



PROCEEDINGS AND MINUTES
of
American Legion Auxiliary
One-Hundred First National Convention

August 27, 2022 – September 1, 2022
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**NATIONAL OFFICERS
2021-2022**

National President

Kathy Daudistel, Department of Kentucky

National Vice President

Vickie Koutz, Department of Indiana

Division National Vice Presidents

Central: Denise Delaney-Wrolen, Department of Indiana

Eastern: Marie Pytka

Northwestern: Dee Dee Buckley (*absent*)

Southern: Gabriele Barnett (*absent*)

Western: Toni Gimpel

National Chaplain

Carol T. Robinson, Department of Ohio

National Historian

Carol Campbell, Department of Virginia

National Secretary

Coral May Grout, Department of Massachusetts

National Treasurer

Marybeth Revoir, Department of Illinois

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022**

Call to Order8
National President’s Report8
Consent Agenda14
Interim Executive Director’s Report.....15
National Treasurer Report15
Finance Committee Report16
Risk & Compliance Committee Report17
Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report17
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Special Committee Report27
Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee Report 32
Session Adjourned to reconvene 8/29/22.....42

**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CONTINUED
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022**

Call to Order43
National Secretary Report.....43
Ethical Conduct Review Policy44
Session Adjourned to Executive Session.....48

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022**

Call to Order50
Committee on Credentials Report.....57
Committee on Rules Report.....58
Convention Program Report58
National Junior Activities Committee Report.....59
ALA Girls National Committee Report61
National Poppy Committee Report66
National Americanism Committee Report.....69
National Education Committee Report.....70
National Children & Youth Committee Report72
Child Welfare Foundation Report.....74
National Leadership Committee Report82
National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Report85

National Membership Committee Report.....	88
Session Adjourned.....	91

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022**

Call to Order.....	92
National Security Program Report	94
ALA Foundation Board President’s Report	103
National Treasurer Report	105
National Finance Committee Report	107
National Secretary Report	110
Interim Executive Director Report	112
National Constitution & Bylaws Committee Report.....	114
Bundled Amendments No. 1A & 1B.....	118
Bundled Amendments No. 2-11	125
Amendment No. 12	126
Bundled Amendments Nos.13A, B, D	140
Amendment No. 13C.....	141
Amendment No. 14A	144
Bundled Amendments No. 14B & D.....	145
Amendment No. 14C.....	146
Amendment No. 15	149
Session Adjourned.....	150

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022**

Call to Order.....	151
Nomination of National Officers.....	152
Nominee remarks	160
Election of National Officers.....	164
National Legislative Committee Report.....	167
National Public Relations Committee Report.....	168
National Auxiliary Emergency Fund Report.....	170
National Chaplain’s Report	171
National Historian’s Report.....	175
Resolution Committee Report.....	176
Convention Adjourned	188

**POST-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

Call to Order	192
Consent Agenda.....	193
Report of Interim Executive Director	194
Adoption of Resolution on Corporate Officers	197
National Secretary Report.....	197
National Treasurer Report.....	197
National Finance Committee Report.....	198
Adoption of ALA Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.....	202
Report of ALA Foundation Board President	203
Adoption of ALA Foundation Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.....	203
Report of Risk & Compliance Committee.....	204
Adjournment to Executive Session.....	207

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: MINUTES – 2021-2022 NEC Meeting.....	208
APPENDIX B: MINUTES – 2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION.....	200
APPENDIX C: MINUTES – 2022-2023 NEC Meeting.....	200
APPENDIX D: CONVENTION AWARDS PRESENTED.....	200

**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

National Officers

National President Kathy Daudistel
National Vice President Vickie Koutz
Central Division National Vice President Denise Delaney-Wrolen
Eastern Division National Vice President Marie Pytka
Northwestern Division National Vice President Dee Dee Buckley (*absent*)
Southern Division National Vice President Gabriele Barnett (*absent*)
Western Division National Vice President Toni Gimpel
National Chaplain Carol T. Robinson
National Historian Carol Campbell
National Secretary Coral May Grout
National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir

Past National Presidents

Carlene Ashworth
Linda Boone
Nancy Brown-Park
Nicole Clapp
Sharon Conatser
Mary E. Davis
Diane Duscheck
Janet Jefford
Linda Newsome
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Desiree Stoy
Peggy Thomas
Kristine West

National Executive Committee members

Alabama Judy Daughtry
Alaska Penny Mazonna
Arizona Patricia Lugo
Arkansas Nancy French (*absent*)
California..... Joan Cannon
Colorado ALT Patricia Murray
Connecticut..... Debra Knickerbocker
Delaware Deborah Guenther
District of Columbia Lauren Lloyd
Florida Mary Kelly-Perkins

Georgia	Valerie Brown-Debro
Hawaii	Brister Thomas
Idaho	Carol Daulton
Illinois	ALT Patti Williamson
Indiana	Jennie Maune
Iowa	<i>Kelly Elliott (absent)</i>
Kansas	Paula Sellens
Kentucky	Bonita Robey
Louisiana	<i>Mary Cauthen (absent)</i>
Maine	Joan Caron
Maryland	<i>Alta Gtofely (absent)</i>
Massachusetts	Donna Blattenberger
Michigan	Georgia Downs
Minnesota	Raleen Tolzmann
Mississippi	Mary Smith-Ried
Missouri	Marsha Mooney
Montana	ALT Kathryn Long
Nebraska	<i>Kathleen Mazur (absent)</i>
Nevada	Glynis Seeley
New Hampshire	ALT Donna Bryant
New Jersey	ALT Margaret McMahon
New Mexico	<i>Cecilia Martinez (absent)</i>
New York	Patricia Hennessy
North Carolina	Janice MacLeod
North Dakota	Tammy Ryberg
Ohio	ALT Colleen Phillips
Oklahoma	Jody Chisolm
Oregon	ALT Jody Marsh
Pennsylvania	ALT Patricia Carnes
Puerto Rico	ALT Maria Montañez
Rhode Island	Cathleen Camire
South Carolina	Roberta Sinner
South Dakota	<i>Laura "Susie" Clyde (absent)</i>
Tennessee	<i>Rhonda Davidson (absent)</i>
Texas	Christine Trahan
Utah	<i>Judy Daybell (absent)</i>
Vermont	Corrinna Colson
Virginia	Lisa Chaplin
Washington	Laura Bondurant
West Virginia	Rhonda Best
Wisconsin	<i>Bonnie Jakubczyk (absent)</i>
Wyoming	Vicki Paddock

**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Love it. All right. The National Executive Committee Meeting will now come to order. Please place all electronic devices in the silent mode and stand for the opening ceremonies. Our National Chaplain Carol T. Robinson will lead us in our invocation and moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those currently serving our nation.

Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Norma Tramm will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Pam Ray, leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution. Carol.

MS. ROBINSON: Good morning. As we pray each in our own faith, may we please clear our heads and open our hearts. First, before I go into my prayer, I'd like to have a moment of silence.

Heavenly Father, first and foremost, we come to you in gratitude for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us. As we gather for this executive meeting, give us the use of your gift of peace and understanding that we may approach the matters we must handle with sincere and just hearts. Direct our thoughts and our deliberations, so we may exhibit fair judgment and understanding of the submitted issues. Direct us so that we may perform our duties faithfully and efficiently.

Gracious Father, we ask that you be with our servicemen and women who are protecting our freedom and the freedom of others. Please be with their families and give them strength as they wait at home for their loved ones to return. All this we ask in your precious name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

MS. TRAMM: With nothing in your hands, please join me in the pledge.

VOICES: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(Singing.)

VOICES: For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom,
and democracy;
To participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and
purposes of The American Legion;
To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual
helpfulness.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We are compelled to never forget that while
we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still
be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment. Before we
begin our activities this morning, we pause to remember our POWs and
MIAs.

(Ring of bell.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This meeting of the National Executive
Committee is now convened. Welcome, everyone. It's so exciting to see you
all here.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's so great to be here together for an in-
person 101st National Convention in beautiful Milwaukee. As you all know,
serving on the National Board is a great responsibility and you have all served
us well. I appreciate you and thank you very much for your dedication to this
organization.

Today, as we conduct our business, it is my hope that you will ask
questions, make informed decisions about each issue presented. Your input is
very valuable and we want to hear it. Please remember to make your way to a
microphone each time you wish to speak as this is the only way your remarks
can be heard for the court reporter's transcripts of the meeting.

When you entered the room today, your attendance was recorded
electronically by our hard-working National Headquarters team. If you have
questions regarding your attendance, please see someone from Headquarters
at the end of the meeting.

Soon, at this time, it's my pleasure to announce the head table. I'm going
to start with my National Vice President Vickie Koutz.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: My Central Division National Vice
President Denise Delaney-Wrolen.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our Eastern Division National Vice
President Marie Pytko.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our Southern Division National Vice
President Dee Dee -- or Gabriele -- sorry, Gabriele -- Gabriele Barnett.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I was thinking of something. Dee Dee
Buckley is our Northwestern Division National Vice President and she could
not make it today. So if you will keep her in your prayers, it would be greatly

appreciated. She was very disappointed but --

Toni Gimpel, our Western Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Carol Campbell, the National Historian.

Where'd she go.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Coral May Grout, National Secretary.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Marybeth Revoir, our National Treasurer.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Sara Riegel, Interim Executive Director.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Chris Dickey, our Convention
Parliamentarian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And Carol T., our National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I would never forget you Carol T. And I
would like to introduce you to my National Presidents pages for this week.
And if you have any questions, they can help you maybe. They're in a -- I
don't know where one of them went. Oh, Karen Toll's over here. She's my
sister.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Doug McQuire is over here.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Marie Shouse is right next to him.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And (indiscernible) is in the back.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: At this time, I would like to have all of our
past National Presidents, our great past National Presidents, please stand for
recognition.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm trying to get into the past National
President Club, so I'm being nice. Unless Vickie wants me to stay. No. This
convention NEC meeting is again sponsored by our good friends at
ShipThrifty. When ShipThrifty co-founders, Rob and Michelle Williamson's
friend, was deployed, they learned just how complicated and stressful military
shipping could be, and decided if they could do something to make it better
for service members and their families and all of us.

The team learned the ins and outs of military shipping and created tools
built to make the military shipping process simpler. Today, ShipThrifty
happily serves military families making it possible for them to ship with ease.
So let's give a big warm welcome to Rob and Michelle from ShipThrifty, the
sponsor of today's meetings.

(Applause.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: They are putting us together today. I don't know if that's going to reg. So thank you for having us back. This is our second year here at the NEC meeting. We've made some great friends in the ALA over the past year working with you folks on shipping. And I was going to say how many of you have heard of us, but now everybody's heard of us thanks to Kathy. So we'll do a quick talk here and I'll turn it over to Rob for a second.

MR. WILLIAMSON: Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. WILLIAMSON: This is Rob. It's great to see all the smiling faces and we're glad to be in Milwaukee. We started the ShipThrifty in 2017, as she mentioned, really because we saw what you see in that image. We saw people that were waiting in line, we saw clerks at the post office, in the UPS store that were struggling to type everything in, and we saw just kind of something that needed to be improved.

And with our backgrounds, we thought, okay, technology allows that whole process to be happen -- you know, to happen in your bathrobe at your kitchen table, so why not do that? Why not allow people to enter that information, create their own label, so they can just drop it off, or have their postal carrier just pick it up and it's prepaid and ready to go.

And so, this is why we do what we do. It makes a big difference for military families. It makes a big difference for care package organizations and ALA chapters, and folks sending to the military, which in turns provides a lot of support. But the downside of it is today most people have no idea they could do this themselves. They can create their own labels.

And so, when we kind of run numbers, it's a lot of dollars that are unnecessarily spent. And if you save those dollars, as you're all well know, it's more money in the budget to do other things. And so if you would -- next slide, please.

So we urge everyone we talk to as gracefully as possible, you know, do it online, if you can with us, with -- there are other services, which we will talk about, but it's just a lot simpler and it's so much better for the postal employees. And in today's day and age with a lot of change happening in the postal organization, that's a big deal because they don't have the resources they used to have.

And so it's a simple process. It's filling the -- well, go to our website, fill in the blanks, print it on a regular printer paper, cut it out, put it on the box, and it's done. That's it. One scan, just like at the grocery store, and you're done. Whether you have one box or literally a thousand, it's the same kind of a process.

And so you can use the same boxes whether it's a, you know, large flat-rate box that everybody knows about, whether it's a brown box that came back, you know, came from Home Depot, or whether it's an Amazon box that you just received something in, so it's --

MS. WILLIAMSON: But we're going to encourage all of you to get away from the flat-rate boxes because they're one of the most expensive ways

to ship packages. So if you're using them, please do talk to us before you do your next shipment.

MR. WILLIAMSON: And one of the things that we do and we just absolutely love doing is having the opportunity to talk with groups before they ship because whether you're in Tallahassee, or Montana, or New York, shipping and the cost of shipping is super complex and it's different. There are different ways to save money, there are different packages you can use, and different services to use. And this is what we get to do every day is see those patterns to help you.

And so as I mentioned, it's just a much simpler process for everyone. And when we get a chance on occasion to work with groups in different parts of the country and go to the post office that they've been going to a long time, when we get a chance to go there with it all prepaid and ready to go, clearance in the upper right-hand corner, it's just fun to see that.

Next slide, please. And so we are an ALA partner and a portion of all the shipping does go back to the organization. And we are thrilled that we're, I believe, right around nine months into that and we've had a great time meeting people and serving different groups.

MS. WILLIAMSON: All right. Next slide, please. So we have been working with the different groups across the country trying to help them do this process easier. Most people are loving it; a lot of people still don't know about it. So if you can help us spread the word that would be fantastic.

Next slide, please. I'm going to talk about a few other things that ShipThrifty does that not other places do. So our tools are free to use. So you can go online, you can create an account. It's not just for military shipping. So if you're sending a package to your son, your daughter, a relative, anybody, you can use the tools. We have got FedEx, UPS and USPS on there. Okay. USPS is for the military shipping only because that's what they have to go because of security and confidentiality.

We are here to help you. So if you get stuck or you're not familiar with technology, don't worry. We have people who are 85 years old who use these tools. We can help you. I promise. And we will literally cut hours out of your time.

Next slide, please. So we have different features within the tools. We have address checking feature. We just literally two weeks ago saved an organization from getting 65 packages returned because they had an issue in their address and they didn't know. Okay. When you get packages returned at USPS, they do not refund you; we cannot refund you either. So we do have things in place to try to help prevent that.

We have an automated address request form. So if you're trying to support people in your community, you can brand this form. You can send it on social media, connect with other people, and it automatically loads the addresses in your ShipThrifty address book so you don't have to touch them. Okay.

The other thing that I would say aside from the address checking is there's

restriction checking. Each ZIP code at a base has basic restrictions and then there are additional restrictions. There are some that you cannot send coffee or over-the-counter meds to. People don't know that. We want to help you make sure that you're using your dollars the best way that you can and preventing packages from being returned for unnecessary reasons.

Next slide, please. Yes, there are going to be surcharges again this year at USPS. They're starting them on October 2nd. It is across the board. And this year, they're rolling it to January 22nd. So it's going an whole extra month. They're anywhere from 25 cents to \$6.35 depending on what you're shipping with.

Our USPS will go up accordingly. Our UPS, we have been blessed with no surcharges on our UPS this year, so if you need to send something UPS, you'll get those discounts. And our FedEx has half -- we get half off on the surcharges that they're doing.

Package restrictions. So keep in mind, you know, we used to, last year we said hey, bigger the better. That's great if you're stateside. If you're overseas military this year, you're going to want to look at smaller boxes because now, they have surcharges on larger boxes. So we'll be happy to chat with you about that as well. If you want to keep up-to-date with what things that we're doing and the regulations, I'd encourage you all to take out your phones and follow us on our Facebook page. That's where the majority of our stuff goes.

Next slide, please. We also have resources. So when we created the tools, we had to learn all the regs and stuff for the addressing. It's all on shiptomilitary.com. We've got both sites. So you can look at that one as well.

Next slide, please. And we do partner with the ALA. So when you do create your accounts, please go to the member benefits option at the top of your screen, or type in ALA in the affiliate code when you're creating your account, so we can make sure that we can contribute back to the organization as a whole.

Next slide, please. We are at Booth 416. We're right outside of the entrance for the exhibit hall, so we'd love to chat with you while we're here. Thank you so much for your time.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Rob and Michelle for the great tips and for sponsoring today's meeting. All right. We're on to the consent agenda. Information about the consent agenda and how it works was circulated in advance along with the following items listed on the consent agenda.

The unit charter cancellation since March of 2022 and 21 amendments -- and did you all get the packet and read it, or do you want me to read through all 21 amendments? So no one needs me to read it, right? All right. Does anyone wish to remove anything from the consent agenda? Hey, Glynis.

MS. SEELEY: I have a question. She says the amendments and 21 is a separate vote. Are we including 21 in the consent agenda now?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We are not.

MS. SEELEY: Okay. Thanks.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That was my mistake. I did. Thank you very much for pointing that out. There are only 20 amendments on the consent agenda. I apologize. Good catch. Does anyone want to remove anything from the 20? Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see you.

MS. GREENWELL: That's all right. Jeri Greenwell. Marshall Morgan, Department of Oregon. I would like to remove Amendment 15.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Amendment 15 Standing Rule XI regarding its proposal for a new No. 4 regarding establishing eligibility for membership. Okay. Thank you. Oh. When you come up to the mic, turn them on. But I heard you and I repeated it. So we are removing that amendment soon as I find my note pad.

Okay. Does anyone want to remove any other proposed amendments from the consent agenda?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. The Chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the consent agenda with the removal of proposed Amendment 15. Somebody has to move it first, but thank you.

MS. KNICKERBOCKER: I move the amendment be removed and the consent agenda be renewed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So the first was from Department of Connecticut?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. Department of Connecticut.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And the second was from?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was (indiscernible).

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. All those in favor of adopting the consent agenda with the removal of proposed Amendment 15, please say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Those oppose, please say "no."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The ayes have it and the consent agenda is adopted. And we will talk about the pulled amendment later.

All right. The Chair is pleased to report that the Minutes Approval Committee met and approved the minutes of the NEC meeting from March of 2022. This committee is comprised of the NEC members from the Department of Iowa, Department of Alaska, and Department of Maine. Thank you, ladies, for doing such a wonderful job. I really appreciate your help this year.

The Executive Committee to the NEC includes the National President, the National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer. The five National Division vice presidents, and the two NEC members of the President's choosing. This year, it is the NEC from Texas and the NEC from Connecticut.

This Committee was called to action one time since the March mid-year

NEC meeting. During this meeting, the committee decided to part ways with the ALA Executive Director, and Sara Riegel was named as the Interim Executive Director. Yay, Sara. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair will now call on our Interim Executive Director Sara Riegel to give her report. See, I put her to work right away.

MS. RIEGAL: I know.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's the way it should be.

MS. RIEGAL: Thank you, Madam National President. And you all know that I like to talk, but I'm going to keep this short today. All right.

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGAL: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're not elected yet.

MS. RIEGAL: All right. So first, I would love to give a great big shout out to the National Headquarters staff.

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGAL: All right. Through the challenges this past year, we have seen the resilience of the staff members. Not only were we were faced with the challenges of the pandemic, still going, right, adjusting to a new normal, trying to implement a plan, come to the office, go back out home, come back, you know, it's been crazy. And just like that, the pandemic reared its ugly head again. We had to step back and recalculate.

The national organization and staff faced a painful moment of losing a staff member this year. Michael Butt, Director of Communications. Mike was an employee for 12-and-a-half years and had a true affinity for the Auxiliary magazine.

The pride, passion, and dedication continue with the Communications Team in his absence. We have faced the challenges of attrition, which required us to evaluate the National Headquarters organizational structure with the reduction of two full-time positions in one part-time position.

And we've continued to face the challenge of backfilling vacant positions in this highly competitive marketplace. With all these challenges, this meant that staff members were taking on multiple responsibilities, wearing multiple hats, or stepping into new roles which require a bit of a learning curve, having to figure it out and forge forward. And that is what they're doing today and tomorrow.

I want to leave you with a quote. Oprah Winfrey once said, "Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them. Just find a new way to stand."

Thank you, Madam National President. That concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Sara. Great job. Marybeth Revoir, would you please come to the podium and give your National Treasurer's report?

MS. REVOIR: Madam President, Kathy, and good morning to each of

you.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. REVOIR: Good morning. It's what we want to do at 7:30 in the morning on a Saturday, huh? In your package of documents prepared for this meeting, you received financial recaps along with a hundred other pages of things to look at. As you know, these reports are regularly prepared by the National Finance Division and distributed throughout the year to the NEC.

Our investment portfolio has shown some decreases caused by the volatility in the markets. We continue to actively monitor our portfolio with a goal of minimizing our vulnerabilities. Income for the third quarter is on par with our budget projections with expenses coming in below our anticipated needs.

Some of the items will be paid in the fourth quarter and reflected on the year-end report. These items were detailed in the footnotes on that report on the actual to budget report that you all received. The final statement shows the comparison of the third quarter income and expense items to last year's totals for the same timeframe.

Other than a reduction in investment income, we have remained even with our previous year's totals. As the National Executive Committee, we are tasked with financial oversight of our organization. These reports give each of us a detailed insight on how we are doing. I can speak from my experiences and tell you that our Finance Committee takes their responsibilities very seriously.

Under the leadership of Chairman Sharon Conatser along with the other members of the Committee, many who are past National Presidents, there is a vast network of knowledge on the inner workings and needs of our organization. I would like to thank each of those members of the Finance Committee for making me feel welcome to the financial leadership circle in this new role as National Treasurer.

In the nonprofit arena, an organization's financial stability is a benchmark that we are judged upon. The American Legion Auxiliary is a leader in this nation for our commitment to veterans, their families, and our communities. Our over 100 years of service show what we can do and it is our job to lay the foundation for the next century and beyond.

Thank you, Madam President, for allowing me to perform in this role and to serve in your administration. I am having the time of my life sometimes.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Marybeth. And she really does dig deep into everything that has anything to do with the Treasurer's report. So very good job. Thank you very, very much.

MS. REVOIR: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair now calls on Sharon Conatser, Chairman of the National Finance Committee. Wherever you are.

(Applause.)

MS. CONATSER: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. CONATSER: Madam President, Kathy, and fellow ALA members, your National Finance Committee met yesterday and we cannot thank you enough for all of your service to the American Legion Auxiliary this year.

Our membership dues only cover about 60 percent of our operating budget. You have been given in the past few months what goes into cost per member. I hope you all have read that. To continue serving at the level we all expect, we need to increase membership and pass the dues increase.

The continuation of investing in ourselves by supporting mission training, Junior National Meetings, American Legion Auxiliary Academy courses and webinars will be an important part of moving forward to continue to grow and move our organization forward.

Looking at other streams of income will be a need in the future. Our grant writer is settling in nicely and putting grant applications out there and getting some good returns. As your Finance Committee, we also believe in the value of knowledge gained through the members attending mission trainings. The new -- excuse me, the numbers continue to trend upward and we are confident that the numbers will continue to grow as we continue mission trainings and National Junior Meetings.

So on behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you for your dedication, your commitment and your generous donations to support the American Legion Auxiliary's efforts to fulfill our mission.

Anyone have any questions?

(No audible response.)

MS. CONATSER: Okay. Moving on. That's it. I wish to thank the NEC's for your financial due diligence this year when called upon and the support of this Committee. We cannot thank you enough. Please let it be known that our continued goal is to make decisions in the best interest of our organization and its mission. And we appreciate the efforts to maintain our organization's financial viability.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you very much, Sharon. We really appreciate your time, and your effort, and your due diligence on this matter, so thank you.

All right. The Chair now calls on our National Risk and Compliance Chairman Jeri Greenwell to the podium for her report.

(Applause.)

MS. GREENWELL: Thank you, Madam President. The Risk and Compliance Committee had previously submitted a amendment and a policy for your consideration at this NEC meeting today. We respectfully ask that these not move forward at this time to allow for further review from the National Judge Advocate of The American Legion and the National Finance Committee.

Madam President, this concludes the report of the National Risk and Compliance Committee.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you very much, Jeri.

All right. The Chair now calls on National Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Pam Ray to the podium for her report. It is really early.

MS. RAY: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. RAY: Madam National President, Kathy, this has been a very busy year for Constitution and Bylaws. We've continued --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Loved every second of it, didn't you?

MS. RAY: Okay. You're the President. Okay.

You've seen the results and some of the amendments you've passed this morning in the consent agenda. During our convention, you will see even more results of this project. Our Headquarter staff has worked tirelessly on this project. And when I say "tirelessly," I mean really tired-lessly.

They will continue to work on this project until it's complete, so realize what you're seeing this year isn't done yet. Today, I am presenting the following amendment for your consideration. It is proposed Amendment No. 22. It says, "National Standing Rule 12: Charters, Strike and Substitute."

This amendment is proposed by the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee. A special subcommittee of the NEC formed this past administrative year to review an appeal from a unit on the cancellation of its charter identified changes needed to be made in our governing documents to better facilitate the process. The department charter cancellation process is also updated for consistency and a corresponding amendment to this standing rule be presented at National Convention.

Madam President, as all NEC members received this to review prior to this meeting on behalf of the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of Amendment No. 22.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We received the proposed amendment in advance via your emailed NEC packet. If there are no objections, we won't read the amendment because this mission comes from a committee, we do not need a second. The question is on the adoption of the amendment to the ALA National Standing Rule 12 pertaining to charters, is there any discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of adopting --

MS. RAY: Madam President.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Ding. I am so sorry. Jump, holler, wave your arms.

MS. JEFFORD: Janet Jefford, Past National President.

I have a question. First, I agree with this, but I just have questions on some of consistency in it. So when you talk about department charters, it says that the National President shall independently appoint a subcommittee to investigate and they must report within 60 days.

When we look at unit charters, the wording is more that they must appoint the committee from members of the NEC and then it's 30 days. So I was just wondering, does that mean for the department you could appoint

anybody and as many as you want? Why isn't it consistent?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I will yield to the CMB Chairman.

MS. RAY: Thank you.

MS. JEFFORD: Of course. Honestly, you --

MS. RAY: I don't know why there is discrepancy. I do not know.

MS. JEFFORD: Because I feel if you say in one part that it should be from members of the NEC --

MS. RAY: Uh-huh.

MS. JEFFORD: -- it should say that in the other part, so if somebody from the NEC would like to make that motion.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Janet. Hold please.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay, Janet. What part exactly are you talking about?

MS. RAY: Tell me where the unit 1 one is, please --

MS. JEFFORD: Okay. So it's to --

MS. RAY: -- because I'm not finding it.

MS. JEFFORD: It is the department charters --

MS. RAY: Uh-huh.

MS. JEFFORD: -- number one -- or number two. Excuse me. So at the middle of the paragraph it says, "The National President shall independently appoint a subcommittee to investigate," and then -- and the unit charter, it's No. 5. No. 5.

MS. RAY: I don't --

MS. JEFFORD: Where it says, "Shall be from --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well, for clarification, the unit charter is an appeal.

MS. JEFFORD: Oh. I'm sorry.

MS. RAY: Right.

MS. JEFFORD: It's No. D --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: No. D.

MS. JEFFORD: -- where it says that it says that the National President shall independently appoint a special committee of three to five --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This?

MS. JEFFORD: -- members of the National Executive Committee.

MS. RAY: Right.

MS. JEFFORD: And I think if you're in -- have a committee looking into the department, it should also be members of the NEC --

MS. RAY: It is.

MS. JEFFORD: -- serving on that committee.

MS. RAY: So you just want -- Janet, can I ask a question to you? I'm on the -- okay. So you're saying that where it says, "The National President shall independently appoint a subcommittee, you think it should say of the -- from members of the NEC --

MS. JEFFORD: Right. I think --

MS. RAY: -- is what you would like added?

MS. JEFFORD: Right. And use the same wording that you used under D.

MS. RAY: Okay.

MS. JEFFORD: -- and the unit charters. So it's consistent and people aren't --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I think you have a really good point and I think we just overlooked that.

MS. RAY: I think it was.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any objections to adding that wording for the department as well as the unit?
(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So if you agree to it, we can add it without a motion. So --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Thank you, Janet.

MS. RAY: Thank you.

MS. JEFFORD: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good catch.

MS. RAY: Was that?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That's an agree, we're going to add it.

MS. RAY: Okay. Can you add that? I've got the -- you know, the typist over hear that's making corrections. So we still have to vote.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay.

MS. RAY: Do we not still have a motion on the floor we adopt this?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We do.

MS. RAY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion? Trish Ward?

MS. WARD: For the clarification --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Uh-huh.

MS. WARD: -- that just occurred, would that also include the alignment with the days?

MS. RAY: It would be the --

MS. WARD: 30 in a one and 60 in the other?

MS. RAY: I'm assuming it --

MS. WARD: Trish Ward, Department of Kansas.
Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- 60 days and this is 60 days. So once again, one is in appeal, so it is different, but good question. Thank you. The Chair recognizes Texas.

MS. TRAHAN: Madam President, Christine Trahan, Department of Texas. This is Christine. If you don't mind.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I don't.

MS. TRAHAN: That should have been an amendment, correct, because this is already out. Okay. This was read, so this should have been an amendment to

-- for the changes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It is an amendment. It was just done informally because it was agreed.

MS. TRAHAN: Okay. But the agreement that when -- I think I'm trying to explain this wrong, we're saying agree, but we're agreeing for you all to change the word but it should have been amended because it's written.

MS. RAY: She's right. She's correct.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's an amendment by general consent.

MS. TRAHAN: Okay. Now. Okay. Thank you.

(Pause.)

MS. SEELEY: Glynis Seeley, Department of Nevada. I'm confused. All right. Where did I go. Here. So number two under department charters in the middle where it says, "Within 60 days of its appointment, the subcommittee should present its written findings," and on and on. Then we go to 5(d) and it says, "Shall call a special meeting at the National Executive Committee to be held within 30 days of the formation of the special subcommittee. Those seem like two different things to me.

MS. RAY: They are. Yeah.

MS. SEELEY: So then the written findings are different. That's why I'm confused.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Because it is two different things. One's an appeal.

MS. SEELEY: So then we're changing the wording so that it's the same across the board, appeal and --

MS. RAY: No, we're change -- we're additionally --

MS. SEELEY: That's why I'm confused.

MS. RAY: Let me -- okay.

MS. SEELEY: I know it means something --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Back to department charters No. 2, where it says, "The National President shall independently appoint a subcommittee to investigate," she wants to add a subcommittee from the NEC. The same as it says in 5 where that it comes from the NEC.

MS. SEELEY: Okay. Thank you.

MS. RAY: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Pam.

MS. RAY: You're welcome.

MS. CLAPP: Good morning, Madam President.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good morning, Nicole.

MS. CLAPP: Nicole, PNP. Have a question. Are we grandfathering in then our departments that we know we have a few that are under 500 members so that this would not apply to them?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That is a great question. So this isn't changing. This is already in place. We're just cleaning up the language, so I would say yes it would be grandfathered in because it takes 500 to start a charter.

MS. CLAPP: But they don't maintain --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: But we don't have anything in to keep the charter. Thank you.

MS. JEFFORD: I have one more question.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Bring it on.

MS. JEFFORD: On the same thing. All right. Under unit charters No. 5, it says "A unit whose charter has been channeled may appeal." My question was, what about if they were put on probation according to this new policy? Is that -- can they appeal that or not?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well, according to this, it just says if it's been cancelled without consent.

MS. JEFFORD: Right. And so I'm asking if they -- if there's an appeal -- if they were just put on probation, can they appeal that at all?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I don't think this covers that. It's not in here saying that.

MS. JEFFORD: Right.

MS. RAY: Not every department has that.

MS. JEFFORD: In other places, they talk about either cancellation or probation. That's another way it wasn't consistent. Sometimes, they put it together.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Uh-huh.

MS. JEFFORD: And this one, all of a sudden, it's just alone. And I just was curious if my unit was put on probation, I don't agree with what happened at my department. Can I appeal that?

MS. RAY: That appeals within the department. Doesn't it, Peggy?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It would have to be in the department Constitution and Bylaws.

MS. RAY: Yeah. That appeals within the department. Right.

MS. JEFFORD: Okay. So can we appeal --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That would appeal within the department.

MS. RAY: At the national, yes.

MS. JEFFORD: Okay.

MS. RAY: Right.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Good question. We're learning stuff today.

Are there any more questions?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are there any more questions?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Or any more discussions. Sorry, not questions. Well, you know.

MS. RAY: No. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. All those in favor of adopting the amendment to the ALA National Standing Rule 12 Charters with the change say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed no.

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Motion carried.

Thank you very much, Pam. That was easy.

MS. RAY: I look forward to seeing all of you at the Bylaws pre-convention meeting this morning. Well, where we will consider, and don't let this number keep you from coming, 22 possible amendments, two our Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rule.

Madam President, Kathy, this concludes my remarks.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Not quite. We removed --

MS. RAY: Yes, we did.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- Amendment 15 from the consent agenda. I know you are trying to escape, weren't you?

MS. RAY: I was. Okay. So the amendment that was removed from the consent agenda is ALA Standing Rule No. 11, Units No. 4, establishing eligibility for membership. The rationale was because this is part of the resolutions project that I talked about earlier. Then an amendment to capture how we currently operate and have been operating since 1944 when the resolution was passed. While this is currently followed and described in the Unit Guide and Department Operations Guide, it still needs to be incorporated into the governing documents.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. The question is on the adoption of the amendment to the ALA National Standing Rule 11, I mean, 15. I'm sorry. I was reading something else. Yeah. Standing -- it's Amendment 15 Standing Rule 11 --

MS. RAY: Correct.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- Units new No. 4 establishing eligibility for membership. Is there any discussion?

MS. MARSH: Jody Marsh, Department of Oregon. My only -- my question is with words and it's the word that uses "deceased veterans documents." So I don't know that somebody would know what those documents were. And I think we would be better served if we call them what they are, which are like separation papers or discharge papers so somebody in a family who's looking for something has an idea of what they're looking for. To me, it was just too general of a term and this is my area of expertise.

MS. RAY: So are you willing to amend it?

MS. MARSH: Yes. Okay. Yes. I just didn't like the words. I just think it should be changed, amended to --

MS. RAY: Okay. If you -- then you need to move that it be amended.

MS. MARSH: Okay. So I move that those -- sorry.

MS. RAY: And what would be replaced.

MS. MARSH: That that the phrase -- I amend that the phrase "deceased veterans documents" be amended to read "the deceased veterans discharge or separation papers."

MS. THOMAS: Madam President?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, ma'am.

MS. THOMAS: I just have a question.
MS. SEELEY: We have to second first.
MS. THOMAS: Oh, sorry.
MS. SEELEY: Yeah. I'd like to second the amendment.
MS. THOMAS: When the Maryland --
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yeah.
MS. SEELEY: I'm sorry. I'd like to second the amendment. Thank you.
MS. THOMAS: In the past, which I am, very much so, I believe that allowances were given for a unit to be able to use an obit --
MS. RAY: Correct.
MS. THOMAS: -- if it was the same information basically.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you for that comment.
MS. SEELEY: Hi.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: More discussion?
MS. SEELEY: Glynis Seeley, Department of Nevada. I know you're tired of hearing me already. There are a number of posts that are now accepting VA enrollment cards because people can't find those specific documents. Trying to get those specific documents takes a really, really long time sometimes. People don't know where to go to go find those documents. So if I'm trying to sign up an Auxiliary member or for the grandfather that's deceased, that she has no idea where any of his records are, we can help her search for those. But how long does she need to wait to become a member because she can't produce specific documents?
I know my home post adjutant will accept a copy of a VA enrollment card. They accept a lot of different documents now as far as proof of service. To limit it to only two discharge and orders is not going to serve us well.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So we just removed the generic documents and made it more defined on this last amendment, or -- yeah.
MS. MARSH: Jodi Marsh, Department of Oregon. All of that makes sense. It really does. But being at the lower level of the organization, all of the suggestions that I've heard, the VA card, a copy of an obituary, or a copy of a picture of a dead -- of a gravestone that has the military indication because you have to prove to get that as well, those are all well and good; however, then maybe what we should do is provide some examples of what an appropriate documentation is because a document to me is just really -- I don't know, so.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good -- excuse me. Just proof of service. Could you see that?
MS. RAY: Jodi, may I ask a question?
MS. MARSH: Yes, ma'am.
MS. RAY: Thank you.
MS. MARSH: I'm sorry.
MS. RAY: If this were to read "the deceased veteran's proof of service," would that work for you?
MS. MARSH: I just heard that in the back, and yes, that's --

MS. RAY: Military service -- proof of military service?
MS. MARSH: Yes. Thank you.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So there's still a motion on the floor.
MS. MARSH: Okay. Do I need to amend my amendment?
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: No. Let's vote on the amendment to the amendment to -- let's vote on the amended --
MS. RAY: The one that was seconded.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.
MS. RAY: So let's vote.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Let's vote on that and then go from there. How's that?
MS. RAY: Yes.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Pam, could you read that please?
MS. RAY: Sure. Okay. So okay.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I just didn't catch all the wording.
MS. RAY: Okay. "Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification by the post adjutant or other post official of the deceased veteran's discharge or separation papers" is what you're voting on right now. That was the initial --
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Striking documents and --
MS. RAY: Correct. Striking documents.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Right. So the question is on the amended -- the adoption of the amended amendment.
MS. RAY: Amendment to the standing rule change.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The adoption is on the amendment to the ALA National Standing Rule 15, ALA National -- ALA -- shoot. ALA National Standing Rule 11 Units.
Is there any discussion?
(No audible response.)
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All in favor say, "aye."
VOICES: Aye.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All oppose, nay.
VOICES: Nay.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The motion has been defeated.
MS. TRAHAN: Madam President, Christine Trahan, Department of Texas. How are you?
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, peachy.
MS. TRAHAN: Madam President, I move to amend the Standing Rule No. 11 to read --
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 15.
MS. TRAHAN: 15. I'm sorry. We're -- I'm sorry.
MS. RAY: It's okay.
MS. TRAHAN: You're all introducing over here today. Anyways, to read "proof of military service."
MS. RAY: And strike the word "document" --
MS. TRAHAN: Yes.

MS. RAY: -- is that what you're --
MS. TRAHAN: Correct. Yes.
MS. RAY: Okay. Thank you.
MS. TRAHAN: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's been seconded by who?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Department of New Hampshire.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: New Hampshire. Thank you. Okay. The question is on the adoption of the amendment to ALA National Standing Rule 11I, striking "documents" and adding "proof of military service." Is there any discussion?
(No audible response.)
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Did I say something wrong?
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible.)
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Sorry. All those in favor of adopting the amendment to --
MS. RAY: Time out.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Nicole. Thank you for waving.
MS. CLAPP: Okay. If we're changing it in the first part for the deceased veteran's documents, shouldn't we also be changing it in the next parentheses "for the unit may request a copy of the veteran's documents"? Proof of military service.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Very good catch. You guys are working hard today.
MS. RAY: You know, it's interesting after you look at these so many times, they all look the same. So thank you guys for your input.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Since we already have a motion on the floor, is there any objection to adding that in both places?
VOICES: No.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. So the question is on the adoption of the amendment to ALA National Standing Rule 11, Units new No. 4, establishing eligibility for membership striking "documents" in both places and adding "proof of military service." Is there any discussion?
(No audible response.)
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of adopting this amendment say, "aye."
VOICES: Aye.
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oppose, no.
(No audible response.)
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That motion has carried. Thank you.
MS. RAY: And now, we have to -- now, we have to vote them. Madam President, now, we have to vote on the standing rule, right? We've voted on the amendment
--
PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. RAY: -- now, we need to vote on the rule. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: My bad. I was done with it.

MS. RAY: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. All right. The question is on the adoption of the amendment No. 15, ALA National Standing Rule 11, Units new No. 4, establishing eligibility for membership --

MS. RAY: As amended.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- as amended. Is there any discussion?
(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All in favor say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Those oppose, say "nay."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That motion has been carried.

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: I'm out of here. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Stay close by. We may need you again. It's Amendment 15 Standing Rule 11. Okay. We're moving on.

At the 2021 mid-year NEC meeting, the Board established two special committees, the Inclusion and Diversity Committee and the Code of Ethical Conduct Committee.

This morning, we will hear reports on their work. Would the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee member Lorraine Boucher, please come to the podium to give her report. Let her out. You can come up to this one, please. Everybody wants to see your beautiful smiley face.

MS. BOUCHER: And I have somebody operating the slides. That's a beautiful thing. One less thing I have to try to concentrate on.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So get closer to the mic, please, so everybody can hear you.

MS. BOUCHER: I will. I tried to stand back because I was a college professor and I can project my voice to the next room, but I find that when I'm speaking in the microphone in closed quarters, I tend to burn out people's ears. So I'm trying to find the appropriate distance.

Okay. This is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. And I am Lorraine Boucher and I have been a member of this Committee since its inception sometime in the spring of 2021, I believe. And these are the members of the Committee at this moment. So we have Chairman Mariann Cheney, Vice Chairman Leslie Rist, Secretary Claire Gallagher Moore, members Kaylene Khosla, Teresa Nunez, Yvonne Oliver, Karla Washington, and Lorraine Boucher.

Now, that last little addition there is not on my presentation. And the reason I'm bringing it up is not because I was upset when I was reviewing my slides, but because, to me, it was the perfect example of how good people working with the best intentions on a subject like Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion how everyone is trying to be so careful to be -- to do it the correct way, that one little glitch could -- can throw the whole thing into a turmoil.

And so, I'm looking at my slide and my name isn't on it on the one that I had gotten a copy of. And I thought that was slightly amusing since I was presenting. But then I thought, well, I'm just going to email Mariann and Leslie, and say, "Oh, by the way, my name's not on the slide."

And then I thought I would -- I thought they understood me well enough, but obviously not. I thought I would give them an example of why this was so important for us. I said, "So now I have this thing in front of me and I have to interpret it. Does this mean? Oh, it's a hint about my future on this Committee?" Or they really don't like me and they think that I am too old and I'm perhaps losing it.

What message is there that they left my name off? Right. And I thought I was putting it in an outrageously form that everybody would understand that I was not really. I said, "So once I've decided my interpretation that determines my actions, right? So do I become hurt and go book my ticket to go back to Rhode Island where people understand me? Do I get revengeful and get up there and do the presentation not the way you on it, but the way I want it, and make you sorry that you left my name off, or do I just send you an email and say, you know, "Oops. She left my name off. I don't really care. I can just introduce myself."

So that is the perfect example for me of what goes wrong when people start to have conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and people forget that most of the things that people say are not intended meanly. So if you just start with the presumption that everybody is well-intentioned, people make mistakes, and before you jump to the interpretation on the most extreme end, you should probably take at least one minute to think of what other possible interpretation there could be for what you are you are offended by, or hurt by, or you're just surprised by.

And if we would all just do that, it would all be so much simpler. But the people on this Committee have tried very hard for the time that we have been together and we are an incredibly diverse committee. I know that Teresa does this, Dr. Teresa back there, we come from all different perspectives, all different geography, all different ages. I'm pretty sure I'm the old person on the Committee and I'm not sure when they interviewed me whether they thought they were getting the old person to represent tradition, but I am about as non-traditional as you can get, so they may have made a mistake.

So moving on here. I have to point out to you that in your packet that you received and which I received, there are 84 pages. The one I received had 84 pages. I presume you all have that one. And I started on page 56, I believe, 54. Oh. Thank you, Nicole. I'm also totally nonsequential. So numbers mean absolutely nothing to me. It could be 66, it could be 54.

I look towards the end. We'll just say I'm towards the end. But since other people are looking in their packet, on page 54, right. So I'm thinking to myself, "Wow. Look at all the stuff they got to get done before they get to me. This is not a good place to be and this -- in this packet because I taught -- I was a college professor. And I know that when you got the class at 3 o'clock

in the afternoon is the lecture hall, that half of your students would be laying on their desks asleep. And you had to be really, really upbeat in order to keep people's attention.

So we have included in there a beautiful and lovely statement that National Headquarters Executive -- Acting Executive Director, Sara Riegal has signed, which we created as what is the DEI committee mission? What are we doing? What is our vision? And it might be a little lengthy, but I don't expect you to read it right now. Because actually, I don't want you to read our stuff right now. I want you to listen to me.

And I don't want to do what I hate is to go to a presentation and have somebody read the PowerPoint or the material that's sitting in my hand to me when I can read it myself. And it is my interpretation of, or perspective on this issue, is that this is not an issue that is, okay, is it A or is it B? Is this as an A, B, C? Is it X? Is it Y? It requires everybody to sit and digest it, and read it when they have time and to think about it and reflect on it, and talk it over with their friends.

It is not something to make a decision on at any particular point in time like today, or to make a judgement about it today.

I'm asking you don't judge today. Just put it off until you're less stressful, you have a cup of coffee, or whatever it is that you drink when you're being less stressful. So that is what I'm asking you. And it's because from my perspective, this is the key point, my perspective is individual to me, just like everybody's perspective. Teresa's perspective is not my perspective.

Everybody in an organization -- in that committee has a different perspective. And everybody in this room has a different perspective because I can -- unless you are cloned. Is there anyone here cloned? No. Okay. So you're all different and as close as friends or sisters or whatever you are, you never share every single experience of your life together. So everybody has a slightly different perspective.

And so from my perspective, my position on this committee is not to do - - turn the slide to the beautiful documents. Do you have two beautiful documents with the charts and the tables and the boxes there? All right. I did not contribute anything to that. Not in the putting in the documents. My contribution is always the big picture.

I am a sociological and historian background, so I see everything. You ask me when did this all start? I say at the beginning of time. You know, when did -- what can we do to -- well, they have tried this in 1927. And then again, they've changed it again in this and that. I'm always the big picture. I cannot work in boxes. I just don't work in boxes. That's my perspective. So I don't -- you know, there are people out here who cannot work in boxes.

So from my perspective, what you do when you read our report is to look at the things that we have done and accomplished, and realize that they were accomplished by a lot of -- by all the members in whichever way they were best suited to contribute. So sometimes, I felt like Yoda in Star Wars, you know, everybody would talk and they'd be busy, and they would get the things and typing into -- sharing it in the computer. And then I would say something

like, "Do you really think "implicit" is a good word to use?" And everybody would just stop and -- because that's what I do. That's how I am.

As I'm thinking the whole time, I'm thinking, I'm not doing, I'm thinking. So I'm asking you all to think. From my perspective, this entire endeavor is something that will take time. It requires not changing rules. Although some, you know, guidelines or behavior which the other committee has charged of could be helpful. But it really involves changing people's hearts and their minds because you get your perspective from every input from the -- from your environment, from the time you open your eyes when you are born.

And some things are so deeply embedded in you that you don't even know that they exist. To you, they are just normal.

My best example, which I just gave to my girl state people as a mental exercise before they met me so that they would be prepared. You know, I've had a chocolate cake with chocolate frosting every birthday of my life. Most of the time my mother makes it. She's 95. She lives with me now. She's making my birthday cake in October. But to me, birthday cake is chocolate cake with chocolate frosting. That's it.

It brings warm, fuzzy feelings. It reminds me of all kinds of things. So if you ask me on the street today, what is your favorite birthday cake? I'm going to tell you chocolate with chocolate frosting. Now, I have been to thousands of birthday parties, where the guest of honor does not believe that birthday cake is chocolate with chocolate frosting, right?

So suppose you go into a birthday party and it's pineapple upside down cake, and you don't like pineapple. Okay. Well, that's pineapple's birthday cake from their perspective. So you have options, the polite and good option, from my point of view, would be to take a small bite, gently push the plate away and take the blame yourself, and say, "Oh. I am so sorry. I had a late lunch and I overate, and I love this cake and I would really like to enjoy it. Could you wrap it for me and so that I could take it home?"

All right. That is the -- I have -- no one is to blame except for maybe me. Nobody knows what's going on in my head, so everybody is happy. And there are so many little things in life that can be handled with that way. That is in opposition to the bad way of handling it is to say -- is to stand up shove the plate in the middle and say, "Pineapple upside down cake? What kind of a person are you? What do you believe in? It's un-American to have pineapple upside down cake. Anybody who wants to protest this pineapple upside down cake."

Next thing you know there'll be passing a law against chocolate cake and ice chocolate frosting. Please meet me at the cheesecake factory for an organizational meeting. That would not -- that would be the extreme reaction to diversity in chocolate in your birthday cakes. But that is the extreme diet reaction that people give to diversity in people or ideas.

So never go for that option, the explosion option. Always try to start at the beginning. Is there a polite, socially acceptable way where nobody's feelings get hurt that I can get out of this and play the scenarios in your head

because it takes a little practice.

Okay. So I am not going to give -- like I said, I am not going to read you all of the things that we have done. And we have done a lot of things that we have accomplished on the Committee but have not reached the level of approval at National. And so we are kind of in a conundrum here. And so the Committee asked me to deliver this report. I have no idea why.

These, by the way, that you see this beautiful presentation, please, please take your time and read this. It is really important. And if you don't understand it, you can email me, you can call me. I can explain it to you in a short four-hour conversation. This is my notes for the presentation. Got it? There I am. Yes.

So I am going to read the last paragraph of the report, which is somewhere here that I clipped together. And it basically says that we -- oh, here it is. The one with the red print. Yes. That it has been an honor and a privilege on this -- to serve on this Committee to improve our organization for the next hundred years. As we've worked with the National Headquarters on our DEI plans, reviewed data, and listened to the voices and experience of our members, this Committee of exceptional leaders has been committed to recommend and develop strategies and tactics to make improvements and deliver recommendations to you.

"We believe we have a solid plan that we have given to you for swift execution. We additionally support and recommend a DEI director be hired by the National Headquarters for the coming year.

"To that end, we respectfully request the special committee become inactivated and our recommendations considered. While we are all deeply invested in this initiative, our Committee does not recommend any further strategies be developed until those that we have proposed are considered and executed.

That is the voice of the Committee. Am I correct, Teresa?

MS. NUNEZ: (Indiscernible.)

MS. BOUCHER: That is the voice of the Committee. Okay. So since I am up here and I am done, I'm going to give you my voice as I always do at the end here, is that I believe, in my perspective, in preambles, I believe in constitutions and rules, and I believe in mission statements.

And I believe that they all written to the highest level that we could attain at the time that they were written. I do not believe that the humans who use these things are perfect. So it is our job always to be striving towards the perfectibility of being the people that we say we want to be when we recite the preamble to the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, or when we read our mission statement, or when we write it, or when we serve, that we are always trying to be the people in that preamble.

And there are certain things in that preamble that are -- I would like to promote peace and goodwill on Earth. And I -- every day, that is my unconscious thought is can I promote peace and goodwill on Earth. Can I get everybody to just accept other people as they are with their perspectives and work together.

So that is why I'm on this Committee and that's why I volunteered and submitted my resume. And I have one more thing if I can only remember where I put it. And I do because I always have props, and I want you to look at this because in case people are feeling overly self-important, this is a beautiful piece of jewelry. And it has an American Legion Auxiliary star on the end and it has a rose which is lovely, and it's beautiful and I believe it's actually good jewelry.

And a friend of mine just showed it to me who I'm here at convention. And a couple of years ago, she discovered this guy on eBay and she was looking for auxiliary jewelry that might be up for auction. And so she found a place and the guy said it's called junk jewelry; want you to consider that, junk jewelry. And he said that he gets all the kinds of things from like -- things like from the ALA in this bulk estate things that he buys.

And she said, "Would you please go through it, and anything, you know that that's truly old,

would you please set it aside and contact me?" So now, she has two cases, which she brought with her with all sorts of antique jewelry. Now, I asked her could I borrow this? Can I borrow it, so I can hold it because I am a connectivity person and I am connected to the history, and I am connected to the future, and I am connected to the present.

And so I am bringing a person who obviously was connected to this organization. I have no idea what -- when -- how long ago, but she is here. Here she is. I don't know who she is, but she's here. And I am sure that she would be asking us to do the same that we are from this Committee. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Lorraine, and thank you to the entire Committee. We appreciate your research, your work, and your suggestions. And as of -- well, it won't be until Wednesday afternoon, your committee will be officially inactivated. How's that? That's what she said she wanted to be inactivated, so.

All right. Would the Chair of the Code of Ethical Conduct Committee, Jacqui Hood, please come to the podium for her report.

(Applause.)

MS. HOOD: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. HOOD: My name is Jacqui Hood and I'm from the Department of Vermont, and there's our rep.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Can you all hear her?

(Indiscernible.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Can you speak into the microphone a little bit, please, or whatever. Yeah. Thank you.

MS. HOOD: I've been a member of this Committee since its inception and I've been its chair for the last year. I hold a bachelor's and a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California in

1977 and a law degree from Yale Law School in 1980.

We're getting toward the end of our pre-convention meeting and I ask your indulgence in addressing these last important issues. I'd like to take a minute and give you all a little history of where we started, so that you can appreciate where we are now.

Over 15 years ago, following numerous accounting scandals in the for-profit and non-profit corporate world, the non-profit world began to look at their ethics practices. On the advice of our external auditors, another group of hardworking ALA volunteers developed a code of ethics with the intent that it was to be included in the ALA employee handbook.

Fast forward a bit to 2013 and it was decided that the Code of Ethics was so important it needed to be captured in the organization's governing documents, not just applied to employees. Presented as part of a strategic plan goal to develop goodwill in the organization, a one-page code of conduct was presented in the form of a pledge that members would have to sign. It was initially adopted into the Code of Ethics in 2017, and quickly rescinded in 2019.

Having the NEC tried to force units to adopt this code was problematic on many levels including how to require members to sign it and how violations would be enforced. In 2020, a committee was appointed by National President Nicole Clapp to take a second look at the code of ethics and decided to rename it the Code of Ethical Conduct and asked National Headquarters staff and volunteers to develop a process for handling ethics queries.

This group hit a brick wall because of a few tough questions. Who did the code apply to, to whom should it apply, and how could a complaint be handled? The NEC, recognizing these were complicated legal issues, the NEC established a special committee and sought out from the membership practicing professionals experienced in law, ethics, investigations, and policy.

This special committee under Chair Trish Ward was charged with revising the existing Code of Ethical Conduct and developing procedures for handling complaints. Beginning in April of 2021, these members were issued a bottle of Tylenol and the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.

We began meeting by Zoom almost weekly to wrestle with these complex issues. And as you can see, the Committee you ratified has a lot of initials behind their names. Thank you to the extraordinary members of this Committee for their pro bono service to this organization demonstrated over the past 16 months.

Erin Bruni from the Department of Pennsylvania, Bethany Goers from the Department of Ohio, Lauralee Gooch from the Department of California, Sue Neville from the Department of New York, Pam Ray from the Department of Illinois, Ann Rehbein from the Department of Iowa, and our NHQ liaison, Angie Graham from the Department of Indiana. Please join me in thanking them for their work.

(Applause.)

MS. HOOD: I would now like to ask Lauralee Gooch to explain the

Code that our committee has developed. Lauralee is a graduate of Stanford Law School, class of 2005.

MS. GOOCH: Thanks so much, Jacqui.

I'm now going to speak in more depth about the background of the Code of Ethical Conduct. So as we all know, the American Legion Auxiliary is an organization that values law and order, as well as transparency and accountability. And over the years, it's become industry best practice for non-profit boards to be able to hold their own members accountable for conduct that could negatively impact the good work of the organization.

And that conduct could include violations of our own bylaws or policies, or anything up to violations of State and federal law, including the Indiana laws that govern the obligations of non-profit board members. However, the way our governing documents are currently drafted, there's no way for the NEC to hold its own members accountable. You currently have to look to each board members unit or department to hold them accountable for unethical conduct, while having no ability to protect the National Organization from the potential risk and liability that an unethical board member can create.

Now, the vast majority of NEC members serve out their terms with the highest standards of ethics and conduct, but there have been rare exceptions such as a former NEC member who was indicted for felony embezzlement. And that exposed the National Organization to both reputational risk and potential legal liability.

But the NEC had no means of removing that person from National membership. And setting aside specific examples of misconduct, boards of all kinds benefit from having a written code of conduct to set common expectations for organizational culture and behavior, and to clearly state the ethical standards that leaders are expected to follow.

So let's take a moment and talk about who the Revised Code of Conduct would apply to because I know there's been some confusion around that issue. So the Revised Code of Conduct would apply to all National leadership, which means National officers, all members of the NEC regardless of voting rights, and those appointed to National committees.

Now, who does it almost more importantly not apply to. It doesn't apply to National organization employees. They have their own separate policies governing their conduct, and it also does not apply to the membership in general. Each unit still has a responsibility for the discipline of its members.

So our committee over the past year and a half has worked under two National presidents and two outstanding committee heads, Jacqui and Trish Ward, and I'd like to thank them for a moment because they really did an extraordinary job of leading us. So please --

(Applause.)

MS. GOOCH: And ultimately, with respect to the Code of Ethical Conduct, we wanted to accomplish a document that was three things above all; accurate, reader friendly, and protective of the organization. And National

Convention delegates will be asked to adopt amendments to our governing documents that will enable this Revised Code of Ethical Conduct to be implemented.

It's now important that you, as the NEC, vote to adopt this revision as a demonstration to the delegates, to our donors, and to our members at large of your commitment to adopting modern governance practices and protecting this organization from risk. Thank you very much for the opportunity to explain the background of this Code. And now Jacqui will review the proposed process for handling allegations.

(Applause.)

MS. HOOD: The second charge of the special committee was to develop a process for handling complaints. With experts and investigations on our committee, the proposed process is impartial, protects the rights and reputation of the accused from baseless allegations and is fundamentally fair. The convention delegates will be asked to vote to establish a committee composed of practicing professionals with ethics and investigations experience but not necessarily ALA experience.

To maintain independence and impartiality, they cannot serve on other National committees or be a member of the NEC. They will serve multi-year terms to maintain independence from the National president who appoints them. Received complaints must be in writing and will be confidentially reviewed by the committee chair or the National president if the complaint is against a member of the committee.

The committee cannot independently investigate a member of National leadership. A written complaint must be received and properly referred to the committee. While anonymous complaints will not be accepted, the whistleblower policy will be honored and the complainant's identity protected.

Complaints will be evaluated to see if they rise to the level of a violation of the National leadership code of ethical conduct. If not, the complainant will be so informed and a confidential record kept of the complaint on a secure NHQ server with restricted access.

Complaints will also be evaluated to determine if the nature of the complaint requires notification under Indiana law to law enforcement, whether an attorney should be consulted, or whether the external auditor should be notified. The committee will issue a summary report of complaints quarterly to the Risk and Compliance Committee.

The policy spells out the investigative process and the timeline for completing an investigation in order to be fundamentally fair. Once an investigation is complete and the committee has come to a conclusion on a recommendation, the committee will make a written report to the NEC via the National president.

There are many options for possible outcomes from counseling or restitution, with the most egregious violations resulting in a recommendation of termination from service on the NEC or National Committee. It is the NEC's responsibility, therefore, to review the findings and take action by a two-thirds vote on the complaint.

The committee can take no independent action, only make recommendations. Rest assured that the proposed code policy and governing documents amendments have been thoroughly reviewed by an independent attorney specializing in Indiana non-profit law, as well as professional registered parliamentarian Chris Dickey.

Finally, it is appropriate that this governing body that has commissioned a special committee vote to approve the proposed code and review policy in order to demonstrate to the convention delegates its resolve and serious commitment to fulfill its duties as a corporate board of directors.

Madam President, on behalf of the Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee, I now move first on the adoption of the National Leadership Code Of Ethical Conduct.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You received the proposed amendment to strike the current code of ethical conduct and insert the new national leadership code of ethical conduct in advance via your emailed NEC packet. If there are no -- I'm sorry, excuse me. If there are no objections, we won't read the proposed amendment because this motion comes from a committee, we do not need a second. The question is on the amendment to strike the current code of ethical conduct and insert the new national leadership code of ethical conduct.

Is there any discussion?

MS. REVOIR: Madam President, Marybeth Revoir, Department of Illinois. I'm a member of this NEC by virtue of my role as National Treasurer. At this time, I move to refer this item to the Executive Committee of the NEC to perform due diligence on its provisions with the matter being considered at the mid-year NEC in February. And a written report from the Executive Committee be sent to all members of the NEC prior to that meeting. May I say --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there a second?

MS. SEELEY: I second that. Glynis Seeley, Department of Nevada.

MS. REVOIR: May I --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any discussion?

MS. REVOIR: May I say why I --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Absolutely, please.

MS. REVOIR: Thank you. We are an organization of volunteers and individual members. And this committee has done a phenomenal job, phenomenal job of laying this all out. We passed something in 2019, or whatever that was, and we had to rescind it. We just -- I just feel that we need a little more due diligence on what they've presented. We probably need -- we know we need the revisions. There are 20 some paragraphs, is this what we need, just for us to step back a moment, research other organizations.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals, what do other not-for-profits do, including, I guess, the Legion and then do a written report to all of these -- all the members of the NEC, what we found out so that we can make an educated vote on how to go forward.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. REVOIR: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: There's a motion on the floor to refer this item to the Executive Committee of the NEC to perform due diligence on its promise matters to be discussed at mid-year NEC and a written report sent to all NEC members prior to that meeting.

All those in favor say, "aye" I'm sorry. I'm jumping ahead. Thank you for doing that. Is there -- thank you.

MS. TRAHAN: Madam President, Christine Trahan, Department of Texas. I have a question on that. Referring it to the Executive Committee to the NEC Executive, whatever. You got a member coming out. So is this going to be that -- you got two members that sit on that Executive. Okay. So that's going to be the new members coming in, correct?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. TRAHAN: Want to make sure yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. TRAHAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, ma'am.

MS. TRAHAN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. JEFFORD: I just have a comment. We have a committee here made up of professionals and very impressive credentials, let me say. So now we want to refer what they've done to the little Executive Committee, to me, I mean, we're -- we made up of wonderful members also, but not with that same background. So I'm just curious on how that's an improvement or why you're suggesting this.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any more discussion?

MS. SEELEY: Glynis Seeley, Department of Nevada. I seconded the motion so we could have a discussion about this. I think there's still way too many questions regarding things like why are we forming another standing committee when overall, I've been doing this -- now, this my eighth year at NEC.

In eight years, I know of two incidences that we needed to go ahead and actually -- no, I'm not saying they want more, but I know of two where we needed to go ahead and actually have some type of a closed session. I'm sorry, three. Just to add one more.

But in eight years, only three complaints. Why do we need a standing committee when committees are appointed by the President as a special committee to do investigations? We have these wonderful professionals and, oh, my God, your credentials are amazing. We could call on you if need be as a special committee when an incident occurs, not standing all the time. I don't understand why would they making a new committee.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Glynis. Is there any more discussion? Excuse me. The motion is on the floor to refer this item to the Executive Committee to the NEC to perform due diligence on its -- yes.

Thank you. I don't know why I can't see on that side at all. Maybe I'm not looking over there enough.

MS. BROWN-PARK: Nancy Brown-Park, past department president. I guess I'm a little confused as to what the NEC is voting on. Aren't we voting on the first portion of that?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We didn't get to the --

MS. BROWN-PARK: About adopting the revised national leadership code of ethical conduct. We aren't really to that point yet about forming another committee, are we?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: But it's in the motion and we refer -- we're voting on referring the motion.

MS. BROWN-PARK: The whole thing?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. BROWN-PARK: So you're voting on referring step two down here as well? We haven't gotten there.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well, we didn't get that far.

MS. HOOD: It's a separate motion.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's a separate motion.

MS. BROWN-PARK: Right. Right.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. HOOD: We only made the motion to approve --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. HOOD: -- Code of Ethical Conduct.

MS. BROWN-PARK: Yes, but -- so that was a little confusing because you're talking about forming a special committee and that's not part of what this vote is.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So we didn't get to that part. I see what you're saying.

MS. BROWN-PARK: Okay. That's what I want --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. BROWN-PARK: -- you to be clear that that's not what this vote is about.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Thank you, Nancy. I should turn my podium this way because you're talking a lot more than this side and I can hear Glynis.

There is still a motion on the floor to refer this motion -- to refer this item to the Executive Committee of the NEC to perform due diligence on its matters to be discussed at mid-year NEC, a written report sent to all NEC members prior to that meeting.

Is there any more discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All in favor say, "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All oppose say "no."

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So the original motion is back under consideration. Thank you. So the original motion is all those in favor of striking the current code of ethical conduct and inserting the new national leadership code of ethical conduct say -- so sorry. I forgot to ask for any more discussion. Thank you very much. I don't even have the excuse it's early anymore.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Hi. This is Patty Williamson, alternate NEC, Department of Illinois. I move that we amend the second bullet point on page 68 of 84 to read "violations of federal, state, or local laws that result in a felony conviction."

(Pause.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Page 68.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. I think we all found it. Can you repeat what you've just said please --

MS. WILLIAMSON: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- so we're on the same page.

MS. WILLIAMSON: I move that we amend the second bullet point to read, "violations of federal, state, or local law that result in a felony conviction.

MS. SEELEY: Glynis Seeley, Department of Nevada. I'll second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: What? No, I understood that. I'm sorry. Okay. There is an amendment --

MS. SEELEY: Moved.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's been moved to amend by inserting "felony conviction" in by --

MS. WILLIAMSON: Bullet point --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- just by inserting felony and for conviction, so it will read "violations of federal, State, or local laws that result in a felony conviction."

MS. WILLIAMSON: Correct.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. I got it now. It's been seconded. Is there anymore -- any discussion? Thank you. I'm sorry, Paula.

MS. SELLENS: Hi. Paula Sellens, NEC Kansas.

On that third bullet point where we just been discussing the felony conviction, I have a question. If this is debated on the Special Purpose Committee, can we name someone outside the membership?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Special Committee can do --

VOICES: We're not ready for that yet.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We're not on that yet. I'm sorry.

MS. SELLENS: I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That's all right. You're ahead of the game. We're not.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just feel that adding the word "felony" makes this clear as a misdemeanor such as a traffic violation would not be disqualifying for a member.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So there's amendment to the motion to remove or to add "felony" in front of conviction on NEC Amendment 23. Yes.

MS. MURRAY: Patricia Murray, I can't get up right now, so I'm yelling at you all. I worked in the court system for 35 years. Misdemeanor sounds really good, but you -- we had a prosecutor named (indiscernible), so just to start with felony conviction (indiscernible).

VOICES: We can't hear you.

MS. MURRAY: I'm sorry.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Come on up.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: She's got the microphone coming to you.

MS. MURRAY: Oh. I'm sorry. Thank you all. I've worked in a court system for 35 years and we had a prosecutor named Plead 'Em Out Pat (phonetic), and you start with major felony allegations.

And to get them to plead, you knock it down to a misdemeanor (indiscernible) of felony. They may have taken \$500,000, but, you know, can't quite get there to the level, but they'll knock it down to a misdemeanor and you still have a lot of bad stuff, but they're pleading to a misdemeanor. So if you knock it down just to say felony, there's a lot of misdemeanors out there. I'm sorry. I don't want you all folks around me, you know. There's just misdemeanors that are worse than others. And if you just put felony in there, you're knocking out some stuff. That's just from experience from seeing that. I'm not -- and I'm not an attorney. Do not want to be one. And that's my disclaimer. You all are really good.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion? Yes, Lisa. I got Lisa. Wait a minute. Lisa. I already called on Lisa.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Okay.

MS. CHAPLIN: Thank you.

I think this speaks to increments of integrity. If it's about integrity and ethical conduct, then it should be about integrity and ethical conduct, not we're just a little bit not so right. I think this committee has apparently got the credentials, the expertise, the background, and spent the time. And I'm not sure that we, as amateurs, in that area need to tell them what they should have done. So I think if its integrity, it's integrity. I am not in favor of changing it to felony.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any more discussion you guys have a comment on there? Okay.

MS. GOOCH: If I may. It's fascinating.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm calling on you. Yes.

MS. GOOCH: It's fascinating to listen to you have this discussion because it's one that we had multiple times in this committee. Believe me, like we went through in minute detail. And I think either approach is actually

a good one. Ultimately, we agree that this was the best approach. It was the most inclusive.

Now, if you want to change this to state violate, you know, violations of laws that result in a felony conviction, you can still catch folks on misdemeanor violations if they endanger the integrity of the organization or place the organization at risk. So I think you're kind of looking at two different roads to get to the same place, in my opinion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Is there any more discussion?
(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. We are voting on the -- the motion's on the floor to change on NEC Amendment 23 strike and substitute ALA Code of Ethical Conduct and Standing Rules by putting "felony" in front of conviction. It's already been seconded. There's no more discussion.

All in favor say "aye."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All opposed say "nay."

VOICES: Nay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That motion has been defeated and we're now back to the original amendment. We are now voting on the original amendment which was already seconded.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, the entire one, which is once again NEC Amendment 23 strike and substitute ALA Code of Ethical Conduct and Standing Rules. Is there any discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All in favor say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those opposed say "nay."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That motion is carried. Please continue, Jacqui.

MS. HOOD: Thank you, Madam President. Before I complete my report, I have just one more item of business. On behalf of the Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee, I move the adoption of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm sorry. I totally missed you. I was trying to get some clarification on this. Please repeat.

MS. HOOD: I move the adoption of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. You received the proposed Ethical Conduct Review Policy in advance via your emailed NEC packet. If there are no objections, I will not read the Ethical Conduct Review Policy. Because this motion comes from a committee, we do not need a second. The question is on the adoption of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy. Is there any discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Recognizes Alaska.

MS. MAZONNA: Penny Mazonna, Department of Alaska. My question is how can we vote through a policy for a committee that hasn't been approved by the general membership yet? So I would move that we table this discussion until after the convention body has approved the committee.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there a second?

MS. MARSH: Second. Jody Marsh, Alternate NEC, Department of Oregon.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. So we are now voting -- the motion is to postpone. Yes. Postpone this until after -- to the post-NEC meetings. Postpone to the post to the -- postpone to the post-NEC meeting. It's been seconded. Is there any discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All in favor say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Any opposed say "nay."

VOICE: Nay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The ayes have it. This will be postponed 'til the post-NEC meeting.

Okay. Right now, we are running out of time. So unfortunately, you get to see us again tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock in this room. And we'll finish our business tomorrow, but we have some updates first that Coral will share.

MS. GROUT: Thank you, Madam President. The Constitution and Bylaws pre-convention meeting is today in a few minutes beginning at 9:30 in Hyatt Regency A through D. Go out of the room, go up the escalator and you will find the Regency.

So here in the hotel, you're not going back to the Convention Center. Don't get lost. Division Caucuses will also be held in this hotel today, commencing at 12:30. Please check your agendas for room assignments.

Post NEC packets are available at the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Office, which is across the street in Room 201 at the Convention Center. If you are a 2022/2023 NEC member, a past National president, National officer candidates, and National chairman appointees, you have packets waiting for you over there. Packets not picked up by Monday morning will be distributed through the convention mail room.

And finally, you've also heard from our National President, we will continue this NEC meeting tomorrow, Sunday, between 8:00 and 9:30 in this room. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. I do just want to mention that tomorrow morning, it will only be the -- we're going to do go into executive session, so we'll only be the voting members of the NEC and invited guests which are the past National Presidents, if you would like to come.

So at this time, you are dismissed from this NEC meeting to go to more Constitution and Bylaws. Have a great afternoon.

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 9:25 a.m.)

**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING CONTINUED
SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2022
8 AM**

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You were a little bit more excited yesterday morning. Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Way better. It is a beautiful Sunday in Milwaukee. We love NEC and we love constitutional (indiscernible), don't we? All right. Remain positive. All right.

This meeting is now called to order -- I lost my gavel. Oh, I don't even get to use it, darn it.

This meeting is now called to order with the National Chaplain, please offer the invocation.

MS. ROBINSON: This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it. Heavenly Father, we gather for this meeting to finish our work for this great organization. Give us the use of your gift of peace and understanding so that we may approach the matters we must handle with sincere and just hearts. All this we ask in your name. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Carol T. All right. We're going to begin where we left off yesterday and I totally skipped over the National Secretary's report. I'm so sorry.

MS. GROUT: Not a problem.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So would you like to share your report now.

MS. GROUT: And my report's back in the hotel, so we're going to wing it. First of all, if there's a problem in your department, in a unit, please do not have the unit people call us in Indianapolis. The issues in your unit need to be addressed and discussed in your department. And we've been getting a number of phone calls and we send them back to the departments. So we have a very busy staff, hardworking staff, here in Indianapolis. Please make their lives a little bit easier by letting your depart- -- your units know that if there's an issue, deal with it in your own department before you go beyond.

Number two. As your National Secretary, my partner in crime here, the National Treasurer, the two of us have been very, very busy on your behalf. And that includes issues like certificates that were needed for this convention, working with banks, signing contracts so that things like this convention can go ahead. So we've done our best to reach those deadlines and we've met all of them. And hopefully, you all received the informational packet within the appropriate number of days prior to the convention for your reading and understanding.

Would like to spend a couple of minutes thanking some very special people this year who've helped this office go well. Angie Graham, thank you. I can't do without you.

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: Sara Riegel, what can I say?

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: And our newest person, Sommer Matthews, thank you so much.

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: If you would like to reach the National Secretary, we have our own email site. It's nationalsecretary@alaforveterans.org. And it's read every day by someone in Indianapolis, if not myself. So if there's something you want to inform us about or some question as NECs, please feel free to use that address and get in contact with us. That's the best way to reach us.

Madam National President, thank you so much for making my year. It has been an awesome experience working with you and all of the members of the NEC and the national officers. I hope you've been happy with what I've been able to accomplish for you. We're still a work in progress, as you'll hear on the convention floor, but thank you so much.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you very much, Coral and I'm glad we started off with you.

All right. Is there any new business?

MS. LLOYD: Madam President, if I could have a moment?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Why certainly.

MS. LLOYD: Thanks. Lauren Lloyd, Department of District of Columbia. I request that the rules be suspended so I can move for reconsideration of the postponement of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Did you vote on the prevailing side?

MS. LLOYD: I did not vote on the prevailing side.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So you're testing my abilities.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any objection to suspending the rules for this purpose?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Seeing no objections, go ahead.

MS. LLOYD: Thank you for your consideration and thank you for my limited knowledge of the current Robert Rules of Orders. I request that the rules -- I'm sorry. I wanted to move for a reconsideration for the postponement of the ethical conduct review policy on page 79 of your packet.

As I was going over all of our amendments, which kudos to our C&B Chairman, Pam Ray, because that was a whopper yesterday, I noticed and I think a lot of us were kind of tired, I didn't notice that there was a proviso at the end, and it's actually there in italics. So on page 82, is where the proviso is.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I need a second on the motion to reconsider.

MS. KUNTZ: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's been seconded by Laurie from Colorado. Thank you. Now --

MS. LLOYD: Now, I can say that -- okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, please.

MS. LLOYD: Okay. So if you look on page 82 of your packet, 82 of 84, at the end of the ethical conduct review policy, there is in italics, it says, "A proviso. This policy goes into effect when the 2022 National Convention delegates adopt amended and restated articles of incorporation."

So at the meeting yesterday, and correct me if I'm incorrect in saying this, we made a motion to postpone this consideration for the policy 'til the post-NEC meeting, correct?

So the challenge is that this policy doesn't go into effect until we make that vote on the floor. And that will be -- I think I'm saying this incorrectly. So anyway, so my point is that we need to vote as an NEC before it goes to the convention floor because it's supposed to go into effect at the convention floor. But if we don't talk about it 'til after the convention, then that's a moot point, right, is that correct?

Well, also, I believe that the amount of work that was put into this policy, and anyone I've -- this is my sixth year as NEC. And so I've been at the beginning of this process, and so I feel like to give it a really good consideration, those of us who have been here the last year and have seen a lot of it happen, we would be able to have the right -- say in the right information to make an informed decision for our organization.

If we put this burden on the people that are coming in that are new, we're asking them to consider something that is pretty important to the sustainability of our organization in comparison with all the other national organizations that we are familiar with.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Lauren.

MS. LLOYD: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hold please. You can sit down.

MS. LLOYD: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Is there any other discussion on the motion to reconsider this amendment?

MS. MARSH: Jody Marsh, Alternate NEC, Department of Oregon. So I don't have an issue with the concept. My problem is a standing committee, we're asking our membership to increase the dues. And a standing committee would be an increase in expenses if I understand it correctly because they -- there'd be callbacks and all of that. And so my question is -- I mean, that's what my issue is. And so if somebody can explain to me how that how I'm maybe misunderstanding it, I'd appreciate that.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. This discussion's only on the motion to reconsider. That would be coming up. Thank you. Good point. So any other discussion on the motion to reconsider?

MS. BROWN-PARK: Nancy Brown-Park, past National President. So we did a question and answer, and in the question and answers says know the

facts. Question is, is it premature to have the NEC adopt the code and policy before the convention adopts the committee's recommended constitution and bylaws changes needed to implement the code and policy?

So the answer, not at all since the NEC ratified the appointment of the committee and charged them with the task, it is appropriate for this body to vote on the adoption of the code and policy. Otherwise, the composition of the NEC will change at the conclusion of the convention, and the committee would need to be reappointed at post-convention NEC to present the code and policy.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any other discussion on the motion to reconsider?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The motion's on the floor to reconsider the ethical conduct review policy. It takes a majority vote. All in favor of reconsidering the ethical conduct review policy at this session, please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Any opposed?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The motion has carried so we will reconsider the ethical conduct review policy, which we will do right now. Correct?

All right. The --

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. There -- is there any discussion on the Ethical Conduct Review Policy?

MS. MARSH: Jody Marsh, Department of Oregon. Do I need to repeat it or -- I mean, it's pretty recent. So my question is just about a standing committee and the cost involved with that when we're looking at raising dues and cutting staff and things like that. And so if I could get some sort of clarification or explanation, I'd appreciate it.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. I'd like to call on the National Finance Chairman Sharon.

MS. CONATSER: Oh, great.

(Laughter.)

MS. CONATSER: I was not prepared for this. Madam National --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm sorry. I'm rescinding my call to you.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. This just tells us what the committee will do; it doesn't set up a committee, or that we need a committee. It just would tell us what the committee is going to -- this policy just says what the committee will do if we set up a committee. So never mind, Sharon, you're fine. Okay. Is there any other discussion on the ethical conduct review policy? Come on back up.

(Laughter.)

MS. CONATSER: Madam President, Sharon Conatser, National Finance

Chairman. The only thing I want -- I'm just trying to make it clear because I know all the confusion on this because we all read it -- I mean, there were a lot of us that were confused in the beginning too and we had to be sorted out. So I understand the confusion. So the financial question would be a really good one to bring up on convention floor if that's a concern because that's when the vote will happen, or when the amendment will be presented for vote. So this is only just the -- okay? All right. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any other discussion/ And you can actually talk because you had talked -- it didn't count the first one.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Because it wasn't in the right place, right? Yes?

MS. MAZUR: Kathleen Mazur, Department of Nebraska.

ALL: We can't hear you.

MS. MAZUR: Oh.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You're so quiet.

MS. MAZUR: All right. Kathy Mazur, Department of Nebraska. I am looking at the Constitution Bylaws that are going to be come up for voting during convention, and that is when the Ethical Conduct Committee, the National President, can appoint an ethical conduct committee. So if that doesn't pass, how can you pass a policy when you don't have a committee?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And that is why we're setting this up or that is why this is being brought forth. I'm sorry. Is there any other -- thank you. Is there any other discussion? Good?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. There -- did you make a motion? Did anybody make a motion to --

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any other discussion?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Okay. Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, there is? Yes. Because it was -- the motion was made yesterday. Yes. I'm going to yield to our lovely parliamentarian so she can explain it to all of us.

MS. DICKEY: Okay. So yesterday there was a motion to adopt this policy. Okay. And in discussion of it, you -- someone moved to postpone it until the post-NEC. Okay? Someone did. Somebody moved to postpone it and you adopted that, and you said yes, let's move it to the post-NEC. So this morning Lauren made a motion to reconsider that, the postponement of it. Okay. And so -- that you pass that. Okay. And you said no, we won't postpone it to the post-NEC, we'll consider it now.

And so because you did away with the postponement, it's -- now, it's the pending motion to adopt it. Okay. And so we're in discussion about whether or not you want to adopt it or not on the merits of it. And when you finish

that discussion, we'll take a vote whether or not you actually will adopt it.

Now on here there is a proviso. Now, some of you might not understand what a proviso is, but a proviso delays when something goes into action. And so it says this doesn't really go into effect, you can adopt it now, but it doesn't go into effect until -- and it says that the -- if the articles are adopted, the reinstatement of the articles of incorporation are adopted at convention.

So if that goes into effect, if that is adopted, then this will go into effect if you adopt it. If that is not adopted on the constitution -- on the convention floor, excuse me. If it's not adopted on the convention floor, then this will go away. Does that help you?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. DICKEY: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Thank you, Chris. Okay. Is there any more discussion on the ethical conduct review policy?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: There's a motion on the floor to adopt the ethical conduct review policy. All in favor say aye.

SEVERAL: Aye.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Any opposed say nay.

FEW: Nay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The ayes have it. And that policy will move forward. Thank you. We're learning something every day. All right. I'm completely lost. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Yes. Is there any other new business? Thank you. Is there any other new business?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Seeing no new business, we're going to move on. I want to thank everybody for their participation. At this time, we're moving into executive session. And following executive session, the meeting will adjourn.

So executive session includes only voting members of the NEC and invited guests. For this executive session, the chair has invited the past national presidents, professional parliamentarian Chris Dickey and Jacqui Hood, as well as upcoming leadership. There are to be no other attendees in this meeting. And I'll ask anyone not part of the executive session to please exit now. And when they do, will the pages please close the doors for us. Thank you very much and have a great day. We'll see you see you soon.

(Whereupon, the meeting went into executive session at 8:20 a.m.)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022**

(Welcome video plays:)

Caring Hearts. No two words better explain the American Legion Auxiliary's reason for being. In essence, we continue to do what we do for over 100 years because we care deep down within each of our hearts, caring for our nation, caring for our community, caring for our children, caring for our military service members, caring for our veterans, caring for each other and ourselves, and caring for caregivers. Over the next three days, we'll explore, recognize, and celebrate the many ways we truly care. Here to open the 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, from the Department of Kentucky, is our National President, Kathy Daudistel.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good morning. Welcome to Caring Hearts, the 101st American Legion Auxiliary's National Convention. I am so excited to share with each of you an outstanding convention experience. As noted in the video, over the next three days, we'll explore, recognize, and celebrate the many ways the American Legion Auxiliary truly cares. And, of course, you know my emphasis this year is Caring for Those Who Care for Others. Meeting these hidden heroes face to face, listening to their stories and experiences, has changed me profoundly.

(Video plays.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Wasn't that awesome? Though my year is almost over, I hope you all find a place in your heart to continue to care for our caregivers. As Georgette said, a small act of kindness can mean so much. Thank you so much for sharing your story, Georgette.

Well, I think there is no better way to kick off our convention than with some music. Incorporating rock with his Southern roots, Billy Brown brings his very own flavor to country music. From ballads to boot stomping anthems, his music breaks the genre barrier and appeals to anyone who loves some good old tunes. Based out of Cincinnati, Ohio, Northern Kentucky, Billy Brown travels around the country bringing his style of country music to the masses. Please give a warm Auxiliary welcome to the Billy Brown Band.

BILLY BROWN: What's up, y'all? My name's Billy Brown. Right here on this guitar, Jeff Ray. Let's sing y'all a few songs this morning.

(Music by Billy Brown Band.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Let's give one more big --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. And there should be an announcement coming soon, or not. Ladies and gentlemen, the 101st American Legion Auxiliary National Convention will resume shortly as we reset the stage to care for our business meeting. We'll be right back.

(Pause.)

NARRATOR: The 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Here to begin our business meeting is your National President, Kathy Daudistel.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Welcome back to Caring Hearts, the 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Good morning, delegates and guests.

ALL: Good morning.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Much better. The 101st

National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will now come to order. Before we begin our opening ceremonies, I would like everyone to please ensure your electronic devices have been placed on silent mode.

National President's Pages, please post the colors.

(Posting of the colors.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our National Chaplain, Carol T. Robinson, will now lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN ROBINSON: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

CHAPLAIN ROBINSON: As we go in prayer this morning, each in our own faith, let us remember how those four chaplains of different faiths on the Dorchester came together, locked arms, and prayed.

Almighty God, creator of all that has been, that is, and is still to come, be with us as we come together as members and friends of the American Legion Auxiliary. Bless and guide President Kathy as she conducts this convention and thank You so much for bringing her safely back to us. Let us listen and learn from the reports given by the chairmen that we may take away ideas to further our commitment to our veterans, our active duty military, and communities. Be with our servicemen and women. Keep them in Your care. All these blessings we ask in Your name, and before we say amen, may we stand in a moment of silence.

(Pause.)

CHAPLAIN ROBINSON: Amen.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Please remain standing as Norma Tramm, National Americanism Chairman, leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of our National Anthem, led by Billy Brown, and finally the reciting of our Preamble, led by National Constitution and By-Laws Chairman, Pam Ray. Norma?

MS. TRAMM: With nothing in your hands, please join me.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

(National Anthem.)

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and Nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on Earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It is my honor this morning to present the 2021-2022 National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary. National Historian, Carol Campbell of Virginia; National Chaplain, Carol T. Robinson of Ohio; Central Division National Vice President, Denise Delaney-Wrolen; Eastern Division National Vice President, Marie Pytka of Rhode Island; Northwestern Division National Vice President, Dee Buckley of Minnesota. Dee is unable to be with us this week, so I'd like to ask that you keep her in your prayers. Southern Division National Vice President, Gabrielle Barnett of Georgia; Western Division National Vice President, Toni Gimpel of Idaho; National Secretary, Coral May Grout of Massachusetts; National Treasurer, Marybeth Revoir of Illinois; and my National President and yours, Vickie Koutz of Indiana.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And please welcome our special guest, National Headquarters Interim Executive Director, Sara Riegel, and our Professional Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And, of course, I would like to introduce you to my amazing pages: Karen Toll from Kentucky; well, they're all from Kentucky; Karen Toll. Doug McGuire, Alicia Buser, and Marie Shouse. They are amazing.

Well, it's so hard to believe that it's been a year since I stood on a stage just like this one, installed as your 101st National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Honestly, while I was traveling and sitting in my seventh airport of the week, my installation felt like a lifetime ago. But right now, it feels like I blinked and the entire year just flew by. It's definitely

been one heck of a ride. In fact, my year was a lot like a ride that I was just on. Many of you know, I came into convention riding my own motorcycle with the riders for the entire Legacy Run.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: There were some incredibly long stretches, rough terrain, endless nights in different hotels, lots of rain, so yeah, pretty much like my ride as National President. But you know what was also the same? The views were beautiful, the people were amazing, and this has definitely, most definitely, been the experience of a lifetime, to travel through the great nation and meet all of you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So looking back, my ride into the National Convention is the perfect metaphor for my ride as National President, truly an experience I will never forget. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: As I worked with my team on planning this National Convention, we spoke of finding ways to share all the experiences that I've had in the past year. We decided the best way to share these experiences was through the stories of all the amazing Caring Hearts I met along the way. I met so many people living our mission every day and working to change the world one relationship at a time. These Caring Hearts deserve to have their stories told and celebrated. So during this convention, we'll tell their stories and together we'll celebrate and honor all of the Caring Hearts right here in the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Let's start by welcoming some very special guests to the stage. Please welcome Wisconsin's Department President, Diane Weggen.

(Applause.)

MS. WEGGEN: Madam National President, National Officers, Delegates, Alternates, and guests, on behalf of the 17,000 Auxiliary members of the Department of Wisconsin, we welcome you to our beautiful state.

(Applause.)

MS. WEGGEN: The state of Wisconsin last hosted the National Convention in 2010, and it's so nice to see so many familiar faces, and we really look forward to meeting and making many new friends through your stay here. The members of our Department of Wisconsin, and especially the Milwaukee community, would like to extend our friendly hospitality to everyone. We want you to have fun.

Perhaps you've heard the Packers, beer, and cheese are big in Wisconsin. But did you know Wisconsin is the largest producer of cranberries in our nation, and the United States is the largest producer of cranberries in the

world? So besides beer, cheese, and cranberries, there are other great things to see, do, and eat while you are here. Take time to explore Milwaukee's beautiful on the lakefront, feel the heat of the desert oasis, or the humidity of a tropical jungle, and experience the bright colors of a floral garden, all at one destination, the Mitchell Park Dome.

Shop for gifts and sample great specialty foods at the Milwaukee Public Market. The Milwaukee Art Museum boasts an extensive collection of nearly 20,000 works, representing such artists as Pablo Picasso, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Andy Warhol. Make sure you experience Discover World, Milwaukee's premier science and technology center for the entire family. Tour the opulent Pabst Mansion, featuring 37 rooms, 12 baths, and 14 fireplaces, located on historic Grand Avenue. The Riverwalk also is a beautiful way to explore Milwaukee. All these that I have just mentioned are within three miles of this Convention Center. Seven miles straight west is the Milwaukee Colony Zoo. Six miles to the north, you can play a round of disc golf. No matter your interest, we have something for you. Thank you for coming, for joining us here in Wisconsin. We want you to be safe, have fun, and learn much. Truly enjoy this, your convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And now, please welcome our National Convention Chairman, Amy Luft.

(Applause.)

MS. LUFT: Madam National President, Kathy, dignitaries, members, and guests, on behalf of the Department of Wisconsin, welcome to Brew City, Milwaukee. We are honored to host this year's National Convention in America's Dairyland and the cheese capital of the world. We have many fun things planned for you over the next few days, but first, a little bit about this great state of Wisconsin.

Outside of these city walls, you will find that the state of Wisconsin is mostly rural. It was actually the Native Americans who were the first settlers, and across our state, many of our community names reflect their heritage: Chippewa Falls, Oshkosh, Menominee, Akinawok, Wauwatosa, Ashwaubenon. Try to say that name after a few beers. Hey, did you know that Wisconsin is the number one producer of cheese in the United States? We have more cheese factories here than any other state. Make sure to try our world-famous cheese curds while you're here. Fresh, fried, or marinated, just about every restaurant you go to will have them on the menu.

We enjoy two seasons here in Wisconsin, winter and construction season. Seriously, we're blessed to enjoy all four seasons. We have many beautiful lakes throughout our state that offer great fishing in the spring. Our summers are great for swimming, boating, and camping at our state parks, and Wisconsin's fall colors are spectacular, which offer great hiking opportunities.

And then there's winter. Our average temperature is about 7 degrees, and our average snowfall is about 48 inches a year. But we don't hibernate during that time. All that snow is perfect for skiing and snowmobiling, which is very popular in our northern areas.

We are fortunate to be the home of three major league sports franchises. The Milwaukee Bucks recently brought home their second NBA championship in 2021. We're also the home of the Milwaukee Brewers, and you can catch a game tonight. And the four-time Super Bowl winners, the Green Bay Packers. The frozen -- the famous Lambeau Field, also known as the Frozen Tundra, is just two hours north of Milwaukee. They offer tours. They have great restaurants, and a fun pro shop so you can grab all your Cheesehead gear. Oh, and we can't forget about our famous college football team, the Wisconsin Badgers. Go, Bucky.

The city of Milwaukee is located on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan just 90 minutes north of Chicago, and is one of the most diversified cities in the entire United States. Hey, here's a fun fact for you. Milwaukee is known as Cream City for its historical building construction. As you walk throughout our streets, you'll notice that the buildings are made with cream color brick. Now, getting around our city is super easy, as we have plenty of public transportation and our own streetcar called The Hop. You'll also find that Milwaukee is one of the most walkable cities around.

Milwaukee's crown jewel is the fact that we are home to Harley Davidson Motorcycle. Hey, not only do our Wisconsinites love to ride our Harleys, but we love to show them off at the Harley Davidson Museum. Make sure to check it out before you leave.

But there's one industry over the past 175 years that has thrived in this city more than any other, the beer industry. Given the nickname Brew City, some of the most iconic breweries over the years have included Schlitz, Blatz, Pabst, and Miller. Currently, there are over 300 breweries in our state. Many of them offer tours, which conclude with a free glass or two of beer. A fun one for you to check out is the Lakefront Brewery, where you'll see the iconic assembly line with the glove on the beer bottle from the Laverne and Shirley show. Speaking of, Happy Days made Milwaukee America's hometown. You can say aay to the Fonz, the Bronze Fonz, which is located on Milwaukee's Riverwalk just south of Wells Street. The Bronze Fonz is a must visit selfie spot. The Riverwalk will bring you to the doorstep of our city's best restaurants, brewpubs, and shops.

It takes many volunteers to put on a convention like this size. I am blessed to work with the best of the best, and I'd like to introduce you to my dedicated team. Please hold your applause until the end. Vice Chairman Maggie Geiger; Local Page Chairman, Sandy Mack, and her Co-Chair, Shirley Creer (phonetic); Flowers and Corsage Chairman, Linda Koska

(phonetic), and Co-Chairman, Darcy Koska; Mail Room Chairman, Christine Johnson, and her Co-Chair, Morgan Johnson; National President's Driver, Donna Johnson. Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce the Cheese Dream Team.

(Applause.)

MS. LUFT: Now, I asked them to model something, some special apparel for you. Our local pages will be very noticeable as they sport these one-of-a-kind cheese scarves. The local pages and all of us are here to assist you with anything that you may need while you stay here in Milwaukee. Our home is your home, so please allow us to care for you. And please make sure to stop in at our office at Room 201-C. We have a photo booth with lots of Wisconsin props, including Cheeseheads, so you can create your own memories from convention. Every time you stop in by us, you can put your name in for a drawing. We'll be having fun giveaways each day, all Wisconsin themed, of course, so make sure to stop in and say hi. And a fun extra bonus, we had a delivery this morning of fresh cheese curd, so stop in while they're still squeaky and get you a free sample.

Madam National President Kathy, thank you very much for trusting me as your National Convention Chairman. I very much appreciate this opportunity. The Cheese Dream Team would like to present you with a special present.

(Laughter and applause.)

MS. LUFT: Have a great time in Milwaukee, everyone. Enjoy the conference.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The edible kind is my favorite. Finally, please welcome Past National President, Nicole Clapp.

(Applause.)

MS. CLAPP: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. CLAPP: National President Kathy, on behalf of the Past National President, I would like to welcome everyone to the 101st National Convention here in Milwaukee. President Kathy, we congratulate you on a most successful year leading the ALA. You encouraged us to care for those who care for others. Now, the time has come to celebrate the accomplishments during this past year. Everyone, how many are attending your first National Convention? There's a few in the crowd. Welcome. Attending a National Convention offers opportunities to gain knowledge about our organization and new initiatives, while having fun getting reacquainted with old friends and meeting new members from all over the world, including a few Cheeseheads.

American Legion family, it is time to now pause, because most importantly, to reflect upon why we are each members of this wonderful organization honoring our veterans, military, and their families. And,

President Kathy, you know I am very proud of you, and our friendship has grown over the last several years. So, everyone, do President Kathy proud by enjoying this year's convention as we make memories to cherish our Caring Heart. Enjoy, everyone. Welcome to Milwaukee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Nicole. All right. We will again be utilizing the electronic voting system. Woohoo. Your Delegation Chairman should have already picked up your voting keypads before today's session began, and each delegate should have a keypad. Remember that Convention Standing Rule Number 16 states that voting keypads are not to be removed from the assembly hall and each Department Delegation Chairman is responsible for all keypads issued to their department. Departments will be charged a \$150 donation to the ALA Foundation Mission Endowment Fund for each missing keypad. So be sure to count them before you turn them in to the Election Committee at the end of the day. We will be using the number 1 key for a yes vote, the number 2 key for a no vote, and I will remind you again, if you choose to abstain from voting, simply do not press any key.

Now, if you press the wrong key on the keypad, wait a moment and then press the correct number. The keypad will register only the last key pressed. So get your keypads out. Let's practice. If this is your first time attending a National Convention, press the number 1 key now. If it is not your first time, press the number 2 key. We'll give you a few minutes.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Are we ready for the results? No? Okay. Thank you. All right. The results are: fantastic, 15 percent of you are brand new, so thank you for joining us today. All right. Now that you all have this keypad thing under control, let's play a game. J.P. hit it.

(Video plays:)

Welcome to Auxiliary Feud, the game that pits American Legion Auxiliary members against members in a contest of ALA history and trivia. Please get out your keypads and get ready to play Auxiliary Feud. Please welcome your host, our National President and Kentucky's finest, Kathy D.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. It's time to play ALA Family Feud. We'll try to play a little ALA Family Feud every day, and each time, we will play using our voting keypads. So get ready.

Question number 1: When was the last time we were in Milwaukee for the National Convention?

- A. 2007
- B. 2010
- C. 2011

Please answer now using your voting keypad.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And the survey says, woo, okay. So 558 of you think the last time we were here was in 2010, and you are right. The last time Milwaukee hosted our National Convention was also the year I went out as Department President, so it's come full circle. Great job. All right.

Question number 2: How many states make up the ALA's Western Division?

The Western Division better get this right.

- A. 5
- B. 8, or
- C. 10

Please answer now using your voting keypads.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And the survey says, woo, so I can't figure it out. 301 of you think there are eight states in the Western Division, and you would all be wrong. I know I was wrong. The correct answer is C. 308 of you got it right. Ten states in the Western Division. Okay. It's time for the final question. Are you ready? This word in the Preamble to the ALA

Constitution means to instill or ingrain:

- A. Autocracy
- B. Sanctify, or
- C. Inculcate

Please answer now using your keypad.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And the survey says C, inculcate. 539 of you got it correct. Awesome job, everyone. Are you ready to be official keypad users? All right. Let's keep the fun going with our first item of business, which is the adoption of the reports which organize the convention. The credentials report will be presented by Credentials Chairman, Donna Dillard, Department of Texas.

MS. DILLARD: Good morning. Madam National President, the Credentials Committee met on Saturday, August 27th, 2022, and the following is our report: Delegates by state: Alabama 9, Alaska 8, Arizona 16, Arkansas 7, California 19, Colorado 9, Connecticut 9, Delaware 8, District of Columbia 6, Florida 33, Georgia 11, Hawaii 6, Idaho 8, Illinois 22, Indiana 34, Iowa 19, Kansas 12, Kentucky 11, Louisiana 9, Maine 10, Maryland 20, Massachusetts 11, Michigan 24, Minnesota 25, Mississippi 9, Missouri 12, Montana 8, Nebraska 18, Nevada 6, New Hampshire 12, New Jersey 12, New Mexico 9, New York 30, North Carolina 11, North Dakota 11, Ohio 31, Oklahoma 8, Oregon 10, Pennsylvania 44, Puerto Rico 6, Rhode Island 7, South Carolina 9, South Dakota 12, Tennessee 8, Texas 17, Utah 7, Vermont 10, Virginia 12, Washington 11, West Virginia 9, Wisconsin 20, Wyoming 8, for a total of 713 delegates. Madam President, on behalf of the Credentials

Committee, I move that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official voting attendance for this convention.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of the Credentials Committee's report as presented. Is there any discussion? The question is on the motion to adopt the report of the Credentials Committee. All those in favor, press the number 1 key on your voting pad. Those opposed, press number 2. Please vote now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Voting is now closed. Please show the results. 661 in favor and 5 opposed. There is a majority in the affirmative. The motion is carried and the Credentials report for the 2022 National Convention has been adopted. Thank you, Donna.

Rules Chairman Judy Lynch will present the proposed rules for this convention.

MS. LYNCH: The rules are printed in pages 24 and 25 of the Legion Family Program. Madam National President Kathy, by the direction of the Rules Committee, I move the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2022 as printed.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2022 as printed. Is there is any discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, please press the number 1 keypad on your voting pad. Those opposed, please press number 2. Vote now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Please show the results. Voting is closed. 650 in favor, 9 opposed. There being two-thirds in the affirmative, the motion is carried and the rules for the 2022 National Convention have been adopted. Thank you, Judy.

MS. LYNCH: You're welcome. I love you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: National Secretary Coral May Grout will now give the convention report.

DR. GROUT: Good morning. Please refer to the agenda that was distributed to all Delegation Secretaries during registration. The Delegation Secretaries were charged with distributing this agenda to their delegates and alternates. I move the adoption of the agenda as printed.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there a second?

(Second.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Motion is seconded. The question is on the motion to adopt the program as printed. Are you ready for the question? Thank you. Somebody talk to me. Thank you. The question is on the motion to adopt the program as printed. All those in favor, press number 1 on your keypad. Those opposed, press number 2. Please vote now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Voting is now closed.

Please show the result. 661 in favor, 11 opposed. The affirmative has it and the convention agenda is adopted. Thank you, Coral. By adoption of these reports, the 101st National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is officially organized for conducting business.

We can learn a lot from our Juniors. After all, they are our future leaders. During this term, the ALA Juniors were very busy. Here to tell us more about it is National Junior Activities Chairman, Deb Albers.

MS. ALBERS: Our Juniors are heart and soul. National President Kathy chose caregivers as her national focus during this past year. The caregiver patch for Juniors was created for Blue Level Juniors in high school. Requirements for the patch included writing an essay about caregiver support, completing five related activities to caregiving, putting together a caregiver survival kit or first aid kit, and when the requirements for the patch were completed, Junior members have a good grasp of what it takes to be a caregiver. Many Juniors' hearts went out to caregivers.

There hadn't been a face-to-face national meeting since early 2020. In the summer of 2021, Juniors met in a virtual Junior Jamboree, but in 2022, we returned to face-to-face meetings. Meetings were advertised and division chairmen became involved and contacted department chairmen. On January 29th, 14 Juniors attended the meeting in Las Vegas for the Western Division. It was a fun time, and National President Kathy was there to greet the Juniors and share ice cream. Thirteen Juniors attended the National Junior Meeting in Orlando, and National President Vickie Koutz was there, also to share ice cream. Central Division Juniors met at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. National President Kathy was there in spirit in their group photo, with 18 attending. As momentum grew, the Baltimore meeting had 43 participants, so many that in fact, registration had to close due to the space available. Amazing.

Last but not least, on April 2nd, the meeting in Omaha met at Post 1, with 19 Juniors. Lots of activities kept Junior members engaged at the national meeting, from ice breakers to get to know each other and decorating and filling caregiver bags. These bags were distributed to VA medical centers to be given to caregivers. Each one included a phone charger, notepad, pen, and hand sanitizer. And games for fun were enjoyed by all. Little Sally Walker from Coast to Coast and Baby Shark were, of course, the favorites. The girls had fun sharing fun and well wishes in autograph books. We performed the 13 folds of the flag, and each of the participants practiced folding the flag. Open wind cards were made and dispersed at veterans' homes. These were created with heart and soul.

Various awards were given to Juniors. Members of Blue Star families were given pins. And in keeping with National President Kathy's caregiver

awareness, youth caregiver certificates were awarded to Junior members that help provide care to family members. Now, the youngest Juniors at the Red Level earned Poppy, American, and Leadership patches. In Baltimore, two good deeds were given to deserving Juniors. The Military Children's Cable Ceremony was performed at the end of every meeting. Each of these meetings were a whirlwind of activities and heart and soul. I feel so privileged to have been a part of it. Juniors have heart and soul.

And now I get to announce our 2022-2023 honorary National Junior Division Vice Presidents. From the Central Division, Hayden Freeman of Illinois; from the Eastern Division, Mackenzie McDaniels of New York; Northwestern Division, Samantha Stai from Minnesota; Southern Division, Jasmin Harris from Florida; Western Division, Audrina Rosales from Arizona.

Speaking of heart and soul, you are about to meet our Junior Member of the Year, Ava Groth of the Unit 781, Mountaintop, Pennsylvania. Ava's nomination was made by her father, Ed Groth, who is an Auxiliary member. And in addition to several projects she's been involved with, she organized a project she dubbed Mission Restoring Memories. She was able to assemble 55 volunteers and collect over \$2,000 from donations for chemicals to clean and restore over 200 headstones at the cemetery in Mountaintop, Pennsylvania. Give a warm welcome to Ava Groth, 2022 Member of the Year.

(Applause.)

MS. GROTH: National President, Chair members, fellow Auxiliary members, good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. GROTH: I'll start off by saying what an honor it is to receive this award. I don't think it's truly even hit me yet, even as I stand on the stage in front of you, that this is like a national level award, one that people from all over our country picked me to receive. But it truly is such an honor. A lot of sweat and work went into projects I did as a Junior, but I wouldn't change any of it. The reward of being proud of all I've accomplished is all I could have asked for.

I think every eligible girl should be a Junior. When I first started, I went to my State Junior Convention that year, 2017. There were so many girls, many of which who I still talk to to this day. And the project they had at that convention, which was supply backpacks for homeless veterans, inspired me that same fall with my own backpack drive, one that went out to the children of active service members, who wouldn't have otherwise gotten back to school supplies. So that's why I think young girls should get involved. I think many times we look at other projects and say, "Well, that's already been done," or,

"My project won't make as much of an impact." But that's really not true. Every single project helps, and me standing before you today is proof of that.

But my time as a Junior hasn't all been by myself, and I think that's the most wonderful part of The American Legion as a whole. No matter what project I took on or what I wanted to do, my Legion family was always there to support me. I remember when I was working with Pennsylvania Past President Lisa Boyer and her project was helping Pennsylvania War Horse, a program to help veterans with PTSD, I needed help and I turned to the Juniors in my state, and a bunch of us showed up for a day at the farm with tons of donations and to spend the day with the horses.

With the support of Pennsylvania Past President Pat Harms, my term as Pennsylvania Junior President was a success. She helped me get in contact with several people who helped me tremendously while I was Pennsylvania Junior President. My role in the Auxiliary also helped me get more into Girls State, a program that I cannot praise enough. When I went to Girls State in 2021, that year, Pennsylvania was virtual. But because of my involvement in the Junior Auxiliary, I was invited back the next year as a junior counselor.

Over those two years, I have become so close with the girls in charge of that program, and I can see the passion for all that they do, and I cannot thank them enough for their involvement. Being a Junior is such a huge part of my life. It has helped me to become more outgoing, more aware of what it means to be a member of this beautiful country, and it's helped me create amazing connections. From the day I started to today, where I stand in front of you, I have loved the American Legion Junior Auxiliary, and I cannot wait to continue in this amazing American Legion family as an American Legion Auxiliary member.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you for your report, Deb. And isn't Ava amazing? The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program focuses on making grassroots connections and forging relationship with the community to increase membership as well as awareness. Let's welcome ALA Girls State and Girls Nation Chairman, Nancy Magginnis, for more information.

(Applause.)

MS. MAGGINNIS: Madam President, good morning.

Raise your voices, raise them high. Sing to Girls State, and here's why. Look to Girls State and you'll find tomorrow's leaders of mankind. Throughout this summer, those words rang out loud and clear across the nation as young women sang them while participating in an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program. When I hear those words, my heart tends to skip a beat, knowing the impact the ALA is having on today's youth.

While the past two years, COVID tried to flatline our program, the Department ALA Girls State teens thought out of the box to make sure we didn't lose our premier youth program. The heart of the matter in 2022 is, we had 49 departments having ALA Girls State sessions, with four totally virtual and some held in conjunction with The American Legion's Boys State. Programs returning to in-person sessions continue to implement a new technology, processes they use during virtual sessions, to further enhance their in-person experiences. Several department Girls State programs built service projects into their sessions that tie into the ALA mission in a variety of ways.

The Department of Missouri ALA challenged their delegates to bring non-perishable food items for the USO at the St. Louis Lambert Airport, a truckload of crackers, cookies, Moon Pies, and more, along with cash donations. The ALA Missouri Girls State left a heartfelt contribution to the USO. Patti Pink, who is an ALA Girls State and Girls Nation alum, as well as an ALA member in Missouri ALA Girls State Counselor, stated when she stepped into the USO, her horizon was broadened about how the USO was a home away from home for military personnel.

The Department of Arkansas ALA Girls State thinks of service in a different way. Their units encouraged sponsoring delegates to give volunteer hours back to the unit and assist the unit with one of the ALA programs. Citizens assist the units with copy distribution and placement of flags on veterans' graves. What an excellent way to teach our ALA Girls State citizens about veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary. I'm sure these volunteer opportunities remain in the hearts of ALA delegates long after their participation.

Ninety-eight senators arrived for the 75th session of ALA Girls Nation. After a long day traveling, the senators were welcomed by staff and were ready to begin meeting their counterparts from other states. During the opening convocation, they learned about the American Legion Auxiliary poppy, and then placed poppies in a wreath that was later placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Arlington National Cemetery tour included a tribute to veterans, visiting the graves of former President John F. Kennedy and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and doing the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Throughout the week, ALA Girls Nation viewed a slideshow of pictures featuring special remembrances from the previous 74 years. The senators laughed at the various clothing styles and enjoyed the pictures from the various sessions. Our special project was the American Red Cross's Military and Caregiver Network. The senators and staff made thank-you cards and packed 850 caregiver packages, including \$4,250 worth of gift cards for distribution to caregivers for our veterans and military personnel.

(Applause.)

MS. MAGGINNIS: We were also given the opportunity to tour the American Red Cross's National Headquarters. While touring the various D.C. monuments, National President Kathy placed a small bundle of poppies at the Korean War Memorial in memory of her father, a special moment for our National President. The senators enjoyed the Twilight Tattoo, with re-enactments of the Army's history through the eyes of the American soldier.

Capitol Hill, where several were able to meet their real-life counterparts or their staff member and an opportunity to tour the White House. While the trips were great additions to the program, the senators enjoyed debating their legislation and selecting their leaders for the week. The Senate discussed 10 bills, two senate resolutions, and two Senate joint resolutions. Seven bills and two senate resolutions were passed. Senator Marli English from Georgia was elected the ALA Girls Nation 75th President. The Vice President was Ava Foley from Tennessee, and our outstanding senator was Sabrina Brandeis from California.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. However, may I introduce a special guest? It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 75th ALA Girls Nation President, Marli English. President English.

(Applause.)

MS. ENGLISH: Good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. ENGLISH: As I said, I'm Marli English.

I'm from Powder Springs, Georgia. First and foremost, I'd like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary for hosting Girls Nation. I'd like to thank Post 160 of Smyrna for sponsoring me, and I'd especially like to thank Georgia Girls State for supporting me the entire way and believing in me, because it's meant the most to me.

Girls Nation is always described as one thing, a once in a lifetime experience, and I used to think, like, of course it's a once in a lifetime experience, because you can only go once. But it wasn't until I attended that I understood what people really meant by once in a lifetime. And so I had a lot of trouble writing my speech, because I was, like, you know, I don't really know how to describe it and really do it justice, because you can explain what it literally is. It's a weeklong program where two girls from each state are flown out to D.C. and they participate in mock senate, they tour D.C., they meet their senators, so on and so forth. But that doesn't quite do the program justice. So I decided that the best way to explain it was maybe just to take it from the top.

From the time I arrived to D.C., I met up with a group of girls from the airport. Coincidentally, the first senator I met was actually from Wisconsin, and I knew that I was going to be around the most supportive and brightest group of people that I would in my entire life. From the time we got onto the

bus, we spoke to each other as if we had known each other for weeks, but we knew that we really only had a week. All of us had been to Girls State and we knew how fast a week went by, so we started to get to know each other very quickly and we started to learn from each other. And it was in the first hall meeting where we got asked, "Why were you interested in Girls State and how did you get selected as a senator?" And the answers would range from, "My counselor signed me up from Girls State," to, "My mom had been and I'd always wanted to go." And I think it was in that hall meeting that we understood that we really did come from all walks of life. It was probably the most diverse set of thought that I'd ever been around, because it wasn't just 50 states. It was 100 different perspectives, 100 different communities, 100 different people with different beliefs, and we had come together and we were able to discuss all of those and learn from each other.

At the time, I didn't really know if I was going to run for President because I don't have very many opportunities at home to do the public speaking, and the first time I'd ever run for anything was Girls State, so I was a little nervous. I was a little reserved. But I started to meet the girls and I realized that the best way to help your own community is to learn from other communities. And I realized that if I have 100 girls to speak to, well, that's 100 perspectives that may change, and I decided to weigh my options, which is something I like to do all the time. So the best case scenario was that I'd win and everything would be okay. The worst case scenario was that I'd lose. But I thought if I lost and if I touched at least one person or changed one mind, then I'd go home feeling okay. I even did that with a speech of, like, the best case scenario is they all clap and they really like it, and the worst case scenario is I do terribly. But I'm pretty sure you guys wouldn't boo, so it's like..

(Laughter.)

MS. ENGLISH: -- it'll be A-OK. At least I wouldn't know if they didn't like it. So at that time, I realized that I did want to become the President. I wanted to be able to talk to all the girls and I wanted to work with everyone, kind of step out of my comfort zone. So from there on, I went for it, and the first thing I had to do is get the party nomination, and I wrote a speech in one night, and I just went for it. I gave my speech. I was so nervous. I remember taking a breath and thinking, "I don't even know if words are going to come out of my mouth right now." But while all of this was happening, I think that the most helpful thing was that I was still learning from everyone. As we went around D.C., we talked to each other. I learned how to survive a bear attack from someone from Montana, and I also learned what the agricultural industry needs right now from Missouri. So we'd go from things that, I mean, I'm from the city in Georgia, so I don't quite know how to survive a bear attack. But it was a beautiful experience, because when you say once in a

lifetime, it's more like it creates once in a lifetime opportunities. That's the opportunity to learn things that you would have never learned without Girls Nation. And as I was going higher, once I got my party nomination, I had to talk to everyone. And so everyone in my party made this amazing campaign using Dominion, and I had to talk with my Vice President, and we spoke for hours, making speeches, talking about beliefs, and I realized that again, the worst-case scenario is that you go home and you've changed a mind. Someone says, "I'd never thought about it like that." And so I went to it and I was obviously very nervous, but I was feeling okay because I knew that I had so many people supporting me. And I'm so grateful for all the girls there. They were the most amazing group of people ever.

I went to the party rally and I gave a speech, and right after that was probably the most nerve-racking part. It was whistle stop. I had to answer, I think, it was about 50 questions over the course of an hour, and I was at 15 different rooms. The questions would range from, like, "What's your dream reality?" to, "What are you going to do to stop inflation?" And so I was thinking all over the board, and that's what I think creates the once in a lifetime opportunity of Girls Nation, is that you're forced to think all over the board. You're forced to think about issues that you would have never faced just sitting at home, and you're forced to get out of that echo chamber that's your community. I realized that if I want to advocate for things in my own community, because I really do prefer smaller scale community work, that I had to understand everything on a larger scale, and Girls Nation provided me that opportunity, and I'm so grateful for it always.

A lot of people are asking me about my future plans after Girls Nation, and I never really know what to say. I always want to say, "Well, I'll go to this college and major in this and have this career," but I don't have those answers yet, and so it reminds me of something that my mom does. She's sitting right there in the pink suit.

(Applause.)

MS. ENGLISH: She's what she likes to call a braggy mom, and that's kind of like -- I like to think of it as if she sees a person take a breath in, by the time they take a breath out, they're going to know all the accolades of every single child she has. And she always tells me, "Marti, why are you so humble? I brag on you all the time." And I think what it comes from is, I believe that you don't -- what you do isn't who you are. Who you are creates what you do. And I always hope --

(Applause.)

MS. ENGLISH: I always hope that people notice that in me. I tell her I think that if I just talk to people and get to know them, they're going to figure out what I do. They're going to figure out who I am. And that's what happened at Girls Nation. I was able to figure out who I am. And so when I

think to my future, I think, "Oh, I think who I am will create what I do." I just have to keep going and keep hoping that I keep these opportunities.

I mean, Girls Nation was an opportunity that I had never known about. It's a free chance to go to D.C., meet 100 different people, and I look to the future, and it gives me hope that we have so many youth who are passionate towards living and who advocate for the community, but that we have programs like this where people, youth, are being supported. And I think all of us have felt a little hopeless seeing, you know, the world we're in, but I think that the only thing we can do is hold onto hope and keep moving forward, because I know that that's what I'll do.

(Applause.)

MS. ENGLISH: That's the only way that we can ever see any positive change. So at the end of the day, what Girls Nation provided to me was a newfound sense of hope and a solid backing that I know it'll be okay. And I know that there's a generation around me who's willing to work for it to be okay. And I want to thank everyone here for giving us the opportunity to do so. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I had the pleasure of spending a week at Girls Nation. Every girl there was incredibly cool. Very, very proud that Marli was able to make it and join us here. Nancy, thank you for your report on our premier programs, and I'm really happy you got to meet Marli today.

National Poppy Day recently gained media attention, and I was privileged to be a part of the movement, focused on bringing awareness to our veterans and remembering soldiers we have lost in battle. Here to tell us more about how the country embraced this day of awareness is Sallie Rossman, National Poppy Chairman.

MS. ROSSMAN: Madam National President, a small red poppy produces a mighty thank-you message to our national treasures, our veterans. There is no more fabulous treasure than those who gave of themselves for our freedom. I have been honored to view the poppy representing our national treasures this year and how it has won my heart. Instilling the legacy of the poppy in our youngest citizens gives root to the Poppy Program, likened to poppy seeds sprouting. Members of the schools reading *The Poppy Lady*, explaining poppy history, gives our students a lasting foundation and appreciation for our veteran and their sacrifices. The introduction of the poppy, history, and the poppy poster contest to students creating the poppy, will further explain honoring the veterans' service to our country, understanding why the poppy and our veterans are so important, allow students to spread seeds of knowledge to peers and adults.

Preschool to high school students created poppies, providing a wonderful introduction to the poppy. Preschoolers created paper poppies, while our high

schoolers and elementary drew and painted poppies. Students, with the assistance of the Auxiliary members, participated in colorful poppy poster contests, creating the most colorful posters. These posters can be seen in store windows, restaurants, and municipal buildings across this country. There was even a high school ceramics class that created 120 ceramic poppies for a memorial poppy field for a Legion family post home for Memorial Day.

The support rods were donated by Gold Star Father, a First Lieutenant, Ashley White. Senior members have enjoyed poppy painting parties across this great country and poppy distribution and members branded attendance at patriotic and memorial events displayed our poppy, only growing the recognition program much like the stem of the poppy reaching outward. Collaborating with other organizations allowed the Auxiliary to leaf out, as does the poppy stem sprout leaves. The outlet resource group reached out to the Auxiliary for a second year for their 2022 Honoring the Brave poppy promotion at six of their outlet locations.

Auxiliary members and outlet mall customer service encouraged shoppers to donate and save. Shoppers who donated to the American Legion Auxiliary received a poppy pin and a poppy savings card, and all donations came directly to the American Legion Auxiliary. The outlet resource group provided all of the poppies and distribution materials purchased from the ALA National. Units participated in distributing poppies, telling the poppy story, and promoting the American Legion Auxiliary and Legion family membership. Utilizing poppy funds and a memorandum of understanding, the Department of Texas collaborated with the armed services YMCA to provide a \$3,000 monthly donation for 10 months to fund food distributions at Fort Hood area beginning March of 2022.

(Applause.)

MS. ROSSMAN: The first donation provided 476 bags with 15,980 pounds of food to reduce food insecurity among veterans and active duty personnel families. At each of the food bank events, a poppy display was presented, with The American Legion contact information card and an Auxiliary thank-you note placed in each bag. Additionally, poppy funds created a memorandum of understanding with the Canine for Warriors in the Department of Texas for a \$25,000 donation to sponsor and train a service dog that the Department of Texas voted to name Poppy.

The poppy plant's final culmination is a beautiful red poppy. So is the small red poppy of the American Legion Auxiliary. To ensure our communities recognize their national treasures, each veteran members and units met the National Poppy Challenge of a poppy in every veteran's window. Members were engaging the schools, youth organizations, churches, and Legion family members to allow children and adults to distribute a red poppy to be placed in the window of a veteran's home or in a business, with a

note provided by the Auxiliary. This note thanks the veterans for their service and requested that the poppy be placed in their window.

Red poppies are found across this great nation in numerous forms, however, always with a mission of acknowledging their sacrifices of our national treasures. This Poppy Challenge allowed citizens to recognize the sacrifice of our veterans and their families for the rights that citizens are granted today. The red memorial poppy is a final remembrance of our veterans as they join their comrades in eternity. Members, Juniors, and Seniors place the red poppy at memorial services and cemeteries as a remembrance of their service to our country. Memorial Day finds many fields of red poppies and white crosses with red poppies to signify the greatness loss of our treasures to our communities.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. May I introduce our 2022 Little Miss Poppy. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. ROSSMAN: I am pleased to introduce the 2022 National Little Miss Poppy, Allie Paige Haywood.

(Applause.)

MS. ROSSMAN: Allie is a Junior member of Haywood Veterans Memorial Unit 5 in Hammond, Louisiana.

(Applause.)

MS. HAYWOOD: Hello. I just would like to say it's such an honor to be here and thank you to Ms. Kathy, the Auxiliary National President, and Ms. Sallie, the National Poppy Chairman, for inviting me to the National Convention. I'm a seventh grade student at Ponchatoula Junior High in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. I am a Junior member of Unit 5. I was chosen Unit Little Miss Poppy in June 2021. Then in June 2022, I was chosen Department of Louisiana Little Miss Poppy. Then we got word that I was chosen to represent the National organization.

I have enjoyed helping my post and unit with a Poppy Day, visiting schools, with school supplies, giving out (indiscernible) to veterans at the VA clinic, and much more. Thank you again for this great opportunity to be here. I have a special gift for Ms. Callie, Ms. Kathy, and Ms. Sallie. It is a Mardi Gras pin from Louisiana.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, my gosh. So many amazing young people. Thank you, Allie, and thank you, Sallie. American Legion Auxiliary members are wonderful. From our grassroots members to our national leaders, we all work with the Americanism Program. This year, I was able to see this program in action when I visited the Junior Shooting Sports competition in Colorado. This year's competition was particularly exciting because the two champion spots were secured by women.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The 2022 Precision Rifle Champion was awarded to Mikole Hogan and the Maria Meneses was awarded the champion's spot in the sporter category. Way to go, girls. It was really a proud moment to see them both receive their honors.

Here to tell us more about how our members across the nation worked hand in hand to promote the Americanism Program is National Chairman, Norma Tramm.

(Applause.)

MS. TRAMM: Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart. Americanism is not and never was a matter of race and ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy. This is a quote from Franklin D. Roosevelt. National President Kathy, your focus this year has opened our eyes to the challenges of caregivers. Reading the Americanism essay winners, it was very evident that your focus rippled to the youth as well. The essay title was How can we support families, provide care to their veterans? There are six classes for the contest. Class 1 is Grade 3 and 4, Class 2 is 5 and 6, Class 3 is 7 and 8, 4 is 9 and 10, 5 is 11 and 12, and 6 is special needs students. I will read parts of some of the essays.

Class 1, Kaylei from Kentucky: I could -- absolutely. I could give my neighbor Laura vegetables and go to the grocery store with my mom for more groceries. After I take my trash cans to the curb, I can go to Laura's house and take her trash out. I will do this every week. I will play with the kids. This would give Laura and Danny a needed break. I could also get the kids to take a nap. All little kids and caregivers need a nap. Danny is a veteran. He used to fly planes in the Navy. Danny got hurt and Laura needs to help him every day. Laura needs support for Danny, and the help from me helps relieve their stress. I am proud of the veterans who helped our freedom.

Class 6, Grades 3 and 4, Tina from Wyoming: You can walk the dog so they can be alone. This would help them relax. Another thought is, you can make cards for them, birthday cards and Valentine cards and Christmas cards, because you can make them so happy. You can also write a thank-you card for helping you safe and free. You can help by doing the Pledge of Allegiance. It helps you be good friends and remind us of our freedom.

Class 3, Carolyn from Maryland: Developing a program to provide visits to veterans as well as pet visitation can help take stress off the family. Finding time to smile and laugh and forget about the everyday worries to socializing with each other can do wonders in supporting the family in their often daunting everyday tasks of veteran caregiving. Sometimes what we might think is nothing can be highly effective and helpful. Veterans and

veterans' families deserve our time as a small way to say thank you for our service for our wonderful country.

Class 3, Carmen from Montana: It's essential for families to take care of veterans who have someone there to talk to when things get tough. Sitting down with a family and merely engaging in a civilized conversation can make their day. Planning a potluck community get-together for all provides military families to get out of the house and interact with their community. The families give so much to their community, and it is time for the community to give back to them. Providing care to veterans is not an easy task. As a proud citizen of American, it is my duty to support the families.

Class 5, Erin from South Dakota: It would be easy to say that citizens should just donate to the cause, but the truth is, money will only go so far. We can foster change by being proactive and educating youth about the troubles families of veterans face. I believe that in the classroom, support of veterans and their families should be reinforced as a civic duty. Absolutely. If the eyes of the ambitious youth of today are open to the need of military families, they will go into the world as leaders, striving to make a difference for our veterans.

Class 5, Hannah from Arizona: Always reminding them that they don't have to be alone in this and being able to receive help with hard or even simple things, so they don't end up stressing out. Just remember, don't try to force them into wanting your help. They need to feel comfortable in the idea that you want to help them. Listen to the veterans tell their stories about their adventures. You might learn so many things from them. Overall, just be there for them when they need you.

From the written word of our children, we gain knowledge. Thank you, President Kathy, for this appointment. This concludes my remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Norma. Our units and departments continually embrace our mission for education. To share with us their great accomplishments, please welcome National Education Chairman, Melanie Taylor.

(Applause.)

MS. TAYLOR: Now I can read. Madam National President, the Dalai Lama once said, "When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts." During another year of COVID-19, protocols were hampering the opportunities to be in the schools. Units were put to the test to find ways to promote the education program. Most departments reported their units were able to successfully participate in the Give Ten to Education program. The usual items of crayons, pens, pencils, notepads, erasers, and paper were delivered to the schools. But with this pandemic still going strong, hand sanitizers, cleaning supplies, masks, and sterile gloves were also

requested and delivered. It wasn't difficult to collect the items and then deliver them to the classroom's front door.

The Department of New York was challenged by the Department of North Carolina. This challenge was a two-part challenge, with the first part being most units participating in the Given Ten to Education program, and the second part was for the greatest number of national scholarships submitted from students in their department. The winner of the challenge would be decided by percentage of each part of the challenge and would end April 15th of 2022. New York and North Carolina held a conference call to determine who the winner was. New York won.

(Applause.)

MS. TAYLOR: New York's year-end results were, 146 units gave \$65,626 in school items to the Give Ten to the Education program, and \$52,140 in unit scholarships were awarded. A total of 19 nationals and 110 department scholarship applications were submitted for consideration. What a great challenge for the two units and these two Departments to work the education program.

Pleasant Dale Unit 354 Department of Nebraska, they sponsored a book drive for the Malcolm Public Elementary School library as part of their Give Ten to the Education program. Many books were given throughout the year. *We the People: The United States Constitution Explored and Explained* by Aura Lewis and Evan Sargent, *Poppy Field* by Michael Morpurgo, *Who Is a Veteran?* by Bernie Schwartz, and *Don't Forget: God Bless Our Troops* by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, were just some of the books that were donated to the library.

In March, the elementary school participated in the Dr. Seuss Read Across America. Unit 354 once again donated Dr. Seuss books for this event. One member of the Unit even took part in activities by reading a book to seven different groups of students. The Unit also honored and thanked the students at the Military and Veterans Success Center at the University Nebraska, Lincoln, with homemade cookies and purchased energy bars for Veterans Day. Signs were made welcoming them back and thanking them for their service. Pleasant Dale Unit 354 definitely has a big heart for our children and veterans.

Allied Unit 304, Department of California, has been working with a veteran from Vietnam era and his family for quite a few years. This past year, one of his sons passed away, leaving behind a wife and four children. I didn't think this was going to bother me as much. I'm sorry. Unit members stepped up to help this family, particularly the children, who had lost interest in everyday activities, including school. One of the children, Ethan, a fifth-grade student, he was a smart boy but very sad. Members of the unit took him aside and spoke with him, telling him to remember all the good memories of his

father and to always keep him in his heart. He said he wanted to make his father proud, so he started taking interest in school again. With his wanting to learn, he excelled to the tenth-grade level in school. At the end of the year graduation ceremony, Ethan received the President's Educational Board in recognition of outstanding academic achievement, signed by Dr. Miguel A. Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the President of the United States.

(Applause.)

MS. TAYLOR: Because of this unit's caring heart and willingness to help, Ethan was able to achieve this award and said he felt his father would be proud of him. With 52 departments responding, I am pleased to report education was 100 percent reporting. Thank you all so very much.

(Applause.)

MS. TAYLOR: Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to challenge the world." Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much, Melanie. American Legion Auxiliary members make it a priority to protect, care for, and support our veterans and military families, and the children and youth. Here to share all the wonderful ways our departments and units use their own creativity and generosity to engage our children and youth is National Committee Chairman Trish Ward.

(Applause.)

MS. WARD: An unknown author said, "The greatest legacy we can leave our children is enough happiness to fill their hearts and more love than they can spend in a lifetime." And giving children happiness while filling their hearts with love is a core component of the American Legion Auxiliary mission. While caring and supporting military children is a key element of our program, caring for all children is our priority. While we were all enjoying Convention 2021 in Phoenix, trouble was looming just a few states away and phones began ringing with a call to action.

As Hurricane Ida was bearing down on Louisiana, members were assembling together and creating a plan for blasting the developing needs on social media. The storm was devastating for all but especially for children in the Gulf. Baby formula was scarce and comfort items were at a premium. Within hours and from convention, ALA members stepped up and stepped in a big way. Maine, West Virginia, New York, Puerto Rico, Colorado, California, and members and Departments across the country followed with supplies on the way to our drop point in Baton Rouge. Thanks to our members and within 24 hours, children in the Gulf had nutrition and supplies they desperately needed. Great job, team.

(Applause.)

MS. WARD: We know that showing children respect and recognition positions them for a lifetime of success and service. The Children and Youth Programs Youth Hero, Good Deed, and Caregiver Recognition Awards enable every unit to make a difference in the life of a child and affirms the outstanding behavior and character of young people in their community. When it comes to our kids, our units do not disappoint. Let's hear it for E Unit Number 56 in the Department of Hawaii.

(Applause.)

MS. WARD: Thanks to a quick-thinking Boy Scout on one of Hawaii's most treacherous trails, a stranded couple and their injured dog were helped and led to safety. Who knew that T-shirts could make a stretcher? It was special for everyone who witnessed President Kathy present David King with the ALA Youth Hero award on December 7th. Mahalo, Hawaii, for all you did to make this happen.

(Applause.)

MS. WARD: With over 63 Youth Hero awards and 254 Good Deed awards this year, there's so much more to celebrate. ALA Good Deed awards made sure that outstanding young people who gave of their time, talent, and fundraising treasure were recognized and appreciated. Our ALA Youth Caregiver award honored National President Kathy's special focus of caregiving by recognizing the kind hearts and giving spirit of young caregivers. Young people raised money for care packages for cancer patients in Arkansas, helped special needs kids with sporting activities in Minnesota, and performed selfless acts of kindness across our country without expectation of payment. Thank you, American Legion Auxiliary units, for all your great work recognizing the outstanding young caregivers in your community.

We powered into the spring season with the Month of the Military Child in April and Purple Up Day for military kids. Whether honoring military children with a table of the Military Child Ceremony or just wearing purple to create awareness, members in units made sure that military kids were a focus. Bravo to American Legion Auxiliary District 28 in California, where lots of goodies and smiles were had by all. Well done, Golden Bear State, for brightening the day and lifting the hearts of military kids in Cali. Although the South Carolina Spartanburg County School District 2 is not near a military base, 79 of their students are part of a military family. Unit 200 Boiling Springs went above and beyond, gifting these special kids treat bags and certificates of appreciation. We are all so proud of our members and units, who made recognizing military kids a priority, not only in April but throughout the year.

Let's not forget, last but not least, three cheers for Project Stuff Sack, our National Children and Youth Project, funded by an American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant. Sacks and supplies were gifted to each of our 52 departments, who jumped in and got busy. Members participated, donated, and organized events to make sure the supplies were put to good use. And who were the big winners? Our kids, of course. Just some of the distributed outlets included military children at Fort Riley in Kansas, a homeless shelter in Connecticut, Joy Junction Family Emergency Shelter in New Mexico, The Fisher House in Maryland, The Children of Recovering Service Members in Fort Belvoir, and so many more.

This is a perfect example of how a Child Welfare Foundation grant gave us resources to work our mission, engage our members, and demonstrate how a small footprint of basic supplies can make a mighty impact in the lives of hundreds of children. Named one of the most influential educators for 2022, Gavin McCormack said, "The most beautiful thing in the world is a child's smile. The next best thing is that you are the reason behind it." American Legion Auxiliary members, your enthusiasm, your dedication, and your tireless energy brought so many smiles to so many children. We urge you to continue your good work in support of our nation's children. Just know in your hearts that your passion for our mission and commitment to service has served to empower and inspire the next generation of leaders.

Madam National President, it is now my great honor to introduce Past National President Kristine West, liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation.
(Applause.)

MS. WEST: Madam National President Kathy and Trish Ward, Children and Youth Committee Chairman, thank you for the kind introduction, and I might add a wonderful, enthusiastic, and great leader, Trish, displayed as Chairman of Children and Youth Committee this year. Thanks to all the members of the Committee promoting the Child Welfare Foundation. You worked tirelessly throughout the year and results truly show a great increase in many departments. A special thank you to these ladies.

I'd like to introduce the Children and Youth Chairman, Trish Ward; Paulette Caron, Vice Chairman; myself as a member; Debra Lewis, Central Division Chairman; Lisa LaCoursiere, Eastern Division Chairman; Tracy Trujillo, Northwestern Division Chairman; Sharon Atkins, Southern Division Chairman; and Theresa Montoya, Divisional Chairman.

The annual Board of Directors meeting was held Sunday, October 3rd, 2021, in Indianapolis, that I was privileged to attend along National President Kathy. At this meeting, 14 organizations were awarded a total of \$639,000. Just think of that amount, \$639,000, to help, assist, and lend a helping hand to children across America. All the organizations that received grants can be found on The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation website. However,

I would like to mention just a few, beginning with our great organization, the American Legion Auxiliary, which included \$3,390 for the special project Stuff a Sack. Thank you to Trish Ward for submitting this request.

Also, the Auxiliary National Headquarters received \$45,500 for the National Youth Scholarships, aiding us to give scholarships for Girls Nation, Children of Warriors, Spirit of Youth, Junior Member, and National President's Scholarship. You can see how very important and necessary it is to donate to the Child Welfare Program. We are helping and assisting so many young people.

Other notable organizations receiving awards were Adoption Exchange Association based in Maryland. They received \$22,780; Childhood Leukemia Foundation based in New Jersey, \$29,700; and the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, \$30,000. As well as organizations in Connecticut that received \$64,465, and New York based organizations received a total of \$36,300. Speaking of notable amounts, thanks and congratulations to the 29 departments who showed an increase in donations from last year.

(Applause.)

MS. WEST: They are: Alaska, Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

Total donations in 2021 from departments was \$39,199. And for this year ending May 31st, 2022, was \$64,728. Wow! What a great accomplishment. Also huge congratulations to the 18 departments that donated more than The American Legion. They are: Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Super great job, ladies, and thank you.

Final totals for the year ending May 31st from the three organizations, the Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary are: Sons of The American Legion, \$349,789; The American Legion, \$94,587; and the American Legion Auxiliary, \$64,728. Great job to all. Please continue to support and promote the Child Welfare Foundation.

Now it is my pleasure to welcome Peggy Moon, Vice President of the Child Welfare Foundation. Peggy Moon has been a member of Kriesel Jacobsen Post 560, Zimmerman, Minnesota, for 41 years and was awarded a life membership by her post in 1997. She has served as Commander, Adjutant, Chaplain, and was on the post Honor Guard. She served in the Air Force from 1971 to 1974. On the District level, Peggy served as Commander,

Vice Commander, Public Relations Chairman, Children and Youth Chairman, and currently serves as the Commander's Advisor.

On the department level, Peggy has served as Employment Chairman, Children and Youth Chairman. She served as Membership Chairman 2009 to 2010, and as Department Commander 2014-2015. She was recently elected as the Alternate National Executive Committeeman from Minnesota for the years 2019-2022 and will assume that position at the end of this convention.

On the national level, she has served as Vice President for the Board of Directors, American Legion Child Welfare, and as Vice Chairman of Children and Youth Council. She and her husband Carl have been married for 45 years and have two daughters and six grandchildren, all members of The American Legion family. Please welcome Peggy Moon. Peggy.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: Good morning, fellow Auxiliary members. I am thrilled to be here. I also, of course, have to give a shout-out to the best state out there. Minnesota, where are you?

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: I have been a proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary since I was a young girl. I started out in the Juniors. Yeah, it's been a while, because I'm obviously a senior now in more ways than one. And one of our newest members of our little Auxiliary in Zimmerman, Minnesota is my husband Carl. And right after he joined, they said, "Well, that's good. We're happy to have you. At our next meeting, we're having a pajama party." I have never seen him so fearful in my life.

I want to thank you for all that you have done for the Child Welfare Foundation. As was mentioned earlier, we were able to raise \$569,000 for this last year, and it is through the generous donations of all of your units that we make a difference in the lives of children all across this country. So my job here is to hand out awards. So we are going to start out with the Excellence Award, and it's given to the department with the highest per capita contribution average for the contribution year. And the winner of the Excellence Award is the Department of Kentucky.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: The next one is the Meritorious Achievement Award, and this goes to the department experiencing the highest increase in the per capita giving this past year. And once again, that is the Department of Kentucky.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: We also have the U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award, and this goes to the top department nationally based on the combined total contributions of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion, and our Legion Riders, along with the Eight

and Forty. That's a lot of people, a lot of contributions. This award goes to the Department of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: And finally, we have the Garland Murphy Award, and this goes to the most active department in our nation based on the actual contributions received during the last contribution year. And this one goes to the Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: And with that, Madam President, I'd like to have you join me. I want to thank you and your Auxiliary for everything you've done for the children of our nation. And to show you our thanks, we have this diamond American Legion Foundation pin for you, and I hope you will wear it with pride.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I will. Thank you so much.

MR. MCCASKILL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: (Indiscernible) so the people will get a picture.

(Applause.)

MS. WARD: Madam National President, this concludes the platform remarks for the Children and Youth program.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Peggy, Trish, and Chris. What a great report. Let's continue with a few more Legion family guests. Michael Fox was elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion in Phoenix, Arizona, during the 49th National Convention. Commander Fox has been a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 521 in Rio Linda, California, since the day he was born. He grew up in the organization alongside his father Ned and grandfather Ed, a World War II veteran.

At the young age of 5, Commander Fox volunteered at the local VA Medical Center, which helped him understand the service and sacrifice of veterans. At the old age of 6, he held his first elected position at Squadron 521 as Sergeant at Arms. Please welcome our Sons of The American Legion National Commander, my good friend, Michael Fox.

(Applause.)

MR. FOX: Good morning.

(Chorus of good mornings.)

MR. FOX: Hope everybody's having a wonderful morning. You know, as I'm sitting backstage and I'm watching those donations, it reminded me of how important the Auxiliary is. The Child Welfare Foundations, the Sons brought in almost \$350,000.

(Applause and laughter.)

MR. FOX: But that's because of you and not

Snake. You know, the American Legion Auxiliary is the true backbone and glue to The American Legion family. Everywhere I've traveled, yes, everywhere I've traveled, the reason the Sons are able to raise that kind of money, to be involved so much, is because of the Auxiliary, because of you behind pushing them, participating with them. And for that, I say thank you.

When I was at convention last year and got elected, I asked for your help. I needed your help to accomplish our goals in the SAL. The Sons had an unprecedented year. The major project was flying flags for heroes. I set a goal to place a million flags, and I knew that the only way that the Sons would achieve that is with your help. Currently, we're 164,000 flags shy of reaching 2,000,000 flags placed.

(Applause.)

MR. FOX: And in all 40 detachments that I've visited, every single one, the Auxiliary was present. Thank you for being there to help us.

(Applause.)

MR. FOX: I had the honor and privilege with traveling with Madam President. I don't know, 10, 12, 15 times it seemed like we crossed paths, and it worked great, because all three of us promoted the Legion family. Because the stronger the family unit is, the stronger that department is, the stronger that unit and squadron and post are, and I think we accomplished that goal. I appreciate everything you do for all of the squadrons, because they wouldn't survive without you. So please, don't give up on them, help them, continue to push them, continue to thrive, because always remember that when we work together, we're stronger, and there's no limit to the amount of good we can do, because we are the Legion family. We are Legion family strong. So God bless our veterans, God bless our military in harm's way, and God bless the United States.

(Applause.)

MR. FOX: So, Madam President, this year was the 16th anniversary of the Legacy Run, and for the first time, we were all together. I brought a pen. Will you sign my helmet? And while Madam President is signing my helmet, where's California at? Where's my ladies? Thank you. And second, my adopted family from Maryland, where are you at? Thank you so much for everything.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This is a cool helmet, by the way.

(Applause.)

MS. REAGAN: Hello, everyone. I am Crystal Reagan. I am Michael Fox's fiancée. Thank you for welcoming me here, all of you ladies and gentlemen, if I can see any. Thank you for welcoming us. We do have a gift to present to President Kathy.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This is awesome.

MS. REAGAN: So she was there. We went to the Poppy Store in Normandy and -- Normandy, right? Yes. Okay. And she was looking at a whole bunch of poppy things, and she loved two purses. She bought one because she was trying not to spend too much money, and we silently picked up the second one for her. And I just want to mention that your President, our President, is one of the most amazing women I've ever met. She is strong. She has so much patriotism, so much love, and I can't explain how much I adore this woman. She exemplifies everything that the Legion stands for, and I hope that you feel just as I feel, that she's represented this organization with the utmost pride, love, and devotion. And I love the Snake.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hey, you forgot your Snake.

(Laughter.)

MS. REAGAN: So Michael was given a road name on the Legacy Ride. His road name is Snake. You have to ask him about the story.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Joining me next is Commander Paul Dillard, the leader of the nation's largest veterans organization. He was elected National Commander of The American Legion in Indianapolis during the organization's 102nd National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Commander Dillard first joined the Legion in 1969 and served in several post and national leadership positions before being elected National Vice Commander in 2013.

Commander Dillard's theme, No Veteran Left Behind, paired perfectly with my focus on caregivers. Together, we sent a clear message that the Legion family's primary concern is to ensure all veterans receive the support and care they need. Please welcome our National Commander, my favorite current National Commander, and my really good friend, Paul Dillard.

(Applause.)

MR. DILLARD: Howdy, folks. I can promise you one thing. Of course, normally, when you're in all these lights, you can't really see too much out there, but this is a whole lot better looking crowd than what I'm going to be looking at for two days. And as I was coming up the side wall there, it smelled a lot better too. So thank you for having me. You're lucky Madam President kind of shot me in here at this time, because I got another one I got to be at in a little bit, so I can't talk too long. Normally, I want 45 minutes, but they tell me just four or five minutes.

But being from Texas, as you've heard me say this year, I can take a four- or five-minute speech and make it 45, so it doesn't really matter. But before I start bragging on this lady that I've had the opportunity to serve with this year, I want to thank each and every one of you that responded to our legislative alerts to pass the PACT Act.

(Applause.)

MR. DILLARD: I don't know if you really realize the magnitude of that. You know, it's going to affect over 3.5 million veterans over several generations, and it's going to change thousands, thousands of lives, especially those on the burn pits where they've been denied. Over 70 or 80 percent of them have been denied benefits because they said it wasn't service connected. Well, now we have 28 presumptive conditions and they will get the benefits that they so rightly earned, and thank you.

However, I'm putting out another big call for our family organization. In American Legion magazine this month, right in the middle fold, was a QR code. I don't know if y'all got one, but if not, steal one of those and try to -- no, you can get one or get it from Media Communication Marketing there in National. Put that on your website. Instead of people have to go to legion.org, go to legislative, and go here and there to get signed up for the alerts, you can just take your smart phone and get a smart person to do it.

(Laughter.)

MR. DILLARD: And you can be on it just like that. Where we had, you know, in the upper 30, 34, 35,000 people respond to those, it's so simple, because you punch in your Zip Code, you punch this, and boom, it's gone. The senators was very surprised, and it's just what the Senate is always working on because it passed the House, but they were surprised when they go in excess of 35,000. But what would have happened if we'd had a quarter million, 100,000. We ought to be able to grow that to a half a million when we have an issue or bill we need passed because, folks, we will have more battles to fight. And with your help, and get this out, even take copies of it and pass around at your meetings, post meetings, or unit meetings, or what have you, and get people signed up, because that makes our voice much, much louder, and we'd appreciate your help on that.

So now, this lady I served with, what's her name? Oh, y'all did well. I got lucky by serving with this lady. But you always do a good job selecting your presidents and bringing them up. But I'll be honest with you, I have enjoyed working with Kathy this year. I know many other presidents have done a fantastic job. Well, my mother-in-law was one of them, so I guess I better say that, hadn't I? I'd be getting in trouble. And, of course, Carlene from Texas, she'd give me trouble too.

But, no, you have. You always do a good job and the knowledge is so much there. But, you know, I had a lot of fun with Kathy. I always picked on her. She's always got that big smile, you know. And so it has been magnificent, you know, to serve with her. I believe other than Europe and Hawaii, we probably was only together two or three times, because she was taking care of her business. I was taking care of our business. But it's been a pleasure, and I'm going to close here. I got a little trinket kindly to give her, and I want to wish y'all a very, very, very remaining convention. Have a good

time here in Milwaukee. And as I've told many of my Commissions and Committees I've went to and then to see the pre-convention this morning, be safe. Be safe going home, because your membership counts. So be safe going home. Okay? But God bless each and every one of you, God bless our men and women serving in uniform, and God bless this United States of America. Madam President.

(Applause.)

MR. DILLARD: Sure you can handle that? Oh, here. That's yours.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, I thought you were going to open it.

MR. DILLARD: It's a booboo prize.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: A booboo prize?

MR. DILLARD: A booboo prize.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You're awful.

MR. DILLARD: I'm terrible. What is this? It's an empty pack.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: He doesn't even know what it is.

MR. DILLARD: I do too. It's an empty box. You just don't know how long and hard I looked to find that. You really don't.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I know. I believe you. Donna did it, didn't she?

MR. DILLARD: No. No, she didn't.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: She didn't?

MR. DILLARD: My lips are moving. Thank you, dear. I'll let you go. Thank you. Roses in the middle, thorns on each side.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So he didn't tell or introduce her, but his wife is Donna Dillard. I already knew that. I also -- wait, wait. Walter, where are you going? Walter, come back here. Walter, come here for one second. You, come here for one second please. Walter Ivy is Commander Dillard's aide, and he loves me, so much so that when we were in Hawaii, every time he got out of the van, he left me in the back seat and locked all the doors, more than once.

MR. IVY: I volunteered to sit back there.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So, Walter, I have a special little gift for you.

MR. IVY: What have we got? Oh.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I keep trying to bribe him with sweets, but he still locks me in the van.

MR. IVY: All right.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You can open that later.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You'll see more of Paul on Wednesday night, as he is the state dinner MC. All right. Let's continue with a few more

Legion family guests. It is my pleasure to introduce the 2022 Convention Corporation President, Ted DeMicchi.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMICCHI: Well, good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MR. DEMICCHI: Good morning to the Wisconsin delegation that's all here. What an honor it is to be here in front of you to welcome you to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Not only that, but they have allowed me to follow the Commander of the SAL, the Commander of The American Legion, and now expect me to speak with them speaking before me. Unreal. But anyway, as you know, years ago, we had to deviate from Louisville; we had no convention. Last year, we were out in Phoenix. We had sort of minor glitches there what they did for us. This time, here in Milwaukee, the city is wide open to each and every one of you. Go to the restaurants. Go to the exhibits. Go see the museums. Go to Harley Davidson. Go to Mader's, probably one of the best German restaurants you'll ever go into. And you don't have to wear a mask anywhere if you don't want to, which is fantastic.

Madam President, thank you very much for bringing your congregation here to the city of Milwaukee. We open up our arms to you. If you have any questions, if you have any place you'd like to go see, make sure you see one of the people from the Department of Wisconsin here with the Auxiliary, and also any person with their cap on that says, "Wisconsin," stop them, say hello, get greetings from them, and ask them questions. That's what we're here for is to help you to have yourself a great stay here in Milwaukee until Wednesday is when you -- until Wednesday night. So again, I will see you Wednesday night again, so thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DEMICCHI: By the way, when I had to pin your National President the other day, I was very nervous, because she had a nice vest on and everything, and I just asked her if she would kind of pull her vest away a little bit so I could put my hand in there to do it.

(Laughter.)

MR. DEMICCHI: And I asked her, don't smile a lot either, because they're taking pictures. Have a good day.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much, Ted. Through leadership, you will plant the seeds of success and growth will continue. That was the goal of the Leadership Committee and they were able to achieve great results. For more information, please welcome National Leadership Chairman, Brenda Collins.

(Applause.)

MS. COLLINS: Leadership training was conducted across this great land. Divisions worked for the departments, districts, units, to promote the leadership program. In the Central Division, Indiana, concentrated on three areas of the leadership program: nurturing a culture of goodwill, mentoring, and the ALA Academy, and they had a successful year. The Eastern Division saw New York recognizing their members who had taken the leadership test, and they had several leadership workshops at their fall conference. Colorado prepares their leaders in the Northwestern Division, that's true, by educating, engaging, and empowering their members.

Idaho reported that their department leadership training at their department convention had several topics, some of which were planning for success and setting an example. Numerous department leadership chairmen put together survival leadership kits. In the Southern Division, South Carolina put one together for Junior members. They replaced the rubber bands with a stress ball, hopefully to reduce accidents.

The leadership survival kits are: a rubber band to always remind you to be flexible, a paper clip to hold your reports and your volunteer hours together, an eraser to remind you that your mistakes are never permanent, bubble gum to remind you that the child within you is important, crayons to inspire you to go out and color the world, Smarties to remind you that you are smart and you make good decisions, Post-It notes to keep communications flowing, quotes that inspire leaders within, Snickers bars to keep you laughing, pencils to write down all those good ideas, and a BandAid to remind you to heal problems and hard feelings, stars to remind you that that's what you're reaching for. These clever leadership survival kits have been great tools to promote the leadership skills throughout the Auxiliary.

In conclusion, here is a great quote to always keep in mind. "Leadership is an action, not a position." Thank you, President Kathy, for your confidence in me.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Brenda. Strengthening our communities is something American Legion Auxiliary members strive for every day. It's why we all operate under the motto, "Service, not self." Please welcome Denise Conrad, National Community Service Chairman, to tell us more about how our members contributed to our communities.

(Applause.)

MS. CONRAD: Good morning, Madam President Kathy, and good morning to all. Community service looks a little bit different in every community. It's based on the needs of that particular community, but the common thread of all is serving our communities and it remains the same. Supporting our local food pantries is at the heart of it all. In Tampa, Florida, a food drive was held at Childs Elementary School, and in Arizona, the Post 91

Legion family came together to support their local food pantries, and wow, did they make an impact.

Nebraska and many other departments did a Stuff the Truck food pantry project at their local school or community events. Communities were also encouraged to remember our furry friends when donating. In New Hampshire, using a colored lit tree, members of the community could donate in honor of a loved one. The colored light would then be exchanged for a white one and all the proceeds would go to the local food pantry.

Beautification of our roadways, trails, community centers, and parks were another way that we care for our communities. In Delaware and Minnesota, flowers were planted around the community buildings and parks, and roadways were adopted to keep America beautiful. Units spearheaded fundraising to build and refurbish playground equipment. For some extra summer fun, Unit 289 in Strasburg, Illinois, painted games on the school blacktop, with permission, of course.

First responders were recognized in communities with projects like Coffee for Cops in Tennessee or Baked Goods for Badges and Angel Bakery Day in other parts of the nation. Unit 421 in Ohio had Gifts and Goodies to say thank you for our first responders, including key rings and sweet treats, and Ohio also spearheaded a project for the memorial of a fallen police officer. Many of the country's best cooks prepared school meals for athletes, for funeral dinners, for life celebrations, for first responders during a crisis event, and for monthly or weekly meals for the underprivileged or underserved members of our community.

Some units did a carry-out meal like Unit 44 in New Mexico, who assembled picnic bags that would feed a family of four, and it had all the fixings. Burgers, dogs, buns, chips, beans, fruit cups, and a poppy coloring book, and an American flag. They were delivered to the needy families that were identified by the local schools.

Caring for others is a selfless act. Our members in Michigan District 2 came together to provide goodie bags for the caregiver spouses who accompanied their veterans to the Wilwin Lodge Retreat Center for therapy. South Dakotans helped to support the Northern Hills Training Center. It's a residential services whose goal is to identify the specific type of housing that's needed for a community member and then find a place that's a good fit for that person.

Another great project was taken on by California District 18. They have a great relationship with Fort Irwin Military Base, and Fort Irwin reached out saying they needed new books for their library. Their library not only serves the military children and adults on the base, but the entire surrounding underprivileged area. So a list of books that was needed was sent to the District by Fort Irwin, and they responded by hitting the bricks with email and

social networking, and the funding came in from around the country. They were able to purchase 1,031 new books for the Fort Irwin library. Way to go, California!

However, the largest project that happened this year was Unit 127 in Gladbrook, Iowa, who is busy all year round. They do a kids' shopping day for Christmas. Between 200 and 250 students of area elementary and preschools come to shop for their family, and all the gifts are free to the student shopper. They get one gift per person and they're allowed 10 people on their list, but no gifts for themselves. Preschoolers are helped by an adult who is not a list on their shopping list. Communities from around the area and other organizations within the communities are solicited for items. Each gift is wrapped and a tag signed by the child is attached to each gift that they choose. Most parents say it is the best gift they get for Christmas. It takes 80 volunteers the day of the event, and countless hours and volunteers in preparation. Before leaving the event, each child must visit the people of Bethlehem, where they receive a Nativity card and a gift from the unit. It's usually a craft or an ornament. This December will mark the 10th year for this outstanding event. Hats off to Gladbrook.

These are just a few of the outstanding projects our units participated in this past year. Wear your ALA clothing with pride when you are caring for others in your communities in service, not self. I'd like to extend a special thanks to all my Community Service Division Chairmen and their department teams for their service this past year, especially to our Vice Chairman, Marty Peters, for all their help. Madam President Kathy, this concludes my Community Service report, and thank you so much for the support.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Denise. For a veteran, coming home is the beginning of a new journey, a transition to find a new normal. Here to tell us more about how our members use their caring hearts to comfort and care for veterans during this transition is our National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, Lisa Williamson.

(Applause.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Good morning.

(Chorus of good mornings.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Audrey Hepburn once said, "You have two hands, one to help yourself and one to help others." What she failed to mention was the caring heart, and I can tell you that our American Legion Auxiliary members have heart, the biggest of caring heart, and have readily embraced National President Kathy Daudistel's focus, caring for those who care for others. Every department came up with some way to remember caregivers. But let's showcase a few.

In conjunction with President Kathy's visit to

Maine, she was delighted to honor some caregivers at a special luncheon. After each caregiver's story was told, she greeted them with a hug and spent a few special moments with each. Each received a certificate and a gift bag. Members in Texas handed out 510 Proud Home of a Veteran and Proud Home of a Veteran Caregiver cards, to be placed in windows of veterans' homes. To go one further, El Paso Unit 36 made 100 large Thank You to Our Veterans signs and placed them in their yards. As well, visiting with these veterans and their caregivers while thanking them proved to be a wonderful membership recruitment opportunity. Even President Kathy's Department of Kentucky reported teaming up with another department to supply caregiver bags to caregivers at the local VA.

So let's switch gears a bit. Co-presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Veteran Creative Arts Festival is the culmination of talent competition in art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music for veterans treated in the VA Healthcare system. How did they get selected, you might ask? It starts at your local VA. Local VA creative arts winning entries advance to the national judging process, where winners are determined in each category. But shockingly, not every VA participates. But what can you do to change this? Start small. Plant the seed. Try a smaller event to see if it can gain some momentum.

The Department of Idaho did just that. Their VA&R Chairman started bringing art supplies to the State Veterans Home in Boise. The veterans created artwork that was eventually displayed during Iowa's Department Midwinter Conference for their very first arts and crafts show. It started with a vision. Who knows where it will lead? But let's hope these veteran artists enter their creations in the Boise VA Medical Center and possibly continue on to the national event.

National Vice President Vickie Koutz's Department of Indiana took a vision and started a local creative arts festival and executed it with caring hearts. Martinsville Unit 230 organized and hosted the first Morgan County Veteran Arts Festival. Eighteen pieces of artwork were submitted for competition. This festival was advertised and publicized through social media, local newspapers, flyers, and even interviews on the radio and television. I'll pause here for a second to let you look at some of the artwork.

(Pause.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Boise did have an entry this year in St. Petersburg, but wouldn't it be great, a wonderful opportunity to grow? And now that Indiana has their first one under their belt, I hope they will partner with one of their VA facilities, allowing these artists the opportunity to participate in the national event during April 10th through the 17th, 2023, in St. Louis, Missouri. I recommend both these departments and any other departments that are considering a local VCAF to consider applying for the ALA

Foundation grant. Grants can be awarded up to \$2,500, and it's very quite simple.

One more thing. If you have never been to a National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, I highly recommend it. Our VNR Committee was there the entire week, along with President Kathy and National Vice President Vickie, and I know every single one of us would say it's exhausting, but oh, so rewarding.

In closing, I'd like to leave you with something Muhammad Ali said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth," and our members, especially our caregivers, have paid in full. Madam National President, this concludes the platform remarks for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you for your report, Lisa. Hey, while you're still up here, let's recognize these departments that worked so hard to raise money for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Let's do it. Take a look at our Gold, Silver, and Bronze Donor Department. You read Gold. I'll read the next.

MS. WILLIAMSON: The Gold is the Department of California, the Department of Wisconsin, the Department of Texas, the Department of Ohio, the Department of Connecticut, and the Department of Maryland. Department of New York. I'm sorry. I skipped over one.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Silver, Department of Iowa, Department of Illinois, and Department of South Dakota.

MS. WILLIAMSON: And the Bronze, the Department of New Hampshire, Kansas, Florida, Nebraska, Delaware, Arizona, New Jersey, Minnesota, and Massachusetts.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Woo! Awesome. And I double agree with her. If you have not been to a Veterans Creative Arts Festival, put it on your list. It's well worth it.

We have just one more item of business before we adjourn for the day. I know, right? Before we do that, would our National Secretary, Coral, come back to the podium with today's convention update?

DR. GROUT: First of all, if you are a 2022-2023 Department President, please remain in the convention hall for a brief meeting regarding the instructions for installation. Don't forget to visit the Giving Tuesday booth and show your support to our nation's heroes. The booth is conveniently located and open before and after each session, so don't delay. Donate today. We have a recognition this morning. In the audience, we have a 91-year-old member celebrating her birthday today. Her name is Marian Woodcock from the Department of Massachusetts, the Unit Member of the Year.

(Applause.)

DR. GROUT: And finally, I'd say we sing Happy Birthday to Marian. Where is Marian? Where are you, Marian? Up there. You ready? Ready? (Singing of Happy Birthday.)

DR. GROUT: And finally, it's time for you to place your bids at the ALA Foundation's silent auction. All items are online now and will be available to view at the state dinner. Bidding will close on Wednesday. Place your bids, ladies. Madam President, that concludes the updates. We're ready for your last piece of business.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Well, right before we get into that, I just want to shout out to someone. You heard that the National Commander, the National Sons of The American Legion Commander, and myself rode in the Legacy Ride this year, but I also want to give a shout-out to one of my National Vice Presidents, Division Vice President, Gabrielle Barnett, who also rode in the ride.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: On her own bike. All right. Are you ready for the last piece of business? With so many wonderful inspirational ideas, our Membership Committee went above and beyond to enhance membership strength. To give us more insight into this program, please welcome our National Membership Chairman, Michelle DeGennaro.

MS. DEGENNARO: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, the members. Good morning. As the Membership team prepared for the year ahead, we knew we wanted to excite and rejuvenate our members. Facebook postings and Zoom meetings set the tone, and the message was heard. It was time to have fun, be kind, although working our mission, and the members will join, and join they did. As we continue to push towards our national goal, units, districts, and departments increased membership for the first time in years.

(Applause.)

MS. DEGENNARO: We had 20 new charters, 21 re-charters, 212 winners for the 10 New in 2022 award, and 27 departments that won the 95 Percent award. And in very exciting news, we had 21 departments reach their goal of 100 percent or better. Wow! A big woohoo to you! The Department of Alabama, the Department of Alaska, the Department of Arizona, the Department of California, the Department of Delaware, the Department of District of Columbia, the Department of Florida, the Department of Hawaii, the Department of Maryland, the Department of Massachusetts, the Department of Michigan, the Department of Mississippi, the Department of New Mexico, the Department of North Carolina, the Department of Oregon, the Department of Pennsylvania, the Department of Puerto Rico, the Department of South Carolina, the Department of Tennessee, Department of

Texas, and the Department of Virginia. Let's hear it again for these 21 departments.

(Applause.)

MS. DEGENNARO: The Department of New Mexico had their taste of first place, and they refused to let it go as they continued to climb in membership week after week. Some of their success they attribute to the heartfelt gesture of Duran Y. Gallegos Unit 69. One of their members looked through their Unit roster and paid seven members' dues as a way to pay it forward. Units held membership drives and early bird dinner renewals. Units also used Facebook, local radio stations, newspapers, and other media sources to get the word out about the American Legion Auxiliary. Way to go, Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

MS. DEGENNARO: The Southern Division came to the party, and they wanted everyone to know as department after department after reached goals. Congratulations, Southern Division. St. Cloud Unit 80 in the Department of Florida held several membership drives, but their most popular one was their Friends Feed. It as a brainchild of dual SAL and Auxiliary member, Shawn Liberti. With the help of fellow Legion family members, the post canteen was turned into the Central Park Café. Flyers were distributed and the event was promoted on Facebook and in the St. Cloud historic downtown paper. The evening proved to be a big success when they signed up four Legionnaires, four Auxiliary members, and five SAL members.

Several other applications went out as well, all with the promise of returning with the proper paperwork. The membership drive was such a big hit they'll be doing membership drives just like this one with different themes on a quarterly basis.

District President Marla Mosiman from the Department of South Dakota wanted in on the action too as she rounded up her team for a phone-a-thon. With rosters in hand, phone calls were made, reaching out to lost and forgotten members, just to let them know they cared. On Veterans Day, the Department of Illinois showed what The American Legion family was all about at the Illinois State Fair. They talked to potential members about their why and the reason for joining, then asked them to talk about the special veteran in their lives. They explained how membership honored the service of these members.

The Department of Connecticut brought the magic to their membership as they worked together with Legion families from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire to promote revitalization. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members manned the membership table at a two-day Apple Harvest Fair to promote awareness of our organization and invite attendees to join. The Department of Texas membership team, led by past National President

Carlene Ashworth, met with members in units that were struggling to help them plan activities to work the programs that would encourage, motivate, and inspire members and get the community involved.

The Department President's membership theme was put into action, Growing Our Membership by Cultivating Kindness, and the Membership Committee came up with the catchphrase, "Who do you know?" Who do you know that has not paid their dues? Who do you know that is eligible to join but has not been asked to join? Who do you know in your family that is eligible but has never been offered an application? Who do you know that is a former member and hasn't paid their dues for a few years? Buttons were made with this phrase and a beautiful bouquet of sunflowers in the forefront to carry out the President's theme. These buttons were distributed across the state and they encouraged members to wear them everywhere so people would ask, "What do the buttons mean?" and open the conversation to talk about the American Legion Auxiliary family.

All our departments did such an amazing job this year. I would like to take this time to thank the awesome National Membership Team for all their hard work and dedication, countless Zoom meetings, emails and phone calls, hundreds of Facebook postings, and by the way, the numbers have been posted this morning for close the books, so check your Facebook. And many, many thank-you cards. It takes a village. And from the bottom of my heart, I thank you, the members. We can't do what we do without each and every one of you, so thank you. Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. Woohoo!

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Woohoo? Michelle, I love your enthusiasm, but woohoo?

MS. DEGENNARO: Woohoo! It's just not going to cut it. Not with 21 Departments reaching 100 percent goal. It goes to show you we're better together. We might still have a long way to go to ensure we're able to continue our mission of service, but that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the achievements along the way. So everyone.

ALL: Woohoo!

MS. DEGENNARO: Grab your light sticks. Woops! Don't hit your neighbor. Light them up and let's make some noise. Woohoo!

ALL: Woohoo!

MS. DEGENNARO: Would the 21 Department Presidents please stand up, and let's hit it, J.P.

(Music playing.)

MS. DEGENNARO: Woohoo! Stay up here. All right. Let's count down to an even better membership year in 2023. Here we go. Five, four, three, two, one. Woohoo! Woohoo! That's awesome. Great job.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: What an incredible great opening session. You guys are amazing. So please be sure to take some Gillette caregiver razors on your way out. These razors have been specially created and designed for caregivers to shave others. Fantastic. Gillette found out that it was the ALA focus this year and donated 2,000 caregiver razors, and we are passing them on to you. Thank you, everyone. I'll see you all tomorrow at Session 2 at 8:30 a.m. We are adjourned.

(Whereupon, the session was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022**

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good morning, everybody.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much for getting here on the correct time and not the time I told you.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The 101st National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will now come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Please take a moment to ensure your electronic devices are on silent mode. Our National Chaplain will now lead us in our invocation.

MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. ROBINSON: Well, I want to do an opening prayer, but first I have to read this poem because while I prayed about what I was going to say today, this came to mind for my brothers and sisters of the American Legion Auxiliary. Well, I should say the whole family.

I said a prayer for you today and no God must have heard. I felt the answer in my heart although he spoke not a word. I didn't ask for wealth or fame; I knew you wouldn't mind. I asked him to send treasures of a far more lasting kind. I asked that he be near you at the start of each new day to grant you health, and blessings, and friends to share your way. I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small, but it was for his loving care I prayed the most of all.

So I love you. Shall we go in prayer? May we all go in prayer each in our own faith. Dear Lord, we thank you for another day. We thank you for those present here today. Help us to remember we are here to serve others not self. Be with us and guide us as we make many important decisions that will affect all the members of our organization. As always, we thank you for our men and women serving in the military. Please keep them in your care. In your name we pray, amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Please be seated.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good morning again.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm so glad to be with you all this morning. Aren't you glad we're living in America?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We've got another very important day ahead of us and I can't think of a better way of kicking off this session than by introducing our Past National Presidents. Are you ready?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Here we go. From the Department of Oregon, Linda Boone you're 1992/'93 president.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: From the Department of Maryland, Linda Newsome; 1994/'95.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: From the Department of Kentucky, Virginia Hobbs; 1998/1999.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You're 2000/2001 National President from the Department of Wisconsin, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: From the Department of Ohio, 2008/2009 National President, Desi Stoy.

(Applause.)

VOICES: Ohio.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You're 2010/2011 National President from the Department of Texas, Carlene Ashworth.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: 2012-2013 Department of Virginia, Peggy Thomas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: 2013-2014 National President from the Department of California, Nancy Brown-Park.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Your 2014/2015 National President; Department of Connecticut, Janet Jefford.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: From the Department of Illinois, your 2015/2016 National President, Sharon Conatser.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Your 2016/2017 National President from the Department of Washington, Mary Davis.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I skipped one of my favorites because they're all my favorites, but I don't remember what year. 2000/2001 National President, Kris West.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You get to take a special bow up here, Kris. You get a special bow.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Not trying to forget anybody. From the 2017/2018 National President from the Department of Wisconsin, Diane Duscheck.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And from the Department of Iowa, 2019/2021 your Past National President, Nicole Clapp.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: These ladies represent 30 years of American Legion Auxiliary Leadership at the highest level. Please step forward and take special bows everybody, and let's let them know how much their service is appreciated.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: How awesome. All right. No task was too big or too small for our members to support our armed forces and their families. Here to tell us more about how auxiliary members are volunteering to help military families is our National Security Chairman, Diane Sirovina.

MS. SIROVINA: Can I move this?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, I'm sorry. So sorry.

MS. SIROVINA: That's okay. Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. SIROVINA: Madam National President, when we think about our National Security program one of the first thing that comes to mind is supporting our active duty military. Our members showed their heartfelt support for our servicemembers and their families by participating in observances such as National Day of the Deployed in October, military family appreciation month in November, Military Spouse Recognition Day in May and, of course, Purple Up for Military Kids in April.

This past year our members were there to support our troops as they prepared for deployments. Units worked with family readiness groups and fleet and family services to determine what the deploying servicemembers and their families needed, and then they went to work. They prepared and served food, provided lots of goodies and treats and held activities for kids at sendoff ceremonies.

The Department of Wisconsin worked in collaboration with the SAL to distribute comfort puppies under their SAL's Operation A.L.F. program which stands for American Legion Family.

Our deployed servicemembers are always a priority for our units. Units created Christmas stockings to send to our troops overseas. They gathered all kinds of items and packed them into beautifully decorated stockings so our servicemembers would have something extra special from back home. Unit 348 from the Department of New Jersey even included canine treats in their packages. And then there were packages, hundreds and hundreds of packages were assembled and packed with great care. Units worked together with their Legion family members to raise funds and solicit donations to fill the boxes with personal care items as well as special tasty treats. Units all over the country held various forms of military baby showers this year; from small parties to drive-through, to big events our members provided much needed items to soon-to-be military moms. Unit 503 in North Carolina --

(Applause.)

MS. SIROVINA: -- worked with other community partners to collect over \$4,000 worth of baby items that were donated to the women at Camp Lejeune with help from the USO. In November, Maryland Units 238 and 233 hosted a huge baby shower. It featured online registration and gift registries at several retailers along with a fun-filled day of events for expecting families in the area. Part of the mission statement for this and future events says, "Our mission is to alleviate stress of our active military personnel who are expanding their families. Every baby deserves a big celebration."

(Applause.)

MS. SIROVINA: Another function of this particular event was to raise awareness of a serious problem that has come to light in recent years. When families are unable to consistently afford or access adequate meals, they face a problem known as food insecurity. Many military families are facing this challenge by skipping meals and making difficult choices between buying food or other essential items when times are particularly tough.

Some servicemembers face challenges because of limited income, particularly among lower-ranking active duty military especially if they are supporting a family. The recent surge of inflation, the high cost of childcare, and the difficulty military spouses have finding steady work all contribute to the problem of food insecurity.

Many units around the country have helped raise awareness of this terrible problem. They organize food drives for local food pantries that help military families. They hosted breakfast, luncheons, or dinners and invited military families in the area to be their guests. Many units provided much needed food baskets and packages to families near them. The Department of Texas worked to --

(Applause.)

MS. SIROVINA: -- worked to develop a partner with the -- partnership with the Armed Services YMCA in Killeen. They donated \$3,000 per month to their food bank to provide food assistance for active duty military and their families in that area. What an outstanding way to address this serious issue that affects our military.

And if all of that isn't enough, every Friday we proudly wear our red shirts to remember everyone deployed.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

MS. SIROVINA: It is now my pleasure and honor to introduce Past National President Mary Davis who will present the next part of the National Security Program Report; our Salute to Servicemembers Awards.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: Thank you, Diana, Madam President Kathy, Members of the American Legion Auxiliary and guests. It is a distinct honor today to introduce our selected distinguished members of the armed forces. Today we salute our servicemembers.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: This is a year of many firsts. The Salute to Servicemembers Program is now the responsibility of the National Security Committee and we now recognize both male and female servicemembers. I am proud to announce that this year one of the recipients is, in fact, a male servicemember.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: I want to express my thanks to the entire National Security Committee for contributing to the selection of our honorees. From the Army, Sergeant Jody Leal, Jr. joined the United States Army in 2018. Prior to his enlistment in the Army, Sergeant earned an AA Degree in computer science. From the day he joined the Army, he has given his all which has taken him from private to sergeant in a remarkably short time. In 2020 his MP, Military Police, company received the Sword of Freedom Award for being the best military police unit in the European Theatre. He received a promotion ahead of the normal date of eligibility due to his exemplary performance. His command writes, and I quote, "In May 2021 to September 2021 he participated in Fort Carson's Community Engagement Team," and the acronym is CCET. "This involved bike patrol and interacting with members in the community," in parks and at community events. Currently Sergeant Leal is on temporary duty in the European Theatre.

Please join me in welcoming Sergeant Jody Leal, Jr.

(Applause.)

SERGEANT LEAL, JR.: Hello members of the American Legion Auxiliary. My name is Sergeant Leal and I am from Pecos, New Mexico. My job is 31 Bravo which is military police. I have served a total of four years and two months and I have recently reenlisted for another four years.

Upon being in the military for these four years, I have done multiple things. I have been on two rotations, both in Europe. I'm currently on rotation right now in Europe and that's why I'm not there to accept this award in-person. I am very sorry I can't accept it in-person right now, but I am very thankful for accepting -- for getting this award of Salute to Servicemembers Award. It means a lot being awarded this award.

In my four years of service I also have done bike patrol at Fort Carson, Colorado.

(Applause.)

SERGEANT LEAL, JR.: This includes me riding a pedal bike around Fort Carson, racing with little kids, playing basketball, volleyball, and engaging with adults about the neighborhood or the community.

Once again, I'm very thankful for being awarded the Salute to Servicemember Award and I hope everyone here has a wonderful day.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: From the Navy --

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: -- unfortunately our recipient isn't able to be with us today, but I'd like to tell you a little bit about her. Petty Officer First Class Carina Alberto is a single mother. Joined the Navy when her two children were seven and eight years old. She stated, and I quote, "I wanted them to know who I was and old enough to understand why I wasn't going to be home for a certain amount of time," I know those times.

Throughout her time and service, she has completed missions with joint task force in New York in the response to Hurricane Maria. She is a member of The American Legion New York Post 1006 and --

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: -- it is my pleasure that we are honoring Petty Officer Alberto.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: From the Air Force --

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: -- soon to be promoted, although you'll see on the slide I already promoted her, Senior Airman Hannah Luker. As an information systems technician, Senior Airman Luker has already established herself as an integral member of the 71st Medical Group at Vance Air Force Base Oklahoma.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: She began her career with the military by earning the Distinguished Graduate in her training flight, then she earned a spot on the Dean's List while receiving technical training.

As a community leader, she established a non-profit called Helping Hands and led 16 local community events. She proudly volunteers in the Honor Guard events providing final honors for veterans. She raises money for ROTC scholarships and so much more.

It is my pleasure, even though I pre-promoted her, she's on the promotion list, is my pleasure to introduce Senior Airman Hannah Luker.

(Applause.)

SENIOR AIRMAN LUKER: Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

SENIOR AIRMAN LUKER: To start this off, I would like to thank you all for inviting me here. My name is Hannah Luker. I'm currently stationed at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma.

(Applause.)

SENIOR AIRMAN LUKER: -- and that is my first duty station. I've been stationed there for about three-and-a-half years now. My job is in medical administration, however I recently got certified to work an IT position in the clinic so now that's my full-time job.

So I would like to share some of my personal experiences since joining the Air Force. I've always been committed to serving other people but found it difficult to find an organization to join that accomplished what I wanted to do so I started off by spending my Saturdays cleaning up the local parks in Enid just by myself. It was when I thought about other people like me who didn't know how to get more people involved.

I met up with my friend from work, Iasia Norton Gardener, where we both decided to create our own non-profit organization to assist the community and less fortunate in the area. My leadership was very understanding of what I wanted to accomplish, so getting the rights to create this organization wasn't difficult at all.

So our organization, Helping Hands, has worked closely with Hope Outreach and the Salvation Army in donating clothes, sanitary items, and food for the homeless population in the area. It has been such an incredible experience to be able to provide resources for others and it made me realize how many people are willing to take time out of their day to do something for the greater good.

I've also taken the time to participate on the base Honor Guard team. Before I joined the military, I worked in a retirement community where the Honor Guard cadets would come out and render military honors to all of the fallen members. After watching them fold the flag and present it to the lost

one's family member, it was so clear how big of an impact they make on the families and the importance of what they were symbolizing.

For me, being able to signify their service and contribution to the military is such an honor and mission within itself. It's not a responsibility to take lightly and I'm so thankful to have been given that opportunity.

I would like to thank the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 58 in Guthrie, Oklahoma and Kim Vincent who is the Secretary --

(Applause.)

SENIOR AIRMAN LUKER: -- for recognizing and supporting me throughout this experience. I found that nothing is solely achieved by one person. It takes a team to support you. My leadership has done this multiple times for me and that's why I will continue to provide my service for people who truly need it.

It's also been really nice to be recognized in hopes to inspire others to do the same. So I want to thank you all for your time and your role in the community to veterans and their families around the world who need your support. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hannah, we'd like to present you the Salute to Servicemember Award presented to Senior Airman Hannah Luker United States Air Force for honorable military service and the war on terrorism on behalf of a grateful nation presented August of 2022.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: From the Air National Guard, newly promoted Sergeant Julia Coleman. Sergeant Coleman trained as a dental technician and served overseas providing dental readiness and currently manages all dental operations at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. She was a member of the 169th dental team which received the 2021 Small Dental Clinic of the Year.

Staff Sergeant -- or -- yeah, Staff Sergeant Coleman is a member of The American Legion Post 212 in Aiken, South Carolina. She is --

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: She is also a high school special education teacher in South Carolina. She tutors special education students three days a week and every Saturday.

It is my pleasure to introduce Staff Sergeant Julia Coleman.

(Applause.)

STAFF SERGEANT COLEMAN: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

STAFF SERGEANT COLEMAN: To Kathy Daudistel our National President, distinguished guests, visitors and all members in attendance, thank you. I enlisted into the military in 2017 at an age that was not the average for most people joining. I was a high school teacher who taught what some

people would say the most challenging students in the school. Several of these students mentioned to me that they weren't interested in going to college, but they wanted to join the military, but were scared of going to basic training.

(Laughter.)

STAFF SERGEANT COLEMAN: After many discussions we made a promise that all of us would take the ASVAB and join together including me, their teacher.

(Applause.)

STAFF SERGEANT COLEMAN: Well, let's just say I'm the only one that enlisted. Joining the Air National Guard has been the most beneficial life-changing thing that I have ever done. Once I was removed from my comfort zone of being a public school educator and placed in a world that I did not recognize, I had no choice but to show the people that believed in me when I didn't believe in myself the positive impact that the military can have in one's life and career.

I am a proud member of the 169th Fighter Wing, a unit of the South Carolina Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, South Carolina. Colonel Quadri serves as Commander of the 169th Fighter Wing and Colonel Jeffrey Smith services as Commander of the 169th Medical Group.

Within the 169th Medical Group I serve as a dental assist. I am proud to say I led the team in receiving the small dental clinic of the year award. I have also been giving the opportunity to help people in ways that I would have never imagined. My proudest moment in the military was being able to be a part of the humanitarian missions. I was able to serve on several missions in Missouri, Hawaii, and Columbia whose main focus was to provide medical services to underprivileged communities to include dental, optometry, and mental health services.

In Missouri, I participated in a medical innovative readiness training offering no cost medical, dental, and vision care to the community. While there, I had the privilege of retiring more than 325 flags with the local Boy Scouts commemorating the adoption of the U.S. flag on June the 14th, 1777.

A highlight of my military career was when I had the opportunity to travel to remote towns in Columbia, South America and provide dental care to more than 300 patients from various countries who don't have the same resources as you and I.

The Air National Guard has paved the way for so many opportunities in the short time that I have been in. Chief Master Sergeant Camille Caldwell Command Senior enlisted leader for the South Carolina National Guard once stated to me to take pride in knowing that I have control over my career path, learn how to remove barriers and do just that and learn the steps needed to

achieve success and then pass the knowledge on. I'm proud to say I'm passing the knowledge on. I want to thank Post 212 of Aiken, South Carolina --

(Applause.)

STAFF SERGEANT COLEMAN: -- for supporting me on my military journey and throughout life's up and downs. Ms. Brenda Holland introduced ALA to me and my mom, Linda Coleman, at a time when we were emotionally broken. I lost my brother, Mark Coleman, unexpectedly and months later my dad, Private 1st Class Ronald Coleman who was a United States Army Veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

My mom and I were trying to mend our life back alone. However, Post 212 focused on ALA's missions and the mission is what helped us get through those dark times.

(Applause.)

STAFF SERGEANT COLEMAN: I enjoy coming home and talking with ALA Member Pat Dandy. Every time we talk she always asked me what am I doing, where am I going, and who am I helping. I thank Ms. Dandy for that because her expectation of me as a member is what our mission is all about. It is my goal and great pleasure to continue serving our nation and being of service to all; locally, nationally, and across the world. It is an honor and I thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I would like to present you with the Salute to Servicemember presented to Senior Airman Julia Coleman United States Air National Guard for honorable military service in the war on terrorism on behalf of a grateful nation presented August of 2022.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: I want to personally thank all of the American Legion Auxiliary members who took the time and effort to learn about the Salute to Servicemembers program then reached out to the military communities in your areas to identify and honor those who have distinguished themselves in and out of their uniform.

Please join me in showing our award recipients our appreciation for their service to America and in their communities.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Just second.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: I was waiting for Diana to come back and say, "Madam President, that concludes my report."

(Laughter.)

MS. DAVIS: I got ya.

(Laughter.)

MS. DAVIS: Thank you so much, so much, for your service and allowing us to honor you all today. You are our true heroes. Let's give another round of applause to all of our servicemembers.

(Applause.)

MS. DAVIS: And thank you, Diana, for a wonderful report and for allowing us to honor our servicemembers.

One of the most satisfying ways members, units, and departments can give back to our veterans is by identifying a need and applying for an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veterans Projects Fund Grant. Let's take a look at the fascinating story that takes place in eastern Nebraska where a need was identified and successfully fulfilled.

VOICEOVER: Offutt Air Force Base near Belview, Nebraska is one of the most important military installations in the world. Best known as the headquarters for the U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt has been at the forefront of protecting the United States and its allies from nuclear and aerial attack for decades.

Practically in the shadows of Offutt is the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home, a beautiful facility with 15 acres of walking path including rain gardens, a Purple Heart garden, and resident gardens. Within the home is a 30-bed skilled dementia care wing. That's where our story begins. A department chairman and auxiliary volunteer from Unit 32 in Papillion, Nebraska identified a need for equipment to enhance the lives of the home's dementia resident members.

MS. DOOLAN: I learned about the Veterans Projects Fund through the ALA Foundation, and we applied with the application that I found online. After some research we learned about state-of-the-art equipment available from a company called Lucynt. They have a proven track record of helping those with cognitive disabilities.

VOICEOVER: Through interactive video projection and sound, Lucynt creates a relaxing environment that promotes fun, activity, and cognitive stimulation. There are games that enhance hand-eye coordination, the recollection of memories via pictures, and games designed for group participation.

The desired effect, to create positive results in the areas of emotion, social interaction, and physical activity. Appealing to natural curiosity, Lucynt can calm down the overactive and engage the distant.

There are over 100 games available that can be played individually or by multiple players with each person participating comfortably at their own level. Ideal for intergenerational play, it's fun for the cognitively impaired, their loved ones, and all those involved in the caregiving process.

MS. NEEL: There has been a noticeable change in the lives of our resident veterans since this equipment has been put in place. They have

become more social and come out of their shell. They are really beginning to live life as they once had.

VOICEOVER: The added bonus is the games not only stimulate the mind but have physical benefits as well.

MS. NEEL: Many times, dementia patients withdraw and become inactive. These interactive games have brought more enjoyment as well as providing physical activity in the movement of their bodies and hand and eye coordination. This has brought a big impact on their personal lives.

MS. DOOLAN: They're having so much fun with this. They renamed it the Magic Table.

VOICEOVER: And it was all made possible by simply applying for an American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Veteran Project Fund Grant.

MS. DOOLAN: It was really easy to do it. Just fill out the paperwork and within weeks you have your money.

MS. NEEL: We are grateful to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for the Funding provided on this project. The significance of the lives of our veterans has been greatly improved. On behalf of the veterans, we say thank you.

VOICEOVER: Obtaining a Veteran Project Fund Grant couldn't be easier. For more information on how your ALA unit, district, or department can apply for a Veteran Project Fund Grant, visit ALAFoundation.org.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: What a great video. It really captured just how much our American Legion Auxiliary foundation positively impacts the lives of our veterans, military, and their families by funding American Legion Auxiliary programs today and for future generations.

Here to tell us more about our generous donors and supporters and how they were able to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families is the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board President, Cathleen MacInnes.

(Applause.)

MS. MACINNES: Thank you, Madam National President. The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation exhibits for one reason, to support the American Legion Auxiliary today and for future generations. My heartfelt thanks to all of those who donated to the Mission Endowment Fund ensuring that funding is available for American Legion Auxiliary programs.

Our monthly donors are heroes giving help. If you would like to become a monthly donor, you may enroll today, and you'll be entered in a drawing for a special gift. You can see the team outside, or you can enroll online. Just be sure to do it by the close of -- well, by midnight tonight.

During this administration, the American -- the foundation has provided \$45,000 to cosponsor the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and

\$16,887 to provide transportation for ALA Girls Nation citizens. Your generosity will allow the foundation to continue to support these and other programs.

Through the Veterans Projects Fund, the ALA Foundation has assisted units and departments in healing the hearts of America's veterans through creative programs to enhance their lives. Funding an all veteran dragon boat team in Massachusetts and they'll tell you lots about that if you just ask, renovating the stall and grooming station for a therapy dog for veterans in Connecticut and providing equipment for a Drums Alive program at the Missouri Veterans Home. These are just a few examples of your good works.

Mission In Action grants have allowed units and departments to win the hearts of their communities by increasing visibility and educating non-members about what we do. The sub-grant program allows those who donate only to 501(C)(3) organizations to provide funds for mission related programs conducted by units and departments which have 501(C)(19) status. It also enables donors to support activities and items that cannot be funded by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation itself.

Bidding has begun for our second annual silent auction. Please take a moment now to check out the available items and sign up using the QR Code on the screen. Items will be available to view live at the State's dinner and all bidding will be done virtually. Winners could be picked up at the close of the State's dinner or if you flew or you win something huge, we can ship it to your home.

Giving Tuesday is one of our biggest fundraising events. I know many of you already have, but I'd encourage each one of you to stop by the wall of heroes located in the hall just outside of this session. Donate to the foundation and add the names of your loved to the wall.

This report was made possible by the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors who have worked diligently this year to responsibly administer the grant funds. An outstanding development staff, several of whom are here today has supported their efforts.

Retiring from the Board this year, our past Board President, Dory Hammeke, whose leadership has been instrumental in our success. National President Kathy Daudistel and Dr. Coral Grout although she is continuing to serve the foundation in her role as National Secretary.

And we look forward to welcoming new Board members; Carol Harlow, Sandra Rice, and Lisa Williamson. So from the bottom of my heart, thank you for all of your caring hearts, for using grants to enhance the lives of veterans and military and for your contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Cathleen. National Treasurer, Marybeth Revoir, is charged with overseeing the management and reporting of our organization's finances. Their responsibilities and actions have a strong impact on the public's perception and trust in our organization. Therefore, those who serve in the role of National Treasurer must possess desirable skills such as financial literacy, attention to detail, and a willingness to ask questions. And believe me, Marybeth has that willingness. Here with her report, please welcome National Treasurer, Marybeth Revoir.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. REVOIR: Madam National President, as we conclude another administration year for the American Legion Auxiliary I am pleased to report to the delegates on my second term as National Treasurer. The evolution of this position from a paid employee on the National Headquarters staff to a somewhat inexperienced national level volunteer has been a true rollercoaster ride. I must assure you that I have long-tendered experience as a volunteer department treasurer, but this job is a whole new world of challenges and responsibilities.

An effective treasurer should be able to tell each of you that the financial policies and procedures established are followed with meticulous care, also that our investment strategies are implemented as mandated, that we continue to receive stellar reports from our professional auditing firm. We consistently review all facets of our financial structure for better, faster, more economical ways of accomplishing our tasks. We leverage technology wherever possible. I can confidently report to each of you all of these things are being done and are very true.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: The remarkable members of the ALA National Headquarters staff continue to function at an elevated level of competency and dedication. I am afforded a unique position as a volunteer to the inner workings of the National Headquarters, and I attempt to be a voice that represents all of us in national policies and procedure discussions. Be assured that the national staff is always willing to work collaboratively -- boy, that's a word --

(Laughter.)

MS. REVOIR: -- with open and respectful dialogues. There's something further I'd like to share with each of you today. In my role as National Treasurer, I make many, many visits each year to the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. This facility, although with being the center of our organization's operations, is a treasure trove of history of those who came

before us. We are incredibly lucky to have a dedicated archive historian on our staff, Cathi Taylor.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: She frequently shares essays on people and events from our Auxiliary's storied past. I was especially inspired by one of her recent essays on Ms. Dorothy Harper who served as National Treasurer from 1923 to 1925. Dorothy was born in 1876 in the state of California.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: She was a dual member of The American Legion and the Auxiliary through her World War I service as a yeoman second class in the U.S. Navy stationed in Pearl Harbor. She served as a delegate from Hawaii at the Legion's first National Convention in 1919 and she later organized the Department of Hawaii American Legion Auxiliary also serving as its first department president.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: After the war, she went to work for the Internal Revenue Service, moved to Washington, D.C. She went on to serve the District of Columbia as department president in 1937.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: Her life of service in The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary is one of true dedication to our country's military, it's veterans and their families. She was given the honor to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: What an extraordinary woman. Dorothy and so many persevered to lead our organization by contributing their talents and knowledge. They were instrumental in setting the path for our first hundred years.

It's now our turn to renew our commitment to service not self, to take what has been given to each of us, the greatest patriotic organization in the world deeply rooted in service to veterans. We need to keep it viable and functioning. That is our task. We all belong for a reason, usually based upon someone near and dear to us. In my case, it was my mother who instilled in me the desire to belong and to serve.

We all know that there is a proposed dues increase on the agenda during the convention. You have seen a lot of information on the necessity of the increase, so I'll not waste your time with restating any statics. There will be, of course, more information to come in subsequent reports today, but I'd like you to consider one fact. If the dues increases improved as proposed, it will cost each of us less than 5 cents per day to belong to this organization. Isn't it worth 5 cents per day to preserve our legacy?

(Applause.)

MS. REVOIR: Robert Lewis Stevenson once said, "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant." The garden is now ours. I am hopeful we will all come together and plant the seeds needed to sustain our organization for the next hundred years.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks and I would like to sincerely thank you for the honor to serve the organization as National Treasurer and to serve with you, ma'am.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. REVOIR: You're welcome.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Working alongside the National Treasurer, the National Finance Committee works to ensure the fiscal health and longevity of our organization. Please welcome our National Finance Chairman, Past National President Sharon Conatser.

(Applause.)

MS. CONATSER: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. CONATSER: Madam National President, the National Finance Committee has faced several challenges this year but continues to meet today's needs as well as future fiduciary requirements. This committee is comprised of five appointed members each serving a five-year term. Missing in the picture you see is Past National President Virginia Hobbs. The committee reviews the draft budget, makes any adjustments needed to reflect new or changing goals and recommends the budget to the National Executive Committee for its adoption. Also in carrying out its role as fiduciary stewards, the ALA National Finance Committee is responsible for investment planning, reviewing financial statements, monitoring member benefits and fundraising campaigns, reviewing and overseeing the financial policies of the organization, make fiscal policy recommendations for NEC action, to ensure that the ALA National Organization is meeting non-profit benchmarks and governmental requirements in keeping with best practices. The National Finance Committee designates one committee member as a liaison member to the ALA Foundation Board and another as -- excuse me -- as liaison member to the ALA National Risk and Compliance Committee.

Due to responsible oversight, your Finance Committee believes strongly in the value to members of the ALA mission training and our National Junior meetings. Our plan is to continue to keep costs at an affordable price to make these trainings inclusive of all members.

The fundraising efforts by our direct mail vendor this year with three appeals for the ALA and two for the ALA Foundation. Fiscal year direct mail donations as of June 30th totaled \$760,810 --

(Applause.)

MS. CONATSER: -- for -- that's for both the ALA and the ALA Foundation. Every year about one-third of the direct mail donations come from non-members. We thank our generous donors both inside and outside the ALA for their continued support of our great mission.

The elephant in the room that you're all waiting to hear about, the proposed dues increase. The short answer is the deficit budget can be directly linked to the continued decrease in membership revenue. Between 2014 and 2021, membership has decreased by more than 150,000 members which equals a loss of \$1.8 million in accumulated lost revenue. You will see by the graph on the screen that the cost per member to National Headquarters is higher than the dues you pay to the National Organization. The National Finance Committee and the NEC are asking for your support to pass the proposed dues increase. Passing the proposed dues increase will help us fulfil our duty of fiduciary stewardship and allow us to continue to serve our mission and help our veterans. I now would like to share some information with you. Mission training and junior meeting attendance is growing, however the registration cost we pay to attend does not cover the expense. For the 2021/2022 meetings, the cost was approximately \$500 per attendee with each member paying an average of \$63 to attend.

Girls Nation fees charged to the departments are now at \$275 per senator. Consider the cost to transport housing -- to transport, their housing, feed them, generally host our premiere program. Can you imagine what the cost to each department would be if National could no longer underwrite this program? For instance, this year the cost per girl was almost \$3,500.

Department Leadership National Conference, DLNC, attendees pay \$80 to attend while the price per attendee this year was almost \$2,000. Our current interim Executive Director is working hard to restructure our staffing with a goal of reducing overall organization structure.

As you know, preconvention meetings were held virtually saving money on AV and room rentals. This change was made due to scheduling changes allowing members to attend the Sons of The American Legion 50th Anniversary Celebration. Going forward, these types of meetings might be necessary cost savers.

Your Risk and Compliance Committee, your Finance Committee, and the ALA Foundation Board have all reduced in-person meetings already beginning last year. Actually, in 2020 and 2021.

Military Academy awards are still in place. We have reduced travel by national representatives to make the presentations and are now asking local auxiliary members to attend and present those.

One of the cost saving measures already implemented is the reduction of an outside marketing expense at a savings of approximately \$180,000.

Let's talk about the grant writer. I believe there was a misunderstanding in the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with my answer. We have someone writing grants and we have had for over five years. There is a new person in that role. Grants to non-profits are usually program specific. They do not grant funds for operating expenses to membership based organizations. The thought is that membership should support their own organization's operating expenses.

The Finance Committee realizes the need to pursue alternative options concerning our building. Remodeling to allow for rental space, potential move to a smaller space with renting out our entire building versus sale of property. A study is in the works to develop a long-term plan for our organization's central operations location.

As you can see, your organization invests in you and we would like to keep offering these opportunities to you, but without the dues increase this may not be possible.

When you delve into a discussion about fiduciary responsibilities, it brings it many questions regarding the rationale to support needing a dues increase. The use of reserves to fund operations, the role of the National Finance Committee, the current health and financial hardships that many are experiencing and the debate over owning property versus renting.

Discussions about who is responsible for the financial health of the organization are important and ultimately this responsibility falls to the Finance Committee, national staff, and to each of you as an American Legion Auxiliary member.

The National Finance Committee works diligently pouring over the ALA financials. The committee's number one priority is to continue our mission at the highest level possible not by adding new programs, but enhancing the programs that have kept us vibrant, vital, and relevant for the last hundred years.

In 2017 the trend of diminishing members caused a financial burden to the organization, was identified and brought to the attention of the Convention delegates. An insufficient dues increase was approved and now as predicted at that time, the organization is facing mounting deficits that necessitate a dues increase.

National dues are currently \$12 per member. However, our annual cost per member in 2021 was \$14.67 and \$18.37 in 2020. This shows that our costs per member are higher than our member dues and these figures were pulled during a pandemic when our member's costs were much lower than in a normal operating year. In all actuality, the divide between cost per member and member dues is greater than what the 2021/2022 members show.

In order to break -- I'm sorry. In order to operate at a break-even point without a dues increase, our membership approximately 840,000 to support

our current needs. We urge each auxiliary members to recognize her duty of fiduciary stewardship to the American Legion Auxiliary will be able to help to be here for another generation to serve our mission and to help our veterans for years.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The National Secretary Operates as a custodian of a corporation's records with duties such as updating governing documents and maintaining articles of incorporation. Please welcome our National Secretary Past -- Department President --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- Coral May Grout.

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: Good morning, Madam National President and delegates. Thank you for being here. My remarks this morning are about a work in progress. The position of National Secretary has traditionally been viewed and operated in the position of National Secretary and as an executive director.

Our auditors recommended separating the governance and management responsibilities into a volunteer officer and a paid position person. Having an officer be a paid employee of the organization creates other human resource problems, so the ALA created the position of Executive Director in the bylaws at the 2021 National Convention.

The National Secretary and National Treasurer are unpaid officers of the American Legion Auxiliary, but we work with the National Headquarters staff to ensure that the organization runs smoothly.

This year I've worked collaboratively with officers and staff to make this position one which does not duplicate what the executive director does. The present National Secretary represents you, the volunteers.

So members, here's what I do. I'm charged with overseeing the accuracy and maintenance of the permanent records of the organization including meeting minutes. I have oversight for the process of signing contracts and other similar documents such as memoranda of understanding.

In addition, I oversee control and constraint of the American Legion Auxiliary emblem. Our emblem is trademarked with the U.S. Trademark and Patent Office by The American Legion and represents us. It should not and cannot be used in unacceptable ways. Please go online to demonstrating the branding guide for our organization.

I've asked JP to show you a few examples of emblems that we've seen that weren't approved. Do you see some of yours in there?

VOICES: No.

MS. GROUT: At the present time, The American Legion Flag and Emblem and Lands' End are the only two businesses permitted to sell products with the American Legion Auxiliary emblem and without further approval. Departments and units however are permitted to display the emblem on their stationary and for legitimate business purposes such as flyers or newsletters that can be copied on their office copier.

The national organization authorizes all other specific uses of the emblem. For example, your leading candidate for National President obtained approval to use the emblem on her pin. So if you're creating pins or other items, you must obtain authorization first. It's quick. It's easy to download and the form is on the national website. It protects all of us from the unauthorized and improper use of our emblem.

Our office ensures the distribution of the proposed changes to our bylaws and resolutions 20 days prior to this convention as required by our National Constitution and Bylaws. This provides adequate notice to the delegates of the proposed changes upon which they will be voting.

Presently, your National Secretary is a member of the Finance Committee with voice, but no vote, attends meetings of the Risk and Compliance Committee. The secretary is a designated director of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

As your secretary, I'm involved with the Unit Charter Revocation appeal process which fortunately happens very rarely. If your unit is having problems, you must work directly with your apartment. A unit may appeal cancellation of its charter to the National Executive Committee by sending the appeal by email to the National Secretary.

I hope you have enjoyed visitations this year from your division vice presidents.

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: Your National Headquarters receives and approves their requests for travel, and I've truly enjoyed reading the reports from these visitations this year. I'm sure our National President has as well. As I said earlier, this position is a work in progress. This fall, the process will continue with a group of dedicated volunteers so that we can further define this position, then our goal is to have a written job description for future National Secretaries.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. Thank you so much for having the opportunity given to me to serve you and the members of this organization.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our National Headquarters consists of 40 staff members, nine divisions and is at the center of all of our national mission delivery efforts. I've worked with National Headquarters for several years and I am thankful for all the great work they do.

Please welcome our National Headquarters Interim Executive Director, Sara Riegel.

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGEL: Sneaking up on her already. Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. RIEGEL: How are you?

VOICES: Good.

MS. RIEGEL: What?

VOICES: Great.

MS. RIEGEL: Okay. Woo-hoo. Michelle, thank you very much. All right. So that's kind of a hard line up to follow behind, but if you guys get it now, I work with the National Treasurer. I work with our Finance Chairman, Sharon Conatser, and I work with our National Secretary. Pretty much they're tired of hearing from me, but that's okay. That's the way it should be. Okay. So let me start off by saying I am so thankful to be here with you all this morning to give my report or my message as the interim Executive Director. For your benefit, I'm going to keep this short unless you want to talk about IRS. Okay?

(Cross-talk.)

MS. RIEGEL: So first of all, these past couple of days hearing these reports are incredible. To hear how much of our program outreach, incredible. The impact, incredible, that you, our members, are doing each and every day in service to our veterans, the military and their families. I know our communications team is back there having a fit since I used the word "incredible" three times in a sentence, but I just couldn't help myself. The work you do is incredible.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGEL: Kind of sarcastic, huh?

VOICES: Yeah.

MS. RIEGEL: Members, leaders, your unconditional love for this mission is the blood that keeps our caring heartbeat of this organization going. Without you it would stop beating. In this role -- thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGEL: Sorry. In this role, I have found that it is a sizeable responsibility to oversee the National Headquarters staff, ask Kathy and Vicki, and to manage the operations, but I can't do it alone. I am so grateful to the National Headquarters staff that has been working with me and beside me in this interim role.

I am so, so appreciative of the National leadership's faith and trust in me as well as our National Headquarters staff. We are working hard each and every day to forge forward as a team to recalculate, one of my favorite words,

and meet any and all challenges together assimilating to new rules or incorporating new responsibilities has been one of those challenges, but we will get there.

I want to leave you with a quote that I shared at the preconvention NEC meeting that I love now and it was from Oprah. Oprah Winfrey once said, "Challenges are gifts that force us to search for a new center of gravity. Don't fight them, just find a new way to stand," and we will.

Thank you, Madam President. That concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. I think now is a great time to stand up, shake it out, get your keypads ready because it's time for family -- or Auxiliary Family Feud.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So I also heard today was American Legion Auxiliary Polka Dot Day and I see there's a ton of people out there with polka dots. Good job.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. You can sit down whenever you're finished shaking it out and get your keypads ready. Question one:

VOICEOVER: Welcome to Auxiliary Feud, the game that pits American Legion Auxiliary members against members in a contest of ALA history and trivia. Please get out your keypads and get ready to play Auxiliary Feud. Please welcome your host our National President and Kentucky's finest, Kathy D.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. You ready for Question No. 1?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our first National President, Edith Hobart, is from this State. A, Oklahoma; B, Ohio, or C, New York? One, two, or three. Sorry.

And the results please? Ooh, 386 of you got the right answer. Good job. What was that? What's the answer?

VOICES: Ohio.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: O.

VOICES: H.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I.

VOICES: O.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Good job. Question No. 2. The American Legion is currently celebrating it's what National Convention?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This one (indiscernible)?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well, yeah. Really, this one. A, or 1, 101st; 2, 102nd; or 3, 103rd. Make your guesses now. And the survey says -- it is The American Legion's 103rd National Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It was a trick question, right? All right. It's now time for the final question for the big box. Last year an American Legion family post home in this department sold a Norman Rockwell painting at auction for \$3.6 million dollars. A, Massachusetts; B, Indiana; or C, Vermont. Choose your answer now.

And the survey says -- well, 201 of you think the Department of Vermont has \$3.6 million dollars in the bank --

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- and you are wrong. It's the Department of Massachusetts. They're millionaires.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Now we're ready for some really great fantastic more fun.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are you ready for the fun?

VOICES: Yeah.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our National Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Pam Ray has been working hard to ensure our governing documents are maintained so that we may easily answer questions about governance, programs, and eligibility.

Please welcome Pam to the stage.

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. RAY: I'm back. Madam President Kathy, Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules, Robert's Rules of Order, state laws for non-profits, the list goes on, and on. There are so many governing documents to choose from. Constant review and updating of your governing documents will keep your units and departments running smoothly.

Ohio's Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Carol T. Robinson likens the importance of our governing documents to a baseball team. What would the baseball game be without rules to govern how that game is played? Probably utter chaos. Carol T. held a school of instruction at their fall conference. Judge C.T.R. tried a case of a unit president not following the unit constitution and bylaws. She made it fun and informative with an end result of everyone learning the importance of structure and procedures for meetings.

Department of Indiana Chairman Janet Barnaby reported that one of the district --

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: Yay, Indiana. There you are. One of the district chairmen held small group workshops throughout her district helping those needing more individualized attention updating their governing documents. Two departments reported utilizing our resident expert parliamentarian, Chris Dickey, to review their governing documents and make recommendations.

The Department of Minnesota had Chris review their standing rules and color code recommendations such as deleting some things, moving other standing rules to their Constitution and Bylaws and rewording some standard rules for clarity. The object of this review was to make the governing documents more member friendly and to be compliant with Robert's Rules of Order.

At last year's National Convention, the ALA Foundation held a silent auction. One of the prizes was a review of your governing documents by parliamentarian Chris Dickey. The winner was the Department of Nebraska.

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: Department Chairman Barb Washburn reported that this was invaluable to their department. With Chris's help, Nebraska will be voting on a complete revision of their Constitution and Bylaws at their department convention which they did and at their DEC a Phase I revision of their standing rules will be considered. Congratulations, Nebraska.

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: The Department of Mississippi reports an upsurge in interest and knowledge by units of their governing documents. Many units reviewed their constitution, bylaws and standing rules for the first time in years. Some didn't even know they had these documents. Units are reporting they are updating their copy of Robert's Rules of Order as well.

Meetings at both the unit and department levels are being conducted with more attention being paid to the governing documents. Natural disaster, tornadoes, pandemics, and other catastrophic emergencies have caused many departments to review and revise their governing documents to include the necessity to provide for electronic meetings and/or votes.

While many departments did have these changes already incorporated, others realized they still needed these all important changes. During the annual review of their governing documents, South Carolina recognized several amendments were needed to update their constitution, bylaws, and standing rules. They reported using the national website to prepare handouts to assist in educating their members on the differences between constitution, bylaws, and standing rules. They utilized blogs and key statements on the C&B page.

Reading and knowing your unit and department governing documents is a job for all members.

(Laughter.)

MS. RAY: Uh-huh. Knowing what is in your documents can make a difficult situation so much easier. It can also make order out of chaos. Even past national presidents continue to read our governing documents.

I've learned so much this year as your National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman. I, like many of you, thought my job was to fix all your issues and all of your problems. What I now know is that for the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, bylaws and standing rules, the purpose of this committee is to encourage properly written governing documents at all levels of the organization and to interpret the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Mississippi Chairman Jayce Chandra ended her report by paraphrasing Narendra Modi. "The constitution is a ray of hope. H is for harmony, O for opportunity, P for people's participation, and E for equality." She ends by saying, "It is hoped that harmony can be retained within the American Legion Auxiliary by giving the opportunity for member's participation to ensure equality of all members through our governing documents, the constitution, bylaws, and standing rules."

I couldn't have said it better myself, so I didn't.

(Laughter.)

MS. RAY: So what's in your governing documents? Madam President Kathy, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Why thank you, Pam, and have a great day. You don't want to leave?

MS. RAY: No, I'm not leaving yet.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Do you have any resolutions?

MS. RAY: No resolutions, but I have lots of amendments.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are there proposed amendments?

MS. RAY: Amendments?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are there any proposed amendments?

MS. RAY: Yes. Yes, Madam President. There are 22 proposed amendments in total. One amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, one amendment to the Constitution, six amendments to the bylaws and 14 amendments to the standing rules.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, boy. You've brought us lots of fun today. Before we begin consideration of these amendments, the Chair would like to remind the delegates of the Convention's standing rules. Per Standing Rule 11, all motions must be presented on a motion form. Forms are located at elections and tally table located at the back of the room where you pick up your keypads this morning.

This year, we have the capability to project your motion forms on the screen so that delegates can clearly see what they are voting on, so please write your motions clearly and legibly.

The debate will be limited to two minutes for each speaker. No person shall speak on the same question more than twice without consent of convention. I also remind you that we do have a timer here to fairly enforce this rule.

The rules also state that during debate delegates, alternate, and guests are to remain seated within their own delegation or assigned seating area unless they are approaching the microphone, completing a motion form or exiting and entering the general session hall.

Are there any questions?

MS. COLEMAN: Madam President, Patti Coleman, Department of Minnesota, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes Patti Coleman.

MS. COLEMAN: Half of our delegation's keypads are not working during the Family Feud testing so I just wanted to make you aware of that before the important voting starts.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Patti.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: If you think your keypads are not working because the lights are not coming on, the lights don't necessarily come on and they're still working. But if you have a concern, go back to the tally and election table and just get it checked out, please.

Okay. Pam, please proceed with presenting the amendments.

MS. MILLER: Excuse me, National President? Becky Miller from the Department of Wisconsin.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh.

MS. MILLER: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MILLER: I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I can't see that far. I mean, I could see you. I just couldn't see the microphone.

MS. MILLER: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes? Sorry.

MS. MILLER: I just have a personal request because we know what we're going to be discussing is very personal and passionate to each of us. I was wondering if we could have our chaplain say a prayer for discernment and that we continue to work together as a family and recognize that while we may disagree we are still one.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I completely am good with that and I kind of cut everybody off. So are there any more questions before we get started?

Carol T., would you like -- where is Carol? She's escaped. Oh, you're on this side. Could you come up and say a quick happy prayer for us before we get into the meaty part of this lovely meeting?

MS. ROBINSON: I want you to stay seated and I want each of you to pray in your own faith. Dear God, it is time that we come to decide on the betterment of our organization. I want each one to reach in their heart, their mind, and think about where we are going in the future. Please guide our tongues and be kind to one another. All this we ask in your name, Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Pam, please proceed with presenting the amendments.

MS. RAY: Thank you. It is the responsibility of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to bring all proposed amendments to the floor for deliberation apart from the endorsement status by the Pre-Convention Committee.

Therefore, regardless of the Pre-Convention Committee's recommendation on the adoption of the amendments I will, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, move for the adoption of all amendments. Remember, all departments and delegates received advanced copies of these documents.

Madam President, to make this process as painless as possible and to expedite business, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is proposing we handle some of our 22 proposed amendments in what we are calling bundles.

As explained on Saturday in the Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting, these bundles are simply groups of amendments that have a common theme and share the same objective.

Madam National President, Amendment 1A and Amendment 1B both concern the process to amend our governing documents. On behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move we handle Amendments 1A and 1B as a bundle.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any objection to handling Amendments 1A and 1B as a bundle? Okay. I -- thank you. There being no objection, Amendments 1A and 1B are bundled.

Please continue.

MS. RAY: Both Amendments 1A and 1B were proposed by the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee and together these two amendments seek to do the following. First, to establish an official amendment submit by date in order to meet the 20-day prior circulation deadline for all convention business.

Second, it eliminates the requirement to read an amendment on the convention stage if it is distributed in advance in the 20-day prior to National Convention packet.

Third, to clean-up and update some wording and fourth, to delete Section III in ensure members have adequate time to review the amendments prior to voting.

If adopted, the governing documents will read as follows: "Constitution Article 13 Amendments. Section I. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the third Friday of July to the National Secretary who shall then to distribute them to the departments and members of the National Executive Committee at least 20 days prior to the convening of the National Convention.

Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates at the National Convention -- prior to the National Convention." Sorry about that.

Section II, "Amendment proposed after distribution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates provided they have been read at at least one meeting of the session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote."

And then, Bylaws Article 13, Amendments, Section I. "The bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the third Friday in July to the National Secretary who shall then distribute them to the departments and members of the National Executive Committee at least 20 days prior to the convening of the next National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention."

Section II. "Amendments proposed after distribution by the National Secretary may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates provided they have been read at one meeting of the session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote."

The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends these amendments in this bundle be adopted. Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of this bundle containing Constitutional Amendment 1A and Bylaws Amendment 1B as just read.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of this bundle containing Constitution Amendment 1A and Bylaws Amendment 1B as distributed. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted.

Is there any discussion?

MS. CALTEAUX: Madam President, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes Microphone 3.

MS. CALTEUX: Laura Calteux, Department of Wisconsin. I move that we amend 1A and 1B to change "by the third Friday in July" to "the Monday following the third Friday in July."

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Do you have that in writing?

MS. CALTEUX: Yes, ma'am. Where does it go?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm trying to find out. Hold on.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Help.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We need you to come up by this page over here by the DG sign and then they'll get it to the back and get it up on the screen.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We need a second on the motion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Seconded somewhere. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any discussion on the amendment?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone 4.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hold one second. I need to read the amendment back. Sorry. Or you? It'll just be a second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I ain't going nowhere. Where am I going?

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. The motion is to amend 1A and 1B to change "by the third Friday in July" to "the Monday following the third Friday" in July.

VOICES: Why?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And now we have discussion.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. Recognize Microphone 3 so she can say why.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Microphone 3?

MS. CALTEAUX: Thank you, Madam President. The reasoning behind this amendment is that the Department of Wisconsin holds its department convention that third weekend in July. Any proposed amendments, or resolutions, or anything, we would not be able to get them in by that third Friday in July.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any other discussion? Okay. If there is no further discussion, we will vote on the amendment. So the -- are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is for the vote on the amended -- and they took it away --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The amendment on the motion as I just read and as you saw on the screen. So all -- excuse me -- all those in favor of voting on the amendment -- the motion -- amended motion, please say "aye." Or no, I'm sorry. Sorry, sorry, sorry. Don't say anything.

Okay. All those in favor of these, please press one on your keypad and those opposed, please press two on your keypad. Please vote now. Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. That has passed. It is now amended and we are back to the original question as amended. How's that? Is there any more discussion?

Okay. Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there a question?

MS. CONATSER: Madam President?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

MS. CONATSER: Microphone 4. Sharon Conatser.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Recognizes Microphone 4.

MS. CONATSER: Some of the keypads are still not working back here, so could we just hold off for a second please? I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: No, that's quite alright.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. CLAPP: Madam President?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: What microphone, please?

MS. CLAPP: Microphone 4.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

MS. CLAPP: Past National President Nicole Clapp.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, Chair recognizes.

MS. CLAPP: Could we have staff explain to us what is our total vote count we should be looking at to see if they are actually working or not working?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Great idea. Thank you.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So the total votes as you can see was six hundred and seventy -- as it's gone -- 670 something.

VOICES: One.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Six seventy-one and there are 712 delegates, so --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's that many keypads.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Keypads. I'm sorry, not delegates. Keypads. Seven hundred and twelve keypads, 671 people just voted here. So there's -- a huge majority are -- we know, for sure, are working. Correct?

(Cross-talk.)

MS. FICKLIN: Madam National President, Microphone 1.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes Microphone 1.

MS. FICKLIN: Rose Ficklin, Department of Arizona. Is it possible to either A, get a test vote --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We are --

MS. FICKLIN: -- or --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- going to do that right now. Great --

MS. FICKLIN: -- or wait --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Great idea.

MS. FICKLIN: -- a little longer time?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. FICKLIN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Meanwhile, this motion or this has passed. As you can see, the -- we have the --

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The majority. Thank you. I'm a lack of words today for some reason.

Okay. We're going to do a test. We want -- how many people are standing in the back still because we'll have to account for them, but we're going to do a test. Everybody, please press one. Yes, right now. I'm sorry. Please press one. So make sure if you have multiple keypads for one person you're pressing both of them.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. If you don't see a green light, like I said before your light may not necessarily come on. Just try again. Has everyone pressed one?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That didn't sound very convincing.

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That sounds way more convincing. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: National President Kathy, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I didn't vote mine. Mine works. Okay. Six hundred and ninety-six counted that tally that pressed one. Six hundred and ninety-six pressed -- or one.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. National President Kathy --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What we're finding is some of them are delayed. We're having to push them several times --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, we --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- to get the -- by the time that's happening, the vote's over.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. We did say that the other day, that you sometimes have to press more than once or if you think you pressed the wrong button press it again. So thank you and we'll just -- it should account for in the time so we're going to go forward if that's okay with everybody.

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam President Kathy, Microphone 4.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just for clarification is a two-thirds vote of those eligible to vote or those that actually voted?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Those that actually voted.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thanks for the question. Is there any more discussion or questions?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: President Kathy?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Three? Yes, Microphone 3?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Since a number of the pads don't seem to be working, I personally won't trust the vote so I suggest -- I make a motion that we find another way to vote.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you for that. We would have to amend the standing rules to do so.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pardon? I couldn't hear you. I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We would have to amend the standing rules to do that. The convention rules. I'm sorry. The convention rules. We would have to amend the convention rules to do that. Okay.

Please continue, Pam.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hello. Where are you?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. 4, I think. Microphone 4.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, Microphone 4?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I was just wondering since I don't know how many of the people said their microphones are not working? Could we just test those, just have them press one?

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You mean the keypads?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We can do that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, keypads.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Everybody who thinks their keypad does not work, press one now.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. This was a success. The last vote was 20 votes short and 50 people just voted once so I'm going to say they all work.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. We're going to continue on and I'm completely lost where we are. I think we're voting on the amended motion -- the motion as amended. Correct? Okay.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. TRAHAN: Madam President?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I heard somebody yell, but I can't see anybody.

MS. TRAHAN: Madam President, Christine Trahan, Department of Texas.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

MS. TRAHAN: I thought we already voted. We voted on the amendment and then we voted on the original.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. TRAHAN: We did not?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I thought so too, but we voted on the amended motion and now we're going to vote on the -- we voted on the amend -- yes.

MS. TRAHAN: We voted on the amendment, but I could have sworn we went back into the original motion.

VOICES: No.

MS. TRAHAN: I'm just asking.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you for the question.

MS. TRAHAN: Clarification, please.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's a good question because I just said the same thing so I think we all just got lost in the middle of trying to make sure all the keypads worked. So we're back to the -- I have no idea where we're back to, but let's get somewhere.

Okay. Here we go. You ready?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. The question is on the adoption -
- wait, we're not going there. We already said the question. All those in --
hold one minute. Okay. See it is confusing, isn't it? All those in favor of the
bundle containing Amendments 1A and 1B as amended press the number one
key on your voting keypad. Oh, I'm going to get mine. All those opposed,
press the number two on the keypad. Please vote now.

Okay. I even gave you a little extra time. Voting is now closed. Let's
see the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The amendments -- the affirmative has it in
the amendments -- blah. The amendments are adopted.

Now, Pam please continue.

MS. RAY: And I thought the first part of this was going to be easy.
Okay. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee is proposing we handle
Amendments 2 through 11 as a bundle. This bundle of Amendments 2
through 11 is on committees. Now, this bundle does not change any
committee's purpose. It just ensures that the purpose of all committees is
listed in the standing rules as is required by ALA National Bylaws No. 6,
Section III.

When we reviewed the standing rules, we realized some committees did
not have their purpose listed, so this bundle is just correcting that mistake.
This also ensures that also committees have the named position of Vice
Chairman, currently the National membership, Junior Activities and Girls
Nation are missing that position designation and they already function in that
manner.

Madam President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee I
move we handle Amendments 2 through 11 as a bundle.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any objection to handling
Amendments 2 through 11 as a bundle?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: There being no objection, Amendments 2
through 11 are bundled.

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: Madam National President, the Constitution and Bylaws
Committee presents the bundle of Amendments 2 through 11, a proposal from
the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee to amend Standing Rule 7
on Committees, Section 6. If adopted, this bundle of amendments will add to
the standing rules the purpose of the AEF, ALA -- ALA Girls Nation,
Community Service, Education, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative,
Membership, Poppy and Public Relations Committee.

Again, we are not creating the purpose. That language already exists.
We are just making sure that the existing language is captured in the standing

rules for all committees. It will also ensure that vice chairman is a position for the committees.

The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted. Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of bundle concerning Amendments 2 through 11.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of the bundle concerning Amendment 2 through 11 as just presented. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendments be adopted.

Is there any discussion?

Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Those in favor of the bundle concerning Amendments 2 through 11, please press the number one keypad on your voting keypad. Those opposed, press the number two key. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results. The affirmative has 688 - - yeah, 688 votes. The affirmative has it and the amendments 2 through 11 are adopted and the governing documents are amended.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yay.

Pam, please continue.

MS. RAY: Madam National President, Amendment 12 is to the standing rules No. 13, Section I pertaining to dues and assessments. The amendment was proposed jointly by the National Finance Committee and the National Executive Committee. If adopted, the section will read as follows:

"Standing Rule 13, Section I, Dues and Assessments. The national per capita dues shall be \$18 per annum for senior members beginning in Fiscal Year 2024 with a one-dollar increase in Fiscal Year 2026 and in Fiscal Year 2028 and in Fiscal Year 2030. National Junior member dues remain at \$2.50 per annum with a .50 cent increase in Fiscal Year 2026 to \$3 per annum, Fiscal Year 2028 to \$3.50 per annum and Fiscal Year 2030 to \$4 per annum. The per capita dues for senior members shall include a complementary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary Magazine. Each department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the national treasurer at least monthly."

The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment not be adopted. Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of Constitutional Amendment No. 12 as distributed in the amendment packet.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of Constitution Amendment 12 as distributed. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-

Convention Committee recommends the adoption or the amendment be adopted.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Not be adopted. I apologize.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any discussion?

MS. WHITE BEAR: Madam Chair?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

MS. WHITE BEAR: Sharon White Bear, North Dakota, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, Microphone 3?

MS. WHITE BEAR: Yes. I move that we adopt the non-approval of this motion --

VOICES: No.

MS. WHITE BEAR: -- as read. My motion is to adopt the motion as read.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're under discussions.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay.

MS. WHITE BEAR: Okay. So the motion is already there. Well, one of -- I will -- I can state my -- is there -- my rationale. Okay. One of the things I thought of in this --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well, hold on one second.

MS. WHITE BEAR: Sure.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Yes, you are right. Your motion is not valid, but you can debate the --

MS. WHITE BEAR: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. WHITE BEAR: I withdraw my motion and I want to say that I thought over time it looks kind of confusing, but also invalid to do like increase, then increase, then increase. I feel like it should be done all at once and that's one of the reasons. The other one is with those multiple increases over time, it doesn't seem like that would be enough finances that we need. So if we did it all at once, that would give us more money and investment time --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. WHITE BEAR: -- with that money. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion?

MS. LLOYD: Yes. Madam President, this is Lauren Lloyd from the District of Columbia at Microphone 2.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Lauren.

MS. LLOYD: I have a clarifying question.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. LLOYD: We recently learned that The American Legion had proposed an idea for membership to increase instead of an annual membership providing options for a three-year membership or a five-year membership at one time. Is this something that maybe the Auxiliary should consider as another option for instant cash infusion? That's my question.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'm going to call on Sharon, our Finance Chairman. Hopefully she's up here somewhere. There she is somewhere back -- there she is. Microphone?

MS. CONASTER: Four.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. CONATSER: Madam President Kathy, Past National President Sharon Conatser, Finance Chairman, Department of Illinois. That has been explored. I don't see Lauren now. Oh, there she is. Lauren, that has been explored and our membership team, our system, is not able to track that like The American Legion's is. Sorry.

MS. LLOYD: All right. Thank you for that clarifying question.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Good question.

MS. SIRE: Tracy Sires (phonetic), Microphone 1. Over here.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. SIRE: Here we go.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I couldn't --- I can't see you at all so I sure couldn't see Microphone 1.

MS. SIRE: You know what, has National thought about the states? You may do a -- we may do a \$12 to headquarters, but every state is struggling right now. So whenever -- we always wait until National does their increase before we decide to do anything. Have you even considered the possibility that a lot of states can't afford this? And it doesn't make any sense to have such a large increase at one time and we have \$44 million in our investments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. HEALTH: President Kathy?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes. What microphone, please?

MS. HEALTH: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes Microphone 3.

MS. HEALTH: Ada Heath, Department of Arkansas. I want to make a motion. I move that proposed Amendment 12 -- I move that proposed Amendment 12 to Standing Rule 13, Dues and Assessments be amended by removing the per annum increases for senior and junior members. This action will erase or ensure that future increases are determined yearly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And do you have that written? Can you please bring it up to the --

MS. SEELEY: Madam President, Microphone 4.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hold on. We need a second on that.

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's been seconded. Now, move it up to the page looking for you with the cheesecloth on.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I have to run over to the Legion, so I'm bringing up my very favorite person in the whole world right now.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: She promised she would not do this to me.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I'll be right back. I promise, I'll be right back.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: See how she is? I'm telling ya.

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. So are you talking about the amounts for the incremental years? We just need to clarify that. Ada, are you still at the microphone?

MS. HEATH: No, the discussion that my delegation had was that we should remove the yearly increases and in the event that money is found we wouldn't have to increase the dues every year. So that we would just remove that part from the amendment and in the future we would vote again if we need another increase. So just remove the per annum increases.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. The way you're explaining it is a little confusing, so the way I'm understanding you're wanting to keep the raise in both seniors and juniors, but not like the extra increases like the dollar increases for every other year --

MS. HEATH: Remove --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: -- am I right on that?

MS. HEATH: That's correct. Remove --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: That is correct.

MS. HEATH: Remove the per annum increases.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Does everyone understand what she's saying?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay.

MS. SEELEY: Madam Vice President, can I interrupt for a second please? Glynis Seeley, Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4?

MS. SEELEY: I had proposed a written motion before we even started any of this first thing this morning and I have not heard my motion and I think my motion would also tag along with Ada's motion and might explain it a little bit better with a rationale. I don't know what happened to it.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Even though you send motions to the podium, you have to make them from the floor first and send them up. You can send them in advance, but you still have to go to the microphone to make that motion.

MS. SEELEY: I'd like to make a motion to amend --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Hold on. Hold on just a second, Glynis.

MS. SEELEY: She's got to hurry and make -- we've got to answer that one first. Okay.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: You can amend the motion that's on the floor, but you can't amend the original one.

MS. SEELEY: I'd like to amend the motion that's on the floor to change the first increase in 2024 to \$3. Hold on, hold on, hold on. Then in two years take the dollar incremental.

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Glynis, you have to wait because that's --

MS. SEELEY: Okay.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: -- totally different.

MS. SEELEY: Okay.

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Is there any discussion on the amendment?

(Cross-talk.)

MS. LONG: Madam Vice President? Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4?

MS. LONG: Kathy Long from Montana. I am in favor of this amendment because I'm sure that the Finance Committee ended up doing a lot of work on it, but did they take into account inflation and cost of living expenses and everything else that instead of maybe a dollar increment we may end up having to go and consider a \$2 or \$3 increment?

VOICES: No.

MS. LONG: And if we do erase the one dollar every two years out of this current one, we can then adjust in years to come. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So go on to Microphone 1. I can't see.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 1?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's hard to see.

MS. CHAPLIN: Hi. Lisa Chaplin, Department of Virginia, Microphone 1. I would like to speak in favor of the original amendment regarding the

dues increase. Is this the appropriate time or is this discussion on the amendments and the amended amendments and the amended motions?

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. I've been asked to clarify. So you - there is an amendment on the floor which would strike the words "Beginning in Fiscal Year, FY 2024, with a one-dollar increase in FY 2026, \$19, FY 20285, \$20 and FY 2030, \$21" and it continues after the Junior dues where it would strike, "with a .50 cent increase in 2026, \$3 in 2028, in FY '23, \$4." Those are the words that are being proposed to be struck and that's where discussion is right now.

MS. MCINNIS: Madam President, Microphone 2.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 2?

MS. MCINNIS: Cathleen McInnis from the Department of New York. I don't want to correct the parliamentarian, but I believe she misspoke. I believe that the amendments start with, "With a one dollar." It's leaving in the \$18 per annum for the senior members beginning in Fiscal Year 2024.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: You are correct.

MS. MCINNIS: Okay. And then I raise in favor of this amendment. I think that as it is written, it provides an unfair administrative burden on both our units and our departments to manage the dollar increases every two years which if we are paying only that amount it will necessitate updating our standing rules every two years to accommodate that. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone 3?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Yes? Please state your name.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry. We were discussing.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. We'll come back. Microphone 4?

MS. SEELEY: As a point of clarification, right now what's on the floor if I'm understanding this correctly is the amendment right now is to keep the initial increase in 2024 and remove the incremental increases; is that correct or no?

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: That is correct.

MS. SEELEY: I'd like to make an amendment to that motion.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. SEELEY: What I'd like to do is change the initial 2024 increase to \$16 not \$18.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. SEELEY: Is that the right time to do this?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. That's not in order at this time.

MS. SEELEY: Thank you. That's what I was trying to figure out.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you, Glynis.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam First Vice? Second. I call for the question on the amendment.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: It takes a two-thirds vote. If adopted, this will end the debate on the amendment. Okay. All those in favor, please press one on your key pad. All those opposed, please press two. Please vote now.

Can you please show the results of the vote?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The debate has ended on the amendment. Now, you will vote on the amendment.

MS. WATT: Maureen Watt, Microphone 4 from Montana. Can the motion be restated so we know what we're voting on, please?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The amendment will be to strike "with a one-dollar increase in FY '26" which would make it \$19, FY '28 which would make \$20, FY '30 which would make it \$21. Also under the National Junior member dues it would be -- it would strike, "With a .50 cent increase in FY '26, \$3, FY '28, \$3.50 and FY 2030, \$4."

MS. SEELEY: Microphone 4?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam First Vice, Microphone 2.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 2 for what purpose?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I called for the question on the amendment which we just passed --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: That's --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So now we're actually going to vote on the motion that has been amended?

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: We're voting on the amendment. We voted to end debate. Now we're voting on the amendment.

MS. SEELEY: Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: What is your purpose Microphone 4?

MS. SEELEY: I'd like to make a motion to amend the original amendment.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: I'm sorry. It's not in order. We need to finish this.

MS. SEELEY: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. So we're going to go to the vote. All in favor, please press one. Voting on the amendment. Please press one on your keypad. Opposed, please press two.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Re-read the amendment, please.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: I just read it to you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Just please be patient. We're going to try to put this up on the screen. That way, everybody can see what we're reading. Okay? Give us just -- give us a minute.

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: We're going to go back and put this back up on the screen to where you all can see it too. That way if you read it, sometimes it's easier. Okay? Just please be patient another second.

MS. WONG: Madam President, Microphone No. 2. Barbara Wong, Department of New York. I believe that a lot of people are very confused on what we were voting for so I think we should revote.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: We're going to put it up on the screen.

MS. WONG: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Yeah.

MS. WATT: Madam President, what is the number that is needed to pass -- Microphone 4. Maureen Watt from Montana.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: It's according to how many people vote. This one is a majority vote so it's according to how many -- the actual vote.

MS. WATT: This amendment is a majority vote, am I hearing that correct? I thought it was two-thirds.

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: On this amendment it will be a majority vote.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. We're going to give you just a few minutes to read this because it's up on the screen now.

MS. CLAPP: Madam Chairman? Madam Vice President, Microphone -- they're not looking. Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Hold on just a second. If you see the third line that's got the lines through, "National" should stay in there. The word "National Junior member dues remain at \$2." Okay?

MS. CLAPP: Madam Vice President, we can't read it. That's what we're asking, for you to read it to us --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay.

MS. CLAPP: -- please.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Let me try this. Okay. What you would be -- what we would be striking, "With a one-dollar increase in FY '26, \$19; FY '28, \$20; and FY '30, \$21." Move down to the Junior part. It says, "With a .50 cent increase in FY '26 to \$3.00 per annum, FY '28, \$3.50 and FY '30, \$4."

(Cross-talk.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Do you understand what we're doing?

VOICES: No.

VOICES: Yes.

MS. CLAPP: Madam Vice President --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. The motion is to strike the words that I just read.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam Vice President?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Does that make sense?

VOICES: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone 2.

MS. HOBBS: Madam Vice President, Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4.

MS. HOBBS: Jenny Hobbs, Department of Kansas. Would you read what it would be if we strike that, what we're going to vote on?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. If adopted, it would read, "The National per capita dues shall be \$18 per annum for senior members beginning in Fiscal Year, FY '24. National Junior member dues remain at \$2.50 per annum."

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: This is so much fun. Okay.

(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. So everyone in favor, on your keypad press one. All opposed, no. Vote now.

Can we see the results, please?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The amendment has been adopted. The amendment has been adopted. Is there discussion on Amendment -- on No. 12 as amended?

MS. OSROW: Madam Vice President, Microphone 3.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 3.

MS. OSROW: Claudia Osrow (phonetic), Department of Wisconsin. I am not a voter so you know that, but I am against this motion, this amended motion that you just voted on.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: I'm sorry. If you're not a delegate, you cannot speak on this.

MS. OSROW: I can't?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: No.

MS. SEELEY: Microphone 4, Glynis Seeley.

MS. OSROW: Can I speak as a member?

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4?

MS. SEELEY: I would like to make a motion to amend this amendment. I did submit a motion form this morning. I would like to change instead of \$18 change it to \$16 per capita starting in 2024 with no incremental increases as we just had until there are results from our grant writer submissions to reevaluate it in 2026 where the first incremental increase was initially proposed.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Do we have a second on this?

VOICES: Second.

MS. CADWALLADER: Yes. Lisa Cadwallader from West Virginia.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: It's been moved and seconded to strike the \$18 and move to input \$16. Is there any discussion?

MS. CALTEUX: Madam Vice President, Microphone 3.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 3?

MS. CALTEUX: Laura Calteux, Department of Wisconsin. I would like

--

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Laura, could you talk more into the mic? I'm having trouble hearing.

MS. CALTEUX: Sure. Is this better?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Oh, yeah. That's way better.

MS. CALTEUX: My question to everyone here is how much is your veteran worth to you that you signed up under?

(Applause.)

MS. CALTEUX: The answer should be, "Priceless." If your membership -- your members complain about the dues increasing, explain to them just how through the extra change in a day for -- that you have that you would be able to pay this dues increase. Your membership should be more important to you and your veteran than what this price increase is being asked for. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 1?

MS. GROUT: Madam President, Coral May Grout, Department of Massachusetts. I'd just like to clarify a comment I just heard that does concern me. I'm a professional grant writer. I have been for over 30 years. It's not the answer to our needs. No matter how good you are as a grant writer, your chances of getting grants are less than 25 percent.

And of the grants you apply for, if you get some of those grants, let's say you apply for \$50,000, you're probably going to get \$5,000. Grants only are used to support a specific activity or project not operations or programs. So please keep that in mind. If you're counting on the grant writer to solve all of our ails, it ain't going to happen.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

MS. CLAPP: Madam Vice President, Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4.

MS. CLAPP: Past National President Nicole Clapp, Department of Iowa.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Nicole spoke in -- yes.

MS. CLAPP: Oh, sure. I'll hold it.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: It's hard hearing up here.

MS. CLAPP: Let me bring it to my level.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: There you go.

(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

MS. CLAPP: Okay. You all know I've dealt with finance for over a decade and realizing that what was distributed in the spring showed charts and graphs of where we are, where we would be with \$6. Some asked in Constitution and Bylaws where we would be with \$5, \$4.

Well, now that the annual increases every other year have been removed that was going to make us sustainable. Now, \$6 is still on the table which will start to see a decline in 2027 already. Five dollars, obviously it would be much quicker and any less than that would be very fast.

So I just want people to remember when we removed the annual increases about four years ago, that's why we're standing here today. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4?

MS. PETRANOVICH: Microphone 3.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Three. Three. Sorry.

MS. PETRANOVICH: Christina Petranovich, Department of Wisconsin. This just piggy backs a little bit. You may be under the assumption that a professional grant writer will come to our rescue. If you are relying on grant money for anything, you will most likely end up disappointed.

Grant money is never guaranteed no matter how wonderfully they are written. Grants can only be used for a specific programs outlined in the grants proposals and their stipulations, never for operational overhead.

Organizational dues are what we must use to cover national operating expenses. If we are not willing to support our organization by prioritizing a dues increase, how can we expect another organization to believe in us enough to give us grant money? We cannot and we should not.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you. Microphone 1?

MS. CHAPLIN: Madam Vice President?

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 1?

MS. CHAPLIN: Lisa Chaplin, Department of Virginia. I'd like to speak in favor of the six-dollar increase and to put that in perspective, that is one cup of specialty coffee.

(Applause.)

MS. CHAPLIN: That is one fast-food combo meal. That may be one good vacuuming of your car console.

(Laughter.)

MS. CHAPLIN: I know my membership is worth 1.6 cents per day and if you break that down daily that is what \$6 a year comes out to. I would hope that everyone values their membership that much. I also think that the incremental increases moving forward should allow for ample financial planning for those one dollar increases and those \$50 -- one dollar increases and .50 cent increases every other year as stated in the original amendment. So that's my two cents on this subject. Thank you, very much.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. TUROWSKI: Madam Vice President? Microphone --

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Which microphone, please?

MS. TUROWSKI: Microphone 3.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: You have to stop and think you are like blurred out there. So yes, please continue.

MS. TUROWSKI: Okay. My name is Sue Turowski and I am from the Department of Wisconsin. I too agree with the \$6 increase. I think that the grant issue has been talked about enough and I think people clearly should understand at this point that a grant is to our benefit of working purposes not to support our organization.

Ladies, back in 1919 when our organization was first founded, that was right after the war and there was nothing. They were heading into depression; I mean into prohibition. Well, in depression too and somehow they came up with enough funding and enough ideas to start this amazing organization.

I think that with our members contributing their dues that we too need to support this American Legion Auxiliary or in the future there will be nothing for our daughters, and granddaughters, or the children of the veterans. So please consider this \$6 increase. It's nothing. It's truly nothing. Thank you for hearing me.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

MS. TUROWSKI: Thank you for hearing me.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you. Microphone 2?

MS. COLSON: Thank you. Corrinna Colson, Department of Vermont. You know, I've battled this around for a long time with the NEC and originally I was like I don't think is, you know, anything that, you know, we should

support. However, when you think about things, it's six -- the six dollars is -- if that will get us, you know, on a more stable platform, that's great. I've listened to the last two speakers and I love this organization and I understand that I've hurt a lot around me because in New England we struggle with membership a lot. I'm a membership chair for a unit in Vermont and I keep hearing, "Our members will never be able to afford this." Well, you kind of have to be creative because I've been thinking about this. How are we going to sell this increase to our members and we will have those members that probably will not be able to afford it, unfortunately. But there's other ways. I've been coming up with ideas in my head how can we, you know, like fundraise. How can a unit, you know, take care of this for our members who cannot afford?

When you look at this, our Legionnaires in our unit, they're already paying almost -- well, our Legionnaires pay \$40 for dues. Ours are \$25. So even with the increases and everything else, we would just be up to what our Legionnaires pay.

Now why, as Auxiliary members, should we feel that we should pay less for the people who have served our country that have given us our why? Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

MS. DAVIS: Madam Vice President, Microphone 4.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 4?

MS. DAVIS: Shemeka Davis, Department of Louisiana. The increase does not affect me; however, it does affect membership. If my department president is pushing membership, I cannot ask a member to decide to pay \$40 for membership or buy food to eat.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

MS. WONG: Madam President? Microphone 2.

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Microphone 2?

MS. WONG: Barbara Wong, Department of New York. I call for a previous question.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. There's a motion on the floor to close debate. It was seconded --

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It was seconded. Sorry, it wouldn't come out. All that want to close debate, please press one now. If you are opposed -

- this is just to close the debate. Please press one if you're in favor. Please press two if you're opposed.

Voting is closed. We shall see the results. Maybe.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's over two-thirds so that passes. We are now voting on the amendment to Strike "\$18" and insert "\$16." Is there any discussion? No discussion. Never mind. I'm behind the game. All those in favor of the amendment, please press one. Those opposed -- the amendment to strike "\$18" and insert "\$16."

VOICES: No.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. So if you're in favor of striking "\$18" and inserting "\$16," please press one. If you're opposed, please press two and this needs the majority vote.

Please show the results. Voting is closed.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That failed. That amendment to the amendment failed. We're back to discussion on proposal No. 12 as amended. Is there any more discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hearing none, are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

MS. WASHBURN: Madam President, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes, Microphone 3?

MS. WASHBURN: Amanda Washburn, Department of Nebraska. Just a clarifying question. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee voted to not recommend this so in order to pass it we have to fail that recommendation, correct?

VOICES: No.

MS. WASHBURN: No.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: We're not voting on the recommendation.

MS. WASHBURN: Okay. Because that's what Pam had said. So just asking to clarify.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Great question. All right. All those in favor of Constitution Amendment No. 12 as amended, press the number one key on your voting keypad. All those opposed, press the number two key on your keypad. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That motion is adopted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

Please continue, Pam.

(Laughter.)

MS. RAY: Okay. Madam President, because Amendments 13A through 13D concerns both members in good standing serving on committees and the option of adding someone who is independent from the organization to a committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee moves we handle Amendments 13A, B, C, and D as a bundle.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any objection to handling Amendments 13A through 13D as a bundle?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madam President, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am requesting that we discuss 13C separately from the bundle.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Is there any objection to handling 13A, B, and D as a bundle?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Seeing none, we will continue on. Please. Okay. There being no objection, Amendments 13A, B, and D are now bundled. Pam, please continue.

MS. RAY: Okay. The amendments in this bundle are all proposed by the National Risk and Compliance and the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommended all four be adopted. Okay. Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of bundle 13A, B, and D.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of the bundle concerning Amendments 13A, B, and D as distributed. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion?

The Chair --

MS. HARRIS: Madam President, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3?

MS. HARRIS: Yes. Tammy Harris from the Department of Wyoming. My delegation would like me to ask if the non-Auxiliary members will be added -- will have a voice without a vote or will they be voting members.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It says it right in the amendment it will voice without vote.

MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You're welcome. Is there any other discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of the bundle including 13A, B, and D, please press the number one key on your voting keypad. All those opposed, please press the number two key. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The affirmative has it and 13A, B, and D is adopted. And will now vote on 13C, right? Okay. Is there any discussion on 13C?

MS. JEFFORD: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3?

MS. JEFFORD: Yes. I move that Amendment No. 13C be amended by adding the following words at the end of new Section IV "and not subject to any disciplinary action by their respective departments." If adopted, it would read, "Section IV. If a member of a national committee is a member of the ALA they shall be in good standing in their unit and not subject to any disciplinary action by their respective department."

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I just want to clarify what you're asking. That would mean that the department -- I'm going to call on Chris Dickey right now.

(Laughter.)

MS. JEFFORD: Madam President, maybe I can ask the clarifying question and then if it's answered in one way I could then withdraw the motion.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay.

MS. JEFFORD: So when we say "a member of good standing," when I was trying to read through the standing rules, it said, "A member in good standing is one whose dues has been paid," and it's in the unit section and it says, "Not subject to any revocation" -- I have it here somewhere in my -- oh, you know, like suspension or discipline by their unit or is that necessarily by their department?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The unit is ultimately the one that takes a disciplinary --

MS. JEFFORD: Right.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- action.

MS. JEFFORD: For in their unit, on unit membership?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. JEFFORD: All right. So still want to keep this amendment and then explain why.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And I'm going to call on Chris Dickey to make sure that --

MS. JEFFORD: Okay. Fine. That's good.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You have it in writing, correct?

MS. JEFFORD: I do.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Can you bring it up here to the page so we can --

MS. JEFFORD: Sure.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- see it in writing and then we'll figure out what we're thinking?

(Cross-talk.)

MS. WHIPPLE: Madam President, Microphone 4.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes?

MS. WHIPPLE: I am Regina Whipple, Department of South Dakota. Point of order; was there a second on that motion?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: There was.

MS. WHIPPLE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thanks for asking. The Amendment 13C be amended by adding the following words at the end of Section IV, "and not subject to any disciplinary action by their respective department."

If adopted it would read, "Section IV. If a member of a national committee is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit and not subject to any disciplinary action by their respective department."

So the unit would be the one that handles the disciplinary action of a member. Only the unit could deem a person not in good standing.

MS. JEFFORD: Well, this -- may I explain why we are --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3, please.

MS. JEFFORD: Sure. If I can explain what we -- why we're bringing this amendment forward? All right. Can you hear better?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. JEFFORD: I'm going to do a Nicole and pull the mic away. Many times when a person is appointed to national committees they have previously or are currently in leadership roles in their departments. They could be members of the NEC, Committee Chairman at the department level. The department can take disciplinary action against those members on the department level. In other words, they could suspend them from or remove them from their chairmanship, suspend them from their DEC, et cetera. And if you do not add something about "subject to disciplinary action in their departments," you could have somebody that was suspended from the NEC at the DEC on their department, but still serving on a national committee.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you for clarifying.

MS. JEFFORD: I think I did it.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. I apologize for taking time. We just want to make sure we get all of this right. So that statement, it could -- it's subjective. So it could -- the way it's written, if action is pending, but it hasn't actually been decided that piece is saying that person can be removed, but it's only pending. So that could get into all kinds of if -- and we have just adopted a Code of Conduct for national leadership so it kind of plays against that and you're leaving it -- the Code of Conduct should handle it. You're opening it wide open. So if any -- there's any accusations against somebody, for instance, pending then they can be removed. Is that what you really want?

MS. JEFFORD: No, that's not what I meant or thought what it said. I mean it to say that if they have been -- if disciplinary action was taken or they're under current disciplinary action, they cannot -- they should not be a member of a national committee.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So do you want to withdraw that amendment and we would need --

MS. JEFFORD: Only if Chris Dickey will tell me how to write it correctly.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. So back to the Code of Conduct, if you filed something under the Code of Conduct that we just accepted, that should take care of that issue according to Chris Dickey and the way we're reading it. Does that help and do you still want to move forward on the amendment?

MS. JEFFORD: As long as you're saying that that would happen, if the department were to discipline the member and remove them would they then be relieved from their national committee appointment?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: They would also -- the department would also have to file a complaint with the national level. But the way this is written currently, it's super subjective and if it's pending then you could --

MS. JEFFORD: Right. So how --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Right.

MS. JEFFORD: Then I guess I was asking what is the way to write it so it's not pending, it's just --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well --

MS. JEFFORD: -- has been. You know what, I'll withdraw the motion, Kathy. We can work on this --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, Janet.

MS. JEFFORD: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion on 13C?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of 13C, press one. All those opposed, press two. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results. The affirmatives have it and 13C has been adopted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Please continue, Pam.

MS. RAY: Madam National President, Amendment 14A is a restatement of the Articles of Incorporation. The primary changes to the articles include updated formatting to resemble modern articles of incorporation, a provision that allows the National Board of Directors to address the misconduct of its 63 voting members and add a necessary dissolution clause that provides for distribution of assets to another non-profit in the event the organization dissolves.

The amendment was proposed by the Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the adoption -- the amendment be adopted.

Madam National President, I would like to make a note of a typographical error that needs to be corrected. It is on page 44 of the amendment packet, paragraph A, the letter S at the end of the word "accomplishments" needs to be deleted. We're all aware that "accomplishment" is what our preamble states.

With that correction, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of Constitution Amendment 14A as distributed in the amendment packet.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of Constitution Amendment 14A as distributed. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted.

Is there any discussion?

(Laughter.)

MS. SEELEY: Microphone 4. Glynis Seeley. I do have a clarifying question.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 4?

MS. SEELEY: We were originally -- is this -- was 14A removed from the bundle because this says that A through D are all going through as a bundled amendment.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It was decided by the committee that it should be by itself.

MS. SEELEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: But very -- thank you for the good question. Is there any more discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are you sure?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of Constitution Amendment 14A, please press the number one key on your keypad. All those opposed, please press the number two key. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results. The affirmative has it. The amendment is now adopted and the Articles of Incorporation are not -- are restated. Sorry.

Please continue, Pam.

MS. RAY: Madam President because Amendments 14B through 14D all concern aspects of the National Executive Committee being allowed to address the misconduct of its 63 voting members, all three amendments are being proposed by the Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee.

On behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move we handle Amendments 14B, C, and D as a bundle.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any objection to handling Amendments 14B, C, and D as a bundle?

MS. WASHBURN: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3?

MS. WASHBURN: Amanda Washburn, Department of Nebraska. I ask that 14C be unbundled for discussion.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Give me a second. Okay. Thank you, Amanda. Is there any more discussion? 14C will be removed or be separated from 14B and D.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of the bundle concerning Amendments 14B and D. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted. We already said that. Oh, yeah. Please continue, Pam.

MS. RAY: Madam National President, I move that 14B and 14 -- I don't have to do that. Now what do I have to do? Okay. Okay. So 14B and D are doubled -- doubled? Oh, my goodness.

(Laughter.)

MS. RAY: Wow. They could be doubled; they could be bundled. They can be whatever y'all want. Okay. Madam National President, the bundle now includes Amendment 14B and 14D concerning the aspects of the National Executive Committee being allowed to address the misconduct of its

members. Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends this bundle be adopted.

And Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of bundle 14B and 14D.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: See, you guys think you had it crazy like reading through these. The question is on the adoption of the bundle concerning Amendments 14B and D. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. That's what we were trying to get to, right? All those in favor of the bundle concerning Amendments 14B and D, press the number one key on your voting keypad. All those opposed, please press the number two key. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

VOICES: Yay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The affirmatives has it and that amendment -- those -- that has passed.

(Cross-talk.)

MS. RAY: Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of 14C including the proviso as previously distributed in the amendment packet.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of Amendment 14C with the proviso as distributed. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion?

MS. WASHBURN: Microphone 3.

MS. HOOD: Microphone 2.

(Laughter.)

MS. WASHBURN: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It sounded like a tie so I will go with Microphone 2.

MS. HOOD: Someone mentioned to me that there might be a concern about money and a concern about it being a Special Purpose Committee versus a Special Committee. First, the money. Unlike the existing standing committees, this committee would not incur costs unless directly ordered by the National President. I chaired the committee proposing this amendment and we met for 17 months strictly via Zoom. It worked great and it was all free. This would be the plan for the proposed committee, free.

Second, the issue of it being a special purpose versus a special committee, special purpose committees are formed for anticipated issues that the organization knows are real possibilities. Special committees are formed only for those one-off unanticipated issues.

The NEC already adopted the Code of Conduct so we can anticipate possible breaches of this Code. Therefore, this committee is being proposed as a special purpose committee. This way they are already established, trained, and ready to take immediate action as necessary.

A special purpose committee is not a new concept. Page 45 of the standing rules lists two existing special purpose committees, the Advisory Committee and the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee. These committees just like the one being proposed today exist because they need to be established, trained, and ready to take immediate action when they are needed.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion?

(Applause.)

MS. WASHBURN: Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3?

MS. WASHBURN: Amanda Washburn, Department of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I can hardly hear you.

MS. WASHBURN: Amanda Washburn, Department of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. WASHBURN: I'm like Nicole. Give me a second.

(Laughter.)

MS. WASHBURN: I move to amend Amendment 14C by striking the word "must" and inserting the word "may" in the first sentence so it'll read, "The National President may appoint an Ethical Conduct Committee."

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Can you bring that up to the page? Thank you.

Is there any more discussion? She can speak on it first. Hold on.

MS. WASHBURN: Sorry. The reason for this is because there will be instances where you could have a conflict where the person on the committee could be from the same department as the person being investigated and we have all the technology. We can call up a special NEC meeting if the president picks people and they can be confirmed that way.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

Is there any more discussion?

MS. HOOD: Madam President, No. 2.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 2?

MS. HOOD: Microphone 2. Jackie Hood, Department of Vermont. The reason that the committee needs to be in place are three main reasons, one is that the skill sets needed to serve on this committee are very specific. Finding people with this skill set takes time. If a complaint is made against someone and the committee is not in place, the accused will be in limbo until we find and appoint these members with special skills.

Two, the committee would be neutral because once it is in place, there are rolling appointments to ensure there is no allegiance to any certain person. And three, this protects our members. It ensures that complaints can be resolved in a timely manner.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion?

MS. WARD: Madam National President, Microphone 3.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Microphone 3?

MS. WARD: Trish Ward, Department of Kansas. I was the Chairman for this committee for year one. I speak in opposition to this amendment. I feel strongly that in order to protect our members and the behavioral conduct that we've put in place, it is imperative that we have a committee in place that's been thoroughly vetted, thoroughly experienced, and ready to serve should a complaint come in.

In our current environment in our country where authority is being regularly challenged, I believe that we will see more complaints occurring therefore we're fully prepared with a committee in place to act quickly, responsibly, and in the best interest of those who are accused and also our members and our officers.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Is there any more discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The amendment is to strike "must" and insert "may." Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of striking "must" and inserting "may," please press one. Those opposed, please press two. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results. This failed because it had to be a two-third vote.

Is there any discussion on 14C?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of Amendment 14C including the proviso, please press the number one key on your voting

keypad. All those opposed, please press the number two key. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This amendment has passed and the amendment is adopted.

Pam, please continue.

MS. RAY: I believe that's the last time she's going to say that, ladies. Madam National President, Amendment 15 is to the Bylaws Article 11 on charters and pertains to the cancellation of unit and department charters. This amendment seeks to clean-up language and remove unnecessary wording as well as to allow for Departments to have the option of disciplining a unit for a probationary period.

The amendment was proposed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment to be adopted. Madam National President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of Constitutional Amendment No. 15 as distributed in the amendment packet.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The question is on the adoption of Constitution Amendment No. 15 as distributed. The Constitution and Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Seeing none, are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All those in favor of Constitution Amendment No. 15, press the number one key on your voting pad. All those opposed, press the number two key. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That amendment has passed and is adopted.

MS. RAY: This concludes my report, Madam President.

(Applause.)

MS. RAY: I would like to thank all the delegates for your participation, your input, and your voice. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Love you, Pam.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: I think this deserves a woo-hoo.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you also to Madam Vice President.

VOICES: Yes.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Are you ready to move on?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Quickly jump up.

(Cross-talk.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Shake it out again. And now, sit down when you're ready. Would the National Secretary please give us the convention updates?

MS. GROUT: Okay. We have a list. Thank you. The Public Spirit Award Luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. in the Hyatt Ballroom A through D. All members of the year please report to the luncheon ballroom at noon for a group photo. The National Commanders Banquet is this evening at 6:30 here in the Convention Center, Ballrooms A through D. If you haven't already, make sure to swing by the Giving Tuesday booth on your way out of today's session and don't forget to place your bids for the foundation's silent auction.

All 2021-2022 national officers and 2022-2023 national officer candidates are asked to return to the Convention Hall to rehearse for the installation at 2:30 p.m.

A reminder, today the Community Service 2022-2023 Committee will be meeting at Table No. 26 immediately following the luncheon today. And will the individual who came to me earlier this morning regarding an extra ticket to the luncheon this afternoon please find me at the end of this meeting? That concludes, I hope -- wait a minute, let me check to page 2 -- that concludes the announcements.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. Hmm, we got tons of business still left for tomorrow.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This meeting is officially adjourned until tomorrow morning at --

VOICES: Eight a.m.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- 8:00 a.m. when I will see you back here in this room. Have a great afternoon.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, the session was concluded at 11:24 a.m.)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022**

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Welcome to Day 3 of "Caring Heart," the 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Here to begin this session is your National President, Kathy Daudistel.

PRESIDENT CLAPP: Good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: That's awesome. Welcome to day three of "Caring Hearts," the 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. I just know this is going to be a lovely day. So let's get started.

Carol Robinson, would you please lead us in our invocation.

MS. ROBINSON: Happy Wednesday. May you be blessed by appreciating everything in your life and not take anything for granted. Before I pray this morning, I want to tell you -- I want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, your comments. This has been an uplifting year for me. God is good.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: And I want to tell you something else. The reason you don't take anything for granted and be grateful for everything, there was a woman at work when she received a frantic phone call. It was from the babysitter. The child was sick. Hurry, get home, stop by the pharmacy to get the medicine. So she goes to her car, she speeds down the street, she gets to the pharmacy, runs in, gets the medicine, gets back to her car, and she had locked the keys in the car.

Oh, she said, "Oh, my goodness." She called home, told the babysitter what was happening. The babysitter said, "Well, maybe you could find somebody with a coat hanger or something and try to open your door." So she found a hanger, but she didn't know what to do with it. So she bowed her head and asked God to send her help.

Within five minutes, a old motorcycle pulled up with a dirty, greasy-bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag on his head. The woman thought, "God, this is what you sent me?" But she was desperate, so she said she was very thankful.

The man got off his bike and asked if he could help. She said, "Oh, yes, please. My daughter is very ill. I stopped to get the medicine, I locked the keys in the car. I got to get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock the car?" He said, "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute, the car was open.

She hugged him and through her tears, she said, "Thank you so much. You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I'm not a nice man. I just got out of prison today. I was in prison for car theft and have been out for about an hour."

The woman hugged the man again, and with sobbing tears, she cried out loud, "Oh, thank you, God. You sent me a professional."

God is good all the time. All the time, God is good. Let's go in prayer each in our own faith.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice in it. Creator of all that has been, that is, and is to come, we humbly come to you this morning with grateful hearts.

As we wind down this week of learning, commitments, we thank you. Thank you for the national staff, the chairman, the officers, everyone that put this together, and especially our president, Kathy. We thank them for their time and their leadership. Walk with each of us in heart and mind, day by day, so that we may continue to serve You and our country, and we all say Amen.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Please be seated.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Are you ready for the day to get started?

(Chorus of yes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The first item of business is a nomination of national officers for the 2022/2023 administrative year. Representatives making the nominations as well as the candidates are seated on the stage. Coral May Grout, National Secretary, will read the rules governing nominations and elections.

MS. GROUT: "Number 21, Nomination of National officers shall be made from the floor.

"Number 22: Nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate, except the national president candidate or candidates. She will be allowed four minutes. There shall be no seconding speeches.

"Number 23: Following nominating speeches for national officers, each of the nominees for national president, national vice president, national chaplain, and national historian shall be introduced to the assembly by the Auxiliary member making her nomination. Said introduction to be only by name and department affiliation. And in response to the introduction, the nominee for office shall be allowed a maximum of two minutes for remarks.

"Number 24: Election of national officers shall be held on Wednesday. When there is but one candidate for any office, the nominee may be elected by voice. When there is more than one candidate for national office, the election shall be by paper or electronic ballot as determined by the presiding officer. A majority of votes cast shall elect each officer. When no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken between the candidates receiving the two highest number of votes, with the candidate receiving the most votes on the second ballot being elected."

Madam National President, that completes the reading of the nomination and election rules.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Nominations are now in order for the office of national president. The National Secretary will call the departments with announced candidates.

MS. GROUT: The Department of Indiana has an announced candidate for the office of national president. The Delegation Chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Indiana at Microphone 1 for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. DZIEGLOWICZ: Thank you, Madam President. Rose Ann Dziegłowicz, proud delegate and president from the Department of Indiana. Please recognize Past-Department President Lisa Liford for the purpose of a nomination. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. DZIEGLOWICZ: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Indiana for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. LIFORD: Good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

MS. LIFORD: Madam National President Kathy, officers, delegates, and guests, I am Lisa Liford, past-department president from the Department of Indiana. On behalf of Indiana's members, it is with great pride and pleasure that I present Vickie Koutz as a candidate for the high office of National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Vickie is a paid-up-for-life member of Booneville, Indiana, Unit 200. Her eligibility is through her husband, past National Commander Jim Kautz, who served in the United States Army with service in country Vietnam. They have one son, Michael, who is a charter member of Booneville Squadron 200.

Indiana's Auxiliary members and the entire American Legion family are beyond thrilled to have Vickie as our candidate and know she has worked hard for many years preparing for this opportunity to serve as the leader of this amazing organization. Vickie served as Indiana's Department President in 2006/2007 when we strived for peace on Earth. She began her service on the national level as NEC in 2007 and has served on many committees and chaired numerous chairmanships since.

Vickie worked as a legal assistant for Fox and Lutz, Attorneys at Law. She retired in November of 2021, but it was a short-lived retirement. They reeled her back in for a little more work and some help training her replacement, even though they knew she was irreplaceable. As of this week, I believe we can finally refer to her as retired.

When Vickie was appointed as National Children & Youth Chairman in 2018, it became an all-hands-on-deck situation for the Department of Indiana. We rallied together to make sure she had everything she needed to get her to today. We were all so proud of her and very excited for what was to come. We still have that same excitement and pride today and know she will serve the entire country with the same love and grace as she did in Indiana.

On a personal note, spending these past five years leading up to today laughing and crying and getting to know Vickie on a much deeper level has been a blessing that I can't even put into words. Indiana knows that I am very tender-hearted and cry at everything. So when Vickie asked me to do her nomination for national president, she said to me, "But you can't cry." So in hopes of getting to that -- to enter this nomination, that is all the personal thoughts I can share today.

Again, on behalf of the Department of Indiana, I am honored to place in nomination the name of our own Vickie Koutz for the office of American Legion Auxiliary National President for the year 2022/2023.

(Applause.)

MS. DAUDISTEL: Vickie Koutz has been nominated for the office of national president. Are there any further nominations for the office of national president?

(No audible response.)

MS. DAUDISTEL: Hearing none, nominations for national president are closed. Nominations are in order for the office of national vice president. The National Secretary will call departments with announced candidates.

MS. GROUT: The Department of Alaska has an announced candidate. The Delegation Chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Alaska on Microphone 2 for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. LARSON: Jane Larson, Delegation Chairman for the Department of Alaska. I request that you recognize the Delegate from Alaska that is onstage for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. The Chair now recognizes the Delegate from Alaska for the purpose of making a nomination.

MR. PARKERSON: Good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

MR. PARKERSON: Thank you, Madam National President, delegates. I am Kyle Parkerson, Lisa Williamson's son. I was raised in an American Legion Family. First, I was a Sons of American Legion member, and then now I'm a Legionnaire, and even furthermore, I am currently an Auxiliary member, one of the male's -- first candidates for tonight.

(Applause.)

MR. PARKERSON: Thank you. I'm here to introduce my mom, Lisa Williamson. She's a 31-year honorary life member of C. Russell Huber Unit 57, in Fairbanks, Alaska. She obtains her eligibility through my service in Alaska National Guard, where I serve as a staff sergeant at Eielson Air Force Base. She also serves -- or she also is eligible through the service of her adopted father, Keith LaChance (phonetic).

Our family is her pride and joy, her husband, Darrel; my sister, Danielle; as well as me, and that pride is also reflected on our commitment to The American Legion family.

We've all served in leadership at local, state, and national levels in The American Legion Family. Danielle and her husband blessed my mom with two grandsons, Dawson and Mica (phonetic). Lisa's step-father and both of her brothers, Robert and Jacob, as well as the spouses and children are an integral parts of our life and, of course, all of our American Legion Family members. Her mother, my grandmother, Judy, looking down from Heaven, was also an ALA member.

My mother served in most office and chairmanships with her unit and department, eventually serving as Alaska Department President in 2008/2009. She began her service on the national level in 2009 and has held dozens of national chairmanships and appointments.

In her personal life, my mom is -- has her State of Alaska real estate license for 19 years and has been associate broker for nine years. Being self-employed has allowed her to make her own schedule and devote to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Some of you don't know this, but my mom also worked for The American Legion, the Department of Alaska, for about a decade. Prior to that, if you asked her if she saw herself taking on this role, she would have disagreed. Service to our veterans, our military, and their families have become one of the ways of life for her since then. I have known her no other way.

It is my honor and privilege on behalf of the Department of Alaska to nominate my mother, Lisa Williamson, for the office of national vice president, American Legion Auxiliary, for the year 2022/2023.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Great job. Lisa Williamson is nominated is nominated for the office of national vice president. Are there any further nominations for the office of national vice president?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hearing none, nominations for national vice president are closed.

Nominations are now in order for the office of national chaplain. The National Secretary will call the departments with the announced candidates.

MS. GROUT: The Department of Tennessee has an announced candidate. The Delegation Chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Microphone 2 from Tennessee for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. MCCORMACK: Madam President, Janice McCormack, Department of Tennessee. I would like to ask the Chair to recognize a delegate from the Department of Texas for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from the Department of Texas for the purpose of nomination. Are you sure it's Texas, or is it Tennessee?

MS. MCCORMACK: It's Tennessee.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Tennessee. Okay. Thank you. Did you say "Texas," because -- okay. I could have made it up. You never know. All right. The Chair recognizes the Delegate from the Department of Tennessee for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. ASHWORTH: It is my honor and privilege to stand before you today to nominate Janice Jan Bruce from the Department of Tennessee for the office of National Chaplain. I've known Jan for many years, and it gives me great pleasure to share with you some of the attributes which make her a perfect candidate for this high office in our organization.

Jan is a 17-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary and has been a dedicated member for many years. She has served her Department of Tennessee at all levels, from unit to department, and was elected to the office of Department President in 2015. Jan has also served her department for a total of nine years as Department Chaplain. She is a certified community service chaplain through the Church of God Chaplaincy Commission and serves on the board of the Ladies Ministry, is assistant choir director, and does solo ministry when called upon through her home church, Sale Creek Church of God. Jan also volunteers her time at the Tennessee Valley Health Care System, VA Outpatient Clinic in Chattanooga, nursing home ministries, and hospice.

She is a dedicated and strong leader with a servant's heart filled with compassion and love for her fellow man. God has given her the additional talent of having a servant's voice, which she has been blessed to share with not only her church family, but her American Legion family. She's had the honor of singing at two of the National Convention memorial services and blesses her own department with her beautiful voice during department memorial services and mid-winter conferences.

It is with great pride that I nominate Janice Jan Bruce from the Department of Tennessee for the office of National Chaplain for 2022/'23.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Just for clarification purposes, Carlene did not move to Tennessee, she's still from Texas.

Jan Bruce is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the office of National Chaplain?

MS. GROUT: The Department of Ohio has an announced candidate. The Delegation Chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Ohio on Microphone 2 for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. PHILLIPS: Coleen Phillips, Delegation Chairman for the Department of Ohio, would you please recognize Vicky Buck from the Department of Ohio for the purpose of the nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Vicky Buck from the Department of Ohio for the purpose of a nomination.

MS. BUCK: Madam National President Kathy, officers, delegates, alternates, and guests, I am Vicky Buck from the Department of Ohio.

It is an honor and a privilege that I present to you on behalf of the Department of Ohio, Karen Peel, Ohio's endorsed candidate for the office of National Chaplain.

Karen received her eligibility from her father, Earl Digger O'Dell, who served in World War II and Korea as a Navy cook. As a 32-year member of Unit 449, she has held many positions within her unit, district, and department. What I want to share with you is Karen Peel, the person. Karen is compassionate about her family and friends. She is attentive to their needs, considerate of their feelings, gentle in what she says to them, generous with her love, kind to those she doesn't know, sympathetic to your situations, thoughtful in what she does for others, and gracious for what others do for her. Karen Peel is the one person you can call day or night, and she will stop what she is doing to listen to you and offer ways to help. Whether it be in person, by phone, or through a text, Karen is such a benevolent and selfless person.

Many of her family members are members of The American Legion Family. When you get to know her, you will find that she is as proud of her family as they are of her. Karen participates with her family and unit to help the veterans, the military, and youth in her community.

She held the office of our department chaplain just a few years ago. She sent many prayers out to those who needed them and to those who didn't know they needed them. She kept all of us updated on those who were ill, injured, or just having a hard time with life through the weekly inspirational thoughts and scriptures. That's the person I want to represent us as our National Chaplain.

Madam President, delegates, alternates, and guests of this convention, it is with great pride that I present to you for consideration from the Department of Ohio my friend, Karen Peel, for the office of National Chaplain for the year 2022/2023. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Are there any further nominations for the office of National Chaplain?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hearing none, nominations for National Chaplain are closed.

Nominations are in order for the office of National Historian. The National Secretary will call the departments with announced candidates.

MS. GROUT: The Department of South Dakota has an announced candidate. The Delegation Chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from South Dakota for the purpose of making a nomination at Microphone 4.

MS. STIER: Madam President, Mary Jo Stier, Delegation Chairman for the Department of South Dakota. I request the Chair recognize Regina Whipple from the Department of South Dakota for the purpose of a nomination. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from South Dakota for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. STIER: Good morning. Madam President Kathy, officers, delegates, alternates, and guests, it is my pleasure and honor to stand before you today and nominate our endorsed candidate and my friend, Laura Susie Clyde, from the Department of South Dakota for National Historian 2022/2023.

Susie is eligible for membership through her father, a World War II and Korean War veteran, as well as her brother and her three sons who all served in the United States Army and are members of The American Legion.

She is a member at Piedmont Valley 311, Piedmont, South Dakota, and has been a member for 34 years. She has served South Dakota as department president, district president, and has served as chairman on committees almost every year since 2002. She served as Northwest Division Chairman on committees for 12 years.

She has volunteered at the Hot Springs VA in the VA/VF program for the last 25 years and as the Hot Springs VA Gift Shop Chairman for 17 years and has been South Dakota's NEC for the last six years, as well as in 2005/2006.

Her love and dedication for our veterans and this origination is undeniable. I know the history that Susie will write will make everyone aware of what is happening around the world, our nation, issues concerning

our veterans, as well as the happenings of the American Legion Auxiliary so that whoever reads it will understand what we do and why we do it on every level of this organization.

I ask for your support and your vote for South Dakota's candidate, Laura Susie Clyde, for National Historian 2022/2023.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Laura Susie Clyde is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Historian?

MS. GROUT: The Department of Colorado has an announced candidate. The Delegation Chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

MS. HARVEY: Chris Harvey from the Department of Colorado --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes Chris Harvey from the Department of Colorado.

MS. HARVEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair will you please recognize our delegate, Susie Bozella, for purposes of a nomination.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair recognizes Susie Bozella from Colorado for the purpose of nomination.

MS. BOZELLA: Madam Kathy. Hi, American Legion Auxiliary members and guests.

It is my honor to nomination Ann Ritacco from the Department of Colorado for the office of ALA National Historian. Ann's eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is through her father, Robert Scholler (phonetic) who served in the Army during the Korean conflict. She has been an ALA member since 2006.

Ann has served in many positions at all levels of the ALA. She is a very active member of Paul C. Beck Unit in Aurora, Colorado. She is currently Unit President and District 6 Vice President. She has chaired committees at the department level, and has served on committees at the national level. Ann was Department President from 2017 to 2018.

If elected, Ann will served the American Legion Auxiliary to the best of her abilities, and Ann is a very hard worker. She lives on a ranch, you know.

Ann has said that it is important to keep the memories of those who have served and have touched our lives. She remembers her father volunteering with the VFW Honor Guard after his retirement. He did this to honor those who lost their lives in service to our country. Ann now serves in the ALA to continue his legacy. She knows how important it is to preserve our history.

Please support Ann Ritacco from the Department of Colorado as your next ALA National Historian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Ann Ritacco is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Historian?

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Hearing none, nominations for National Historian are closed.

With these nominations and the nominations made during the division caucuses on Saturday, August 27th, 2022, nominations for the 2022/2023 national officers are completed.

The convention rules provide that the nominees for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian, shall be introduced to the assembly. The Auxiliary member who made the nomination will introduce the candidate by name and department affiliation only. Each nominee will be allowed a maximum of two minutes for remarks.

Will the representative from Indiana please introduce the candidate for National President.

MS. LIFORD: Madam President, it is my privilege to introduce my lovely friend, Vickie Koutz, from the Department of Indiana.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Thank you, Lisa, for nominating me.

I am truly blessed to be standing here today as your National President candidate for the American Legion Auxiliary, an organization like no other as we support our veterans, military, and their families, and we advocate for all their needs. I love that our preamble begins with God and country, and how patriotic we all are.

I'm a proud member of Booneville Unit 200 from the 8th District in the Central Division. Thanks to each of you for your love and support during my journey, and please remember to honor our veterans every day.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Will the representative from Alaska present the candidate for National Vice President.

MR. PARKERSON: Thank you. Team Alaska would like to introduce you to my mom -- gosh, words -- Lisa Williamson as candidate for National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary 2022/2023.

(Applause.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: First of all, thank you, thank you to C. Russell Huber Unit 57, and the Department of Alaska members for always supporting me. You've always had my back, and today is proof of that support. I'm truly humbled. And to the entire Legion family throughout the country, I want to thank all of you who have supported me throughout the years. Truly, truly appreciative, and to all of you, I thank you.

I thank my husband, Darrell, for his constant support and, yes, the occasional kick in the backside to keep me on the straight and narrow. I'm grateful that my daughter, Danielle, is here today. Both Danny and my son

grew up in this organization, so their presence here today shows that I truly believe my family is near and dear to my heart, and that belief mirrors my conviction to The American Legion Family.

A special thanks to my son, Kyle, for providing one avenue for my Auxiliary eligibility to belong to this wonderful organization. I'm especially proud that Kyle is one of my unit's first male ALA members providing this opportunity for him to nominate me as National Vice President, a first to have a male nominee and a historical achievement. Thank you very much, Kyle.

(Applause.)

MS. WILLIAMSON: I think it's appropriate since we're in Wisconsin, that I quote Vince Lombardi, the Green Bay Packers head coach from the 1960s. He stated, "Success demands a singleness of purpose." Those are words to live by, and it is with that focus and drive towards a purpose, our mission, that I hope to continue to live by as we succeed this year under Vickie's guidance and leadership. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Will the representative from Tennessee present the candidate for National Chaplain.

MS. ASHWORTH: Thank you, Madam President. It is my honor and privilege to introduce to you the candidate from Tennessee for the office of National Chaplain, Jan Bruce.

(Applause.)

MS. BRUCE: Good morning, Madam President, officers, and members of the American Legion Auxiliary. I am from the great state of Tennessee.

It is an honor to be nominated as an American Legion Auxiliary National Chaplain, and I want to recognize and thank American Legion Auxiliary past National President Carlene Ashworth for this nomination. I also want to thank the Department of Tennessee for your recognition and confidence in supporting this endorsement.

My name is Jan Bruce, and I've been an active member of the Auxiliary since 2005. During this time, I've served as department president, at the ALA Department of Tennessee, and have served in many officers and chairmanship positions that have prepared and equipped me to serve as the National Chaplain.

I am a devoted Christian who loves the Lord. I am a Certified Community Service Chaplain through the Church of God Chaplaincy Commission and have served for nine years as the Department of Tennessee chaplain.

I am dedicated to serving, advocating for, and enhancing the lives of our veterans and military families through community outreach wherever needed. I currently volunteer in several related ministries, including nursing home,

bereavement, hospice, and volunteer with the Chattanooga VA, as well as within my church and community.

I believe the Chaplain is a spiritual servant leader. A leader who first and foremost serves with compassion, love in the spirit of service, not self. It will be an honor to serve as your National Chaplain, if elected, demonstrating the traits of spiritual leadership.

God bless all of you, our veterans, military families, and God bless the United States of America.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Will the representative from Ohio present the candidate for National Chaplain.

MS. BUCK: Madam National President, on behalf of the Department of Ohio, I introduce to you the candidate for National Chaplain, Karen Peel.

(Applause.)

MS. PEEL: National President Kathy, officers, delegates, alternates, and guests, good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

MS. PEEL: This is the beginning of a new day. God has given us this day to use as we will. We can waste it or we can use it for good. What we do today is important because we are exchanging the day out of our lives for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever and in its place something that we have traded. We want it to be gained and not loss, good and not evil, successes and not failures.

I am eternally grateful to be a beloved daughter of God. I look to him for guidance, knowledge, and grace on behalf of our veterans, military, and members of our organization. I'm looking to you to pray every day for our organization, leaders, and members, because a quick prayer can happen every day.

A chaplain is a good listener, encourager, and prays for those who are in need or as situations arise. That is what I plan to do if elected as your National Chaplain. We need to inspire and support each other.

As I stand before you, I am very humbled to be a candidate for National Chaplain. It is not a position that I take lightly. It would be an honor and privilege to be the spiritual leader of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I want to thank the Department of Ohio and Vicky for all their love and support. And I will leave you with this: Some days you will be the light for others, and some days you will need the light from them. As long as there is light, there is hope, and there is always a way. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Will the representative from South Dakota present the candidate for National Historian.

MS. WHIPPLE: It is my distinct honor to present to you Susie Clyde for the position of National Historian.

(Applause.)

MS. CLYDE: Good morning. Madam President, officers, members of the Auxiliary, and guests, it is my pleasure and honor to be a candidate for National Historian for the 2022/2023 Auxiliary year. I want to thank the Department of South Dakota for endorsing me and trusting that I would be able to do this with South Dakota pride.

Since 2004 in Nashville, Tennessee, where I was to be installed as the South Dakota President at the end of the convention, I listened to candidates for the National Historian, and although she didn't win the election, Hazel Lockhart, from the Department of Nevada, said, "Be sharp, be alert, be watchful of your units, district, and departments, and write it down." That year was when I decided that someday I would run for National Historian. Eighteen years later, here I am.

With my love for history and my love for writing and my love for this organization, I want to write a history that people will want to read, and they will feel like they're living it when they read it. I want to write about what's going on around the world, what's going on in our nation, Capitol Hill, concerning our veterans, and what's going on in this organization, from the unit up to the national level. And with your support and your votes, I will be able to do that.

So I thank you for this opportunity. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Will the representative from Colorado present the candidate for National Historian.

MS. BOZELLA: Hi. It's my honor to introduce Ann Ritacco from the Department of Colorado, candidate for ALA National Historian.

MS. RITACCO: Good morning. Madam President Kathy, national officers, past national presidents, fellow Auxiliary members, and guests, I am Ann Ritacco from the Department of Colorado. I am a member of Paul C. Beck Unit 23, in Aurora, Colorado, and I have been a member of this great organization since 2006.

I am a candidate for the National Historian for 2022 to 2023, here. The reason I would love to be your National Historian is because I believe our history is very important to who we are and why we matter. Being able to keep the records of what our members are doing now and adding them to our past will be such an honor to show how far we've come. I have loved history for years, and I believe that I can learn even more and bring that to our members.

If elected as your National Historian, I will make sure to honor our history so others will know who we are and why we matter. Thank you for your consideration.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This completes the nominations for the 2022/2023 national officers. We will now proceed with the election of national officers.

You have nominated Vickie Koutz of Indiana for the office of National President. In accordance with the rules you have adopted, if there is but one candidate for an office, the nominee will be elected by voice.

All in favor of electing Vickie Koutz as National President for the 2022/2023 administrative year, please say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The Chair declares Vickie Koutz of Indiana duly elected as National President for 2022/2023.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Congratulations, Vickie.

Lisa Williamson of Alaska is the only nominee for the office of National Vice President. All in favor of Lisa Williamson for the office National Vice President say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Lisa Williamson has been duly elected as National Vice President for the 2022/2023 administrative year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: On Saturday at the division caucuses, each division nominated a candidate for National Division Vice President and the Current Division National Vice Presidents have certified to the Chair the following nominees:

Ann Rehbein has been nominated for the office of Central Division National Vice President. All those in favor of Ann Rehbein as National Central Division Vice President, please say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Ann Rehbein has been duly elected as National Central Division Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Veronica Gurney has been nominated for the office of National Eastern Division Vice President. All those in favor of Veronica Gurney for National Division Vice President, please say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oppose, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You have elected Veronica Gurney as National Eastern Division Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Marlene Boyer has been nominated for the office of National Northwestern Division Vice President. All those in favor of Marlene Boyer, National Northwestern Division Vice President, please say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You have elected Marlene Boyer as the National Division Northwestern Division Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Linda Smiley has been nominated for the office of National Southern Division Vice President. All those in favor of Linda Smiley as the National Southern Division Vice President, please say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Linda Smiley has been elected the National Southern Division Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Eva Wallace has been nominated for the office of National Western Division Vice President. All those in favor of Eva Wallace as the National Western Division Vice President, please say, "Aye."

(Chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Opposed, "No."

(No audible response.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Eva Wallace has been elected the National Western Division Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: For the election of National Chaplain, we will now be voting with our electronic keypads. The nominees are Jan Bruce and Karen Peel. If you would like to vote for Jan Bruce, press 1. If you would like to vote for Karen Peel, please press 2. Please vote now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Karen Peel has been duly elected as National Chaplain for the 2022/2023 administrative year.

Please stand, Karen.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: For the election of National Historian, we will again be voting with our electronic keypads. The nominees are Laura Susie Clyde and Ann Ritacco. If you would like to vote for Laura Susie Clyde, please press 1. If you would like to vote for Ann Ritacco, please press 2. Please vote now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Laura Susie Clyde has been duly elected as National Chaplain for the 2022/2023 administrative year. Please stand, Susie. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you your 2022/2023 American Legion Auxiliary national officers. Please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And I want to give a big thank you to the entire Elections and Talley Committee. These women are here early every morning distributing keypads, and they stay late every afternoon collecting them after sessions. I also want to give a big shout out to the pages up here who have been running everything back to you, as well. Please help me give these women a big round of applause after I read all their names, or now, too.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Judge Nancy Hansen, Official Carol Kottom, April Sinclair, Lisa Chaplin, Linda Workman, Carol Harlow, Connie Banks, Barb Reilman, and Bettina Kossow. Big round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Great job.

One of the greatest experiences serving as your National President has been my visits to units and departments witnessing first-hand how The American Legion family supports our veterans. One such visit was the Wilwin Lodge in Cygnet Cove in Michigan. This fantastic place warmed my heart. Let's take a look.

(Video played, but is not transcribed herein.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Wasn't that awesome?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: What a great video. It really does capture how much we care and advocate for our veterans, and it's just incredible. It is our duty to ensure legislators are thinking about what our military faces while deployed and what they will need when they return.

So here to tell us more about what they accomplished, please welcome National Legislative Chairman Beth McGinn.

(Applause.)

MS. MCGINN: All right. All right. What a way to start with an Elvis song.

Good morning, National President Kathy, and good morning delegates. Grassroots advocacy is the process of communicating with the general public and asking them to contact their local, state, and federal officials on certain issues. Grassroot members will fight for a cause that is the heart of their mission, and for the American Legion Auxiliary, that includes our veterans, our military, and their families.

Victories in Congress this year were many due, in part, to the reaction of the American Legion Auxiliary members to the action alerts issued by The American Legion. Members not only signed up for the Action Alerts but encourage others to do the same. When called to action, they use social media and many other forms of communications, including in-person meetings, to get the word out about the importance of a specific bill to The American Legion family.

Auxiliary members in Connecticut personally reached out to their elected officials, both in D.C. and at home, to voice concerns, especially, about funding the Coast Guard, Connecticut's sub base, homeless veterans, and POW/MIA initiatives.

A few members held a telephone event where they all got together and began calling their state and federal elected officials to speak about their concerns and to determine where the official stood on a subject.

Unit 233 in the Department of Florida, held a town hall meeting and a meet and greet at their post for the Saint John's County Mosquito Board and the Governor DeSantis to discuss important issues facing our veterans.

Department of Ohio Legislative Chairman Cindy Baylong pushed for signatures at the Ohio Midwinter Conference concerning the National Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act. Department of Ohio Commander Gene Wilson of Post 199 and Legionnaire Vernon Hill of Post 799 were among the 180 signatures obtained and sent to Senators Brown and Sherrod (sic).

Together the combined strength of our members in all states helped influence legislators. Their efforts were influential in successfully passing the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Bill, Protecting Moms Who Serve Act,

Sergeant Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act, and the American Rescue Plan, to name a few.

The American Legion witnessed nine new legislative achievements signed into law by the president. Among the bills were those that expand veterans access to breast cancer screenings, strengthened oversight by the VA's Office of Inspector General to issue subpoenas in certain circumstances, and extending the program to compensate World War II veterans exposed to radiation.

But there is still work to be done. The American Legion is currently tracking initiatives that include citizenship for service, mental health, women veterans health care, education, and the ever-present veteran homelessness. Watch for future action alerts as these issues move through Congress.

But the coup d'état for The American Legion was the passing of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act. Yes.

(Applause.)

MS. MCGINN: It passed and was signed into law this month. And let me tell you, ladies, you were part of this historic achievement. You were part of the 34,000 messages that were sent to state legislators demanding they take action on this toxic exposure. You were part of the passing of our generation's most comprehensive veterans' health legislation.

American Legion National Commander, Paul Dillard, praised the Senate for its passage of this legislation that will provide comprehensive benefits to veterans suffering from conditions linked to toxic exposure during their time in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The American Legion Auxiliary has seen moments this year when grassroots advocacy has moved legislators to change their minds on issues after receiving communications from their constituents and from you. We have seen the actual changes and effects of what people can do. Together we can do so much, and together, with The American Legion Family, we did it. Thank you.

National President Kathy, this concludes my legislative report.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Thank you, Beth. The Public Relations Committee works to show the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Effective PR can strengthen our identity, build brand awareness and, ultimately, attract new members. To share the committee's accomplishments, please welcome National Public Relations Chairman Jaye Brown.

MS. COOPER: Good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

MS. COOPER: Public relations is important to the American Legion Auxiliary. Public relations touches every program by telling our story of who

we are, what we do, and why we matter. Thanks to technology, it is now easier than ever to spread our message.

The Department of Florida took their use of technology to a new level. They had several webinars and virtual seminars to help ALA members increase their knowledge of using social media, finding online resources, and more. They not only told members how to use social media, they took their own advice, and used public relations and their department's social media. There were topics such as "Social Media 101," "How Can Social Media Platform Play an Important Role in Your Public Relation Plan," and "Let's Talk Flyers," and "Communication Methods to Develop Your Public Relation Plan."

The Department of Tennessee hosted leadership workshops on how to promote the American Legion Auxiliary through branding, social media, and websites. Tennessee has made a commitment to wear branded apparel and encourage all members to do so. This branding effort was evident in several communities as units participated in parades and opening of events, and they were sure to be branded.

Units throughout the Department of California kept members informed by using well-maintained websites and engaging members on social media. They were sure to include Auxiliary public service announcements and Legion family events on their social media post.

We can't forget traditional media. More than 70 ALA units from California reported they were mentioned in their local media for mission-related activities. Jackson -- I'm sorry. Jackie Robinson Unit 252 in Los Angeles spread our message through their color guard. They had the honor of presenting colors before a Los Angeles Rams football game on national television.

(Applause.)

MS. COOPER: And if you follow football, you know the Ram are the 2022 Superbowl champs, which, by the way, is painful for me, because I am a diehard Baltimore Ravens fan.

The Department of California Public Relations used cable television to air public service announcements. They also worked with the Department of VA and our committee to launch a Top of the Nation project by asking the Mayor and City Council members of their communities to proclaim November as Veterans and Military Families month. Way to go, Department of California.

(Applause.)

MS. COOPER: A few units in New York have a unique way of reporting what they do by using minutes. 418 minutes of radio time, 445 minutes of television, 23,802 minutes of social media, to include use of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, et cetera. This gave them a total of 24,845 minutes of promoting public relations. How cool is that?

(Applause.)

MS. COOPER: While having an event and saying the Pledge of Allegiance, Shiloh Unit 791 in New York got published in their newspaper branding and promoting a winning combination.

Remember, branding is a very important part of our organization. Wearing our Auxiliary emblem when you're out and about can stir a lot of interest. Senior and junior members, people will see you out and a few may even come up to you and ask, "What is that emblem you're wearing and why?" And boom, just like that, you might have a potential candidate for membership, volunteer, or donor.

This is what public relation is all about, branding, by wearing and displaying our emblem; promoting, by using social media; posting flyers and hanging posters; sending public service announcements to the media all tell the story of our organization. This is what we do. We get the word out and let everyone know what a great organization we are. And who we are? We are the American Legion Auxiliary. We serve our veterans and their family, and our mission is service, not self.

Madam President, this completes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So Jaye just got married recently, and her new last name is Cooper.

And I just destroyed my book, so --

The pandemic has reminded us just how fast disaster can strike causing lives to be forever changed. It is in our most challenging times that we are so grateful for the generosity and support of others. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is so important, because it's a perfect example of members directly supporting members.

Here, with more on our Auxiliary Emergency Fund, is National Chairman Pam Bates.

(Applause.)

MS. BATES: Eleanor Roosevelt said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." One of the dreams that past National President Marcella Davidson, 1969/1970, would bring to office would be to help our members in time of an emergency.

Destiny and the generosity of one auxiliary member, Helen Colby Small, of Burlington, Wisconsin, made that dream come true when she bequeathed her estate. The AEF was the first program created exclusively for members of the American Legion Auxiliary to provide financial assistance to members in need. Fifty-three years later, the AEF is still a program of members helping members. President Davidson's dream of helping members came true.

Our Headquarters grant coordinator said it so eloquently. "The stories shared here are much deeper and more complicated than we realize. Our

members gave from the bottom their hearts, helping members in many ways that they would not know, not just financially, but giving a helping hand to another is always a welcome sight and much needed to keeping moving forward."

In Pennsylvania, a member of 10 years, a widow of a Vietnam veteran with an adult disabled son needed temporary assistance due to a surgery which stressed her other finances. She stated, "I could not have done it without the Auxiliary who helped me with some of my utilities and my house payment. I am ever so grateful. Words can't explain enough. My son and I thank everyone. I thank you guys and God every day."

In New York, a member of six years needed disaster assistance due to a house fire, which pretty much totalled their home. They were in need of clothes and other items. Her Auxiliary sisters provided her the AEF forms to fill out. She states, "The very welcome AEF grant came right when we needed. It gave us financial equilibrium quickly amidst our many sudden expenses. We are grateful to the American Legion Auxiliary members for their fast response to our unexpected need."

It was you, the members, who created the motivation in your respective units, districts, and departments to keep President Davidson's dream alive. By your fundraisers, activities, donations to promote the AEF, hopefully, helped create some dreams of your own and those we helped.

President Kathy's focus this year was caregivers. In my heart, you were the caregivers by helping members by your circle of giving through the AEF. Madam President, that concludes my remarks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional guidance, often in times when many of us feel lost. They're compassionate listeners who also bring dignity and love to every situation. Please welcome our National Chaplain, Carol T. Robinson, here to present the National Chaplain Report.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: Good morning.

(Chorus of good morning.)

MS. ROBINSON: You look beautiful. "There comes a time when we heed a certain call, when the world must come together as one. There are people dying and, oh, it's time to lend a hand to life, the greatest gift of all. We can't go on pretending day by day that someone somewhere will soon make a change. We're all a part of God's great big family, and the truth, you know, love is all we need. We are the world. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day. So let's start giving."

I love that song. I love it.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: Our preamble starts, "For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes." What does that mean? It means we come together in harmony and love.

The chaplains across this great nation did just that. They worked with members who needed prayer or someone to sit and listen. They also joined The American Legion family in their respective communities to present holiday celebrations, memorial ceremonies, they welcomed our deployed military home, and lent a helping hand to the caregivers to provide strength and love.

I can't begin to tell you all the beautiful things that the chaplains across our nation reported, but I can tell you there was love in their stories. Thank you, chaplains, for sharing. Give yourself a hand.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: So as I close my platform remarks, I want you to remember we are the world, we are a part of God's great big family, that a change can only come when we stand together as one. We are the ones who make a brighter day.

I love you. God loves you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: President Kathy, this concludes my remarks. I was short and sweet, but I would like to have a special privilege, please.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You may.

MS. ROBINSON: Hold on just one second.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay.

MS. ROBINSON: Could you stand up, please.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yes.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay. The chaplains across the nation -- or the United States, put together a prayer book for you. So if you take the top off, well -- you can pull it out.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, that's so awesome. I love it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: We hope that whenever you get a chance to rest, that you'll go through that book and read the prayers that we are sharing with you. And through your days after retirement of being National President, you're probably going to need some of these, and that you will enjoy them.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you.

MS. ROBINSON: Along with that, you can't open this on stage, but put this over there, and that's a little something that will keep you warm while you're reading. You can't open it. They told me I couldn't do that. So -- oh, she's going to get me in trouble. You all better pray for me.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, it's beautiful.

MS. ROBINSON: It's a tapestry with the Amazing Grace on it.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's beautiful.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: Now, Kathy, that I'm all finished, we have a surprise for you. So -- ta-da.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: What surprises?

MS. ROBINSON: Where's my surprise?

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Well, that's a great surprise.

MS. ROBINSON: I guess that's the surprise.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay. Well --

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much.

MS. ROBINSON: I guess we don't have them.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You can -- when my surprise arrives, let me know.

MS. ROBINSON: Okay. When your surprise arrives. Thank you so much for this time. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. ROBINSON: Oh, Kathy, stand up. Here's your surprise.

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: Good morning everyone.

(Chorus of good morning.)

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: Wow, there's a lot of people here. I've never seen so many caring hearts in all my life. I bring you greetings from the Chapel of Four Chaplains in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: We are located in the Navy Yard, which is just across the river from New Jersey, and joining me today up on stage to help present this award to your president is the New Jersey President, Jane Babli.

(Applause.)

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: So I think everybody in here knows the story of the four chaplains, on a ship, World War II, ship is torpedoed, the heaviest loss of life up until that point, and the ship goes down with 672 people who did not survive, including the four chaplains. But before the four chaplains went down with the ship, they made sure that they gave out as many life jackets, and then gave up their own life jackets as the ship went down.

So this incredible story of selfless service carries on with the Chapel of Four Chaplains in Philadelphia, where we run a number of programs, which dovetail into your whole theme this year of caring hearts for caregivers. We are caregivers for many, many veterans, not only in the Philadelphia/Tri-state area, but also throughout the country, and now throughout the world. We're

working on programs in Korea and in Western Europe. But we can't do that without your help.

So one of the reasons why I'm here, also, is to thank you for your support. We are a private foundation and your support helps us do the things that we do.

So I am here today -- I didn't realize I was a surprise, but I guess I'm a surprise. I like to be surprises. But our theme of selfless service really blends in well with this theme this year of caring hearts for caregivers. What a wonderful thing that is. I want to thank you all for doing that, because when we minister to the veteran, we are ministering to the whole family, and I think you guys understand that.

So we have this Legion of Honor in which people who understand the sacrifice of the four chaplains, and they are inducted. And today, Madam President, we would like to induct you into the Legion of Honor at the Chapel of Four Chaplains.

(Applause.)

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: So I ask that you all please stand as I read this honor to a person who I feel has a caring heart. You know, Kathy visited the Chapel of Four Chaplains in Philadelphia this past year as a guest of the New Jersey delegation, and we really -- I really just turned on to the story, and I still wear the pin that you gave me then, because we wear -- everyday at the Chapel of Four Chaplains is either Veterans' Day or Memorial Day with the amount of things we're doing, so we wear poppies all the time. And I really credit the Auxiliary for keeping this poppy program going. I thank you very much for that.

(Applause.)

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: So "To all of you in these presence, greeting, the Chapel of Four Chaplains is pleased to present the Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion to American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel in recognition of her lifetime service to all people regardless of race or faith. And this award symbolizes for us and for all Americans the unity of this nation founded upon the fatherhood of one God.

"Please keep up the good work. You are essential caregivers. Thank you so much."

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This is so cool.

CAPTAIN CAVALIERE: And thank you all. Come and visit us at the Chapel and go Navy and Semper Fi.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much. What a great surprise. Thank you.

Carol T., that was a great surprise. Thank you.

Our National Historian strives to preserve, display, and share our history, traditions, and milestones. These efforts allow members the opportunity to look back and reconnect with our organization's rich past. Here to tell us more about the National -- is our National Historian, Carol Campbell.

MS. CAMPBELL: Greetings, Madam National President Kathy and attendees. It is wonderful to be here together at the American Legion Auxiliary's 101st convention.

As we began our second century of service, our members were diligently focused on National President Kathy's special focus on caring for caregivers.

Special thanks to department historians who turned in their year-end reports and told us of their amazing accomplishments. Here are some examples of our historians in action.

Our department historians valued the importance of our members' efforts to carry out our mission at every level in the organization. By highlighting the work being done by them, it serves as encouragement to others to join the effort we put forth for our veterans, military members and their families, and our local communities.

Department of New York Historian, Yvonne Brunner, highlights member spotlights as a valuable way to engage members to tell their stories, too. Her motto is, "Your story is our history." During March, Yvonne also honored Auxiliary members who have had a significant impact on our organization.

Congratulations to the Department of Nebraska as they celebrated the 100th anniversary of their charter. As an important part of this celebration, Department Historian Angie Foster's focus was to ensure information would be properly captured for their history books. Units brought time capsules to their mid-year conference to be displayed. They were also challenged to write down five stories from July 2021 through March 1st, 2022, and to do so, she created the "Feeling Lucky Challenge" to encourage participation for their department's history book.

A winner was drawn from the entry forms on Saint Patrick's Day and they received \$50. For their department's convention in June, she created the "Century of Smiles" slide show/video. As an added incentive for every unit that submitted a picture, \$1 was donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. For every district that submitted a group picture from their 2022 spring district convention, \$2 was donated to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Wonderful example of caring hearts in action.

(Applause.)

MS. CAMPBELL: Department of Ohio Historian, Dana Byers, expressed the importance of establishing face-to-face relationships with unit

and district historians and presidents while attending conferences to promote keeping unit history records. Members were encouraged to participate in the "Members Remember" project. District 13, Unit 421 members participated in this important project.

Nicole Conlon, a three-year junior member, interviewed Cyndy Baylong to learn how she became eligible to be a member of the Auxiliary. Thank you to our juniors for working on their history books, pictured here Honorary Department of New Jersey Junior Historian Elizabeth is working on her history book.

And now it is a great honor and privilege to announce the winner of the prestigious Toomey Award. This award came at the behest of the Department of Georgia in 1924, named in honor of one of their distinguished members, Maude Lynch Toomey. The winner is the Department of Minnesota, Jean Horack, Department Historian. Thank you all so much for your exceptional support of our history program.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. At this time, stand up. Shake it out. We've been sitting for a little while, so I thought it was time to stand up. Sit down when you're ready, and I will continue.

At this time, I am pleased to introduce the members of the dedicated Resolutions Committee: Ann Crawford, Sharon Atkins, and Diane Spencer. I would like to call on Ann at this time and her committee to give their report.

MS. CRAWFORD: Madam National President, members, and guests. The pre-convention Resolutions Committee met on Monday, August 22nd, at the appointed time. Past National President Janet Jefford represented the National organization.

Madam President, we have one courtesy resolution.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: "Whereas, the dedicated delegates, alternates, and guests have gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for the American Legion Auxiliary 101st National Convention to hear the accomplishments of the world's largest patriotic auxiliary organization and to show their dedication to their membership by serving our heroes in our mission outreach efforts; and,

"Whereas, the past national presidents, the national officers, the national chairman, and national committee members have shown their commitment to this great organization by promoting programs, mentoring new leaders, and celebrating a year of accomplishments; and,

"Whereas, the national and local convention committees, the national headquarters staff, convention center staff, City of Milwaukee, and the

members of the Department of Wisconsin have extended a warm hand of hospitality to all of us; and" --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: "Whereas, as we honor our many distinguished guests, including guests from The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion Nationals; and,

"Whereas, President Kathy has chaired an inspiring and successful national convention;

"Therefore, be it resolved that this courtesy resolution expresses our heartfelt appreciation and grateful thanks to all named in this resolution who shared time with us" --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: "And be it further resolved, we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to this extraordinary woman, American Legion National President Kathy Daudistel, by giving her a standing ovation demonstrating our love, support, and pride in all her accomplishments, along with a unanimous thank you for a job well done."

(Applause.)

MS. CRAWFORD: Madam National President, this concludes the Resolutions report.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you so much. Good job. Good job. That was very nice. Thank you.

With your applause, this courtesy resolution is adopted. Thank you, Ann.

Before we move on, I think it is a great time for our last round of ALA Family Feud. Did you already give up your keypads? Just yell out the answer.

(Video played, but is not transcribed herein.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Your first question: How many people currently follow the ALA National Headquarters Facebook account? A: 20,000; B: 27,000; or C: 35,000.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And the survey says: So "C" is the correct answer. Good job. So I can't read. "B" is, obviously, the correct answer, but it should be "C," right?

Okay. We're ready for question number 2. How many national presidents has hailed from the Department of Kentucky? "A" is one; "B" is three; And "C" is five. Make your guess now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Okay. What's your guess? I give up. I just give up. What? There's your answer. Oh, my gosh. Thankfully, we are on to the final question.

What month celebrates Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day? "A" is May; "B" is June; or "C" is September. Choose your answers now.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And the survey says -- You said the right answer. Yay.

Okay. That was fun. All right.

Our Resolutions Committee is not the only group working hard behind the scenes at convention. Let's give a big hand to our Distinguished Guests Committee. PNP Carlene Ashworth, Chairman --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- from Texas; PNP Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from Wisconsin --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- and PNP Desi Stoy from Ohio.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you, ladies. They're doing a great job back there.

Would Nancy Moses, from the Department of Kentucky, please come to the podium to present the Nationals President's Scrapbook?

(Pause.)

MS. MOSES: Here I am. Madam President Kathy, it has been an honor and a privilege to be entrusted with preserving your memories during your year as National President. You have made it truly easy and magical by taking lots of pictures along the way. I felt like I was with you at each of your visits, and I hope I can speak for all of our members that we also felt the same way.

(Applause.)

MS. MOSES: As your scrapbook chairman, I thought long and hard to decide what to present to you. I decided since this is a decade of change, I was going to do something a little forward-thinking, and I chose a digital photo frame. It's an 8x10 that's pre-loaded with over 6,000 photos. And that doesn't count the photos of this convention and the recent legacy ride.

This photo frame allows you to send photos directly from your phone, from your computer, or allows your friends to send you photos, as well, to a specific email.

I also have a memory book of your homecoming, which is also included on your photo frame, and a thumb drive with all your photos listed by state or event.

Thank you for leading us and making us feel special and thank you for allowing me to be your scrapbook (indiscernible).

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Oh, that's awesome. Thank you so much. She said she got me dancing, too. I said, "Aye, yi, yi." Yikes. Thank you,

Nancy. That's really a really cool way to remember my term as National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: It's exciting. All right.

This is a great part of the day. (Indiscernible.)

(Video played.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. Assisting with this award celebration, please welcome our National Vice President, almost, not, Vickie Koutz.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The National President's Award for Excellence gives me the opportunity to highlight units that are doing amazing work to carry out the mission of our organization. This year we're going to recognize 11 unit winners. This means one unit member for each of our 11 mission programs. So we have a lot of celebrating to do.

Vice President Vickie, would you like the honor of announcing the first winner of that the National President -- I can't talk -- Award for Excellence?

MS. KOUTZ: It would be my pleasure, Madam President.

Our first winner is Roland E. Patenode, Jr., Unit 7, in Rochester, New Hampshire, Unit President Paula Ritchey.

New Hampshire Unit 7 excelled in our Junior program though plenty of activities that brought their junior and senior members together for the mission of service, not self. They handed out thank you bags with special treats for our veterans on Veterans Day. They hosted a car wash raising money for back-to school backpacks and painted the town blue with ribbons for "Thank a Police Day." Unit 7's members also find opportunities to include their juniors in projects like "Peace Greeters," where members welcome home our troops with posters and beautiful hand-painted rocks.

Congratulations, Unit 7. We are so proud of the impact you're making with our junior members.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The second unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence focused on our leadership program. With a big round of applause, let's welcome to the stage Sioux Falls, Unit 15, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Unit President, Susan Panning.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Unit 15 focused on growing their leadership in order to host their very first retreat for female veterans. This unit's leaders also formed a Care Committee focused on reaching members who were not able to attend in-person meetings so that they could still feel connected to the mission. Unit 15 worked to grow their relationship with the

Legion Family by helping their post host veterans' events, including a Tribute to Fallen Soldiers event last summer.

Congratulations, Unit 15. Keep focusing on growing your members.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZE: Our next one joining us on stage, focused on our legislative program. Please welcome to the stage Woods W. Lynch Unit 19, in Midland, Texas, Unit President, Janie Bennett.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: This unit worked the legislative program by growing community awareness of the Auxiliary and issuing -- issues facing veterans. They donate resources to local schools, work to build donor relationships with local businesses, and participate in scholarship programs dedicated to serving our youth. These types of community connections led to members of the Texas Elite Force Basketball team paying it forward and showing up to help Unit 15 plant American flags on all veteran graves at three Midland cemeteries.

Unit 19, you have done an excellent job uniting your community and bringing awareness to issues facing our veteran community.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: The fourth unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence is Robert E. Kennington Unit 34 in Indianapolis, Indiana, District Chairman Louise Lloyd. And I know you're out there Louise on TV. So hi.

Unit 34 believes that every day is Veterans' Day. This unit understands that community is key when it comes to growing brand recognition and mission delivery. These members unite the unit and community by donating food to the local veteran shelters and delivering personal care items to the local homeless veterans and family center.

Members of Unit 34, congratulations on an amazing year.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Let's keep the celebration going with our next winner. West Duluth Unit 71, in Duluth, Minnesota, Unit President, Mary Hendrickson.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Members of Unit 71 focused on our education program by participating in the Give 10 to Education Project supporting local elementary and middle schools. Members also partnered with local organizations that share our same mission and passion for veterans and their families in order to grow education efforts in their community.

Unit 71, congratulations and thank you for working our mission and focusing on our education program.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Joining Unit 71 as unit winners is Ehrig-McTurk 127 in Gladbrook, Iowa, Unit President, Jeanne Paustian.

Unit 127 didn't let something like a little pandemic get in the way of focusing on our Children In Need program by continuing their Kids' Shopping Day, which helps to provide almost 300 kids with Christmas gifts and introduces them to the American Legion Auxiliary's mission.

We are so proud of you, Unit 127. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: And the celebration continues with Unit 230, Martinsville, Indiana, Unit President, Candice Carter.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: This year with the Focus on Americanism program, Unit 230 held a 9 to 11 coloring contest and Americanism essay contest with more than 100 entries and over \$1,000 in prize money. On Memorial Day, Unit 230 placed flags on the graves of veterans and had a wreath-laying ceremony at the town's war memorial.

What great ideas, Unit 230.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our next winner joining us on stage is Spearfish Unit 164 in Spearfish, South Dakota, Unit President, Micheline Nelson.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Unit 164 focused on public relations by providing tool kits to all their new members. These kits supply them with much needed information about our organization and included ALA branding materials so that each member could build awareness in their community. They work hard to bring the Auxiliary into their community by hosting wonderful events like festivals in the park, a chili cookoff contest, the Parade of Cheers at local nursing homes, and a high school homecoming parade. Twice a year, in an effort to bolster public relations with local media, Spearfish Unit 164 raises money to give gift baskets to their local newspaper in appreciation of their support.

We are very proud of all your efforts in the community. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Okay, everyone. We are down to our last three unit winners. Let's give it up for Unit 186 in Little River, South Carolina, Unit President, Chris McCreary.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Focused on national security, unit members sent 21 care packages -- 20 care packages to service members in Seattle, Washington. These packages contained enough supplies to service an entire platoon. They didn't stop there. They also added a VA Clinic of Myrtle Beach to their

donation list for school supplies, backpacks, and snacks. Unit 186 also gave a \$500 scholarship to a JROTC student from North Myrtle Beach High School.

Congratulations, Unit 186. Your efforts have made us proud.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Our next unit winner is Liberty Unit 289 of Strasburg in Strasburg, Illinois, BANR Unit Chairman, Jill Layton.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: This year the members of Unit 189 (sic) truly embraced the BANR in the National President's passion project and focused effort on caregivers. To support caregivers, Unit 289 selected three caregivers in the community and decorated their porches for the fall. To continue the fall theme, Unit 289 started a trick or treat for veterans. At Christmastime, the unit put together Christmas Holiday bags to hand out to local homebound veterans. In the spring, they distributed poppies and placed flags on graves of veterans.

Thank you so much for taking care of our caregivers, Unit 289, and congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: And now, for the final unit winner of the day, Oak Creek Unit 434, Oak Creek, Wisconsin, Community Service Unit Chairman, Marie Tabat.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Unit 434 excelled in community service by using their full -- two full-size kitchens and their love for cooking to raise funds that are donated to veterans and their families. They have catered events like weddings, SAL Octoberfest, Legion Rider Christmas events, and fish-fry fundraisers. Unit 434 has built a strong sense of trust and friendship in the community through their passion for cooking.

Well done, Unit 434, and congratulations.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. I just want you all to know that anybody can win this. I just heard that that was the Chairman's very first report ever.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Yeah. In another report that I received that won an award, she is a little lady that is over 90 years old, and she hand-wrote it, and it was an amazing report, obviously, she won an award, right? So anybody can do this. So remember that for next year.

All right. We're now on to our department winners, but first, I just want to let you know we had so many excellent department submissions that I decided to do a little something extra and award Honorable Mentions to two departments.

Our first Honorable Mention goes to the Department of Texas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Their units really stepped up their recruiting game, bringing in over 13 hundred new members to the great State of Texas. The Department of Texas' motto was Cultivating Kindness and Spreading Seeds of Good Will. Their membership motto has helped promote Texas to grow its membership, promote the ALA programs, and show military families and veterans that service, not self, is more than just a motto. It's who we are; it's what we do.

Congratulations, Department of Texas.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Okay. Our next Honorable Mention -- okay. Let me just first say that this is not because we are here in their beautiful state, ha, ha, but truly because of all the amazing work they do in the efforts spent honoring caregivers.

Please welcome the Department of Wisconsin to the stage.

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Incorporating and promoting caring for those who care for others on social media, advertising, while showing the Auxiliary brand when they are caring for our caregivers, they made salute calls to engage with members, which lead to members renewing.

Please give a round of applause for our second Honorable Mention, the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: And now it is time to present our last Award for Excellence. The Department winner of the National President's Award for Excellence goes to the Department of Mississippi, Diane Belue (phonetic).

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Mississippi really focused on membership this year. They hosted a leadership workshop in nine districts. These workshops not only allowed for information to be shared with their members, but for relationships to be built. The theme this year was There is no Place Like Home, and they definitely made great strides on their yellow-brick road.

Let's hear it for the Department of Mississippi and President Diane.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Now, I know there are so many units and departments out there doing amazing work that we never hear about at the national level. So a big thank you to all members, units, departments, all of you who've worked the Auxiliary's mission and programs everyday. Your hard work is what our organization needs to keep us alive and helps us carry out our mission. I just want to thank everyone for everything they do. Just

remember, next year, report, no matter what it takes, jot it down, send it in, because we want to hear about it.

It is difficult to be limited by time and only able to share briefly about these amazing achievements, but there is good news. You will be able to read a full story on our National President's Award for Excellence winners on our national website. So let me encourage all of you to consider joining these units on the path to excellence by planning now to submit your application for next year's awards. I want Vickie to be flooded with applications.

Our national headquarters team created a system that allows members to apply for this award online. It takes a matter of seconds to upload your entire report, even with pictures. There's really no excuse not to enter.

Let's give all of our National President's Award for Excellence recipients one more round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: As we set up for the National President's report, the Chair calls on National Secretary, Coral Grout, to make a few convention updates. Coral.

MS. BROWN: Thank you, Madam President. I have a few quick updates, but yesterday afternoon at the Hyatt, somebody left behind their cell phone. It was found on the floor in the ballroom. If it is yours, and you're going crazy, take a walk over to the Hyatt. It is at their main desk.

Installation this afternoon opens at 1:45 p.m., and the installation will start right at 2 o'clock.

Tonight's States' Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Convention Center, Ballrooms A through D, which is where you were last night.

The ALA Foundation's Silent Auction will announce winners this evening during the States Dinners. Please make sure your bids have been placed for your favorite items. There are some awesome things.

And now, drum roll, our Giving Tuesday Booth has raised just shy of \$25,000.

(Applause.)

MS. BROWN: Thank you for your generous donations, and if you haven't donated, this is your chance to bring it up to \$25,000 for some wonderful causes. And to help you come to that, USAA, today, is matching all donations up to \$3,000. Whoo-hoo.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: All right. The time has come to say goodbye from this position. What an absolutely incredible, amazing journey it has been. Twenty-one departments at 100 percent or more, and a special shoutout to New Mexico for being in the number one position.

Thank you to all of the departments, units, members, everybody, for working so hard on membership and in our mission. Without you, we would not be the ALA. You are appreciated.

I want to shoutout one more time to my National Pages, and if you guys will come out and stand in the middle, because they tried to get out of it last time. They've been amazing. I've been driving them crazy. I am not used to people, like, following me around and showing me the way, and grabbing my stuff. So I want to just shoutout to them one more time. My sister, Karen Toll (phonetic) --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: -- and my friends Doug McGuire (phonetic), Allissa Boozer (phonetic), and Marie Shous (phonetic). They have been amazing.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you all.

I also want to tell you that I've been driving my -- the National President gets a driver, and I met her a couple of weeks ago and said, "Well, I really like to walk everywhere, so you're probably not going to be very busy." I've been driving her crazy, too, because I haven't used her hardly at all. So thank you to my driver, Department of Wisconsin, and all the pages, and all the volunteers. You all are absolutely incredibly amazing.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So at this time we're going to see my final report. So roll it, J.P.

(Video played.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: "It was an honor and a privilege for me to serve as your 2021 to 2022 American Legion Auxiliary National President. Seeing our mission in action is a constant reminder of why we do what we do as Auxiliary members, echoing the importance of the ALA.

"Seeing firsthand how we make a difference in our communities was inspiring. I really wish I could share all the stories with you. Just know your fellow Auxiliary members are taking care of our veterans, military, and their families across the country and across the world.

"Over the past year, I was blessed to see, firsthand, our mission in action from American Legion family events; to collaborations with other community organizations, to the impact our programs have on our youth, veterans, and everyone in between. It is amazing what a difference the American Legion Auxiliary has made on those around us. I am so proud to have personally witnessed the influence on those we serve.

"As a (indiscernible), organization, we strive to take care of those who have answered the call to service, as well as their family members. Many of these family members are Auxiliary members, and as I learned this year,

many have taken on a caregiving role. A priority on those unsung heroes ties in with our mission, as well as the national purpose, for the 2021 to 2022 administrative year, caring for those who care for others.

"We have members who have been, currently are, or will someday be caregivers. This topic has really hit home for many. Caregiving is a series of small acts that alter the course of someone's life. It has been an honor to recognize the caregivers I met during my travels across the country. Thank you for sharing your stories with me. You are so inspiring and so strong.

"I know caregiving can be a lot with the intense emotions that often accompany the role, the depression, anger, loneliness, guilt, anxiety, and sadness. To our caregivers, I've seen units and departments take a little extra time out of meetings and events to say a special thank you for all that you do. I hope you've enjoyed receiving the Caregiver's Certificates of Appreciation and truly take to heart that you matter. I've enjoyed reading about the trials and triumphs and the heartbreak and healing of a few of our caregivers in this year's issues of Auxiliary Magazine. If you haven't had the chance, be sure to visit the national website to view the three-part series on caregivers.

"Caring for loved ones can certainly be tough, but there are also many beautiful caregiver stories that have been shared throughout this past year. There are too many to call them out individually, though I really wish I could. But I do want to share one that is very close to my heart.

"Amari Williams is a young man who won the Americanism Essay Contest when I was a committee chairman in 2015. I mentioned him during my National Convention platform remarks that year. Here is the video from that time.

MR. WILLIAMS: 'About three years ago, I had a heart transplant. Afterwards, they had a new (indiscernible), and one of the things I thought about was trying to help other people. So I started my foundation to help other people have -- to gather awareness about heart transplant and other heart diseases. And it had me start thinking about my freedom, and that's what led me to write the essay.'

'I wanted to thank the American Legion Auxiliary for giving me this award and letting me write about what freedom is to me, and I will always have freedom in my heart.'

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: "Amari was raised by his grandmother. At that time, he was waiting on a heart transplant, which he did, eventually, receive. He is now 19, going to college, and doing well. Recently, he sent \$100 check for my National President Caregiver Project in memory of his grandmother who lovingly served as his caregiver. I almost burst into tears.

"It's been more than eight years since I hear from Amari. For him to send a donation to help other caregivers is so incredibly heartwarming. Thank you, Amari, for thinking of others.

"In addition to showing caregivers our love and appreciation, what members are doing to take care of our veterans is inspiring. One example is the DTOM Ranch, Don't Tread on Me, located in South Dakota. Founded by two incredible veterans, the mission of DTOM Ranch is to provide a safe place for healing and recovery for military service members, veterans, and their families.

"DTOM provides equine therapy for veterans, among other services. I was able to experience a tiny bit of the specialized therapy they design to help our veterans, and I was completely floored. It was the most intensely emotional experience ever with an aftermath of incredible peace. The stories I heard about while I was there were so inspiring.

"The ranch does not receive VA money or any other government form of funding for the services it provides. The ALA Department of South Dakota graciously supports this project. Thank you, Chris and Dot, for giving back to our veterans in this unique way.

"Like South Dakota, there are many other auxiliary departments and units involved in helping our veterans in unique ways. Just one state over in Minnesota is Eagle's Healing Nest. The non-profit is committed to meeting the needs of veterans, service members, and their families who suffer from the invisible wounds of war.

"Many of our military are struggling and need programs with a caring hand to assist them. Eagle's Healing Nest helps foster purpose and direction. The non-profit is strongly supported by its local American Legion family and the greater community. Thank you to our members who support this organization and are making a difference for our service members, past, present, and future.

"What an ALA year it has been. The hospitality and kindness shown to me by everyone I've met has been so appreciated. I can't thank you enough for opening your hearts during my travels. From the basics of picking me up at airports, sharing your stories, introducing me to caregivers and American Legion family members, and getting hands-on opportunities to help with unit projects, it was great to work along side all of you.

"I will never forget this year, and I will always remember what a privilege it was to serve in this leadership role. Thank you for all of the awesome experiences as you welcomed me wherever I went. I appreciate you, and I look forward to serving veterans, military, and their families with you as a fellow unit member.

"Please continue to take care of our caregivers and be there for them during the joyful times and difficult moments they face in their role. Remember to be kind, because you never know what is going on with others.

"Thank you for your love, your blessings, and your friendships. I won't forget. God bless you. God bless our veterans, military, and their families, and God bless the USA."

(Video concludes.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: Thank you. Thank you. Vickie, can you come up here, please?

I just want to congratulate you in your new position and let you know that you are absolutely, absolutely going to love this. It is the most incredible experience I've ever had.

So I, kind of, want to pass the torch to you.

MS. KOUTZ: Okay.

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: So let's work together for a great new year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT DAUDISTEL: You're free to go.

(Whereupon, at 10:20 a.m., the 2022 National Convention concluded.)

**POST-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

National Officers

National President Vickie Koutz
National Vice President Lisa Williamson
Central Division National Vice President..... Ann Rehbein
Eastern Division National Vice PresidentVeronica Gurney
Northwestern Division National Vice President Marlene Boyer
Southern Division National Vice PresidentLinda Smiley
Western Division National Vice PresidentEva Wallace
National Chaplain Karen Peel
National Historian Laura “Susie” Clyde
National Secretary..... Coral May Grout
National TreasurerMarybeth Revoir
Guests: Interim Executive Director Sara Riegel; ALA NHQ Director of
Finance Gary Ward, ALA Foundation Board President Cathleen MacInnes

Past National Presidents

Carlene Ashworth
Nancy Brown-Park
Sharon Conatser
Mary E. Davis
Diane Duscheck
Virginia Hobbs
Linda Newsome
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Desireé Stoy
Peggy Thomas
Kristine West

National Executive Committee members

Alabama..... Sharon Atkins
Alaska*Penelope Mazonna (absent)*
Arizona Jennie Molina
Arkansas Ada Heath
California.....Joan Cannon
Colorado Laurie Kuntz
Connecticut..... Debra Knickerbocker
Delaware Deborah Guenther
District of ColumbiaLauren Lloyd

Florida	Wanda Brandt
Georgia	Susan Hall
Hawaii	Brister Thomas
Idaho	Carol Dalton
Illinois	Patti Williamson
Indiana	Rose Ann Dziegłowicz
Iowa	Kelly Elliott
Kansas	Paula Sellens
Kentucky	Bonita Robey
Louisiana	Marie Monroe
Maine	Joan Caron
Maryland	Alta Glotfelty
Massachusetts	Donna Blattenberger
Michigan	Mary Dubay
Minnesota	Jean Walker
Mississippi	Elizabeth “Diane” Belue
Missouri	<i>Victoria Ornelas (absent)</i>
Montana	Christine Nelson
Nebraska	Beverly Neel
Nevada	Glynis Seeley
New Hampshire	Donna Bryant
New Jersey	Margaret McMahon
New Mexico	Dorothy Hazen
New York	Marie Mock
North Carolina	Julie Smith
North Dakota	Tammy Ryberg
Ohio	Colleen Phillips
Oklahoma	Tracey Smith
Oregon	<i>Krisann Owens (absent)</i>
Pennsylvania	Patricia Carnes
Puerto Rico	ALT Maria Montanez
Rhode Island	Cathleen Camire
South Carolina	Pearl Sanders-Mills
South Dakota	<i>Mary Jo Stier (absent)</i>
Tennessee	<i>Charlotte Connors (absent)</i>
Texas	<i>Shay Kkuehner (absent)</i>
Utah	<i>Judy Daybell (absent)</i>
Vermont.....	Corinna Colson
Virginia	Lisa Chaplin
Washington	Laura Bondurant
West Virginia	<i>Paulette Anderson (absent)</i>
Wisconsin	ALT Diane Weggen
Wyoming	Vicki Paddock

POST-CONVENTION

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: This National Executive Committee Meeting will now come to order. Please disable all electronic devices or place them into silent mode. Please rise and remain standing for the opening ceremonies. National Chaplain Karen Peel will lead us in our invocation. Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Michele DeGennaro will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem followed by the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Diana Sirovina, leading us in the preamble to the Constitution.

MS. PEEL: Please open your hearts and minds and pray with me each in our own faith. Dear Heavenly Father, we are grateful for this beautiful day that you've given us to enjoy. You've given us a wonderful week to celebrate our accomplishments, renew friendships, and make new friends. We come to you, Father, at the beginning of this new administration, we ask for your guidance as we enter into this meeting. May the things that we do and say be pleasing in thy sight and always for the good of our organization. Be with our leaders this year as they guide and direct our organization, help us always to remember to be kind and respectful. Bless our veterans and our military, wrap them in your tender loving care and we pray for these things in your most holy name. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

MS. DEGENNARO: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ALL: Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming. Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

ALL: For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during all the wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy;

To participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of the American Legion;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: You may be seated now.

This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened. I want to apologize. I woke up this morning, go figure, with laryngitis.

You'd think I talk that much, so just bear with me, that's why I didn't recite the preamble, I was trying to save my voice. I have to go to Legion as soon as I leave here, so --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're going to have to go into the microphone a little bit more.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: I just want to welcome everyone. I think we've got pretty well a full house it looks like, so that's good. Before we begin our business, I want to take a few minutes to welcome you in your new role as a '22-'23 National Executive Committee.

Those present who are eligible to vote today and at the subsequent NEC meetings are the NEC members. NEC members include and are limited to National Executive Committee person from each department, the five National Division Vice Presidents, the National Chaplain, the National Historian, National Treasurer, National Secretary, National Vice President, and the National President. Those present at the NEC meeting with voice but no vote are the Past National Presidents.

We welcome our visitors and we remind you that you may listen to the discussion, but you are not permitted to participate in debate or to vote. Members of the National Executive Committee, you are now serving in a national role as the board of directors with fiduciary responsibility to the national organization.

As a member of the NEC, you no longer have the interests of your department as your primary focus. You are serving as a national representative of the national organization, and you must be making decisions and casting your votes according to what is in the best interest of the national organization.

For future meetings, you will again receive information in advance, and you will be expected to have (indiscernible) tools in preparation for the next

meeting. This is a (indiscernible) role, and we appreciate your diligence in attending to your duties thoughtfully and responsibly on behalf of the National Organization.

And now to get to the business at hand, the chair asks that those of you wishing to address the meeting make your way to the microphone as this is the only way your remarks can be heard for recording by a professional court reporter who's sitting in front for the transcripts of the meeting.

Also, please be sure that in making any remarks, you address the chair. Attendance at previous NEC meetings was the members' responsibility. However, thanks to our amazing convention team and our national headquarters office, we are now tracking your participation electronically.

Serving as parliamentarian to this meeting is Chris Dickey, professional registered parliamentarian. Thanks, Chris.

For this meeting and future NEC meetings, the meetings will be approved by a Minute Approval Committee. The chair appoints the NECs from Alaska, Illinois¹, Wisconsin, and Nevada as the Minutes Approval Committee responsible for approving the minutes for this year's NEC meetings.

Information about the consent agenda and how it works was circulated in advance along with the following items listed on the consent agenda: the National President's appointments. One correction there, under finance, and Virginia Hobbs, Virginia is the vice chairman, not a member.

Does anyone wish to remove anything from the consent agenda?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Chair will (indiscernible) a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

MS. DZIEGLOWICZ: Madam President, I move we accept the consent agenda.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: We need your name and department for the motion.

MS. DZIEGLOWICZ: I apologize. Rose Ann Dziegłowicz, Department of Indiana.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Is there a second?

ALL: Second.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: All of those in favor of adopting the consent agenda, please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Those opposed, please say no.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The ayes have it and the consent agenda is adopted.

¹ After the meeting, National President, at her discretion, changed appointment from Illinois to Wisconsin.

Okay. Now that everyone is confirmed, let's introduce the head table. It is my pleasure to introduce the following. So we've got some at the head table and some in the front row.

Lisa Williamson, National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Ann Rehbein, Central Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Veronica Gurney, Eastern Division Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Marlene is absent. Marlene Boyer is absent. Linda Smiley, Southern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Eva Wallace, Western Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Laura Susie Clyde is the National Historian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Karen Peel, National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Coral May Grout, National Secretary.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Marybeth Revoir, National Treasurer.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Sara Riegel, Interim Executive Director.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: And Chris Dickey is our Convention Parliamentarian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: At this time, the chair calls on Executive Director Sara Riegel to give her report.

MS. RIEGEL: All right. And I do apologize as well. The air conditioning is killing my sinuses, so. All right. Thank you, Madam President and good morning to everybody.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. RIEGEL: I wanted to start off from the management perspective, I'm going to leave some of the glory to Sharon Conatser, our finance chair, as well as our National Treasurer. No problem, Sharon, you got this.

So one of the things I realized since I took over as the Interim Executive Director is it's about teamwork. So I realized especially over the past four months how crucial it is to have teamwork between the American Legion

Auxiliary, volunteer leadership, and the national headquarter staff. I have worked closely with now past National President Kathy and our National President Vickie during these months to ensure that we are all on the same page or at minimum having the same knowledge to formulate plans and to move forward.

With the national headquarter staff, there were many collaborating names, and I do emphasize many, within the first couple of weeks, and open discussions that were really helpful in forging forward as a team, especially with the preparation of the budget this year.

Based on our conversations with directors and their feedback as to the process in the past, this year we met as a group and we reviewed every single activity together. So everybody had ownership of this budget. So the presentation of this budget was basically all of us buying into it, having a good discussion, and Gary can attest to that.

First of all, it was a long meeting, but it was really -- it was fantastic for us all. So we did this before we presented it to our review committee, which was Sharon and Marybeth, and then before we proposed to the committee as a whole. This worked well and it opened our eyes as a team with all of us coming together with ownership in the presentation of this budget.

Communication. Open lines of communication between our ALA leadership and management, having ability to pick up the phone -- Vickie, Kathy, Marybeth, Sharon -- having that ability to pick up that phone and discuss things with the National officers, with the finance chair, even Jeri Greenwell, Risk and Compliance, and having an open and respectful dialogue.

So they're all on my speed dial right now. I do understand, and I'm openly admitting this, I know there has been a void or an abyss, as I would call it, in the communication from national headquarters. And I do take full ownership of that. That error, it has been a rocky start for us, trying to balance and assimilate all these different multiple tasks.

Hopefully, we're writing that check right now. We kind of piloted a newsletter at the beginning of -- right before convention. And I'm going to give a big thank you to Tamara Shumate, okay, especially her creativity because, you know, she is so creative and very well spoken. She is my wordsmith most of the time, so. So this newsletter will provide you with updates and information that you do need. And this is not being disrespectful at all; it has been tough. So we're finding that time, we're moving forward.

As you may have heard in prior reports this past year we did decide to eliminate two full-time positions and one part-time position from the organizational structure. We evaluated the overall structure and sustainability of that structure and decided that we could incorporate certain functions and job duties under current core director -- the director structure.

However, we did do something. We moved forward with the position of deputy executive director. This is not a new concept since there have been discussions between management and leadership over the years to kind of reintegrate the role of the deputy executive director. And once it was held by the former paid National Treasurer many, many years ago, and it's part also, the deputy executive director is also part of the succession plan, which we have been discussing for a long time.

So I'm happy to announce that that is now fully in effect. This became more evident when the offices of our National Secretary and National Treasurer became positions held by our -- by volunteers. The position of deputy executive director will be a positive step in ensuring that the management responsibilities of the national organization are seamless as we move forward. This position is held by Tamara Shumate.

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGEL: So I think that's enough. But I will wrap this up by saying thank you to Sharon Conatser, thank you to Marybeth Revoir, thank you to now Past National President Kathy, and our current National President Vickie for working closely with me in these coming months. And I'll let these guys handle presenting the fiscal year '23 budget presentation. Madam President, this concludes my report.

(Applause.)

MS. RIEGEL: Thanks.

Okay. Madam President, I have one item of business I forgot before I conclude my report, so I'm not done yet. You all received a copy of a resolution concerning verification of corporate officers. Please be aware that this convention that's elected and confirmed, the 2022 to 2023 American Legion Auxiliary national officers.

However, some of our financial institutions and also, sorry, also some of our regulatory institutions required that we provide proof verifying our corporate officers. So let me be clear, our governing documents do not require this. This makes my job easier, please. And the only reason we made this is to appease instead of having to send them -- so let me be totally honest -- instead of having to send them either 90 to 200 pages of our proceedings, this one-page document will clear that up very quickly. So this will appease those financial and regulatory institutions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you, Sara.

Is there any objection to adopting the resolution concerning verification of corporate officer which was previously provided in your packet?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Hearing no objections, the resolution is adopted. Thank you, Sara.

MS. RIEGEL: Thank you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The chair now calls our National Secretary to give her report.

MS. GROUT: Thank you, Madam President.

Good morning, everybody.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. GROUT: I heard what was happening with the National Secretary multiple times over the convention. Just want to remind you that I am available, our staff is available, we're here for you. And so if there are questions, concerns, issues, please make that contact to us as soon as possible. That being said, unit problems belong in your department, they don't belong with us. And so before it becomes an issue for us to respond to you, just remember that. And I hope you figured out a lot of information from the emblem.

We own that emblem and it represents us, each and every one of us, something for which we need to be very, very proud of. We can't disrespect it, we can't allow other corporations to use our emblem without our permission. And that's why this year I'm really pushing to ensure that if you're not purchasing your items through national emblem sales or Land's End that you need to come to us in Indy for approval of your emblem use.

You can still use it, as I said, at the convention, on your stationery, things like that. If you're doing pens or t-shirts or whatever, please come to us first so that we don't have an issue. And if anybody has any questions, don't hesitate to give us a holler. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you, Coral. As we move into our financials, the chair calls on the National Treasurer to give her report.

MS. REVOIR: Awful lot of cords there, I'll be your first casualty. Madam President, thank you. Good morning to each of you, my fellow Auxiliary members.

Today for some of you this might be your first experience dealing with governance of the American Legion Auxiliary on a national level. Your duties are vital and varied. You've heard this already from the President and you'll keep hearing it on now through me and through our finance chairman: one of your major responsibilities is financial oversight.

You will begin receiving regular reports from the finance division showing our income and expenses: details reflecting investment balances and growth within our portfolio will also be shared; another report showing how our actual expense and income lines up with the budget projections that you will be passing today.

When you start receiving these reports, please take some time to review them, of course. If you're unfamiliar with them, have any questions, or would

like to have just a little insight into interpreting what is being presented, I'd be happy to assist you. Just reach out.

The National Finance Division staff is also very, very helpful and is always available to help. My long-built experience in finances was in department finances. And it took me some time and effort to fully understand the scope and depth of our national finances, so don't feel embarrassed if you need a little help.

To each of you who were serving on the NEC previously, thanks for your indulgence in hearing this information that you already know. Today you'll be reviewing and establishing the annual budget we will operate under for the 2022-2023 administration as presented by our Finance Chairman Sharon Conatser.

I'd like to tell you this is my third National President that I'm serving in as treasurer. And so when I started 'til now, the budget process has evolved. As Sara told you, it's much more in depth. We just don't take a figure from last year, well, this is what we spent last year, cost of living is 3 percent, which would be nice if it was, but it is not, the cost of living is whatever it is, and then multiply it and put it there. We took every number and wanted to know what was in it.

So kudos to the staff who were open to us doing this, changing the process. Kudos to Chairman Sharon for setting up meetings, driving to Indianapolis and really taking things apart so that we can say that we're presenting you a budget that we have confidence that we know why that number is there.

The budget preparation process is intricate and lengthy. Please know that all involved took responsibility seriously. All involved in the process over the preparing the budget, the National Finance Division and the leadership staff in the national headquarters, the Finance Committee, which is made up of very knowledgeable past national presidents and another member who has great knowledge of our finances, and myself, we take great care to make prudent decisions, always looking for a path to improve and strengthen our overall financial position.

Madam President, it is an honor to serve with you this year. Thank you.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you, Marybeth. Please welcome Finance Committee Chairman Sharon Conatser to present proposed FY '23 budget of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MS. CONATSER: Madam President, thank you. Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. CONATSER: Thank you for passing a dues increase. As your Finance Committee Chair, I'm proud to have the opportunity to serve this organization and present the '22-'23 fiscal year budget. Your consideration of

the budget as an NEC is vital to the success of this organization. I'm presenting this on behalf of the Finance Committee. If the members are in the room, would you please stand because you all -- the true budget process does not work without all of you.

(Applause.)

MS. CONATSER: Thank you to each of you for your due diligence and going over it line item by line item. I know sometimes it got a little lengthy, but I think that we have to do our due diligence for all of you. I must start off by thanking national headquarters staff and national chairmen for their input and guidance and ideas to be sure we are able to develop and present a comprehensive budget.

We need to continue to meet our goals, our obligations, and our expectations of providing services for you, the members, while continuing to do our mission, the reason we were formed: our mission.

Let's begin with the budget narrative. This is a summary document to help you understand. You all should have that in front of you or you received it this week, so I hope you brought it.

Do you have any questions on the budget narrative?

(No response.)

MS. CONATSER: Listening to you the members, National President Vickie will again be having five in-person mission trainings and junior meetings. So get your members to go and learn more about our great organization. No questions on the narrative? Okay.

(Indiscernible responses.)

MS. CONATSER: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah. I'm sorry, go ahead.

MS. LLOYD: Lauren Lloyd. NEC from the District of Columbia. I do have a few questions for under the strategies, under development. I understand they're under development, that's why it's labeled that.

MS. CONATSER: What page are you on?

MS. LLOYD: I'm on page 7 of 12 of the packet that we received for the post-NEC meeting.

MS. CONATSER: Page 7 of 12?

MS. LLOYD: Yeah. Page 7 of 12 --

MS. CONATSER: Thank you.

MS. LLOYD: -- of the post-convention NEC packet page 3 of the budget narrative. Under the top section on the very top where it says strategies under development.

MS. LLOYD: There it is. There it is. Thank you, Sam.

SAM: You're welcome.

MS. LLOYD: So I am super excited to read these. That's a statement not a question. But I do have a few questions. But I understand these are under development.

MS. CONATSER: Uh-huh.

MS. LLOYD: Is there a projected timeline for these items to be worked on and reported back to us as the NEC, so that way we can keep track or maybe get an update?

MS. CONATSER: I would hope that when something is developed that we could send it out to you. I do not -- I'm going to be honest, I do not have a timeline at this point, Lauren.

MS. LLOYD: Thank you very much.

MS. CONATSER: I'm being honest. But we hope to get it to you.

MS. LLOYD: Okay. I do also have another question. Under the leadership, the second bullet point, "The leadership groups of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary continue to meet annually to evaluate and develop joint opportunities that can benefit both organizations."

MS. CONATSER: Uh-huh.

MS. LLOYD: The new Be The One Campaign, then would that be something that would be included in this plan under the Legion racing team and all of the things that are happening that we could benefit from that?

MS. CONATSER: I know that our staff leadership meets with them monthly, quarterly meetings with different groups. Sara, tell them when you meet please. It's easier for her to answer the question.

MS. RIEGEL: Well, we haven't -- I mean, I'll be honest with you, we haven't officially gotten a schedule together, but I can tell you that when they came in July, at the end of July, we started -- the conversation's back up because I think some of the momentum just kind of, you know, with all the activities last year.

So those are -- typically, those things that we have started, we have a couple of things that are coming over from last year especially with our marketing and our membership retention that we are carrying forward. We're testing them and evaluating them. I think that's key to what we need to do is we need to evaluate every time we do something we need to step back and see if we can have a maximum return on our mission and investment. Okay? So those will -- I mean, have we set a formal (indiscernible)? No, we have not. So we're all trying to figure out what's the best time, and you already know our schedules never match up, but conversations are happening.

MS. CONATSER: Lauren, also to add to that, The American Legion team meets with our Advisory Committee twice a year in person. And that would be something that our chairman could take to them and ask.

MS. LLOYD: Wonderful. Thank you. And the -- for the -- sorry. We --

MS. CONATSER: Don't be sorry.

MS. LLOYD: There's been a lot of discussion about the grant writer at headquarters. And I want to clarify in the pre-convention meeting, I think I

was misunderstood. I know that the headquarters has a grant person and they were -- and Madison was great. I think that was Madison, yes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: It was.

MS. LLOYD: Yes. So just for everyone here who is new, we had talked about the excitement of the grant writer, and there is a treasure trove of skillsets within our membership. So if you happen to see any grants that come through that would pertain to our organization, what would the email address be of that grant writer so we can all have it?

MS. RIEGEL: Development -- sorry.

MS. CONATSER: Development at Legion.

MS. RIEGEL: -- @alaforveterans.org. Development@ala F-O-R-V-E-T-E-R-A-N-S dot org.

MS. CONATSER: That's a good question. Good question.

MS. LLOYD: Just to let you know, those are shared inboxes so they -- so more than one person can see the communications.

MS. CONATSER: Thank you, Lauren. Great questions.

Any other questions on the narrative?

(No response.)

MS. CONATSER: Okay. You will see, the next page, we're presenting a deficit budget which is no surprise. One statistic, as you've heard day after day, is that our membership is declining. You've heard others say it and we will continue to say it: we need to be welcoming and remember that we all have the same eligibility to belong to our American Legion Auxiliary.

You not only need to be welcoming, but you need to be respectful and trust each other. Don't be critical and undermine those around you. You don't have to be the best friends; you just need to work together for our mission, which involves your eligibility, your veteran. Are there -- you see the budget on the screen.

I want to assure you that you've heard from both of these ladies that this was vetted and vetted and your Finance Committee vetted it and vetted it. It has been, we feel, thoroughly vetted before we bring it to you. Our due diligence as representing you is taken very seriously by each member of this committee and those that attend the finance meetings.

One thing I want to explain is under revenue. The advertising revenue over the last four years has been impacted by the rise of online shopping access. Management has evaluated the revenue income for advertising less the expenses associated such as advertising commissions paid and production costs in the Auxiliary magazine in preparation for the FY '23 proposed budget.

The net income to the ALA after all expenses paid and the allocation of staff human capital resources was not generating a sustainable revenue stream

to support the organization in the future. So the eight pages of advertising is not paying off, so we will have no income from advertising this year.

MS. REVOIR: And no expense.

MS. CONATSER: And no expense, of course.

MS. REVOIR: Right.

MS. CONATSER: Of course, the Treasurer said no expense.

MS. REVOIR: No money.

MS. CONATSER: No money.

MS. REVOIR: No money, honey.

MS. CONATSER: So here we are: FY '23 budget. We are asking you to recommit yourselves to the ALA and help yourself as a member of this organization and help the organization retrain members and grow membership, of course. Engaging new members early in the membership is the best way to keep them an active interested member in our organization.

Madam President, I move on behalf of the Finance Committee the adoption of the 2022-2023 fiscal year budget for approval.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Since the motion comes from a committee, a second is not required. The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '23 budget as presented.

Is there discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Are you ready for the question?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '23 budget as presented. All those in favor say yes or aye.

ALL: Yes. Aye.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Those opposed, say no.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The motion to adopt the budget has passed.

Thank you very much.

MS. CONATSER: The National Finance Committee and national staff are still working to explore opportunities for alternative income. Investment income has been stream -- been the stream the organization has relied on for several years, but that is no longer enough. As you all know, the last several months, everyone's investments have taken a hit: do not look at your 401K.

(Laughter.)

MS. CONATSER: Significant discussions have resulted in reducing a number of expenses, but we are still in a deficit budget. Thank you so much for your support. I appreciate you passing the dues increase and this increase will take effect with the 2024 membership year.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you, Sharon.

Now, please welcome ALA Foundation President Cathleen MacInnes to present the proposed FY '23 budget of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

MS. MACINNES: Thank you very much, Madam President.

I will not insult you all by reading this entire document to you because I'm sure you all read it. It's in your packet. I would point out that we do have a budget proposal for the foundation that has a surplus. And I would be remiss if I did not get a shout out to the entire finance division and the staff as well as our development team and to Finance Committee Liaison Nancy Brown-Park who has been very helpful in putting this all together for us.

(Applause.)

MS. MACINNES: We do have some goals for the foundation, but first I want to thank all of you who've donated. Please continue to do so, encourage your friends to do so. But more importantly, we need to improve our rating on Charity Navigator and GuideStar by giving away more money. So please, please, please go back to your departments, encourage them to apply for grants from the foundation, and reach out to your VAVS representatives, encourage every VAVS representative in this country to apply for a grant for the VAMC local VCAP programs. So please do that. That would help us tremendously.

And with -- are there any questions?

(No response.)

MS. MACINNES: Bless you.

(Laughter.)

MS. MACINNES: By direction of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors, I move the adoption of the budget.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The chair assumes a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2023 American Legion Auxiliary Foundation budget. The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '23 Foundation budget as presented.

Is there any discussions?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Are you ready for the question?

ALL: Yes.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '23 ALA Foundation budget as presented. All those in favor say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: All those opposed, no.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: The motion to adopt the budget has passed.

MS. MACINNES: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you.

The chair now calls on Jeri Greenwell, the National Risk and Compliance Committee chairman for her report.

MS. GREENWELL: Thank you, Madam National President. Congratulations to each of you on your election to the 2022-2023 National Executive Committee. In your new role, you are entrusted with the health and wellbeing of our organization. With it comes a great responsibility and includes three basic fiduciary duties: duty of care, duty of loyalty, and duty of obedience.

The Risk and Compliance Committee is charged with assessing the organization's capability to discharge its fiduciary duties effectively, accurately, and with integrity. Its primary role is to instill confidence in our members and stakeholders that the organization's financial and tax status, internal controls, risk management, and compliance procedures allow it to fulfill its mission and achieve long term viability.

While the NEC retains oversight authority, the Risk and Compliance Committee adheres to the same duty of care standard. Please always remember that you, as members of the NEC, are the stewards of the ALA, responsible for guiding, supporting, and sustaining our mission, values, and assets.

The Committee performs periodic risk assessments to help identify exposure to our organization and to share our findings and recommendations with the board. This information serves as a benchmark in evaluating possible impact while providing direction in the update, development of necessary policies and/or procedures, ensuring risks are being appropriately managed and/or mitigated.

It is challenging to keep up with the scope and pace of developments related to social media, cloud computing, IT implementations, cyber risk, and other technology matters as each carry a complex set of risks. The Committee recognize that these issues had severely compromised sensitive information and significantly disrupt business operations resulting in potential reputational, operational, and financial repercussions.

It was through that concern that four IT audit firms were considered by the Committee and a move of financial edge software to the cloud is currently in progress. To further protect our organization and observe strict adherence toward transparency and disclosure, the national organization is taking a stronger stance with respect to non-compliance of conflict of interest and confidentiality compliance paperwork, and to address consequences for failure to comply.

The 2021-2022 NEC passed the National Leadership Code of Ethical Conduct and the companion Ethical Conduct Review Policy. The Risk and Compliance Committee will work collaboratively with the Special Purpose Committee to develop these documents to align the Fraud/Whistleblower and

the Whistleblower Protection policies and bring revised policies to the NEC in the near future.

Not-for-profit organizations are under scrutiny as never before and the expectation of the board and the Risk and Compliance Committee is higher than ever. Our members and shareholders rely on this committee and ultimately you, the NEC, to maintain oversight while keeping up with an increasingly complex financial recording requirement in an ever-changing regulatory landscape. Whereas the IRS has demonstrated a strong interest in good governance practices and compliance with tax laws and regulations, setting the tone at the top has never been more important.

Madam National President, this concludes my report.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Thank you, Jeri.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Is there any other business to come before this NEC meeting?

MS. CANNON: I'm terribly sorry. Joan Cannon, Department of California. I did want to ask a question on the (indiscernible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold please. They can't hear you.

MS. CANNON: That's one of my favorite sayings, hold please. Joan Cannon, Department of California. Sorry, I should have asked earlier. We've been having an Interim Executive Director, thank you, Sara. I was wondering can you share with us the plan on the timeline or how we're going to have a permanent position?

MS. RIEGEL: Yes. We wanted to get through the convention first. We have plans in place to get a committee together to start looking for the permanent position. So just kind of stay tuned. We just need to get through this first and then -- but it's on our radar like right away.

MS. CANNON: Okay.

MS. RIEGEL: Glynis?

MS. SEELEY: I don't normally need a microphone, but just like everybody else (indiscernible) I have laryngitis.

(Laughter.)

MS. SEELEY: Glynis Seeley, Department of Nevada. My question actually probably would go more to Coral than anybody else. Over this past week, one of the things that I've noticed is that The American Legion is rolling out what looks to be new -- instead of using emblems, they're starting to switch everything over to the new of American Legion, I don't know if I want to call it a, logo or not. I would assume it's a logo as well. Are we going to do anything to -- because we keep talking family, family, family, but they're using something different -- are we going to look at the possibility of doing something similar?

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: I don't know.

MS. LLOYD: Sara can answer that. Sara can answer that.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: And correct me if I'm wrong, Sara. We understood the new one, it's just more the words American Legion.

MS. SEELEY: Yeah.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: When you look at a billboard going down the highway, you know, if you see like our round symbol, it looks like so many other organizations.

MS. SEELEY: You don't know how many times I get asked if I'm a sheriff.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: I know. That was one of the things that they told us in our training, that was one of the reasons they chose to do that. Using the same emblem, our original customary emblem, is still okay. But for billboards and things like that that you want them to really see the name, that's what they're using. That's why that's the difference.

Now, correct me if I'm wrong, Sara, but that's the way I understood it.

MS. RIEGEL: Right. There still -- and our communications team, kudos to them because they got high marks, our branding guide is really, really good. So I think the Legion's a little jealous. So they are working on it. We literally got kind of informed in probably late July.

So Stephanie Holloway, Director of Communications and Marketing now, she's working on that branding guide. We will have legacy which we consider our original emblem that will still be intact, that will be used for corporate business identification. And then we'll have the marketing which is more -- it's easier, as far as use on, you know, marketing materials, as well as clothing and things like that.

So this is not going to be everybody has to go back to their departments and their units and change everything. And that branding guide will be coming out shortly. I do promise Stephanie Holloway and her team are working on it.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. CLAPP: Thanks for asking the question.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Nicole?

MS. CLAPP: Good morning, Madam President.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Good morning.

MS. CLAPP: Actually, I know past National Presidents received and others received a newsletter from the deputy executive director that, yes, and the Legion had told us recently that the Riders, the Auxiliary and the Sons, will all have similar chevrons, I think is what they were called them.

(Simultaneous conversations.)

MS. MARSH: Jody Marsh, alternate from the Department of Oregon. And I don't know that this is the appropriate place, but we had material at the

pre-convention NEC on the DEI strategies, and I was wondering if there was going to be any discussion on that today.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: No there is not.

MS. MARSH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Okay. Is there any other further business to come before the NEC?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: Hearing none, we will move on to the next item. If there is no objection, we will go into executive session. The chair would like to include the following guests in the executive session: the past national presidents, interim executive director, Sara Riegel, and the convention parliamentarian.

Are there any objections?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT KOUTZ: There being no objections, we will go into executive session. The executive session will include only voting members of the NEC and invited guests. All others are asked to leave at this time. The meeting will adjourn after executive session. And thank you so much for your attendance and have a safe trip home.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned to executive session at 9:55 a.m.)

Appendix A



**MINUTES
OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**2021-2022 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**CONVENED AUGUST 27 - 28, 2022
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

**2021-2022 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD PRE-NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

August 27, 2022

Minutes

The pre-convention regular meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee was called to order by President Kathy Daudistel at 7:30 a.m. Following the invocation and opening ceremonies, National President Daudistel introduced the meeting's sponsor, Shipthrift, for their remarks.

Consent Agenda - The Consent Agenda contained the following items

- M/S/C A motion was made by NEC (CT) Debra Knickerbocker to remove Amendment #15, Standing Rule XI on establishing eligibility from the consent agenda and adopt the remaining items on the consent agenda distributed in advance which included:
- Charter Cancellations
 - 1: Intro to Standing Rules: Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Purposes, and Values
 - 2: Standing Rule I. National Organization, new #5 Organization Chart
 - 3: Standing Rule I. National Organization, new #6 – National Report Dates
 - 4: Standing Rule I. National Organization, new #7 Privacy of members
 - 5: Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President #3 move duty to NEC
 - 6: Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President, new #3 – National President's pin
 - 7: Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, new #14 – informing alternate NEC members
 - 8: Standing Rule VII. Committees, #1 - Remove reference to the obsolete Program Action Plan
 - 9: Standing Rule VII. Committees, #7 - Reference to obsolete Programs Action Plan and committee meetings
 - 10: Standing Rule IX. Subsidiary Organizations, Department Subsidiary Organizations, new #4 – establish annual ALA Girls State Directors Conference
 - 11: Standing Rule X. Departments, #4 – Fundamental fairness
 - 12: Standing Rule X. Departments, #10 – Inform Departments
 - 13: Stand Rule XIV. Junior Members – reflect current practices

- 14: Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, #5 – effective date of cancelled charters
- 15: *Standing Rule XI. Units, new #4 – Establishing eligibility for membership (withdrawn from consent agenda)*
- 16: Standing Rule XI. Units, new #5 – Challenge to eligibility
- 17: National SR XIII Dues and Assessment, #4 - date on membership card
- 18: National SR XIII Dues and Assessments, #6 - Renewal notification dates
- 19: Standing Rule XI. Units, new #9 – Fidelity/crime insurance coverage for Units
- 20: ALA Accounting Principles Generally Accepted in the United States – amend policy to include National Headquarters fiscal year.

M/S/C NEC (NV) Glynis Seeley moved to remove Amendment 15: Standing Rule XI. Units, new #4 from the consent agenda for discussion. There being no further discussion, the consent agenda was adopted.

Officer and Chairmen Reports

National President Daudistel and Interim Executive Director Sara Riegel gave their reports to the NEC, followed by National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir and Finance Committee Chair Sharon Conatser. Risk & Compliance Chair Jeri Greenwell, on behalf of the committee, withdrew presentation of the revised Standing Rule I, #3 on consulting the Legion Judge Advocate as well as the new Outside Legal Policy to allow for review by the Legion National Judge Advocate and the Finance Committee.

Constitution & Bylaws

M/C A motion was made by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to strike and substitute Standing Rule XII Charters to revise charter cancellation procedures as distributed in advance

M/C Without objection, a motion was made by Past National President Janet Jefford to amend #2: “The National President shall independently appoint a subcommittee of **three (3) to five (5) members of the National Executive Committee** to investigate and make written findings of facts and recommendations regarding the discipline of a Department.” After discussion, vote was all in favor; motion carried.

The question that was removed from the consent agenda was then considered on Proposal #15 Standing Rule XI. Units, new #4 regarding establishing eligibility for membership.

M/S/F Motion was made by NEC (OR) Jody Marsh to amend by striking and adding: "Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification by the post adjutant or other post official of the deceased veteran's ~~documents~~ **discharge or separation papers.**" After discussion, the vote was defeated.

M/S/C Motion was made by NEC (TX) Christine Trahan to amend the rule to read: "Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification by the post adjutant or other post official of the deceased veteran's ~~documents~~ **proof of military service.** Joining online requires an affidavit of eligibility; the Unit may request a copy of the veteran's documents. Eligibility for membership in a Unit without a post may be established by certification by the Department Adjutant." Without objection, the second reference to documents was amended to align.

M/C To adopt amendment to Standing Rule XI. Units, new #4 "Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification by the post adjutant or other post official of the deceased veteran's ~~documents~~ **proof of military service.** Joining online requires an affidavit of eligibility; the Unit may request a copy of the veteran's ~~documents~~ **proof of military service.** Eligibility for membership in a Unit without a post may be established by certification by the Department Adjutant." No further discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Special Committee Reports

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Special Committee final report was presented by member Lorraine Boucher. The committee's report is included, and the committee is now dissolved.

The Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee Chair Jacqui Hood presented the committee's final report on its charge to revise the Code of Ethical Conduct and develop procedures for handling allegations of misconduct.

M/C A motion was made by Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee Chair Jacqui Hood on behalf of the special committee to strike the Code of Ethical Conduct in the Standing Rules and replace it with the National Leadership Code of Ethical Conduct as distributed in advance.

M/S/F Motion by National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir to refer the matter to the Executive Committee of the NEC with a written report to be presented at mid-year NEC meeting. After discussion, the motion was defeated.

M/S/F Motion by ALT NEC (IL) Patti Williamson to amend the second bullet point on page 68 to add the word "felony": "...violations of federal, state, or local laws that result in

a **felony** conviction.” After discussion, the amendment was defeated.

M/ Motion by Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee Chair Jacqui
Postponed Hood to adopt the Ethical Conduct Review Policy as distributed in
advance.

M/S/C Motion from NEC (AK) Penny Mazonna to table the proposed amendment until after the convention assembly has approved the formation of the Ethical Conduct Committee. No discussion, the majority being in favor, the motion carried and the consideration of the question on adoption of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy was postponed to the post-convention NEC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m. to reconvene Sunday morning, August 28, 2022, at 8 a.m.

M/S/C = Moved/Seconded/Carried/Failed/Postponed

**2021-2022 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD PRE-NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

CONTINUED SESSION

**August 28, 2022
8 a.m.**

Minutes

National President Kathy Daudistel reconvened the pre-convention meeting of the National Executive Committee at 8 a.m. and, following the invocation, began with the National Secretary's report.

- M/C A motion was made by NEC (DC) Lauren Lloyd to request that the rules be suspended in order to move for reconsideration of the postponement of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy. With no objection, motion carried.
- M/S/C Motion by NEC (DC) Lauren Lloyd to reconsider the postponement of the Ethical Conduct Review Policy. After some discussion, all in favor, motion carried to reconsider the motion to adopt the Ethical Conduct Review Policy.
- M/C Reconsidered motion by Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee Chair Jacqui Hood on behalf of the Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee to adopt the Ethical Conduct Review Policy as distributed in advance. No discussion, the motion was carried by the majority.

M/S/C = Moved/Seconded/Carried/Failed

Minutes presented by National Secretary Coral May Grout

Minutes Approval Committee	Approved
NEC (ME) Joan Caron	
NEC (IA) Kelly Elliott	
NEC (AK) Penny Mazonna	

NEC Amendment #1 ALA National Standing Rules following Preface - to include the national organization's Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Purposes, and Values

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>Amend by Adding Add to Standing Rules following Preface</p> <p>Mission Statement In the spirit of <i>Service Not Self</i>, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.</p> <p>Vision Statement The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families</p>	<p>Standing Rules following Preface</p> <p>Mission Statement In the spirit of <i>Service Not Self</i>, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.</p> <p>Vision Statement The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere</p>	<p>Standing Rules following Preface</p> <p>Mission Statement In the spirit of <i>Service Not Self</i>, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.</p> <p>Vision Statement The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere</p>

	<p>families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.</p> <p>Purposes In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and advocate for veterans, military, and their families. • To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion. • To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship. • To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy. • To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government. 	<p>of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.</p> <p>Purposes In fulfillment of our mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and advocate for veterans, military, and their families. • To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion. • To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship. • To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy. • To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government. • To increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing
--	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase our capacity to deliver our mission by providing volunteer opportunities within our communities. • To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through <i>Service Not Self</i>. <p>Values Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to the four founding principles: justice, freedom, democracy, loyalty. • Service to God, our country, its veterans, and their families. • Tradition of patriotism and citizenship. • Personal integrity and family values. • Respect for the uniqueness of individual members. • Truthful, open communication in dealing with the public and our members. 	<p>volunteer opportunities within our communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through <i>Service Not Self</i>. <p>Values Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to the four founding principles: justice, freedom, democracy, loyalty. • Service to God, our country, its veterans, and their families. • Tradition of patriotism and citizenship. • Personal integrity and family values. • Respect for the uniqueness of individual members. • Truthful, open communication in dealing with the public and our members.
--	---	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to the adopted policies and rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to the adopted policies and rules.
--	--	--

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: These are not new statements. Part of the Resolution Project, these are the Mission and Vision statements adopted by the NEC in 2010, and the Purposes and Values have been reflected in the Unit Guide since at least 2007. These statements are part of our foundational elements and need to be incorporated into the Standing Rules.

ADOPTED

NEC Amendment 2 - ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization, # 5 Organization Chart

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by Adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization</p> <p>5. The National Headquarters Executive Director shall make a national headquarters organization chart available to the national officers and the NEC at the beginning of each administrative year.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization</p> <p>5. The National Headquarters Executive Director shall make a national headquarters organization chart available to the national officers and the NEC at the beginning of each administrative year.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: Part of the Resolution Project, this is based on a resolution passed by the NEC in 1985. Providing new officers and members of the national board of directors, the NEC, with an organization chart enables them to have a clear picture of the lines of authority and responsibility at national headquarters. National headquarters staff is accountable to the executive director who is in turn accountable to report to the governing board, the NEC.

NEC Amendment # 3 - ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization, new #6 – National Report Dates

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization</p> <p>6. Annual program reports to national chairmen are due May 15. The annual Department Impact Report is due to National Headquarters by June 1.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization</p> <p>6. Annual program reports to national chairmen are due May 15. The annual Department Impact Report is due to National Headquarters by June 1.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: This is part of the Resolution Project, originally passed in 1936. These are not new dates. The due dates that program reports are due to national chairmen and Department Impact Reports are due from departments to the national organization have been a custom that have followed for some time and need to be captured in our governing documents. Having this information by these dates impacts national publications and preparations for national convention.

NEC Amendment #4 - ALA National Standing Rule I. National Organization, new #7 Privacy of members

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule I. Organization</p> <p>7. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary may use and distribute names and contact information of its membership for official use only within the American Legion Auxiliary.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule I. Organization</p> <p>7. Members of the American Legion Auxiliary may use and distribute names and contact information of its membership for official use only within the American Legion Auxiliary.</p>

Proposed by: Risk & Compliance Committee and Constitution & Bylaws

Rationale: Part of the Resolution Project, this rule was originally adopted in 1923 to prevent membership rosters being used for solicitations. This rule has been referenced in the Unit Guide for year and followed as a custom but needs to be adopted in the national standing rules.

NEC Amendment #5a - ALA National Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President #3 - move duty for authorizing candidate travel to NEC

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President</p> <p>3. The National President may authorize the candidate(s) for National President to make necessary plans for the upcoming administrative year and authorize such travel as may be necessary.</p>	<p>Strike ALA National Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President</p> <p>3. The National President may authorize the candidate(s) for National President to make necessary plans for the upcoming administrative year and authorize such travel as may be necessary.</p>	

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: Part of the Resolutions Project, travel for the candidate for national president was originally addressed in 1978. This change removes this statement of responsibility from the national president section of the standing rules. Corresponding amendment 6b is proposed to relocate this responsibility to the correct section--under the NEC. The NEC has the responsibility for ensuring travel funds are budgeted for national officer candidate(s) travel consistent with ALA National Bylaws Article IV. National Executive Committee, Section 2. Authority.

NEC Amendment #5b - ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, new #13 – authorizing travel for candidate(s) for national president

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.3;">AD</p>	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>13. The National Executive Committee may authorize and budget funds for the candidate(s) for national president to attend meetings with National Headquarters staff or The American Legion as necessary for planning the upcoming administrative year unless such meetings may be conducted remotely.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>13. The National Executive Committee may authorize and budget funds for the candidate(s) for national president to attend meetings with National Headquarters staff or The American Legion as necessary for planning the upcoming administrative year unless such meetings may be conducted remotely.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws

Rationale: Part of the Resolutions Project, this was originally addressed in 1978. This is a corresponding amendment to proposed Amendment 6a, moving this statement of responsibility from the national president section to the correct section--under the NEC. The NEC has the responsibility for ensuring travel funds are budgeted for national officer candidate(s) travel consistent with ALA National Bylaws Article IV. National Executive Committee, Section 2. Authority.

NEC Amendment #6 - ALA National Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President, new #3 – National President’s pin

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President</p> <p>3. The National President's pin adopted in 1930 shall be the official pin of the office of National President to be passed down from the outgoing national president to the incoming national president. The Past National President's pin available from Legion Emblem Sales shall be available for purchase only by Past National Presidents.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule IV. Duties, National President</p> <p>3. The National President's pin adopted in 1930 shall be the official pin of the office of National President to be passed down from the outgoing national president to the incoming national president. The Past National President's pin available from Legion Emblem Sales shall be available for purchase only by Past National Presidents.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: Part of the Resolution Project, the national president’s pin was adopted in 1930. The tradition of the current national president passing down the national president’s pin, which is costly to replace and includes valuable gemstones, is a long-standing tradition that needs to be captured in the standing rules.

NEC Amendment #7 - ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, new #14 – informing alternate NEC members

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>14. National Headquarters will include Alternate National Executive Committee members on all communications normally distributed to the National Executive Committee to better prepare the Alternate to act in the absence of the National Executive Committee member.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>14. National Headquarters will include Alternate National Executive Committee members on all communications normally distributed to the National Executive Committee to better prepare the Alternate to act in the absence of the National Executive Committee member.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>14. National Headquarters will include Alternate National Executive Committee members on all communications normally distributed to the National Executive Committee to better prepare the Alternate to act in the absence of the National Executive Committee member.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws

Rationale: Part of the Resolution Project, this proposal is based on a 1927 NEC resolution and is a current practice of National Headquarters. Adding this rule makes it a requirement rather than a custom that alternates will be kept informed to better allow them to vote on items that come before the National Executive Committee in the event the alternate is called upon to substitute for the NEC member.

NEC Amendment #8 - ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, #1 - Remove reference to the obsolete Program Action Plan

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rules VII. Committees, 1</p> <p>As provided in the National Bylaws, in addition to the core National Standing Committees – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Americanism, National Security, Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, and Risk & Compliance – there shall be the following national committees: Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Community Service, Education, American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, Junior Activities, Leadership, Poppy, and Public Relations. The overall purpose of each standing committee is as specified in this section; the purpose of each national committee is as described in the American Legion Auxiliary National Program Action Plan.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and adding ALA National Standing Rules VII. Committees, 1</p> <p>As provided in the National Bylaws, in addition to the core National Standing Committees – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Americanism, National Security, Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, and Risk & Compliance – there shall be the following national committees: Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Community Service, Education, American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, Junior Activities, Leadership, Poppy, and Public Relations. The overall purpose of each standing national committee is as specified in this section. the purpose of each national committee is as described in the American Legion Auxiliary National Program Action Plan.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rules VII. Committees, 1</p> <p>As provided in the National Bylaws, in addition to the core National Standing Committees – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Americanism, National Security, Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, and Risk & Compliance – there shall be the following national committees: Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Community Service, Education, American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, Junior Activities, Leadership, Poppy, and Public Relations. The overall purpose of each national committee is as specified in this section.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: This is a housekeeping amendment to reflect how the organization is currently conducting business. The primary source of information about the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary was moved from a printed Program Action Plan to the national website. Taking advantage of the national organization's investment in an updated website reduces the expense of preparing and mailing an action plan each year. Purposes of the national committees do not change from year to year; new ideas for serving the mission are shared through other digital vehicles such as social media pages and blogs. Purposes should not be defined in a source external to the governing documents, and corresponding amendments will be presented at national convention to include purposes of all national committees.

ADOPTED

NEC Amendment #13 - ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members – update to reflect current activities

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Junior member elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed. Honorary National Junior officers carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions of Honorary Junior National President or any other honorary Junior officer elected nationally or by a national division of the American Legion Auxiliary are solely honorary, courtesy positions, without any formal recognition and with no official or formal duties, and shall not include traveling as a representative of the 	<p>Amend by striking and substituting ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Junior member elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed. Honorary National Junior officers carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions are solely honorary, courtesy positions; without formal or official recognition and duties; and shall not include traveling as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities. 	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Junior member elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed. Honorary National Junior officers carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions are solely honorary, courtesy positions; without formal or official recognition and duties; and shall not include traveling as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities.

	<p>national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraisers for Junior election campaigns or related activities benefitting an honorary Junior national officer or candidate. Honorary Junior offices carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions are solely honorary, courtesy positions; without formal or official recognition and duties; and shall not include traveling as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities.</p> <p>3. Honorary division Junior presidents may be elected at national division Junior meetings to serve the ensuing year. Honorary Junior officers may be elected to serve during the ensuing administrative year. Should there be no candidates for an office, the office will remain vacant.</p>	<p>3. Honorary National Junior officers may be elected to serve during the ensuing administrative year. Should there be no candidates for an office, the office will remain vacant.</p>
--	---	--

Proposed by: Junior Activities Committee

Rationale: This is a housekeeping amendment to reflect how Junior Activities currently operate and to cover all Honorary National Junior offices.

ADOPTED

NEC Amendment #10 - ALA National Standing Rule IX. Subsidiary Organizations, Department Subsidiary Organizations, new #4 – ALA Girls State Conference

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule IX. Subsidiary Organizations, Department Subsidiary Organizations</p> <p>4. The national organization shall annually budget for and convene an ALA Girls State Directors Conference.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule IX. Subsidiary Organizations, Department Subsidiary Organizations</p> <p>4. The national organization shall annually budget for and convene an ALA Girls State Directors Conference.</p>

Proposed by: ALA Girls Nation Committee

Rationale: Part of the Resolutions Project, this amendment is based on a 2008 resolution to establish an annual conference for ALA Girls State Directors. A standing rule needs to be adopted to allow the annual ALA Girls State Directors Conference to continually be funded and convened. To allow maximum flexibility for conditions such as pandemics that may require virtual meetings, no mandate should be included that directs where, when, or how it should be conducted.

NEC Amendment #11 - ALA National Standing Rule X. Departments, 4 – Fundamental fairness

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule X. Departments</p> <p>4. The Unit has the responsibility for the discipline of its members. A member disciplined by said member's Unit may appeal the Unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee shall review the appeal and respond as it deems appropriate. The action of the Department Executive Committee is final. Disciplinary actions against members, including membership suspensions, are not appealable to the National Organization. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. A Department may</p>	<p>Amend by striking and inserting ALA National Standing Rule X. Departments</p> <p>4. The Unit has the responsibility for the discipline of its members. A member disciplined by said member's Unit may appeal the Unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee shall review the appeal and respond as it deems appropriate. The action of the Department Executive Committee is final. Disciplinary actions against members, including membership suspensions, are not appealable to the National Organization. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule X. Departments</p> <p>4. The Unit has the responsibility for the discipline of its members. A member disciplined by said member's Unit may appeal the Unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee shall review the appeal and respond as it deems appropriate. The action of the Department Executive Committee is final. Disciplinary actions against members, including membership suspensions, are not appealable to the National Organization. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard. A</p>

discipline a Unit for failure to discipline a member.	<p>an opportunity to be heard. s-of-due process-and-equal-protection-- A Department may discipline a Unit for failure to discipline a member.</p>	Department may discipline a Unit for failure to discipline a member.
---	--	--

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: Due process and equal protection are legal terms that generally refer to provisions enforceable by a court system. Using the term “fundamental fairness” and defining what that means is a common practice in non-profit organizations today. This is consistent with Indiana non-profit law which requires adequate notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Consequential amendments: replace “principle of due process” and “principles of due process and equal protection” with “principle of fundamental fairness which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard” in the following:

ALA National Standing Rule X. Departments, #5

ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units, 3, paragraphs 5 and 8

NEC Amendment #12 - ALA National Standing Rule X, Departments, 10 – Inform Departments

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National X, Departments</p> <p>10. National Headquarters shall notify Departments of all resolutions and amendments adopted at each National Convention.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and adding ALA National X, Departments</p> <p>10. National Headquarters shall notify Departments of all resolutions and amendments to the American Legion Auxiliary governing documents adopted at National Executive Committee meetings and each National Convention.</p>	<p>ALA National X, Departments</p> <p>10. National Headquarters shall notify Departments of all resolutions and amendments to the American Legion Auxiliary governing documents adopted at National Executive Committee meetings and National Convention.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: This is a housekeeping amendment to reflect how National Headquarters currently operates. Departments should not only be informed of actions taken by the National Convention, but also any decisions of the national board of directors, the NEC.

NEC Amendment #13 - ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members – update to reflect current activities

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Junior member elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed. Honorary National Junior offices carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the position of Honorary Junior National President or any other honorary Junior officer elected nationally or by a national division of the American Legion Auxiliary is solely an honorary, courtesy position without any formal recognition and with no official or formal duties, and shall not include traveling as a representative 	<p>Amend by striking and substituting ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Junior member elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed. Honorary National Junior offices carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions of Honorary Junior National President or any other honorary Junior officer elected nationally or by a national division of the American Legion Auxiliary are solely honorary, courtesy positions; without any formal recognition and with no official or formal duties; and shall not include traveling as a representative of the 	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIV. Junior Members</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Any Junior member elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed. Honorary National Junior offices carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions are solely honorary, courtesy positions; without formal or official recognition and duties; and shall not include traveling as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities.

<p>of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities benefitting an honorary Junior national officer or candidate.</p> <p>3. Honorary division Junior presidents may be elected at national division Junior meetings to serve the ensuing year.</p>	<p>national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities benefitting an honorary Junior national officer or candidate. Honorary Junior officers carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the positions are solely honorary, courtesy positions; without formal or official recognition and duties; and shall not include traveling as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities.</p> <p>3. Honorary division Junior presidents may be elected at national division Junior meetings to serve the ensuing year. Honorary Junior officers may be elected to serve during the ensuing administrative year. Should there be no candidates for an office, the office will remain vacant.</p>	<p>3. Honorary National Junior officers may be elected to serve during the ensuing administrative year. Should there be no candidates for an office, the office will remain vacant.</p>
---	--	--

Proposed by: Junior Activities Committee

Rationale: This is a housekeeping amendment to reflect how Junior Activities currently operate and to cover all Honorary National Junior offices.

ADOPTED

NEC Amendment #14 - ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, 5 – effective date of cancelled charters

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>5. Cancellation of charters may be presented at the National Executive Committee meeting prior to the National Convention or a National Executive Committee meeting called between National Conventions. Cancellations approved by the National Executive Committee shall become effective immediately following National Convention.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and inserting</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>5. Cancellation of charters Charter cancellations may be presented at any the National Executive Committee meeting prior to the National Convention or a National Executive Committee meeting called between National Conventions. Cancellations approved by the National Executive Committee shall become effective immediately following National Convention.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee</p> <p>5. Charter cancellations may be presented at any National Executive Committee meeting. Cancellations approved by the National Executive Committee shall become effective immediately.</p>

Proposed by: Membership Committee

Rationale: During the pandemic when there was no national convention, a special resolution had to be passed by the NEC to ratify cancelled charters. This change allows charters to be cancelled by the NEC at any meeting and become effective immediately instead of tying them to the National Convention or a particular NEC meeting.

NEC Amendment #15 - ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units, new #4 – Establishing eligibility for membership

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule XI, Units</p> <p>4. Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification by the post adjutant or other post official of the deceased veteran's documents. Joining online requires an affidavit of eligibility; the Unit may request a copy of the veteran's documents. Eligibility for membership in a Unit without a post may be established by certification by the Department Adjutant.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XI, Units</p> <p>4. Membership eligibility through the service of a deceased veteran may be established by certification by the post adjutant or other post official of the deceased veteran's documents proof of military service. Joining online requires an affidavit of eligibility; the Unit may request a copy of the veteran's documents proof of military service. Eligibility for membership in a Unit without a post may be established by certification by the Department Adjutant.</p>

Proposed by: Membership Committee

Rationale: Part of the Resolutions Project, this is an amendment to capture how we currently operate and have been operating since 1944 when the resolution was passed. While this is currently followed and described in the Unit Guide and/or Department Operations Guide, it still needs to be incorporated in the governing documents.

Consequential amendments: renumber subsequent sections.

ADOPTED

NEC Amendment #16 - ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units, new #5 – Challenge to eligibility

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units</p> <p>5. A Unit member can challenge the membership eligibility of a current member or a person being considered for membership. Eligibility decisions by the Unit may be appealed to the Department Executive Committee which shall be the final authority.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units</p> <p>5. A Unit member can challenge the membership eligibility of a current member or a person being considered for membership. Eligibility decisions by the Unit may be appealed to the Department Executive Committee which shall be the final authority.</p>

Proposed by: Membership Committee

Rationale: This is another housekeeping amendment involving a process that is currently being followed as a custom but has only resided in the Unit Guide. It needs to be captured formally in the standing rules.

Consequential amendments: renumber remaining sections.

ADOPTED

NEC Amendment #17 - ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessment, 4 - Date on membership card

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessment</p> <p>4. A member failing to pay such annual dues by January thirty-first of the current membership year shall be delinquent and suspended from membership privileges.</p> <p>A member deemed delinquent for failing to pay dues by December 31 of the current membership year shall be classified as expired. Such active member may rejoin as an original member under the member's original join date without interruption of continuous years of membership, and membership privileges reinstated, by payment of all past dues.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessment</p> <p>4. A member failing to pay such annual dues by January thirty-first of the current membership year shall be delinquent and suspended from membership privileges.</p> <p>A member deemed delinquent for failing to pay dues by December 31 of the current membership year shall be classified as expired. Such expired member may rejoin as an active member under the member's original join date without interruption of continuous years of membership, and membership privileges reinstated, by payment of all past dues.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessment</p> <p>4. A member failing to pay such annual dues by January thirty-first of the current membership year shall be delinquent and suspended from membership privileges.</p> <p>A member deemed delinquent for failing to pay dues by December 31 of the current membership year shall be classified as expired. Such expired member may rejoin as an active member under the member's original join date without interruption of continuous years of membership, and membership privileges reinstated, by payment of all past dues.</p>

<p>A member deemed expired for failing to pay dues by December 31 of the current membership year may rejoin, with a new join date, at any time in the future by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member.</p> <p>Member applications and member reinstatements may also require Unit action if a Unit's governing documents so state.</p>	<p>A member deemed expired for failing to pay dues by December 31 of the current membership year may rejoin, with a new join date, at any time in the future by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member. Membership cards will reflect the most recent join date.</p> <p>Member applications and member reinstatements may also require Unit action if a Unit's governing documents so state.</p>	<p>A member deemed expired for failing to pay dues by December 31 of the current membership year may rejoin, with a new join date, at any time in the future by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member. Membership cards will reflect the most recent join date.</p> <p>Member applications and member reinstatements may also require Unit action if a Unit's governing documents so state.</p>
---	---	--

Proposed by: Membership Committee

Rationale: This is a housekeeping amendment to reflect a current practice. Membership cards currently show the most recent date the member joined with continuous membership. This means that if a member lets their membership lapse, the join date will reflect the year the member began paying dues again instead of the original join date.

NEC Amendment #18 - ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 6 – Renewal notification dates

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments</p> <p>6. In order to allow Departments adequate time to process end of year dues payments, the second dues renewal notice shall be postmarked no later than February 1.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments</p> <p>6. The first dues renewal shall be mailed between September 1st and September 15. In order to allow Departments adequate time to process end of year dues payments, the second dues renewal notice shall be postmarked no later than February 1.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments</p> <p>6. The first dues renewal shall be mailed between September 1st and September 15. In order to allow Departments adequate time to process end of year dues payments, the second dues renewal notice shall be postmarked no later than February 1.</p>

Proposed by: Membership Committee

Rationale: Part of the Resolutions Project, this amendment is based on a resolution adopted in 2011 by the NEC. This practice has been followed since then but needs to be incorporated into the standing rules.

NEC Amendment #19 - ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units, new #9 – Fidelity/crime insurance coverage for Units

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units</p> <p>9. The National Organization may provide blanket insurance coverage for Unit members handling Unit funds in amounts as recommended by the national Risk & Compliance Committee and as approved by the National Treasurer. Participating Departments will be billed for Unit coverage by the National Organization.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XI. Units</p> <p>9. The National Organization may provide blanket insurance coverage for Unit members handling Unit funds in amounts as recommended by the national Risk & Compliance Committee and as approved by the National Treasurer. Participating Departments will be billed for Unit coverage by the National Organization.</p>

Proposed by: Risk & Compliance Committee

Rationale: This amendment is part of the Resolutions Project and reflects a resolution that was passed in 1977. It captures the national organization’s current practice of providing blanket coverage for Units, who by Bylaws Article IX Section 6 are required to carry fidelity/crime insurance. This policy is currently a three-year policy. The National Organization’s insurers review the rates at renewal and look for the best rates from underwriters.

Departments are also required to maintain fidelity/crime insurance (Bylaws Article VIII, Section 4), but the National Organization's insurers will not underwrite a policy for departments.

ADOPTED

American Legion Auxiliary

NATIONAL POLICY

Accounting Principles Generally Accepted in The United States of America

Reviewed by: National Risk & Compliance Committee Reviewed On: 07-11-2022

Approving Body: National Executive Committee

Date Approved :08-27-2022

Next Review Date: Fall 2023

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), a national public benefit 501 (c) (19) not-for-profit veterans organization auxiliary headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, to provide contributors, creditors, management and other users of its financial statements with accurate, comparable, informative, and timely financial data. The ALA manages its records, maintains its books (bookkeeping), and prepares its financial statements in accordance with the accounting profession's published best practices and in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S.GAAP).

Policy

The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters shall manage its records, maintain its books (bookkeeping), and prepare its financial statements in accordance with the accounting profession's published best practices and in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S.GAAP).

The National Headquarters fiscal year shall be October 1 through September 30.

Date Revised	Description of Revision	Approved by
02-01-2020	Used IRS 501(c)(19) definition	Audit Committee

09-01-2021	AC renamed Risk & Compliance	National Convention
7-11-2022	Adopt official fiscal year	Risk & Compliance Committee

ADOPTED



American Legion Auxiliary

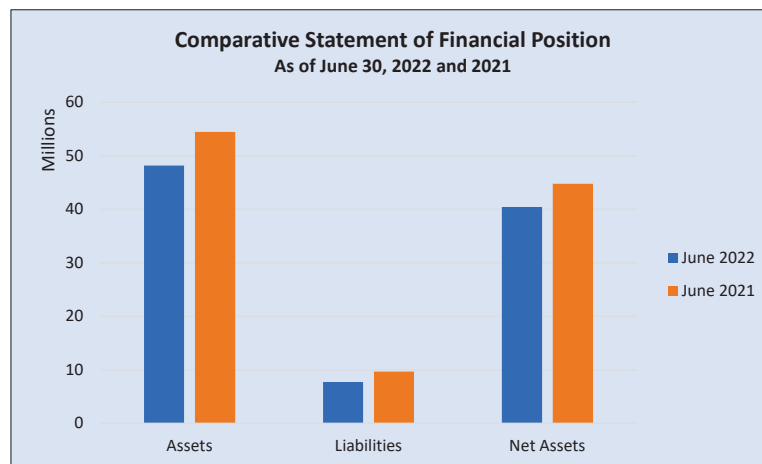
*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

Comparative Statement of Financial Position

DRAFT-UNAUDITED

As of June 30, 2022 and 2021

	June 2022	June 2021	Variance \$	Variance %
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,016,801	\$ 1,171,347	\$ (154,546)	-13%
Investments	40,010,340	45,362,674	(5,352,334)	-12%
Investments and cash - PUFL	4,209,988	5,065,375	(855,387)	-17%
Property and equipment, net	2,502,053	2,663,587	(161,534)	-6%
Prepaid expenses and other assets	417,049	175,196	241,853	138%
Total Assets	\$ 48,156,231	\$ 54,438,179	\$ (6,281,947)	-12%
Liabilities and Net Assets				
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 187,538	\$ 267,348	\$ (79,810)	-30%
Loans Payable	0	566,500	(566,500)	100%
Accrued scholarships	128,000	127,500	500	0%
Deferred revenue - dues	1,874,974	1,939,695	(64,722)	-3%
Deferred revenue - PUFL	4,298,025	5,105,045	(807,020)	-16%
Deferred revenue - other	44,520	94,733	(50,213)	-53%
Liability for pension benefits	887,237	1,349,919	(462,682)	-34%
Other liabilities	315,907	227,413	88,494	39%
Total Liabilities	\$ 7,736,200	\$ 9,678,153	\$ (1,941,952)	-20%
Net Assets	\$ 40,420,031	\$ 44,760,026	\$ (4,339,995)	-10%
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 48,156,231	\$ 54,438,179	\$ (6,281,947)	-12%
Beginning balance with current year adjustments	\$ 42,694,241	\$ 34,485,550	\$ 8,208,691	24%
Net surplus (deficit) YTD	\$ (2,274,210)	\$ 10,274,476	\$ (12,548,686)	-122%
ENDING NET ASSETS	\$ 40,420,031	\$ 44,760,026	\$ (4,339,995)	-10%



**American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
Actual to Budget Report
Quarter Ended June 30, 2022**

	<u>Actual QTR</u> <u>April-June/2022</u>	<u>Budget QTR</u> <u>April-June/2022</u>	<u>Variance \$</u>	<u>Variance %</u>
REVENUE				
Membership Dues	\$ 744,844	\$ 825,454	\$ (80,610)	-10%
Contributions and Grants	447,511	319,250	128,261	40%
Advertising	38,250	47,500	(9,250)	-19%
Other Income	139,416	157,965	(18,549)	-12%
Total Revenue	\$ 1,370,021	\$ 1,350,169	\$ 19,852	1%
EXPENSES				
Programs:				
Member and Department Support Services	\$ 806,704	\$ 1,108,381	\$ (301,677)	-27%
Youth and Education Services	86,675	195,909	(109,234)	-56%
Veteran and Military Family Programs	181,656	158,147	23,509	15%
Total Program Services	\$ 1,075,035	\$ 1,462,437	\$ (387,402)	-26%
Management and General	395,789	494,969	(99,180)	-20%
Fundraising	152,745	190,700	(37,955)	-20%
Total Expenses	\$ 1,623,569	\$ 2,148,106	\$ (524,537)	-24%
Net Income (Loss) from operations	\$ (253,548)	\$ (797,937)	\$ 544,389	-68%
Investment Income, net of expenses	\$ (4,792,785)	\$ 163,076	\$ (4,955,861)	-3039%
NET INCOME (LOSS) for the Quarter	\$ (5,046,333)	\$ (634,861)	\$ (4,411,472)	695%

FY22- 3rd Quarter Revenue Footnotes:

* Revenue approximated budget at \$20K over, with membership dues under budget for the quarter, but over budget year-to-date. More members started renewing their memberships as the posts reopened. Contributions and grants are over budget and other income slightly under budget for the quarter.

* Investment income was under budget by \$4.8M at June 30, 2022 as the equity markets are under considerable pressure from inflation and as the FED is actively increasing interest rates to slow the economy as a means to control inflation. Equity investments peaked around the end of December 2021. The markets may have bottomed around June 30th 2022, as we have seen the US Equity markets increase between 5% and 10% during July 2022.

FY22 - 3rd Quarter Expense Footnotes:

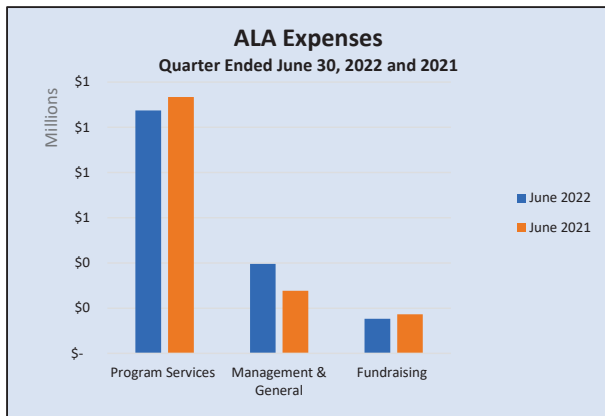
Program Services: Expenses were under budget by \$387K due to postage and printing expenses budgeted in the second quarter, but will be paid in the third quarter. We saw some of these costs come through in July 2022. In addition professional services were lower than anticipated, as we continue control costs by maximizing what can be done internally. Paper costs are increase significantly due to supply chain issues. This will impact us as we move forward and could impact our Direct Mail margins next year.

Management and General: Expenses were under budget by \$100K. The ALA is currently has a few at open positions at NHQ due to employee turnover. The organization also incurred fewer capital improvements and repairs expenses than previous years.

Fundraising: Expenses were under budget by \$40K. Some of this is the timing of expenses as compared to budgeted and also partially due to an open Fundraising position.

**American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
Comparative Statement of Activities
Quarter Ended June 30, 2022 and 2021**

	Actual QTR <u>April-June/2022</u>	Actual QTR <u>April-June/2021</u>	<u>Variance \$</u>	<u>Variance %</u>
REVENUE				
Membership Dues	\$ 744,844	\$ 743,046	\$ 1,798	0%
Contributions	447,511	358,426	89,085	25%
Advertising	38,250	46,572	(8,322)	-18%
Other Income	139,416	137,995	1,421	1%
Total Revenue	\$ 1,370,021	\$ 1,286,039	\$ 83,982	7%
EXPENSES				
Programs:				
Member and Department Support Services	\$ 806,704	\$ 995,225	\$ (188,521)	-19%
Youth and Education Services	86,675	84,686	1,989	2%
Veteran and Military Family Programs	181,656	54,388	127,268	234%
Total Program Services	\$ 1,075,035	\$ 1,134,299	\$ (59,264)	-5%
Management and General	395,789	276,670	119,120	43%
Fundraising	152,745	172,883	(20,138)	-12%
Total Expenses	\$ 1,623,569	\$ 1,583,852	\$ 39,717	3%
Net Income (Loss) from operations	\$ (253,548)	\$ (297,813)	\$ 44,265	-15%
Investment Income, net of expenses	\$ (4,792,785)	\$ 1,996,818	\$ (6,789,603)	-340%
NET INCOME (LOSS) for the Quarter	\$ (5,046,333)	\$ 1,699,005	\$ (6,745,338)	-397%



Investment income is not included for graph purposes

NEC Amendment #22 - ALA National Standing Rule XII. Charters – strike and substitute

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Charters</p> <p>Department Charters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As provided in the National Bylaws, the National Executive Committee shall charter Departments with a minimum of five hundred (500) adult members. The National Executive Committee, after notice and hearing, may suspend, cancel, or revoke the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause to it appearing. The National Executive Committee may designate, appoint and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding the 	<p>Amend by striking and substituting</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Charters</p> <p>Department Charters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As provided in the National Bylaws, the National Executive Committee shall charter Departments with a minimum of five hundred (500) adult members. The National Executive Committee, after notice and hearing, may suspend, cancel, or revoke the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause to it appearing. The National Executive Committee may designate, appoint and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding the 	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Charters</p> <p>Department Charters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As provided in the National Bylaws, the National Executive Committee shall charter Departments with a minimum of five hundred (500) adult members. The National Executive Committee, following the principle of fundamental fairness which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard, may discipline a Department or cancel the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause. The National President shall independently appoint a subcommittee of three (3) to five (5) members of the National Executive Committee to investigate and make written findings

<p>suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Department after said Department shall have received due and proper notice of said hearing and trial. The subcommittee shall present its written findings and recommendations to the National Executive Committee for its approval or rejection. All suspensions and revocations must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.</p>	<p>suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Department after said Department shall have received due and proper notice of said hearing and trial. The subcommittee shall present its written findings and recommendations to the National Executive Committee for its approval or rejection. All suspensions and revocations must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.</p>	<p>of facts and recommendations regarding the discipline of a Department. Within 60 days of its appointment, the subcommittee shall present its written findings and recommendations to the National Executive Committee. All discipline of a Department or cancellation of a Department's charter must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.</p>
<p>2. The hearing and trial of any cause involving the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any Department of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be had and held under rules of procedure to be adopted by the National Executive Committee.</p>	<p>2. The hearing and trial of any cause involving the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any Department of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be had and held under rules of procedure to be adopted by the National Executive Committee.</p>	<p>3. The NEC may adopt additional procedures concerning a department's opportunity to be heard.</p>
<p>Unit Charters</p> <p>1. A properly executed Unit charter application shall include typewritten names of at least ten (10) new or current Senior members and be accompanied by the per capita dues for</p>		

<p>Unit Charters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A properly executed Unit charter application shall include typewritten names of at least ten (10) new or current Senior members and be accompanied by the per capita dues for each member, plus the Unit Charter fee. Application for Unit charters shall be signed by the Department President and the Commander and Adjutant of The American Legion Post to which the Unit is attached. 2. Department charter fees should be in proportion to the current charter fee as established by National Headquarters. There shall be no charter fee for a Department Headquarters Unit. 3. The Department Executive Committee may discipline a Unit or cancel the charter of a Unit for any good and sufficient cause. All such actions must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness which includes notice and the opportunity to be heard. The Department shall permanently keep a record of all disciplinary actions, communications, or meetings. 	<p>Unit Charters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A properly executed Unit charter application shall include typewritten names of at least ten (10) new or current Senior members and be accompanied by the per capita dues for each member, plus the Unit Charter fee. Application for Unit charters shall be signed by the Department President and the Commander and Adjutant of The American Legion Post to which the Unit is attached. 2. Department charter fees should be in proportion to the current charter fee as established by National Headquarters. There shall be no charter fee for a Department Headquarters Unit. 3. The Department Executive Committee after notice and hearing may suspend, cancel, or revoke the charter of a Unit for any good and 	<p>each member, plus the Unit Charter fee. Application for Unit charters shall be signed by the Department President and the Commander and Adjutant of The American Legion Post to which the Unit is attached.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Department charter fees should be in proportion to the current charter fee as established by National Headquarters. There shall be no charter fee for a Department Headquarters Unit. 3. The Department Executive Committee may discipline a Unit or cancel the charter of a Unit for any good and sufficient cause. All such actions must be imposed in accordance with the principle of fundamental fairness which includes notice and the opportunity to be heard. The Department shall permanently keep a record of all disciplinary actions, communications, or meetings.
---	---	---

<p>sufficient cause to it appearing. All such actions must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. The proceedings shall be conducted with a court recorder present who will make a complete record.</p>	<p>sufficient cause to it appearing. All such actions must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. The proceedings shall be conducted with a court recorder present who will make a complete record.</p>	<p>4. The Department Executive Committee may place a Unit on probation for a period not to exceed one year.</p>
<p>4. The Department Executive Committee may order the suspension of a charter for a period not to exceed one year.</p> <p>5. A Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked without its consent may appeal the Department's action to the National Executive Committee within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of the Department's action. Notice shall be given by United States postage prepaid certified mail return receipt requested.</p> <p>6. The general process by which a Unit may appeal the decision of its Department Executive Committee to</p>	<p>4. The Department Executive Committee may order the suspension of a charter for a period not to exceed one year.</p> <p>5. A Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked without its consent may appeal the Department's action to the National Executive Committee within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of the Department's action. Notice shall be given by United States postage prepaid certified mail return receipt requested.</p> <p>6. The general process by which a Unit may appeal the decision of its Department Executive Committee to</p>	<p>5. A Unit whose charter has been canceled without its consent may appeal the Department's action to the National Executive Committee within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of the Department's action.</p> <p>a) The Unit shall provide by email a written appeal to the National Secretary, the Department President, and the Department Secretary that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reason why the NEC should grant the appeal • a chronology of events • supporting documentation in chronological order with original timestamps • a copy of the Unit's governing documents.

<p>suspend, cancel, or revoke its charter shall be:</p> <p>a) The Unit shall provide written notice of the appeal to the National Secretary within sixty (60) days of the Unit's receipt of notice of the action by the Department.</p> <p>b) The Unit shall provide the written appeal with supporting documentation to the National Secretary and provide a copy of the written notice and appeal with supporting documentation to both the Department President and the Department Secretary.</p> <p>c) The National Secretary shall notify the National President of the appeal.</p> <p>d) The Department, upon notification of the Unit's appeal, shall provide a written copy of its</p>	<p>suspend, cancel, or revoke its charter shall be:</p> <p>a) The Unit shall provide written notice of the appeal to the National Secretary within sixty (60) days of the Unit's receipt of notice of the action by the Department.</p> <p>b) The Unit shall provide the written appeal with supporting documentation to the National Secretary and provide a copy of the written notice and appeal with supporting documentation to both the Department President and the Department Secretary.</p> <p>e) The National Secretary shall notify the National President of the appeal.</p> <p>d) The Department, upon notification of the Unit's appeal, shall provide a written copy of its</p>	<p>b) The National Secretary shall notify the National President of the appeal.</p> <p>c) The Department shall provide by email to the National Secretary within two (2) weeks of receipt of the Unit's appeal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a written summary justifying the cancellation of the Unit's charter • a copy of all records and actions with original timestamps regarding the probation of the Unit or cancellation of the Unit's charter • a chronology of events • a copy of the Department's governing documents. 	<p>d) The Department, upon notification of the Unit's appeal, shall provide a written copy of its</p>	<p>d) The National President, as presiding officer of the National Executive Committee, shall independently appoint a special subcommittee of three (3) to five</p>
--	--	--	---	---

<p>actions regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation, of the Unit's charter to both the National President and National Secretary and a full copy of the file of the Department's proceedings.</p> <p>e) The National President, as presiding officer of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a special subcommittee of three (3) to five (5) members of the National Executive Committee to review the appeal.</p> <p>f) The National President shall present the appeal at the next meeting of the National Executive Committee that allows for proper due notice and review of the appeal.</p> <p>g) The special subcommittee shall meet at least one day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee at which</p>	<p>actions regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation, of the Unit's charter to both the National President and National Secretary and a full copy of the file of the Department's proceedings.</p> <p>e) The National President, as presiding officer of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a special subcommittee of three (3) to five (5) members of the National Executive Committee to review the appeal.</p> <p>f) The National President shall present the appeal at the next meeting of the National Executive Committee that allows for proper due notice and review of the appeal.</p> <p>g) The special subcommittee shall meet at least one day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee at which</p>	<p>(5) members of the National Executive Committee to review the appeal. Unless there is a regularly scheduled meeting, the National President shall call a special meeting of the National Executive Committee to be held within 30 days of the formation of the special subcommittee, informing the Unit and Department of the meeting.</p> <p>e) The special subcommittee shall make written findings of facts and recommendations to the National Executive Committee.</p> <p>6. The National Secretary shall inform both the Unit and the Department of the decision of the National Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final.</p>
---	--	---

<p>the National President will present the Unit's charter appeal. The special subcommittee shall review the appeal and recommend to the National Executive Committee action(s) to be taken thereon.</p>	<p>the National President will present the Unit's charter appeal. The special subcommittee shall review the appeal and recommend to the National Executive Committee action(s) to be taken thereon.</p>	
<p>7. h) The National Executive Committee shall act on an appeal as provided in the following section.</p> <p>It shall be the responsibility of the National Executive Committee to hear and act on an appeal duly presented from a Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked by the Department Executive Committee without the Unit's consent. The National Executive Committee after notice may conduct a hearing. The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the</p>	<p>h) The National Executive Committee shall act on an appeal as provided in the following section.</p> <p>7. It shall be the responsibility of the National Executive Committee to hear and act on an appeal duly presented from a Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked by the Department Executive Committee without the Unit's consent. The National Executive Committee after notice may conduct a hearing. The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the</p>	

<p>Unit's charter for any and sufficient cause to it appearing.</p> <p>The special subcommittee appointed by the National President to review the appeal shall make written findings of fact and recommendations to the National Executive Committee regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Unit.</p> <p>The special subcommittee shall notify the Unit and the Department of the day it will report to the National Executive Committee.</p> <p>The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action on the appeal. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.</p>	<p>Unit's charter for any and sufficient cause to it appearing.</p> <p>The special subcommittee appointed by the National President to review the appeal shall make written findings of fact and recommendations to the National Executive Committee regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Unit.</p> <p>The special subcommittee shall notify the Unit and the Department of the day it will report to the National Executive Committee.</p> <p>The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action on the appeal. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.</p>	<p>Unit's charter for any and sufficient cause to it appearing.</p> <p>The special subcommittee appointed by the National President to review the appeal shall make written findings of fact and recommendations to the National Executive Committee regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Unit.</p> <p>The special subcommittee shall notify the Unit and the Department of the day it will report to the National Executive Committee.</p> <p>The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action on the appeal. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.</p>
---	---	---

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws

Rationale: A special subcommittee of the NEC, formed this past administrative year to review an appeal from a Unit on the cancellation of its charter, identified changes needed to be made in our governing documents to better facilitate this process. The Department charter cancellation process is also updated for consistency. A corresponding amendment to the bylaws will be presented at national convention.

1. The terms “suspend,” “cancel” and “revoke” were not defined and therefore confusing. “Suspending” a Unit means the Unit must cease operations for a defined period of time. This does not allow the Unit to make any changes recommended by the Department. For example, Departments may choose to discipline a Unit for a probationary period and require tasks to be accomplished in a specified time frame for the Unit to be reinstated in good standing. The term “suspension” will be discontinued. The term “revocation” is most often associated by our members with IRS revocation of tax-exempt status; it will also be discontinued.
2. The terms “due process” and “equal protection” are legal terms enforced by courts. Also, Indiana state statutes do not require a “hearing.” They require notice and an opportunity to be heard.
3. Non-profit organizations are using the more easily understood term” fundamental fairness” which is defined as notice and an opportunity to be heard.
4. Court reporters are expensive and rarely used. Departments should instead preserve all records of interaction with the unit, including communications, meetings and actions taken by the Department.
5. Eliminating and simplifying references where multiple words are used to the same effect reduces misinterpretation: for example, changing “possession, custody, and control” to possession.
6. The special subcommittee also recommended more clarity in the procedural steps and documentation required from Units and Departments to provide a more fundamentally fair review of an appeal.

NEC Amendment #23 – Strike and substitute ALA Code of Ethical Conduct in Standing Rules

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT</p> <p>The American Legion Auxiliary strongly recommends that all chartered entities and affiliated organizations at all levels adopt a Code of Ethical Conduct and conduct themselves accordingly.</p> <p>In keeping with the best practices of high performing nonprofit organizations, it is the expectation of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation that its national business standards, operations, and conduct conform to the following Code of Ethical Conduct:</p> <p>Personal and Professional Integrity All members, volunteers, and staff of the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation act with honesty, integrity, and openness in all their communication, business, and transactions as</p>	<p>CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT</p> <p>The American Legion Auxiliary strongly recommends that all chartered entities and affiliated organizations at all levels adopt a Code of Ethical Conduct and conduct themselves accordingly.</p> <p>In keeping with the best practices of high performing nonprofit organizations, it is the expectation of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation that its national business standards, operations, and conduct conform to the following Code of Ethical Conduct:</p> <p>Personal and Professional Integrity All members, volunteers, and staff of the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation act with honesty, integrity, and openness in all their communication, business, and transactions as</p>	<p>NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT</p> <p>“Service, Not Self” is a concept that governs everything we do for the American Legion Auxiliary. The ALA exists to support The American Legion and to honor the service of our veterans, military, and their families. The organization has pursued that mission for over a century, and during that time has learned that achieving these goals requires a strong focus on our core values of integrity, honesty, fairness, openness, responsibility and respect. This Code of Ethical Conduct (“Code”) provides a framework for how we at the national level apply these core values in our service. The National Executive Committee (“NEC”) is composed of national officers, past national presidents, and National Executive Committee (NEC) members from all departments. The</p>

<p>representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary (organization). The organization promotes an environment that values fairness and commitment to the organization's founding principles and demonstrates respect for others.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall conduct their personal and professional lives in a manner befitting the organization's mission and values, recognizing that their actions reflect upon the creditability and reputation of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall work to positively influence their environment to build respect, creditability, and strategic importance of our organization to the public, our members, and the communities we serve.</p> <p>Legal Compliance</p>	<p>representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary (organization). The organization promotes an environment that values fairness and commitment to the organization's founding principles and demonstrates respect for others.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall conduct their personal and professional lives in a manner befitting the organization's mission and values, recognizing that their actions reflect upon the creditability and reputation of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall work to positively influence their environment to build respect, creditability, and strategic importance of our organization to the public, our members, and the communities we serve.</p> <p>Legal Compliance</p>	<p>National Leadership team is composed of the NEC and national appointees (collectively, our "National Leadership"). The Code is the defining document explaining the culture of our organization, and we require that all National Leadership read it, understand it, and apply its principles in all of their service for the ALA.</p> <p>It is in the best interest of the national organization to actively address all violations of this Code, which is only possible if concerns are raised clearly and quickly. For this reason, we strongly encourage prompt reporting of concerns using the reporting channels described in the Ethical Conduct Review Policy, and all reports will be treated with the same standards described in this Code. The ALA strictly prohibits retaliation against anyone for making a good faith report of suspected wrongdoing. A report is made in good faith if it is made with honest intentions, not maliciously or for personal gain, and the information in that report is true and complete to the best of your knowledge.</p>
--	--	---

<p>The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation are knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to: complying with laws and regulations related to human resources, financial accountability, taxation, fundraising, trademark protection, and licensing.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall exercise due diligence in obtaining information on applicable laws and regulations for their jurisdiction.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall recognize that compliance with applicable laws is a paramount standard.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>The American Legion Auxiliary's national governing body (National Executive Committee) is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization and</p>	<p>The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation are knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to: complying with laws and regulations related to human resources, financial accountability, taxation, fundraising, trademark protection, and licensing.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall exercise due diligence in obtaining information on applicable laws and regulations for their jurisdiction.</p> <p>National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall recognize that compliance with applicable laws is a paramount standard.</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>The American Legion Auxiliary's national governing body (National Executive Committee) is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization and</p>	<p>When it comes to upholding the values of the ALA, common sense and your moral compass will almost always show you the way, but the Code is here to provide National Leadership with additional guidance and support. Thank you for sharing our commitment to integrity, honesty, fairness, openness, responsibility, and respect as we continue our work together to enhance the lives of veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.</p> <p>1. Requirements of all National Leaders</p> <p>a. Ethical Conduct</p> <p>All National Leaders are expected to uphold and follow the governing documents of the ALA: the National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules as well as all national policies and procedures. Conduct that is suspected to be a violation of its governing documents or detrimental to the best interests of the</p>
---	---	--

<p>oversight of the finances, operations, policies and programmatic performance.</p> <p>The governing bodies of both the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the organization conducts all communication, business, and transactions with integrity and honesty; • Ensure that policies of the organization are in writing, clearly articulated, and officially adopted; • Ensure periodic review of the organization's structure, procedures and programs to determine what is working well and what practices the organization might want to change in order to be more efficient, effective or responsible. • Ensure that the resources of the organization are responsibly and prudently managed; • Ensure that the organization has the capacity to carry out its programs effectively. <p>Responsible Stewardship</p>	<p>oversight of the finances, operations, policies and programmatic performance.</p> <p>The governing bodies of both the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the organization conducts all communication, business, and transactions with integrity and honesty; • Ensure that policies of the organization are in writing, clearly articulated, and officially adopted; • Ensure periodic review of the organization's structure, procedures and programs to determine what is working well and what practices the organization might want to change in order to be more efficient, effective or responsible. • Ensure that the resources of the organization are responsibly and prudently managed; • Ensure that the organization has the capacity to carry out its programs effectively. <p>Responsible Stewardship</p>	<p>organization may be referred to the Ethical Conduct Committee. While it is not possible to provide an exhaustive list of all potential ethics violations, some key examples include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violations of bylaws, standing rules, or other policies or procedures. • Violations of federal, state, or local laws that result in a conviction • Conduct, whether past or present, that presents potential liability risk, reputational risk, or hinders the mission of the ALA national organization. <p>b. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion</p> <p>We are proud of our organization's diversity. We are strengthened by the range of backgrounds and beliefs represented by our membership, and we believe that we do our best work in an atmosphere of mutual respect for the worth and dignity of our members, those eligible to become members, our national organization employees, and those we serve. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital</p>
--	--	--

<p>The boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are responsible for managing and preserving the organization's assets. Officers, board members, staff, and volunteers are expected to understand their fiduciary responsibilities so that the charitable purposes of the organization are carried out and assets are properly safeguarded and managed.</p> <p>Officers, board members, appropriate volunteer leaders and staff shall ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial reports are created and maintained on a timely basis that accurately portray its financial status and activities. • Internal financial statements are provided accurately and timely. • Annual financial reports are made available to the public. • Employees, national leaders, and members are provided a confidential 	<p>The boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are responsible for managing and preserving the organization's assets. Officers, board members, staff, and volunteers are expected to understand their fiduciary responsibilities so that the charitable purposes of the organization are carried out and assets are properly safeguarded and managed.</p> <p>Officers, board members, appropriate volunteer leaders and staff shall ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial reports are created and maintained on a timely basis that accurately portray its financial status and activities. • Internal financial statements are provided accurately and timely. • Annual financial reports are made available to the public. • Employees, national leaders, and members are provided a confidential 	<p>status, parental status, medical condition, or any other legally protected characteristic.</p> <p>2. Requirements Specific to the NEC</p> <p>In addition to the ethical responsibilities that apply to all National Leaders, the NEC is responsible for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate Governance <p>As national board members, the NEC has an obligation to carry out the following legal duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUTY OF CARE. The duty of care describes the level of competence that is expected of a board member and is commonly expressed as the duty of care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise in a like position and under similar circumstances. This means that you have a duty to exercise reasonable care when you make a decision as a steward of the ALA.
---	---	---


<p>means to report suspected financial impropriety or misuse of its resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written financial policies governing management and investment of assets and reserve accounts, internal control procedures, and purchasing practices are developed and implemented. 	<p>means to report suspected financial impropriety or misuse of its resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written financial policies governing management and investment of assets and reserve accounts, internal control procedures, and purchasing practices are developed and implemented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DUTY OF LOYALTY. You must give undivided allegiance when making decisions affecting the ALA. This means that you must always act in the best interests of the organization and must place the interests of the national organization above your own personal interests.
<p>Openness and Disclosure The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will provide comprehensive and timely information to the public, the media, and its members, and is responsive to reasonable requests for information. All information about the organizations will fully and honestly reflect the policies and the practices of the organizations.</p>	<p>Openness and Disclosure The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will provide comprehensive and timely information to the public, the media, and its members, and is responsive to reasonable requests for information. All information about the organizations will fully and honestly reflect the policies and the practices of the organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DUTY OF OBEDIENCE. You are obligated to obey applicable laws and ALA national governing documents and policies and may not act in a way that is inconsistent with the ALA's mission or goals.
<p>Conflict of Interest The organization has the right to expect that the decisions made by the national boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are made objectively and in the best interest of the organization.</p>	<p>Conflict of Interest The organization has the right to expect that the decisions made by the national boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are made objectively and in the best interest of the organization.</p>	<p>Maintaining law and order is part of our values as an organization, and we are committed to compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to laws and regulations related to nonprofit administration and governance, labor and employment, financial accountability, taxation, fundraising, trademark protection, and licensing.</p>

<p>To avoid the appearance of impropriety by those who could benefit directly or indirectly from any action by the Auxiliary and its Foundation, the organization shall develop, adopt and implement a conflict of interest policy.</p> <p>Such policy shall include requirements to fully disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest and prohibitions on activities that conflict with legal, ethical, and fiduciary obligations to the organization.</p> <p>Fundraising The organization shall take care to ensure that all means and materials for solicitation accurately and correctly reflect its mission and use of solicited funds. The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall respect the privacy concerns of individual donors and expend funds consistent with donor intent.</p>	<p>To avoid the appearance of impropriety by those who could benefit directly or indirectly from any action by the Auxiliary and its Foundation, the organization shall develop, adopt and implement a conflict of interest policy.</p> <p>Such policy shall include requirements to fully disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest and prohibitions on activities that conflict with legal, ethical, and fiduciary obligations to the organization.</p> <p>Fundraising The organization shall take care to ensure that all means and materials for solicitation accurately and correctly reflect its mission and use of solicited funds. The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall respect the privacy concerns of individual donors and expend funds consistent with donor intent.</p>	<p>As members of a board of directors of a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Indiana, NEC members do not need to be experts in the law but do need to familiarize themselves with the laws that apply to their service and are responsible for seeking the advice and knowledge needed to stay reasonably informed. Members are expected complete annual orientation/training on the duties of non-profit directors. More information on the duties of Indiana non-profit directors may be found on Indiana's General Assembly website, Indiana Code Title 23, Article 17 - Nonprofit Corporations.</p> <p>In addition to the basic duties that exist under the law, the NEC must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a culture of integrity by making ethical decisions and reflecting our core values in its actions. • Ensure that the national organization conducts all communication, business, and transactions with honesty and transparency.
---	--	--

<p>To assure that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the organization and the causes they are asked to support, the Auxiliary and its Foundation will respect the following rights of donors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes. • To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities. • To have access to the organization's most recent financial statement and others on request. • To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given. • To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition. 	<p>To assure that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the organization and the causes they are asked to support, the Auxiliary and its Foundation will respect the following rights of donors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes. • To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities. • To have access to the organization's most recent financial statement and others on request. • To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given. • To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all ALA national policies are in writing, clearly articulated, officially adopted, regularly reviewed, fairly and consistently enforced, and effectively communicated to everyone governed by them. • Periodically review the national organization's structure, procedures and programs, and determine whether any policies or practices should be changed to comply with applicable laws, ALA national policy and values, or general best practices. • Attend annual NEC orientation, NEC training sessions, and all NEC meetings unless the absence is excused at the discretion of the National President. <p>b. Responsible Stewardship</p> <p>Our success as an organization depends not just on the strength of our programs, but on our ability to use our resources wisely. Theft, carelessness, and waste have a direct impact on our culture, our reputation, our integrity, and our ability to carry out our programs, so all NEC members are required to ensure that our</p>
--	--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law. • To expect that all relationships with individuals representing the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation will be professional in nature. • To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors. • To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers. <p>Grant Making</p> <p>The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall have specific stated responsibilities in carrying out grant programs. These responsibilities include the following:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law. • To expect that all relationships with individuals representing the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation will be professional in nature. • To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors. • To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers. <p>Grant Making</p> <p>The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall have specific stated responsibilities in carrying out grant programs. These responsibilities include the following:</p>	<p>assets are used efficiently, and only for legitimate purposes. Specifically, the NEC must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The resources of the organization are responsibly and prudently managed; and • The organization has the capacity to carry out its programs effectively. <p>c. Openness and Disclosure</p> <p>The ALA's reputation depends on maintaining trust with the public. For this reason, the NEC is responsible for ensuring that the national organization provides comprehensive, timely, and appropriate information to the public, the media, and its members, and is responsive to reasonable requests for information, and that all information about the national organization fully and honestly reflects the policies and the practices of the ALA.</p>
		<p>d. Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>As nonprofit board members, members of the NEC have a legal duty to act in the</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal and consistent application process which includes defined eligibility. • Fair and equitable selection criteria. • Assurance of applicant privacy. • Clear, timely and respectful communications throughout the application process. <p>Inclusiveness and Diversity The organization recognizes the value of the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of its membership. The organization promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect for the worth and dignity of its members, those eligible to become members, and those we serve.</p> <p>Ethics Violations Any member may report a violation of ethical conduct or actions contrary to the governing doctrine without fear of retaliation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal and consistent application process which includes defined eligibility. • Fair and equitable selection criteria. • Assurance of applicant privacy. • Clear, timely and respectful communications throughout the application process. <p>Inclusiveness and Diversity The organization recognizes the value of the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of its membership. The organization promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect for the worth and dignity of its members, those eligible to become members, and those we serve.</p> <p>Ethics Violations Any member may report a violation of ethical conduct or actions contrary to the governing doctrine without fear of retaliation.</p>	<p>best interests of the ALA and to avoid conflicts of interest as detailed in our Conflict of Interest Policy. Evaluating whether a conflict of interest exists can be difficult, and may involve a number of considerations, which is why you are required to annually disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest of which you are aware, disclose any time you become aware of a conflict, and abstain from voting on such matters.</p> <p>e. Fundraising</p> <p>The ALA deeply values its relationships with individual and corporate donors. As detailed in national policy, all NEC members are required to protect the privacy of ALA national donors, and to ensure that funds are always expended in a manner that is consistent with donor intent.</p>
---	---	---

<p>The organization considers all inquiries and complaints about actions of members to be strictly confidential.</p> <p>Ethics Query – An ethics query is a means for inquiring whether or not a practice warrants filing a complaint alleging a violation of the Code. Anyone may register a query of a possible violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct by a member.</p> <p>The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the ethics query process.</p> <p>Ethics Complaint – An ethics complaint provides a process for receiving, investigating and acting on a violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct made against any member or staff and provides a process that is fair, responsible, confidential and consistent.</p> <p>The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the complaint process. Whistleblower Protection</p>	<p>The organization considers all inquiries and complaints about actions of members to be strictly confidential.</p> <p>Ethics Query—An ethics query is a means for inquiring whether or not a practice warrants filing a complaint alleging a violation of the Code. Anyone may register a query of a possible violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct by a member.</p> <p>The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the ethics query process.</p> <p>Ethics Complaint—An ethics complaint provides a process for receiving, investigating and acting on a violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct made against any member or staff and provides a process that is fair, responsible, confidential and consistent.</p> <p>The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the complaint process. Whistleblower Protection</p>	
--	--	---

<p>A whistleblower is any member who, in good faith, promptly reports instances of any suspected violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct. The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall establish and abide by policies to protect the Auxiliary.</p> <p>Any member who acts maliciously by making known information the member knows or reasonably believes to be false is not a whistleblower and will not be protected under the whistleblower mechanism.</p> <p>The organization expects improper activity to be reported accurately and will protect whistleblowers from retaliation.</p> <p>The organization will investigate any allegation that a whistleblower has been retaliated against for disclosing information that the whistleblower believed to have been accurate. Any member who believes they have been retaliated against for whistle blowing is</p>	<p>A whistleblower is any member who, in good faith, promptly reports instances of any suspected violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct. The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall establish and abide by policies to protect the Auxiliary.</p> <p>Any member who acts maliciously by making known information the member knows or reasonably believes to be false is not a whistleblower and will not be protected under the whistleblower mechanism.</p> <p>The organization expects improper activity to be reported accurately and will protect whistleblowers from retaliation.</p> <p>The organization will investigate any allegation that a whistleblower has been retaliated against for disclosing information that the whistleblower believed to have been accurate. Any member who believes they have been retaliated against for whistle blowing is</p>	<p>A whistleblower is any member who, in good faith, promptly reports instances of any suspected violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct. The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall establish and abide by policies to protect the Auxiliary.</p> <p>Any member who acts maliciously by making known information the member knows or reasonably believes to be false is not a whistleblower and will not be protected under the whistleblower mechanism.</p> <p>The organization expects improper activity to be reported accurately and will protect whistleblowers from retaliation.</p> <p>The organization will investigate any allegation that a whistleblower has been retaliated against for disclosing information that the whistleblower believed to have been accurate. Any member who believes they have been retaliated against for whistle blowing is</p>
--	--	--

<p>expected to report it immediately. If the complaint is validated, the organization can impose disciplinary sanctions against the retaliating member including termination of membership in the organization.</p>	<p>expected to report it immediately. If the complaint is validated, the organization can impose disciplinary sanctions against the retaliating member including termination of membership in the organization.</p>	
---	---	--

Proposed by: Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee

Rationale: Please see Code of Ethical Conduct – Know the Facts

Proviso:

- *This policy goes into effect when the 2022 National Convention delegates adopt amended and restated articles of incorporation.*
- *Adoption of this revision is necessary for the adoption of the proposed Ethical Conduct Review Policy*

American Legion Auxiliary
NATIONAL POLICY
Ethical Conduct Review Policy

Reviewed by: Risk & Compliance Committee

Reviewed On:

Approving Body: National Executive Committee

Date Approved 08-28-2022

Next Review Date: 2025

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA), a national public benefit 501 (c) (19) not-for-profit veterans organization auxiliary headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana, to investigate allegations of violations by national leadership of the Code of Ethical Conduct in a timely manner ensuring fundamental fairness.

Policy

All national leadership (national officers, past national presidents, National Executive Committee members from all departments, and national committee appointees) are expected to uphold and follow the governing documents of the ALA: the National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules as well as all national policies and procedures. Conduct that is a violation of its governing documents or detrimental to the best interests of the organization may be referred to the Ethics Complaint Committee for review. The Code of Ethical Conduct lists considerations for possible Code violations. Following are examples of types of violations:

1. Violating bylaws, standing rules, or other policies or procedures including but not limited to the Conflict of Interest Policy or Whistleblower Protection Policy; violations of federal, state, or local laws that result in a conviction; or conduct that presents

- potential liability risk, reputational risk, or hinders the mission of the ALA national organization;
2. Falsifying documents; conviction of offenses related to fraud or embezzlement;
 3. Repeated pattern of violations.

Receiving and Evaluating a Complaint

1. The written complaint will be forwarded to the Ethical Conduct Committee or to the ALA National President if it involves a member of the Committee.
2. The Committee Chair or President will promptly acknowledge receipt of the complaint and forward it to a Complaint Review Subcommittee. The Subcommittee shall consist of not less than three members of the Ethical Conduct Committee, its composition to be determined by the Ethical Conduct Committee itself based on member availability, geographic location of the complaint, and any conflicts of interest.
3. The members of the Complaint Review Subcommittee will select a chair/point of contact to lead the review of the complaint. The Subcommittee will evaluate the complaint and make a determination within 14 days of receipt of the complaint as to whether the allegation, if true, would be a violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct. That determination may require additional contact with the complainant.
4. During this initial evaluation, the Subcommittee must also decide:
 - a. whether any conflict of interest exists or if the allegation requires an investigation by law enforcement or subject matter expert such as an attorney or external auditor;
 - b. whether to recommend that the NEC implement an immediate leave of absence from national committees and/or national activities pending outcome of an investigation for any suspected violation which would be considered worthy of a recommendation to the member's Unit for expulsion from membership. If a leave of absence from national committees and/or national activities is recommended, the Ethical Conduct Committee may also recommend that the NEC issue recommendations to the respective Department and Unit to suspend the member from activities. Department or Unit bylaws would need to have a provision for suspending a member.
5. If the violation as alleged would not constitute a violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct, then the complaint will be logged and the complainant will be sent a notification letter that no further action

- will be taken. The Committee will issue a summary report of complaints quarterly to the Risk & Compliance Committee.
6. If the violation as alleged would constitute a violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct, the Risk & Compliance Committee will be immediately notified and notice of the complaint will be sent via certified mail to the alleged violator who will be given two weeks from the date of receipt to respond.
 7. If the alleged violator takes responsibility for the alleged violation, the Complaint Review Subcommittee may proceed to Step 12.

Investigation Process

8. If the allegation requires additional investigation, that investigation will commence. The investigation should be conducted with as much due speed as possible while allowing for proper investigation, with a report submitted to the Ethical Conduct Committee within 60 days if possible. Resignation from membership does not prevent the investigation from proceeding if in the best interest of the organization.
9. The Subcommittee shall then begin to collect all preliminary evidence:
 - a. Witness contact information
 - b. Examples of relevant physical evidence (if available and authorized by any party involved)
 - i. Photographs or video footage
 - ii. Medical records
 - iii. Financial records
 - iv. Police reports
 - v. Incident reports
 - vi. Court documents
 - c. Witness Statements – identify whether the witness is a complainant’s witness, alleged violator’s witness or neutral/independent.
 - i. Witnesses will be contacted by phone, then email, then in writing by tracked mail but not requiring a signature. Failure of witnesses to provide statements within two weeks of initial contact may prevent progress in an investigation.
 - ii. The Subcommittee will be considerate of time differences when conducting interviews virtually.
 - iii. The first preference is a recorded Zoom (video) conference or phone call with the permission of the witness. If not, notes will be taken.
 - iv. Group interviews should not be conducted.

- v. Witness statements may be challenged based upon the available evidence.
10. Requesting additional information from the alleged violator:
 - a. The Complaint Review Subcommittee reserves the right to request an interview.
 - b. Participation in the investigation is voluntary; however, failure to cooperate fully and truthfully may be its own violation of the Code of Ethical Conduct.
 - c. The alleged violator will be allowed to submit written evidence or provide witness contact information to the Complaint Review Subcommittee.
 11. Authentication – where evidence is being supplied by a party involved in the investigation, that evidence must be authenticated by time stamp, etc. Attempts at obtaining physical evidence should be initiated by the Complaint Review Subcommittee Chair/point of contact and should be fully documented if available.
 12. Once all evidence and statements have been gathered, a member of the Complaint Review Subcommittee shall then be responsible for drafting a report documenting their findings, which shall then be reviewed by the whole Complaint Review Subcommittee prior to becoming final.

Review and Recommendation Process

1. The Ethical Conduct Committee will review the report of the Complaint Review Subcommittee and will determine and make written recommendations to the NEC via the National President within 14 days of receipt of the report.
2. Findings and recommended response levels will be based on an assessment of all relevant factors. Depending on the severity of the conduct violation, the Ethical Conduct Committee may, in its discretion, skip steps in its recommended response levels. Egregious violations may warrant a recommendation of immediate termination of service on the NEC or national committee. The Ethical Conduct Committee will propose recommendations to the NEC, which may include but are not limited to the following examples:
 - a. Verbal counseling (documented for tracking purposes)
 - b. Written or verbal apology
 - c. Written or verbal censure from the NEC
 - d. Probation with corrective terms that encourage restorative justice, for example, additional training

- e. Suspension from participation in or exercising voting rights on national committees and/or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws
- f. Termination of NEC membership, national appointment, and/or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated for cause from the NEC, the member is ineligible to hold future positions of national leadership
- g. Recommendation to Unit for expulsion/termination of membership*

*The Committee may recommend to the NEC that Options “f” and “g” be implemented simultaneously.

3. Upon receipt of the report of the Ethical Conduct Committee, the National President will call a special meeting of the NEC to be held within two weeks in executive session to vote on the recommendations of the committee. A majority vote is required for adopting options “a” through “d”; a two-thirds vote is required to adopt options “e” through “g”.
4. The National Secretary shall notify the complainant, the alleged violator, the Risk & Compliance Committee, and the Ethical Conduct Committee of the determination of the NEC, as well as make any notifications of recommendations to the Department or Unit.

Proviso: This policy goes into effect when the 2022 National Convention delegates adopt amended and restated articles of incorporation.

Date Revised	Description of Revision	Approved by
Est 8/2/22	Policy drafted by Code of Ethical Conduct Review Special Committee	NEC

ADOPTED

Appendix B



**MINUTES
OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**CONVENED AUGUST 29 – 31, 2022
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022
CONVENED IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022**

Minutes

The first session of the 101st American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 29, 2022, by National President Kathy Daudistel.

- M/C Motion from Committee on Credentials Chair Donna Dillard, Department of Texas, on behalf of the committee to adopt the report on convention credentials. No discussion; motion carried.
Yes: 661; No: 5
- M/C Motion from Committee on Convention Standing Rules Chair Judy Lynch on behalf of the committee to adopt National Convention Standing Rules as distributed in advance. No discussion; motion carried.
Yes: 650; No: 9
- M/C Motion from National Secretary Coral May Grout to adopt the convention program with any changes printed. No discussion, motion carried.
Yes: 661; No: 11

National Chairmen Reports

National Chairmen of the following national committees presented annual reports of activities: Junior Activities, Poppy, Americanism, Education, Children & Youth, Leadership, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and Membership.

Guests addressing the convention included the winner of the Junior Member of the Year Award, 2022 Girls Nation President, and Little Miss Poppy addressed the assembly. The ALA Liaison to the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation also reported to the assembly. The National Commander of The American Legion, the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, and the Convention Corporation President brought greetings to the assembly.

Session adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

###

M/S/C = Moved/Seconded/Carried

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022
CONVENED IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2022**

Minutes

The second session of the 101st American Legion Auxiliary National Convention was called to order at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, by National President Kathy Daudistel.

Officer and Chairmen Reports

The chairman of the National Security Program, the ALA Foundation Board President, the National Treasurer, National Finance Committee Chair, National Secretary, Interim Executive Director, and National Constitution & Bylaws Chair presented their annual reports to the assembly.

Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules Amendments

The wording as passed on each amendment follows the minutes.

Amendments 1A & 1B

By general consent, the motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray was passed to bundle Amendments 1A and 1B as distributed in advance.

M Motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt bundled amendments 1A and 1B.

M/S/C Laura Calteux, Department of Wisconsin, moved to amend 1A and 1B from “third Friday in July” to “the Monday following the third Friday in July.”

Yes: 425; No: 246

M/C Motion to adopt bundled amendments 1A and 1B as amended carried.

Yes: 662; No: 35

Amendments 2-11

By general consent, a motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee was passed to bundle amendments 2-11 as distributed in advance.

M/C Motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt bundled amendments 2-11.

Yes: 688; No: 7

Amendment 12 – Dues Increase

- M Motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray presented by the National Finance Committee to amend Standing Rule XIII. Dues, 1 as distributed in advance.
- M/S Motion by Ada Heath (AR) to remove per annum automatic increases for senior and junior members.
- M/S/C Motion by unidentified delegate to end debate on the amendment to remove per annum automatic increases for senior and junior members.
Yes: 508; No: 176 (required 2/3 vote)
- M/C Motion carried on amending rule to remove per annum automatic increases for senior and junior members
Yes: 399; No 236 (required majority)
- Proposed amended amendment will now read:
ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 1
1. The National per capita dues shall be **eighteen** twelve dollars (~~\$18.00 \$12.00~~) per annum for Senior members **beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, with a one dollar (\$1.00) increase in FY 2026 (\$19.00), FY 2028 (\$20.00) and FY2030 (\$21.00)** and fifty cents (~~\$2.50~~) per annum for Junior members. **National Junior member dues remain at two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum. with a \$.50 (fifty cent) increase in FY2026 (\$3.00), FY2028 (\$3.50), and FY2030 (\$4.00).**
The per capita dues for Senior members shall include a complimentary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary national magazine. Each Department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least monthly.
- M/S Motion by Glynis Seeley (NV) to strike \$18 and replace with \$16.
- M/S/C Motion by Barbara Wong (NY) to end debate.
Yes: 666; No: 30 (required 2/3 vote)
- M/F Motion to strike \$18 and replace with \$16 failed.
Yes: 287; No: 397
- M/C Vote on amended amendment carried. ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 1 as amended will read:
1. The National per capita dues shall be eighteen dollars (\$18.00) per annum for Senior members beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. National Junior member dues remain at two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum. The per capita dues for Senior members shall include a complimentary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary national magazine. Each Department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least monthly.

Amendments 13A-D

A motion was made by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to bundle Amendments 13A-D by general consent. Amendment 13C was removed by request of an unidentified delegate.

M/C The motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt Bundled Amendments A,B, & D was adopted with no discussion.

Yes: 641; No: 52

M/C After some discussion, the motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt Amendment 13C was adopted.

Yes: 611; No: 77

Amendment 14A

M/C Amendment 14A on the restatement of the Articles of Incorporation was presented unbundled at the decision of the committee. The motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt Amendment 14A was adopted with no discussion.

Yes: 662; No: 21

Amendments 14B-D

A motion was made by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to bundle Amendments 14B-D as distributed in advance by general consent. Amendment 14C was removed by request of Amanda Washburn (NE).

M/C The motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt bundled Amendments 14B & D was adopted with no discussion.

Yes: 671; No: 21

M/C A motion was made by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt Amendment 14C with proviso as distributed in advance.

M/S/F Motion was made by Amanda Washburn (NE) to strike from Amendment 14C the National President "must" and replace with "may." After discussion, the motion failed to achieve a 2/3 majority.

With no further discussion, the motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt Amendment 14C with proviso as distributed in advance was adopted.

Yes: 565; No: 107

Amendment 15

M/C The motion by Constitution & Bylaws Chair Pam Ray on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to adopt Amendment 15 as distributed in advance was adopted with no discussion.
Yes: 667; No: 16

There being no further business, this session adjourned at 11:24 a.m. to reconvene on Wednesday, August 31 at 8 a.m.

###

M/S/C/F = Moved/Seconded/Carried/Failed

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022
CONVENED IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022**

Minutes

The final session of the American Legion Auxiliary 2022 National Convention was convened at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 31, 2022, by National President Kathy Daudistel.

Nominations and Elections of National Officers

The election rules having been read, the following were nominated as announced candidates for national officers:

National President:	Vickie Koutz (IN) <i>nominated by Delegate Lisa Liford</i>
National Vice President:	Lisa Williamson (AK) <i>nominated by Delegate Kyle Parkerson</i>
National Chaplain:	Jan Bruce (TN) <i>nominated by Delegate Carlene Ashworth</i> Karen Peel (OH) <i>nominated by Delegate Vicky Buck</i>
National Historian:	Laura "Susie" Clyde (SD) <i>nominated by Delegate Mary Jo Stier</i> Ann Ritacco (CO) <i>nominated by Delegate Susie Bozella</i>

Nominations for National Division Vice Presidents were conducted at pre-convention division caucuses.

Central Division National Vice President.....	Ann Rehbein
Eastern Division National Vice President	Veronica Gurney
Northwestern Division National Vice President	Marlene Boyer
Southern Division National Vice President	Linda Smiley
Western Division National Vice President	Eva Wallace

With no nominations from the floor, according to convention rules, nominees for the offices of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian were introduced to the assembly and allotted two minutes for remarks. There being but one candidate for the offices of National President, National Vice President, and each of the National Division Vice Presidents, those candidates were elected by voice votes in the affirmative.

Laura "Susie" Clyde and Karen Peel were elected by majority votes to the

offices of National Historian and Chaplain, respectively.

The following were elected to serve as American Legion Auxiliary officers for the 2022-2023 year.

National Officers

National President	Vickie Koutz
National Vice President	Lisa Williamson
Central Division National Vice President.....	Ann Rehbein
Eastern Division National Vice President	Veronica Gurney
Northwestern Division National Vice President	Marlene Boyer
Southern Division National Vice President	Linda Smiley
Western Division National Vice President	Eva Wallace
National Chaplain	Karen Peel
National Historian	Laura "Susie" Clyde

Committee Reports

The chairs of the National Legislative Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee gave reports to the assembly.

The 2021 National Chaplain and National Historian delivered reports to the assembly.

The Resolutions Committee reported one courtesy resolution to show appreciation for all involved in the execution of the convention and the National President for a job well done. With general consent, this resolution was adopted.

There being no further business of the assembly, the 2022 National Convention concluded at 10:20 a.m.

###

National Secretary Coral May Grout

2021-2022 Minutes Approval Committee Approved

NEC (ME) Joan Caron

NEC (IA) Kelly Elliott

NEC (AK) Penny Mazonna

**American Legion Auxiliary
National Convention 2022
SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS**

	SUBJECT	STATUS
Bundled Amendment 1a	Constitution Article VII – add date and clarify amending the constitution	ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Bundled Amendment 1b	Bylaws Article XIII – add date and clarify amending the bylaws	ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Bundled Amendment 2	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – AEF Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 3	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – ALA Girls National Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 4	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Community Service Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 5	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Education Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 6	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Junior Activities Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 7	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Leadership Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 8	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Legislative Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 9	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Membership Committee, Vice Chair	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 10	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Poppy Committee Purpose	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 11	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Public Relations Committee Purpose	ADOPTED

Amendment 12	Standing Rule XIII. Dues, 1	ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Bundled Amendment 13a	Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Risk & Compliance Committee composition	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 13b	Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers – Move NEC and national committee appointments from this section	ADOPTED
Unbundled Amendment 13c	Bylaws Articles VI. Committees – moves standing in unit from article on election of officers; allows Risk & Compliance to have independent member	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 13d	Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization, Section 2 – standing of department officers	ADOPTED
Presented Unbundled Amendment 14a	Restate Articles of Incorporation – to update and allow the NEC to oversee NEC conduct	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 14b	Bylaws Article IV. NEC, Section 2 Authority – Authority of NEC to oversee NEC conduct and possible outcomes for misconduct	ADOPTED
Unbundled Amendment 14c	Standing Rule VII. Committees – Ethical Conduct Special Purpose Committee – Purpose and Composition	ADOPTED
Bundled Amendment 14d	Standing Rule X. Departments, 5 – reflects the move of oversight of NEC conduct from the departments to the NEC	ADOPTED
Amendment 15	Bylaws Article XI. Charters – revises cancellation of Unit charters and Department charters	ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #1A - ALA National Constitution Article VII. Amendments

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA Constitution Article VII. Amendments</p> <p>Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the National Secretary to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and inserting ALA Constitution Article VII. Amendments</p> <p>Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through by the Monday after the third Friday in July to the National Secretary who shall then distribute them distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention by; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the National Convention.— Departments shall</p>	<p>ALA Constitution Article VII. Amendments</p> <p>Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the Monday after the third Friday in July to the National Secretary who shall then distribute them to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.</p> <p>Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention</p>

<p>Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution, as shown in Section 1 hereof, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote.</p> <p>Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1 hereof may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the National Convention delegates.</p>	<p>be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.</p> <p>Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution, as shown in Section 1 hereof, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote.</p> <p>Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1 hereof may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the National Convention delegates.</p>	<p>delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote.</p>
---	---	---

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

- The date for proposed amendments to be received at National Headquarters has been a custom but has never been established as a rule. The proposed date allows the time needed for NHQ staff to prepare the governance action packet for distribution.

- With today's technology and the ease of transmitting information electronically to delegates, there are few if any situations where an amendment would be presented without advance notice which requires the highest vote threshold--unanimous consent. Any last minute amendments could be considered provided they are read at the previous day's meeting, consistent with Robert's Rules of Order.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #1B - ALA National Bylaws Article XIII. Amendments

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Bylaws Article XIII. Amendments</p> <p>Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the National Secretary to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the</p>	<p>Amend by striking and inserting ALA National Bylaws Article XIII. Amendments</p> <p>Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through by the Monday after the third Friday in July to the National Secretary who shall then distribute them to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of</p>	<p>ALA National Bylaws Article XIII. Amendments</p> <p>Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted by the Monday after the third Friday in July to the National Secretary who shall then distribute them to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.</p>

<p>proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.</p> <p>Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution by the National Secretary may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session prior to taking the vote.</p> <p>Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the National Convention delegates.</p>	<p>the National Convention.</p> <p>Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.</p> <p>Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution by the National Secretary may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session of National Convention prior to taking the vote.</p> <p>Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1 hereof may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the National Convention delegates.</p>	<p>Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution by the National Secretary may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote.</p>
--	--	--

Rationale:

- The date for proposed amendments to be received at National Headquarters has been a custom but has never been established as a rule. The proposed date allows the time needed for NHQ staff to prepare the governance action packet for distribution.
- With today's technology and the ease of transmitting information electronically to delegates, there are few if any situations where an amendment would be presented without advance notice which requires the highest vote threshold--unanimous consent. Any last minute amendments could be considered provided they are read at the previous day's meeting, consistent with Robert's Rules of Order.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #2 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee Purpose

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Auxiliary Emergency Fund: The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides grants to American Legion Auxiliary members who qualify for specific types of emergency assistance. A three (3) member review and processing committee shall consist of the Director of Finance, the Director of Development, and a staff member of The American Legion Children & Youth Commission.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Auxiliary Emergency Fund: The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides grants to American Legion Auxiliary members who qualify for specific types of emergency assistance as listed in the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Policy. A three (3) member review and processing committee shall consist of the Director of Finance, the Director of Development, and a staff member of The American Legion Children & Youth Commission.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Auxiliary Emergency Fund: The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides grants to American Legion Auxiliary members who qualify for specific types of emergency assistance as listed in the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Policy. A three (3) member review and processing committee shall consist of the Director of Finance, the Director of Development, and a staff member of The American Legion Children & Youth Commission.</p>

	<p>The purpose of the AEF Committee is to raise funds for and promote knowledge about the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.</p>	<p>The purpose of the AEF Committee is to raise funds for and promote knowledge about the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.</p>
--	--	---

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: The purpose of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #3 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of ALA Girls Nation Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation: The ALA Girls Nation Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and four (4) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The ALA Girls Nation Committee shall direct the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program and conduct the annual session of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, with the ALA Girls Nation Chairman serving as director under the supervision of the National President.</p>	<p>Amending by striking and adding ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation: The ALA Girls Nation Committee shall be comprised of a chairman, a vice chairman, and four (4) three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The ALA Girls Nation Committee shall direct the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program and conduct the annual session of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, with the ALA Girls Nation Chairman serving as director under the supervision of the National President.</p> <p>The purpose of the ALA Girls Nation Committee is to promote and provide</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation: The ALA Girls Nation Committee shall be comprised of a chairman, a vice chairman, three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the ALA Girls Nation Committee is to promote and provide an outstanding government-in-action learning program for high school girls who have completed their junior year. The committee attends and actively participates in the execution of the week-long education program. Committee members need to be capable of meeting the physical and social demands of a week supervising high school girls.</p>

	<p>an outstanding government-in-action learning program for high school girls who have completed their junior year. The committee attends and actively participates in the execution of the week-long education program. Committee members need to be capable of meeting the physical and social demands of a week supervising high school girls.</p>	
--	--	--

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

- This amendment does not change the number of people serving on the committee. It's a housekeeping amendment to reflect how the committee has been functioning and to align its structure with the other national committees.
- The purpose of the ALA Girls Nation Committee currently exists in the ALA Girls State Program and Operations Guide. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source. The ultimate responsibility for the extensive planning, contractual requirements, adherence to state laws, health and safety of minors, and successful execution of this program rests with the National Headquarters Program Manager working in partnership with the Committee Chairman. This amendment also establishes the expectation that committee members must be able to meet the physical demands of a week in Washington DC supervising 100 active high school girls.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #4 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Community Service Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Community Service: The Community Service Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Community Service: The Community Service Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Community Service Committee is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary’s commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Community Service: The Community Service Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Community Service Committee is to promote the American Legion Auxiliary’s commitment to making our communities better places to live by supporting local service projects.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: The purpose of the Community Service Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #5 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Education Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Education: The Education Committee shall be comprised of a chairman serving a one-year term, a vice chairman and one (1) member serving staggered two-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year to a two-year term; plus, a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Education: The Education Committee shall be comprised of a chairman serving a one-year term, a vice chairman and one (1) member serving staggered two-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year to a two-year term; plus, a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Education Committee is to promote quality education for children—especially for military children—and adults.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Education: The Education Committee shall be comprised of a chairman serving a one-year term, a vice chairman and one (1) member serving staggered two-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year to a two-year term; plus, a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Education Committee shall be to promote quality education for children—especially for military children—and adults.</p>

Rationale: The purpose of the Education Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #6 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Junior Activities Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Junior Activities: The Junior Activities Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amending by striking and adding ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Junior Activities: The Junior Activities Committee shall be comprised of a chairman, vice chairman, and three(2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Junior Activities: The Junior Activities Committee shall be comprised of a chairman, vice chairman, and two (2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee is to inspire active participation in members aged 17 and under so they become engaging, productive members who will want to continue their American Legion Auxiliary membership into adulthood.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale:

- This amendment does not change the number of people serving on the committee. It's a housekeeping amendment to reflect how the committee has been functioning and to align its structure with the other national committees.
- The purpose of the Junior Activities Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #7 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Leadership Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Leadership: The Leadership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Leadership: The Leadership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Leadership Committee is to better equip members to serve in leadership positions with confidence and skill.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Leadership: The Leadership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Leadership Committee is to better equip members to serve in leadership positions with confidence and skill.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: The purpose of the Leadership Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #8 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Legislative Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Legislative: The Legislative Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amend by adding National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Legislative: The Legislative Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.</p>	<p>National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Legislative: The Legislative Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: The purpose of the Legislative Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #9 ALA National Standing Rule VII Committees 6 - Membership Committee Vice Chairman

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII Committees, 6</p> <p>Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Membership Committee is to promote the benefits of membership and to promote retaining and recruiting a diverse, active membership to carry out the American Legion Auxiliary mission and programs.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and adding ALA National Standing Rule VII Committees, 6</p> <p>Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman, a vice chairman, and three two (2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Membership Committee is to promote the benefits of membership and to promote retaining and recruiting a diverse, active membership to carry out the American Legion Auxiliary mission and programs.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII Committees, 6</p> <p>Membership Committee: The Membership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman, a vice chairman, and two (2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Membership Committee is to promote the benefits of membership and to promote retaining and recruiting a diverse, active membership to carry out the American Legion Auxiliary mission and programs.</p>

Proposed by: Membership Committee

Rationale: This amendment does not change the number of people serving on the committee. It's a housekeeping amendment to reflect how the committee has been functioning and to align its structure with the other national committees.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #10 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Poppy Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Poppy: The Poppy Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Poppy: The Poppy Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Poppy Committee is to educate ALA membership and the public on the significance of the poppy and the program’s financial benefit for veterans, military, and their families.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Poppy: The Poppy Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Poppy Committee is to educate ALA membership and the public on the significance of the poppy and the program’s financial benefit for veterans, military, and their families.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: The purpose of the Poppy Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #11 ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6 – Purpose of Public Relations Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Public Relations: The Public Relations Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p>	<p>Amend by adding</p> <p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Public Relations: The Public Relations Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to establish and maintain a positive public image of the organization by encouraging ALA members to be visible in their communities through branding and informing the public about the mission of the organization.</p>	<p>ALA National Standing VII. Committees, 6</p> <p>Public Relations: The Public Relations Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The purpose of the Public Relations Committee is to establish and maintain a positive public image of the organization by encouraging ALA members to be visible in their communities through branding and informing the public about the mission of the organization.</p>

Rationale: The purpose of the Public Relations Committee was formerly found in the programs action plan, which then transitioned to a program page on the national website. This amendment addresses the need to capture the purpose of the committee in the governing documents rather than refer to an external source.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Amendment #12 ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 1

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 1</p> <p>1. The National per capita dues shall be twelve dollars (\$12.00) per annum for Senior members, and two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum for Junior members. The per capita dues for Senior members shall include a complimentary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary national magazine. Each Department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least monthly.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and inserting ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 1</p> <p>1. The National per capita dues shall be eighteen twelve dollars (\$18.00) per annum for Senior members beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, with a one-dollar (\$1.00) increase in FY 2026 (\$19.00), FY 2028 (\$20.00) and FY 2030 (\$21.00) and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum for Junior members. National Junior member dues remain at two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum with a \$.50 (fifty cent) increase in FY 2026 (\$3.00), FY 2028 (\$3.50), and FY 2030 (\$4.00).</p> <p>The per capita dues for Senior members shall include a complimentary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary national magazine. Each Department shall</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule XIII. Dues and Assessments, 1</p> <p>1. The National per capita dues shall be eighteen dollars (\$18.00) per annum for Senior members beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. National Junior member dues remain at two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum.</p> <p>The per capita dues for Senior members shall include a complimentary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary national magazine. Each Department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least monthly.</p>

	remit the national per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least monthly.	
--	---	--

Proposed by: Finance Committee and National Executive Committee (NEC)

Rationale: See following two documents on the 2022 Dues Increase Proposal and the follow-up Q&A.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #13A - ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6. Risk & Compliance

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6.</p> <p>Risk & Compliance: The Risk & Compliance Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, each serving staggered three-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year by the National President; and two (2) liaison members, one (1) of whom shall be recommended each year by the National Finance Committee and one (1) of whom shall be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors recommended each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to the National President for appointment. The National President shall appoint the chairman from among those who are not liaison members.</p>	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6.</p> <p>Risk & Compliance: The Risk & Compliance Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, each serving staggered three-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year by the National President; and two (2) liaison members, one (1) of whom shall be recommended each year by the National Finance Committee and one (1) of whom shall be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors recommended each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to the National President for appointment. An additional member independent of the organization may be selected by the Risk & Compliance Committee from applicants with demonstrated</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6.</p> <p>Risk & Compliance: The Risk & Compliance Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, each serving staggered three-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year by the National President; and two (2) liaison members, one (1) of whom shall be recommended each year by the National Finance Committee and one (1) of whom shall be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors recommended each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to the National President for appointment. An additional member independent of the organization may be selected by the Risk & Compliance Committee from applicants with demonstrated experience in nonprofit</p>

	<p>experience in nonprofit risk and compliance, to serve not more than two (2) consecutive three year terms with voice but without vote. The National President shall appoint the chairman from among those ALA members who are not liaison members.</p>	<p>risk and compliance, to serve not more than two (2) consecutive three year terms with voice but without vote. The National President shall appoint the chairman from among those ALA members who are not liaison members.</p>
--	--	--

Proposed by: Risk & Compliance Committee

Rationale: This is one of four bundled amendments. On the recommendation of the American Legion Auxiliary's independent auditors and the ALA National Risk & Compliance Committee, it is recommended that an additional member that can meet the qualification of independence from the ALA serve on the National Risk & Compliance Committee. It is an industry best practice for risk and compliance committees to maintain independence in their composition. The National Risk & Compliance Committee would select an applicant that meets qualifications of professional knowledge and demonstrated skills in risk and compliance.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #13B - ALA National Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers, Section 4

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers</p> <p>Section 4. All national officers, members of the National Executive Committee and members of all national committees shall be in good standing in their Units.</p>	<p>Amend by striking and adding ALA National Bylaws Article II. Election and Appointment of Officers</p> <p>Section 4. All national officers, members of the National Executive Committee and members of all national committees shall be in good standing in their Units.</p>	<p>ALA National Bylaws Article II. Election and Appointment of Officers</p> <p>Section 4. All national officers shall be in good standing in their Units.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: This is the second of four bundled amendments, a housekeeping amendment. This section addresses national officers so the title needs to reflect that national officers are both elected and appointed. Also, the requirements regarding NEC members and national committee appointees need to be moved to those appropriate articles.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #13C - ALA National Bylaws Article VI. Committees, new Section 4.

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Bylaws Article VI. Committees</p> <p>Section 4. If a member of a national committee is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit.</p>	<p>ALA National Bylaws Article VI. Committees</p> <p>Section 4. If a member of a national committee is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit.</p>

Proposed by: Risk & Compliance Committee and Constitution & Bylaws

Rationale: This is the third of four bundled amendments. This amendment moves the requirements for serving on a national committee from Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers to this appropriate section. In addition, the ALA National Risk & Compliance Committee seeks to follow best practices of maintaining the independence of risk and compliance committees by adding a non-ALA member expert in the field of risk and compliance to serve on the National Risk & Compliance Committee. By adding an “if” statement, it recognizes that there may be a non-member of a national committee.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #13D - ALA National Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization, Section 2

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization</p> <p>Section 2. Each Department shall have the following department officers: Department President, Department Vice President(s), Department Secretary, Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer), National Executive Committee person, an Alternate National Executive Committee person, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department may prescribe.</p>	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization</p> <p>Section 2. Each Department shall have the following department officers: Department President, Department Vice President(s), Department Secretary, Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer), National Executive Committee person, an Alternate National Executive Committee person, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department may prescribe. If a department officer is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit.</p>	<p>ALA National Bylaws Article VIII. Department Organization</p> <p>Section 2. Each Department shall have the following department officers: Department President, Department Vice President(s), Department Secretary, Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer), National Executive Committee person, an Alternate National Executive Committee person, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department may prescribe. If a department officer is a member of the ALA, they shall be in good standing in their unit.</p>

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Rationale: This is the fourth of four bundled amendments, a housekeeping amendment. This amendment moves a reference in a bylaws article about department officers from the section on national officers to the section on the department. The ‘if’ clause recognizes that some departments have non-member executive directors who are considered an officer in that department.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #14A– Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation – NEC to oversee NEC conduct

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION (Certificate of Organization) of the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY</p> <p>BE IT REMEMBERED, That there are hereby adopted the following articles of incorporation pursuant to the act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, approved March 6, 1889, Acts 1889, p. 141, entitled “An Act for the incorporation of societies not for pecuniary profit, defining their powers and providing for the election of directors, the dissolution of such corporations, distribution of their property, and the changing of their articles of association, and declaring an emergency.”</p> <p>1. The name or title by which this corporation shall be known in law is the American Legion Auxiliary.</p>	<p>By striking and substituting ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION (Certificate of Organization) of the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY</p> <p>BE IT REMEMBERED, That there are hereby adopted the following articles of incorporation pursuant to the act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, approved March 6, 1889, Acts 1889, p. 141, entitled “An Act for the incorporation of societies not for pecuniary profit, defining their powers and providing for the election of directors, the dissolution of such corporations, distribution of their property, and the changing of their articles of association, and declaring an emergency.”</p>	<p>AMENDED AND RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ADOPTED AUGUST 30, 2022</p> <p>The undersigned incorporator, desiring to form a corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation") pursuant to the provisions of the Indiana Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1991, (hereinafter referred to as the "Act"), executed the following Articles of Incorporation.</p> <p>ARTICLE I NAME</p> <p>The name of this corporation is American Legion Auxiliary.</p> <p>ARTICLE II</p>

<p>2. The particular objects for which it is formed are to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association during the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.</p> <p>3. This corporation shall be authorized to hold any of the meetings or conventions prescribed by the Constitution and By-laws within or</p>	<p>1. The name or title by which this corporation shall be known in law is the American Legion Auxiliary.</p> <p>2. The particular objects for which it is formed are to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association during the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.</p>	<p>PURPOSES AND POWERS</p> <p>Section 2.1 Purposes. The purposes for which the Corporation is formed are exclusively charitable and educational and consist of the following:</p> <p>A. The specific and primary purposes are to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to</p>
---	--	--

<p>without the State of Indiana and within or without the United States of America.</p> <p>4. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is membership in the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary by affiliation with Units and only those eligible under the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be eligible for membership. The rights of all members shall be exercised only through delegates when in Convention assembled and through the National Executive Committee at all other times. The voting members shall be the duly-elected delegates when in National Convention assembled and the National Executive Committeewomen at all other times.</p> <p>5. The number of directors of this corporation who are designated National Executive Committeewomen shall be fifty-two and the number may be decreased or</p>	<p>3. This corporation shall be authorized to hold any of the meetings or conventions prescribed by the Constitution and By-laws within or without the State of Indiana and within or without the United States of America.</p> <p>4. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is membership in the National Organization of the American Legion Auxiliary by affiliation with Units and only those eligible under the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be eligible for membership. The rights of all members shall be exercised only through delegates when in Convention assembled and through the National Executive Committee at all other times. The voting members shall be the duly-elected delegates when in National Convention assembled and the National Executive Committeewomen at all other times.</p>	<p>participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.</p> <p>B. The general purposes and powers are to have and exercise all rights and powers conferred on corporations formed under the Act, provided, however, that the Corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the specific and primary purposes of the Corporation.</p> <p><u>Section 2.2 Public Benefit Corporation.</u> This is a public benefit corporation as defined by the Act.</p> <p><u>Section 2.3 Tax-Exempt Purposes.</u></p>
---	--	---

<p>increased in accordance with the provision of Law, the Constitution and By-laws, but in no event shall the number be less than three. The directors selected for the management of its business and prudential concerns for the first year of its existence are:</p> <p>(list of original NEC follows)</p> <p>6. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be non-political and as an organization shall not promote the candidacy of any person seeking public office.</p> <p>7. That the American Legion Auxiliary may acquire any and all the assets of the existing unincorporated National Organization, known as the American Legion Auxiliary, upon discharging or satisfactory providing for the payment and discharge of all its liabilities.</p>	<p>5. The number of directors of this corporation who are designated National Executive Committee members shall be fifty-two and the number may be decreased or increased in accordance with the provision of Law, the Constitution and By-laws, but in no event shall the number be less than three. The directors selected for the management of its business and prudential concerns for the first year of its existence are:</p> <p>(list of original NEC follows)</p> <p>6. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be non-political and as an organization shall not promote the candidacy of any person seeking public office.</p> <p>7. That American Legion Auxiliary may acquire any and all the assets of the existing unincorporated National Organization, known as the American Legion Auxiliary, upon discharging or satisfactory</p>	<p>A. The Corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United State Internal Revenue Law), or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.)</p>
	<p>B. This corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.</p>	

	<p>providing for the payment and discharge of all its liabilities.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE III <u>REGISTERED AGENT AND REGISTERED OFFICE</u></p> <p>A. The name and address of the Resident Agent in charge of the Corporation's principal office is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SARA T. RIEGEL, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 3450 Founders Road Indianapolis, Indiana 46268</p> <p>B. The post office address of the principal office of the Corporation is:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3450 Founders Road Indianapolis, Indiana 46268</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE IV <u>MEMBERSHIP</u></p> <p>The Corporation will have members.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE V</p>
--	--	--

		<p><u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u> The manner in which Directors shall be chosen and removed from office, powers, duties, tenure of office, and the manner of calling and holding meetings of the Board of Directors, shall be set forth in the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.</p> <p><u>ARTICLE VI</u> <u>DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS ON</u> <u>DISSOLUTION</u> <u>OR FINAL LIQUIDATION</u> The property of the Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is</p>
--	--	---

		<p>organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and which has established its tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) or 501 (c) 19 of the Internal Revenue Code.</p> <p>IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed these Articles of Incorporation on behalf of the Corporation and, subject to the penalties of perjury, certifies the truth of the facts herein contained, this 30th day of August, 2022.</p> <p>_____ KATHY DAUDISTEL NATIONAL PRESIDENT</p>
--	--	--

Proposed by: Constitution & Bylaws Committee and Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee

Rationale:

This is the first of four proposed amendments bundled together. Adoption of these articles is required to implement the Code of Ethical Conduct, the Conduct Review Policy, and the remaining three amendments in this bundle.

The ALA's initial governing document, its articles of incorporation, filed with the state of Indiana in 1932 to be recognized as a not-for-profit organization rather than a program of The American Legion, were based on the 1889 Act for the Incorporation of Societies Not For Pecuniary Profit. Indiana's nonprofit laws have modernized quite a bit since then! A licensed attorney who specializes in Indiana nonprofit law and who is very familiar with 100-year old nonprofits such as the ALA, reviewed the articles, and recommended they be updated or "restated."

The primary changes to the articles include the following:

1. Organizes the structure to resemble modern articles of incorporation with the use of "articles" rather than enumerations for easier reference.
2. The restated articles of incorporation include a provision (Article V) recommended by the nonprofit attorney and the Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee that is required to implement the Code of Ethical Conduct. The provision allows the ALA to adhere to the **ethics best practice** that a national board of directors have the authority to oversee the conduct of its board members. The special committee composed of attorneys, investigation experts, and ethics policy experts as well as national level volunteers were charged by the National Executive Committee (NEC), the ALA's national board of directors, with revising the Code of Ethical Conduct and developing procedures for handling allegations of misconduct against national leadership. The special committee developed a revised code and a new policy that would enable the NEC to oversee the conduct of its board members and implement outcomes up to and including dismissal from service on the board, but **not** dismissal from membership in the ALA. That authority is reserved for Units. The Code of Ethical Conduct in the Standing Rules outlines the conduct expected of national leaders and members of the governing board, and the Ethical Conduct Review

Policy details the procedures for handling allegations of misconduct against a member of the national leadership team. Having a process in place that protects the rights of someone accused of misconduct before a complaint is made is vital. This group of experts has crafted a policy that has been reviewed by the independent attorney, is fundamentally fair, and protects the good name of the organization.

3. Adds a necessary dissolution clause that provides for distribution of assets to another non-profit, as required by law, in the event the organization dissolves.
4. The original articles of incorporation are part of the organization's permanent records with the Secretary of State's office and will be retained as one of our valued historical documents in our Cavalcade of History.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #14B - ALA National Bylaws Article IV, National Executive Committee, Section 2. Authority - to include conduct of all NEC members and possible outcomes of misconduct

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Bylaws Article IV, National Executive Committee, Section 2. Authority paragraphs 3 and 4.</p> <p>All questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of National Officers shall be referred to and determined by the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a National Officer or a national committee member serving a single-year or multiple-year term is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office.</p> <p>All questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the National Executive Committee person</p>	<p>Amend by striking and substituting ALA National Bylaws Article IV, National Executive Committee, Section 2. Authority paragraphs 3 and 4.</p> <p>All questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of National Officers shall be referred to and determined by the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a National Officer or a national committee member serving a single-year or multiple-year term is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office.</p> <p>All questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the National Executive Committee person</p>	<p>ALA National Bylaws Article IV, National Executive Committee, Section 2. Authority paragraphs 3 and 4.</p> <p>All questions regarding the election, eligibility, and capacity of national officers shall be referred to and determined by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a national officer is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office.</p> <p>All questions regarding conduct of a national officer, all National Executive Committee members without regard to voting rights, or a member of a national</p>

<p>from any Department, or of the Department Officers or members of Department Executive Committees, shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee or governing board of the Department involved, which shall be the final authority thereon. The rules governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p>	<p>from any Department, or of the Department Officers or members of Department Executive Committees, shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee or governing board of the Department involved, which shall be the final authority thereon. The rules governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>All questions regarding the election, eligibility, and capacity of national officers shall be referred to and determined by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a national officer is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office.</p> <p>All questions regarding conduct of a national officer, all National Executive Committee members without regard to voting rights, or a member of a national</p>	<p>committee that may be detrimental to the best interests of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be referred to and determined by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee which shall be the final authority thereon. The NEC may suspend the member from all or some duties and rights of national committees and/or national activities pending the disposition of the case. If the National Executive Committee finds a member has violated any provision in the governing documents of the ALA, the National Executive Committee shall impose disciplinary action against the member which may include verbal counseling; written or verbal apology; written or verbal censure; probation with corrective terms; suspension from participation in or exercising voting rights on national committees and/or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws; or termination of NEC membership, national appointment, and/or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated from service on th</p>
--	--	--

	<p>committee that may be detrimental to the best interests of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be referred to and determined by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee which shall be the final authority thereon. The NEC may suspend the member from all or some duties and rights of national committees and/or national activities pending the disposition of the case. If the National Executive Committee finds a member has violated any provision in the governing documents of the ALA, the National Executive Committee shall impose disciplinary action against the member which may include verbal counseling; written or verbal apology; written or verbal censure; probation with corrective terms; suspension from participation in or exercising voting rights on national committees and/or national activities for a defined period of time in compliance with applicable state laws; or termination of NEC membership, national appointment,</p>	<p>member is ineligible to hold future positions of national leadership. The rules and procedures governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p>
--	---	---

	<p>and/or national elected position as applicable. Once terminated from service on the NEC for cause, a member is ineligible to hold future positions of national leadership. The rules and procedures governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p>	
--	--	--

Proposed by: Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee

Rationale: This is the second of four bundled amendments.

The Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee was charged by the National Executive Committee (NEC), the ALA's national board of directors, with revising the Code of Ethical Conduct and developing procedures for handling allegations of misconduct at the national level. The attorneys, investigation, and ethics policy experts on this committee developed a revised code and process that would enable the NEC to have the authority to oversee the conduct of its board members and implement outcomes for misconduct up to and including dismissal from service on the board, but **not** dismissal from membership in the ALA. That authority is reserved for Units. The Code of Ethical Conduct in the Standing Rules outlines the *conduct* expected of national leadership: national officers, all members of the NEC regardless of voting rights, and national appointees. The Ethical Conduct Review Policy describes the *procedures* for handling allegations of misconduct against a member of national leadership. Having an adopted process in place that protects the rights of someone accused of misconduct *before* a complaint is made is vital. This group of experts has crafted a policy that complies with Indiana law, is fundamentally fair, and protects the good name of the organization.

This national policy applies only to national leaders and does not apply to the individual member. **It is up to each unit and department to adopt its own rules on handling allegations of misconduct and possible outcomes.** This national policy may be used as a guide but must be adapted to the specific requirements of each state's non-profit laws. It cannot be adopted word for word by a unit or department.

Consequential amendments:

- Constitution Article IV. National Officers, Section 5 – strike “All questions affecting the eligibility, election, and conduct of a national officer shall be referred to the National Executive Committee where a decision by a two-thirds vote in said committee shall be the final authority thereon.” This section becomes unnecessary since it is now fully explained in this bylaw.
- Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, 6 – strike “The National Executive Committee shall make determinations regarding the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of national officers and of national committee members in executive session pursuant to the principles of due process and equal protection, and in consultation with Counsel General.” This section becomes unnecessary since it is now fully explained in this bylaw and the Ethical Conduct Review Policy.
- Standing Rule V. National Executive Committee, 9 – strike “The National Executive Committee shall refer matters regarding the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of a National Executive Committee person or a Department officer to the Committee person's or Department Officer's Department for the Department's determination.” The NEC member is now addressed in Bylaws IV. NEC and in the Ethical Conduct Review Policy. Department officers are addressed in Standing Rule X. Departments, 5.

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #14C - ALA National Standing Rule VII. Committees, 6, Special Purpose Committees— Purpose and composition of Ethical Conduct Committee

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
	<p>Amend by adding ALA National Standing Rules VII. Committees, 6, Special Purpose Committees</p> <p>Ethical Conduct: The National President must appoint an Ethical Conduct Committee. The committee shall be composed of six members, each serving staggered three-year terms, no member serving more than two consecutive terms. The national president shall annually appoint a chairman from among the committee members who have served at least one year. Committee members will be selected from applicants with demonstrated experience in risk assessment, conducting investigations, and must be independent from the NEC. To maintain independence, members may not serve on other national committees and will</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rules VII. Committees, 6, Special Purpose Committees</p> <p>Ethical Conduct: The National President must appoint an Ethical Conduct Committee. The committee shall be composed of six members, each serving staggered three-year terms, no member serving more than two consecutive terms. The national president shall annually appoint a chairman from among the committee members who have served at least one year. Committee members will be selected from applicants with demonstrated experience in risk assessment, conducting investigations, and must be independent from the NEC. To maintain independence, members may not serve on other national committees and will not attend national meetings unless required to report.</p>

	<p>not attend national meetings unless required to report.</p> <p>The purpose of the Ethical Conduct Committee is to review allegations of Code of Ethical Conduct violations by all national officers, national committee members and members of the NEC, regardless of voting rights, in a timely manner ensuring fundamental fairness, and make recommendations to the NEC.</p> <p>Amanda Washburn – amended to remove “must” and “may” FAILED</p>	<p>The purpose of the Ethical Conduct Committee is to review allegations of Code of Ethical Conduct violations by all national officers, national committee members and members of the NEC, regardless of voting rights, in a timely manner ensuring fundamental fairness, and make recommendations to the NEC.</p>
--	---	---

Proposed by: Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee

Rationale: This is the third of four bundled amendments. This amendment creates the committee required by the revised Code of Ethical Conduct and Conduct Review Policy for handling complaints and investigations of misconduct by *national leadership only*. Although it is a national committee with annual appointments, it does not meet regularly, give reports unless required, or attend national meetings. It will hopefully be rarely used, but because complaints can come in at any time, it must be in place and prepared to review them. It has no authority to initiate investigations without a complaint or take corrective actions; its purpose is to investigate complaints and make

recommendations to the NEC for action by the NEC. Consistent with other national committees, this amendment includes the purpose, composition, and terms of service. A specific skill set in risk assessment and investigations, rather than service in the ALA, is required to serve on one of the multi-year terms of this committee. Serving multi-year terms ensures independence from the national president who appoints them. No member of the NEC may serve on this committee so that it can remain independent and impartial and committee members may not serve on other national committees.

Proviso: In order to establish a staggered schedule of service, two members shall be appointed to serve a one-year term; two members shall be appointed to serve a two-year term; and two members shall be appointed to serve three year terms. Thereafter, all appointments shall be for three-year terms.

ADOPTED

2022 National Convention Bundled Amendment #14D - ALA National Standing Rules X. Departments, 5 regarding the conduct of NEC member

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ALA National Standing Rules X. Departments, 5.</p> <p>It shall be the responsibility of the Department Executive Committee as directors of the Department organizing to determine all questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's officers and directors, Department Executive Committee members, and the Department's National Executive Committee member. Such matters shall be determined according to the due process and shall be specified in the Department's governing documents, to include:</p> <p>a) questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's officers and directors, Department Executive Committee members, and the Department's</p>	<p>Amend by striking and inserting ALA National Standing Rules X. Departments, 5.</p> <p>It shall be the responsibility of the Department Executive Committee as directors of the Department organizing to determine all questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's officers, and directors, and Department Executive Committee members, and the Department's National Executive Committee member. It shall be the responsibility of the Department Executive Committee to determine questions affecting the election, eligibility, and capacity of the National Executive Committee member. Such matters shall be determined according to fundamental fairness which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard and includes notice and an opportunity to be</p>	<p>ALA National Standing Rules X. Departments, 5.</p> <p>It shall be the responsibility of the Department Executive Committee as directors of the Department organizing to determine all questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's officers, directors, and Department Executive Committee members. It shall be the responsibility of the Department Executive Committee to determine questions affecting the election, eligibility, and capacity of the National Executive Committee member. Such matters shall be determined according to fundamental fairness which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard and shall be specified in the Department's governing documents, to include:</p>

<p>National Executive Committee member shall be submitted in writing to the Department Executive Committee;</p> <p>b) the Department Executive Committee may designate, appoint, and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding such matters;</p> <p>c) the Department Executive Committee shall provide due and proper notice of any hearing and trial;</p> <p>d) the findings of fact and recommendations of said matters shall be presented to the Department Executive Committee for its approval, rejection, or final action;</p> <p>e) the action of the Department Executive Committee in such matters shall be final and conclusive without appeal to the National Organization.</p>	<p>heard and shall be specified in the Department's governing documents, to include:</p> <p>a) questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's officers, and directors, Department Executive Committee members, and the Department's National Executive Committee member shall be submitted in writing to the Department Executive Committee;</p> <p>b) the Department Executive Committee may designate, appoint, and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding such matters;</p> <p>c) the Department Executive Committee shall provide due and proper notice of any hearing and trial;</p> <p>d) the findings of fact and recommendations of said matters shall be presented to the Department Executive Committee for its approval, rejection, or final action.</p> <p>e) the action of the Department Executive Committee in such matters shall be</p>	<p>a) questions shall be submitted in writing to the Department Executive Committee;</p> <p>b) the Department Executive Committee may designate, appoint, and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding such matters;</p> <p>c) the Department Executive Committee shall provide due and proper notice of any hearing and trial; and</p> <p>d) the findings of fact and recommendations of said matters shall be presented to the Department Executive Committee for its approval, rejection, or final action.</p>
--	--	---

	final and conclusive without appeal to the National Organization.	
--	---	--

Proposed by: Code of Ethical Conduct Special Committee

Rationale: This is the fourth of four bundled amendments. Conduct of the NEC member is now addressed in Bylaws IV, National Executive Committee, Section 2, and in the Ethical Conduct Review Policy. However, election, eligibility, and capacity are still matters to be determined by the NEC member's department. Item "e" conflicts with Standing Rule X. #2.

ADOPLED

2022 National Convention Amendment #15 - ALA National Bylaws Article XI. Suspension, Cancellation and Revocation of Charters

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
<p>ARTICLE XI</p> <p>Suspension, Cancellation and Revocation of Charters</p> <p>Section 1. All charters granted by the American Legion Auxiliary are hereby ratified and confirmed.</p> <p>Department Charters</p> <p>Section 1. The process for the suspension, cancellation, and revocation of a Department charter shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 2. Upon suspension of an American Legion Auxiliary Department charter, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all</p>	<p>Amend by striking and substituting</p> <p>ARTICLE XI</p> <p>Suspension, Cancellation and Revocation of Charters</p> <p>Section 1. All charters granted by the American Legion Auxiliary are hereby ratified and confirmed.</p> <p>Department Charters</p> <p>Section 1. The process for the suspension, cancellation, and revocation of a Department charter shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 2. Upon suspension of an American Legion Auxiliary Department charter, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to</p>	<p>ARTICLE XI</p> <p>Cancellation of Charters</p> <p>Department Charters</p> <p>Section 1. The National Executive Committee, following the principle of fundamental fairness which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard, may discipline a Department or cancel the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause. The process for the discipline of a Department or cancellation of a Department charter shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 2. Upon cancellation of a Department's charter, the National Executive Committee may authorize agents to take custody of all records, assets, and property of the Department,</p>

<p>records, assets, property, and belongings of the Department, and to provide for the governance and administration of the Department during said suspension.</p> <p>Section 3. Upon cancellation or revocation of an American Legion Auxiliary Department charter, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Department, and to take all necessary and proper steps and proceedings to wind up and close the affairs of the Department. The National Executive Committee may provide for continued recognition and activities of Units in said Department as it may deem proper.</p> <p>Section 4. With regard to suspensions, cancellations, and revocations of Department charters, in no event shall the National Organization be required to assume any financial obligation with</p>	<p>take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Department, and to provide for the governance and administration of the Department during said suspension.</p> <p>Section 3. Upon cancellation or revocation of an American Legion Auxiliary Department charter, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Department, and to take all necessary and proper steps and proceedings to wind up and close the affairs of the Department. The National Executive Committee may provide for continued recognition and activities of Units in said Department as it may deem proper.</p> <p>Section 4. With regard to suspensions, cancellations, and revocations of Department charters, in no event shall the National Organization be required to</p>	<p>and to take all necessary steps to close the affairs of the Department. The national organization may act in an administrative role until Units can affiliate with another department.</p> <p>Section 3. In no event shall the National Organization be required to assume any of the Department's debts.</p> <p>Unit Charters</p> <p>Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may discipline Units or cancel Unit charters for any good and sufficient cause following the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard.</p> <p>Section 2. Cancellation of a Unit charter shall be in order when two (2) or more Units merge, at the request of a Unit, when a Unit ceases to function, or by action of the Department Executive Committee.</p>
---	--	--

<p>regard to records, assets, property, and belongings.</p> <p>Unit Charters</p> <p>Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may suspend, cancel, or revoke Unit charters for good cause to it appearing.</p> <p>Section 2. Any Unit that a) fails to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the governing documents, policies, or requirements of the National Organization or Department, or b) ceases to function as an American Legion Auxiliary Unit from one Department Convention to the next, shall surrender its charter at the direction of the Department President. When a Unit so directed to surrender its charter fails to do so, the Department Executive Committee may take immediate steps to revoke the charter.</p> <p>Section 3. An American Legion Auxiliary Unit whose charter has been suspended,</p>	<p>assume any financial obligation with regard to records, assets, property, and belongings.</p> <p>Unit Charters</p> <p>Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may suspend, cancel, or revoke Unit charters for good cause to it appearing.</p> <p>Section 2. Any Unit that a) fails to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the governing documents, policies, or requirements of the National Organization or Department, or b) ceases to function as an American Legion Auxiliary Unit from one Department Convention to the next, shall surrender its charter at the direction of the Department President. When a Unit so directed to surrender its charter fails to do so, the Department Executive Committee may take immediate steps to revoke the charter.</p>	<p>Section 3. The National Executive Committee may prescribe rules of procedure to be followed in the cancellation of Unit charters. All rules and procedures shall be handled in a timely manner following the principle of fundamental fairness, which includes notice and an opportunity to be heard</p> <p>Section 4. In the event a Unit's charter is canceled without the consent of the Unit, it shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as provided in the Standing Rules. Cancellation of a unit charter becomes final upon ratification by the NEC.</p> <p>Section 5. Upon cancellation of a Unit charter, the Department Executive Committee is authorized to take possession of all records, assets, and property of the Unit and to provide for the administration of the Unit until members are transferred to other Units.</p>
--	---	--

<p>canceled, or revoked by the Department may appeal the decision of the Department Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee, as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 4. Upon suspension of an American Legion Auxiliary Unit charter, the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Unit and to provide for the governance and administration of the Unit during said suspension.</p> <p>Section 5. With regard to suspensions, cancellations, and revocations of Unit charters, in no event shall the Department organization be required to assume any financial obligation with regard to records, assets, property, and belongings.</p> <p>Section 6. Cancellation of a Unit charter shall be in order when two (2) or more Units merge, when a Unit ceases to</p>	<p>Section 3. An American Legion Auxiliary Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked by the Department may appeal the decision of the Department Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee, as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 4. Upon suspension of an American Legion Auxiliary Unit charter, the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Unit and to provide for the governance and administration of the Unit during said suspension.</p> <p>Section 5. With regard to suspensions, cancellations, and revocations of Unit charters, in no event shall the Department organization be required to assume any financial obligation with regard to records, assets, property, and belongings.</p>	<p>Section 6. In no event shall the Department organization be required to assume any of the Unit's debts.</p>
---	---	--

<p>function, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a Department. In the event a Unit charter is canceled or revoked without the consent of such Unit, it shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 7. The National Executive Committee may prescribe rules of procedure to be followed in the revocation, suspension or cancellation of Unit charters, with full power from time to time to revise or amend such rules, provided, however, that until such rules have been adopted, the procedure currently in existence shall be applicable. All rules and procedures shall be in accordance with the principles of due process of law.</p>	<p>Section 6. Cancellation of a Unit charter shall be in order when two (2) or more Units merge, when a Unit ceases to function, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a Department. In the event a Unit charter is canceled or revoked without the consent of such Unit, it shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as provided in the Standing Rules.</p> <p>Section 7. The National Executive Committee may prescribe rules of procedure to be followed in the revocation, suspension or cancellation of Unit charters, with full power from time to time to revise or amend such rules; provided, however, that until such rules have been adopted, the procedure currently in existence shall be applicable. All rules and procedures shall be in accordance with the principles of due process of law.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.2;">DRAFT</p>
---	---	---

Rationale: A special subcommittee of the NEC that was formed this past administrative year to review an appeal from a Unit on the cancellation of its charter, identified changes that needed to be made to the bylaws regarding Unit cancellations; the Department charter cancellation process also is updated for consistency.

1. The terms “suspend,” “cancel” and “revoke” were not defined and confusing. “Suspending” a Unit means the Unit must cease operations for a defined period of time. This does not allow the Unit to make any changes recommended by the Department. For example, Departments may choose to discipline a Unit for a probationary period and require tasks to be accomplished in a specified time frame for the Unit to be reinstated in good standing. This will be described more fully in the standing rules. The term “revocation” is most often associated by our members with IRS revocation of tax-exempt status.
2. The terms “due process” and “equal protection” are legal terms enforced by courts. Also, Indiana state statutes do not require a “hearing.” Non-profit organizations are using the more easily understood term “fundamental fairness” which is defined as notice and an opportunity to be heard.
3. Court reporters are expensive and rarely used. Departments should instead preserve all disciplinary communications with the unit, including meetings and actions taken by the Department. More details are to be included in the standing rules.
4. Eliminating and simplifying references where multiple words are used to the same effects: for example, changing “possession, custody, and control” to possession.

Appendix C



**MINUTES
OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**2022-2023 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

**CONVENED SEPTEMBER 1, 2022
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

**2022-2023 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD POST-NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Minutes

The first regular meeting of the 2022-2023 National Executive Committee was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by National President Vickie Koutz. Following the invocation and opening ceremonies, National President Koutz introduced the consent agenda for adoption.

Consent Agenda: National President's Appointments

M/S/C Motion by NEC (IN) Rose Ann Dziegłowicz to adopt the items on the consent agenda. No discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Interim Executive Director Sara Riegel gave her report and explained the resolution distributed in advance to verify the election of the ALA's 2022-2023 National Officers.

M/C The National President assumed a motion without objection to adopt the resolution. No discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

Finance Committee Report/Adoption of ALA FY 23 Budget

M/C Motion by National Finance Chairman Sharon Conatser on behalf of the National Finance Committee to adopt the FY 2023 ALA Budget. No discussion, all in favor, the motion carried.

ALA Foundation Board Report/Adoption of ALA Foundation FY 23 Budget
Foundation Board President Cathleen MacInnes reported the Foundation's activities to the ALA board. In compliance with the Foundation's bylaws, she presented the Foundation's FY 23 budget for approval by the NEC.

Risk & Compliance Committee Report

National Chair Jeri Greenwell reported on the committee's oversight of risk and compliance matters.

Adjourned to Executive Session

Without objection, the National President adjourned the open session and moved to go into an executive session with invited guests: past national presidents, Interim Executive Director Sara Riegel, and Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey.

###

Minutes Submitted by National Secretary Coral May Grout

<u>2022-2023 Minutes Approval Committee</u>	<u>Approved</u>
NEC (WI) Bonnie Jakubczyk	
NEC (AK) Penny Mazonna	
NEC (NV) Glynis Seeley-Morris	

APPOINTMENT	POSITION	NAME (YR APPT ENDS)	DEPT
Americanism	Chair	Michele DeGennaro	FL
Americanism	Vice Chair	Lisa Chaplin	VA
Americanism	Central Division Chair	Sue Hembrook	WI
Americanism	Eastern Division Chair	Marie Mock	NY
Americanism	Northwestern Division Chair	Mary Hendrickson	MN
Americanism	Southern Division Chair	Edna Bland	KY
Americanism	Western Division Chair	Maureen O'Brien Sacco	CA
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Chair	Kelly Elliott	IA
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Vice Chair	Karen Lowe	IN
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Central Division Chair	Vicky Buck	OH
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Eastern Division Chair	Anne Baglio	NY
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Northwestern Division Chair	Teresa Huntimer	SD
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Southern Division Chair	Brenda Towers	TX
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Western Division Chair	Dorothy Hazen	NM
Children & Youth	Chair	Pam Ray	IL
Children & Youth	Vice Chair	Robin Dorf	MN
Children & Youth	Member - liaison to CWF	Kathy Daudistel	KY
Children & Youth	Central Division Chair	Sue Cunniff-Coughlin	IL
Children and Youth	Eastern Division Chair	John Tester	VT
Children & Youth	Northwestern Division Chair	Laurie Kuntz	CO
Children & Youth	Southern Division Chair	Carol Campbell	VA
Children & Youth	Western Division Chair	Pam Seelye	OR
Community Service	Chair	Melanie Taylor	CA
Community Service	Vice Chair	Deb Albers	NE
Community Service	Central Division Chair	Karen Ripperger	IA
Community Service	Eastern Division Chair	Carolyn Baranowski	MA
Community Service	Northwestern Division Chair	Angela Foster	NE
Community Service	Southern Division Chair	Teresa Simmons-Copeland	TX
Community Service	Western Division Chair	Yolanda Bonilla	AZ
Constitution & Bylaws	Chair	Diana Sirovina	WI
Constitution & Bylaws	Vice Chair	Christine Trahan	TX

Education	Chair	Sallie Rossman	VA
Education	Vice Chair (3 year ending 2025)	Kristen McLaughlin	OH
Education	Member (3 year ending 2023)	Margaret McMahon	NJ
Education	Central Division Chair	Kathy Cisna	IL
Education	Eastern Division Chair	Sandy Seacat	NY
Education	Northwestern Division Chair	Kathy Mazur	NE
Education	Southern Division Chair	Donna Thurman	KY
Education	Western Division Chair	Theresa Montoya	NM
Finance <i>Staggered 5 yr terms</i>	Chair	Sharon Conatser (2027)	IL
Finance	Member	Virginia Hobbs (2024)	KY
Finance	Member	Nancy Brown-Park (2025)	CA
Finance	Member	Paula Rancy(2023)	TX
Finance	Member	Nicole Clapp (2026)	IA
ALA Girls Nation	Chair	Donna Dillard	TX
ALA Girls Nation	Vice Chair	Andrea Pelletier	MA
ALA Girls Nation	Member	Margaret "Peggy" Tesdahl	MN
ALA Girls Nation	Member	Lisa Liford	IN
ALA Girls Nation	Member	Christine Nelson	MT
ALA Girls Nation	Central Division Chair	Marissa Nowling	WI
ALA Girls Nation	Eastern Division Chair	Lisa Marie McCarley	DE
ALA Girls Nation	Northwestern Division Chair	Tiffany French	SD
ALA Girls Nation	Southern Division Chair	Susan Hall	GA
ALA Girls Nation	Western Division Chair	Kimberly MacKinney	CA
Junior Activities	Chair	Starr Purnell	MD
Junior Activities	Vice Chair	Gwen Schroeder-Zuleh	OH
Junior Activities	Member	Ree Ross	PA
Junior Activities	Member	Linda Lancaster-Loyd	WV
Junior Activities	Central Division Chair	Tina Abdelnour	IL
Junior Activities	Eastern Division Chair	Marrick McDonald	NY
Junior Activities	Northwestern Division Chair	Patti Coleman	MN
Junior Activities	Southern Division Chair	Treva Kay Wildrick	FL
Junior Activities	Western Division Chair	Valerie Hardy	CA
Leadership	Chair	Nancy Magginnis	IN
Leadership	Vice Chair (Unit Member of the Year Rep)	Denise Conrad	OH

Leadership	Central Division Chair	Suzanne Knapp	MI
Leadership	Eastern Division Chair	Karyl Horn	NH
Leadership	Northwestern Division Chair	Mary Jo Stier	SD
Leadership	Southern Division Chair	Deborah Blanch	VA
Leadership	Western Division Chair	Anita Biggs	CA
Legislative	Chair	Pam Bates	OH
Legislative	Vice Chair	Julia Moore	IL
Legislative	Central Division Chair	April Kollmorgen	WI
Legislative	Eastern Division Chair	Lynn Akers	PA
Legislative	Northwestern Division Chair	Tracy Trujillo	CO
Legislative	Southern Division Chair	Peggy Monroe	TN
Legislative	Western Division Chair	Glynis Seeley	NV
Membership	Chair	Linda Tome	NY
Membership	Vice Chair	Tracy Kinnick	KS
Membership	Member	Nancy Hansen	CT
Membership	Member	Paulette Anderson	WV
Membership	Central Division Chair	Mindi Rue	OH
Membership	Eastern Division Chair	Doreen Gallagher	NJ
Membership	Northwestern Division Chair	Tamara Opland	MN
Membership	Southern Division Chair	Dara Oliver	FL
Membership	Western Division Chair	April Sinclair	AK
National Security	Chair	Barb Washburn	NE
National Security	Vice Chair (Salute to Servicemember Rep)	Wendy Riggle	IA
National Security	Central Division Chair	Michelle Woodburn	IL
National Security	Eastern Division Chair	Linda Dupont	NH
National Security	Northwestern Division Chair	Carol Kottom	MN
National Security	Southern Division Chair	Bonita Robey	KY
National Security	Western Division Chair	Tamara Bell	CA
Poppy	Chair	Jeanne Haas	KS
Poppy	Vice Chair	Bonnie Jacubczyk	WI
Poppy	Central Division Chair	Cathy Goth	MO
Poppy	Eastern Division Chair	Joyce Cooper	MA
Poppy	Northwestern Division Chair	Sandra Fredrickson	MN
Poppy	Southern Division Chair	Sharon Atkins	AL
Poppy	Western Division Chair	Marge Christianson	AZ
Public Relations	Chair	Norma Tramm	MN
Public Relations	Vice Chair	Joanie Dickerson	WI

Public Relations	Central Division Chair	Carol T. Robinson	OH
Public Relations	Eastern Division Chair	Sofia Blake	MA
Public Relations	Northwestern Division Chair	Micheline Nelson	SD
Public Relations	Southern Division Chair	Pam Eckler	GA
Public Relations	Western Division Chair	Nikolina Flores	NV
Risk and Compliance	Chair	Jeri Greenwell (2025)	ME
Risk and Compliance	ALAF Committee Liaison - recommended by ALAF	Carrie Davenport	NY
Risk and Compliance	Finance Committee Liaison - recommended by Finance Committee	Virginia Hobbs	KY
Risk and Compliance	Member	Helen Riedlinger (2023)	SD
Risk and Compliance	Member	Carol Westergren (2024)	AR
VA & R	Chair	Trish Ward	KS
VA & R	Vice Chair (2 year)	Donna Ray (2024)	OH
VA & R	Member (2 year)	Pat Kranzow (2023)	IL
VA & R	Central Division Chair	Patti Williamson	IL
VA & R	Eastern Division Chair	Bonnie Lamson	MD
VA & R	Northwestern Division Chair	Amanda Washburn	NE
VA & R	Southern Division Chair	Ann S. Moore	NC
VA & R	Western Division Chair	Darlene Allen	NM

NATIONAL OFFICERS

ALA National Secretary	Coral May Grout	MA
ALA National Treasurer	Marybeth Revoir	IL

Executive Committee to the NEC

Executive Committee to the NEC	Member	Krisann Owens	OR
Executive Committee to the NEC	Member	Debra Knickerbocker	CT

Special Appointments

Convention City	Chair	Jill Puett	NC
Distinguished Guests	Chair	Carlene Ashworth	TX
Distinguished Guests	Vice Chair	Desi Stoy	OH
Distinguished Guests	Member	Mary Davis	WA

Parliamentarian		Peggy Thomas	VA
Presidents Scrapbook	Chair	Vicky Stainbrook	IN

<i>Special Committees</i>			
TAL Liaison Committee	Chair	Nicole Clapp	IA
TAL Liaison Committee	Member	Sharon Conatser	IL
TAL Liaison Committee	Member	Kathy Daudistel	KY

<i>NEC Ratification required per ALA Bylaws and ALAF Bylaws</i>			
Foundation Board of Directors	President	Cathleen MacInnes	NY
Foundation Board of Directors	Vice President	Diane Duscheck	WI
Foundation Board of Directors	Secretary	Ann Parker	FL
Foundation Board of Directors	Treasurer	Terri Wallace	NY
Foundation Board of Directors	Elected Director	Carrie Davenport	NY
Foundation Board of Directors	Elected Director	Lauralee Gooch	CA
Foundation Board of Directors	Elected Director	Rosemarie Hauck	MO
Foundation Board of Directors	Elected Director	Kaye Hirst	NC
Foundation Board of Directors	Elected Director	Kathryn Kaoudis	CO
Foundation Board of Directors	Elected Director	Sandra Rice	CA
Foundation Board of Directors	Appointed Director - ALA National Finance Committee	Nancy Brown-Park	CA

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL BUDGET NARRATIVE
Fiscal Year 2023**

Prepared by the National Finance Committee and Finance Division of National Headquarters.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) budget will be presented for adoption at the Post Convention NEC meeting on September 1, 2022. It is important for the NEC, our governing body, to review and understand the budget to ensure it aligns with the operation goals of the American Legion Auxiliary.

FY22 Operational Results are Strong through June 30th (Nine Months)

The year-end projection for FY22 (September 2022) financial statement reflects a net operating income (surplus) of approximately \$400K. The Forgiveness of the \$565K Payment Protection Plan Loan was recorded as income. Without the recognition of the Loan Forgiveness income of \$565K and the use of Reserve Funds of \$340K the projected year-end statement would have shown a projected loss of \$505K for the current fiscal year. Continuing to use Reserves will deplete cash, investments, and investment income for the future. Open positions at NHQ and restructuring caused wages and benefits to be below budget for FY22. Investments declined approximately 30% in March 2020 due to the Pandemic, then posted historic gains over the next twenty months, peaking around December 2021. Since then, investments have suffered losses of \$6.2M for the nine months ended June 30, 2022. Fortunately, the US Equity markets have posted gains of ten percent since the month of July 2022. The “market value of equities,” which is basically a measure of the ALA’s monetary value – what we’re worth on paper - decreased as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to combat historic levels of potential inflation. Supply chain issues and the war in Europe are other factors creating unknowns that are negatively impacting the stock market. Ongoing economic uncertainties remain as the country struggles with these issues causing volatility in the equity markets. Our investments could see significant swings in market values over the next few years.

Why a Deficit Budget for FY23

Decreasing membership is causing a continuation of deficit budgets. Between 2014-2021 membership has decreased by approximately 150,000 which equals \$1.8M in accumulated lost potential revenue for FY22 (150,000 members at an average of \$12 per member). If this continues without alternative sources of revenue, further cuts to deliver mission delivery, membership and volunteer services, and staff are eminent. We anticipate ending 2022 with about 6,000 fewer members than we had at the end of 2021, reducing projected membership revenue by approximately \$72K. While this is an improvement from the average of 20,000 members lost annually in the preceding years, it still does not resolve our trend of continuous deficit budgets.

The FY23 budget was based on the comparison of budgeted expenses included in the FY22 budget, in conjunction with analyzing FY22 actual to-date financial results and FY19 actual results which were pre-Pandemic when a full range of services and activities were offered. The FY23 budget includes reductions from standard expenses in prior years for services, travel, meetings, and overhead costs to offset membership revenue declines. Addressing the impact of the Pandemic on the national organization and its members remains an unpredictable variant to navigate.

The FY23 budget reflects increases in paper, postage, and freight. These increased costs impacted the Auxiliary magazine, membership services and supplies, and the margins of direct

mail fundraising. We were able to reduce some professional fees by assigning those responsibilities internally to National Headquarters staff members while simultaneously reducing the staff by two full-time positions and one part-time position.

The organization continues to rely on investment earnings to bridge the gap caused by decreasing membership levels. FY20 and FY21 actual expenses dropped significantly due to the Pandemic but in a normal year with a full range of programs and services the investment earnings are not enough to cover the budgeted shortfall. The dues increase approved in FY17 was not adequate to offset the rising costs and the dues received from declining membership. For dues to cover the FY23 budgeted expenses of \$9.9M the senior dues would need to average approximately \$18 per member. Dues are currently at \$12 per Senior member.

The Auxiliary is also working with the Legion on strategies to reduce future costs, including the potential restructuring of national meetings. Conventions, meetings, and programs are scheduled and contracted approximately three to six years in advance, so it may take time to realize the reduction of costs associated with these efforts.

As we look to future budgets, we will need to implement ways to both increase our revenues and work more efficiently in order to reduce expenses. The Pandemic has forced organizations to embrace employees performing their jobs remotely and these organizations are realizing reduced expenses in certain situations. An additional way to reduce expenses is to ensure leadership travels only when it brings value to the organization and leads to greater/increased mission delivery. Adding alternative revenue sources and increasing membership is possible, but this will take time and investment. It is important that we increase our revenues and decrease our operating expenses in order to balance our budget in the future and preserve the investments of the organization.

Significant expenses:

- Analysis of IT needs will continue. It may not be necessary to have a full-time IT position for an organization of our size and composition. As we move more of our software platforms to the Cloud we improve security and hope to see an increase in efficiency.
- Auxiliary magazine remains at (\$1.1m) plus staff costs even though paper costs have increased significantly. Rates for print advertising revenue dropped significantly in 2017 when Shoppers began utilizing Amazon for online purchases. Magazine advertising no longer brings in adequate revenue to cover the cost of the additional advertisement pages. Advertising revenue and expenses were removed from the FY23 budget with no negative impact to profit or loss.
- Travel expenses related to all meetings and programs have increased. Most of the increased costs are airfares, hotel accommodations, meals during training sessions, and transportation costs such as gasoline prices. Labor shortages and higher rates in these industries are drivers of increased expenses.
- Direct mail profit margins budgeted for FY23 decreased as compared to FY22 due to higher paper costs, postage, and freight, and the development plan of the donor base.
- Building insurance, maintenance, depreciation, and daily operational expenses approximate \$280,000 projected for FY22 net of reserves. This is down from the prior year.

Strategies Under Development

- Recruitment and Retainment Proposal, a board-designated reserve fund was established to fund a one-to-three-year marketing plan focused on exploring ways to recruit new members and increase renewals through digital media. The established reserves for marketing were \$130,000 in FY22. The reserves requested for FY23 include \$75,000 to continue developing this marketing plan.
- Leadership groups of The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary continue to meet annually to evaluate and develop joint opportunities that can benefit both organizations.
- Continued pursuit of additional new and sustainable grants to support mission programs.
- Development plans continue to expand the donor base in FY23 and beyond.
- Development continues to identify and secure corporate sponsorships that support the organization to offset events and program costs.
- Mission Training curriculum continues to focus on mission delivery and member engagement addressing the local needs of veterans, military, and their families.
- Improving the quality of employee training while reducing costs by utilizing free online courses offered by ADP.
- Qualtrics, a survey tool, provided valuable data in FY22. This data is currently being analyzed.

Some of these strategies will be short-term solutions, but most will take multiple years to implement and see a return. Several of these strategies are already underway.

Projects covered in FY23 Budget:

Volunteer and staff leadership understand the need for the national organization to improve assistance to the departments and units as this is where our mission is delivered, and where members engage and have access to supporting resources.

The Membership division has implemented virtual training to assist Department Secretaries and unit users with ALAMIS. The ALA Academy continues with the development of courses that engage our members with educational resources.

The FY23 budget proposal reflects the continued support of the programs, services, and the National President's special project.

RESERVE ACCOUNTS

Annually, the National Finance Committee and Finance Division identifies long-term and ongoing financial obligations and recommends “board-designated” reserve accounts for the following as presented in the table below. The NEC approves those accounts and amounts when they approve the budget. Per the Reserves Fund Policy, The Finance Committee is authorized to release funds from these accounts and must report any expenditures to the NEC.

FY23 Reserve Table Support				
American Legion Auxiliary National Designated and Undesignated Reserve Funds - Highlights				
<u>Designated Reserves Descriptions</u>	<u>FY21 Reserve designations at 10/1/2021</u>	<u>Anticipated balance at 9/30/2022</u>	<u>Proposed designated funds for FY2023</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Professional services	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	Designated for unanticipated legal audit/tax services, and specialized professional services.
Technology & facilities	150,000	150,000	150,000	Designated for unanticipated equipment repair or replacement.
Training	315,000	0	300,000	Investment in mission delivery and programs of the organization.
Marketing Milestones	87,285	87,285	87,285	Anniversary events and national histories
Future retirement liability	1,290,633	887,237	887,237	Under funded pension liability and future retirement expenses. Current FY23 portion \$125K.
Helen Colby Small	106,887	106,887	106,887	
National Presidents Scholarship Fund	2,666,760	2,666,760	2,666,760	
ALA Emergency Fund Grant	791,025	791,025	791,025	
Spirit of Youth	576,550	576,550	576,550	
Scholarships	34,500	34,500	34,500	
Membership marketing recruitment and retainment	194,895	121,625	75,000	Investment in new membership and organization marketing channels.
Building Reserves	250,000	225,000	250,000	Designated for unanticipated building expense(s) and capital improvements scheduled items.
Total Designated Reserves	\$6,613,535	\$5,796,869	\$6,075,244	
Undesignated Reserve Fund	36,393,072	32,112,331	31,833,956	
Total Reserve Funds	\$43,006,607	\$37,909,200	\$37,909,200	

American Legion Auxiliary
FY23 Proposed Budget Summary

	FY2019 ACTUAL	FY2020 ACTUAL	FY2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 Budget	FY2023 Proposed Budget
Revenue:					
Memberships Dues	\$ 6,368,415	\$ 6,566,002	\$ 6,382,676	\$ 6,103,782	\$ 6,071,825
Advertising	283,426	236,846	211,950	193,000	-
Royalties & Commission	373,596	244,815	281,631	341,932	290,400
Registration & Sales	175,676	22,500	122,289	176,195	192,652
Contributions - non direct mail	326,366	236,167	272,492	254,000	258,000
Grants Received	-	66,859	44,899	123,752	157,194
*Direct Mail Appeals (net of direct mail expense; beg FY18 gross revenue)	805,078	651,615	976,950	872,999	901,910
Other (Magazine Subscription income, other sales etc.)	38,019	94,937	98,636	90,634	108,100
Internal Transfer - income	58,289	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue:	\$ 8,428,865	\$ 8,119,741	\$ 8,391,522	\$ 8,156,294	\$ 7,980,081
Expense:					
Personnel: salaries & wages (5001)	\$ 2,095,675	\$ 2,354,904	\$ 2,569,273	\$ 2,823,870	\$ 2,759,329
Personnel: employee benefits (includes staff training) (5002 and 132-5006)	431,001	358,081	472,778	601,094	631,295
Personnel: employer taxes	156,854	286,741	293,860	154,377	226,260
Training (volunteers)	6,717	20,757	14,572	26,000	36,000
Grant Assignee Personnel Reimbursed by Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Occupancy (includes capital improvements; Building Repairs & Maint.; Occupancy, other repairs)	415,929	254,325	283,528	344,920	280,920
General Operating Expense (bank fees, supplies, telephone, insurance, IT-Software)	243,107	462,421	523,876	607,065	621,215
Postage & Freight (5070)	757,571	700,795	705,589	806,347	788,138
Equipment: Purchase, Rent & Maintenance (5050,5055)	313,629	60,432	52,580	76,369	111,489
Printing, Publicity & Awards (5080, 5910 and 5915)	856,874	853,114	663,852	809,679	814,726
Travel, Meetings, & Conventions - Travel, per diem, speakers, a/v, etc.; 5100, 5105, some 5150)	1,672,751	597,618	1,220,568	1,894,830	1,999,009
Professional Services (legal, auditing, IT, consultants, etc.)	794,151	549,215	521,535	719,690	554,904
Advertising Commissions	59,199	38,000	38,000	38,000	-
Grants & Scholarships (AEF, other orgs, students)	313,887	342,453	320,909	356,100	363,000
Direct Mail Appeals - Beg. FY18 gross expenses	307,220	722,198	598,533	564,118	689,529
Other (GN store supplies, committee exp. reimbursement, cc dist. to Depts.)	59,055	39,550	40,969	46,720	57,125
Internal Transfers - Expense	2,777	-	-	-	-
Total Expense:	\$ 8,486,397	\$ 7,640,603	\$ 8,320,423	\$ 9,869,178	\$ 9,932,939
Net Operating Income:	(57,532)	479,138	71,099	(1,712,884)	(1,952,858)
Internal Release from Reserves: Actual/Budgeted	659,336	112,804	170,751	730,801	517,000
Investment Inc: Actual/Budgeted	956,647	841,186	1,180,126	809,397	991,844
Net Income Before Unrealized Gains/Losses:	\$ 1,558,451	\$ 1,433,128	\$ 1,421,976	\$ (172,686)	\$ (444,014)



American Legion Auxiliary Foundation FY23 Budget Proposal

	FY22 Budget	FY23 Budget Proposal
Total Budgeted Revenue	\$517,789	\$578,195
Total Budgeted Expenses	\$545,229	\$566,224
Net Revenue Over (Under) Budgeted Expenses	(\$27,440)	\$11,971

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation FY22 Budget Narrative

Please note that Contributed Services and Gift-In-Kind (GIK) are those items provided by the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and are considered in-kind contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation (ALAF). It should be noted, therefore, that equal entries exist under both Revenues and Expenses for Contributed Services and Gift-In-Kind.

The process for the FY23 budget included the following steps:

- An initial proposed budget was developed by ALA staff based on historical information and volunteer vision for FY23.
- The information was presented to the current ALAF officers who, in collaboration with staff, adjusted numbers based on anticipated activities and goals.
- The proposed budget was then presented to the ALA Foundation Board for review.
- The ALAF Board approved the proposed budget.
- The ALAF Board-approved proposed budget was provided to the Auxiliary National Finance Committee for review.

Key areas of the proposed budget are:

- Increased emphasis on diversified fundraising efforts, including sponsorships and grant writing.
- Increase in subgrant monies in both revenue and expenses to reflect uptick in applications.
- Due to current market conditions, revenue for VCAF and VPF funds have been kept the same. The Mission Endowment Fund revenue has been decreased, as it was the focus for the National President’s project in FY22 and will not be in FY23.
- Increased funding to be set aside for Mission in Action grants, and contributions to ALA programs will include \$13,694 to ALA Girls Nation and \$45,000 to NVCAF.

Every consideration was given to providing sufficient funds to properly support the ALAF while reducing wherever possible the impact on the ALA budget.



American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

**Resolution of the National Executive Committee
National Board of Directors
September 1, 2022**

Verification of Corporate Officers

RESOLVED, that the following persons are elected/appointed to the office(s) indicated next to their names to serve until their successor(s) shall be duly elected or appointed, unless he or she resigns, is removed from office or is otherwise disqualified from serving as an officer of this corporation, to take their respective office(s) immediately upon such appointment:

National President	Victoria Koutz
National Vice President	Lisa Williamson
National Secretary	Coral May Grout
National Treasurer	Marybeth Revoir

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the officers of this corporation are, and each acting alone is, hereby authorized to do, perform and assign any and all such acts according to the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, particularly Bylaws Article III. Duties of Officers, and the adopted policies including ALA National Signature Authority Policy, as such officers shall deem necessary or advisable, to carry out the purposes and intent of the foregoing resolutions.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that any actions taken by such officers prior to the date of the foregoing resolution adopted hereby that are within the authority conferred thereby are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved as the acts and deeds of the corporation per the governing documents.

It is hereby certified by the undersigned that the foregoing resolution was duly passed by the National Executive Committee – Board of Directors of the above named corporation on the 1st day of September, 2022, in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation and the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules governing the American Legion Auxiliary and that the said resolution has been duly recorded in the minutes and is in full force and effect.

American Legion Auxiliary, Minutes Approval Committee – NEC Alaska

American Legion Auxiliary, Minutes Approval Committee – NEC Illinois

American Legion Auxiliary, Minutes Approval Committee – NEC Washington

Appendix D



2022 NATIONAL CONVENTION

**CONVENED AUGUST 29 – 31, 2022
IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

AWARDS

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022										COMMITTEE: AMERICANISM	
NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT						
Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Central Division	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Americanism program	David McNeill Unit 129	Iowa						
Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Eastern Division	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Americanism program	Claude R. Batchelder Unit 72	New Hampshire						
Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Northwestern Division	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Americanism program	Blackduck Unit 372	Minnesota						
Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Southern Division	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Americanism program	Hammond Veterans Memorial Unit 5	Louisiana						
Dorothy Pearl Most Outstanding Unit Americanism Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Western Division	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Americanism program	Elmore Unit 26	Idaho						
Best Department Americanism Program	Citation	Department Central Division	Best Department Americanism program in Division	Wisconsin							
Best Department Americanism Program	Citation	Department Eastern Division	Best Department Americanism program in Division	New York							
Best Department Americanism Program	Citation	Department Northwestern Division	Best Department Americanism program in Division	Wyoming							
Best Department Americanism Program	Citation	Department Southern Division	Best Department Americanism program in Division	Mississippi							
Best Department Americanism Program	Citation	Department Western Division	Best Department Americanism program in Division	California							
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Central Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Mallory Kelly	Indiana						
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Central Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Matthew Tolle	Wisconsin						
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Central Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Camryn Schwarz	Wisconsin						
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Central Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Addison Vowels	Indiana						
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Central Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Trevor Klein	Indiana						
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Central Division - Class VI	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Fiona E. Wendt	Wisconsin						
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Southern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Kaylei Reilman	Kentucky						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Southern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Anna Grace DeVries	Georgia						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Southern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Ivey Sparkman	Arkansas						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Southern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Danica Resha	Georgia						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Southern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Hailey Medina	Florida						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Southern Division - Class VI	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Layne Browning	Kentucky						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Eastern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Samina Rahman	Maryland						
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Eastern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Leigha Kretzer	Vermont						

Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Eastern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Carolyn Hughes	Maryland
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Eastern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Preksha Agarwal	New Jersey
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Eastern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Lauren Paxton	Pennsylvania
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Eastern Division - Class VI	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Joshua Pelonia	New York
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Northwestern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Tra Bauder	Wyoming
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Northwestern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Jace Lamoureux	Wyoming
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Northwestern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Carmen Katzenberger	Montana
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Northwestern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Karter Miller	South Dakota
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Northwestern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Erin Steen	South Dakota
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Northwestern Division - Class VI	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Teena Smith	Wyoming
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Western Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Alyssa Burgess	Utah
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Western Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Bryson Fleurkens	Washington
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Western Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Diora Montoya	New Mexico
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Western Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Hannah Barlow	Utah
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Western Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Hannah Sulger	Arizona
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & donation	Western Division - Class VI	Write a narrative 450-500 words.		None

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Unit	One unit contributing the largest amount (per capita)	Nelson County Unit 42	Kentucky
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation	Department	One department contributing largest amount (per capita)	Minnesota	Minnesota
Citation Recognition	Citation	Department	Department contributing largest amount	Delaware	Delaware

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY SERVICE

AWARDS LISTING: 2021 - 2022

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO	DEPARTMENT
Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall unit Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Ehrig-Mcturk Unit 127	Iowa
Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall unit Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Dupont Holmes Unit 82	New Hampshire
Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall unit Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Spearfish Unit 164	South Dakota
Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall unit Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Woods W. Lynch Unit 19	Texas
Most Outstanding Unit Community Service Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Western Division	Most outstanding overall unit Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Pasadena Unit 13	California
Best Department Community Service Program	Citation	A department in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall department Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Ohio	Ohio
Best Department Community Service Program	Citation	A department in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall department Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	New Hampshire	New Hampshire
Best Department Community Service Program	Citation	A department in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall department Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Nebraska	Nebraska
Best Department Community Service Program	Citation	A department in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall department Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Tennessee	Tennessee

AWARDS LISTING: 2021 - 2022

COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY SERVICE

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO	DEPARTMENT
Best Department Community Service Program	Citation	A department in the Western Division	Most outstanding overall department Community Service program in the Division during the administrative year.	Arizona	
Caregiver Appreciation Award	Citation	A member in the Central Division	A member in the Central Division who volunteers to help someone in the community or is the first to step up for a community project.	Mary Ann Dull	Ohio
Caregiver Appreciation Award	Citation	A member in the Eastern Division	A member in the Eastern Division who volunteers to help someone in the community or is the first to step up for a community project.	Pearl Wilson	New York
Caregiver Appreciation Award	Citation	A member in the Northwestern Division	A member in the Northwestern Division who volunteers to help someone in the community or is the first to step up for a community project.	Marion Melcher	Nebraska
Caregiver Appreciation Award	Citation	A member in the Southern Division	A member in the Southern Division who volunteers to help someone in the community or is the first to step up for a community project.	none	none
Caregiver Appreciation Award	Citation	A member in the Western Division	A member in the Western Division who volunteers to help someone in the community or is the first to step up for a community project.	Stephanie Ross	New Mexico

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Central Division	Most Outstanding unit Children & Youth program in the Central Division	Ceredo-Kenova Unit 93	West Virginia
Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding unit Children & Youth program in the Eastern Division	Dietrich-Luhman Unit 360 (Weatherly, PA)	Pennsylvania
Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding unit Children & Youth program in the Northwestern Division	Charles Adams/Robert Steirlen Unit #311	Minnesota
Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding unit Children & Youth program in the Southern Division	Port Charlotte Unit #110	Florida
Most Outstanding Unit Children & Youth Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	Most Outstanding unit Children & Youth program in the Western Division	E Unit Honolulu HI Unit #56	Hawaii
Best Department Children & Youth Program	Citation	A Department in the Central Division	Best overall department Children & Youth program in the Central Division	Iowa	Iowa
Best Department Children & Youth Program	Citation	A Department in the Eastern Division	Best overall department Children & Youth program in the Eastern Division	New York	New York
Best Department Children & Youth Program	Citation	A Department in the Northwestern Division	Best overall department Children & Youth program in the Northwestern Division	Minnesota	Minnesota
Best Department Children & Youth Program	Citation	A Department in the Southern Division	Best overall department Children & Youth program in the Southern Division	Texas	Texas
Best Department Children & Youth Program	Citation	A Department in the Western Division	Best overall department Children & Youth program in the Western Division	New Mexico	New Mexico

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Most Outstanding Unit Education Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Central Division	Most Outstanding unit Education program in the Central Division	Liberty Unit 289	Illinois
Most Outstanding Unit Education Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding unit Education program in the Eastern Division	Dietrich-Luhman Unit 360	Pennsylvania
Most Outstanding Unit Education Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding unit Education program in the Northwestern Division	Pleasant Dale Unit 354	Nebraska
Most Outstanding Unit Education Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding unit Education program in the Southern Division	Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233	Georgia
Most Outstanding Unit Education Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	Most Outstanding unit Education program in the Western Division	Walter "Ski" Gamulski Unit 482 - Connie Biggers	California
Best Department Education Program	Citation	A Department in the Central Division	Best overall department Education program in the Central Division	Michigan	
Best Department Education Program	Citation	A Department in the Eastern Division	Best overall department Education program in the Eastern Division	Maryland	
Best Department Education Program	Citation	A Department in the Northwestern Division	Best overall department Education program in the Northwestern Division	Colorado	
Best Department Education Program	Citation	A Department in the Southern Division	Best overall department Education program in the Southern Division	Virginia	
Best Department Education Program	Citation	A Department in the Western Division	Best overall department Education program in the Western Division	Washington	

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022

COMMITTEE: HISTORIAN

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Central Division	Sue Hembrook	Wisconsin
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Eastern Division	Gloria Morin	New Hampshire
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	Jean Horack	Minnesota
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	Sandi Schendel	Texas
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Western Division	Dorothy Hazen	New Mexico
Toomey Award	Engraved Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the overall best department history for 2018-2019.	Jean Horack	Minnesota
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Central Division	NA	
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Eastern Division	Elizabeth Alvarado	New Jersey
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	NA	
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	Reigan Coker	South Carolina
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Western Division	NA	

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022

COMMITTEE: JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Central Division	Most Outstanding unit Junior Activities program in the Central Division	Ehrig-McTurk Unit 127, Gladbrook IA	Iowa
Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding unit Junior Activities program in the Eastern Division	Andrea Caputi/Linda Clarke	New York
Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding unit Junior Activities program in the Northwestern Division	Marva Kasl	Nebraska
Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding unit Junior Activities program in the Southern Division	Hammond Veteran Memorial Unit 5	Louisiana
Most Outstanding Unit Junior Activities Program	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	Most Outstanding unit Junior Activities program in the Western Division		Alaska
Best Department Junior Activities Program	Citation	A Department in the Central Division	Best overall department Junior Activities program in the Central Division	Iowa	
Best Department Junior Activities Program	Citation	A Department in the Eastern Division	Best overall department Junior Activities program in the Eastern Division	Maryland	
Best Department Junior Activities Program	Citation	A Department in the Northwestern Division	Best overall department Junior Activities program in the Northwestern Division	Montana	
Best Department Junior Activities Program	Citation	A Department in the Southern Division	Best overall department Junior Activities program in the Southern Division	North Carolina	
Best Department Junior Activities Program	Citation	A Department in the Western Division	Best overall department Junior Activities program in the Western Division	California	
National Junior Member of the Year	Engraved Plaque	Junior Member in good standing for 2017-2018	Outstanding contribution to the American Legion Auxiliary by a Junior Member	Ava Groth	Pennsylvania
Junior Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	One Junior group (unit, district or department)	Best Media Coverage of an Activity or Project	Bev Johnson	Minnesota

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022

COMMITTEE: LEADERSHIP

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Central Division	Most Outstanding unit Leadership program in the Central Division	Ehrig-McTurk Unit 127	Iowa
Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding unit Leadership program in the Eastern Division	Lt. Roger P. Warfield Unit 373	Massachusetts
Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding unit Leadership program in the Northwestern Division	Spearfish Unit 164	South Dakota
Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding unit Leadership program in the Southern Division	Woods W. Lynch Unit 19	Texas
Most Outstanding Unit Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Western Division	Most Outstanding unit Leadership program in the Western Division	Gaines T Evans Unit 44	New Mexico
Best Department Leadership Program	Citation	A department in the Central Division	Best overall department Leadership program in the Central Division	Michigan	
Best Department Leadership Program	Citation	A department in the Eastern Division	Best overall department Leadership program in the Eastern Division	New York	
Best Department Leadership Program	Citation	A department in the Northwestern Division	Best overall department Leadership program in the Northwestern Division	Minnesota	
Best Department Leadership Program	Citation	A department in the Southern Division	Best overall department Leadership program in the Southern Division	Florida	
Best Department Leadership Program	Citation	A department in the Western Division	Best overall department Leadership program in the Western Division	Idaho	

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022

COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO	DEPARTMENT
Best Department Legislative Program	Citation	A department in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall department Legislative program	Ohio	Ohio
Best Department Legislative Program	Citation	A department in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall department Legislative program	Maine	Maine
Best Department Legislative Program	Citation	A department in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall department Legislative program	Colorado	Colorado
Best Department Legislative Program	Citation	A department in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall department Legislative program	Texas	Texas
Best Department Legislative Program	Citation	A department in the Western Division	Most outstanding overall department Legislative program	California	California
Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall unit Legislative program in the	Albert E. Baesel Unit 91	Ohio
Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall unit Legislative program in the	Napoleon Ouellette Unit 24	Maine
Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall unit Legislative program in the	Elysian Unit 311	Minnesota
Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall unit Legislative program in the	Jess Norman Unit 166	Arkansas
Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	A unit in the Western Division	Most outstanding overall unit Legislative program in the	Alpine Unit 258	California

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING
IA Unit #0346 Lament	MD Unit #0139 Baltimore	NC Unit #0143 Cherokee	OH UNIT #0147 Apple Creek
IA Unit #0352 Elgin	MD Unit #0233 Indian Head	NC Unit #0157 Raleigh	OH UNIT #0495 Belpre
IA Unit #0366 Lowden	ME Unit #0037 Thomaston	NC Unit #0159 Troy	OH UNIT #0553 Toledo
IA Unit #0387 Marble Rock	ME Unit #0059 Penbrooke	NC Unit #0209 Granite Falls	OH UNIT #0602 Roanoke
IA Unit #0431 Gowrie	ME Unit #0077 Lincoln	NC Unit #0233 Whiteville	OH UNIT #0651 Fredericksburg
IA Unit #0459 Armstrong	ME Unit #0139 Harrison	NC Unit #0240 Maiden	OH UNIT #0679 Baltic
IA Unit #0467 Spillville	ME Unit #0178 Winslow	NC Unit #0392 Hudson	OH UNIT #0680 Ney
IA Unit #0476 Doon	MI Unit #0020 Pontiac	NC Unit #0404 Elizabethtown	OH UNIT #0755 Sardinia
IA Unit #0494 Douds	MI Unit #0156 Montgomery	NC Unit #0436 Angier	OK UNIT #0027 Sallisaw
IA Unit #0502 Castana	MI Unit #0197 Harbor Beach	NC Unit #0522 Lewisville	OK UNIT #0046 Antlers
IA Unit #0523 Dows	MI Unit #0463 South Boardman	ND Unit #0070 Hutton	OK UNIT #0058 Guthrie
IA Unit #0578 Gravity	MN Unit #0082 Wamego	ND Unit #0148 Minor	OK UNIT #0073 Del City
IA Unit #0643 Windfield	MN Unit #0093 Rush City	ND Unit #0166 Walcott	OK UNIT #0136 Marietta
IA Unit #0661 Liberty Center	MN Unit #0115 Truman	ND Unit #0179 Milton	OK UNIT #0233 Briggs
IA Unit #0663 Urbandale	MN Unit #0278 Brandon	ND Unit #0227 Mountain	OK UNIT #0334 Ramona
IA Unit #0679 Palo	MN Unit #0313 Swanville	ND UNIT #0237 Adams	PA UNIT #0158 Lebanon
New Unit Award		AWARDED TO:	
\$25 Gift Certificate to Emblem Sales	Units that open a new Unit or recharter a Unit by July 31, 2022	MA #382 Robert I Nickerson	SC #175 Columbia
	Units	TX #319 Cotez/Norris	PA #294 Johnston
		IL # 391 Lombard	NJ #171 Henry Coppendale
		NC #454 Oak Island	NC #60 Henderson
		NY #175 Glenn Hoyer	TX #831 Jesse Samiripa
		NY #262 Murray-Trott	PR #66 Jose Alvarez Torres
		CT #1054 Peter Gallan	CA #227 Tustin
		NY #1532 Hamlin-Weldon	PA #92 Trevorton
		FL #239 Groveland Mascote Memorial	WI #12 Moe-Miller
		OK #192 Powell-Dodd-Johnson	MA #318 Quinsigamond Village
The Together We Serve Award	Plaque	AWARDED TO:	
	Department	Eastern	Membership Chair
		Central	NA
		Northwestern	Margaret "Maggie" Geiger
		Southern	Shelly McLachle
		Western	Candace Mabry
			Beth Beedle
10 New in 2022 Award	Gift	AWARDED TO:	
	ALA Members	ALA Unit #143	Jo Anne Cobb
		ALA Unit #332	Cynthia Howard
		Altee Dinkin	Deanna Bross
		Altee Odafler	Debbie Owens
		Alyce Ferrell	Deborah Bernosky
		Amber Nielsen	Deborah Ford-Bates
		Andrea Anderson	Deborah Foster
		Angela Clark	Deborah Young
		Angela Russell	Debra Asker
		Anita Davis	Debra Anderson
		Ann Fournier	Debra Lechowicz
		Ann Marie Cerone	Denise Person
		Assunta Sullivan	Denise Y anus
		Barbara Catts	Diane Reynolds
		Barbara Drennon	Diana McElroy
		Bethann Lynch	Donna Callahan
		Bernadette LaRoque	Donna Montell
		Beth Fullwood	Elizabeth Ferrell
		Bette McMarrow	Elizabeth Roberts
		Bobbi Renaghan	Elizabeth Zapf
		Bonnie Farmer	Emma Hstra-Schubert
		Brenda Miller	Erica Bailey
		Carol Worsham	Erm Hensel
		Carole Aldinger	Ethel Sousa
			Evangelina Duran
			Faye Ganoce
			Margarette Hestand
			Margaria Chacon
			Marin Larosa
			Marsha Giehls
			Mary Ann Ventulett
			Mary Lange
			Mary Pipe
			Mary Smith-Ried
			Maryann Minceo
			Mary-Ellen Crandall
			Maureen MacDonald
			Melinda Hackney
			Melissa Loya
			Michelle Johnson
			Michelle Jones
			Michelle Cebe
			Michelle Zankome
			Misty Jeffers
			Muriel Tucker
			Muried Leighton
			Nancy Robbins
			Nanette Mallonee
			Ortha Caloway-McGordon
			Patricia Burr
			Patricia Peck
			Sharon Fleming
			Sharon Voltz
			Sharon Morton
			Shelley Courter
			Sherr Stieger
			Sherry James
			Sherry Wilkerson
			Shirley Cannon Johnson
			Shirley Hobart
			Sonia Juarez
			Sue Cantrell
			Susan Laflamme
			Susan Panning
			Susan Peters
			Susan Wiener
			Suzanne Hogarth
			Sylvia Buxton
			Tammy Hall
			Tamula Ferguson

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING
Carolyn Goldsborough		Florida Smith	Patricia Wallace
Carolyn Sturdy		Gayle Morse	Paula Grimes
Cassandra Weiss		Halley Radtke	Penny Dry
Catharine Thomas		Helen Griego	Penny Wright
Cathy Griffith		Ivette Rodriguez-Vega	Rachel Jorich
Charlotte Bass		Jacqueline Rice	Rebecca Madden
Chelo Kavanagh		Jacqueline Romery	Rebecca Ruiz
Cherryl Ranta		Jane Bennett	Renee Lusby
Christal Duhon		Janet Elston	Rhonda Spear
Christine Anderson		Janice McCormack	Rhonda Brown
Christine Beits		Jayne McInosh	Richard Mungels
Christine Holt		Jenn Bennett	Rita Hart
Christine Trahan		Jean Wilson	Roberta Tucker
Chrystall Ferguson		Jeanette Roslie	Robin Airey
Clydene Schons		Jennifer Donohue	Robin Wilmer
Constance Reitzel		Jennifer Patterson	Rose Zinkiewicz
Corinna Colson		Jessica Lamparter	Rosemary Licarino
		Jessica Einhorst	Sabrina Melton
		Kensha Evrad	Teresa Townsend
		Kerri Berghold	Terry Koser
		Kimberly Philhart	Theresa Dickey
		Kimberly Rogowski	Tiffany Dixon
		Kimberly Smith	Tina Bauer
		Laura Tius	Tina Coday Townes
		Laurie Polo	Tina Haggerty
		Linda Buchl	Toni Falk
		Linda Campbell	Tyee Stokes
		Linda Rich	Vicky Cross
		Linda Troup	Viki Stoner
		Lisa Iskrie	Wanda Dearing
		Lisa Langevin	Wanda Moore
		Lisa McDaniel	Wendy Walters
		Lori Baumhoer	Whitney Dallaire
		Lou Isky	
		Lucinda Samasack	
		Margaret Vollmer	

COMMITTEE: NATIONAL SECURITY

TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO	DEPARTMENT
Citation	A department in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall department National Security program in the Division.	Gloria Verbecke	Department of Ohio
Citation	A department in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall department National Security program in the Division.	Linda Dupont	Department of New Hampshire
Citation	A department in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall department National Security program in the Division.	Elizabeth Paes	Department of Nebraska
Citation	A department in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall department National Security program in the Division.	Donna Dillard	Department of Texas
Citation	A department in the Western Division	Most outstanding overall department National Security program in the Division.	Dorothy Hazen	Department of New Mexico
Citation Plaque	A unit in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall unit National Security program in the Division.	Freedom Unit 182	Woodville, Ohio
Citation Plaque	A unit in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall unit National Security program in the Division.	Downey-Weaver Unit 34	Charlestown, Rhode Island
Citation Plaque	A unit in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall unit National Security program in the Division.	Spearfish Unit 164	Spearfish, South Dakota
Citation Plaque	A unit in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall unit National Security program in the Division.	Wood W Lynch Unit 19	Midland, Texas
Citation Plaque	A unit in the Western Division	Most outstanding overall unit National Security program in the Division.	Lakewood Unit 496	Lakewood, California

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPARTMENT
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Clementine Didier	Wisconsin
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Cody Sparks	Missouri
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Blanca Monroe	Illinois
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Emma Brandon	Illinois
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 10 & 11	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Meghan Brandon	Illinois
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Morgan Brandon	Illinois
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	A student in Special Education in Central Division	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Anna James	Wisconsin
Best Overall Poppy Poster	Citation	Best poster from all the Central Division Submissions	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Meghan Brandon	Illinois
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Noah Lauzon	Vermont
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Snow Lispegal	Maryland
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Zakyls Ford	New York
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Jositha Sripada	New Jersey
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 10 & 11	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Hailey Bilodeau	New Hampshire
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Emma Bolster	New Jersey
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	A student in Special Education in Eastern Division	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Autumn Harig	Pennsylvania
Best Overall Poppy Poster	Citation	Best poster from all the Eastern Division Submissions	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Hailey Bilodeau	New Hampshire
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Levi Taylor	Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Armani Stevenson	Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Nathan O'Malley	Minnesota
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Nicolette Nickeson	Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 10 & 11	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Alivia McCoy	Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Claire Moody	Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	A student in Special Education in Northwestern Division	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Sydnee Stoner	South Dakota
Best Overall Poppy Poster	Citation	Best poster from all the Northwestern Division Submissions	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Hannah Hofer	South Dakota
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Jedne Boxie	Arkansas
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Laila Brumidge	Tennessee
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Kathleen Augustine	Georgia
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Breanna Hoyle	Kentucky
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 10 & 11	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Avenlea Johnson	Texas
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on Criteria	None	None
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	A student in Special Education in Southern Division	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Lucas Clifford	Tennessee
Best Overall Poppy Poster	Citation	Best poster from all the Southern Division Submissions	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Bryson Brawner	Kentucky
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Ivani Requejo	New Mexico
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Lupita Anchondo	New Mexico
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Kale Griffiths	New Mexico
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Lustasha Bachicho	New Mexico
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 10 & 11	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Tazhia Bilyeu	New Mexico
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Evelyn Preciado	Idaho
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	A student in Special Education in Western Division	Judged by Department based on Criteria	J.J. Hubbard	New Mexico
Best Overall Poppy Poster	Citation	Best poster from all the Western Division Submissions	Judged by Department based on Criteria	Evelyn Preciado	Idaho
Little Miss Poppy Ages 6-12	Citation Plaque	Must be between the ages of 6-12 and a Junior Member of the American Legion Auxiliary	Narrative not to exceed 100 words on the "Memorial Poppy". Scrapbook submission containing photographs and clippings illustrating how the nominee promoted the Poppy program.	Allie Paige Haywood	Louisiana

Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program	Citation Plaque	Central Division Unit	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	Ceredo-Kenova Unit 93	West Virginia
Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Unit	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	Dietrich Luhman Unit 360	Pennsylvania
Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Unit	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	George A. Fitzgerald Unit 65	South Dakota
Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Unit	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	Woods W Lynch Unit 19	Texas
Most Outstanding Unit Poppy Program	Citation Plaque	Western Division Unit	One unit in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	C. Russell Huber Unit 57	Alaska
Best Department Poppy Program	Citation	Central Division Department	One department in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	Ohio	
Best Department Poppy Program	Citation	Eastern Division Department	One department in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	New York	
Best Department Poppy Program	Citation	Northwestern Division Department	One department in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	Nebraska	
Best Department Poppy Program	Citation	Southern Division Department	One department in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	Texas	
Best Department Poppy Program	Citation	Western Division Department	One department in each division that reports the most outstanding Poppy program	California	

AWARDS LISTING: 2021-2022

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC RELATIONS

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	Unit	DEPARTM	PRESENTED TO:
ALA Brand Ambassador	Citation + Pin	One member in each department	Excellence in showcasing ALA's unique branding	Tracy Kinnick	424	Kansas	Tracy Kinnick
ALA Brand Ambassador	Citation + Pin	One member in each department	Excellence in showcasing ALA's unique branding	Trina Stark	53	Arizona	Trina Stark
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Dept.	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Central Div	Most outstanding overall public relations program	None submitted			None submitted
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Dept.	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Eastern Div	Most outstanding overall public relations program	New York		NY	Colleen A. McDaniels
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Dept.	Citation	A Department Chairman in the North Western Div	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Minnesota		MN	Karla Minnick
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Dept.	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Southern Div	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Florida		FL	Lisa Hoyland
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Dept.	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Western Div	Most outstanding overall public relations program	None submitted			None submitted
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Unit	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Created the three best media resources	Unit 18	18	IN	Unit 18
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Unit	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the North Western Div	Created the three best media resources	Unit 79	79	MN	Unit 79
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Unit	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Div	Created the three best media resources	Unit 19	19	TX	Unit 19
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Unit	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Western Div	Created the three best media resources	Big Pine Glacier Unit 457	457	CA	Big Pine Glacier Unit 457
Outstanding Public Relations Program Award – Unit	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Div	Created the three best media resources	Eastern-Halstead-Great Bend Unit 357	357	PA	Eastern-Halstead-Great Bend Unit
Unit New website or social media	Citation	Unit	Any unit that developed a new website or social media launch	Unit 444 Gains T. Evans	444	NM	Unit 444 Gains T. Evans

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO	DEPARTMENT
Best Department VA&R Program	Citation	Department in Central Division	Best department VA&R program	Michigan	
Best Department VA&R Program	Citation	Department in Eastern Division	Best department VA&R program	Maine	
Best Department VA&R Program	Citation	Department in Northwestern Division	Best department VA&R program	Colorado	
Best VA&R Department Program	Citation	Department in Southern Division	Best department VA&R program	Tennessee	
Best VA&R Department Program	Citation	Department in Western Division	Best department VA&R program	Alaska	
Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Central Division	Most outstanding Unit VA&R program	Liberty Unit 289	Illinois
Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Eastern Division	Most outstanding Unit VA&R program	Downey-Weaver Unit 34	Rhode Island
Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Northwestern Division	Most outstanding Unit VA&R program	Spearfish Unit 164	South Dakota
Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Southern Division	Most outstanding Unit VA&R program	Woods W. Lynch Unit 19	Texas
Most Outstanding Unit VA&R Program	Citation Plaque	Unit in Western Division	Most outstanding Unit VA&R program	Art Semro Unit 28	Washington
VA&R Volunteer of the Year Award	Citation \$500 donation to VCAF or VA Facility of winner's choice	A Regularly Scheduled VA&R Volunteer	Nomination through Department Chairman or Hospital Director. Be in an established VA&R assignment.	Dortha Parsons	West Virginia