented to DMC to ensure accuracy and completeness. The St. Paul office assisted in 550 cases where waiver grants were approved.

Restricted Access Claim Center (RACC)

Sensitive files belonging to current and former senior government officials, VA employees and Veterans Service Organization representatives are handled at the St. Paul

Restricted Access Claim Center. This program year, the following was reported: 275 restricted access compensation claims were processed.

VA Life Insurance

VA life insurance, including Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Veterans Group Life Insurance and Family SGLI, TSGLI, and Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance, are handled at the VA Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The American Legion's Veterans Benefits Specialists assist surviving beneficiaries to file for disbursement of policy at the time of need and ensure that veterans are aware of eligibility windows for enrollment. This program year, the following was reported: 1,250 insurance activities.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION

Rev. Daniel J. Seehafer, Wisconsin, Chairman

Joseph C. Sharpe Jr., Maryland, Director

This report covers the programs, activities, and accomplishments of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission, its two standing committees (Employment and Veterans Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness), and the staff from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. Since the commission and the committees always meet concurrently, all future references to the commission in this report will automatically indicate the inclusion of the committees.

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission chaired by Daniel Seehafer (WI). The division consists of Director Joseph Sharpe, Jr., Employment & Transition Policy Associate, Ariel De Jesus, Jr., Education & Credentialing Policy Associate, John Kamin, Economic & Business Policy Associate, Davy Leghorn, Homelessness and Housing Policy Associate Nicole Hayes, Small Business Consultant, Teresa Lewis, National Higher Education Consultant, Joseph Wescott, and Administrative Assistant Edwin Cruz.

National Veterans Employment & Education Commission

- Employment & Veterans Preference Committee
- Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee
- Veterans Employment & Education Council
- Awards Subcommittee
- Small Business Task Force Advisory Board
- Homeless Veteran Task Force Advisory Board

2019-2020 Meetings

During the period this report covers, the commission met for four regularly scheduled executive sessions. A list of those meetings follows:

- (1) Members and guests of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission met on Sunday, August 25, 2019, in the J.W. Marriott White River Ballroom, Section A & B, First Floor, Indianapolis, Indiana in conjunction with the One-Hundred Annual National Convention. A report on that meeting was made to the National Executive Committee on Sunday, August 25, 2019. The complete text of that report appears in the Proceedings of the National Executive Committee's Pre- and Post-Convention Meetings.

- (2) An executive session of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission was held in the headquarters of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019. A complete report on that meeting appears in the Digest of Proceedings of the National Executive Committee, October 2019.
- (3) At the 60th Washington Conference, on Monday, March 9, 2020, which was held in the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC; commission members and guests met to hear the latest on subjects of concern to them.

Legislative Appearances

A vital part of the work of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is the preparation and presentation of congressional testimony on issues affecting the economic well-being of America's veterans. During the period covered by this report, the commission staff testified before Congress, and also participated in the preparation of testimony presented by other members of the Legion staff on several occasions.

The following is a synopsis of the congressional hearings and correspondence held from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, on matters about the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission:

- On July 10, 2019, VE&E staff testified before United States House of Representatives Committee on Small Business regarding the substantial role of veteran entrepreneurs in the economy, the challenges they face and federal programs and legislative efforts meant to foster veteran entrepreneurship.
- On July 17, 2019, VE&E staff testified before the United House of Representative Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity regarding draft bills to amend title 38 United States Code. To authorize State approving agencies to carry out outreach activities A discussion draft To amend title 38 United States Code to require that educational institutions abide by Principles of Excellence as a condition of approval for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs and other purposes.
- On July 23, 2019, VE&E staff submitted a letter of support to the Chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, Senator Marco Rubio, in support of an amendment filed by Ranking Member Cardin to eliminate an arduous requirement that impedes the use of sole source contracts to veteran small businesses participating in the Small Business Administration's socio-economic contracting programs.
- On August 17, 2019, VE&E staff submitted a letter of support to the Chairman of U.S Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, Senator Ron Johnson, in support of legislation requiring the U.S. Postal Service to preserve current service standards guaranteeing the delivery of First Class mail within 1-3 days, preserving quick mail transit times for the Department of Veterans Affairs claims documentation and/or medication.
- On November 19, VE&E staff testified before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Affairs, regarding further examining forever GI Bill Implementation efforts.
- On December 2, 2019, VE&E staff submitted a letter of opposition H.R. 4920 to the office of Congressman Marc Takano, Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting Preference Consistency Act, which undermines PL 109-461 and the 2016 Supreme Court ruling in *Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. U.S.*
- On December 2, 2019, VE&E staff submitted a letter of opposition H.R. 4920 to the office of Congressman Phil Roe, Department of Veterans Affairs Contracting

- Preference Consistency Act, which undermines PL 109-461 and the 2016 Supreme Court ruling in *Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. U.S.*
- On December 2, 2019, VE&E staff submitted a letter of support for S. 2138, Small-Dollar and Veterans Loans Enhancement Act, which reduces the cost of the SBA's Veterans Advantage Express Loans by allowing the continuation of fee waivers, making it easier for veteran-owned businesses to gain access to capital.
 - On December 3, 2019, VE&E staff submitted a letter of support for S. 2361, Closing the Credit Gap Act of 2019 which would codify SBA's policy on 7(j) training. This bill extends eligibility for 7(j) technical assistance portion of the 8(a) program, to veteran-owned small businesses.
 - On January 8, 2020 VE&E staff submitted a letter of support to Representative Susie Lee for Joint Resolution 76, providing for congressional disapproval of the rule submitted by the Department of Education related to "Borrower Defense Institutional Accountability. The rule, as currently written, is fundamentally rigged against defrauded veterans possessing student loans, depriving them of the opportunity for debt relief that Congress intended to afford them under the Higher Education Act.
 - On February 3, 2020 VE&E staff submitted a letter of support to Senator Ben Cardin (MD) to express support for S. 2361, *Closing the Credit Gap Act of 2019*. This bill increases access to small-dollar loans for veterans in underserved markets by providing SBA with permanent authority to partner with mission-oriented, nonprofit lenders to deliver capital through the 7(a) Loan Program.
 - On February 6, 2020, VE&E staff testified before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Affairs, regarding H.R. 5052 Wage Adjustment for Veterans Enrolled in School Act or the "WAVES Act" and other draft legislation.
 - On March 10, 2020, VE&E staff testified before the United States House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Affairs, regarding H.R. 2224 Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act, H.R. 5056 Modern GI Bill Act, and other draft legislation.
 - On June 26, 2020 VE&E staff submitted a letter of support to the President of the United State, Donald J. Trump in appreciation for consideration of Mr. Harry W. Colmery to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Administrative Activities

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission and its two standing subcommittees on Employment and Veterans Preference and Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness are responsible for ensuring that America's veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families. To achieve this goal, the commission and its committees work closely with governmental agencies and liaison to assist the organization's members.

A staff responsibility is answering the large volume of mail and electronic mail that is received annually from veterans seeking information or assistance on issues which come under the commission's jurisdiction. While the staff can neither place individual veterans in jobs nor represent them in labor disputes, the staff does provide information, guidance, and, when appropriate, referral. Besides correspondence from individuals, the staff also receives and answers frequent requests and inquiries from government agencies, members of Congress, congressional committees, private organizations, and other groups regarding veterans' economic issues.

Employer of the Year Awards

One of the commission's major programs is its awards program, which is administered by the staff. Through this program, The American Legion pays tribute to those employers across the country who has established outstanding records in the employment and retention of veterans, workers with disabilities and older workers, and to exceptional members of the state employment security agencies.

Each year since 1969, the Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Commission has sponsored an Employer of the Year Awards Program. This program seeks to honor those employers across the country that has established an outstanding record in the employment and retention of veterans. Before this year's Washington Conference, the chairman of the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission, Daniel Seehafer (WI), appointed a seven-person subcommittee to review all of the nominations that had been received during 2019 in the Employer of Veterans Awards Program.

The Commission's Awards Subcommittee met to select the following National winners:

- **Large Employer:** Lockheed Martin, Maryland
- **Medium Size Employer:** SJ Innovations dba Computer System Designers (CSD), Oklahoma
- **Small Employer:** High Order Solutions, LLC, Texas

Employment Service Awards

Three awards beginning in 1993 have been presented to the Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year, the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist of the Year, and the Employment Service Office of the Year. These awards are given in cooperation with local Job Service offices across the country, to recognize genuinely outstanding veteran-dedicated staff members.

National winners are as follows:

- **LVER of the Year:** Kenneth D. Dinkins, Georgia
- **DVOP of the Year:** Katasha Gray, Texas
- **Employment Local Office:** Auburn WorkOne Northeast, Indiana
- **Employer of Older Workers:** Harris Health System, Texas
- **Michael Guty's Homeless Veterans Outreach Award:** Department of New Jersey – Housing Our Heroes
- **Enhance the Lives of Disable:** Bobby Dodd Institute (BDI), Georgia

EMPLOYMENT & VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE

James Fratolillo, Massachusetts, Chairman

Joseph C. Sharpe Jr., District of Columbia, Director

The mission of the committee is to promote employment and training opportunities for veterans. To accomplish this, the committee works at the national level with Congress and various federal agencies. The committee does not place veterans in jobs, but rather, relies on its network of employment chairpersons to assist individual veterans in finding employment. Their Posts and Departments appoint these employment chairpersons. Occasionally, Departments also appoint them at the County and District levels. Additionally, this committee is charged with promoting veterans' preference throughout the federal government and ensuring that agencies continue to observe all veterans' preference laws.

VETERANS EDUCATION, OTHER BENEFITS & HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

Eric W. Measles, California, Chairman
Joseph C. Sharpe Jr., District of Columbia, Director

This committee is charged with ensuring that veterans' educational benefits provided by the federal government are sufficient and that every generation of veterans has substantially the same as, or better benefits than, the previous generation. Also, this committee is to ensure that all veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled as recompense for their military service on behalf of a grateful nation while continuing to push for federal and local governments to allocate adequate resources to combat and ultimately eliminate veteran homelessness.

Federal Veteran Economic Programs

The following is a brief overview of the Commission's interactions with those federal agencies, and their veterans' programs, with which the commission works regularly.

Education

Quality and Innovation in the Higher Education Private Sector: Held on March 9, 2020 over The American Legion's Washington Conference, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted an education panel discussion focused on managing quality of education while pursuing innovation for student veterans at institutions of higher learning. Participants included leaders from Georgetown University, DeVry University, Universal Technical Institute and the East Coast Polytechnic Institute (ECPI). Panelists discussed new ways they were serving veterans on their campuses and on-line, as well as resources that they provide to veterans and their families to insure their success. Commission members engaged with the leaders during the question and answer period and highlighted their concerns that all schools focus on providing quality programs that lead to gainful employment opportunities.

Licensing & Certification

2019 National Credentialing Summit: Held on August 29- 30, the summit was attended by over 100 policymakers, industry, and academia leaders, and featured over a dozen sessions on different aspects of credentialing.

The summit had a dozen panels consisting of the following topics:

- Credentialing in the Military 101
- Assessing the Quality of Credentials
- Assessing Demand for Credentials and Tracking Outcomes
- Facilitating Credentialing of Military Spouses
- Labor Union Military Initiatives
- Aeronautics Best Practices
- Allied Healthcare Innovations
- MilGears – Empowering Credentialing of Service Members and Veterans
- Recognizing Military-Based Learning Towards Stackable Pathways
- State Licensing of Military and Veterans
- State of the Skillbridge Initiative
- Navigating How to Map Military Experience to Civilian Job Roles with Commercial Certifications
- Veteran Employment Resources for Employers

This year marked the third credentialing summit hosted by The American Legion, after ones in 2012 and 2015. The event helps experts from the private and nonprofit sectors, the military, and federal agencies to share best practices for credentialing and enhancing civilian career prospects for veterans, servicemembers and military spouses.

American Legion Military Credentialing Advisory Roundtable #1: held on November 7, 2019, the inaugural Credentialing Advisory Roundtable set forth the goals and expectations for credentialing experts selected to participate as “Ambassadors” in mapping out the Legion’s Military Credentialing Advancement Report. The Roundtable opened with an introduction from VE&E staff and culminated in the nomination of two Ambassadors to serve as co-chairs: Jennifer Worth, Vice President of Workforce Development for the American Association of Community Colleges, and Keith Boring, Program Director at the U.S. Navy Credentials Programs Office.

American Legion Military Credentialing Advisory Roundtable #2: held on January 23, 2020, the second Credentialing Advisory Roundtable meeting established specific credentialing focus areas for further study:

- i. Public Private Partnership Models
- ii. Stackable Credentialing Pathways
- iii. Guidelines and Translation Tools
- iv. Policy and Legislation
- v. Research on Job Shortages and Military to Civilian Employment

Baseline measurements for quality criteria for non-degree credentials were also defined: Substantial job opportunities, evidence of the employment and earnings outcomes of individuals after obtaining the credential, transparent evidence of the competencies mastered by credential holders, and stack ability to additional education training.

American Legion Military Credentialing Advisory Roundtable #3: held on March 9, 2020, the third Credentialing Advisory Roundtable identified and briefed specific best practices associated with the five workstreams for further study. Co-Chair Keith Boring also briefed the group on the limitations of Branch Services, with only allowing credential funding to occupation-specific modalities. The group unanimously agreed that servicemembers, regardless of occupational specialty, deserve the opportunity to pursue a credential that will aid them in transition.

American Legion Military Credentialing Advisory Roundtable #4: held on June 26, 2020, the fourth Credentialing Advisory Roundtable focused specifically on the impact of COVID-19 on respective Ambassador fields. Each Ambassador shared how their workload has changed, with unanimous agreement that a Legion Military Credentialing Advancement Report must reflect the wide challenges that industry, academia and government are faced with in the age of COVID-19. The meeting concluded with remarks from Department of Defense Deputy Assistant Under Secretary Fred Drummond, who shared DoD’s excitement and anticipation of Legion’s military credentialing recommendations in 2021.

Veterans’ Preference

Veterans' Preference benefit includes veterans from every socioeconomic class, gender, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and creed. Veterans' Preference is triggered when a hiring manager decides between two equally qualified candidates, where one is a civilian, and the other is a servicemember or veteran. Veterans' Preference requires a veteran to be fully qualified for the position sought. The Preference was never intended to force agencies to hire a veteran merely because of their veteran status.

As an independent agency of the federal government, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is responsible for enforcement, including but not limited to the fairness and proper implementation of veterans' Preference on all occupations within the federal government. The American Legion calls on Congress to take action to reaffirm the

Veterans' Preference Act of 1944. In light of recent policy changes, the reorganization of OPM, and expanded use of new hiring authorities for federal agencies.

Additionally, considering recent issues where veterans' preference would be needed is the United States Postal Service (USPS). The United States Postal Service is one of the country's largest veteran employers, with 97,000 veteran employees. Veterans make up about 15% of the entire USPS workforce, and the agency estimates about 60% of those veteran employees have a disability rating.

If they are forced to downsize, then veterans are protected under "Veterans' Preference," however, if they are forced to close down facilities, then the veteran would not be protected.

The American Legion supports Congressional reaffirmation action in support of the continued application of veterans' preference in this federal workforce environment.

Employment And Career Fairs

The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission of The American Legion collaborated with the US Chamber of Commerce to host a hiring event on Wednesday, March 5, in the International Terrace, Terrace Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC. The event started with an opening ceremony, which included speakers Mark Toal, Outreach Director, Veterans Employment & Training Services, Department of Labor, Ariel A De Jesus Jr., Employment and Transition Policy Associate, Veterans Employment and Education Division, The American Legion. There were 60 employers from various industries and 210 preregistered attendees that participated in the Career Fair. There were 57 on the spot interviews, 14 potential job offers, and one immediate hire at the event.

The American Legion staffed a table at this event. The information table staffed by Ariel De Jesus, Jr., Employment and Transition Policy Associate, National Veterans Employment & Education Division and Kashi Russell, Manager, Human Resources Division, and Douglas Chace, Member Engagement Coordinator, Internal Affairs and Membership. These Legionnaires discussed how The American Legion assists veterans with reintegrating back to their local communities. Additionally, they answered servicemembers/veterans' questions about benefits and described the Legion's programs as well as explained how to become a member. The employers and participants at this event were pleased with the outcome. The employers stated that the participants were professional and qualified. The participants liked that employers were from different industries and willing to hire veterans.

Additionally, On Thursday, March 5, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Financial Literacy and Resume Workshops at the Washington Hilton. The workshops were designed to help veterans, servicemembers, and their spouses find meaningful careers in the civilian workforce, expand their networks, and gain the tools necessary to stand out throughout the hiring process. Speakers for these workshops included Kashi Russell, Manager, Human Resources Division, American Legion, Judy Viccellio, President, V-Star Financial Strategies, LLC, and Ariel A De Jesus, Employment and Transition Policy Associate, Veterans Employment & Education Division. Following the morning workshops, attendees were able to mingle with each other and prospective employers during a networking luncheon. The forum speakers included: Mark Escherich, Military and Veteran Programs Manager, US Transportation Security Administration; Ralph Hernandez, Military Senior Program Leader, Amazon; Brian Armstrong, Manager of Military Recruitment, Hilton; and Gary Patton, Major General, US Army (Retired), Vice President, Veterans Outreach, CACI. The Job Fair/Workshop dynamic that The American Legion and U.S. Chamber of Commerce created has stepped outside the traditional hiring-fair template by developing programs and engagements that target the frustrated veteran job seekers. Of note, the veterans in attendance took advantage of the opportunity to improve upon the skills they developed during the sometimes-

challenging job search process. Many veterans stated that the workshops and the Job Fair were very informative and complete with many quality job opportunities.

Additionally, on Wednesday, March 4, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division had its first meeting of the Employment Innovation Task Force. The Task Force was formed to combine the talents, expertise, and innovations of government, nongovernment organizations, and private sector companies in bringing solutions forward for The American Legion to champion with its federal agency partners to improve employment opportunities for transitioning servicemembers and veterans. This includes introducing both service delivery, business process, and technology innovations in support of the Transition Assistance Programs (TAP) and credentialing of servicemembers. Also, the Task Force will be examining all aspects of TAP and credentialing from résumé writing, financial planning, goal setting, job searches, interviewing, networking, peer-to-peer support, family transition support, higher education, individual career development plans, entrepreneurship, VA benefits, and other elements of holistic support of transitioning servicemembers and veterans. The primary objective is to provide for a seamless transition from military service to the civilian workforce.

The purpose of the Task Force is to:

- Provide independent surveys and assessments of the efficacy and efficiency of delivering “for life” support to transitioning servicemembers and veterans in the digital era;
- Introduce innovations responsive to the digital age warrior and digital era employer;
- Identify best practices from the best of demonstrated veteran-friendly employers to encourage adoption by all employers;
- Use labor market and labor economic data to guide career goal setting and development of transitioning servicemembers and veterans;
- Introduce the use of digital tools and skill drills to support just-in-time delivery of information, assistance, support, training, and skill development underlying the “for life” concept;
- Ensure all outcomes further the goal of providing a seamless transition from military service to private-sector employment; and
- Create feedback loops for continuous improvement of TAP and credentialing programs along with constant innovation in the method and means by which transition and “for life” support is provided.

The American Legion’s National Veterans Employment & Education Division, through its relationships, continue to play a vital role in assisting American Legion Posts to produce successful Job Fairs, small business development workshops, and employment training services throughout America. Also, the staff of the National Veterans Employment & Education Division is involved in several advisory committees. Director Joseph Sharpe Jr. is a member of the Small Business Administration’s Advisory Committee.

Aside from the advisory committee, The American Legion is also a stakeholder and active participant in numerous government agencies and private businesses’ veteran initiatives, where our input into their programs is highly valued. The American Legion has a representative on the Department of Labor’s Advisory Committee Veterans’ Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO) and Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development. Lastly, The American Legion participates in the Veterans’ Entrepreneurship’s Task Force (VET-FORCE) business forums and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Service Member’s Affairs meetings.

Furthermore, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division has participated in numerous Career Fairs – in person and virtual throughout the nation, allowing The American Legion to get in front of veterans and their families. The American Legion has been invited to participate in several Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

(YRRP) Events. The YRRP is a Department of Defense (DOD) effort to promote the well-being of National Guard and Reserve members, their families, and communities by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. The American Legion is the only Veterans Service Organization that participates in these events. Locations for the YRRP included but were not limited to Florida, California, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, and Hawaii, and now virtual.

Lastly, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division saw a dire need to ensure that resources were available to thousands of servicemembers, veterans, and spouses affected by COVID 19. In response, the division switched from in-person to virtual workshops and webinars. From April to June 2020, the division hosted multiple strictly virtual workshops and webinars.

- April 22, 2020, hosted a civilian resume workshop. Its purpose was to assist service members transitioning to the workforce to generate a job-specific resume.
- May 28, 2020, hosted an efficient and informative workshop on financial planning.
- June 2, 2020, hosted a Veterans Small Business Resource Webinar. It was open to all veterans, stakeholders, and any other innovators interested in learning about veteran small businesses and finding ways to stay afloat in the times of large scale social distancing and shutdowns.
- June 16, 2020, hosted a federal resume workshop. The purpose was to assist those applying for a position with a Federal Government Agency to submit a functional resume that includes several unique elements, in addition to traditional elements like education, work experience, and contact information.
- June 26, 2020, The American Legion, U.S. Small Business Administration, and Capital Bank hosted a Veterans Small Business webinar. The purpose was to explain the process, answer last-minute questions, and discuss lending alternatives available after the PPP expires.
- June 30, 2020, hosted a LinkedIn webinar. Purpose of showcasing the social network and learning how to build a network, find business contacts, and connect with recruiters.

National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Forum

On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission assembled in Lincoln East, Concourse Level, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington DC, to address education, employment, and small business concerns regarding veterans and their families. The meeting started with a Transition Assistance Program (TAP) panel, consisting of Subject Matter Experts from federal agencies responsible for the program.; Mike Miller, Department of Defense; Tim Winters, Department of Labor; Nathan Williamson, Department of Veterans Affairs, Bill Ashton, Department of Agriculture, and moderated by Stanley Kurt, Small Business Administration. This time was used to update the commission on the implementation of changes to TAP from the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2019. Afterward, a briefing from John Lowry, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services (ASVETS), Department of Labor, the intent is to provide his vision on reducing the veteran unemployment rate and to address any concerns related to the ongoing implementation of changes outlined in the 2019 NDAA. It was followed by a briefing from Lily Derella, Marketing Associate, Grow with Google to discuss Google's employment initiatives geared toward veterans and military spouses.

Then briefings by Rudy Rull - Millennium Cohort Study and Valerie Stander - Naval Health Research Center. The Millennium Cohort Study, the most extensive prospective

health study in the military, conducts prospective epidemiological research to evaluate the impact of military exposures, including deployment, on long-term health outcomes.

Veteran Entrepreneurship

The Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable: held on August 27, 2019, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable with focus on AbilityOne programing. The meeting was attended by The American Legion's Small Business Taskforce members, various veteran service organizations, military service organizations, the former Surgeon General of the US Army and representatives from the US Small Business Administration.

The Policy Roundtable opened with a briefing from Larry Stubblefield, Associate Administrator of the Small Business Administration's Office of Veteran Small Business Development (OVBD) who updated the attendees on SBA's veterans programs and initiatives. The OVBD will be expecting an uptick in Boots to Business educational programing utilization since NDAA19 mandated that one capstone courses become mandatory for transitioning servicemembers. The biggest organizational change comes from the anticipated increase in the number of Veteran Business Outreach Centers to meet the demand for increased Boots to Business program utilization.

General Gale Pollock, Army Deputy Surgeon General, Stephan Sachs from PDS Inc., and Charles Fowler from GPS Global Inc., briefed the attendees on the landscape of AbilityOne programing and preference at the Department of Veterans Affairs as it currently stands. While both the Legion and the AbilityOne companies are committed to coexistence as preferred contracting groups within VA procurement strategies, AbilityOne prefers their reinstatement as top priority over SDVOSBs, as it were prior to the advent of Public Law 109-461 which created the Vets First Contracting Program at VA. Together with several veteran service organizations and military service organizations, the group decided that the best response to the attacks on the institution of the Vets First Contracting Program is to generate a joint letter from the VSOs to the Secretary of the VA and to Congress affirming our support for the rule set forth in PL 109-461 and case law from Supreme Court decision in Kingdomware LLC. v. United States.

Kevin Hollinger, Legislative Director for Reserve Organizations of America (ROA) has been working with Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard's staff to draft a bill that will allow the Post 9/11 GI Bill to be used for startup capital by veteran entrepreneurs. The American Legion has been working on a similar legislative proposal called the VET ACT. Congresswoman Gabbard's bill is similar in concept to the what the Legion has worked on in the past in implementation. The American Legion is not tied to any specific piece of legislation on this matter, rather the Legion resolution backs the concept of using including entrepreneur benefits in the GI Bill. Congresswoman Gabbard's bill will be introduced soon and is gaining momentum behind the scene, our resolution will allow the Legion to back the general concept of Congresswoman Gabbard's bill.

Lastly, VA recently announced the Department of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency DMLSS integration as a stop gap measure to extend the runway for modernizing the medical surgical supply chain under the large Medical Surgical Prime Vendor 2.0 (MSPV). This is causing much consternation within the veteran small business community because the announcement coincided with the cancellation of small business contract solicitations under MSPV 2.0. Although DLA has assured VA and Congress that integration with DMLSS will comply with all VA procurement laws, the incentive to follow through does not exist and veteran small businesses will suffer and VA's ability to affectively and legally modernize their medical supply chain will falter. The onus is currently on the VA and DLA to come out with a statement of policy and implementable plan to adhere to VA's procurement laws.

The Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable: Held on March 11th, 2020, the Veterans Employment and Education Division convened a Veterans Small Business Policy Roundtable with focus on the VA medical supply chain. The meeting was hosted by The American Legion's Small Business Taskforce along with the National Veterans Small Business Coalition. The main topic of discussion was Defense Logistics Agency's (DLA) assumption of some VA supply chain functions through a joint VA-DOD pilot program and VA's existing supply chain in the Medical Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) contracting platform.

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The Policy Roundtable opened with remarks from Karen Brazell, an appointee from the Trump Administration, followed by a briefing from Phil Christy the deputy director of the VA's Office of Contracts, Construction, Logistics and Acquisitions (OCLA). He discussed the current state of VA's medical supply chain and the progress that has been made on the DOD-VA pilot program and DMLSS integration at the VAMCs. Afterwards, Andrew Centineo Executive Director of procurement for the Veterans Health Administration provided an overview of the current state of the new MSPV 2.0 supply chain modernization efforts and what small businesses and manufacturers can expect.

Leadership from the Department of Defense Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU), Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support gave a briefing on the current status of DMLSS integration pilot and Distribution and Pricing Agreement (DAPA) utilization. DLA provided a plan to incorporate veteran small businesses in the pipeline and offered to increase programing to assist veteran firms obtain DAPAs. It was clear from the roundtable that VA's plan for medical supply chain modernization is fully vested in the successful creation of MSPV 2.0. However, their long term goal is to synchronize and streamline all VA and DLA medical supply procurements under a single platform.

The parties agreed that despite this being the third roundtable regarding VA's medical supply chain modernization policies, there was still more work to be done. The roundtable was merely starting point for further discussions. A functioning VA-DOD partnership in supply procurement currently exists under two sets of laws and two different contracting platforms. Much of the work both agencies are putting in are aspirational and aimed at proving a concept.

Veteran Homelessness

On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission hosted a Riding the Escalator Up Advocating for Homeless and Incarcerated Veterans Roundtable. Since 2015, the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) leaders have been working to maximize the collective impact of local services, stakeholders, and federal/state agencies working to improve veteran outcomes where they live, work, and raise their families. On Monday, March 9, the National Veterans Employment & Education Commission several SMEs operating in the space of homelessness and veteran homeless programs. The roundtable, attended by over 50 American Legion volunteers, American

Legion Auxillary supporters, and Sons of the American Legion leaders, received presentations from:

- E. Marquel Marshall – Program Manager, Veterans Benefits Administration, Outreach & Engagement
- Micheal Koprowski – National Director, Operation Starts at Home Campaign
- Kelly Circle, JD, Ph.D. – Executive Director, American Legion Auxillary
- Micheal Ferrell – Executive Director, Coalition for the Homeless
- Bob Steele – Executive Director, Final Salute, Inc.
- Will Fischer – Senior Policy Analyst, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- Mark Walker – Associate Director, Swords to Plowshares

Presentations focused on the landscape of homeless veterans. They included remarks on how the VA has Homeless Veterans Outreach Coordinators (HVOC), who are appointed in 20 regional offices of the most populated veteran areas in the United States. The discussion also covered the additional services of Justice-Involved Veterans Coordinators (JIVC) who serve to assist veterans who have been incarcerated, and the importance of education and re-entry planning.

Coverage for Operation Starts at Home Campaign highlighted their long term goal and strategy of the organization is to ensure robust and equitable housing policies are created in the efforts of eradicating homelessness for the most vulnerable, low-income households. Mr. Koprowski noted the long-term goal could be achieved through bridging the gap between rents and income via rental assistance, expanding the available inventory of affordable housing, and stabilizing households by providing emergency assistance to support this vulnerable population. The critical importance of safe, decent, affordable housing has fallen behind as a top national priority. Skyrocketing rents are crushing households in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the country. Research consistently shows that a lack of stable, affordable housing causes and exacerbates adverse outcomes in health, education, economic growth, and upward mobility, civil rights, food security, criminal justice, homelessness prevention, environment, and more.

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing, “Returning Citizens: Challenges and Opportunities for Re-entry,” on February 27. Formerly incarcerated individuals must navigate significant challenges upon re-entry into their communities after leaving prison or jail, particularly in obtaining safe, affordable, accessible housing. These challenges place returning individuals at risk of housing instability, homelessness, and ultimately recidivism. Witnesses discussed barriers to successful re-entry faced by individuals and highlighted potential reforms that would provide returning citizens the stability and opportunities needed to reintegrate after incarceration successfully. Dr. Kelly Circle, JD, provided information on the Red Rocks Community College Gateway program, which focuses on assisting formerly incarcerated citizens to academic communities. Since 2006, College Gateway has supported 1800+ students in supporting their return to a learning environment.

- Discussions in the group also centered around the astounding number of 11,000 HUD-VASH vouchers that went unused in 2019 and the potential connection to the lack of available social caseworkers available to assist veterans seeking assistance. The HUD-VASH program is a proven tool to help end chronic veteran homelessness. On January 13, 2020, the House overwhelmingly passed the bipartisan Veteran Housing Opportunities and Unemployment Support Extension Act of 2020 (or the Veteran HOUSE Act of 2020), introduced by Rep. Scott Peters (CA-52), by a vote of 362-31. The bill will help tackle veteran homelessness by expanding the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. It ensures chronically homeless veterans discharged under conditions other-than-honorable (OTH), but not dishonorable, are eligible for HUD-VASH housing vouchers and supportive case management.

Veterans Employment and Education Rural Initiative

Twenty million veterans live in the United States. They live in every state and in nearly every county across the nation. About 5 million veterans lived in areas designated as rural by the U.S. Census Bureau during the 2011–2015 period. About 10 percent of all rural civilian adults are veterans, but in some rural counties that figure can reach as high as 25 percent.

Veterans have much to contribute to rural communities. Veterans returning home from active duty, as well as those who move to rural communities as newcomers, add to the population base and increase the demand for goods and services. Veterans tend to have more education on average and can benefit their communities by contributing their leadership, technical, and entrepreneurial skills.

Fostering military veteran entrepreneurship has a powerful effect on veterans, their families, and local economies. When military veterans start businesses, they are more likely to hire other veterans, their families attain more wealth than veteran families who do not start businesses, and they become resources who other aspiring veteran entrepreneurs can turn to in their own entrepreneurial journeys.

According to the most recent census, there are over 2.45 million veteran-owned businesses in the U.S. economy, contributing to more than \$1.2 trillion in total business sales annually. The rate of veteran small business entrepreneurship has trended downward at the highest rate since the Vietnam era. Many of these small businesses struggle in their first years of start-up and can utilize assistance in getting established. One of the ways the American Legion is fostering veteran entrepreneurship is through the Division of Veterans Employment and Education initiative on improving veterans' access to capital, as well as, other business services, to start and grow their business.

Transitioning service members and veterans need ready access to business assistance services, resource networks, capital and market opportunities to ensure success. Empowering and regenerating America's veteran entrepreneurs is one way to help reverse our declining trends in veteran entrepreneurship while also facilitating the economic revitalization of small towns and rural America.

Residents of rural areas have been more likely than residents of other areas to work for their own businesses, but, in recent decades, the share of the self-employed living in rural areas has fallen. For these reasons, VE & E is currently identifying federal, state and local resources throughout the United States that can be accessed by veterans, such as business loan guarantees and counseling services.

We are also updating our on-line small business training videos that are accessible from anywhere in the country. We hosted a small business round-table with financial stakeholders, such as lenders, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and the Treasury, Syracuse University and trade associations, to identify available resources for veterans. We are also aligning those resources with our local American Legion posts throughout the country.

New businesses create new jobs and new products. A healthy population of businesses keeps prices down as businesses compete for customers and wages up as businesses compete for employees. Veterans are positioned to contribute economically to rural communities.

Improved telecommunications and transportation infrastructure can also improve educational, employment, and business opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated shutdown of businesses and schools have exacerbated the Digital Divide. In particular, rural connectivity lags and many lower income families lack the necessary digital tools to connect.

Additionally, as people are unable to visit their doctors, they need to use new tools to stay healthy. In rural areas, nearly one-fourth of the population, approximately 14.5 million people, lack access to broadband service. VE&E is continuing its research on broadband opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses in rural areas. The Legion also applauds

the Federal Communications Commission initiative to bring broadband to rural community to enhance the economic development of communities and small businesses, especially veteran-owned small businesses.

Given the potential advantages veteran-owned small businesses offer, fostering their growth and development in rural communities will have a positive impact throughout the country and is a priority for VE&E.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
National President
Nicole Clapp, Iowa

*A Community of Volunteers Serving
Veterans, Military, and their Families*

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Value of American Legion Auxiliary Members' Volunteer Service: Over \$221 Million

ALA Volunteer Hours: 6,215,971

- Volunteer hours serving veterans and military: 3,233,625
- Volunteer hours serving military families: 402,818
- Volunteer hours serving youth, scholarships, communities: 2,579,527
- Total volunteer hours: 6,215,971

Total Money Raised and Spent: \$19,582,102

- Resources raised & spent on veterans and military: \$9,695,994
- Resources raised & spent on military families: \$1,171,846
- Resources raised & spent on youth, scholarships, communities: \$8,714,262

Auxiliary Reporting:

- Number of American Legion Auxiliary departments: 52
- Percentage of departments reporting: 92%
- Number of units: 8,077
- Percentage of units reporting: 40%
- Average percentage of members reporting: 14%

Impact Made Serving America's Veterans/Military

- Volunteer hours serving veterans and military: 3,233,625
- Total dollars spent serving veterans and military: \$5,139,294
- Total number of veterans assisted: 986,131
- Veterans in Community Schools presentations: 81,968
- In-kind donations: \$1,872,016
- Total number of poppies distributed: 2,047,990
- Total dollars raised from poppies: \$2,235,231

Impact Made Serving Military Families

- Hours volunteered: 402,818
- Dollars spent: \$1,171,846
- Number of military families served: 207,779

Impact Made Through Scholarships

- Total number of scholarships presented and awarded: 4,068
- Total dollar amount of scholarships presented: \$1,260,768

Impact Made Through ALA Girls State

- Hours volunteered for ALA Girls State: 238,682
- Total dollar amount spent on ALA Girls State: \$2,172,815

Impact Made in Youth Development

- Hours serving American Legion Family youth activities: 340,277
- Total dollars raised/spent to benefit children: \$2,150,831
- Total dollars in direct aid to help children in need: \$415,576
- Total number of children served: 435,802

Impact Made Through Service to Our Communities

- Total number of volunteer service hours in community service not included above: 2,000,568
- Total dollars spent on community projects not included above: \$2,716,273

**2020 OFFICIAL AWARDS
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL RECIPIENTS**

The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal Award: Awarded annually to an individual(s) or organization for their outstanding service to the nation and to the programs of The American Legion by nomination by department action or by the National Commander.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

American Legion Baseball Graduate of The Year Award: Presented to the major league baseball player who played American Legion Baseball as a teenager and best exemplifies the principles and purposes of the program in sportsmanship, citizenship, general good conduct, integrity and playing ability.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Bob Feller American Legion Pitching Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player recording the greatest number of strikeouts during the regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Commissioner of Baseball Trophy: Awarded annually at the Major League World Series to that baseball team which becomes the National Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger Memorial R.B.I. Award: Awarded annually to The American Legion Baseball player who is credited with the most runs batted in by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

The Ford C. Frick Trophy: Awarded annually to that department having within its jurisdiction the runner-up team in the National Finals of The American Legion Baseball program.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the year to the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

RECIPIENT: Department of Utah

George W. Rulon Baseball Player of the Year: A Plaque is presented to recipient by appropriate official upon conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series. Citation is presented to recipient at a special Hall of Fame ceremony at Cooperstown, NY, the following summer.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

The Howard P. Savage, Jr. Trophy: Awarded annually to that department having the baseball team which becomes the Champion as a result of playing in The American Legion World Series.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Jack Williams Memorial Leadership Award: Awarded annually to the manager and coach of the national championship team, as representative of the adult leadership Jack Williams stressed during his lifetime.

RECIPIENT(s): None Awarded

James F. Daniel, Jr. Memorial Sportsmanship Award: Awarded to The American Legion Baseball player participating in the World Series that represents the principle of good sportsmanship emphasized by the program.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award: Presented annually to the national tournament champions of the individual and team categories in Sporter and Precision disciplines of The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program. (Originally named the American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Trophy)

RECIPIENT(s): **Precision Team:** Lincoln Rifle Club Jr. Division Post 264, The American Legion of Texas
Vittoria Watts, Lilly Polakovic, Logan Michael, Morgan Vander Linden

Precision Individual: Kaylene Castillo, Eldorado MCJROTC New Mexico, Post 49

Sporter Team: Nation Ford MCJROTC Post 34, The American Legion of South Carolina
Maya Cameron, Kayla Kalenza, Alana Ruggiero, Joshua Campbell

Sporter Individual: Maya Cameron, Nation Ford MCJROTC South Carolina, Post 34

The American Legion Baseball “Slugger” Trophy: Plaque is presented to recipient, or designated representative, by appropriate official upon the conclusion of The American Legion Baseball World Series.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Ralph T. O’Neil Education Trophy: Awarded annually to that department within the continental limits in the United States showing the greatest Americanism activity in use of The American Legion School Medal Awards.

RECIPIENT: Department of Connecticut

The American Legion Baseball “Big Stick” Award: Awarded annually to that American Legion Baseball player having the highest total number of bases as determined by the official score keepers of the respective regional tournaments and World Series of American Legion Baseball.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Spafford National Trophy: Awarded annually to that department of The American Legion having within its jurisdiction the winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship Award: Awarded annually to the athlete competing in The American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship who best exemplifies good sportsmanship and fair play.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Daniel J. O'Connor Award: Awarded annually to that department attaining the greatest number of percentage points compiled from information contained in the Consolidated Post Reports and supporting department narrative. (Originally named the William Randolph Hearst Trophy)

RECIPIENT: Department of Virginia

The American Legion and Scouting "Square Knot" Award: This award is designed to recognize American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion members who are actively involved in the Scouting program. This award is not meant to be a selective or limited award, but one that is available to any American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member who completes the requirements for the award. The Award is meant to recognize dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.

RECIPIENT(s): Richard Palka (NJ), Daniel Scurlock (NY), William Kaczmarek (WI), Robert Lindsey, III (FL), Robert Lindsey, Jr. (FL), Daniel Wentling (KS)

The American Legion National Education Award: Awarded annually to an individual, group or organization which has conducted the best all-around promotion of the education programs of The American Legion, education programs that correspond to the goals of The American Legion or has promoted or advanced education programs at the national level.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of authentic veterans' organization in Canada. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans' affairs and in the development and perpetuation of the spirit of international good will and comradeship between the United States and Canada and between their veterans' organization and The American Legion.

RECIPIENT(S): ANAVICUS – Luanne Bandiera, Jack Gillard, Steve Cooper, Marga LaFond, Marion Lee, John MacDonald, Carter Warrington, Angela Hourie, Connie Rapko, R.G. Hemlow, Martin Matthews, Lorne Scobie, Donald Fisher, Randy Williams, Steve Naicker, Bronwyn Kelleher, Linda Caron, Paul Hanson
INDIVIDUAL – Jean-Marie St. Onge

Department Award for 100% Post Children & Youth Reporting: Awarded annually to those departments which achieve 100% of posts indicating Children & Youth activity on Consolidated Post Reports.

RECIPIENT: Departments of Florida, Montana, and New Mexico

National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s): Awarded to an employer in recognition of outstanding achievement in the employment and retraining of veterans.

RECIPIENT(s): **Category I** Lockheed Martin
2019 Winners **Category II** SJ Innovations dba Computer Systems Designers (CSD)
Category III High Order Solutions, LLC

Note: The 2020 National Employer of Veterans Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2021 National Convention.

National Employment Service Award Recipient(s): Awarded in three categories: Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) of the Year; Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) of the Year; Employment Service (ES) Office of the Year.

RECIPIENT(s): LVER of the Year: Kenneth D. Dinkins, Decatur, GA

2019 DVOP of the Year: Katasha Gray, Fort Worth, TX

Winners ES Office of the Year: Auburn WorkOne Northeast, Auburn, IN

Note: The 2020 National Employment Service Award Recipient(s) will not be announced until 2021 National Convention.

Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient: The program is a joint project between the National Organization & the AETNA Company, to award those posts that enhance the lives of disable persons by providing opportunities for their participation in community activities.

RECIPIENT(s): Bobby Dodd Institute, Atlanta, GA

2019 Winner

Note: The 2020 Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award Recipient will not be announced until 2021 National Convention.

National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient: The program provides an Employer of Older Worker Award for a company that consistently hires older workers, especially veterans and serves as an inspirational recognition of a company with a record of support and commitment to the hiring of America's older workers.

RECIPIENT(s): Harris Health System

2019 Winner

Note: The 2020 National Employer of Older Worker Award Recipient will not be announced until 2021 National Convention.

National Department History Contest Awards: Awarded annually at the Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee to those contestants entered in the National Department History Contest having submitted the One-Year History Narrative or Yearbook of the department which best meets the standards established for that particular competition.

RECIPIENT(s): Tentatively scheduled for the 2021 May meetings

National Post History Contest Awards: Awarded annually to those contestants entered in the National Post History Contest deemed by a duly authorized panel of judges to have submitted the One-Year History of the Post which best meets the standards established for the competitions.

RECIPIENT(s): Tentatively scheduled for the 2021 May meetings

International Amity Award: Awarded by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the National Executive Committee at such times and places as may be consistent and appropriate. It shall be awarded to specific individuals who shall be war veterans within the accepted meaning of the term and members of an authentic veteran organization established in the territory of any of the nations associated as war-time allies of the United States of America. It shall be awarded to such individuals in recognition of outstanding service in the field of veterans affairs and for service and contributions made in the development of international good will and comradeship between their organization and The American Legion.

RECIPIENT(s): None Awarded

Distinguished Public Service Award: Awarded annually by the National Commander with the advice and consent of the Commander's Advisory Committee at the time of the annual Washington Conference. It may be awarded to one or more person(s) of the United States Congress.

RECIPIENT(s): Representative Mac Thornberry, TX

The Arthur D. Houghton Sons of The American Legion Trophy: Awarded annually to that detachment of Sons of The American Legion in each of five membership categories (I – 200-1,000 members; II - 1,001-3,000 members; III - 3,001-6000 members; IV – 6001-12,000 members; V – 12,001 or more), each of said detachments attaining the greatest percentage of increase over previous year's membership when compared with all detachments in its category.

RECIPIENT(s):	Category I	Detachment of South Dakota
2020	Category II	Detachment of Alabama
Winners	Category III	Detachment of Iowa
	Category IV	Detachment of Arizona
	Category V	Detachment of Florida

General Henri Gouraud Trophy: Awarded annually to that department in each of six categories established by the National Membership and Post Activities Committee, each of said department having been the first in its respective category to attain or exceed its nationally assigned membership quota (effective 1986).

RECIPIENT(s):	Category I	None qualified
	Category II	None qualified
	Category III	None qualified
	Category IV	Department of North Carolina
	Category V	Department of Colorado
	Category VI	Department of Utah

General John J. Pershing Honor Award: Awarded annually to that department having the greatest percentage of its posts receiving the Honor Ribbon for having 100 percent or more, of the post's previous year's membership enrolled for the coming year by December 31, and having reported such achievement to the National Headquarters by not later than January 31.

RECIPIENT: Department of District of Columbia

Henry D. Lindsley Trophy: Awarded annually to the department attaining the highest percentage of membership over its preceding year's membership by March 31.

RECIPIENT: Department of North Carolina

The American Legion National Recruiter of the Year: Awarded annually to the individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all of the departments.

RECIPIENT: David L. Witucki, Department of Texas

Jerry L. Hedrick Membership Award: Awarded annually to the department, not included among the several state departments or the Department of the District of Columbia, attaining the highest percentage of membership as of March 31, over its preceding year's membership.

RECIPIENT: Department of the Philippines

O. L. Bodenhamer Trophy: Awarded annually to that department designated to lead the parade at the time of the ensuing National Convention.

RECIPIENT: Department of Utah

The American Legion Air Force Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class at the Air Force Academy who demonstrates the highest proficiency in all academic subjects.

RECIPIENT: Cadet Zachary K. Bailey

The American Legion Coast Guard Academy Award: Awarded annually to that cadet of the graduating class of the United States Coast Guard Academy who is considered to have personally excelled in athletics.

RECIPIENT: Ensign Joseph Rodriguez

The American Legion Merchant Marine Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the Merchant Marine Academy, enrolled in the Pre-Commissioning Seminar Course, and selected by the Academy Faculty, as achieving the highest grade pertaining to a 1,000-word composition dealing with the subject of National Security.

RECIPIENT: Midshipman John Alexander Biscardi

The American Legion Military Academy Award: Awarded annually to cadet of the graduating class at the United States Military Academy with the highest standing in Chemistry.

RECIPIENT: Cadet James A. Albright

The American Legion Naval Academy Award: Awarded annually to that graduating midshipman of the United States Naval Academy who stands highest in those English, History and Government courses taken to complete a Foreign Affairs major.

RECIPIENT: Midshipman Michaela F. Caldwell

National Commander's Blood Donor Awards: Presented to departments in different sized categories for participating in The American Legion's Blood Donor Program.

RECIPIENT(s): **Category I** **Departments with 85,000 or more members:**

Post Participation: Department of Pennsylvania

Individual Participation: Department of New York

Category II **Departments with 65,000 to 84,999 members:**

Post Participation: Department of Minnesota

Individual Participation: Department of Minnesota

Category III **Departments with 40,000 to 64,999 members:**

Post Participation: Department of Maryland

Individual Participation: Department of Wisconsin

Category IV **Departments with 25,000 to 39,999 members:**

Post Participation: Department of Georgia

Individual Participation: Department of Massachusetts

Category V **Departments with 10,000 to 24,999 members:**

Post Participation: Department of Oregon

Individual Participation: Department of Oregon

Category VI **Departments with less than 10,000 members:**

Post Participation: Department of France

Individual Participation: Department of France

The American Legion National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award: To recognize an outstanding law enforcement officer as selected from department law enforcement officer winners for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.

RECIPIENT: Lt. Robert Berg Jr., Deforest, Wisconsin

The American Legion National Firefighter of the Year Award: To recognize an outstanding firefighter as selected from department for distinguished on-and off-duty service. The accomplishments for which the award is presented shall have been in accordance with, or in furtherance of, established American Legion policies or programs and it shall have contributed to the preservation of law and order as well as the American way of life.

RECIPIENT: Mr. Ryan N. Berney, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska

Paul H. Griffith ROTC Trophy: Awarded annually to that department giving the highest degree of support to the ROTC program within its jurisdiction, based on criteria drawn up by the National Security Commission.

RECIPIENT(s): Departments of Arizona, California, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas

The American Legion Fourth Estate Award: Awarded to press, radio, TV, or other communications media; to associations of same, to owners, executive heads or staff members; such award to be in recognition of outstanding service to community, state, or nation, which service shall have been in accordance with or the furtherance of established American Legion policies and programs.

RECIPIENT: Broadcast: KAKE, Annette Lawless, Wichita, KS
Print: McClatchy
Internet: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

The American Legion Patriot Award: Awarded to an outstanding citizen who has demonstrated a profound and exceptional commitment to military personnel and their families.

RECIPIENT(s): Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University

The American Legion Spirit of Service Award: Awarded annually by the Department of Defense and the six military departments that have identified the most outstanding men and women that have received press coverage in Armed Service News dispatches, the Pentagon Channel, their military base newspapers and their hometown publications.

RECIPIENT(s): **Army:** Matthew J. Turley
Navy: Jasmine L. Johnson
Marine Corps: Justin T. Middlemiss
Air Force: Amy-Christy Amakihe
Coast Guard: Amanda Moore

Arch M. Cantrall Trophy: Awarded annually to that American Legion Band winning first prize in competition with all other American Legion bands during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

Glen R. Hillis Trophy: Awarded annually to that Color Guard winning first prize in competition with all other Color Guards during the annual National Convention of The American Legion.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

The Lemuel Bolles Trophy: Awarded annually to that band winning first prize in competition with all other bands during the annual National Convention.

RECIPIENT: None Awarded

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy: Awarded annually to that state department of The American Legion excelling in welfare work for war veterans, providing the membership of that department shall be no less than 80% of the membership of the preceding year.

RECIPIENT: Department of Colorado

Department of Veterans Affairs Health-Care Provider of the Year Award: To be awarded annually at the Washington Conference to one outstanding non-physician direct patient care provider in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), nominated and selected under such conditions as the Internal Affairs Commission should from time to time select as necessary and consistent with the effective administration of such an award.

RECIPIENT: Nurse Keith Harmon, VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System

Department of Veterans Affairs Physician of the Year Award: To be awarded annually at the Washington Conference to one outstanding physician in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), nominated and selected under such conditions as the Internal Affairs Commission should from time to time select as necessary and consistent with the effective administration of such an award.

RECIPIENT: Dr. Murray Altose, VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System



Members of the National Finance Commission
The American Legion National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

Report on Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of The American Legion National Headquarters ("Legion"), which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Legion has adopted ASU 2014-09 – *Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606)* and ASU 2018-08 – *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958)* for the year-ended December 31, 2019. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matter

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements as a whole. The consolidating statements of financial position and activities are presented for purposes of additional analysis of the consolidated financial statements rather than to present the financial position and results of operations of the individual companies and are not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the consolidated financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the consolidated financial statements or to the consolidated financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated financial statements as a whole.


Crowe LLP

Indianapolis, Indiana
June 4, 2020

**THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2019 and 2018**

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,312,619	\$ 3,012,220
Accounts receivable	7,123,577	5,460,308
Interest receivable	1,008,765	885,540
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,403,235	2,755,099
Deferred membership expense	4,183,155	4,077,478
Inventory	3,508,922	2,861,202
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	37,307	11,070
Beneficial interest in trust	<u>36,264</u>	<u>76,729</u>
	20,613,844	19,139,646
Investments		
General	21,551,826	18,387,061
Segregated for Restricted and Reserved Funds	37,361,797	34,986,881
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership fund	26,539,113	25,452,708
Samsung scholarship fund	7,669,826	7,209,799
Building funds	7,254,020	6,501,856
Sept. 11 Memorial scholarship fund	16,341,850	14,349,042
Special account – Endowment Fund	2,066,042	2,009,882
General account – Endowment Fund	9,094,112	8,037,160
National Emergency Fund	6,658,915	5,822,925
American Legion Charities	5,255,325	5,006,983
Other	<u>4,315,975</u>	<u>3,817,097</u>
	144,108,801	131,581,394
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>4,062,080</u>	<u>3,753,291</u>
	<u>\$ 168,784,725</u>	<u>\$ 154,474,331</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,777,975	\$ 3,994,332
Scholarships payable	1,589,399	1,406,831
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	586,078	453,450
Deferred income	1,439,307	1,416,956
Deferred dues income	24,071,863	24,893,121
Deferred income – direct membership solicitation	3,428,607	3,382,071
Accrued vacation benefits	802,152	754,932
Accrued pension expense	20,709,800	17,838,379
Other liabilities	1,323,678	1,044,811
Notes payable	215,148	426,698
Deferred dues income – Paid-Up-For-Life membership	23,908,398	22,367,575
Life memberships due to state and local posts	<u>26,766,460</u>	<u>25,041,442</u>
	109,618,865	103,020,598
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restriction	10,986,426	9,753,041
With donor restriction	<u>48,179,434</u>	<u>41,700,692</u>
Total net assets	<u>59,165,860</u>	<u>51,453,733</u>
	<u>\$ 168,784,725</u>	<u>\$ 154,474,331</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended December 31, 2019

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Revenue, gains and other support			
National member dues	\$ 29,293,372	\$ -	\$ 29,293,372
Direct membership solicitations	5,887,420	-	5,887,420
Member service fees income	449,344	-	449,344
Affinity income	4,000,000	-	4,000,000
Sales of emblem items	14,283,830	-	14,283,830
Advertising	8,032,884	-	8,032,884
Contributions	12,863,986	5,747,894	18,611,880
Label and printing fees	347,473	-	347,473
Interest and dividends, net of fees	2,044,411	1,172,374	3,216,785
Net realized losses - investments	(110,044)	(162,997)	(273,041)
Other	<u>3,412,106</u>	<u>1,441,758</u>	<u>4,853,864</u>
	80,504,782	8,199,029	88,703,811
Net assets released from restriction	<u>3,721,305</u>	<u>(3,721,305)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues, gains, and other support	84,226,087	4,477,724	88,703,811
Expenses			
Salaries	14,587,909	-	14,587,909
Employee benefits	6,662,698	-	6,662,698
Cost of sales – Legion	7,834,317	-	7,834,317
Department and magazine costs	1,381,692	-	1,381,692
Direct publications	10,004,545	-	10,004,545
Executive, staff and program travel	3,671,878	-	3,671,878
Commission and committee	1,772,354	-	1,772,354
Printing and postage	14,480,642	-	14,480,642
Scholarships, grants and awards	3,323,903	-	3,323,903
Office and other operating	14,495,363	-	14,495,363
Occupancy and usage	2,197,550	-	2,197,550
Special projects and programs	<u>3,809,444</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,809,444</u>
	<u>84,222,295</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,222,295</u>
Change in net assets from operations	3,792	4,477,724	4,481,516
Net unrealized gain – investments	2,765,626	2,001,018	4,766,644
Net change in PUFL	497,406	-	497,406
Amortization of pension loss	(1,996,688)	-	(1,996,688)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	<u>(36,751)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(36,751)</u>
Change in net assets	1,233,385	6,478,742	7,712,127
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>9,753,041</u>	<u>41,700,692</u>	<u>51,453,733</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 10,986,426</u>	<u>\$ 48,179,434</u>	<u>\$ 59,165,860</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended December 31, 2018

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Revenue, gains and other support			
National member dues	\$ 30,394,651	\$ -	\$ 30,394,651
Direct membership solicitations	6,074,433	-	6,074,433
Member service fees income	636,526	-	636,526
Affinity income	4,228,914	-	4,228,914
Sales of emblem items	13,917,701	-	13,917,701
Advertising	8,674,307	-	8,674,307
Contributions	12,507,600	3,380,136	15,887,736
Label and printing fees	360,920	-	360,920
Interest and dividends, net of fees	1,934,050	1,124,419	3,058,469
Net realized losses - investments	(339,600)	(102,058)	(441,658)
Other	4,121,753	25,000	4,146,753
	<u>82,511,255</u>	<u>4,427,497</u>	<u>86,938,752</u>
Net assets released from restriction	<u>2,669,226</u>	<u>(2,669,226)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total revenues, gains, and other support	85,180,481	1,758,271	86,938,752
Expenses			
Salaries	17,262,927	-	17,262,927
Employee benefits	5,962,222	-	5,962,222
Cost of sales - Legion	7,468,856	-	7,468,856
Department and magazine costs	1,564,384	-	1,564,384
Direct publications	10,240,139	-	10,240,139
Executive, staff and program travel	3,823,788	-	3,823,788
Commission and committee	1,700,086	-	1,700,086
Printing and postage	12,567,362	-	12,567,362
Scholarships, grants and awards	2,083,162	-	2,083,162
Office and other operating	14,646,154	-	14,646,154
Occupancy and usage	2,120,396	-	2,120,396
Special projects and programs	3,714,040	-	3,714,040
	<u>83,153,516</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>83,153,516</u>
Change in net assets from operations	2,026,965	1,758,271	3,785,236
Net unrealized loss - investments	(2,225,419)	(546,866)	(2,772,285)
Net change in PUFL	2,702,057	-	2,702,057
Amortization of pension loss	(2,262,117)	-	(2,262,117)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	<u>4,333,383</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,333,383</u>
Change in net assets	4,574,869	1,211,405	5,786,274
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>5,178,172</u>	<u>40,489,287</u>	<u>45,667,459</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 9,753,041</u>	<u>\$ 41,700,692</u>	<u>\$ 51,453,733</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
Years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	Program Services		Supporting Services			2019 Total
	Veterans Programs Services	Americanism and Children and Youth Activities	Management and General	Member Development	Fundraising	
2019						
Salaries	\$ 6,602,790	\$ 527,288	\$ 6,652,509	\$ 805,322	\$ -	\$14,587,909
Employee benefits	665,970	52,406	5,864,674	79,648	-	6,662,698
Cost of sales - Legion	7,834,317	-	-	-	-	7,834,317
Department and magazine costs	1,305,222	-	10,473	-	65,997	1,381,692
Direct publications	10,004,545	-	-	-	-	10,004,545
Executive, staff and program travel	1,226,242	1,428,626	964,338	52,672	-	3,671,878
Commission and committee	937,731	248,545	470,592	115,486	-	1,772,354
Printing and postage	2,257,816	9,123	79,817	2,602,858	9,531,028	14,480,642
Scholarships, grants, and awards	458,074	2,673,634	-	191,985	210	3,323,903
Office and other operating	3,567,474	147,054	3,788,554	6,742,187	250,094	14,495,363
Occupancy and usage	27,249	1,352	1,639,670	529,279	-	2,197,550
Special projects and programs	2,175,806	725,275	808,363	-	-	3,809,444
Total	\$ 37,063,236	\$ 5,813,303	\$20,378,990	\$ 11,119,437	\$ 9,847,329	\$84,222,295

	Program Services		Supporting Services			2018 Total
	Veterans Programs Services	Americanism and Children and Youth Activities	Management and General	Member Development	Fundraising	
2018						
Salaries	\$ 7,014,252	\$ 518,571	\$ 8,803,868	\$ 926,236	\$ -	\$17,262,927
Employee benefits	722,259	52,277	5,096,699	90,987	-	5,962,222
Cost of sales - Legion	7,468,856	-	-	-	-	7,468,856
Department and magazine costs	1,439,535	-	17,608	-	107,241	1,564,384
Direct publications	10,240,139	-	-	-	-	10,240,139
Executive, staff and program travel	1,285,290	1,456,482	1,026,231	55,785	-	3,823,788
Commission and committee	867,076	254,430	488,504	90,076	-	1,700,086
Printing and postage	2,044,490	16,548	96,603	2,359,896	8,049,825	12,567,362
Scholarships, grants, and awards	555,333	1,394,383	-	133,446	-	2,083,162
Office and other operating	3,988,158	168,576	4,314,848	5,972,112	202,460	14,646,154
Occupancy and usage	18,835	1,426	1,574,119	526,016	-	2,120,396
Special projects and programs	2,235,451	681,254	797,335	-	-	3,714,040
Total	\$ 37,879,674	\$ 4,543,947	\$22,215,815	\$ 10,154,554	\$ 8,359,526	\$83,153,516

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
Years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
Cash flows from operating activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 7,712,127	\$ 5,786,274
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities		
Depreciation expense	726,941	791,860
Realized loss on sale of investments	273,041	441,658
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(4,766,644)	2,772,285
Net change in Paid-Up-For-Life annuity	(497,406)	(2,702,057)
Amortization of pension loss	1,996,688	2,262,117
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	36,751	(4,333,383)
Contributions restricted for long-term purposes	(1,147,682)	(653,274)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Accounts receivable	(1,663,269)	(419,730)
Interest receivable	(123,225)	19,133
Prepaid expenses and deposits	351,864	(1,801,612)
Deferred membership expense	(105,677)	518,817
Inventories	(647,720)	(99,796)
Beneficial interest in trust	40,465	37,471
Accounts and scholarships payable	966,211	726,854
Deferred income	3,143,504	114,918
Accrued pension expense	837,982	460,188
Other accrued liabilities	326,087	(7,692)
Net cash from operating activities	<u>7,460,038</u>	<u>3,914,031</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(1,037,776)	(106,933)
Sales of property and equipment	2,046	50,899
Purchase of investments	(100,808,016)	(66,855,851)
Sales and maturities of investments	92,774,212	63,386,504
Investments in affiliate (CFA)	(26,237)	441
Net cash from investing activities	<u>(9,095,771)</u>	<u>(3,524,940)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Contributions restricted for long-term purposes	1,147,682	653,274
Repayment on notes payable	(211,550)	(205,051)
Net cash from financing activities	<u>936,132</u>	<u>448,223</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(699,601)	837,314
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>3,012,220</u>	<u>2,174,906</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 2,312,619</u>	<u>\$ 3,012,220</u>
Supplemental cash flows information		
Interest paid	\$ 12,204	\$ 19,278
Investment maturities	2,556,599	-

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements.

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Organization: The American Legion National Headquarters ("Legion") is a national veterans organization, which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on September 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Legion is "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and goodwill among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Approximately 40% of the Legion's income is derived from membership dues (including amounts allocated for magazine subscriptions). Contributions generate an additional 18 - 22% of revenue. Advertising for the American Legion Magazine derives approximately 10% of income. Another significant source of income is Emblem sales, which includes the sale of apparel, jewelry, and other items bearing the American Legion Emblem. Income is expended by the Legion on several different programs including The American Legion Magazine, Emblem sales, veterans' assistance and rehabilitation, youth programs and others. The Legion's youth programs include American Legion baseball, oratorical contests and Boys Nation.

Principles of Consolidation: The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of The American Legion National Headquarters, The American Legion Charities ("ALC"), The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation ("ALEF"); and the National Emergency Fund ("NEF") (collectively, "the Legion"). All material inter-organizational accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

The American Legion Charities includes the consolidated balances and activities of the American Legion Charities Trust and the American Legion Charities, Inc. The ALC was established to solicit funds from the individuals, organizations and corporations and to disburse said funds as may be directed to various Legion programs and charities. The ALC also promotes the common good and general welfare of the people of the United States of America by raising money for the programs of the Legion and its departments and posts.

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation, a tax-exempt Indiana corporation, was created to provide permanent funding for the rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans.

The National Emergency Fund is a tax-exempt trust established to provide gifts and grants to relieve suffering and ameliorate financial hardship incurred by American Legion members, families and Posts.

Basis of Accounting: The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP").

Use of Estimates in Preparation of Financial Statements: The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, gains, losses and other changes in net assets during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Financial Statement Presentation: The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with GAAP, which requires, among other things, that the financial statements report the changes in and total of each of the net asset classes, based upon donor restrictions, as applicable. Net assets are to be classified as without donor restriction and with donor restriction.

The following classes of net assets are maintained:

Net Assets Without Donor Restriction – The net asset without donor restriction class includes general assets and liabilities of the Legion, as well as assets and liabilities designated by the National Executive Committee, the governing body of the Legion. The net asset without donor restriction of the Legion may be used at the discretion of management to support the Legion's purposes and operations. There are \$1,367,990 and \$1,105,506 of board designated net assets included in the net assets without donor restrictions as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively. These funds have been designated by the American Legion Charities Board for quasi endowment.

Net Assets With Donor Restrictions – The net asset with donor restriction class includes assets of the Legion related to gifts with explicit donor-imposed restrictions that have not been met as to specified purpose, or to later periods of time or after specified dates. Unconditional promises to give that are due in future periods are classified as net asset with donor restriction. As the restrictions are met, the net assets are released from restrictions and included in net assets without donor restriction. Contributions for which the restrictions are met in the same period in which the contribution is received are also recorded as net assets with donor restrictions and released from restrictions. The net asset with donor restriction class also includes assets of the Legion for which the donor has stipulated that the contribution be maintained in perpetuity. Donor-imposed restrictions limiting the use of the assets or its economic benefit neither expire with the passage of time nor can be removed by satisfying a specific purpose.

Cash and Cash Equivalents: Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and less than 90 day deposit balances with banks. The Legion maintains all of its cash deposits in banks and brokerage firms. This may result in a concentration of credit risk in the case of a severe regional financial failure. The maximum amount at risk is the excess of the deposit liabilities reported by the banks over the amounts that would have been covered by federal insurance. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insures deposits up to \$250,000 per financial institution.

Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts: The Legion bills members, posts, and departments for dues and bills agencies for advertising in the Legion magazine. Interest is not normally charged on receivables. Management establishes a reserve for losses on its accounts based on historic loss experience and current economic conditions. Losses are charged off to the reserve when management deems further collection efforts will not produce additional recoveries. Management estimated that no allowance was necessary for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

The Charities collects donations from members, posts, and departments. Losses are charged off to the reserve when management deems further collection efforts will not produce additional recoveries. Management estimated that no allowance was necessary for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Inventory: Inventory consists of Emblem items held for sale, magazine paper and publication rights and is stated at the lower of cost or market using the first-in, first-out ("FIFO") method. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments: Investments are carried at fair value. The fair values of investments are based on quoted market prices, where available. If quoted market prices are not available, fair values are based on quoted market prices of comparable instruments. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected in the consolidated statements of activities. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity. Interest and dividends are shown net of fees on the statements of activities.

Property, Plant, and Equipment: Expenditures for property, plant, and equipment and items, which substantially increase the useful lives of existing assets and are greater than \$1,500 are capitalized at cost. The Legion records depreciation on the straight-line method at rates designated to depreciate the costs of assets over their estimated useful lives. Buildings are depreciated on the straight-line method using a thirty year life. All other capital assets are depreciated over lives ranging from three to seven years.

Impairment of Long-Lived Assets: In accordance with GAAP, the Legion reviews its property and equipment for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. If the fair value is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognized for the difference. No impairment loss has been recognized during the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

Collections: The Legion owns many collectible military related items and historical documents, which were not recorded as they were acquired. It is often impracticable to determine a value for collections and accordingly, the Legion has concluded that they need not be capitalized. Some of these items have been appraised for insurance purposes.

Support and Revenue: The Legion reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Revenue Recognition: The Legion recognizes revenue either as performance obligations are materially satisfied, contracts expire or are invalidated, and/or as applicable terms warrant. This includes affinity income, sales of emblems, advertising and other revenue streams not specifically outlined in note 1.

Member Dues Income and Expense: Member Dues are recognized as income over the applicable membership period, which is on a calendar-year basis. In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from direct membership solicitation is recognized over the applicable membership period (calendar year). The direct-response expenses incurred in obtaining new members are deferred and recognized in the subsequent membership year.

Income Taxes: The Legion is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(19) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. ALC, ALEF and NEF are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. None of the entities are considered to be a private foundation. The Legion is subject to income tax on unrelated business income. In 2019 and 2018, the Legion incurred no tax expense.

Current accounting standards require the Legion to disclose the amount of potential benefit or obligation to be realized as a result of an examination performed by a taxing authority. For the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, management has determined that the Legion does not have any tax positions that result in any uncertainties regarding the possible impact on the Legion's financial statements. The Legion does not expect the total amount of unrecognized tax benefits to significantly change in the next 12 months. The Legion recognizes interest and/or penalties related to income tax matters in income tax expense. The Legion did not have any amounts accrued for interest and penalties at December 31, 2019 and 2018.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments: The carrying amount of all financial instruments of the Legion, which include cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, beneficial interest in trust, investments, accounts payable, and notes payable, approximate fair value.

Expense Allocation: Expenses have been classified as program services, management and general, member development and fund raising based on actual direct expenditures. Additionally, salary and employee benefits expenses are allocated among departments based upon estimates of the amount of time spent by Legion employees performing services for these departments.

Recent Accounting Pronouncement: In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Updated (ASU) 2014-09, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers Topic (606)*. This ASU affects any entity that either enters into contracts with customers to transfer goods or services or enters into contracts for the transfer of nonfinancial assets unless those contracts are within the scope of other standards (e.g., insurance contracts or lease contracts). This ASU has superseded the revenue recognition requirements in *Topic 605, Revenue Recognition*, and most industry-specific guidance. The core principle of the guidance is that an entity should recognize revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. The Legion applied the amendments in this ASU for the year ended December 31, 2019, but was not materially impacted by the ASU and as a result, no cumulative effect adjustment was recorded upon adoption.

In June 2018, the FASB issued ASU 2018-08 – *Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. The amendments in this Update provide a more robust framework to determine when a transaction should be accounted for as a contribution under Subtopic 958-605 or as an exchange transaction accounted for under other guidance (for example, Topic 606). The amendments also provide additional guidance about how to determine whether a contribution is conditional. The Legion applied the amendments in this ASU for the year ended December 31, 2019.

The Legion implemented ASU 2018-08 using a modified retrospective method of application. There were no changes to the recognition or presentation of revenue as a result of the application of ASU 2018-08. As a result, no cumulative effect adjustment was recorded upon adoption.

NOTE 1 – NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Subsequent Events: Management has performed an analysis of the activities and transactions subsequent to December 31, 2019, to determine the need for any adjustments or disclosures to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019. Management has performed their analysis through June 4, 2020, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. In December 2019, a novel strain of coronavirus surfaced in Wuhan, China, and has spread around the world, with resulting business and social disruption. The coronavirus was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization on January 30, 2020. The operations and business results of the Legion could be materially adversely affected. Significant estimates as disclosed in Note 1, fair values of investments, membership dues revenues and related expenses, and contributions, among other things, may be materially adversely impacted by national, state and local events designed to contain the coronavirus.

NOTE 2 – COLLECTIONS

The Legion owns many collectible military related items and historical documents, which were not recorded as they were acquired. It is often impracticable to determine a value for collections and accordingly, the Legion has concluded that they need not be capitalized. These items have been appraised, or are in the process of being appraised for insurance purposes and are as follows:

	Appraisal date	(unaudited) Replacement value
World War I Posters	12/10/2015	\$ 492,204
World War II Posters	12/10/2015	469,039
Military Unit Histories	12/10/2015	112,410
Fine Art Collection	12/10/2015	980,000
Museum Collection	12/10/2015	120,475

NOTE 3 – INVESTMENT IN AFFILIATE

The Legion, in conjunction with approximately 120 other organizations, has created a nonprofit corporation known as The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. ("CFA") for the purpose of aiding in the campaign to secure a constitutional amendment empowering the Congress and the States to enact legislation to protect the Flag of the United States of America from physical desecration.

CFA recognized a change in net assets of \$26,237 and \$(441) in 2019 and 2018, respectively. Accordingly, the Legion's investment in CFA has been changed by these amounts and corresponding adjustments have been reflected in unrestricted net assets for 2019 and 2018.

NOTE 4 – BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

The ALEF has been named a beneficiary of a charitable lead trust. Under the charitable trust, the ALEF is to receive quarterly distributions in the amount of \$9,919 until December 2020, or until the funds of the trust are exhausted. Based on the terms of the trust and a 1.67% discount rate in 2019 and a 3.01% discount rate in 2018, the present value of future benefits expected to be received by the ALEF is estimated to be \$36,264 and \$76,729 at December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

NOTE 5 – FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received for an asset or paid to transfer a liability (an exit price) in the Legion's principal or most advantageous market for the asset or liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date.

GAAP establishes a fair value hierarchy, which requires an entity to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. GAAP describes three levels of inputs that may be used to measure fair value:

Level 1: Quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the entity has the ability to access as of the measurement date.

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect a reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

In many cases, a valuation technique used to measure fair value includes inputs from multiple levels of the fair value hierarchy. The lowest level of significant input determines the placement of the entire fair value measurement in the hierarchy.

The fair value of money markets and common stock are based on quoted prices in active markets (Level 1 inputs). The fair value of U.S. Government obligations, corporate bonds, and state and municipal bonds are based on quoted market prices of similar securities with similar due dates using the market approach (Level 2 inputs).

The fair value of beneficial interest in trust assets is determined using the income approach and is based on a valuation model that calculates the present value of estimated distributed income. The valuation model incorporates assumptions that market participants would use in estimating future distributed income. The Legion is able to compare the valuation model inputs and results to widely available published industry data for reasonableness; however, the Legion is unable to redeem the assets of the trust and only receives distributions (Level 3 inputs).

Assets and Liabilities Measured on a Recurring Basis: Assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis are summarized below:

	Fair Value Measurements at Dec. 31, 2019 using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Assets:			
Beneficial interest in trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,264
Money market accounts	24,497,357	-	-
U.S. Government obligations	-	30,139,064	-
State and municipal bonds	-	42,225,724	-
Corporate bonds	-	46,783,508	-
Common Stock	463,148	-	-
	\$ 24,960,505	\$ 119,148,296	\$ 36,264

NOTE 5 – FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

	Fair Value Measurements at Dec. 31, 2018 using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Assets:			
Beneficial interest in trust	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,729
Money market accounts	14,158,119	-	-
U.S. Government obligations	-	42,988,776	-
State and municipal bonds	-	29,242,544	-
Corporate bonds	-	44,736,885	-
Common Stock	455,070	-	-
	<u>\$ 14,613,189</u>	<u>\$ 116,968,205</u>	<u>\$ 76,729</u>

The tables below presents a reconciliation and statement of activities classification of gains and losses for all assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis using significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018:

	Beneficial Interest in Trust
Beginning balance, January 1, 2018	\$ 114,200
Change in value of split interest agreements	2,205
Distributions from trust	(39,676)
Ending balance, December 31, 2018	<u>\$ 76,729</u>
Beginning balance, January 1, 2019	\$ 76,729
Change in value of split interest agreements	(789)
Distributions from trust	(39,676)
Ending balance, December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 36,264</u>

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

The Legion's property and equipment, and the related accumulated depreciation at December 31, 2019 and 2018 are as follows:

	2019	2018
Washington, D.C., real estate		
Land	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Building	5,661,735	5,661,735
Indianapolis real estate		
Land	389,264	389,264
Building	4,134,868	4,134,868
Furniture, fixtures and equipment		
National Headquarters, Indianapolis	6,966,263	6,946,165
Washington, D.C.	710,450	701,597
Construction in progress	975,402	-
	18,917,982	17,913,629
Less: accumulated depreciation	(14,855,902)	(14,160,338)
	<u>\$ 4,062,080</u>	<u>\$ 3,753,291</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended, December 31, 2019 and 2018 was \$726,941 and \$791,860, respectively.

NOTE 7 – LONG-TERM DEBT

In 2013, the Legion refinanced its long-term debt. Principal and interest is payable in monthly installment, with the final payment due December 3, 2020. The stated interest rate is 1.35% plus the 30-day London Inter Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR"). The outstanding balance on long-term debt is \$215,148 and \$426,698 as of December 31, 2019 and 2018.

The future maturities of the long-term debt are as follows:

2020	215,148
Total	<u>\$ 215,148</u>

Interest expense was \$12,204 and \$19,278 for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, respectively.

As a strategy to mitigate exposure to the risk of interest rate fluctuations, the Legion entered into an interest rate swap agreement on the long-term debt on December 3, 2013. This interest rate swap has been designated as a derivative and provided for the Legion to receive interest from the counterparty at the 30-day LIBOR rate plus 1.35% and to pay interest to the counterparty at fixed rate of 2.98% on a notional amount of \$215,148 and \$426,698 at December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018, respectively. The interest rate swap matures in 2020. Under the agreement, the Legion pays or receives the net interest amount monthly, with the monthly settlements included in interest expense.

NOTE 8 – LEASES

The Legion has several non-cancelable operating leases, primarily for facilities, computer equipment, and copiers that expire at various dates through 2023. Rent expense under these leases for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 was \$367,262 and \$386,313, respectively.

Minimum lease commitments are as follows:

2020	\$ 343,526
2021	327,883
2022	163,756
2023	34,218
	<u>\$ 869,383</u>

In addition, the Legion had a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis, which expired on June 30, 2013. The Legion is operating on a month-to-month basis until a new lease agreement extending the lease term is finalized. According to the terms of the lease, the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, and provide adequate insurance on the building in lieu of lease payments. The cost of maintenance for 2019 and 2018 was \$818,248 and \$901,879, respectively. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy.

NOTE 9 – PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

The National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life ("PUFL") Membership Fund are included in without donor restriction, board designated net assets and segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

Under the terms of the PUFL program, participating member's national, state and local dues are paid by the Legion for the remainder of the individual's life. Management has estimated and recognized a liability for the future payments to state and local Legion organizations. Likewise, management has deferred recognition of the national dues portion of the members' payment. Deferred PUFL dues are recognized in annual amounts equal to the national dues in effect each year. The liability and deferred revenue amounts are estimated by the Legion's actuaries using PUFL membership summaries and discount rates comparable to the Legion's recent investment performance.

NOTE 10 – RESTRICTED AND RESERVE DESIGNATED FUNDS

The restricted fund is designated for use by the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee and reported as without donor restriction, board designated net assets. Earnings of the restricted fund, along with the principal, can be expended only upon recommendation of the National Finance Commission and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of the Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income from operations to the restricted fund. The Legion made no transfers to the restricted fund in 2019 and 2018. As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, the restricted fund had an investment balance of \$35,164,769 and \$32,870,839, respectively.

The reserve fund is also designated for use by the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee and reported as without donor restriction, board designated net assets. However, earnings of the reserve fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion. The principal can be expended only by action of the Legion at its national convention, or by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than 60 days apart. As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, the reserve fund had an investment balance of \$2,197,028 and \$2,116,042, respectively.

NOTE 11 – NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTION

Net assets with donor restrictions have assets that are donor-restricted for specific purposes or have assets that represent donor-restricted gifts that have been invested and are to be maintained in perpetuity.

Income from the Samsung scholarship fund is to be used to fund undergraduate scholarships for descendants of Korean War veterans and other wars in which U.S. service men and service women participated. Income from the American Legion Endowment Fund is to be used to support the veterans affairs and rehabilitation and children and youth activities of the Legion.

At December 31, 2019 and 2018, net assets with donor restriction by specific purpose and in perpetuity are as follows:

	2019	2018
With specific purpose		
Overseas graves decoration fund	\$ 958,750	\$ 953,471
Samsung scholarship	1,942,279	1,658,791
American Legacy Fund	15,391,936	14,425,418
National Emergency Fund	7,075,265	6,146,647
Boy Scouts	467,899	467,899
Operation Comfort Warrior	3,705,001	3,270,363
John DeVore	342,187	319,164
Edwin J. Dentz VA Boy's State	631,277	617,244
Samsung American Legion Alumni Association	390,716	89,235
Commemorative coin	1,441,758	-
Others	874,520	152,540
Total with specific purpose	\$ 33,221,588	\$ 28,100,772
In perpetuity		
Samsung scholarship	5,000,000	5,000,000
American Legion Endowment Fund	9,957,846	8,599,920
Total in perpetuity	14,957,846	13,599,920
Total assets with donor restriction	\$ 48,179,434	\$ 41,700,692

NOTE 12 – NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION

Net assets were released from donor restrictions by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by donors.

	2019	2018
Purpose restrictions accomplished		
Overseas graves decoration	\$ 27,791	\$ 25,106
Scholarships and grants (including relief aid)	1,925,948	1,712,649
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and Children & Youth programs	1,767,566	931,471
	\$ 3,721,305	\$ 2,669,226

NOTE 13 – ENDOWMENT COMPOSITION

The Legion's endowments include donor restricted endowment funds that are comprised of two separate funds, the American Legion Endowment Fund and the Samsung scholarship fund. In accordance with GAAP, net assets associated with endowment funds, including funds designated by the National Executive Committee to function as endowments, are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor imposed restrictions.

Interpretation of Relevant Law: The National Executive Committee has interpreted the State of Indiana's Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act ("SPMIFA") as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Legion classifies as permanently restricted net assets (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment, (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment, and (c) net accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the governing documents of the Legion. The remaining portion of the donor restricted endowment fund that is not classified in permanently restricted net assets is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for

NOTE 13 – ENDOWMENT COMPOSITION (continued)

expenditure by the Legion in a manner consistent with the standard of prudence prescribed by SPMIFA. In accordance with SPMIFA, the Legion considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor restricted endowment funds:

- (1) The duration and preservation of the fund
- (2) The purposes of the Legion and the donor restricted endowment fund
- (3) General economic conditions
- (4) The possible effect of inflation and deflation
- (5) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- (6) Other resources of the Legion
- (7) The investment policies of the Legion

Endowment net asset composition by type of fund as of December 31, 2019:

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Donor restricted endowment funds	\$ 56,600	\$ 16,929,275	\$ 16,985,875
Total Funds	\$ 56,600	\$ 16,929,275	\$ 16,985,875

Endowment net asset composition by type of fund as of December 31, 2018:

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Donor restricted endowment funds	\$ 270	\$ 15,258,711	\$ 15,258,981
Total Funds	\$ 270	\$ 15,258,711	\$ 15,258,981

Changes in endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2019:

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 270	\$ 15,258,711	\$ 15,258,981
Investment gain:			
Investment income, net of fees	47,872	422,518	470,390
Net depreciation (realized and unrealized)	53,863	580,626	634,489
Total investment gain	101,735	1,003,144	1,104,879
New gifts	-	1,147,682	1,147,682
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	(45,405)	(480,262)	(525,667)
Net assets, end of year	\$ 56,600	\$ 16,929,275	\$ 16,985,875

Changes in endowment net assets for the year ended December 31, 2018:

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 457	\$ 15,090,894	\$ 15,091,351
Investment gain/(loss)			
Investment income, net of fees	43,767	395,371	439,138
Net depreciation (realized and unrealized)	(22,117)	(393,479)	(415,596)
Total investment gain	21,650	1,892	23,542
New gifts	-	653,274	653,274
Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure	(21,837)	(487,349)	(509,186)
Net assets, end of year	\$ 270	\$ 15,258,711	\$ 15,258,981

Return Objectives and Risk Parameters: The Legion has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment assets. Endowment assets include those assets of donor-restricted funds that the Legion must hold in perpetuity or for a donor-specified period(s). Under this policy, as approved by the National Executive Committee, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to produce income while assuming a low level of investment risk.

Strategies Employed for Achieving Objectives: To satisfy its long-term rate-of-return objectives, the Legion relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends). The Legion targets fixed income securities to achieve its long-term return objectives within prudent risk constraints.

Spending Policy and How the Investment Objectives Relate to Spending Policy: Realized and unrealized gains/losses are added to the principal of the American Legion Endowment Fund and distributions are limited to cumulative interest, net of fees. On the Samsung scholarship fund, the capital appreciation can be spent, along with the interest, net of fees, according to the spending policy. Endowment fund principal, unless otherwise directed by the donor, shall not be disbursed except for emergency situations. In order to make a principal disbursement, a majority vote by the Legion National Executive Committee will be required.

Funds with Deficiencies: From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor of SPMIFA requires the Legion to retain as a fund of perpetual duration. As of December 31, 2019 and 2018, the Legion did not have any funds with deficiencies.

NOTE 14 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Legion has a 401(k) savings plan with a qualified automatic contribution arrangement that was effective July 1, 2008. The plan calls for a 100% match of the first 1% contributed by the employee and a 50% match of the next 5% contributed by the employee. Thus, the maximum matching percentage an employee will receive is 3.5%. The Legion made contributions of \$365,022 and \$405,316 in 2019 and 2018, respectively.

NOTE 14 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

The Legion has two defined-benefit pension plans. The first plan (Plan A) covers substantially all of its employees as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to Plan A are made by the Legion, and other participating groups, on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. The second plan (Plan B) covers substantially all of its employees. The plan was established in October of 2016 and was effective January 1, 2017. Contributions to Plan B are made by the Legion on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

In May 2008, the Legion voted to freeze the Plan A effective June 30, 2008. The result of the freeze is that current employees still received the benefits they had earned as of June 30, 2008, but no future benefits were earned and no new employees were added.

The following table sets forth the Legion's portion of Plan A's funded status and amounts recognized in the Legion's consolidated statement of financial position at December 31, 2019 and 2018:

	2019	2018
Benefit obligation	\$ (59,971,338)	\$ (56,910,890)
Fair value of plan assets	44,389,962	42,739,269
Funded status	<u>\$ (15,581,376)</u>	<u>\$ (14,171,621)</u>
Interest cost	\$ 2,202,980	\$ 2,015,470
Actual loss (return) on assets	(5,213,436)	684,408
Amortization of prior service costs	442,267	442,267
Amortization of loss	1,996,688	2,208,584
Difference between expected and actual return on assets	2,359,848	(3,822,680)
Net periodic pension cost	<u>\$ 1,788,347</u>	<u>\$ 1,528,049</u>
Net gain (loss)	\$ 63,675	\$ (1,887,949)
Prior service cost	(442,267)	(442,267)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	<u>\$ (378,592)</u>	<u>\$ (2,330,216)</u>
Prepaid benefit cost	\$ 5,166,034	\$ 6,954,381
Accumulated benefit obligation	59,971,338	56,910,890
Vested benefit obligation	59,014,117	55,894,475
Net periodic pension cost	1,788,347	1,528,049
Benefits paid	3,562,743	3,382,363
Measurement date	12/31/2019	12/31/2018

Estimated future benefit payments:

2020	\$ 3,761,044
2021	3,778,132
2022	3,822,272
2023	3,828,737
2024	3,779,083

The asset investment policy is a lower risk strategy with the primary objective of preservation of capital with an emphasis on long-term growth and generation of current income to provide adequate cash flow needed for benefit payments. The target asset allocation is 0-20% in cash or cash equivalents, 40-70% in fixed income and 30-60% in equities. Prohibited investments include real estate investment trusts, real estate partnerships, mutual funds, private equity, hedge funds and guaranteed investment certificates.

The fair value of Plan A assets at December 31, 2019 and 2018 are as follows. See Note 5 for descriptions of inputs for each type of asset.

	Fair Value Measurements at Dec. 31, 2019, using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Accrued interest	\$ 239,242	\$ -	\$ -
Money market accounts	2,000,374	-	-
U.S. Government and agency obligations	-	4,820,249	-
Municipal bonds	-	5,812,686	-
Corporate bonds	-	16,740,929	-
Common stock:			
Materials	437,671	-	-
Industrials	1,299,715	-	-
Consumer discretionary	1,178,680	-	-
Consumer staples	1,150,380	-	-
Energy	706,459	-	-
Health care	2,367,315	-	-
Financials	2,123,496	-	-
Telecommunication	1,564,105	-	-
Technology	3,528,392	-	-
Utilities	420,269	-	-
	<u>\$ 17,016,098</u>	<u>\$ 27,373,864</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

NOTE 14 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

	Fair Value Measurements at Dec. 31, 2018, using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Accrued interest	\$ 258,936	\$ -	\$ -
Money market accounts	873,336	-	-
U.S. Government and agency obligations	-	10,173,194	-
Asset backed securities	-	637,123	-
Municipal bonds	-	3,971,276	-
Corporate bonds	-	15,075,278	-
Common stock:			
Materials	320,739	-	-
Industrials	788,041	-	-
Consumer discretionary	750,589	-	-
Consumer staples	885,548	-	-
Energy	576,777	-	-
Health care	2,137,164	-	-
Financials	2,159,984	-	-
Telecommunication	821,890	-	-
Technology	2,765,154	-	-
Utilities	544,240	-	-
	<u>\$ 12,882,398</u>	<u>\$ 29,856,871</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Historical returns of multiple asset classes were analyzed to develop a risk free real rate of return and risk premium for each asset class. The overall rate for each asset class was developed by combining a long-term inflation component, the risk free real rate of return, and the associated risk premium. A weighted average rate was developed based on those overall rates and the target asset allocation of the plan.

Weighted-average assumptions	2019	2018
Discount rate	2.94%	4.01%
Expected return on plan assets	7.00	7.00
Rate of compensation increase	0.00	0.00

The amounts of net loss and net prior service cost expected to be recognized as components of net periodic benefit cost for the year ending December 31, 2019 are \$1,996,688 and \$442,267, respectively.

The following table sets forth Plan B's funded status and amounts recognized in the Legion's consolidated statement of financial position at December 31, 2019 and 2018:

	2019	2018
Benefit obligation	\$ (7,499,979)	\$ (5,127,475)
Fair value of plan assets	2,371,555	1,460,717
Funded status	<u>\$ (5,128,424)</u>	<u>\$ (3,666,758)</u>
Service cost	\$ 584,473	\$ 653,399
Interest cost	215,705	185,551
Actual loss (return) on assets	(88,808)	112,162
Amortization of prior service costs	370,027	370,027
Amortization of loss	-	53,533
Difference between expected and actual return on assets	(35,074)	(180,416)
Net periodic pension cost	<u>\$ 1,046,323</u>	<u>\$ 1,194,256</u>
Net loss	\$ 785,370	\$ (1,633,140)
Prior service cost	(370,027)	(370,027)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	<u>\$ 415,343</u>	<u>\$ (2,003,167)</u>
Prepaid benefit cost	\$ (829,305)	\$ (651,075)
Accumulated benefit obligation	4,067,950	1,254,953
Vested benefit obligation	4,765,899	1,453,765
Net periodic pension cost	1,046,323	1,194,256
Benefits paid	46,063	17,975
Measurement date	12/31/2019	12/31/2018

Estimated future benefit payments:

2020	94,456
2021	107,083
2022	132,704
2023	171,828
2024	199,740
Years 2025-2029	1,715,025

The asset investment policy is a lower risk strategy with the primary objective of preservation of capital with an emphasis on long-term growth and generation of current income to provide adequate cash flow needed for benefit payments. The target asset allocation is 0-20% in cash or cash equivalents, 40-70% in fixed income and 30-60% in equities. Prohibited investments include real estate investment trusts, real estate partnerships, mutual funds, private equity, hedge funds and guaranteed investment certificates.

The fair value of Plan B assets at December 31, 2019 and 2018 are as follows. See Note 5 for descriptions of inputs for each type of asset

NOTE 14 – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

	Fair Value Measurements at Dec. 31, 2019 using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Accrued interest	\$ 12,823	\$ -	\$ -
Money market accounts	31,639	-	-
U.S. government and agency obligations	-	501,794	-
Municipal bonds	-	513,236	-
Corporate bonds	-	673,406	-
Common stock:	-	-	-
Materials	20,360	-	-
Industrials	57,136	-	-
Consumer discretionary	55,507	-	-
Consumer staples	52,048	-	-
Energy	32,276	-	-
Health care	107,157	-	-
Financials	98,897	-	-
Technology	125,527	-	-
Utilities	19,771	-	-
	<u>\$ 683,119</u>	<u>\$ 1,688,436</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

	Fair Value Measurements at Dec. 31, 2018 using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
Accrued interest	\$ 7,941	\$ -	\$ -
Money market accounts	31,639	-	-
U.S. government and agency obligations	-	497,647	-
Municipal bonds	-	49,579	-
Corporate bonds	-	467,949	-
Common stock:	-	-	-
Materials	11,334	-	-
Industrials	19,698	-	-
Consumer discretionary	27,082	-	-
Consumer staples	30,969	-	-
Energy	20,378	-	-
Health care	75,383	-	-
Financials	76,043	-	-
Telecommunication	29,247	-	-
Technology	96,758	-	-
Utilities	19,070	-	-
	<u>\$ 445,542</u>	<u>\$ 1,015,175</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Historical returns of multiple asset classes were analyzed to develop a risk free real rate of return and risk premium for each asset class. The overall rate for each asset class was developed by combining a long-term inflation component, the risk free real rate of return, and the associated risk premium. A weighted average rate was developed based on those overall rates and the target asset allocation of the plan.

Weighted-average assumptions	2019	2018
Discount rate	3.21%	3.62%
Expected return on plan assets	7.00	7.00
Rate of compensation increase	3.00	3.00

The amounts of net loss and net prior service cost expected to be recognized as components of net periodic benefit cost for the year ending December 31, 2019 are \$0 and \$370,027, respectively.

NOTE 15 – LIQUIDITY AND AVAILABILITY

The Legion's financial assets available within one year of the statement of financial position date for general expenditure are as follows:

	2019	2018
Financial assets at year-end:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,312,619	\$ 3,012,220
Accounts receivable, net	7,123,577	5,460,308
Interest receivable	1,008,765	885,540
Investments	131,581,394	131,581,394
Total financial assets	<u>154,553,762</u>	<u>140,939,462</u>
Less amounts not available for general expenditure within one year:		
Donor-restricted endowment funds	(14,921,582)	(13,523,191)
Financial assets not available to be used within one year	<u>(14,921,582)</u>	<u>(13,523,191)</u>
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 139,632,180</u>	<u>\$ 127,416,271</u>

As part of the Legion's liquidity management, the Legion invests its financial assets to be available as its general expenditures, liabilities, and other obligations come due.

NOTE 16 – LITIGATION

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial statements of the Legion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2019

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Charities	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Eliminations	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,051,217	\$ 303,982	\$ 606,454	\$ 350,966	\$ -	\$ 2,312,619
Accounts receivable	6,959,578	107,291	124,724	5,665	(73,681)	7,123,577
Interest receivable	818,879	43,316	86,851	59,719	-	1,008,765
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,403,235	-	-	-	-	2,403,235
Deferred membership expense	4,183,155	-	-	-	-	4,183,155
Due from American Legion Endowment Fund	2,000,000	-	-	-	(2,000,000)	-
Inventory	3,508,922	-	-	-	-	3,508,922
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	37,307	-	-	-	-	37,307
Beneficial interest in trust	-	-	36,264	-	-	36,264
	<u>20,962,293</u>	<u>454,589</u>	<u>854,293</u>	<u>416,350</u>	<u>(2,073,681)</u>	<u>20,613,844</u>
Investments						
General	21,551,828	-	-	-	-	21,551,828
Segregated for Restricted and Reserved funds	37,361,797	-	-	-	-	37,361,797
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership fund	26,539,113	-	-	-	-	26,539,113
Samsung scholarship fund	7,869,826	-	-	-	-	7,869,826
Building funds	7,254,020	-	-	-	-	7,254,020
Sept. 11 Memorial scholarship fund	16,341,850	-	-	-	-	16,341,850
Special account – Endowment Fund	-	-	2,068,042	-	-	2,068,042
General account – Endowment Fund	-	-	9,094,112	-	-	9,094,112
National Emergency Fund	-	-	-	6,658,915	-	6,658,915
American Legion Charities	-	5,255,325	-	-	-	5,255,325
Other	4,315,975	-	-	-	-	4,315,975
	<u>121,034,407</u>	<u>5,255,325</u>	<u>11,160,154</u>	<u>6,658,915</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,108,801</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	4,062,080	-	-	-	-	4,062,080
	<u>\$ 146,058,780</u>	<u>\$ 5,709,914</u>	<u>\$ 12,014,447</u>	<u>\$ 7,075,265</u>	<u>\$ (2,073,681)</u>	<u>\$ 168,784,725</u>
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$ 4,761,185	\$ 90,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (73,681)	\$ 4,777,975
Scholarships payable	1,589,399	-	-	-	-	1,589,399
Due to American Legion National Headquarters	-	-	2,000,000	-	(2,000,000)	-
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	586,078	-	-	-	-	586,078
Deferred income	1,439,307	-	-	-	-	1,439,307
Deferred dues income	24,071,863	-	-	-	-	24,071,863
Deferred income – direct membership solicitation	3,428,607	-	-	-	-	3,428,607
Accrued vacation benefits	802,152	-	-	-	-	802,152
Accrued pension expense	20,709,800	-	-	-	-	20,709,800
Other liabilities	1,323,678	-	-	-	-	1,323,678
Notes payable	215,148	-	-	-	-	215,148
Deferred dues income – Paid-Up-For-Life Membership	23,908,398	-	-	-	-	23,908,398
Life memberships due to state and local posts	26,766,460	-	-	-	-	26,766,460
	<u>109,602,075</u>	<u>90,471</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,073,681)</u>	<u>109,618,865</u>
NET ASSETS						
Without donor restriction	9,116,245	1,813,581	56,800	-	-	10,986,626
With donor restriction	27,340,460	3,805,862	9,957,847	7,075,265	-	48,179,434
Total net assets	<u>36,456,705</u>	<u>5,619,443</u>	<u>10,014,647</u>	<u>7,075,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,165,800</u>
	<u>\$ 146,058,780</u>	<u>\$ 5,709,914</u>	<u>\$ 12,014,447</u>	<u>\$ 7,075,265</u>	<u>\$ (2,073,681)</u>	<u>\$ 168,784,725</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2018

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Charities	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Eliminations	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,145,854	\$ 493,954	\$ 105,199	\$ 267,413	\$ -	\$ 3,012,220
Accounts receivable	5,430,308	272,534	311,874	2,680	(557,088)	5,460,308
Interest receivable	733,983	38,583	59,345	53,629	-	885,540
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,755,099	-	-	-	-	2,755,099
Deferred membership expense	4,077,478	-	-	-	-	4,077,478
Due from American Legion Endowment Fund	2,000,000	-	-	-	(2,000,000)	-
Inventory	2,861,202	-	-	-	-	2,861,202
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	11,070	-	-	-	-	11,070
Beneficial interest in trust	-	-	76,729	-	-	76,729
	<u>20,014,794</u>	<u>805,071</u>	<u>553,147</u>	<u>323,722</u>	<u>(2,557,088)</u>	<u>19,139,646</u>
Investments						
General	18,387,061	-	-	-	-	18,387,061
Segregated for Restricted and Reserved funds	34,986,881	-	-	-	-	34,986,881
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership fund	25,452,708	-	-	-	-	25,452,708
Samsung scholarship fund	7,209,799	-	-	-	-	7,209,799
Building funds	6,501,856	-	-	-	-	6,501,856
Sept. 11 Memorial scholarship fund	14,349,042	-	-	-	-	14,349,042
Special account – Endowment Fund	-	-	2,009,882	-	-	2,009,882
General account – Endowment Fund	-	-	8,037,160	-	-	8,037,160
National Emergency Fund	-	-	-	5,822,925	-	5,822,925
American Legion Charities	-	5,006,983	-	-	-	5,006,983
Other	3,817,097	-	-	-	-	3,817,097
	<u>110,704,444</u>	<u>5,006,983</u>	<u>10,047,042</u>	<u>5,822,925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>131,581,394</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	3,753,291	-	-	-	-	3,753,291
	<u>\$ 134,472,529</u>	<u>\$ 5,812,054</u>	<u>\$ 10,600,189</u>	<u>\$ 6,146,647</u>	<u>\$ (2,557,088)</u>	<u>\$ 154,474,331</u>
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$ 3,747,879	\$ 803,541	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (557,088)	\$ 3,994,332
Scholarships payable	1,406,831	-	-	-	-	1,406,831
Due to American Legion National Headquarters	-	-	2,000,000	-	(2,000,000)	-
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	453,450	-	-	-	-	453,450
Deferred income	1,416,956	-	-	-	-	1,416,956
Deferred dues income	24,893,121	-	-	-	-	24,893,121
Deferred income – direct membership solicitation	3,382,071	-	-	-	-	3,382,071
Accrued vacation benefits	754,932	-	-	-	-	754,932
Accrued pension expense	17,838,379	-	-	-	-	17,838,379
Other liabilities	1,044,811	-	-	-	-	1,044,811
Notes payable	426,698	-	-	-	-	426,698
Deferred dues income – Paid-Up-For-Life Membership	22,367,575	-	-	-	-	22,367,575
Life memberships due to state and local posts	25,041,442	-	-	-	-	25,041,442
	<u>102,774,145</u>	<u>803,541</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,557,088)</u>	<u>103,020,598</u>
NET ASSETS						
Without donor restriction	8,113,877	1,638,895	269	-	-	9,753,041
With donor restriction	23,584,507	3,369,618	8,599,920	6,146,647	-	41,700,692
Total net assets	<u>31,698,384</u>	<u>5,008,513</u>	<u>8,600,189</u>	<u>6,146,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,453,733</u>
	<u>\$ 134,472,529</u>	<u>\$ 5,812,054</u>	<u>\$ 10,600,189</u>	<u>\$ 6,146,647</u>	<u>\$ (2,557,088)</u>	<u>\$ 154,474,331</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended December 31, 2019

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Charities	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Eliminations	Total
Revenue, gains and other support						
National member dues	\$ 29,293,372	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,293,372
Direct membership solicitation	5,887,420	-	-	-	-	5,887,420
Member service fees income	449,344	-	-	-	-	449,344
Affinity income	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Sales of emblem items	14,283,830	-	-	-	-	14,283,830
Advertising	8,032,884	-	-	-	-	8,032,884
Contributions	16,193,544	1,157,564	1,147,882	492,945	(379,855)	18,611,880
Label and printing fees	347,473	-	-	-	-	347,473
Interest and dividends, net of fees	2,657,809	107,870	241,141	184,455	25,710	3,216,785
Net realized losses - investments	(211,077)	(7,579)	(1,065)	(53,320)	-	(273,041)
American Legion Endowment Fund income	211,372	-	-	-	(211,372)	-
Other	4,879,574	-	-	-	(25,710)	4,853,864
	<u>86,025,345</u>	<u>1,257,855</u>	<u>1,387,758</u>	<u>624,080</u>	<u>(591,227)</u>	<u>88,703,811</u>
Expenses						
Salaries	14,587,909	-	-	-	-	14,587,909
Employee benefits	6,662,698	-	-	-	-	6,662,698
Cost of sales - Legion	7,834,317	-	-	-	-	7,834,317
Department and magazine costs	1,381,692	-	-	-	-	1,381,692
Direct publications	10,004,545	-	-	-	-	10,004,545
Executive, staff and program travel	3,666,781	-	5,117	-	-	3,671,898
Commission and committee	1,772,354	-	-	-	-	1,772,354
Printing and postage	14,480,642	-	-	-	-	14,480,642
Scholarships, grants and awards	2,904,280	711,033	211,372	88,445	(591,227)	3,323,903
Office and other operating	14,441,664	30,852	22,184	663	-	14,495,363
Occupancy and usage	2,197,550	-	-	-	-	2,197,550
Special projects and programs	3,651,964	157,460	-	-	-	3,809,444
	<u>83,586,396</u>	<u>899,345</u>	<u>238,673</u>	<u>89,108</u>	<u>(591,227)</u>	<u>84,222,295</u>
Change in net assets from operations	2,438,949	358,510	1,149,085	534,972	-	4,481,516
Net unrealized gains - investments	3,855,405	252,420	265,173	393,646	-	4,766,644
Net change in PUFL	497,406	-	-	-	-	497,406
Amortization of pension loss	(1,996,688)	-	-	-	-	(1,996,688)
Pension-related changes other than net periodic pension cost	(36,751)	-	-	-	-	(36,751)
Change in net assets	4,758,321	610,930	1,414,258	928,618	-	7,712,127
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>31,698,384</u>	<u>5,008,513</u>	<u>8,600,189</u>	<u>6,146,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,453,733</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 36,456,705</u>	<u>\$ 5,619,443</u>	<u>\$ 10,014,447</u>	<u>\$ 7,075,265</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 59,165,860</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
Year ended December 31, 2018

	American Legion National Headquarters	American Legion Charities	American Legion Endowment Fund	National Emergency Fund	Eliminations	Total
ASSETS						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,145,654	\$ 493,954	\$ 105,199	\$ 267,413	\$ -	\$ 3,012,220
Accounts receivable	5,430,308	272,534	311,874	2,680	(557,088)	5,460,308
Interest receivable	733,983	38,583	59,345	53,629	-	885,540
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,755,099	-	-	-	-	2,755,099
Deferred membership expense	4,077,478	-	-	-	-	4,077,478
Due from American Legion Endowment Fund	2,000,000	-	-	-	(2,000,000)	-
Inventory	2,861,202	-	-	-	-	2,861,202
Investment in affiliate (CFA)	11,070	-	-	-	-	11,070
Beneficial interest in trust	-	-	76,729	-	-	76,729
	<u>20,014,794</u>	<u>805,071</u>	<u>553,147</u>	<u>323,722</u>	<u>(2,557,088)</u>	<u>19,139,646</u>
Investments						
General	18,387,061	-	-	-	-	18,387,061
Segregated for Restricted and Reserved funds	34,986,881	-	-	-	-	34,986,881
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership fund	25,452,708	-	-	-	-	25,452,708
Samsung scholarship fund	7,209,799	-	-	-	-	7,209,799
Building funds	6,501,856	-	-	-	-	6,501,856
Sept. 11 Memorial scholarship fund	14,349,042	-	-	-	-	14,349,042
Special account – Endowment Fund	-	-	2,009,882	-	-	2,009,882
General account – Endowment Fund	-	-	8,037,160	-	-	8,037,160
National Emergency Fund	-	-	-	5,822,925	-	5,822,925
American Legion Charities	-	5,006,983	-	-	-	5,006,983
Other	3,817,097	-	-	-	-	3,817,097
	<u>110,704,444</u>	<u>5,006,983</u>	<u>10,047,042</u>	<u>5,822,925</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>131,581,394</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	3,753,291	-	-	-	-	3,753,291
	<u>\$ 134,472,529</u>	<u>\$ 5,812,054</u>	<u>\$ 10,600,189</u>	<u>\$ 6,146,647</u>	<u>\$ (2,557,088)</u>	<u>\$ 154,474,331</u>
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable	\$ 3,747,879	\$ 803,541	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (557,088)	\$ 3,994,332
Scholarships payable	1,406,831	-	-	-	-	1,406,831
Due to American Legion National Headquarters	-	-	2,000,000	-	(2,000,000)	-
Deposits on emblem merchandise sales	453,450	-	-	-	-	453,450
Deferred income	1,416,956	-	-	-	-	1,416,956
Deferred dues income	24,893,121	-	-	-	-	24,893,121
Deferred income – direct membership solicitation	3,382,071	-	-	-	-	3,382,071
Accrued vacation benefits	754,932	-	-	-	-	754,932
Accrued pension expense	17,838,379	-	-	-	-	17,838,379
Other liabilities	1,044,811	-	-	-	-	1,044,811
Notes payable	426,698	-	-	-	-	426,698
Deferred dues income – Paid-Up-For-Life Membership	22,367,575	-	-	-	-	22,367,575
Life memberships due to state and local posts	25,041,442	-	-	-	-	25,041,442
	<u>102,774,145</u>	<u>803,541</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,557,088)</u>	<u>103,020,598</u>
NET ASSETS						
Without donor restriction	8,113,877	1,638,896	269	-	-	9,753,041
With donor restriction	23,584,507	3,369,818	8,599,920	6,146,647	-	41,700,892
Total net assets	<u>31,698,384</u>	<u>5,008,714</u>	<u>8,600,189</u>	<u>6,146,647</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,453,733</u>
	<u>\$ 134,472,529</u>	<u>\$ 5,812,054</u>	<u>\$ 10,600,189</u>	<u>\$ 6,146,647</u>	<u>\$ (2,557,088)</u>	<u>\$ 154,474,331</u>