



## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

American Legion Auxiliary  
Eighty-ninth National Convention

August 24-27, 2009  
Louisville, Kentucky



**American Legion Auxiliary  
National Officers  
2008-2009**

**National President**

Desireé Stoy, Department of Ohio

**National Vice President**

Rita Navarreté, Department of New Mexico

**Division National Vice Presidents**

*Central:* Virginia Kodl, Department of Wisconsin

*Eastern:* Mary Ann Ventulett, Department of Massachusetts

*Northwestern:* Thelma Fueller, Department of North Dakota

*Southern:* Nancy Jordan, Department of South Carolina

*Western:* Josephine Keanu, Department of Hawaii

**National Chaplain**

Cherita Potter, Department of Oregon

**National Historian**

Marian Webster, Department of Michigan

**National Secretary**

Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, Department of Indiana

**National Treasurer**

Marta Hedding, Department of Indiana

## MEMBERS PRESENT

### PRE-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2009

#### National Officers

National President.....	Desireé Stoy
National Vice President.....	Rita Navarreté
Central Division National Vice President.....	Virginia Kodl
Eastern Division National Vice President.....	Mary Ann Ventulett
Northwestern Division National Vice President.....	Thelma “Tootie” Fueller
Southern Division National Vice President.....	Nancy Jordan
Western Division National Vice President.....	Josephine Keanu
National Chaplain.....	Cherita Potter
National Historian.....	Marian “Pic” Webster
National Secretary.....	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer.....	Marta Hedding

#### Past National Presidents

Pearl M. Behrend  
Linda Boone  
Linda Newsome  
Syble Deshotel  
Phyllis Bachman  
Barbara Kranig  
Virginia Hobbs  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Kristine West  
Sherry McLaughlin  
Elsie Bailey  
Katherine Morris  
Sandi Dutton  
Carol Van Kirk  
JoAnn Cronin  
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan

#### National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama.....	Versie Rutherford
Alaska.....	Betty Randall
Arizona.....	Barbara Matteson
Arkansas.....	Mary Alice Graham
California.....	Shelby Hitch
Colorado.....	Pat Steranka
Connecticut.....	Doris Lafontaine
Delaware.....	Darleen Strayer

District of Columbia .....	-
Florida .....	Linda Teasley
Georgia .....	Dot Thornton
Hawaii .....	Laura Hashimoto
Idaho .....	Beckie Hanni
Illinois .....	Louise Jones
Indiana .....	Judith Butler
Iowa .....	Norma Hawkins
Kansas .....	La Veta Miller
Kentucky .....	Pamela Rice
Louisiana .....	Maggie Watts
Maine .....	Charlotte Wing
Maryland .....	Catherine Wheeler
Massachusetts .....	Cynthia Johnson-Smith
Michigan .....	Deb Meskill
Minnesota .....	Marie Goede
Mississippi .....	Madeline Vuncannon
Missouri .....	Kathy Petterson
Montana .....	Barbara Monroe
Nebraska .....	Gayla Schmid
Nevada .....	Nancy Michalski
New Hampshire .....	Harriet Lemery
New Jersey .....	Dolores Gonzalez
New Mexico .....	Beverly Miller
New York .....	Carol Johnson
North Carolina .....	Joyce Willis
North Dakota .....	Charlotte Lassonde
Ohio .....	Carol Robinson
Oklahoma .....	Sue Heil
Oregon .....	Ellie Buell
Pennsylvania .....	Delphine Strine
Philippines .....	-
Puerto Rico .....	Maria Vazquez
Rhode Island .....	Cathleen Camire
South Carolina .....	Dot Tunstall
South Dakota .....	Lila Speckels
Tennessee .....	Jo Bridges
Texas .....	Charlie Collins-Dew
Utah .....	Debra Swafford
Vermont .....	-
Virginia .....	Pat Lambert-Knight
Washington .....	Eva Wallace
West Virginia .....	Heather Fauble
Wisconsin .....	Rose Wenger
Wyoming .....	Peggy Miller

## MEMBERS PRESENT

### POST-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2009

#### National Officers

National President.....	Rita Navarreté
National Vice President.....	Carlene Ashworth
Central Division National Vice President.....	Norma Swanson
Eastern Division National Vice President.....	Barbara Golde
Northwestern Division National Vice President.....	Joyce Babcock
Southern Division National Vice President.....	Lynda Horton-Turk
Western Division National Vice President.....	Peggy Brown
National Chaplain.....	Beverly Wolff
National Historian.....	Joyce Arent
National Secretary.....	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer.....	Marta Hedding

#### Past National Presidents

Pearl M. Behrend  
Linda Boone  
Linda Newsome  
Syble Deshotel  
Phyllis Bachman  
Barbara Kranig  
Virginia Hobbs  
Kristine West  
Sherry McLaughlin  
Elsie Bailey  
Katherine Morris  
Sandi Dutton  
Carol Van Kirk  
JoAnn Cronin  
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan

#### National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama.....	Versie Rutherford
Alaska.....	Lisa Williamson
Arizona.....	Vickey Zwall
Arkansas.....	Rose Weiss
California.....	LuAnn Capazzi
Colorado.....	Chris Harvey
Connecticut.....	Karen L. Thompson
Delaware.....	Helen Skelton
District of Columbia.....	Rebekah Newkirk

Florida .....	Kathee Coughlin
Georgia .....	Gloria Johnston
Hawaii .....	-
Idaho .....	Pearl Bentley
Illinois .....	Carollee Junge
Indiana .....	Shirley Firkins
Iowa .....	Virginia Carter
Kansas .....	Myrna Rogers
Kentucky .....	Virginia Ann Betsekas
Louisiana .....	Mary Henry
Maine .....	Donna Greenlaw
Maryland .....	Rusty Beeg
Massachusetts .....	MaryEllen Morissette
Michigan .....	Suzanne Knapp
Minnesota .....	Carol Barbknecht
Mississippi .....	Nancy Sanders
Missouri .....	Rosemarie Hauck
Montana .....	Janet Weaver
Nebraska .....	Marva Kasl
Nevada .....	Betty Sherwood
New Hampshire .....	Bonnie Knapp
New Jersey .....	Lynda Stadler
New Mexico .....	Cathy King
New York .....	Susan Britton
North Carolina .....	Beverly Waller
North Dakota .....	Carrie Heinz
Ohio .....	Cyndi Underwood
Oklahoma .....	Gwenell Knight
Oregon .....	Cyndi Dahl
Pennsylvania .....	-
Philippines .....	-
Puerto Rico .....	-
Rhode Island .....	Cathleen Camire
South Carolina .....	Catherine Gibbs
South Dakota .....	Sherry Woltjer
Tennessee .....	Linda Campbell
Texas .....	Mickie Prendergast
Utah .....	Georgia Engelbrecht
Vermont .....	-
Virginia .....	Patricia Upshaw
Washington .....	Dee Caughlin
West Virginia .....	Roxie Nicholson
Wisconsin .....	Sue Vorwald
Wyoming .....	Shareen Johnson

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*Saturday, August 22, 2009*

**PRE-CONVENTION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2009**

(Whereupon, the meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** This is one of those microphones that has to be like right here and my script is out here and so I beg your indulgence this morning.

This National Executive Committee will now come to order. I would ask that you please disable all electronic devices, and place them in silent mode. Please rise. I'll give you a moment to do that because I see a lot of people reaching and which in fact I probably should do, also.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please rise, and remain standing for our Opening Ceremonies.

*(Three bells)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Cherita Potter, the National Chaplain, will lead us in our invocation and a moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those serving our nation today for the protection of our freedom.

Cherita.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Good morning. Let us begin with a moment of silence.

*(Moment of silence)*

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Good morning, Lord. We thank you for being here with us this morning and bringing us once together again.

Inspire us with a renewed enthusiasm for our programs and the ability to move forward with our busy schedule.

Prepare our minds for action and guide us in our deliberations.

Help us to act in the best interest of our members and our organization. Help us to think as mentors and truly work as a team.

We continue to pray for our troops as they continue to defend us and protect us with faithfulness.

Instill in them faith, hope and love and administer to their spirits.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Cherita.

The Americanism Chairman, Coral May Grout, will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Nancy Brown-Park leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution.

*(The Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution are performed in sequence.)*

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** 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.

*(The National Anthem is sung)*

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** 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 the 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 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.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You may be seated.

*(One bell)*

This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened.

Greetings to you, and welcome to Louisville. It is hard to believe, but here we are in Louisville, Kentucky, about to begin our 89<sup>th</sup> Convention. We have much to celebrate.

It is so great to see each of you again. I had the opportunity as I traveled across America to spend time with most of you. It is good to see you again.

Each of you are charged with the responsibility to document your attendance at this meeting. Attendance sheets are provided for your convenience. Please indicate your attendance in the appropriate spot. These sheets will be collected at the close of this meeting.

I also want to announce before we begin our business—I want to remind you that anyone wishing to speak is first asked to make their way to a microphone in the center aisle, as this is the only way your remarks can be correctly recorded by our recorder for transcripts of this meeting.

And I know that (Unintelligible) has volunteered to try to get the microphone in case it becomes cumbersome, so thanks.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Rita Navarreté, the National Vice President.

*(Applause)*

Virginia Kodl, Central Division National Vice President.

Mary Ann Ventulett, the Eastern Division.

*(Applause)*

Thelma “Tootie” Fueller, the Northwestern Division National Vice President.

*(Applause)*

Nancy Jordan, Southern Division National Vice President.

*(Applause)*

Josephine Keanu, Western Division National Vice President.

*(Applause)*

Cherita Potter, the National Chaplain.

*(Applause)*

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Marian “Pic” Webster, the National Historian.

*(Applause)*

Mary “Dubbie” Buckler, the National Secretary.

*(Applause)*

Marta Hedding, the National Treasurer.

*(Applause)*

Chris Dickey, the Convention Parliamentarian.

*(Applause)*

Now I have the pleasure to introduce to you the personal Pages of this National President.

Jane Domer, Personal Page.

*(Applause)*

Kathy Heichel, Personal Page

*(Applause)*

Barb Britton, Personal Page

*(Applause)*

Dianne Long, Personal Page.

*(Applause)*

These gals, as you might have guessed, hail from the great state of Ohio.

*(Applause)*

Would the Past National Presidents please stand for recognition?

*(Applause)*

Thank you. Thank you for your attendance and your support throughout the year.

We will be utilizing a consent agenda in lieu of multiple motions to handle many of the basic business items.

These items are listed on your agenda and include the approval of the proceedings from the February 28 through March 1, 2009, NEC Meeting and the Charter cancellations since March of 2009.

You received information on each of these items prior to this meeting and any updates on your chair this morning.

The consent agenda will work as follows: The Chair will entertain a motion to adopt all items as presented with no discussion necessary.

If a member wishes to discuss any of the items or make corrections to an item, the Chair will entertain a motion to remove that item from the consent agenda prior to voting.

Voting on the consent agenda will then proceed and then the item removed from the consent agenda will be handled separately.

Please remember that in order to have your motions and all that you say goes on record, you must approach the microphone and state your names.

The Chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the consent agenda or to remove an item from the list.

**MS. STRAYER:** I make a motion that we accept--

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please--

**MS. STRAYER:** Oh, I'm sorry. Darleen Strayer, Department of Delaware.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That's fine.

**MS. STRAYER:** I apologize. Darleen Strayer, Department of Delaware.

I make a motion that we accept the consent agenda.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** There has been a motion to accept the consent agenda. Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any discussion?

*(No response)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All in favor to accept the consent agenda say "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed, no?

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That motion is passed and we have accepted the consent agenda. Thank you.

The Chair calls upon National Finance Chairman, Linda Boone, for a report.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** My job today here is to give you an update on the budget that you adopted a year ago and where we are.

We're just finishing the end of July, and so we have two more months to go before the books are closed for the fiscal year. But I thought I would bring you up to date on where we are as of ten months into the year's budget.

And I'm going to give you some facts and you may want to write these down and you may not want to. It's just sort of how you want to report back.

In terms of income, our total budget for the year was that we anticipated getting in \$7.6 million. And the year-to-date budget is--would have been by now, we would--we anticipated getting in \$7 million. That was what we planned. Okay. The actual to-date is \$6.2 million.

So we're about \$850 thousand under our anticipated year-to-date income level. Eight hundred fifty thousand dollars.

Investments is a category where we took the biggest hit, obviously, because of the world economy. We have bounced back a little bit and we've recovered some of that, but we're not going to recover all of it for a good long time.

Contributions are down by 20 percent. That's had a big impact. The Veterans' Creative Arts Festival for instance and donations in general. So that's an area that has impacted our total income.

So being down in income we needed to cut expenses and that's where I credit the National President and the National Secretary for managing so well to try to control expenses and minimize the impact of the lost income.

So for expenses, for FY 09, the total budget we expected to spend \$7.6 million and the year-to-date budget is \$6.2, that's what we expected to spend by this time. Not what we actually did, but what we expected to spend; \$6.2.

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So it will make sense when I give you the next number.

So the actual year-to-date is \$4.5 million. So that's \$1.7 million under budget that your leadership has controlled.

*(Applause)*

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** One of the other areas that we need to update you on is the reserve fund. Remember reserve funds are the ones that you voted on that accompanied the budget and those are the items that out of all of our surplus money we put them in special funds designating them that we want to spend it on like, histories and those kinds of things. And because we don't know when the expenses are going to come it is hard to budget them. So we put them in a special fund so that they'll be available when we need to use them.

So sometimes they stay there for several years and then we rebalance and those kinds of things. But so far this year I wanted to give you an update on the reserves that you had designated.

The National History Reserve, its current balance is \$22,549.00. And we've spent \$350.00 this year on that.

The Office Equipment Reserve Fund is \$25,000 and we have not spent anything out of that this year.

The Contingency Fund balance was \$50,000 at the beginning of the year and we have not spent any of that.

The Technology Fund, that's our big account because remember we moved quite a bit of money in there to take care of the new membership database system that we're inputting and the new Web site that's being built for us.

So the beginning balance was \$900 and, almost \$953,000, and the balance right now is about \$377,000.

Obviously that project has been going on and we've been spending money as the project progresses.

Maintenance and Improvements, we had a reserve of \$50,000 and we have not spent any money out of that either.

Professional Services, this would be like for professional legal advice if we needed it or kinds of consulting or something. Our reserve was set at \$150,000 and we have not used any of that fund either.

Marketing milestone events such as our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary that's coming up, those kinds of things. We started the year with \$50,000 in the reserve and we have not spent any as yet.

Strategic Planning. We started out the year at almost \$127,000 and we spent \$5,100.00. So we're now at about \$122,000.

The National President's Scholarship Fund. That reserve was set at \$30,000 and we have spent about \$19,000. So that balance is \$11,000.

So the current balance of the reserves, we started the year at almost \$1.5 million in total in the reserves. And we're ending the year with about \$857,000 in the total reserves of our total funds that are reserved for special things.

Are there any questions about that?

*(No verbal response)*

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay. That ends my report, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Chairman Boone.

As you may recall at the last NEC Meeting we discussed the Philippines as a Department of the Western Division and the staff was charged with doing some research on that particular topic for this particular meeting.

So the Chair calls upon National Treasurer Marta Hedding to report the staff findings.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Thanks, Madam President.

As reported during the March 2009 National Executive Committee Meeting, the National President requested that National Headquarters conduct research to address inquiries about the Department of Philippines.

The primary concerns had to do with the Philippines complying with standing rules, following instructions, and meeting deadlines, that they weren't transferring membership on a timely basis, they had not submitted the listing of officers and committee chairmen by the deadline, and the problems with communications. The correspondence the Philippines reported sending to National Headquarters was not reaching National Headquarters, and that the Philippines' officers were not responding to correspondence sent by members of the National Membership Committee, the Western Division or National Headquarters.

There is also concern as to why the Philippines was not a foreign unit.

At the time of the March meeting we had no conclusive finding regarding the accuracy or receipt of communications and reports; consequently we began an email campaign.

Email correspondence was determined to be the most effective means of communication given the time lag between the United States and the Philippines as well as the apparent inefficiencies in mail service in the Philippines.

The purpose of the email campaign was to verify that we had the correct email addresses, that they were being delivered and that we could get a response back, to advise them of concerns that the National Headquarters was attempting to address and to collect their input.

So we wanted sure that they were aware that we were addressing these things.

And to repeat instructions for transmitting membership dues, submitting officer and chairmen lists, and the requirement for convention delegates.

A total of six emails were sent to the president with a copy to the department secretary of record. To the first email sent by three separate individuals at National Headquarters, the president responded to one individual. She confirmed that we indeed had her correct email address.

The committee drafted four more emails which were sent to the department president with a copy to the department secretary. She responded to two: one via an email and one via U.S. mail.

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Although not all the questions and requests referenced in the six emails were addressed, we were able to confirm that emails were being delivered and received, and that at least during the last several months the lack of response did not appear to be a problem with email or U.S. mail.

Our research also revealed that over the last 12 years the Philippines have been represented at less than 55 percent of National Executive Committee Meetings. That's the highest absentee rate of any other department.

After consultation with the National President, other national leaders, and members of the Western Division, National Headquarters concurs that the best course of action is to make consistent the organizational structure of members living in the foreign countries, and that the organizational structure of the Department of Philippines be changed to Philippines Foreign Unit.

Madam President that concludes this update report.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Marta.

The Chair recognizes Josephine Keanu.

**MS. KEANU:** Madam President, I will now read the resolution proposed by the Division.

The subject: Department of the Philippines Members' Status, dated July 29, 2009.

WHEREAS, This inconsistency in how the members of the American Legion Auxiliary living in foreign countries are organized and classified; and

WHEREAS, Members in all foreign countries except for the Philippines are organized and classified as foreign units reporting to the department of the foreign units assigned in the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, and reporting to the National Secretary; and

WHEREAS, The Department of the Philippines is a sole exception to the prevailing structure of foreign units; and

WHEREAS, An extensive study was conducted by a committee assembled by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters in 2009 to address the concerns regarding the inconsistency and organizational structure as well as the historical practices and difficulties with the accountability and communication experience between the Department of the Philippines, and the Western Division, as well as with the National Headquarters; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the national organization take action to make it consistent that the organizational structure of all members living in foreign countries; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, That the organizational status of the Department of the Philippines, be changed to the Philippines Foreign Unit and that its existing units accordingly to be changed to subunits in accordance with predating membership practice and that in accordance with these changes the Department of the Philippines be removed from the Western Division and be reclassified as a foreign unit within the Department of the Foreign Units; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Membership Chairman of the American Legion Auxiliary, provide guidance to enhance and promote the goals of membership and accuracy in reporting membership within the Department; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, That the Philippines Foreign Unit and National Headquarters foster a working relationship that promotes the aims and purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary; and, be it, finally

RESOLVED, That by the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee and at its regular meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 22, 2009, that the national organization execute the change in status removing the Department of the Philippines from the Western Division, and reclassifying it as the Philippines' Foreign Unit within the Department of Foreign Units as National Headquarters effective with the 2010-2011 Auxiliary Year.

We move for the adoption of this resolution.

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Josephine.

It has been moved and seconded to adopt this resolution.

Now the Chair can read the resolution to you in its entirety again or with your consent we will move forward to receive this resolution. What is--do I have your consent?

**AUDIENCE:** Consent.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Maryland.

**DELAGATE WHEELER:** Maryland. Yes. Catherine Wheeler, Delegate from the Department of Maryland. I just have one question.

Madam President, does The American Legion consider this a foreign unit?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Oh, as far as--you mean as a post?

**DELAGATE WHEELER:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Legion's standpoint?

**DELAGATE WHEELER:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I don't know the answer to that question. The Philippines has several--it's part of--it is a Department. Okay.

To answer your question a research of the staff was done, and yes, it is considered a Department of The American Legion, but they have several foreign departments, where we have one.

**DELEGATE WHEELER:** Okay. Just the one. Okay. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Was their structure?

**DELEGATE WHEELER:** Okay. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Any other questions, or discussion?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** All in favor of adopting the resolution reclassifying the Department of the Philippines as a foreign unit say, “aye”.

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Those opposed, no.

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You have adopted this resolution.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any other business to come before this meeting?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Madam President?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes National Vice President Rita Navarreté.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Madam President, I move the adoption of the following resolution relating to: Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary desires to continue its contractual relationship with the Corporation for National and Community Service, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary in regular meeting assembled in Louisville, Kentucky on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2009, that the entry into the Memorandum of Understanding with the Corporation for National and Community Service is hereby ratified and approved and all actions taken pursuant thereto are hereby ratified and approved.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We’ve heard a motion, is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I’m sorry.

**AUDIENCE:** I seconded it.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The motion has been moved and seconded, to accept the ratification of the Memorandum for Understanding with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Again the Chair asks if can read the resolution as entirety, but since you have received in advance, so with your consent I will not. Do I have your consent?

**AUDIENCE:** Consent.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. So you’ve heard the motion, is there discussion?

**DELEGATE WALLACE:** Madam President, oh, Vice President, excuse me.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Excuse me, Eva. Before I recognize you to speak, the person who made the motion has the first opportunity to speak.

So if Rita has something she would like to say, the Chair recognizes Rita.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay and I sure do.

This resolution ratifies the Memorandum of Understanding between the American Legion Auxiliary and the Corporation of National and Community Service that was signed on stage before the 2008 Convention body with much fanfare, and without objections. It was a great moment of celebration.

To insure and affirm the partnership, this resolution ratifies that contract.

As you are hopefully aware, great things have happened since we signed the agreement in front of everyone at last year's convention.

On Monday, Miss America will join us on stage as we welcome and swear in 17 Volunteers In Service To America who has been assigned by the Corporation to the American Legion Auxiliary for one year of service to help us grow our capacity, to attract and to engage new volunteers.

The Corporation for National and Community Service underwrites the VISTA Project, which is a half million dollars of human resources, plus \$83,000 in funding.

Therefore, Madam President, I am delighted that the resolution has been put into motion.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Rita.

The Chair recognizes Eva from the Department of Washington.

**DELEGATE WALLACE:** Thank you. Thank you, Madam President. I just had an opportunity to spend three days doing the VISTA onsite supervisor training, and I'm very excited about this program. It is a real opportunity to enhance our department and unit service to veterans, to our communities, get our Juniors involved with our veterans' programs and to find ways to help our young military families.

I truly think we have been given a very special opportunity and I hope that you vote in favor of this resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Eva.

The Chair recognizes Sandi Dutton.

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton, Past National President.

I have major concerns about the Memorandum of Understanding because I don't understand what we're doing. I don't see in the resolution exactly what that is.

It also concerns me that at last year's convention, and I have the notes from the convention, we were promised that there would be no funds spent and that it was just a Memorandum of Understanding and now all of a sudden things have progressed and all of it was done without--or maybe it was done with someone's approval. I don't know.

But I think it's wrong that it comes back to NEC now for approval on what we've done for the last year.

We have spent money. We have sent staff to various meetings and whatever, and who authorized that? You're the governing body, you are the ones who authorize, and I don't think you ever authorized that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Texas.

**DELEGATE DEW:** Charlie Dew, the Delegate from Texas.

I have a question. On the training, does it cost the Auxiliary any funds?

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**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** No, the grant was separate and it was paid by the federal government. The funds did not come from the American Legion Auxiliary.

**DELEGATE DEW:** Okay. Any of the training that -- well see Texas doesn't have the VISTA, and so I'm not real familiar with it, so can you explain a little bit to me.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay.

**DELEGATE DEW:** Someone?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I will yield to someone; otherwise I will go ahead and answer that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Dubbie Buckler for further clarification.

**DELEGATE DEW:** Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** That's fine.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you, Madam President and Madam Vice President.

With a show of hands how many Departments who are represented here will be receiving a VISTA member?

*(Hands rose)*

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** There are two activities and I will try and separate what's happened, because I was not here last year.

But before the Convention body with great fanfares, I understand, the Memorandum for Understanding between the Corporation for National and Community Service and the American Legion Auxiliary was signed. It was signed on stage before the Convention body.

Since then, we have had the opportunity to receive a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The grant is a separate activity. It is a separate action. It is a separate contract, if you will, awarding the American Legion Auxiliary 20 VISTA members.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, i.e., the federal government, underwrites their living expenses, underwrites all the training for the VISTA members, underwrites all the training for the National Headquarters' staff, and the department representatives who are serving as supervisors for the VISTA members.

VISTA is Volunteers In Service To America. These individuals commit one year of voluntary service to the United States for particular programs, and they can choose from a variety of VISTA projects.

It is tandem out to the Peace Corps except it is a domestic program.

So if you are familiar with the Peace Corps, Volunteers In Service To America is the domestic counterpart of the Peace Corps.

The VISTA members will make a one-year commitment to the organization. That equates to one half million dollars in human resources being received by the American Legion Auxiliary, eight VISTA volunteers at National Headquarters and 12 out among our Departments.

Supervisors for the VISTA members are trained by the Corporation for National and Community Service which arranges and underwrites all that training including transportation, lodging.

So there is no expense at all involved by National Headquarters. There were no expenditures at all from National Headquarters to implement this grant. And if any of you are familiar with grants it is very unusual to get a grant where you do not have to provide matching dollars. I see a lot of heads nodding. This was indeed quite an unusual exception.

It is very exciting. The American Legion Auxiliary is one of five organizations in the United States that has been selected for this special partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service for this special VISTA outreach project that is funded entirely from the recently passed, Recovery Act.

Normally a VISTA grant would require matching funds. This one does not. I need to repeat that because that is indeed very, very special.

As a result of this we are now the premier partner that would be the sole veterans' organization in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service. We are one of five national projects that Congress will be watching.

This is indeed a significant incentive, and we are very, very fortunate that we have been selected to be the veterans' service organization of choice. The sole veterans' service organization partnering with the program of National and Community Service for this special outreach targeted to alleviate poverty, and endangerment of poverty among veterans.

If the VISTA project will enact things that you have already spent a great deal of time developing as plans for your organization, things that are in strategic plans, things that are in plans of action, former plans of work regarding membership growth regarding outreach service to veterans.

One of the things that hopefully you will notice in looking through your program is that if you look at the trend lines you will see that the membership numbers for the American Legion Auxiliary are not headed in the direction that you want them to go, and you all know the adage, if you keep going in the direction you're heading, you will get where you're going, so one of the important elements of this is that the Corporation for National and Community Service recognizes the volunteer hours that have historically been delivered by the American Legion Auxiliary to serve veterans.

They want us to grow our capacity to do more in Volunteer Service to America. If we succeed at this, we are then poised to receive future grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service, future VISTA members who will volunteer a year of their service to help us grow our capacity and deliver our mission. And we will become, if you will, a broker veteran service organization for other veteran service organizations that might also, in the future, want a VISTA volunteer.

The Corporation does not want to engage in a partnership with a number of veterans service organizations; they want this to be an exclusive

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partnership with the American Legion Auxiliary. I don't need to tell you what would be behind that thinking. If you look at all the veterans service organizations which one has the most people going out doing most of God's work at the ground-level; oh, wouldn't that be the women.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The American Legion Auxiliary.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** The American Legion Auxiliary --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** --By Jove, I think it would be.

*(Laughter)*

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** And that's exactly what the Corporation for National and Community Service recognized.

One of our champions to receive this special grant is Theresa Long. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and she also is one of the department or state directors for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

My understanding is that this has been long in coming and that we are very fortunate that because we had the Memorandum of Understanding that we indeed receive this grant.

They are two separate actions, but in looking back, I recognized it was not passed by the NEC, so, therefore this hopefully clarifies and ratifies everything that pertains to this because it is so important to the future of the Auxiliary.

Thank you, Madam President and Madam Vice President.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Delegate from Texas, does that answer your question?

**DELEGATE DEW:** Yes, ma'am, thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are there any other comments or questions?

The Chair recognizes Carol Van Kirk.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** Madam President, I have one question. Has the contract already been signed?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the convention floor in 2008.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** But you've proceeded with this training and everything without having signed another contract?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I have not signed a contract. It was a gift to us. Yes, an interview to that grant.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** Well my concern is on the last line of it. Well first of all, there is no language that actually describes what this covers. But the fact that the last line says: And all actions taken pursuant thereto, are hereby gratified and approved.

It seems to me that that is giving permission to go forward with anything that the president or the secretary or whoever deems you should, as opposed to having the NEC still have a voice.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Well this is seeking their voice now so that we can move forward, and the language as written on the advice of legal counsel.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** Well usually I thought a memorandum of understanding stated what the intent was for the memorandum. You know this has no language in it like that, so that would be a concern of mine. And when it says, "and all actions taken pursuant thereto," leaves it pretty open.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you for your comments and Carol; again I reiterate that the language used here in this resolution is on advice of our legal counsel.

Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on the resolution?

The Chair recognizes Sandi Dutton.

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton.

I don't know; I'm not a lawyer, but I'm a person that has a mind of my own, and I don't think that's a good ending, and I don't think you should commit the organization to whatever anybody wants to do for the rest of their lives. I mean, this is crazy.

You guys need to take control. You are the governing body. You need to be the ones to say yes or no. You need to know. Don't you wonder why they went ahead with all of this without asking your approval? I mean, why didn't they ask you? Emails and faxes are now acceptable, you voted on that last year. It had to cost money. Maybe it didn't cost dollars, but when you send staff for three days or six days or however long they went, I'm assuming we still paid your salaries. So there is money involved.

They didn't ask your permission and now they're coming back and asking your permission now and saying for the rest of the days, this is what's going to happen. We don't even know what's going to happen.

So I encourage you, to either vote, no, or to have things clarified and make sure you know what you're doing because you're committing the Organization forever.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Anyone else who wishes to speak on the issue?

The Chair recognizes Chairman Coral May Grout.

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** Thank you, Madam President.

I'm a professional grant writer and I think one of the things that's a concern here is the fact that the national organization went ahead with writing a grant.

There are deadlines for writing grants. If a grant proposal, which is called an RFP, comes out and is available to the American Legion Auxiliary, or any other organization, or a school, or whatever, there's a deadline. Sometimes those deadlines are very, very short, sometimes as short as three weeks.

To require that the National Executive Committee approve an application for a grant, which is what I'm hearing here, would mean that in most cases the Auxiliary would not be able to apply for any further grants because you'd have to wait until the NEC met and we only meet three or four times a year and as a result all of those deadlines would pass and we would lose that opportunity.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Carlene Ashworth.

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Madam President, Carlene Ashworth, Department of Texas.

Ladies, I think you've just heard that you are smart enough to know what's good, what's bad for this organization. You've heard all the explanations of it. You've got to know that this is a great deal for the national organization, for the American Legion Auxiliary, and I really think that you would be doing a great disservice by not authorizing and passing this resolution as it has been presented.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

**MS. VENTULETT:** Madam President. Oh, go ahead.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Mary Ann Ventulett.

**MS. VENTULETT:** Madam President, I had the opportunity many years ago to belong to VISTA. I was a VISTA volunteer in my community and it was a wonderful opportunity and it did a lot for my community. And I must say that this is the best positive effort in force the American Legion Auxiliary has implemented to go forward.

The exposure in PR it will produce is insurmountable, and I urge you to vote in favor.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Mary Ann.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue? The Chair will not give an opinion, but will share information.

And so there are several schools of thought, on this issue as you have heard. There is a school of thought that grants are funded for development, that's an executive function and not necessarily a board function.

So there's a variety of perspectives on who should make decisions like this and enter into agreements.

But the Chair recognizes the Delegate from New York.

**DELEGATE JOHNSON:** Carol Johnson, Department of New York.

I have one more question. Is this a one-year thing or is it going to go on forever? I know I am very involved with veterans. I think it's a great thing for veterans, but I still think we need to know more about it, and how long it's going to go on that's my concern, but I'm 100 percent as far as that. For our veterans, I think it's a great deal, but we need to know more about it, yet.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** There is additional information on the side table of the room, Carol, if you wish to get that information.

This grant covers a one-year period and they will continue to give us money. I shouldn't give an opinion, but I hope they continue to give us money.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there anyone else who wishes further to talk on this issue?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Right over there.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Janet Jefford.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Yes, I just wanted to give you a perspective from a department that's getting a VISTA volunteer, and I don't know a lot of the ins and outs about the contract or the grant that was given to the Auxiliary. But in Connecticut we are so excited about the opportunity to have a VISTA volunteer. And I think we have a renewed spirit in the department. And to think that we could have somebody working full-time letting everybody know who we are and what we do, and at the same time help veterans and their families, that's what we're about, that's our mission. It's not arguing about, you know, a little contract or grant, its helping veterans. That's what we do, and we are so --

*(Applause)*

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** -- lucky to have these resources available to us.

Now I write a lot of grants, I work in a college, and if we had a grant given to us for 17 volunteers to go out and recruit students or help students remain in school and graduate, we would be so happy. We should be excited. We should be enthused and we should be thankful to be given this opportunity. And I hope you'll accept it.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on the issue?

The Chair recognizes Elsie Bailey.

**MS. BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam President.

I think that what Janet said is true, but the majority of us sitting here do not have the inside knowledge that you people who have been dealing with the subject have, so we don't know how we will become known. What we will do for the veterans? Exactly what will they do to get membership for us?

I hear that they will get membership for us but I don't know how.

So it's a difficult decision to make, I can understand that.

And you talk about grants and we would get the money, that means the national organization would receive the money from the grants, but it's still going to be an expense to the department as far as paper, telephone, working space, postage.

So they need to know what the end result is going to be for them, as well as for the national organization.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Elsie.

There were several conference calls to educate departments, so they could make that decision. Certainly there were time constraints on it because we had to move.

Does anyone wish to speak?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** There's one right here, Desirée.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Krisann Owens.

**CHAIRMAN OWENS:** Madam President, Krisann Owens, Department of Oregon.

My department is receiving a VISTA volunteer and we're very, very excited. And as the department finance chairman, the impact on our department will be minimal.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Anyone else who wishes to speak on the issue?

The Chair recognizes Cherita Potter.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Madam President, Cherita, from Department of Oregon.

Just before I left home I stopped in our department office and our department secretary is so excited about this after talking to the gal that's going to be working with us in Oregon and she's one of those that doesn't get excited about too many things.

So when she gets excited about something --

*(Laughter)*

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** -- and she wants to promote it throughout our state, I got excited. And she's already starting to talk to all of us and get us in gear, so I'm for this.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Cherita.

Does anyone else who hasn't spoken --

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- I mean, is there anyone --

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- is there anyone else who -- speaking on the issue?

**DELEGATE GOEDE:** Madam President, Marie Goede, Minnesota, I call for the question.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It takes a two-thirds vote and you have called for the question, so if you would please stand, voting members of the NEC.

All in favor of the proper question say "aye."

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And say, "Aye." Yeah, you don't have to do that you can stand please.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Just stand, please.

*(Voting Members of the NEC stand)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Thank you very much.

And those who wish the debate to continue please stand?

*(Voting Members of the NEC stand)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay, two-thirds of the Chair is not in question. That will conclude the debate and discussion.

So, are you ready for the question, "aye?"

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

So, all in favor of the ratification of the Corporation of National and Community Service and Blanket Resolution, please say "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The resolution has been passed. Thank you for your deliberations.

(Applause)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair appreciates all of the discussion on both sides of the issue. We have benefitted from your participation.

Madam Vice President, do you have any other business?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** There's one more item, Madam President.

I move the adoption of the resolution entitled, Attorney-in-Fact.

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary has two working meetings of the National Executive Committee per year, normally at the National Convention and in conjunction with the Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Contracts and agreements require the approval of the National Executive Committee which since it meets only twice per, makes planning and negotiation difficult when other parties have their own internal scheduling issues; and

WHEREAS, Many such agreements involve relatively small amounts of money; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee believes that efficiency can be greatly increased if relatively small agreements are executed by national officers as indicated in the resolve clauses and reported to the next National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary in regularly meetings assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2009, that the National President shall have the authority to execute contracts in the following categories so long as said contracts do not involve in any way an amount of money more than \$25,000 have been approved by the National Finance Committee; and be it, further

RESOLVED, That the National Secretary shall have the authority to attest said contracts executed with the National President --

**AUDIENCE:** It's not the right resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So it is the consensus that the presenter does not have the same resolution you have a copy of?

**AUDIENCE:** No, we don't have that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Well, let's fix that.

(Laughter)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yeah, let's fix that.

(Laughter)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Rita do you have the correct copy?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It's two sheets that you have?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please begin again.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Thank you for bringing it to our attention. I could hear some talk back here, so...

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I move that the, Attorney-in-Fact Contact, I mean, Resolution.

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary normally conducts two assembled meetings of its National Executive Committee per year, traditionally at its National Convention and in conjunction with the Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Binding contracts and agreements require the approval of the National Executive Committee whose infrequent meeting schedule impedes the timeliness and efficiency of planning and negotiating contracts and agreements needed to conduct business of the American Legion Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, Many contracts and agreements execute matters pertaining to the procurement of goods and services that have been reviewed and approved by the American Legion Auxiliary budget; and

WHEREAS The National Executive Committee believes the efficiency can be greatly increased if contracts and agreements that execute matters that have been approved in the American Legion Auxiliary budget are executed by national officers as indicated in the resolve clauses and reported to the next National Executive Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary in regular meeting in Louisville, Kentucky on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2009, that the National President and National Secretary/Executive Director, shall have the authority to execute contracts and agreements on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary for goals and services consistent with matters within the approved budget, and shall have the authority to execute acceptances of funds; and, be if further

RESOLVED, That the National Secretary/Executive Director, shall further have the authority to sign and attest said contracts executed with the National President. Shall ensure that all contracts bare original signatures; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nation Secretary/Executive Director shall make certain that the Organization maintain in safekeeping all fully executed original signature contracts and agreements clearly identified as such; and, it be finally

RESOLVED, That the identity and content of all contracts executed and attested pursuant to this resolution shall be reported to the National Executive Committee by the National Secretive/Executive Director at it's next meeting.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We have heard the motion to accept the resolution entitled Attorney-in-Fact, which you had a copy of it.

Is there a second to the motion?

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Charlene from the Department of Texas seconded the motion.

So again, you've heard the resolution. I will seek your consent not to read it in its entirety again. Do I have your consent?

**AUDIENCE:** Consent.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Discussion on the resolution?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And I have some comments.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Oh, the Chair acknowledges that the person who made the motion has the first opportunity to speak.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you.

Madam President, this resolution is long, long overdue. Both The American Legion Judge Advocate and the Counsel General and our external auditors strongly advise we adopt this resolution which simply authorize what the American Legion Auxiliary has been doing for the last 90 years.

*(Laughter)*

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The resolution authorized the National President and the National Secretary to sign contracts. It requires the American Legion Auxiliary to obtain and retain original signed contracts and it requires that signed contracts be securely safeguarded.

The only contracts that can be signed under the attorney-in-fact are contracts for goods and services that are within the approved budget which the NEC approves.

We have signed these types of contracts for 90 years, but only recently has it been brought to our attention that no authority has ever been put in place to do so.

*(Laughter)*

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** This is truly a technical correction. It is enhanced with a safeguard regarding original signatures and safekeeping of original documents.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Does anyone else wish to speak on the resolution?

**MS. SCHMID:** Gayla Schmid from the Department of Nebraska.

Doesn't this take the authority away from the NEC of what we do sign and what we don't sign?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I think Rita has answered your question.

**DELEGATE SCHMID:** No, I don't -- I --

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay.

**DELEGATE SCHMID:** -- you might have been doing it, but is it the right thing to do, that's what I'm asking.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Well as an example, like contracts for National Convention, in order to book the facility and those types of things.

**DELEGATE SCHMID:** Okay, it's nothing to do with how we run our Organization on a whole?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** See everything would then -- the National Secretary would report to the NEC what contracts she has entered into and as to my knowledge they are administrative at this time.

**DELEGATE SCHMID:** Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And if I may, as I stated, it is only contracts that are covered by an approved budget.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So at that point it would the NEC has authorized the expenditures.

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The Chair recognizes Sandi Dutton.

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton. That may be that it's only for administrative, but it doesn't say that. It says, "approved in the budget," however you don't get a full breakdown of everything that's in that budget. You don't know what's in there under -- travel is authorized, things like that if somebody authorizes it, you're giving up your rights. These are your rights as our NEC. We need you. We have to have you to take care of us. Do not give up your rights. You would let all your departments down. You would let all our members down. We need you to be our governing body. If they have certain administrative things they can bring them up at the beginning of the year. Again, you have email, you have faxes. In today's world communication is not a problem. Do not give up your rights. Do not let our departments, our units and our members down. Please do not accept this, vote no.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** There are two over there.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Kris Nelson. The Chair recognizes Kris Nelson.

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** Madam President, Kris Nelson, Children & Youth Chairman.

When you get the budget, ladies, it is your responsibility to look at it and ask questions.

My understanding is that this was discussed with our Counsel General, Phil Onderdonk, and this is for contracts like for copy machine paper, planning the national conventions, at the Awareness Assembly, the Presidents & Secretaries, getting the hotels.

So if you see it in the budget and you have a question. You're going to get the budget in the next couple of days, ask those questions because once you approve it, then the authority to spend the money has been given by the NEC.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Kris.

The Chair recognizes Phyllis Bachman.

**MS. BACHMAN:** Madam President, I have no problem with having the national president and secretary responsible for signing documents that would give us paper, supplies and everything from the office, but it needs to be in the document that we're not going to go beyond that.

The document itself does not limit them to anything. And believe me, there is no way you can know what is going to be in that budget. You get a very summarized budget and anything could be in there. And if you approve this in its current form without having the limitations spelled out, you are abdicating your responsibility as members of the NEC to protect our Organization. I urge you to defeat this.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All right now --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Phyllis.

The Counsel General, Phil Onderdonk, has entered the room and may be able to clarify and help you in your decision making.

So the Chair welcomes, Phil Onderdonk to this NEC Meeting, we recognize him for comments on this very issue.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Thank you, Madam President.

What resolution are you discussing?

*(Laughter)*

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** I wasn't here when it started.

*(Laughter)*

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Attorney-in-fact.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Attorney-in-fact.

Does anyone have a copy I could look at?

Yes, ma'am.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** He's dealt with many.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Thank you, ma'am.

What's the question now?

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone have a question for Phil in particular?

They're getting ready to make a decision on this resolution.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Do you have any advice?

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Well this is a mechanism where the Organization could have a contract signed between NEC meetings, because the NEC needs to approve all major contracts. Purchases like pens and erasers and paper, that's covered by the budget, that's an authorizing document, that's why that's always approved.

But this would be a contract that comes up between meetings, and I believe its limited as to size. I don't --

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** It's not.

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Okay. Well that's a possibility. But, I mean, you should be trusting your officers to do the right thing, number one. But, number two, this is a mechanism to do it without an emergency meeting, but it does have to be reported to the NEC and then it can be changed, too, at that time.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else -- thank you, Philip. Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

The chair recognizes Linda Newsome.

**MS. NEWSOME:** Phil, I have a question for you. You said it has to be reported to the NECs. My question is, if a contract is already signed and reported later, then what is the purpose of the NECs being informed about the identity and content of all the contracts executed?

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** Oversight.

**MS. NEWSOME:** So if the contract has already been signed and the Organization has been put in a contractual agreement with whomever, the NECs would then take a look at it and say, "Oh gee, we don't like that; we're not going to agree to it," and then what do you do with a signed contract?

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I mean, I think that's putting our officers, our president and secretary, in a very awkward position. I think in 99.99 percent of the cases it would be agreeable to the NECs, because I do trust our officers.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

**MS. NEWSOME:** However, I think that to have a blanket approval system with no parameters -- I like the one better that Rita started reading, because that had parameters.

*(Laughter)*

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** I don't know about that, but I can tell you the purpose and principle of reporting is oversight, because the NEC can always say, "no, we don't like it," and the contract gets terminated. And if the officers have exceeded their authority, officers can be removed.

So I mean, many corporations have it, I'm not trying to argue for or against, I'm just trying to lay out the rules on it.

Basically it puts the officers in a very precarious position. They've got to know what the NEC is going to agree to, and if not you wait and hold it for the next meeting.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Phil.

**COUNSEL GENERAL ONDERDONK:** I've got to go.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Thank you, Phil.

The Chair recognizes Carlene Ashworth.

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Madam President, as has already been stated, these contracts have been signed for 90 years by our Past National Presidents who many of them sitting in this audience, by our officers, and this is merely trying to formalize that due especially to the 990 which is now in effect that you have to have more records verifying these kinds of things.

I don't think anybody in this room is trying to deceive anybody. Especially, I think, we need to put our trust in our elected officers, our national office and staff, to do the right thing. We're all here to do the right thing for the American Legion Auxiliary, and I have no doubt in my mind that that's exactly what our staff will do in all cases, and I urge you to please vote for this so that this can be ratified correctly and have it in our records. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on this issue?

The Chair recognizes Robin, the Delegate from Florida.

**DELEGATE BRIERE:** Being a department secretary and often put in a position where we have to sign contracts so we can continue on with business, I certainly understand the need for this. However, being on the other side, I certainly understand the concern that the executive committee then has no say.

I realize that it's a privilege just to be offered the opportunity to address you and I have nothing to do with the executive committee, however if I could just suggest a compromise that something in that resolution would mandate that every contract entered into had a provisional in it that upon notification of the executive committee if it was not approved, the contract was then null and void. That would then give them say a 10- or 15-day opportunity after the contract has been signed to present it to this body and if you are opposed to it the contract

would be null and void, therefore you're still executing your authority and you're not tying our national officer's hands.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Robin. I believe that's what Phil was trying to reiterate, that you have that opportunity to null and void a contract.

*(Loud chatter from the audience)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Charlie Dew, the Department of Texas.

**DELEGATE DEW:** Charlie Dew, Department of Texas.

I agree on some of the points that have been made, but we elect our officers. We trust them to do what is best for our Organization on the day-to-day running of our Organization.

At the Department of Texas everything is approved, but when they need a package of pens or we're going to sign a contract for the department convention hotels, I think we need to approve this resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Department of Texas.

*(Applause)*

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Texas.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on this issue?

**DELEGATE SCHMID:** Gayla Schmid, from the Department of Nebraska, again.

Again I can't approve this. I feel that you've already let the horse out and closed the gate. I think we're letting these contracts being signed especially if they're posted notes I have no problem with it, but if a contract is being signed like the VISTA program or something like this, and you're signing it without our consent, you're letting the horse out and them closing the gate. I mean, you're asking us after it has been done and that I feel is wrong.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

The Chair recognizes Bev Tutas.

**MS. TUTAS:** I would like to suggest another compromise. I think the other compromise would be a very good item to put into this to amend it to put this in, but I also think it would alleviate a lot of concern if there were a dollar amount put on it, so that you knew that it was more for the incidental administrative things, but you were not authorizing huge big contracts which this is -- no.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. KRANIG:** I think the concept of a dollar amount sounds good but you have to understand that some of the operating contracts signed are actually quite sizeable, for example a contract for the printing of our national magazine. So I think that's why I say, no, just because of that.

I do have another concern. I think the issue that was brought up that our contracts all have a clause in them that say that, this is subject to ratification and if not that they would become null and void.

But my concern has to do -- and I'm not picking on Dubbie, she's a lovely person and I'm sure honest as the day is long. But I have a problem with giving the secretary blanket authority to sign contracts.

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Those of you in this room who, like Wisconsin, have had a secretary walk away with a lot of money and make us look like idiots, will know what I'm talking about. And I just think that if these are routine contracts, the president is in the office frequently enough that she can sign those routine contracts. If there's something unusual not covered in the budget, then this would not cover that situation anyway. But I think that for the safety of the organization, I think that the president should be the one who signs all contracts, and by way it isn't 90 years, because in my year we did bring contracts to the NEC for ratification.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Every contract?

**MS. KRANIG:** Not every contract. Not the routine, but there were several and I was informed by Mr. Onderdonk that had to be done, so we did that. But at any rate, it would be my recommendation that in the first resolve clause that we strike the words, "and National Secretary/Executive Director." And in the second resolve clause that we strike the word, "further." And then it does give the president the authority to sign the contracts, the secretary would be the witness to the president's signature, that's what "attests" means, and that all contracts would be signed by the president, but to exclude the National Secretary from that, and no offense Dubbie, it's not you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Barbara did you move?

**MS. KRANIG:** I will move to make that amendment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Would you restate that so that we can get it in?

**MS. KRANIG:** In the first resolve clause, strike the words after National President which are, "and National Secretary/Executive Director."

And in the second resolve clause, strike the word "further."

"The National Executive Secretary Director shall have the authority to sign and attest said contracts executed with the National President."

**PRESIDENT STOY:** There has been a motion for amended resolution. Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It has been seconded. Are there any discussions on the amendment?

(No response)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. So I will read the two resolve clauses as they will be amended.

First resolve clause:

By the National Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary in their meeting at Louisville, Kentucky, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2009, that the National President shall have the authority to execute contracts and agreements on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary for goods and services consistent with matters within the approved budget. And shall have authority to execute funds; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, That the National Secretary/Executive Director shall have the authority to sign and attest said contracts executed with the National

President and shall ensure that all contracts bear original signatures; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, and so forth.

Is there any further discussion on the amendment?

The Chair recognizes Eva Wallace.

**DELEGATE WALLACE:** Madam President, Eva Wallace, Department of Washington. I'm a little confused by taking out, "and the National Secretary/ Executive Director," out of the first resolved, because I believe that's part of her job to review contracts and to take care of that and present them to the president for ratification or approval.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Eva. Does anyone else wish to speak on the amendment?

(No response)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay are you ready for the question where you will be voting to accept the resolution amendment? Are you ready for the question?

All in favor say, "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The motion is defeated. So the original resolution has moved and seconded. Is there any further discussion on the issue?

The Chair recognizes Sandi Dutton.

**MS. DUTTON:** I move that we postpone this resolution indefinitely.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable.

So the Chair would entertain anyone who wishes to speak on the issue to kill the motion.

Do you understand what I'm saying to you? If this motion passes, it will kill the resolution in its entirety. Okay.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Does anyone in this room know what impact us tabling this motion will have on our 990?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the National Secretary.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** For those of you who haven't heard about this thing called the new IRS Form 990, you will hear a great deal about it at this convention and hopefully you will continue to hear about it in your departments.

This is a revolutionary form adopted by the IRS. Originally the Form 990 was like this (indicating). The form itself is like this (indicating). The completed IRS 990 submitted by the American Legion Auxiliary in the past has been like this (indicating). The completed IRS Form 990 submitted by the American Legion Auxiliary under the new revolutionary form will be equivalent to two phone books, and I am not exaggerating. I am not exaggerating.

There are hundreds of questions in there that have to be checked off, and one of them includes how business is conducted; business is executed by your national headquarters. You are the governing body. You entrust the

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management of the organization to execute its business. This Organization signs hundreds of contracts a year. The Girls' Nation contract is \$150,000 just to rent the facility. So if we start thinking in terms of the dollar amount as a ceiling, you go back to the original issue of, do you have a process in place to authorize your executive office to enter into contracts. That is a standard business practice.

This resolution was written by Counsel General. This resolution is supported by our external auditor who was very surprised to find out that we did not have this provision in place.

To repeat, because I still serve on national boards of directors, so I am sitting often in your chairs and understand what it means to be a responsible governing officer, and in other organizations we indeed have entrusted the executive branch of that organization, i.e., your national headquarters, to indeed conduct the business of the Organization to enter into contracts, and execute contracts as long as they fall within the confines of matters included in your approved budget. When you approve a budget you approve those parameters for conducting business for the Organization.

I think that's worth repeating. When you approved the budget you approve those parameters where the executive division can conduct business. If there were something new, and with all due respect, oh, that would be a memorandum of understanding that should have had an agreement by the NEC. Indeed it did not. That is why that resolution was brought before you today, because that was new and outside the scope of the budget that you had approved.

This resolution addresses contracts pertaining to matters, goods and services, approved within the budget.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The budget.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** If another new initiative was to come before the American Legion Auxiliary that would have to come to the NEC. That would have to come to you for your approval.

All contacts that would be entered into would be reported, and I can tell you that is not happening now. You're not getting a report of all the contracts that we enter into. So you're going to be getting much more information to provide your oversight responsibility as a governor of the Organization.

This allows management of the Organization to conduct its business openly, transparently, requiring original signatures that are safekeeping. And safekeeping -- and some of you can read and figure out what my background is. When I came here I was kind of surprised to see how records were maintained. You're all lovely women, and you have done things on good graces and with good intent for a long time. You also are an \$8 million annual budget business. You are considered a \$20 million entity. And the federal government grants this Organization the ability to do business without paying taxes. They're looking strongly at how many of the more than one million nonprofit organizations in this country with the combined annual budget equal to the seventh largest economy in the world, how are they doing their business. And are they conducting purposes that are tax exempt. And they are going to be looking at

everything they can, and the new IRS Form 990 allows them to do that. To look at everything that we're doing to make sure that we are doing things that are in keeping with being granted tax exempt status.

You'll be getting more information with this resolution that you currently have been getting for the last many, many years.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. So the question is the approval to postpone the motion indefinitely.

The Chair recognizes Barbara.

**DELEGATE MATTESON:** Yes, Madam President, Barbara Matteson from Arizona. I would like to ask to have Kathy Owens be able to speak on this issue for me.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Who is she?

**DELEGATE MATTESON:** She's an attorney.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Kathy Owens.

**ATTORNEY OWENS:** I'm an attorney from Virginia and the question was asked what effect this would have on the 990. I've already completed two 990s for the Department of Virginia as well as our unit. I can tell you that this resolution has nothing to do with your 990.

**AUDIENCE:** That's right.

**ATTORNEY OWENS:** In your 990, the federal government does not care who signs contracts. The federal government requires that your contracts be signed with authority.

So every time somebody in this organization signs a contract, whoever you're signing it with should be asking for a copy to say, where do you have authority. Because you don't have that, the president should be the only one signing the contracts.

They saying that you're going to give a secretary, and Madam Secretary, no disrespect, but you are an employee, and you are a relatively new employee to this Organization. I've been in this organization 52 years.

So my point to you is, is that when you bring in new people to start signing contracts, you with your business background may say, we need to go mortgage to finance, it's a much smarter idea. And this resolution would give you the authority to mortgage everything in the building that the Auxiliary owns, because you make that decision to mortgage your assets.

When you have a budget, your line item budget what you said is correct that you are not supposed to go outside of the scope of that line item budget and that this Organization approves your line item budget.

The problem that I would have as an attorney is, there's no oversee of you on a daily basis.

If you sign six contracts today, and left office, this organization because of this resolution, would be required to honor your contracts regardless of whether you're there or not. That is a very scary thing.

I can speak with the Department of Virginia. We had a problem with our secretary. She stole money, bottom line. She signed checks without any

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authority, and the only way that it was caught up was because we had a finance committee who checked every check that came back.

I have been involved in so many embezzlement cases with nonprofit organizations that I can tell you it is out there and it happens.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you for your remarks.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue? The issue is to postpone indefinitely, if not I will call for the question.

All in favor say -- yes. Our parliamentarian wants to let you know that indeed if this passes that it will kill the resolution. Okay.

So all in favor say, "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed, "no."

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The motion is passed and you have moved to postpone indefinitely.

Once again the Chair appreciates your diligence in decision making.

Is there any further business to come before this meeting? Yes.

**MS. DUTTON:** Madam President, I move that the Finance Committee shall set and approve the salary for the national president, the national secretary, the national treasurer, and shall approve salary ranges established by the national secretary for other staff, and that this become effective immediately.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second to the motion?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The move is seconded -- I need a copy of that motion, please.

It has been moved that the Finance Committee shall set and approve the salary of the national president, the national secretary, the national treasurer, and shall approve salary ranges established by the national secretary for other staff, and that this become effective immediately for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

Okay, so you have moved this resolution and it has been seconded. Is there any discussion?

The Chair recognizes Sandi Dutton.

**MS. DUTTON:** Madam President, when I came up the line, which was several years ago, the Finance Committee was able to decide on all of the salaries for the president, the secretary, and the treasurer. It was not decided by one person or two people, it was a five-member committee and it was decided on as a group.

And I think we need to continue that practice. We need more than one person to set salaries. We need to know what they are. This is our organization. Any questions that we ask need to be answered and we need input in the people that we have serving, and we've ratified them to serve, need to know what the salaries are, and they need to be a part of setting them, its common sense.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Linda Boone.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Thanks. The practice right now for the Finance Committee at the advice of our general counsel is for the finance committee to set the wages, the officers' salaries, and to make recommendations for that in the budget.

We're getting ready to go into convention where we're going to establish an HR Committee which hopefully they would have the expertise. They would be appointed and have the expertise in terms of compensation in doing compensation analysis and competitive information; are we paying, you know in the competitive range for those positions, and that's where the expertise needs to come from is from HR personnel that have, in my opinion, that have that expertise. Not always do Finance Committee members come with that expertise because that is a specialty.

So in my mind the salary ranges would be set by people that have the expertise and make recommendations to the Finance Committee who would embrace that or maybe make, you know, whatever into the final budget, so I'm opposed to this.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the resolution?

Thank you. Gayla.

**MS. SCHMID:** I'm opposed to this. I'm sorry--Gayla Schmid from Nebraska. I'm opposed to this because, you know, the HR committee is fine, they can give a generalization of the range, but the Finance Committee should have the final say-so on this. I mean, you're taking away their control of the finance, and the finance is -- in the Department of Nebraska every time we give a salary increase to our employees, it has to go through finance first then it goes to the governing body at the convention. And if they don't approve it, it dies just like anything else.

So I think you're taking the authority out of our hands again and putting it into our National Executive Committee's hand without going through finance and through us.

So I disapprove. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the National Treasurer, Marta Hedding.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Go ahead.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes a retired HR specialist who is Kris Nelson.

*(Laughter)*

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** Madam President, Kris Nelson, Children & Youth Chairman.

I was an observer at the Finance Committee meeting and the Finance Committee did vote on the salaries of the national officers; the president, the secretary, the first vice president and the president.

I believe that the Finance Committee should approve the salary ranges but I don't believe that they should set salaries for individuals because then you're infringing on private rights of individuals. The supervisors are the ones who know the work that's being done. They know if there's disciplinary action

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being done and they know what's in the file. And legally we don't have the right to know that.

We have to trust the supervisors that we hire to be able to supervise the staff and to recommend their -- and I don't believe that people should get salaries because they're entitled to them. They need to perform to get those salaries. And as members I don't know that we can say if they're performing or not, that has to be the supervisors.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Okay. I also have been an HR my entire life. HR and finance are two separate departments and they should not be connected where HR is taking over and doing salary scales. I have never heard of that, maybe it's each company. But I worked for a 1600-employee hospital, personnel, HR, had nothing to do with setting salary scales. The supervisors and people like that can recommend individual salaries, but it's the Finance Committee who handles the salaries scales.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Janet Jefford.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** I have another question.

**AUDIENCE:** We can't hear her.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** I'm confused because I think I'm agreeing with a lot of people that are saying opposite things.

So is the motion to set the exact amount of the salary or is it to have a salary range, which then the supervisors could say, okay, within this range based on performance this person is awarded this compensation.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The resolution states: The Finance Committee shall set and approve the salary for the national president, national secretary and national treasurer and shall approve salary ranges --

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Oh, ranges.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- established by the national secretary for other staff, and be it further resolved that this resolution become effective immediately for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** So for paid employees of the Organization it would be salary ranges?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** And then based on performance. All right, thank you very much. That makes a lot of sense. And I guess I'll say, I guess I'm in favor of that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the National Treasurer.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** I just want to be clear, how is this different than what we've been doing? Help me understand that because the National Finance Committee has established the salaries for the officers, one year they didn't for me, they allowed the national secretary to do that and they've been looking at salary ranges for our positions and authorizing what those ranges are. We didn't make any change in the salary ranges this year, so consequently it didn't come before the Finance Committee.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** I was on the Finance Committee until just recently and the last couple of years we did not approve salaries for the secretary.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Then that's news to me because that's how I understood that happened.

I was the HR person until a couple of years ago for the National Headquarters, and I got my direction from the National Finance Committee as to how to handle salaries. So I'm confused.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. In speaking with our registered parliamentarian, I wish to point out that the way this resolution is written, that it gives sole authority to the Finance Committee to approve those salaries and it takes away the rights of the NEC to alter it when you approve the budget if you so desire.

That is the interpretation of this resolution is that they shall set and approve, which means no other governing body then would amend portion of this.

**MS. DUTTON:** Okay, I'll amend it to include, "they'll set and approve the amount to be included in the budget."

*(Applause)*

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President, point of order.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Sandi, could you repeat your amendment portion to this?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Point of order, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** One moment, please.

**MS. DUTTON:** Okay. So it would read, the Finance Committee shall set and approve the salary for the national president, national secretary, and national treasurer and shall approve the salary ranges established by the National Secretary for other staff which will be included in the annual budget.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate from (unintelligible).

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President, I have a question -- my point of order deals with how many times one person can speak. Is that an order right now or is that just during the general session, because we've had multiple times, more than twice, that a person has spoken on the same topic?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** They can speak twice, but making a motion doesn't count.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Florida.

**MS. BRIERE:** Robin Briere, Department of Florida. When the new 990 information came to us, I had to meet with our accounting firm so we could make sure we had all our whistle blower policy. We had to have everything in place to meet all these new conditions. The very first question our accountant asked us is how our salaries are set. And I can tell you that the Department of Florida, the Finance Committee set a lump sum for salaries and the Department Adjutant decided how much everyone in that office was paid. The Department

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of Florida, the Finance Committee sets every single salary, and makes the recommendation for approval with the budget.

They get a full report from the Department's secretary as to their abilities, strengths, weaknesses, and I'm allowed to recommend a raise, or recommend additional training or recommend some sort of, you know, a problem with them and they take that under consideration. But only our Finance Committee knows the salaries for each individual and sets them.

Our accounting firm told us that we were in compliance with the new 990 IRS regulations. That a separate body from the administration in our office had to set the salaries for every administrative person and that the Legion was not in compliance and they were going to have to change their way of doing business.

So given the recommendation for this confirms and to me from all the information that I have spent with our independent accounting firms that resolution confirms what the new regulations are going to require our organization to do and that's put the power of the salaries into a separate body of people and no employee of the organization can set the salary ranges of an individual in their office.

So the Department of Florida supports that resolution.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. So the question is --

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thanks, Robin. Our legal advice and our auditing firm have suggested that the separate body needs to be something called a compensation committee.

I think that's what Linda was referring to when she talked about the HR Committee that they should be the ones making recommendations for the salary budget.

**MS. BRIERE:** But he said it could be our Finance Committee. It did not have to be a --

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Yeah, ours is not; ours is in disagreement. I mean they believe that we are large enough --

**MS. BRIERE:** It has to be a body of non-paid people.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Yes. Yes. Okay. Exactly.

**MS. BRIERE:** And the finance committee met that requirement.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Okay. Yeah. And I'm sure that works, but with the size of our Organization and our staff our advisors say it needs to be a compensation committee.

**MS. BRIERE:** Well I don't --

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** We have decided to do that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. So the question is on the amendment to Sandi's Resolution and that it added the words: The Finance Committee shall set and approve the salary to be included in the budget for the national president, national secretary, and national treasurer and shall approve salary ranges established by the National Secretary for other staff, we therefore resolve that this resolution be effective immediately for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

So if there's no more discussion, all in --

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- the Chair recognizes the National Vice President.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Our current Finance Committee right now does have non-paid employees, but we also have two paid employees on there. They have voice, but they do not have a vote, they are our national treasurer and our national secretary. It's proven this morning that voices does impact.

So in looking at giving that full authority to that Finance Committee, I'm not in favor of that and I'm in favor of all the salaries being in the budget to the governing board that's sitting right here approves that budget.

So I just wanted to state that I see a difference there in that Finance Committee is not just made up of all non-paid.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Okay.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Just a quick point -- oh, I'm not recognized.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Go ahead please.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** A quick point is that we do go into executive session to set those salaries. So at the time that we do set them the national secretary and the national treasurer are not in the room.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The question is on the amendment to include the words: To be included in the budget.

All in favor of the amendment say "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

*(No verbal reply)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The amendment is adopted.

So now the question is on the resolution and I will read it as amended.

RESOLVED, By the American Auxiliary assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 22, 2009, that the Finance Committee shall set and approve the salary to be included in the budget for the national president, the national secretary, and the national treasurer, and shall approve the salary ranges established by the national secretary and other staff; and, be it, further

RESOLVED, That this resolution become effective immediately for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

Is there any further discussion?

*(No response)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All in favor say, "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed, "no."

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The resolution is adopted.

Once again the Chair appreciates your due diligence on decision making.

Dubbie, are there any announcements?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Linda Newsome.

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**MS. NEWSOME:** Thank you, Madam President. Under the circumstances, I'm almost leery about getting lynched because of coming up here, but I do have a motion that I would like to make, and hopefully it will be a relatively positive and easy motion.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. NEWSOME:** I'm watching you.

I move that any Finance Committee member shall be given at her request access to financial information such as, but not limited to, line item budgets at least two weeks prior to any meeting in order to meet her fiduciary responsibility, and that any costs associated therewith shall be included in the annual budget.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second to the motion?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The motion has been made and seconded. The Chair is happy -- do you wish to -- okay I will repeat it since you don't have a copy of this one.

I move that any Finance Committee member shall be given at her request access to financial information such as, but not limited to, line item budgets at least two weeks prior to any meeting in order to meet her fiduciary responsibilities, and that any costs associated therewith shall be included in the annual budget.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Do I hear a second? Yes, there was a second. Thank you, Phyllis.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Discussions?

**MS. NEWSOME:** All right, Madam President, I will discuss.

The National Finance Committee as each of you is aware is charged with the oversight of the general financial policy of the National organization and to supervise the expenditures of the funds under the budget.

The Finance Committee is also required to develop financial policies and procedures and to provide oversight compliance, manage a sophisticated investment portfolio, and much more.

To meet these responsibilities the members of the Finance Committee require access to the information mentioned in my motion and that would be prior to the meeting so that the members of the Finance Committee should they wish to look line-by-line, and there are a lot of lines, that they would have that material in advance of the finance meeting.

We have a new procedure for doing line item issues that is a work in progress. I think it's a very good work in progress, but I also think if any member of the Finance Committee or frankly any member of the Organization should have access to the information they feel is pertinent to their responsibilities.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Anyone else wish to speak on the issue?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. It has been moved and seconded to approve that any Finance Committee member shall be given at her request access to financial information such as, but not limited to, line item budgets at least two weeks prior to Auxiliary meeting in order to meet her fiduciary responsibility, and that any costs associated therewith shall be included in the annual budget.

All in favor of this motion say, "aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

*(No verbal reply)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The motion is passed.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any other business to come --

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- laundry, dishes --

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That's on the consent agenda that you approved.

I call on the National Secretary for announcements.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** All right now for the important stuff. Group G Membership Meeting has been moved to Room 209.

So for the pre-convention meetings Group G Membership Meeting has been moved to Room 2-0-9.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair wishes to announce, committee meetings are running late, so as soon as the chairmen are there and they're prepared to start their meeting you may do so.

Again, I appreciate your due diligence. Please stand with me now as our National Chaplain offers the benediction.

*(Three bells)*

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Oh, Lord, we need help.

*(Laughter)*

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Let us pray.

We thank you for this successful meeting and all that we have accomplished here this morning.

We are now ready to move forward with our convention.

Watch over us until we come together again rested and ready to be as sponges and absorb all the information we need to take home and share with our members.

Lord, comfort our troops, give them strength to endure and bring them home once again to a peaceful land.

May we always live simply, love generously, care deeply, and speak kindly. Amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you for your dedication and your good work. This meeting of the National Executive Committee Meeting is adjourned.

*(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.)*

*Monday, August 24, 2009*

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009, 8:15 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Welcome. One year ago we asked you to carry the torch back to your Departments and Units. We closed your convention with a pledge. Let's look back.

(Video clip.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You did carry the torch by renewing your pledge to our active military, veterans, families, and great nation. I'm so proud of each and every one of you.

I've seen it firsthand in city after city as I've traveled on your behalf this past year, you and those you represent have led the way in turning hope into reality every day for those we humbly serve. What makes it possible is the energy within all of you. Energy encompasses your dedication, your desire to serve, your commitment to veterans, and more. Without the energy of thousands of Auxiliary members focus into a determined and dedicated distribution network our success would be difficult. Let's take a look.

(Video clip.)

(Applause.)

(Video clip.)

(River City Drum Corp.)

(Applause.)

(River City Drum Corp.)

(Applause.)

(Video clip.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We turn hope into reality every day for those who humbly serve. What makes it possible is the energy within all of you.

Everywhere across our country I've witnessed you and those we represent bringing substance to our pledge of honoring our promises every day; HOPE. I know it's only possible by harnessing energy that comes from the very foundation of your character. It is evident by your love of family, friends, and America.

Right now as we prepare to start our 89th National Convention, please stand and join the River City Drum Corp singing God Bless America.

(God Bless America Sung.)

(Applause.)

(Video clip.)

(River City Drum Corp.)

(Video clip.)

**MS. RICE:** Good morning delegates and guests and welcome to Louisville for the 89th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is my special honor this morning to present to you the 2008-2009 Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary. National Treasurer, Marta Hedding of Indiana.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** National Secretary, Mary “Dubbie” Buckler of Indiana.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** National Historian, Marian “Pic” Webster of Michigan.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** National Chaplain, Cherita Potter of Oregon.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Central Division National Vice President, Virginia Kodl of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Easter Division National Vice President, Mary Ann Ventulett of Massachusetts.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Southern Division National Vice President, Nancy Weatherly Jordan of South Carolina.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Northwestern Division National Vice President, Thelma Fueller of North Dakota.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Western Division National Vice President, Josephine Keanu of Hawaii.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** And National Vice President, Rita Navarreté of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Please rise as the national colors are presented by the National President’s Pages.

It is my special privilege to introduce from the State of Ohio a person who has indeed exemplified hope for all of us during this past year. Her actions helping us honor our promises every day are fueled by her devotion to our mission to serve our veterans, their families, and their communities. Because of this we are compelled today to thank and honor her for our outstanding leadership.

Please join me in welcoming the leader of the world’s largest patriotic and best patriotic organization for women, our National President, Desireé Stoy.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** Madam President, I present this gavel so you may officially open the 89th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The 89th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary with now come to order.

Let us begin this gathering in Louisville with a prayer. Cherita Potter, the National Chaplain will offer prayer. Cherita?

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Please join me in prayer.

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Lord we thank you for this beautiful day and the positive energy you have filled us with. Open our eyes and broaden our minds, fill us with inspiration and worthy ideas, keep us focused on our mission of hope, help us to be sincere in our thoughts and actions.

We thank you for the dedication and talent that has gone into the preparation of this convention, truly you have touched the lives and hearts of those who have worked so hard and volunteered countless hours.

We are grateful for the many programs that benefit our veterans, our troops, our families, and our communities. We continue to prayer for our Nation and the men and women who strive to keep us safe.

In Your name we pray, amen.

(A chorus of Amen.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Will you please join me in a moment of silence as we remember and honor our fallen heroes.

(Pause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Please remain standing as Coral May Grout of Massachusetts, the Chairman of the National Americanism Committee leads us in the pledge of allegiance, and then remain standing for the singing of our National Anthem by Jane Domer of Ohio. Coral, please lead us.

**MS. GROUT:** I Pledge Allegiance to the flag of the United States of American and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

(National Anthem Sung.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** As we prepare for the start of business our National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Nancy Brown-Park of California will lead us in reciting the preamble.

**MS. BROWN-PARK:** 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 the 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 accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion;

To consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I too welcome you your 89th National Convention. We have much to celebrate, but also much work to do, so let's get started.

It's my privilege to introduce our Convention Appointees, Bonnie Cruise, Chairman of Pages.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Pat Reed, Vice Chairman of Pages.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Jane Domer, the National President's Page.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Kathy Heichel, National President's Page.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Barb Britton, National President's Page.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Diane Long, National President's Page.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Kristine West, Chairman of the Distinguished Guest Committee.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Pat Wanoreck, Member of the Distinguished Guest Committee.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Elizabeth Stewart, Member of the Distinguished Guest Committee.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Chris Dickey, Convention Parliamentarian.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's now my pleasure to introduce some of our speakers this morning for remarks. First, the Department President of our host Department, Kentucky, Virginia Betsekas.

(Applause.)

**MS. BETSEKAS:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MS. BETSEKAS:** Madam National President, Desi, past National Presidents, officers, members and guests of the American Legion Auxiliary, welcome to the great Commonwealth of Kentucky and the 89th National Convention.

Kentucky is proud to claim the fact that quite a few of well-known people are from the State of Kentucky. We've had two presidents, Jefferson Davis, born in Christian County. Abraham Lincoln born in Sinking Spring Farm. Also born in our state was David Atchison, President of the United States for one day, and he was born in Frog Town, Kentucky. You know they really thought these names out well for these towns. Also coming from our state is Mohammed Ali, George Clooney, Johnny Depp, Loretta Lynn, Jim Barney, and Diane Sawyer, just to mention a few. Diane Sawyer is also a product of our Girls State, for those that didn't know that.

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There's a host of sites to be seen in Louisville within just two or three miles. As many of you know we are well known for Churchill Downs. I hope many of you have taken a tour there. Unfortunately Churchill Downs is closed for live racing, but they do off-track betting right now if you're interested. We have the Belle of Louisville, one of the few remaining paddle boat wheelers in the United States. I know many of you have visited Fourth Street Live already; I've seen you down there.

(Laughter.)

**MS. BETSEKAS:** And they offer a host of restaurants and bars. We have Waterfront Park, the Mohammed Ali Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum, and the Frazier International Museum, all within walking distance of the hotels.

For those of you who like to gamble, and I haven't been there yet, but I'm going, our neighboring state of Indiana has riverboat gambling approximately 15 miles away. I think some of you have already found that out. Come back a little bit lighter didn't you?

The members of the Kentucky Delegation and the Pages are here to serve you. If you have any questions or need directions just ask one of us. Some will point you in the right direction or even take you there. Have a good time during your stay in Louisville, and whatever you do Kentucky welcomes you, and we know you will have a successful and fun-filled time.

Madam President, the Kentucky Delegation wishes you a most successful National Convention, and it is a pleasure to host the 89th Convention in the great Commonwealth of Kentucky.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Virginia Ann. Please welcome the National Convention Chairman, the extraordinary Pamela Rice.

**MS. RICE:** Madam President Desi, and distinguished members of this wonderful organization, on behalf of the Department of Kentucky I want to welcome you to the 89th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary. You have a wonderful opportunity to not only attend the convention, but enjoy the sights and sounds of Louisville in central Kentucky with the many tours that are offered during your stay with us. And yes, as President Ann said, Horseshoes Indiana is just across the river about 20 minutes, and they would love for you to spread the wealth in their state as well. Right, Indiana?

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** If you have questions or concerns please visit lower level room L12 and we'll try to assist you in any way possible, or the Kentucky volunteers are wearing a scarf like I have on today, and they'll be happy to answer any questions that you have, and if not they'll find someone who can answer them for you.

We're privileged in Kentucky to enjoy all four seasons of weather to the fullest, and I think that God has really blessed us this week so far for our National Convention.

(Applause.)

**MS. RICE:** We are really pleased to have everyone in Louisville, home of the Kentucky Derby, and we hope that this will be a week that you all will treasure for many years to come.

So whether you think that you're in Louisville, Louisville, or Louisville, get energized with us and have a wonderful National Convention.

Madam President Desi, we want to congratulate you on a wonderful year. Your convention theme "Energize" could not have been more appropriate.

Your success this year can be attributed to the positive energy that you bring to this organization and its members. You have contributed a great deal to this organization and we thank you for your commitment and respect that you bring to the American Legion Auxiliary and to our veterans.

I would like to personally thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National Convention Chairman, and President Desi, we wish for you a very successful and productive convention. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is this National President's true honor to have with us at our convention the leader of the Eight and Forty. From the Department of Minnesota, please welcome Marcy Schmidt, Le Chapeau National.

(Applause.)

**MS. SCHMIDT:** Thank you so much and good morning. National President Desi, National officers and Chairman, Past National Presidents, delegates and alternates, on behalf of all of the partners of La Boutique (unintelligible) Chapeau at (unintelligible) I bring greetings to you assembled for this 89th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Our purpose has been to assist in the prevention and control of tuberculosis, cystic fibrosis, and other respiratory diseases in children. We have been the proud supporters of National Jewish Health in Denver, Colorado, since 1933, the number one rated hospital and research center for respiratory diseases.

We have been successful in raising money to provide scholarships for those wishing to enter the field of respiratory therapy. We have continued the tradition of being the number one per capita contributor to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

This past year we were able to provide a grant to the Asthma Foundation for brochures promoting the physical recreation for those suffering from asthma.

My report to the membership only tells part of our story. It tells only of the monetary contributions that we have made. It does not tell of the many hours our partners volunteer at their local clinics, hospitals, and camps helping children with respiratory diseases. It does not tell of the many children that have been adopted by our petite salons who have respiratory problems. And most importantly, it does not tell the fact that our partners our American Legion Auxiliary members are first and foremost.

There are many hours spent helping our Units, Districts, and Departments. Whether it be distributing copies, volunteering at the VA hospitals

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and nursing homes, helping out in our committees, and most importantly collecting membership.

President Desirée, may you have a most successful convention and much happiness in all of your future endeavors.

Yes, we have honored our promises every day as we have been tied together in service for children. And here's just a little token of our appreciation.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

**MS. SCHMIDT:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please welcome to the stage Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Immediate Past National President from the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** It's my pleasure to be here this morning to represent the Past National Presidents, but I must compliment our National President on that wonderful energizing and incredible opening.

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** I know that those of us standing backstage had our bodies in rhythm and our hearts were beating and the blood was flowing, and certainly it has energized all of us to do the work of this National Convention.

We are so looking forward to having the reports of the Chairmen so that we can hear the wonderful work that's been done this year and to have you tell the National President in your own words in many ways what you've accomplished.

And so on behalf of the Past National Presidents I bring you their greetings and their warm wishes to our National President that this particular convention meets every desire of her heart and every dream that she might have had for her year service.

And certainly it's been an incredible year for our National President, and we too have all hoped along with her honoring our promises every day.

I'm sure as she stood here this morning waiting for her convention to open there was excitement, but probably a few butterflies in the tummy, and I'm sure that some of you, along with me, has seen a recent commercial that's been on TV. This young lady sitting on the edge of her bed anticipating her first day at school and the butterflies are coming out of her tummy. And then her mother walks her to the bus and stands with her and says, "Everybody is afraid their first day." Then she gets on the bus and she opens the card from her mother and it says, "You rock, love mom."

Madam President, you rock, love from us.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Back at you, Jan. Our first order of business is the adoption of the reports organizing the convention. The credentials report will be presented by Credentials Chairman, Peggy Thomas.

**MS. THOMAS:** Madam National President, good morning all.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MS. THOMAS:** The Credentials Committee of the 89th National Convention met on Saturday, August the 27th, 2009, at the Kentucky International Convention Center and the outcome of this meeting is as follows. I will read you the total delegates from each Department.

Alabama 11; Alaska 9; Arizona 16; Arkansas 9; California 25; Colorado 10; Connecticut 9; Delaware 9; District of Columbia 6; Florida 33; Georgia 13; Hawaii 7; Idaho 8; Illinois 33; Indiana 46; Iowa 29; Kansas 19; Kentucky 12; Louisiana 13; Maine 13; Maryland 25; Massachusetts 12; Michigan 28; Minnesota 39; Mississippi 9; Missouri 19; Montana 9; Nebraska 24; Nevada 7; New Hampshire 13; New Jersey 15; New Mexico 10; New York 40; North Carolina 13; North Dakota 17; Ohio 40; Oklahoma 11; Oregon 13; Pennsylvania 51; Philippines 6; Puerto Rico 7; Rhode Island 7; South Carolina 10; South Dakota 16; Tennessee 10; Texas 24; Utah 9; Vermont 12; Virginia 13; Washington 12; West Virginia 12; Wisconsin 29; Wyoming 9; for a total of 901 delegates, one-half majority being 452 and two-thirds majority being 601.

By the direction of the Credentials Convention Committee I move the credentials report of voting members be adopted.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Peggy. The question is on the adoption of the Credentials Committee report as presented. Are you ready for the question? The question is on the motion to adopt the credentials report as presented. All those in favor say aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Those opposed say no. The affirmative have it and the credentials report is adopted as presented.

The Rules Chairman, Linda Moseman-Raymond will read the proposed rules for this convention. If you would like to follow along the rules are printed on page 16 of your convention program.

**MS. MOSEMAN-RAYMOND:** Thank you, Madam President.

The convention rules printed on page 16 of the convention program were read and approved by the Rules Committee with no changes. I will read the convention rules for adoption by the Convention Delegates.

1. All meetings of this convention shall be called to order at the designated time, or as soon thereafter as quorum is present.

2. The Chair may deviate from the printed program when necessary or expedient.

3. The Credentials Committee shall report at such times as directed by the Chair.

4. The audience shall remain seated during the business of the convention. Doors will remain open unless noise interferes with the conducting of business. Delegates will be allowed to leave or enter the auditorium, except

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when balloting or elections are being held, or when a speaker is speaking. Delegates do not need an escort to leave or enter the room. Smoking is not permitted. All electronic communication devices shall be turned off or placed on vibrate.

5. Since it is deemed advisable for security purposes that all persons in the National Convention Hall be identified, admission for the business sessions at the National Convention shall be restricted to those persons displaying the official convention badge, or other acceptable official credentials, or who are under the age of 12 years. Convention Hall to be defined as that area predetermined and set aside for the general business sessions of the National Convention.

6. Only authorized photographers shall be permitted on stage during the convention sessions.

7. The Chairman of each Department delegation shall be charged with the responsibility of seeing that only accredited delegates having official convention badges are seated with their delegation. If a delegate is to be absent from a meeting, she shall have an alternate take her place with the delegation.

8. Only voting members of the convention shall make motions and address the assembly. To address the assembly the voting member shall rise, (1) go to microphone, (2) address the Chair, (3) wait to be recognized by the Chair, and (4) give her name and Department.

9. All main motions, resolutions, and amendments shall be presented in writing immediately to both the Chair and the Secretary on the motion forms provided, signed with the full names of both the person making the motion and the person making the second motion. The completed motion form should be then handed to the nearest Presidential Page for immediate delivery to both the Chair and the Secretary. Only the Presidential Pages can deliver the completed forms to the platform.

10. Debate on any question shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker. No person may speak on the same question more than twice without consent of the convention.

11. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast with the majority of the delegates present from her Department. This is in accordance with the National Convention, Article VI, Section 5.

12. Voting shall be by voice vote except when the Chair deems it necessary to use some other method or when a roll call is requested by the Chairman of three Department delegations or as provided in the election rules.

13. There shall be no public presentation of gifts to individuals from the American Legion Auxiliary, except by pre-arrangement with the National President.

14. Nomination of candidates for National -- excuse me -- for Division National Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 22nd, 2009.

15. Nomination of candidates for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Tuesday, August 25th, 2009.

16. Nominations of National officers shall be made from the floor.

17. Nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate, except the National President candidate. She shall be allowed four minutes. There shall be no seconding speeches.

18. After nominating speeches for National officers on Tuesday, August 25th, 2009, each of the nominees for National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be introduced to the assembly by auxiliary member making her nomination, said introductions 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.

19. Election of National officers shall be held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009.

20. When there is but one candidate for any office, the roll call may be dispensed with and the nominee elected by voice. When there is more than one candidate for National office the election shall be by secret ballot.

21. These rules may be amended during convention by a two-thirds vote.

Madam President, by direction of the Rules Committee I move the convention rules be adopted as printed and read.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The deposition of convention rules requires a two-thirds vote. The question is on the adoption of the National Convention rules for 2009 as read. Are you ready for the question? The question is on the deposition of the National Convention rules for 2009. All those in favor please stand. Thank you, you may be seated. All those opposed, please stand. Thank you.

There's a two-thirds in the affirmative, the rules of the 2009 National Convention have been adopted. Thank you.

The National Secretary, Mary "Dubbie" Buckler will give the program report.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Regarding your convention program book -- we've got some music going on up here -- there is one -- for those of you who would like to keep your program book as sort of a record of the convention, even though this event has already taken place, on page 8 there was a change if you wish to record it in our official program book. Group G, membership. In your program book it reads Room 112 -- I beg your pardon -- that should be changed to Room 209. Group G, the membership group that was scheduled to have met in Room 112 indeed met in Room 209.

The second change just to be noted is that the breakout sessions will be delayed by the amount of time by which this morning session might exceed its scheduled allotment of time. In other words, if we run over, however

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many minutes we run over will be the amount of time by which we delay the beginning of the break out sessions.

Madam President, those are the only two changes that I have to the program book at this time.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Madam Secretary. The Chairman would entertain a motion to adopt the program with the changes named. The Chair recognizes the National Vice President.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I move that the program as stated with the changes be adopted.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. It's been moved to accept and adopt the program and the changes named. Is there a second? Please stand and state your name, please, for the record.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** (indiscernible) I second the motion.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The question is on the motion to adopt the program with changes noted. Are you ready for the question? The question is on the motion to adopt the program with the changes noted. All those in favor say aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed, no. The ayes have it and the convention program is adopted. By adoption of these reports, the 89th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is officially organized for conducting business.

It is this National President's pleasure to recognize the Sons of the American Legion National Commander, Mr. Thomas Cisna. Is he here? When he arrives -- Tommie, are you here?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is my pleasure to present the National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, Tommie Cisna.

Tommie is eligible for membership through his father, a Korean War veteran who involved him in Legion programs at a very young age. He served at many farewells for Veterans as they were laid to rest. His trumpet was always ready.

Today, Tommie, and his wife, his sister, and two nieces are all active members of our great patriotic family.

We congratulate the Sons of the American Legion for achieving over 100 percent in their membership efforts.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes, I'm jealous. Please welcome the National Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, a resident of Mattoon, Illinois, my friend, Tommie.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** Wow, thank you. Thank you very much. I have also brought with me the newest commander that will be taking over the range of the Sons, Mr. Mark Arneson from Georgia.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** And his wife Kappi (phonetic), and their three daughters, and they're all members of the Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** And I wish to introduce to you a friend of mine that has made many trips with me and has made this year very fulfilling and very exciting, and that the my wife Kathy.

Madam President, past Presidents, officers and delegates to this convention, welcome and greetings from the National Sons of the American Legion, and yes, almost 102 percent in membership.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** And I offer personal thanks for your help in making that goal, because I know that all the Auxiliary members out there are helping your Sons, and I know that personally because of the Auxiliary members from my home state of Illinois are hard at work helping for membership. Thank you, girls.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** We achieved another goal this year and that of course is I'm referring to the child welfare donation that the Sons make every year, \$343,000, once again number one in the American Legion family.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** This reaches our \$4 million to date donation, and I'll let you in on a little challenge that Dennis Boland, the president of Child Welfare Foundation made to the Sons, and said, "If," and I said, "When," "the sons make that \$4 million mark that supper was on him." Well supper is on him of our choice. Now since I'll be eating for over 330,000 members that made it possible, I better come hungry. And my first choice for supper was the Koili Golf Course in Hawaii, but there were some travel involved in that, and Dennis, I guess we're settling for St. Elmo's in Indy in October.

Another area for the Sons this year that we paid attention to again was CMN, and in particular Josh & Friends. And this was something of a special project, a personal project for myself. We donated almost 1100 dogs this year. Now the average month in past years had been 40 to 50. Now this year with the Sons attention it was over 100 dogs a month this year, and Dr. Lang is very appreciative of that.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** Our CMN money, almost \$100,000 donated by the Sons and almost 10,000 hours donated for CMN.

And as always the veterans are a big focus for the Sons this year. And the money donated by the Sons for the veterans, almost \$1.3 million and almost 300,000 hours donated and reported this year.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** Thank you. And I must say, I look to this room and I want to thank you, because I see a lot of power, a lot of power in this room, the power of volunteers, and I want to thank you for that, for your membership and the American Legion Auxiliary, and for your help to the veterans and to the community and to your Sons.

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And I will say that traveling this year and addressing many Departments you girls have a lot of fun getting the job done. There was one Department, Wisconsin, that has a live band from Creative Arts in the back of the room and there was lots of music and dancing involved. So good job girls.

It has been such an honor to serve this year with Desi, and all the Desi stories I told this year were true.

(Laughter.)

**MR. CISNA:** And it was -- it was such a treat to swim in the ocean with my President during our visit to Hawaii.

Desi has always thought of me and the Sons as she has traveled abroad. Barbwire from the DMZ, sand from the beaches of Normandy, are a couple of presents that Desi brought back for me.

And I'd like to share something with you. There have been three women in my life that have touched my heart so deeply, my mother, my wife, and Desi.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** Desi, you will always, always have that special part in my heart, you will always be a true friend, and you will always be my President. Remember, Sons, S-O-N-S, serving our nation's soldiers. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Doggone you, Tommie Cisna. Thank you, dear friend.

**MR. CISNA:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And this is the fun part. I've been shopping all year, and this is for Tommie, my commander for Sons of the American Legion. It looks a lot like a shoe box doesn't it? I knew that would make you happy.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I wonder what it is. Perhaps you will open it so that everyone can see. But I just want you to know that with women accessories are everything.

(Laughter.)

**MR. CISNA:** Oh, my. Oh, my. This is nice. Yes, an iPod docking station. And very nice, because at the homecoming -- my homecoming -- Desi presented me with an iPod Nano, and right now it has about 2,300 songs on it and has traveled everywhere with me in the airports and on airlines. So thank you, yeah. I've got the accessory to go with this.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And in true American Legion Family tradition, Kathy has been a true friend as well, and so -- and a member of our family, and so I would like to present you with this. And in there -- inside here is another gift that is for both of you. So when she opens it, I will tell you about that gift.

**MR. CISNA:** Okay.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Kathy and I have had many conversations regarding chocolate.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And there's one more gift in there and this is a joint gift. This is a poppy from Flanders Fields that is dried and framed for you.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** Thank you so much. But I have one for you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's big.

**MR. CISNA:** We've had this a long time, we bought this early on in our travels.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Maybe I should set it over here.

**MR. CISNA:** Sure. An Illinois tumbler set with a big block "I" so you'll know yes in deed, always think of Illinois when you have your tea.

(Applause.)

**MR. CISNA:** That was in Vermont at the Vermont Bear Factory, and the bear's name is Hope and it's filled with imagination.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much.

(Laughter.)

**MR. CISNA:** I hope you like it. Okay.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Many of you may not understand why I'm so delighted about this gift, but it's been on my wish list for a while. It's a downspout gutter chain.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** See, and I have a place in the front of the house, and I didn't want a downspout there, so in gardening centers they make these gutter chains so when the water comes off your roof it will follow the chain, it won't splash all over my flower bed. It will follow the change like in a downspout only it's decorative.

(Laughter and applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Tommie, you're my hero. That's been on my list and Mr. Stoy has not picked up on it.

(Laughter.)

**MR. CISNA:** And this one is for Tim.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

**MR. CISNA:** Take that home for Tim.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I will.

**MR. CISNA:** Or if you want to open it up.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** No, I'll take it for Timmy.

**MR. CISNA:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much.

**MR. CISNA:** Desi, it's been a wonderful --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much.

**MR. CISNA:** And thank you all for electing Desi, it's like the stars aligned when David and Desi and I and Kaylee -- and Kaylee Horan. What a dream team it was. Thank you all so much and thank you for your help.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much. Thank you for your help too.

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(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Tommie is the best. Each year at convention we have an opportunity to hear from our National Chairman about the work our organization is doing in its many programs and functions. It is my pleasure to now begin these reports with our National Americanism Chairman, Coral May Grout. Coral?

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** Aren't we all fortunate to be living in the United States?

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** The Americanism Program allows each of us to show our pride through the many opportunities available. Our Units continue to identify Americanism as one of their major program areas. In fact, 2,313 Units indicated that they were involved with Americanism Programs in the schools, 3,906 Units participated in patriotic holiday observances, and the Americanism Essay Program resulted in more than 19,000 essay submissions.

The Americanism report at last years National Convention included information about the Nation's first permanent healing field in Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. The field was destroyed by a tornado, but members of Unit number 34 would not allow a disaster to stop their project. By holding poker runs, bingo games, and through donations, the Unit devoted 4,532 hours of volunteer time to raise \$31,587. There are now 78 20-foot poles with a four-by-six flag on each, plus a granite marker to identify each remembered person.

The rededication was held on a bitterly cold 9th of November 2008. The dedication was attended spite of the cold by hundreds of Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, SAL members, Legion Riders, people of the community, and the families of those fallen heroes who are honored at Kentucky's Healing Field.

Peggy Zach of Unit number 69 in New Mexico, along with her husband, have made more than 10,000 pocket flags this year. Over the past seven years this couple has made more than 100,000 pocket flags and spent \$50,000 on this project. Illness has struck during the past year, so the Zachs are no longer able to make the flags. Will someone take up the project?

Also the Legion Riders from New Mexico travel to San Antonio to Brooks Medical Center. There they presented 400 pocket flags, making the Department of New Mexico a leader in the pocket flag project.

(Applause.)

**MS. GROUT:** Not to be outdone, however, the Department of Colorado has also become involved with pocket flags by sending 189,293 flags overseas.

The message of hope was most evident as we saluted the military children throughout the year. In North Carolina Unit members distributed flags and gifts to more than 1200 children at Fort Bragg, while other members visited soldiers and their families at Camp Lejeune where they distributed 12,000 hugs and pocket flags.

The Department of Wisconsin involved students in all their activities. The High Ground Memorial was one of these programs. And Unit 198 in Tennessee created a wall of honor to our military. The wall is lined with flags. Members donated 600 hours and \$27,046 to make this happen. The lovely wall was completed on March 24th, 2009.

Units across our land presented flags and spoke to students in our schools and businesses. New York led the program with 5,182 flags, followed closely by Minnesota and Iowa with more than 4,300 each.

The Americanism Youth Conference was a huge success thanks to the many Departments and Units who invited students to attend. Thirty-one Departments were represented, along with Operation Military Kids for a total of 67 students and 3 chaperons.

Students met people from the past and learned about our flag through a flag folding ceremony as well as other activities. They visited Valley Forge in Philadelphia and participated in numerous leadership and team building activities.

Our National Girl Scout Achievement Award winner was Madison Burke of Chesterfield, Missouri.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** She was selected from a field of 35 Departments.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to the Americanism Program. Madam National President, this includes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** There are none.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Coral. Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** You're welcome.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our next report will be presented by Kathy Dungan, the National Junior Activities Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Madam National President, the Juniors of the American Legion Auxiliary have had a very productive year. Reports from Departments of their volunteer work and involvement in their communities were very impressive. Juniors across the United States actively worked on hundreds of community service projects from handing out American flags to baking cookies for the USO, from packing care packages for our troops, to singing for special events, from dancing for our troops, to holding Easter parties for younger children. Our Juniors are always ready at the call bringing hope to our veterans, our communities, and our youth.

Some of the accomplishments this year for Junior Activities Program were the addition of two new patches and the production of the brochure. The patch program continues to be a success this year with addition of the two new patches. The Education Patch and the National Security Patch. This program has proven vital in the training of our Juniors. Approximately 2100 patches were earned this year by our Juniors.

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Our National Junior member of the year is Brittany Watts from the Department of Louisiana, Unit 258. Brittany served her Unit and community by volunteering 128 hours at the Veterans Outpatient Clinic. She helped fold 200 pocket flags for deployed soldiers and packaged 240 personal care packages for homeless veterans.

Some of our Juniors spreading hope were, India Archer (phonetic), Department of New Mexico; Katherine Morris, Department of Connecticut; Victoria Sunbury (phonetic), Department of Connecticut; Alexandra Havell (phonetic), Department of Delaware; Jordan Roberts, Department of Florida; and Gina Arilano (phonetic), Department of Minnesota.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** India Archer from the Department of Mexico, Unit 69 sang the National Anthem at New Mexico State Capital at a very special ceremony sponsored by the New Mexico Legislature honoring all of New Mexico's Vietnam veterans. The event was attended by approximately 800 veterans, one of them being a medal of honor recipient. The Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico and many other state dignitaries attended.

Junior President Katherine March from the Department of Connecticut chose the Ronald McDonald House as her project, raising \$400 and collecting 61 pounds of tabs.

Another special Junior is six-year-old Alexandra Havel from the Department of Delaware. She has been a member since she was 14 days old and attending almost every meeting. She has been actively involved ever since she was a tiny tot distributing poppies.

Junior member Jordan Roberts from Florida's Unit 79 reported a lady Legionnaire's memories of World War II as part of the Veterans History Project. Jordan also received the Youth Hero Award for saving a young man's life.

Minnesota Junior Department President Gina Arilano involved Juniors in her project of collecting 725 pairs of socks for the veterans home. They collected \$360 for the project also.

As you can see, our Juniors, our hope continue to shine representing our Auxiliary, and we are proud of all of them.

I wish you all could have been with me the past three days with our Juniors. Let me assure you our Juniors are full of energy, eager to work, and dedicated to our organization. Attending were 76 Juniors, 8 honorary National officers, representing 29 Departments.

The following honorary National Junior officers were elected for the incoming year. Honorary National Junior Auxiliary President, Molly McLaughlin from the Department of Oregon.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Honorary National Junior Auxiliary Chaplain Haley Bland from the Department of Louisiana.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Honorary National Junior Auxiliary Historian, Brittany Watts from the Department of Louisiana.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Honorary National Junior Presidents from each division were elected. Central Division, Sabrina Cobb from the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Eastern Division, Amy Robinson from the Department of Maryland.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Northwestern Division, Amanda Washburn from the Department of Nebraska.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Southern Division, Kayla Robnett from the Department of Kentucky.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** And Western Division, India Archer from the Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DUNGAN:** Congratulations to these young ladies.

An event introduced last year with much success was continued this year at our Junior meeting, the Second Home Front Kids Canteen Event. Local military children with deployed family members were treated to an afternoon full of fun, games, prizes, and crafts. Friday evening the Juniors pack packs called hero packs with fun items, and these packs were distributed to the military children. What a wonderful way for our Juniors to show their support for our troops and their families.

Based on the dedication of our Juniors we are assured they will continue representing us well and continue being an example of our motto, "Service, not self."

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

If I may I would like to introduce a special guest. It is my honor to introduce the young lady who did an excellent job this year presiding over the Junior meeting, Honorary National Junior President Kaylee Horan from the Department of Illinois. Kaylee.

(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** Hi, how are you all today? All right. Well, I'll just start off by saying that this has truly been an exciting year. There are not enough words to thank The American Legion Family for giving me this opportunity to represent the Junior Auxiliary in this great organization. I served this year with the best. Commander Dave Rehbein, President Desi Stoy, and SAL Commander Tommie Cisna.

Serving our active duty soldiers, their families, and our veterans has been a priority for me for the past nine years as a Junior member. Throughout the state and on a local level I have encouraged the Juniors to collect phone cards, write letters, send cards and care packages to the soldiers to let them

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know that we care about them and support them. Our Junior Unit has been doing this for years.

This month I was invited by the Family Readiness Coordinator from the West Regional Training and Support Base to speak with the children of two Units deploying to Afghanistan about the importance of being involved with The American Legion. I let them know that the Legion is there to help them in whatever way that we can. And to quote President Desi regarding our veterans and their families, “We will identify their stressors and needs, and we will offer assistance either by rolling up our sleeves and doing it ourselves or by locating other resources to assist them. Never let one military family say there is no hope.”

At National Convention last year before I was elected I saw the Fisher House booth in the convention center. I knew right away that if I was elected National Junior President I wanted to make Fisher House Foundation my special project.

In my election speech I told the Junior girls that I would like to focus my year on raising funds and awareness for the Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House Foundation is special to me because it's our country's way of giving back, even a little, to the soldiers and their families who have given so much to all of us.

I contacted National President Desi to ask for her permission to raise money for Fisher House. I was so thrilled when she approved my project. Let's just say I hit the ground running.

Our Unit President, Donna, planned a homecoming for me in early October. Invitations were sent out all over the state. We had a 50/50 raffle that day with half the money going to Fisher House, specifically at Hines. My aunt won the raffle and donated the other half of the money to Fisher House, so that was a great start.

I used construction paper to cover boxes and decorate them to look like little Fisher Houses. Hold on. I brought one here. I used cereal boxes, Kleenex boxes, everything to make these, and I took them with me wherever I went, and members from other posts took the boxes back to their post to collect money for my Fisher House project.

In November I was invited to attend National SAL Commander Tommie Cisna's homecoming. All four of us National officers were there. It was so exciting for me to spend time with Commander Dave, President Desi, and SAL Commander Tommie.

Tommie had a great weekend planned for all of us, that included a bus trip with the best tour guide, Butch Ray, and a visit to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield, which is a must see. I know, aren't they cute?

Throughout the year I was invited to the attachment commander mics meetings, District post, and Junior meetings. Everywhere I went the Fisher House boxes came along with me.

February in Illinois was exciting. The American Legion Family and its National officers met in Springfield, Illinois, to celebrate the 200th birthday of

President Abe Lincoln. The Lincoln Pilgrimage was sponsored by Springfield's Post 32. We visited Lincoln's tomb at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Beautiful wreaths were placed at the tomb by The American Legion officers, the major of Springfield, and the Illinois State Treasurer, and our governor Pat Quinn.

In March I attended the 81st Annual Patriotic Conference in Decatur, Illinois. National President Desi and National SAL Commander Tommie were there too.

Patty Williamson, our Department Americanism Chairman, arranged for several guest speakers at the conference. One of the speakers was an author and a mother of nine children, her name was Kim Simac. Kim wrote a children's book about the American soldier titled, "American Soldier Proud and Free." She said that patriotism and pride for our country and our military is not promoted enough in our schools, that's one of the reasons why she decided to write the book.

After conference Kim and I talked quite a while. She donated a case and a half of our books to me for my special project. All I had to do was mail them to all of the Fisher Houses. When I got home I went on the Fisher Foundation Web site and saw that there were 43 different houses. I thought, Geeze, that is going to cost me a small fortune. So I decided to go to a local UPS store to see if they could help with the postage. I explained who I was and what my special project was. The manager, Mike Garafla (phonetic), donated all of the postage to mail all 43 books to the Fisher Houses in the United States and Europe.

(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** That's him right there on the screen. Another lady that I met at Patriotic Conference was Christina Finn. She is the Department of Illinois President of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the founder of the Patriotic Pillow Project.

Right after I finished speaking at conference about my special project Christina Finn stood up and she said that she was on the board of directors for the Friends of Fisher House. She said that she wanted to speak with me after conference. We must have talked for about an hour and a half. I've been keeping in touch with Christina about the progress of the Hines Fisher House and the upcoming events around the State of Illinois.

In April I had a spaghetti dinner dance fund raiser at my post for the Fisher House at Hines VA. We advertised the event and many people from the community came. Many of my post, Auxiliary, SAL, and Junior members helped out to make the fund raiser a great success. We even had our post band, the 208, donate their talent for the evening. My friend, Christina Finn from the Friends of Fisher House even came to the event and spoke. Everybody loved her. I was so honored that she came. She is always so busy with all the veterans organizations that she's involved in and she supports.

I went to local stores to get food and raffle donations to help keep the cost down. In the end I spent \$83 and raised \$3,090.17 for Fisher that night along. It was amazing.

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(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** In July I was asked to attend a Gurney, Illinois, SAL Poker Run by William, a dual member of the Gurney, Illinois, post. He had heard me speak about my fund raising efforts through Fisher House and he thought I would enjoy helping out and talking to people. All proceedings from the run were going to the Fisher House Foundation. The poker run raised over \$3,000 for Fisher House too. In all there were about 150 motorcycles in the run, and I am now looking forward to next years poker run.

And I am happy to report that I have raised over \$10,000 for Fisher House Foundation this year.

(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** As you can see this has been an exciting year for the American Legion Junior Organization and me. I have met so many wonderful people and I am so thankful that I have been given this opportunity to represent this organization. And I'm looking forward to continued years of service. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** And I have a gift for you, and I would like you to open it.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I'm sure you agree with me that we had excellent leadership for our Junior members this year didn't we?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I know Kaylee has a picture, and there's one picture where I appear taller than her.

**MS. HORAN:** She was on a step, it doesn't count.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** But I notice it didn't make the cut when she made her report.

**MS. HORAN:** And this apron, this is -- our theme for Illinois was "Cooking Up Service," and so I brought this to one of our events and I had a bunch of people that were there -- well pretty much everyone that was there sign this apron for you, and so you get to wear that when you're cooking up service.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Thank you. It's a wall plaque, Hope. Be strong and let your heart take courage. All you hope in the Lord. Psalm 31:24. Thank you so much.

**MS. HORAN:** Your Honor.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Oh, a silver necklace that has Hope on it.

(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** And this necklace I took washers and spray painted them and wrote Hope and put beads on them. I gave them out to all my Juniors and some of the National committees, so I decided I'd give one to you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I count myself fortunate to receive one of your special creations. Thank you.

Thank you so much Kaylee, it's been a genuine pleasure get to go know you and serving with you. And I have a couple of things for you. This you have

earned over and over and over again, and this is your official scholarship letter, and so you have received a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

**MS. HORAN:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And this is a small token of appreciation for being such a great gal.

**MS. HORAN:** I need Tommie up here to hold my tissue paper. Dream, Hope, and Wish. And they're little Post-It note cards. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you for a wonderful year of service.

**MS. HORAN:** Well, now I have the pleasure for introduce to you, she is the 2009-2010 new National Junior President; her name is Molly McLaughlin.

(Applause.)

**MS. HORAN:** And now I have something for her. And let me just tell you Molly, I never really wanted to wear this hat because it messed up my hair, but now at convention I never took it off because I regret not wearing it as much as I could have. So here's your hat.

(Laughter and applause.)

**MS. MCLAUGHLIN:** Okay then. I'll put that on later. Thank you.

**MS. HORAN:** You're welcome. Congratulations.

**MS. MCLAUGHLIN:** Thank you. Okay. Well, I come before you as the new incoming Honorary National Junior President, and I have a little short but sweet speech for you guys.

I would like to start off by thanking my grandpa, Mac McLaughlin, for my eligibility for membership. He is a Vietnam veteran and he served 16 years in the U.S. Air Force.

Next my Department from Oregon. Where are you? My Department from Oregon and my home Unit Taggard 158 deserve recognition. All of you have supported me through many of my -- or all of my 17 years and inspired me to become something great, obviously.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank my grandma Darlene. Would you please stand?

(Applause.)

**MS. MCLAUGHLIN:** Sorry, I'm getting a little emotional. I would not be here without her. And she's been my life coach in a way and for being the shoulder to cry onto those early mornings dragging me out of bed for a convention. She's pushed me to have confidence and high standards for myself. And would you please just give her another round of applause.

(Applause.)

**MS. MCLAUGHLIN:** Okay. So as far as my project for this year I have a few ideas on my mind, but I would like to talk it over with my senior members from my Unit and my Department before I make a complete decision, and I will inform all of you guys as soon as I decide.

I would like to really inspire the rest of our Juniors to bring more members in and become a bigger, stronger, and better Junior group. And I hope

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that I will be a strong President as Ms. Kaylee has been. And I will make all of you proud. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Molly, it's a true privilege for this National President to be one of the first to congratulate you, and I knew you had a proud grandma out there. Now I haven't known Grandma near as long as you, but I know Darlene; she's a hoot.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** But please accept this small token of congratulations to you. And perhaps you can use a rolling tote this year as you carry all the paraphernalia needed for your office, right?

**MS. MCLAUGHLIN:** Thank you so much.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And congratulations to you.

**MS. MCLAUGHLIN:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Kathy, do you have any recommendations or resolutions?

**MS. DUNGAN:** Madam President we have one.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes Kenya Ostermeier, our Resolutions Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, resolution number one was submitted by the National Junior Activities Committee. The subject is Levels 1 and Levels 2 of the patch program, and it reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Patch Program promotes patriotism by educating its Junior Members while earning patches in Americanism, Poppy, VA&R, community service, fitness, leadership, field service, education, and other programs; and

WHEREAS, Junior Members should be challenged while completing the requirements of all patches; and

WHEREAS, presently the age groups are:

Level 1, ages kindergarten through fifth grade.

Level 2, ages sixth grade through eighth grade.

Level 3, ages ninth grade through twelfth grade, or 18 years old; and

WHEREAS, Levels 1 and 2 have such a huge age and grade gap; and

WHEREAS kindergarten through third grade are considered primary grades, and fourth grade through eighth grade are considered middle grades; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of all concerned that the age and grade gap of Level 1 and Level 2 be changed to correct the age and grade gap, with Level 3 remaining the same, and

Resolved, by the American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21st through 27th, 2009, that Level 1 and Level 2 be changed as follows:

Level 1, ages kindergarten through third grade.

Level 2, ages fourth grade through eighth grade.

Level 3, ages ninth grade through twelfth grade or 18 years old.

Resolved, that all requirements for all levels remain the same.

Resolved, that this change become effective with the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

The National Junior Activities Pre-Convention Committee recommends that this resolution be adopted.

Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of this resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the resolution that Level 1 and Level 2 be changed as follows:

Level 1, ages kindergarten through third grade.

Level 2, ages fourth grade through eighth grade.

Level 3, ages ninth grade through twelfth grade, or 18 years old.

And that all requirements for all levels remain the same. And that this change become effective with the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

Is there any discussion? Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of proposed resolution number one please stand.

(Pause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, you may be seated. All those opposed please stand.

(Pause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, please be seated. The affirmative have it and the resolution is adopted. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Pearl Behrend, Chairman of the Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation will now give her report.

The Chair calls upon Kris Nelson, the National Children & Youth Committee to give her report.

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** Good morning. Madam National President, the Children & Youth Program challenged members to get involved this year with the quotation, "One hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Hawthorn Unit 314 of Redondo Beach, California, took up this challenge by offering hope to the children throughout their community. Not only providing them with their physical needs and emotional fulfillment, but also educating and inspiring their young minds.

Unit members noticed that the women's clinic at their local VA was in desperate need of a new box of toys. They were using a cardboard box wrapped in Christmas wrap. The members not only provided the toy box, they filled it with new toys, some fun, some educational, they included many reading books, many crayons, and color books. The Unit also collaborated with neighborhood Units and other organizations to provide 100 holiday activity kits to children traveling through the local USO.

The members stated that the look of delights on the faces of the tired children when they were handed a bag filled with snacks and activity books and toys was priceless.

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During the holiday party one of the Units Junior members noticed how shabby some of the children looked in their clothes that were stained and ill fitting. She later asked the Unit if there was anything they could do for those children. From this Junior's observation that April is Children & Youth Month, this Unit project was born.

Five boys ranging from nine years down to four months, along with four girls, the youngest only three months old, the oldest four years, were given new clothing, shoes, books, and toys through donations and clearance items at local stores. The moms cried, the children were delighted. They often said, "Is today Christmas?" The Auxiliary members answered, "No, it's not Christmas, this is April, Children & Youth, and in our Auxiliary we chose you among all the children in our community."

Additionally the Unit donates their time and treasure to many non-profit organizations. The groups including sponsoring Girl Scouts, donating to Miracle Flights for Kids, Market An Angel, Make A Wish, and Victory Junction Camp.

The members of Unit 314 can proudly say the world may be different because we were important in the life of children throughout our community.

Sharing the story of Unit 314 is just one small example of the multitude of things that our Auxiliary members are doing for children across the country in donations of both time and treasure for the betterment of our youth.

Auxiliary members across the country continue to submit applications for local youth who have performed a physical act of valor, helping someone in need, and are recipients of the Youth Hero Awards, and for young people who make a difference in their community by offering exemplary community service and are recipients of the good deed award. Reading these applications was the highlight of my year. These young people are learning early in life how they can make the world a better place. Let me share a few of their stories with you.

Twelve-year-old Marissa Young of Bloomfield, Wisconsin, was staying overnight to babysit her three young cousins when she smelled smoke. Fire officials credit her actions during this disaster with saving their lives. The fire had started outside the house with a faulty meter. The house was a total loss, but her cousins' lives were saved.

Ten-year-old Mark Minious of Louisiana had just gotten off the school bus when he noticed as it drove away that the back tire was on fire. He ran after the bus, his speed amazing everyone, because he was carrying a 20-pound backpack. The bus driver evacuated the bus and credited Mark with keeping the other 12 students on the bus safe.

On their way to school, Sandra and Umberto (phonetic) Romero of California noticed smoke coming from an apartment building. Sandra dialed 9-1-1 and the dispatcher told her to knock on the apartment door. She felt compelled to also knock on a nearby window. A lady responded unaware of the fire. She opened the bedroom door to find flames and ended up handing her one-year-old daughter through the window to Umberto and then also climbing through the window to safety.

Umberto then noticed the balcony on the apartment above was also in flames. He knocked on the apartment window and another resident climbed through to safety. He was credited by saving her life by keeping her from returning to the apartment to save her cats.

Seventeen-year-old Carrie Gakstetter (phonetic) of Michigan has been a patient volunteer at the VA Medical Center for three years. She genuinely enjoys spending time with veterans. Carrie works bingo nights assisting the veterans and engaging in conversation throughout her hours of volunteering. Carrie is credited for recruiting many family members and friends to join her in volunteering, assuring that there are always enough volunteers to assist veterans on bingo night.

In addition to be award of the Good Deed Award, Carrie's Unit also presented her with a Citizenship Award.

These are just four of the dozens of awards that were presented to students across the country this year. This program has no ending date. So if you know of a deserving youth, please take time to send in the application.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** No, there's not.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Kris.

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** During the course of convention the National President receives several notes, and you may wonder what some of those notes might be about, so I thought I'd share one. "Pull the mic down for the video, it's covering your face."

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our next report will be presented by our National Girls State Chairman, Mary Davis.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DAVIS:** Madam National President Desi, earlier this year for the forty-fourth time in over 200 years the world bore witness as America once again conducted a peaceful transition of power. This event demonstrates the epitome of the democratic process our forefathers envisioned as their launched our new republic. And across America again this year thousands of young women were immersed in the learning process of our democratic government.

From Alaska, the state with vast wilderness, to Florida young women were writing, debating, passing, and defeating bills which they learned to address and defend with passion.

Alaska had a first with attendance of a young woman from a native village. Shy at first, but with a growth of knowledge and confidence she shared the experience of many of the young women across America who became confident, assured, outspoken, alumni of Girls State.

Emergency preparedness programs were held in many states.

Louisiana reported incorporating the CERT activity into their city projects

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with the help of the governor's office, of Homeland Security, and emergency preparedness. Director Maggie Watts stated, "The idea behind the exercise is to bring a better understanding of the citizens responsibility versus government when a disaster occurs." And wouldn't you know they had a real emergency weather alert happen one afternoon, but they were ready.

New Mexico, with the assistance of representative Dennis Roach, brought the importance of Girls and Boys state to their state home in the House Memorial 12 proclaiming February 24th, 2009 as Boys and Girls State Day in the House of Representatives. The memorial was passed during the 49th session of the legislature.

Honoring families of military members brought blue star banner presentations to citizens whose immediate family members were in the military. From Washington to Indiana ceremonies were part of the learning experience, which included empathy for life experiences of fellow Girls State citizens. Not only learning to write bills, but learning to be good citizens were highlights throughout the Girls State session.

Nebraska had five service learning projects from collections for food banks, stuffing court bags for youth having to appear in court, to writing letters to Nebraska troops, and making trade favors for veterans at the Nebraska Veterans Home.

Oklahoma girls made a difference when they also wrote to troops, those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. In a communication back, Sergeant Brett Earls, with the U.S. Marines in Alasad, Iraq told them, "I am only one service member out of thousands over here in Iraq fighting for the rights of others to live in a free world, to be free of living in fear every day of their lives, and to stop the terrorism not only here in Iraq but around the globe. I just want to convey my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the letters received from the Oklahoma Girls State. When the shells are coming in and we are hitting the bunkers, it's letters like these that keep us remembering why we are here and what we are fighting for and to stay focused and strong. Thank you very much, God bless all of you."

So how do we keep our program going strong? North Dakota Girls State reports addressing this concern. They and many other Departments are working on new ideas to promote the program. They are getting the Girls and Boys State DVD out to all the schools and updating their website for Auxiliary members, students, parents and teachers.

States such as Utah and Wyoming report state college scholarships because of attendance at Girls State. West Virginia applied for and received a large grant for its program. And Arizona pointed out that those applying for the Samsung Scholarship are eligible for membership.

Have we asked them to join our ranks to continue to make this program strong? From sea to shining sea young women experienced government, learned the importance of being good Americans, and the importance of our constitutional foundation which has remained strong and survived well these so many years.

Departments sent Girls Nation a wonderful selection of representatives this year. Ninety-eight young senators had an exciting busy week from inspirational speakers to meeting U.S. senators and representatives, from tours of Washington, D.C., to meeting their counterparts, the senators of Boys Nation, from passionately debating bills and resolutions to touring the white house. Because of their focus 11 bills, 6 resolutions were brought to the floor for debate and dispensation. And senators could be followed by parents, friends, and Auxiliary members on the web, Twitter, Facebook, and blogs because of the success of the enhanced Girls Nation Public Relations Committee.

Madam President, this concludes my formal remarks; however, I have a distinguished guest I would like to introduce.

Elected President of the 63rd Session of Girls Nation, Rachel Lipstein of Suffern, New York, is her high school debate captain, a member of the Model United Nations, and a veteran of The American Legion Oratorical Contest. She plans on becoming a lawyer when she completes her formal education.

Please help me welcome Girls Nation President Rachel Lipstein.

(Applause.)

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Good morning, everyone.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Hi, I'm Rachel Lipstein, President of the 63rd Girls Nation and from the Department of New York.

(Applause.)

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** I thank you and all of the American Legion Auxiliary for the honor of speaking before the National Convention on my experience at Girls Nation.

I was one of 98 girls, 2 from 49 states who assembled in Washington, D.C., for a week of senate sessions and trips around our capital. Each day we grappled with the problems facing our Nation and then went out to explore some of the places that made our nation great, reminding us of the importance of our purpose and the necessity for civil engagement. We each understood that.

We came together from the distant corners of the country in the spirit of such an idea. Each of us having attended and distinguished ourselves at our respective Girls State Programs. We came bearing different hopes and ideas, and we came for several purposes. To teach, to learn, to observe, and to lead. We all came from disperse backgrounds and diverse regions, but even with these differences we were united under a common purpose, we shared a common concern in human welfare, in the dignity and the quality of American life, and in the integrity of our government. We cared. We cared about America. We unified under a double banner, the American Legion Auxiliary standard, and the American flag.

A week later we all left somehow different from our previous selves. A radical shift affected our lives, our perspectives, and our mentality over the course of that week.

I speak of a vast paradigm shift, a wave that has swept the country, and now has reached the 98 bright girls of whom I am proud to be a part. This wave

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of thought taught us that we as women have the potential to rise to any position, to lead with grace, wisdom, and efficiency if we so choose.

At Girls Nation we are not merely addressed with empty rhetoric, but rather we had the chance to see for ourselves what women are capable of and what we as young women can accomplish.

I found to my overwhelming delight that so many of us Girls Nationers took active roles in our schools, our communities, and our Auxiliaries at home. Most importantly we pursued our own knowledge. As educated poised women we tackled concerns. We knew that with spirit, effort, and passion we could combat complacency that stunts our Nation.

Girls Nation was so much more than a government simulation or an exercise. There was nothing mock about our senate sessions, about our commitment, or about the issues. That in itself was a great awakening for me. An awakening to the potential future of this country if all young women continue to be blessed with these opportunities and continue to be driven by their love of country and desire to make a difference.

In my campaign speech for the President I asked the question that I felt needed to be asked of any candidate, does this person inspire us? I asked my peers to consider who could best reach out to solve the problems that faced our country, but now I'm faced with the irony that it was them who inspired me. I was inspired by their passion and motivation and by what we accomplished and could continue to do. That was the most powerful way I was changed.

In reaching this conclusion, I believe I embraced the main principal that the American Legion Auxiliary tried to instill in us through Girls Nation. The success of a country is not solely the product of a great leader, but rather the product of a great constituency, a motivated informed voting body, and an active engaged citizenry. It is a measure of how we serve those who serve us, our veterans and troops.

Both of my grandfathers served in World War II, one of them earning four bronze stars in German campaigns. When I told him about my election to Girls Nation he started to cry because he was overcome with emotion. The Auxiliary has made that impact on my life and on his, and I thank them for the opportunity to make my grandpas proud.

I thank the Department of New York for their consistent support of me through my endeavors in Girls State and Girls Nation, and I thank the American Legion Auxiliary for providing us with this inexpressively valuable opportunity, to explore our roles in this country, and to help us realize our potential. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN DAVIS:** Rachel, it's my distinct pleasure to present to you a \$2,000 scholarship for being Girls Nation President.

(Applause.)

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN DAVIS:** You're welcome, hon.

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** And it's my pleasure now on behalf of all the Girls Nation Senators to present a gift to our President. It looks like we have identical bags.

(Laughter.)

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Two little blue bags. I wonder what that can mean.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That's a Tiffany & Company?

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** That's a Tiffany & Company. Shall we open them together?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Okay.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Ready?

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Another bag.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's a bracelet, and inside is a charm. The Girls Nation charm.

**MS. DAVIS:** Oh, wow.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Beautiful Tiffany bracelets with the Girls Nation charm.

(Applause.)

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I hope that's a nice memory for you.

**MS. LIPSTEIN:** It's beautiful. Thank you. Thank you so much.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Here's your official scholarship money.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Again, the Girls Nation President.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our next report is from Vickie Koutz, the National Poppy Chairman.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KOUTZ:** In Flanders Fields the poppies blow between the crosses row on row. When I think of our red crepe paper poppy the first thing that comes to mind is the first two lines of the poem in Flanders Fields.

What a wonderful year we've had in our Poppy Program. A special thanks to the 40 Departments who reported their outstanding work. I was amazed by all the different ideas the members had to raise funds for our veterans.

Jennifer Anderson, a six-year-old Junior member from the Department of North Dakota presented a story about poppies for show and tell in her first grade class.

Poppy lollipops were made by a Maryland Unit for the doctors and nurses on the surgical unit at Walter Reed Hospital.

A Unit member from Indiana made a white tiered cake and decorated it with poppies.

Pennsylvania members dressed in their Poppy shirts to distribute poppies at a local bank in their community.

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Unit 275 in the Department of Florida signed up to decorate a pole for the downtown Merchants Association, in the center was the poem, in Flanders Fields, which is what they chose to name it.

The Poppy Committee in Georgia set up a Poppy store at their spring conference. Lots of different items were made and sold, and at the end of the day they had collected over \$400 for their disabled veterans.

At this time I have the distinct pleasure and privilege to introduce to you Little Miss poppy, age 11, Amanda Renee Landon. She is a member of Ralph M. Noble Unit 285 from the Department of Illinois. Amanda.

(Applause.)

**MS. LANDON:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MS. LANDON:** National President Desi, members, and guests, hi, I am Amanda Landon and I am 12 years old. I am very pleased to be here this morning as your National Miss Poppy in the age group of 11 through 12 years of age.

My eligible is through my grandpa, Mike DeWitt, he was a veteran of the Vietnam War from 1965 through 1967. This is all possible from the help of my Unit from Illinois, Galesburg, Ralph M. Noble Unit 285.

(Applause.)

**MS. LANDON:** And my grandma, Sandy DeWitt. I would like her to stand.

(Applause.)

**MS. LANDON:** Thank you and have a nice day.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KOUTZ:** Miss Poppy, age 13 is Alexis Jean Champion, and she is a member of Chief Pontiac Unit 377 from the Department of Michigan. Alexis.

(Applause.)

**MS. CHAMPION:** Good morning, National President Desiree Stoy, officers, members, and guests. My name is Alexis Champion from the Department of Michigan, and I am the National Senior Miss poppy.

The poppy girls best in the middle of August and they can be found in colors such as red, orange, blue, yellow, white, and pink. The poppy is found in many places, but it was first seen on Flanders Field. Today many people distribute the poppy at various times of the year in order to raise money for the veterans and their families.

If someone was to ask you what the poppy meant to you what would you say? I say it's a simple act of remembrance for those who have given their lives fighting for our country. Wearing a poppy says I appreciate what the veterans have done to keep this country free, fair, and the peaceful place it is today.

I would like to thank my Unit number 377, my District number 18, and the Department of Michigan. I would also like to thank the National level for this opportunity. And lastly, I would like to thank my mom, Kim Champion, my grandmother, Bobbie Yates, and Sister Alisa Champion.

Thank you, God bless our veterans, and God bless America.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KOUTZ:** Thanks so much, girls, for sharing your experiences with us.

The media appeared to be very evident this year in our Departments getting out the information to the public. One network, cable news PR, came from Fox Business News with a segment entitled, “Why are poppies symbols of memorial day? Support a vet; buy the poppy.” A producer of the new Fox Business Channel in New York City chose to do a segment about the significance of Memorial Day Poppy. In googling the word “poppy” the American Legion Auxiliary name popped up. Through lots of persistence he finally reached our National office. A special thanks to Maria Potts and Colette Fike for working late into that night to put together information and pictures to be used.

Dubbie Buckler, our National Secretary, was the person selected to do the early morning remote segment. She was spliced in from Indianapolis, and if you had the opportunity to see this you would have noticed her wearing our National President’s lapel pin and a poppy.

That type of national exposure for this great program was a fantastic boost to our organization, and Dubbie did a great job on camera, don’t you think?

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KOUTZ:** One paragraph in the poppy story states, “Poppy day has become a familiar tradition in almost every American community. This distribution of the bright red memorial flower to the public is one of the oldest and most widely recognized programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.”

As we honored our promises every day our hope was to raise the funds needed to help more veterans this year, and that we did ladies. Our contributions totaled \$1,711,334, thanks to all of you.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KOUTZ:** Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It’s this National President’s privilege to present certificate plaques to each of the Miss Poppies. First to Amanda Renee Landon, Ms. Poppy age 6 to 12 from Ralph M. Noble Unit 285, Department of Illinois. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And to Alexis Jean Champion, Chief Pontiac Unit 377, Department of Michigan. Congratulations to you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Once again your National Miss Poppies. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Vickie, are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN KOUTZ:** No.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Now I believe that we will continue with the Pearl Behrend, Chairman of the Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation to give her report.

**CHAIRMAN BEHREND:** Thank you, Madam President. As I stand before you today I have an outpouring of love for all of you who have donated to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. It's truly an important program because it pertains only to children. All funds donated go into the grant funding. The American Legion pays all of the administrative costs. So do go home and spread the word about our great foundation.

And again, from the bottom of my heart, I say a million thanks to all of you who have given and donated to our foundation.

And now our guests have arrived, and I must tell you they are the guardians of our funds. Would our guests please come forward? Welcome, Dennis.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN BEHREND:** We also, you will see here with me a young man who is new on the job, Mr. Bob Caudell. Bob, would you take a bow, please?

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN BEHREND:** And now with much pride the Chairman of the Board, the man who guards our funds, Mr. Dennis Boland. Dennis.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** Thank you, Pearl. I'll get it together here, don't worry. Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MR. BOLAND:** It is indeed an honor to be in front of the hardest working members in the American Legion.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** You know it takes -- what makes a great organization is great volunteers, and believe me, from the bottom of my heart, I am so proud to be associated with the American Legion Auxiliary volunteers, you are the greatest.

You know, President Desi's theme, "Honor Our Promise Every Day," has been fulfilled through your donations to the Child Welfare Foundation. Last year we had 18 grants and we gave out \$628,155.

Before we go over the grants, the Auxiliary -- Pearl goes over them also -- and looks at what the American Legion Auxiliary would recommend to the Board of Directors that they'd like to see grants given to. That doesn't necessarily mean that we will give to those grants. We give to the ones that we feel warrant it. But out of the ten requests you did last year we gave six grants, Reach Out and Read, Our Military Kids, Caring Kids Television, Kids Peace, National Autism Association, and Zero to Three. That was \$273,410 of the \$628,154 given out or 43.52 percent of our total grants.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** This year we have received \$637,078.03, we also have received 371 grant applications, and when we narrow them down we will end up with 50 in the primary group and 75 in a secondary group. Mainly because

the amount of these have asked for administration costs or salaries, and we do not give that in a grant. It has to be information that disseminates, information about catastrophically ill children.

You know, we're right now \$100,000 short of going over the \$10 million mark.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** I'm sure -- at our October meeting the Board meets and we go over these grants, and I'm sure we will give out well over \$600,000 again in grants.

You know, as all Legion Family programs your Children & Youth Program is a vital part of your organization. The children you come in contact with talk about the good deeds they have learned from you and are excited to tell their parents about you.

Your sincerity for the American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Programs have been fulfilled by your actions. You have given the youth of your communities an opportunity to advance and be knowledgeable of the future that lies ahead of them. Like Michael Peterson says, "It's what we do and who we are."

At this time I would like to recognize some people with awards for their achievements and donations to the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

The recipient of the Meritorious Award -- Achievement Award is, "There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life, happiness, freedom, and peace of mind, and always attained by giving them someone else." That was written by Patton Conway March. Achieving the highest increase in per capita giving for the 2008-2009 year American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alabama.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** Okay, I guess no one is here to accept it. We have someone? Oh, here we come. I'm sorry. Ersie (phonetic), congratulations and thank you very much. It's a proud honor to give that to you.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** The recipient of the U.S. Udie Grant Award -- the U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award 2008-2009 presented to the Legion Family of the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** In recognition of outstanding support for the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation we thank you. "No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been rewarded for what he gave." Calvin Coolidge. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** The next awards I'll be mentioning they will be receiving a certificate, so I won't be presenting here, but I want them to be recognized. For the Excellence Award, the Department of Alabama, the Department of Wyoming, the Department of Hawaii, Department of Kentucky, Department of

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Nevada, Department of Connecticut, Department of New Mexico, Department of Texas, and the Department of Idaho.

The recipient of the Excellence Award is -- the Excellent Award, "You will find as you look back on your life that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." Henry Drummond.

Achieving the highest in per capita giving 2008-2009, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** Thank you. Also what I've always felt was the highest achievement that you get from the Child Welfare Foundation, which was my goal as the Department Children & Youth Chairman of Florida before I became President, I'd like to present this time the Garland D. Murphy Junior Award presented by the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, American Legion Auxiliary to the Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** For the program year 2008-2009. "In recognition of their designation as the number one Department in total contributions received from their volunteers in support of your annual program designed to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of our Nation's children through productive and meaningful grants." Signed by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Robert Caudell, and myself as President, Dennis Boland. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** Madam President Stoy, if I could have you up here, please, ma'am. I would like to recognize your leadership with the Spirit of Excellence Award. It is a lapel pin with a diamond, ma'am.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**MR. BOLAND:** Thank you. Ladies, with your continued support the Child Welfare will continue to provide for the betterment of all children. I love you as my family for what you do, because you are my family. May God bless you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN BEHREND:** I thank you so much. Our sincere congratulations to all winners.

And Madam President, to conclude my remarks I would like to share some words with you that I received in an appeals letter about hope. "Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is more powerful than hope. One can think, one can work, one can dream, and if you have hope you have everything. And we hope that you will continue to support The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, part of our family programs." Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The National President receives that award on behalf of all of you.

It's my pleasure to introduce you to the 2009 Convention Corporation President visiting us today, Mr. Silas Noel.

(Applause.)

**MR. NOEL:** Good morning Auxiliary members and guests, it's certainly a great pleasure to be in front of you this morning. I never dreamed that I'd ever have this honor to be President of a National Convention, it just wasn't in the cards for me I thought.

Good morning on the behalf of the Kentucky Legion. I welcome you to your 89th National American Legion Auxiliary Convention in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Bluegrass State internationally known to horses, tourism, bourbon, and beautiful women.

(Laughter.)

**MR. NOEL:** Kentucky has hosted the National Convention three times, 1929, but I doubt very seriously if there's too many of you out there remember the 1929 convention, because I know I don't and I'm older than most everybody out there. So -- and we did it in '88, now I remember that one well, and I believe everybody else that came in '88 could remember it. And as you know they say third time is a charm, so this is a charm. Yesterday we had beautiful weather for the parade. Anybody break a sweat or anything in that parade? I don't think so, because I saw a bunch with sweaters on.

And I would say that Kentucky has been blessed to in the Auxiliary, because Kentucky has had two National Presidents of the Auxiliary. One you won't remember, 1932-33, Mrs. Charles Blackburn. Now there's one that you will remember, I know she's probably out there some place, Virginia, Hobbs, 98-99.

(Applause.)

**MR. NOEL:** So we have been blessed in the Auxiliary in Kentucky. And also at your National Headquarters, if you ever go in the exhibit room in there, there's a silver tee sitting in there that was donated to the Auxiliary by Unit 15 of Kentucky. That's a Unit that used to be in Louisville, but the post went out of business. You know when you get old and you don't take any new members in you know what's going to happen to you.

Any way, on behalf of the members of Kentucky, I welcome you and thank you for coming and be sure and enjoy yourself. If you enjoy it tell everybody about it, if you don't tell me about it. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Silas. I'd now like to present to you the National Adjutant of the mighty American Legion. A member of Post 137 in Richmond, Virginia, he was a U.S. Navy sonarman and journalist during the Vietnam War. He joined National Headquarters staff in 1979 and has served as Executive Director of the Legion in downtown Indianapolis since 1995, only assuming his role as National Adjutant this past October. And we're so glad to have him with us today. Please welcome to the podium Mr. Dan Wheeler.

(Applause.)

**MR. WHEELER:** Greetings, everyone. Madam President, if I may because of a bad juxtaposition of timing, the National Commander has arrived at the same time and I'd like to defer to him and then follow him with your permission.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Absolutely. Absolutely.

**MR. WHEELER:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our next guest --

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- reminds us of pride and purpose we should all have about The American Legion. Head of the Nation's largest veteran service organization and member of Ames, Iowa Post 37, he is an Army veteran of the Vietnam era who served as an infantryman with the 4th and 1st armored division in Germany from 1970 to '71.

With a degree in physics and a master's in metallurgy he worked as a research metallurgist at the Ames, Iowa, laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy before retiring prior to his election as National Commander. It's a pleasure to present to you the National Commander of the mighty American Legion, my friend and favorite scientist, David Rehbein.

(Applause.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** Thank you, ladies. And now I see the sign that says, "Please don't touch microphone."

(Laughter.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** You know we've joked over the years because there's differences in stature between individuals, whether or not there would be some assistance as Desi comes to address our convention tomorrow, and I was a little bit afraid that as I came to your podium I'd find a hole to stand in.

(Laughter.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** I want to thank you for many things, but I really, really want to thank you for the President that you selected to serve your organization this year. It has been an absolute joy --

(Applause.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** -- it's been an absolute joy to spend time with she and Tim as we've traveled together. We have not been able to travel together nearly enough because our schedules took us in different directions, but it's also been a pleasure to watch her as she leads your organization, as you have gone through this year of challenge, because we've had quite a number of challenges.

We've had the opportunity in The American Legion -- in The American Legion Family to stand up and say what we believe in and make sure that the veterans and their families in this country understand what we believe in.

(Applause.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** You know, The American Legion and the Legion Family has met that kind of challenge for the last 90 years, this being our 91st Convention. We will continue to meet that challenge. We'll continue to achieve the mission that was set before us 91 years ago by our founders. The mission of advocating for our veterans, the mission of national security of this country, the mission of our children, making sure they have the education and the upbringing and the childhood they deserve to have, and the mission of honoring those who

have served and promoting patriotism. That's our four pillars. I know those are your four pillars, because your programs stand along side of ours.

But sometimes the challenge in which we meet that mission, the methods that we use, they need to change. The American Legion is changing. You are going to see over the coming months many changes in the way we communicate with our members. Not just a brand new Web page, but you'll see something -- you'll see a blog. It's going to be a place called "The Burn Pit, where we can discuss issues, and there will be Facebook. There is Facebook and there is Twitter, and all of the other mechanisms that the generation we need to attract, the mechanisms and methods that they use. But it won't be just so that we can tell them our story, it will be so that we can hear their voice, because they are bright, talented, intelligent people, and they need to feel the empowerment that these methods give them where they can communicate what they need, what they see back to us. So it's going to be two-way, it's not going to be just sending out a letter, it's going to be a conversation.

And I want to congratulate you for taking on the challenge and meeting that change in methods in your own way through that work with the corporation for national and community service, through those VISTA folks. That's your way of stepping forward to try new methods to fulfill those missions, and I want to thank you for that. You are to be congratulated for sometimes taking the risks of trying new methods, because sometimes new methods do entail risks. But I'm looking forward to the results.

My wife is here with me, and many of you have gotten to know her over the years, wouldn't be here without her folks.

(Applause.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** I want you to help me thank her.

(Applause.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** And a gentleman and his wife who has traveled with me throughout this year is my aide, who gets not nearly the recognition that he deserves, because he makes identical sacrifices, his family makes identical sacrifices, because we're gone all year. And I want you to help me if you would for just a few seconds, help me thank my aide, Mr. Milt Heifner and his wife, Pat.

(Applause.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** And now I have one more unfortunate bit of news. Desi, the gift's in the mail.

(Laughter.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** Ann, would you join me up here? We know that Desi and Tim are in the midst of a renovation back home, and the plant that we have here is a small part of the gift, because we have a gift card that was to have been here but is not, a gift certificate to a greenhouse back home so that -- they drove by a place that she really likes and she happened to mention it, so we were able to go to them to get that gift certificate. So that will be waiting for you. We will get it found, there is no doubt about that.

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But we would also like you and Tim to accept these cards just as a memento, a token of our feeling for you. It's been a very, very great pleasure this year. Thank you, Desi.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Look familiar?

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Commander, this is a gift for you. Now it looks a lot like a shoe box.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** But I know it's not nearly big enough because you wear boots.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** But here, on behalf of myself and part of your family, the American Legion Auxiliary, please accept this gift. Accessories are everything.

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** Yes, they are. At the beginning of the year at my homecoming back in Ames she gave me an iPod.

(Laughter.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** And this is a place that I can put that iPod so that I can play it all home without having to wear the ear plugs.

(Laughter.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** Desi, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you very much.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You're welcome. You're welcome.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And now for the lovely first lady's gift, Ann.

**MS. REHBEIN:** Don't go away.

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** I feel like I'm home.

(Laughter.)

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** Isn't that beautiful? That is beautiful.

**MS. REHBEIN:** It's beautiful. Thank you so much, Desi. It's beautiful.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You're welcome. Now, there's something else in here, and it's in a -- if you -- it's right in here.

**MS. REHBEIN:** Oh, isn't that gorgeous. It's beautiful. I know right where this came from. I believe it must have come from Belgium.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Actually because she admired the lace in Belgium so much this is handmade by Desi Stoy.

**MS. REHBEIN:** Oh, my gosh.

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** Oh, wow.

(Applause.)

**MS. REHBEIN:** Oh, I'll treasure it always.

**COMMANDER REHBEIN:** That's beautiful.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's our family heirloom.

**MS. REHBEIN:** Oh, thank you so much, Desi. It's beautiful.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** This is -- I indeed have been very fortunate to serve with the caliber of commander that the National American Legion elected as their National Commander, David Rehbein, and I consider him and Ann true friends, and I have referred to him affectionately as the big guy all year, and so I respect, and they are very precious to both Tim and myself.

But also precious is the Heifners. Pat and Milt are just great people, and so it's a pleasure to have them with us.

(Applause.)

**MR. HEIFNER:** It has indeed been a pleasure to have become friends with Madam President Desi and her husband, Tim. Friendships like that are hard to come by sometimes, and really, we do appreciate everything that they have -- courtesies they've extended to us while we've been together, and we do value that very much.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I have a gift card to Joann Fabrics.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much.

**MS. HEIFNER:** And this is for Tim.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay, thank you.

**MS. HEIFNER:** And there's also a little something for --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I have something for you. So I have a -- on Tim's behalf I've received a gift too, and Tim would have been here if I had asked him to be here.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So on my list of mistakes for this morning that's one of them. But thank you so much. And I have gifts for the Heifners as well. So you have a photo book to capture all these moments that we experienced this year, a place to put them.

**AUDIENCE:** Well thank you.

**MS. HEIFNER:** And then Pat has three Desi Stoy wash clothes.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Made in the USA, made in France, made in Belgium.

(Laughter.)

**MS. HEIFNER:** Thank you. Thank you so much.

**MR. HEIFNER:** Thank you, Desi.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You're welcome. You're welcome. Thank you for coming.

**MR. HEIFNER:** And this is a gift card to Home Depot, which I certainly could use.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Since the Adjutant was so kind to defer to the National Commander, it's now my pleasure to ask him to come forward.

(Applause.)

**MR. NOEL:** Madam President, National officers, distinguished members, it's a privilege to be with the National Commander to bring you greetings to your National Convention, because we are indeed a family and we should do

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everything we can to help each other grow and prosper. That means of course that no one we know, especially those who are actually in our family should go unasked. And I'll bet, and I'm not looking for a show of hands here, just a search of our conscience, that there are members among us who have members of their family who are eligible for the Sons or the Auxiliary or the Legion who are not yet members, and Madam President I am guilty of that. To that end, I have for you four completed applications for my daughters --

(Applause.)

**MR. NOEL:** -- and a check -- thank you. In addition to the check there is my home address so that you won't have to chase them down if necessary, I'll chase them down and make sure they renew. So I want to give that to you.

And I just want to say that I appreciate everything that all of you do every single day of the year to help our veterans and their families, and I have tried to instill in my daughters that same appreciation, and I hope you will harass them until they become active in this organization, because they have a lot to contribute, and I know they'll want to do it once they realize what it is that you do.

So I appreciate all that you do and I thank you very much for inviting me to your convention.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thanks so each of our guests for coming this morning. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And we accept these new members gladly, Adjutant, thank you. It's a good day when you get members to the American Legion Auxiliary. It's a good day.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We have more special guests. It is my pleasure to introduce to you today a delegate from the Veterans Affairs, Republic of China.

Each year they host the Legion Family as we make our visit to Taiwan. Unfortunately, Minister Kao Hua-chu was unable to join us this week due to a typhoon disaster in Taiwan, but please join me in welcoming Mr. Hans Song with the Veterans Affairs Commission of the Republic of China.

(Applause.)

**MR. SONG:** Thank you. Thank you very much. Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MR. SONG:** National President Stoy, National officers, and dear ladies in the American Legion Auxiliary and dear gentlemen over here.

(Laughter.)

**MR. SONG:** On behalf of General Kao Hua-Chu, or in Indian language you call that Wachuka --

(Laughter.)

**MR. SONG:** -- I am asked to bring VAC, Veterans Affairs Commission greetings to you all.

The General -- the Minister of my organization, the Veterans Affairs Commission in Taiwan wanted to come to your 2009 convention in person very, very much. Actually in the middle of June he had asked me to plan this trip on his behalf. However, only three days before we started our journey over to the United States a very, perhaps you have heard or read in the TV news about the devastating typhoon Morakot, which caused tremendous and very terrible damage to our people, as well as to our property there.

As of August 23rd, which was yesterday, our statistics show that at least 170 people died and were unearthed from the mudslides, and yet there are still 400 more reported missing, and we believe they're still in the mud or in the flood.

We hope that miracle of God will happen, and we hope that you will remember Taiwan in your prayers. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**MR. SONG:** Thank you. And I am also asked by the Minister to express our appreciation for all our American friends for your kind and human concern over the loss of our fellow citizens and our properties, and we also appreciate your assistance by sending over the Air Force helicopters over to Taiwan for conducting a rescuing mission of 74 runs to the mountains where were isolated by the mudslides. Thank you very much. Allow me to bow to you.

(Applause.)

**MR. SONG:** Thank you. In November last year we are honored to have National President Stoy and National Commander Rehbein over to Taipei for a short visit. Our president, Ma Ying-jeou, received them in the President's office for 40 minutes, which signifies that we in the Republic of China really cherish the friendship of the American Legion and the Auxiliary.

The timeframe from May 20th last year up until now speaks very significantly, especially to the interactions among the United States, the Mainland China, and the Republic of China.

President Ma Ying-jeou of our country has kept no stone unturned to improve the relationship with Mainland China and to revitalize that with the United States.

We have reopened the negotiation channels through Mainland China after a hiatus of over a decade. In virtually a few months, Taiwan, under president Ma Ying-jeou administration has transformed 60 years of cross street relations to better reflect the needs of our people and the realities of the changes times.

Our relationship with the United States, if I may, will quote words of a Mr. Raymond Burghardt, it is Chairman of the American Institute in Taiwan, which is equivalent to the embassy of the United States to the Republic of China in Taiwan. And the words is, "Our relationship so far is a new era of cross street civility."

Our dear friends in the American Legion Auxiliary, the Veterans Affairs Commission of the Republic of China in Taiwan very much cherishes your friendship. You have always been in support of the Republic of China

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and the VAC truly appreciates it. Taiwan is now a place acknowledged by both our fellow citizens and our American friends. We welcome you all to make a trip over there any time, and I mean it. And we certainly look forward to your continuous friendship and support for Taiwan, the Republic of China.

Your achievements in developing voluntary services and fund raising are the role models for our ladies in Taiwan. We salute you and hope that you will continue to share your experiences when your future President meets with us in Taiwan.

Thank you again for allowing me to speak before you, and I wish you all a successful convention and good health. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**MR. SONG:** Thank you. But before I go I just want to announce the gift, which I do not have that with me --

(Laughter.)

**MR. SONG:** -- but that will be presented to your National President this evening. It's a sailboat in gold plated.

(Laughter.)

**MR. SONG:** On a plaque. We will present that to her this evening. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You were such a wonderful host when we were in Taiwan, and we were honored to have the opportunity to meet with your President. And I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the National Women's Legion. So thank you for including that in our agenda.

But on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary I have a gift for you for making the long trip here, and then one for the Minister as well, if you will take back for him. Okay?

**MR. SONG:** Thank you, thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Thank you for all the courtesy extended to us. I look forward to tonight.

(Applause.)

**MR. SONG:** Thank you very much. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our work in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation will be presented by the National Chairman Carlene Ashworth. Carlene.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Madam President, honoring our promise every day to our veterans not only energizes our volunteers, it also energizes those we serve.

The goal of this year's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program was to increase the number of regularly scheduled volunteers in our VA facilities by 20 percent, our 834 new volunteers over last year's VAVS totals. To achieve this goal this Committee encouraged and promoted aggressive recruiting tactics throughout all Departments. I am thrilled to tell you that a total of 1,151 new regularly scheduled Junior and Senior volunteers were reported.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Which is 317 over our goal, and I am certain there are many more that may not have been reported.

In addition, Departments reported 1,474 new field service volunteers, and 1,590 home service volunteers, for a total of 4,215 new American Legion Auxiliary volunteers across the country.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** The top ten Departments in recruiting new regularly scheduled volunteers are Kansas, California, Texas, New Mexico, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Virginia, and Oregon.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** New volunteers bring excitement and energy into our VA facilities and communities showing their love of veterans in numerous ways.

In the Department of California where 55 new volunteers were recruited, 29 volunteers at the Palo Alto VAMC served Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to the veterans in the spinal cord injury unit and the psych and hospice wards where a total of 686 veterans were served.

The Department of Kansas changed their distribution of Units per VA facility and increased their regularly scheduled volunteers by 64.

Hospital gift shops, ward parties, and other holiday parties, and outings in our VA facilities continue to be the most popular way to touch the lives of our veterans who have limited access on a temporary or permanent basis with the outside world.

The Auxiliary representatives and deputies and other volunteers continue to serve them with personal care items and other needs on a regular basis. We could not do without volunteers like Mary Lee Limbaugh from Alabama who has been a regularly scheduled volunteer since 1984. Mary Lee has served 4,399 hours these past 25 years.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** New volunteers have also found that spending time with the families and often the veteran by volunteering at Fisher Houses is a newer more innovative way to give of their time. Furnishing the meal and joining the families for dinner gives them a way to connect and provides the family member a break from their hospital routine. Fisher Houses give them a home away from home when they family member is confined to a medical center nearby.

One relatively new member and new volunteer is Kandi Vaughn from Iowa who wanted to get involved serving our veterans.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Kandi is on a mission, and her energy level is at the top of the mark. You see, Kandi wanted to do this in honor of her son, Specialist First Class Travis Vaughn, who lost his life in Afghanistan while serving his country.

Kandi has had a tremendous impact on the lives of the veterans residing in the Iowa State Veterans Home where she has gathered and distributed

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thousands of dollars of personal toiletries, games, books, and other items too numerous to mention, and delivers them on a regular basis to the home. Sometimes her vehicle is so full she has no room for passengers.

Kandi is a special kind of volunteer and has been recognized as such in her community.

We also have other volunteers, some young and some not so young in age who have found ways to assist in activities that involve our younger veterans. Those who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan with severe injuries of mind and body who have different kinds of needs than many of the veterans confined in VA facilities. Young men and women who have many years of life ahead of them, but have suffered severe loss of limbs and brain injuries and suffer from PTSD who need to feel they can still live a useful successful life. More and more activities are becomes available to them such as the bass fishing trip in Elephant Butte, New Mexico, or the Hole in One Golf Tournament in Florida, or the Ride 2 Recovery Cycling Program held this year in the Departments of California, Texas, and Virginia.

Younger members see these as opportunities to volunteer their time in meaningful ways outside of a medical facility setting.

Honoring our veterans in our communities through field service and home service activities gives members who cannot volunteer in other ways the opportunity to still be a part of our program.

We need those volunteers who love to sew and knit to continue to make heart pillows, wheelchair bags, ditty bags, and trash covers. Our veterans could not do without them.

I also want to recognize the Department of Iowa, and especially Pam Ramer, for their special project to honor 30 of their World War II veterans by providing them an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the World War II Memorial and other sites. Pam, along with many members of her Unit, including Junior members, Sons of the American Legion, and members of the post raised over \$35,000 to fly these veterans to your Nation's capital as a way of saying thank you for their service.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Honoring our promises every day by serving our veterans energizes me, how about you?

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** I do have a guest.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You have a guest?

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Carlene, please take the opportunity to introduce your guest.

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Okay. Madam President, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our guest, Mrs. Liz Mackey, the Director of the Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's good to see you.

**MS. MACKEY:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Welcome.

**MS. MACKEY:** Thank you, Carlene. Madam President and members of the American Legion Auxiliary Family, it's truly an honor to be here not only as a representative of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, but also as a proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 428 in Waite Park, Minnesota.

(Applause.)

**MS. MACKEY:** I'm honored to speak to you today on behalf of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. I'd like to thank all of you who have stopped at our booth in the exhibit hall over the past few days. The booth represents the six Department of Veterans Affairs National Rehabilitation special events. These six events are the Creative Arts Festival, the Wheelchair Games, the Golden Age Games, the National Veterans Tee Tournament, the Summer Sports Clinic, and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

I know that many of you are familiar with these national events and you have worked in supporting them through the years as volunteers and also through donations raised by your individual efforts. On behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs I wish to express our most sincere appreciation.

The American Legion Auxiliary demonstrates service to veterans through their involvement with programs such as the Creative Arts Festival and competition. You understand how art, writing, music, dance, and drama can be used to help veterans cope with physical and emotional disabilities, and since the year 2000 you have been actively involved with making us strong and making a positive difference in the lives of veterans who participate in creative arts therapy.

This year I sent out an e-mail message to all of the recreation and creative arts therapists in the VA, as well as to other health care professionals, asking for feedback on the involvement and support to their local Creative Arts Program by their local ALA Units beyond the monetary contribution to this year's festival. The responses received were very complimentary and uplifting. Statements such as this from a therapist in Asheville, North Carolina, "The ALA helps our veterans creative arts local show by purchasing ribbons, gift cards for winners first through third place in each category, and refreshments for our local art show. The women have provided woman power to serve refreshments during the show. Each year we have grown bigger and better, and the ALA has been right there with us supporting us in our efforts."

And from a therapist in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. "Our local ALA sponsors the refreshments for the stage shows and the art reception. They also provide a monetary recognition to participate in the stage show and first place winners in our local art show. At times they have provided funds to be used as we see fit to help with the Creative Arts Program in any way local or national. This has included things like bus fare or air fare for veterans to attend the festival."

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These are just two examples of the many, many responses received by VA staff acknowledging the support of the ALA members in their area.

We so appreciate all of the monetary and voluntary contributions, ladies. Thank you.

And thank you for the leadership team that we've had the privilege of working with over the past nine years. Each of the former National Presidents have become great friends to us, and this year it has been our sincere privilege to be associated with Madam President Desi Stoy.

We're looking forward to working with incoming President, Rita Navarreté, who has become a friend of the Creative Arts Festival. She has served and attended many festivals in the past, and she and National Secretary Dubbie Buckler attended a site visit in San Antonio, Texas, this past June to learn more about how the art work is judged during the final phase of the national competition.

Our hope is that the veterans who participate in the competition and festival come away with a sense of accomplishment and with a feeling of strong motivation to explore other avenues in their lives where they can achieve that same feeling of success.

Your support has a widespread and direct positive influence on veterans who truly need your involvement and who cannot always seek out your help on their own for reasons beyond their control.

And now that brings us to this year. In the winter of 2009, 3,453 veterans from 123 VA medical centers, state veterans homes, and VA outpatient clinics nationwide entered their local creative arts competition. They entered the categories within art, creative writing, dance, and drama and music. They displayed their art work entries at their local VA medical facilities and received recognition from you and their community for their creative talents. They submitted digital images of their artwork and video tapes of their performing arts into the national level of competition. Now 120 of the medal winning veterans of the art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music competitions will gather together in San Antonio, Texas, during the week of October 5th to the 12th to participate in the festival experience.

The veterans will participate in rehearsals and therapeutic visual and performing arts workshops. It's a chance to show San Antonio and the surrounding community that the use of arts as therapy in the treatment of America's veterans is alive and well.

The festival event will culminate with a live stage show performance and a 53 piece exhibit of the first place winning art work from the national level of competition. This year's MC for the stage show is Heloise from Heloise Helpful Hints. The stage show and art exhibit will occur on Sunday, October 11th at the Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio. It will be a wonderful way to see many of the veterans shine, and we hope to see many of you there as well.

This year we also have a PBS presentation that will occur on our around Veterans Day. It's featuring last year's show, and it's the fourth year that

PBS will show our presentation. We so appreciate the successful efforts of the ALA members for your part in making this happen.

Before I leave the podium this morning I just want to once more say thank you, Madam President, and all of you for honoring your promise every day to our Nation's veterans and to the Creative Arts Festival. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Carlene, are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** No, Madam President, no resolutions or recommendations.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The chair asks the national secretary to read the announcements.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I have the following announcements, Madam President, in no particular order, except the order in which I received them.

The 2009-2010 Junior Activities Committee will meet at the back of the convention room for a short meeting at this morning's recess, and that would be the longer recess.

The incoming National Education Committee will meet at the back of the room directly following this morning's recess. That would be the longer recess.

The current 2008-2009 Leadership Committee will meet at the close of this session under the Wisconsin sign.

At the close of this session the installation practice for both the retiring and incoming officers will take place on Monday right here backstage. And Rita Navarrete asked that the newly elected officers meet with her on Wednesday.

Immediately we have a three-minute transition break. For you it will be a three-minute stretch break. We ask that you not leave the room, but it will give us a chance to do a transition here on stage. Thank you, Madam President.

(Pause.)

(Video played.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please take your seats. Today the American Legion Auxiliary is pleased to officially launch a bold new undertaking, the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project.

Through this project the Auxiliary will build capacity. Twenty individuals committing one year of full-time volunteer service to the American Legion family to provide new supports to veterans and military families in service activities connected to poverty alleviation.

Additionally, the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project will coordinate with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service to mobilize volunteers who will then provide assistance to hospitalized veterans, as well as respite care for older veterans and their families.

The American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project is a project under the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

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AmeriCorps VISTA is a national service program enacted by Congress and administered by a federal agency called the Corporation For National and Community Service.

Representing the Corporation today at our VISTA project launch is Eric Tanenblatt, a member of the Corporation's Board of Directors.

Eric is a prominent advocate for civic engagement. He was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by Congress to serve on the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community service.

Eric is the founder and Chairman of Hands on Georgia, a statewide organization to promote volunteerism. He is currently the senior managing director at McKenna, Long, and Aldridge law firm.

Eric has held numerous positions in government and politics, among them Chief of Staff to Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue, and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at Peace Corps.

Eric holds membership and sits on the board of directors of several prominent organizations. Please join me in welcoming Eric Tanenblatt.

(Applause.)

**MR. TANENBLATT:** Good afternoon, and thank you National President Desi Stoy and the Vice President, Rita Navarreté, and to all the National officers of the American Legion Auxiliary for inviting me here today. And I also want to say a special hello to my fellow Georgians who are here with us this afternoon.

(Applause.)

**MR. TANENBLATT:** Good afternoon, everyone. It is a pleasure and an honor for me to join you all here in Louisville. Before I begin my remarks I've been asked to read a letter to all of you from a very special person, First Lady Michelle Obama.

"Dear friends, I am writing for a simple reason, to say thank you. Thank you for devoting yourselves to service and thank you for directing your service towards our Nation's military families. Service playing an integral role in empowering people and strengthen our communities. An individual act of service, no matter how big or how small, is never an isolated event. Each one builds upon the last and the cumulative effect can be a powerful force for change, and that is how we bolster the very idea of America, that each of us can shape a better future for ourselves, our communities, and our country.

Your service shows that all of us can help support our military families. Every day in cities and towns across our Nation military families from active duty, National Guard and reserve, to the families of veterans, prisoners of war, troops missing in action, and the survivors of our fallen heroes work to strengthen communities and support each other.

In standing alongside our service men and women and their families you are also dedicating your lives to the service of our Nation and we are so thankful.

Please be assured that the President is committed to promoting service and supporting military families. From the bipartisan passage of the Serve

America Act to investing in military family programs and veteran services, this administration is working to support the ideals embodied in your program.

And thank you for all you are doing to support military families.

America needs your hands, your hearts, and your hard work now more than ever, and with your service you are truly watching over those who watch over us.

I wish you all the best as you embark on the road ahead. Sincerely,  
Michelle Obama.”

(Applause.)

**MR. TANENBLATT:** I’m Eric Tanenblatt and I sit on the Board of the Corporation for National and Community Service. We oversee a number of federal programs, including AmericaCorps and VISTA, and it is a very exciting time for us.

Over the past year the national service movement that we helped lead has blossomed into a major force for addressing America’s most pressing social needs.

The economic recession has increased demand for our services while reducing many people’s ability to make charitable contributions. That brutal double whammy has left a gap in the non-profit sector that can only be filled one way, with the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers.

The President understands this, which is why he’s made service a major priority in his administration and a big part of the Economic Recovery Act, and why he launched United We Serve, a call to every American to make service a part of their daily lives.

This week United We Serve is honoring the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who support veterans and military families as part of safety and security week. All of this is in recognition that government can’t be everywhere and it certainly can’t be all things to all people. Americans must step up and accept the notion volunteering isn’t just a nice thing to do, it’s a civic duty. One that goes back to the principals this country was founded upon.

As civic duty applies to more than just domestic social issues, surely there is no more powerful example of giving back than wearing your country’s uniform and putting yourself in harm’s way in defense of liberty, not to mention the sacrifices made by the families of men and woman in our armed services.

That’s why First Lady Michelle Obama has made it a personal priority to promote not just service in general, but the cause of military families in particular.

The partnership of ALA and VISTA is a perfect example of how different strands of service can weave together to reinforce one another.

It is a pleasure to be here today to help send off 20 new VISTAs who will be deployed across the Nation to recruit volunteers and help augment the ability of the ALA to fulfill its mission of serving veterans, their families, and their communities.

Of course fighting poverty is what VISTA is all about and has been since it was created as sort of a domestic Peace Corps in the 1960s. Thirty-seven million Americans live in poverty right here in the wealthiest nation in

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the history of the world, and the only thing even more intolerable than that is the fact that so many of the poor are military veterans and their families. They deserve our gratitude not only in holiday parades, but in real tangible forms of support and help in dealing with the unique set of challenges they face. It might be simple counseling or job training, it might also be more serious.

As I'm sure most of you know tens of thousands of veterans are homeless on any given night across America. About 40 percent of reservists returning from Iraq require treatment for depression or PTSD. And an alarming number of veterans find themselves so overwhelmed with despair that they take their own lives. It's hard to think of more pressing domestic priority or a better use of the time and energy of a VISTA volunteer.

For anyone who doesn't know, VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a not-for-profit organization or local government agency. Working to fight literacy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more.

In serving others, VISTAs gain a great deal for themselves. New skills, friends, and experiences, not to mention to satisfaction of knowing they made a real difference. It's a great example of the kind of win/win scenario that makes service for special.

Since 1965, 170,000 VISTAs have worked with public, private, and faith-based organizations and played a key role in establishing many of the best known anti-poverty programs in the country, including Head Start, Upward Bound, and the Credit Union System. We're proud of those four decades of service, but we are humbled by your example.

For more than 90 years the American Legion Auxiliary has been a beacon of hope for veterans and their families across America. You've been there to serve those who fought in every war and conflict from the Great War to Iraq and Afghanistan and all those who have worn the uniform of your country. Your tradition of service is a true inspiration.

The partnership we celebrate today is one of five national VISTA programs supported by funding in the Economic Recovery Act. This Call to Service Corps will be tasked with recruiting and training additional volunteers to provide to veterans and military families companionship and aid for hospitalized veterans in respite care for older veterans and their families.

Like all our programs, the underlying goal is to support a culture of service in America that is so strong and so deep that everyone understands their obligation to give back to their community and their society.

Thank you again to the ALA for all you do to support our veterans, and I hope you have a wonderful convention. And to our new Call to Service VISTAs, I know I speak for the Corporation's Board of Directors and the entire Obama administration when I say, that we are very proud of you, and we have confidence in what you will accomplish over the coming year and beyond, and the example you will set for those who will follow in your footsteps.

Thank you also for having me here today, and best wishes as you start this new amazing chapter in your lives. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Eric, for bringing greetings from the First Lady and your remarks on behalf of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Moreover, thank you for your own service to this Nation.

The American Legion Auxiliary's new status as a VISTA sponsored organization has generated much interest among Auxiliary members about the VISTA Program itself. Let's take a moment and turn our attention to the video introduction to the AmeriCorps VISTA Program.

(Video played.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** As you can see the VISTA Program has impacted million of Americans, and the Auxiliary will be joining the ongoing war on poverty in America.

This afternoon we are joined by Auxiliary member and Miss American 2009, Katie Stam, to celebrate the launch of the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project.

Katie was selected as Miss America 2009 this past January. Katie's platform issue is "Passion for service: Promoting community service and involvement," a perfect link to HOPE and today's VISTA Project launch.

Katie also serves as a National Goodwill Ambassador for Children's Miracle Network, and is the official spokesperson for Zerosmoke.

During her term of service, Katie has visited the troops overseas and worked on projects at home benefitting military families and veterans.

A native of Seymour, Indiana --

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- Katie is currently pursuing a degree at the University of Indianapolis with a major in communication. She aspires to become a television news reporter and anchor.

Katie is now a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and we are honored to have her with us today. Please welcome Auxiliary member Katie Stam, Miss America 2009.

(Applause.)

**MS. STAM:** Well thank you, and welcome. I want to thank you so much, the Auxiliary for inviting me to be a part of this celebration of the launch of the Auxiliary's visionary and compelling new volunteer service project, the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps.

Now each year we have about 14,000 young women from across the country compete for the title of the Miss America, and as they compete they are asked to choose what we call a personal platform. It's an issue, a cause, an organization, or a program that each contestant chooses to work with and promote during their year of service.

When I started competing for the title of the Miss America back in September of 2007 I chose my personal platform of "Passion for service: Promoting Community Service and Involvement."

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My community service started even as a little girl with my involvement in my church, in school, and in extracurricular activities, including 4-H. The value of service was instilled in me as a little girl by my parents and by my community. The idea that it doesn't matter how much or how little you have you always find a way to give back, and that's exactly what you all embody by being here today.

My work, as part of the Legion Family, extends from visiting our troops overseas in Germany to visiting our veterans in VA hospitals across the country, working with the USO to honor and celebrate our current military, working with other organizations to help rebuild the lives and rebuild the homes of our injured soldiers and military families, and my work will continue even past my year as Miss America.

I'd like to acknowledge all of you here today for your commitment to serve the veterans, their families, and communities through thousands of hours of collective service annually in VA hospitals and nursing homes, homeless veteran programs, military installations, and welcome home events, plus countless of community service projects.

You know veteran families will continue to have unmet needs no matter how much we work, especially military and veteran families in poverty or on the brink of poverty. Thousands of military families live in poverty already; 1.4 million veterans, it's 5.9 percent of the U.S. veteran population they live in poverty today. Nearly 400,000 veterans experience homelessness over the course of a year, and another half million veterans are at risk of homelessness because rent consumes more than half their income.

I'd like to congratulate the Auxiliary for launching this Call to Service Corps to attack these very problems by increasing the number of Auxiliary members participating in the Veterans Affairs Volunteer Service which organizes support to veterans and their families in VA facilities and programs nationwide, by improving Auxiliary support to military families in economic and family crisis, and increasing acts of service by veterans and relatives of veterans toward other veterans, military families, and general community members with socio economic needs.

Because we will always have veterans, we will always need patriotic service organizations like the American Legion family to ensure that the needs of veterans and their families are met, especially through veteran helping veteran and family helping family approaches.

It is incumbent on organizations like the Legion and the Auxiliary to modernize so that they are relevant to both current and future generations of veterans and veteran families.

Who will be the next VAVS volunteers to take the place of those stepping down from such roles due to age or poor health? Who will be able to relate as peers to service members returning from deployment and their young families? And who will create opportunities for younger veterans and their families to continue to serve their communities and Nation as volunteers while they are still navigating the work life balancing act?

The American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps is an expression of the Auxiliary's boldness to tackle these pressing organizational challenges. My hearty and heartfelt congratulations go out to you today. I wish you the very best of success in activating our Call to Service Corps.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Katie, thank you so much for your inspirational and instructive remarks. The American Legion Auxiliary thanks you for your service to America and to the Legion Family.

The American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA project is designed as a partnership approach between the Auxiliary National Headquarters and state Departments. We are fortunate to have received an assignment of 20 Americorps positions. Eight of the VISTA members will work at National Headquarters to develop training, technical assistance, tools and resources for use by Auxiliary, state Departments, and local Units for volunteer recruitment, retention, engagement management, and program development.

An additional 12 members placed in Departments are then implementing volunteer generation, volunteer management and community service activities, in partnership with Auxiliary volunteers operating at the grass roots level, using the new tools and resources prepared by National Headquarters corps members.

The Auxiliary extended an open offer to all Departments to participate in this project. We know that Department leaders carefully examined the opportunities and responsibilities of this project in great deal. I congratulate them for their leap of faith to embark with the National Headquarters on this joint venture.

We are hopeful that our first year as a VISTA sponsor organization will be so successful that we will be able to extend and expand the project to additional Departments in future years.

At this time I would like to recognize the Departments participating in the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project by calling to the stage the individuals who will be supervising VISTA members associated to their -- or assigned to their states, or a Department officer. Please join us on stage as your Department is recognized.

From the Department of Arkansas, Nancy Followell.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of California, Mickey Gerold.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Connecticut, Rita Barlyski.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Florida, Robin Briere.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Michigan, Denise Carter.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of New Mexico, Loreen Jorgensen.

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(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of New York, Juanita Lochner.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Ohio, Katie Wainwright.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Oregon, Cheryl Park.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Washington, Eva Wallace.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** From the Department of Wisconsin, Kathy Wollmer.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please also join on stage members of the National Headquarters team who will be supervising VISTA members or leading the VISTA team project. Amy Billings.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Michael Butt.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Colette Fike.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Marta Hedding.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Aaronette Lambert.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Donna Parrott.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Bob Reeg, our Project Director.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And National Secretary Dubbie Buckler.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Auxiliary leadership thanks each of you for talking on new leadership and supervisory duties. Thank you.

It is now my honor and privilege to introduce to the American Legion Auxiliary 17 of our first class of 20 AmeriCorp VISTA members who are able to be with us today.

As has been mentioned, this group of individuals has committed to provide one year of full-time volunteer service to the American Legion Auxiliary to help us increase our capacity to meet our mission. We are humbled by their generosity and grateful for their love of country. We are bringing a rich talent pool into our organization with this first class of AmeriCorps VISTA members.

Among them are three Auxiliary members, five veterans, seven relatives of veterans, four Legion members, and two Sons of the American Legion members.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Without further adieu, please join us on stage as I attempt to pronounce your name.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Providing support at National Headquarters in the area of volunteer government are Grafton Day.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Boyé McGee,

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Provides support at National Headquarters in the area of program development are Nicole Knisley-Bucholtz.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Sharon Riegsecker.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Providing support at National Headquarters in the area of communication is Diana Lazzell.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Providing support at National Headquarters in the area of partnership and fund development, Aryn Schounce.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Providing support to our Departments are Roberta Davis, Department of Arkansas.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Matthew Shea, Department of California.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Debra Roesler, Department of California. Paul Lutson, Department of Connecticut.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Ryan Pulver, Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Jari Billiot, Department of Michigan.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Mia Dimas, Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Nicholas Kelley, Department of New York.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Nicholas Linkenhoker, Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Adriel Parker, Department of Oregon.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Elaine Parker, Department of Washington.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And this, ladies and gentlemen, is the American Legion Auxiliary's 2009-2010 Call to Service Corps.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Theresa Long will now come join us to administer the AmeriCorps oath to the 2009 AmeriCorps VISTA members of the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project.

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Theresa is a lifelong Auxiliary member, the Director of the Oklahoma Office of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the federal project officer assigned to supervise this project.

Theresa, please come forward.

(Applause.)

**MS. LONG:** Thank you. Thank you and good morning. Will all of the VISTA members please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

(Oath administered.)

**MS. LONG:** Congratulations, all of you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I don't know about you, but I love that oath.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Ladies and gentlemen, you have just witnessed a milestone in American Legion Auxiliary history; may it symbolize the new path being taken by the Auxiliary to assure our ability to continue our mission for another 90 years.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** This concludes the opening session of convention 2009. We are in recess.

(Applause.)

(Video played.)

(Recess.)

(Whereupon, at 12:30 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

**PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2009, 8:15 A.M. TO 11:40 A.M.**

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The 89<sup>th</sup> National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Will our Chaplain, Cherita Potter, please come forward to lead us in the Invocation.

(Ringing of the bell.)

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Please join me in prayer.

Good morning, Lord. Thank you for being here with us this morning. We are grateful for this beautiful day and the opportunity to come together again this morning. We have a lot on our minds today. Lord, please nourish our spiritual needs today and center our thoughts and actions in you. May we always be true to ourselves and honest with one another. Help us to speak kindly and only with the intention of contributing something of value. Help us to be accountable in all our deliberations, that they are respectful and show the qualities of a good role model. Remind us that our actions directly affect all those around us. And we pray for a positive effect.

We want to thank you for all those members that may be attending our very first convention. In all that we do, let us do it lovingly, enthusiastically and with the love of God in our hearts. Amen.

**VOICES:** Amen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please be seated.

(Ringing of the bell.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Good morning.

**VOICES:** Good morning.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our next order of business is the nomination of National Officers for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

Representatives making the nominations as well as the candidates are to be seated on the stage.

Dubbie Buckler, the National Secretary, will read the rules governing nominations.

Madam Secretary.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you, Madam President, and good morning.

**VOICES:** Good morning.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Regarding the rules governing nominations. The nomination of candidates for Division National Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009.

Nomination of candidates for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Nomination of National Officers shall be made from the floor.

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Nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate except the National President's candidate or candidates. She will be allowed four minutes. There shall be no seconding speeches.

After nominating speeches for National Officers on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 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.

Madam National President, that completes the reading of the nomination rules.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Madam Secretary.

The Chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the rules for nomination as read.

**VOICE:** I will make a motion that we accept the rules as read.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Will the Delegate please state your name and Department.

**VOICE:** Darlene (Inaudible), Department of Delaware.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Darlene.

Is there a second?

**VOICE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the rules for nomination as read. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are you ready for the question?

**VOICES:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on adoption of the rules for nominations as read. Those in favor, please say aye.

**VOICES:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Those opposed, please say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The rules for nominations are adopted.

Nominations are now in order for the office of National President. The National Secretary will call the departments with announced candidates.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** The Department of -- are you awake now? The Department of New Mexico has an announced candidate for the office of National President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from New Mexico for the purpose of making a nomination.

**PRESIDENT KING:** Madam Chairman, Department of New Mexico will -- this is Cathy King from Department of New Mexico. Will the Chair recognize the Delegate from New Mexico for the purpose of nomination?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from the Department of New Mexico.

**PRESIDENT KING:** She should be on the stage.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Madam National President Desi, delegates, alternates, and distinguished guests, I'm Cecilia Martinez from the Department of New Mexico and also Rita Navarreté's sister.

It is with great respect, pride, and privilege that I present to you on behalf of the Department of New Mexico, Mrs. Tony Rita Navarreté, New Mexico's endorsed candidate for the office of the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary for the 2009-2010 year.

It is with great respect -- excuse me. Rita's eligibility is through her husband, Tony Navarreté, a United States Army veteran of the Vietnam era. And she has been active with the American Legion Auxiliary since she was a young girl and alongside our mother who was her mentor and friend.

Mom would be so proud of Rita today as she seeks the highest office of this great organization. Our late brother, Tony, was also a great inspiration to Rita and gave her his full support toward her goal to seek this high office. We know both of them are here in spirit.

Rita has been blessed with a giving and caring spirit. Those attributes have served her well as she progressed through the organization. Her knowledge of the organization has steadily increased throughout her many years of service as New Mexico's Department President in 1991, 1992 and then as Western Division Vice President in 1999.

Her strong family values and her love for God and country continue to be the driving force in her annual pledge to support the ideals of the organization. She is loyal, trustworthy, and has a strong work ethic.

Accordingly, she served as the Chairman of the Ethics and Strategic committees which provided the backdrop where she could demonstrate her commitment to leadership that continues to define her as a woman who is capable and able to accept change and to do the right thing.

As National President, she continued to reveal her leadership skills and when she was asked to serve as Chairman of the Search Committee when recruiting the National Secretary position, Rita answered the call to service without hesitation. Working with others as a team, the job was accomplished within an accelerated time line.

Rita has spent months preparing for the transition into this office and is in every respect fully prepared to accept all responsibilities of leading the organization with a full cadre of volunteers and staff. She is ready.

Rita and Tony are members of the Otero-Garcia-Navarreté Post 72 Family and how appropriate that they will celebrate 42 years of marriage on Veterans Day. They are the proud parents of two sons, Joseph and Stephen, daughter-in-law, Cindy, and seven grandchildren, all members of the Legion Family Post 72, familiarly known as the little post with a big heart.

As she begins her year away from the land of enchantment, we will surely miss her, miss her presence at the Unit meetings. She has always made time for mentoring, guiding, and, most important, sharing her knowledge and her wisdom.

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Madam National President, delegates, and guests of this convention, on behalf of the Department of New Mexico, I am so proud and honored to nominate my sister, Rita Navarreté, for the office of National President for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Rita Navarreté is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National President?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Hearing none, nominations for National President are closed.

Nominations are in order for the office of Vice President. The National Secretary will call departments with announced candidates.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you, Madam President and delegates.

The Department of Texas has an announced candidate.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Department of Texas.

**PRESIDENT PRENDERGAST:** Mickie Prendergast, Department of Texas.

Will the Chair please recognize the Delegate from Texas for the purpose of a nomination?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from the Department of Texas for the purpose of a nomination.

**PRESIDENT PRENDERGAST:** Madam National President, officers, and delegates to this 89<sup>th</sup> annual convention, it is with great pride the Department of Texas, the Lone Star State, present to you one of our outstanding members, Carlene Ashworth, who we feel is highly qualified for the very important office of National Vice President.

Carlene has dedicated 43 years of hard work at all levels of this organization. In addition to numerous chairmanships, Carlene has served as Unit, District, Division, and Department of Texas President. She is currently serving on the Department Finance Committee.

At the National level, Carlene has served on many committees and Chairman of the Membership, Community Service, National Security, Education, Legislative, Leadership, Junior Activities, Children & Youth, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation committees doing an outstanding job on each of those committees.

Community involvement has always been very important to Carlene. She is caring, compassionate, and her love for God and country and her patriotism is foremost in her daily life.

I am confident that Carlene will bring the same measure of devotion and efficiency to the office of National Vice President as she has given during her 43 years of active responsibilities and service to this organization.

Carlene is a charter member of Edward H. White, II Unit 521, Pasadena, Texas. And her eligibility for membership was established through husband, Ray E. Hall, who is now deceased.

Carlene is the widow of Richard J. Ashworth who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. Her candidacy is totally supported by her family which consists of two sons, awesome daughter-in-law, three adorable granddaughters, one precious grandson, three sisters, and one brother, all being members of The American Legion Family.

Carlene is recently retired from Dooley Tackaberry (phonetic), Incorporated, as an accounts receivable administrator. She is an active member of Lakewood Church in Houston and presently serves as a prayer partner and as a weekly facilitator in the women's ministry.

It is with great pride and complete faith in her ability that I place in nomination my dear friend, Carlene Ashworth, for the high office of National Vice President for the year 2009-2010.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Carlene Ashworth is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Vice President?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** 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 announced candidates.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Madam President and delegates, the Department of North Dakota has an announced candidate.

**PRESIDENT HEINZ:** Carrie Heinz, Department of North Dakota.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Continue.

**PRESIDENT HEINZ:** Please recognize the Delegate from North Dakota for the purpose of nomination for Department Chaplain or National Chaplain.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from the Department of North Dakota for the purpose of making a nomination for National Chaplain.

**MS. TWETE:** Good morning, Department -- or National President Desi Stoy. We're on a Department thing today.

Past National Presidents and all of you lovely Auxiliary ladies, my name is Judy Twete from the great state of North Dakota where we recently were the host Department for the American Legion World Series.

Congratulations to Midland, Michigan, for their win.

(Applause.)

**MS. TWETE:** I would like to share with you a passage from the book, *The Bingo Palace*, written by a North Dakota author, Louise Erdrich (phonetic), concerning a Native American matriarch.

When women ages in her power, no wind can upset them. No hand can turn aside their knowledge and no fact can deflect their point of view.

Our candidate, Beverly Wolff, running for the high office of National Chaplain epitomizes all of these qualities. She's not a Native American.

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She's not really an older woman, but she's perfect for the position that we are announcing her candidacy for.

With two crushing losses in the past three years, Beverly Wolff has picked up the reins and put her name into nomination for this high spiritual leadership office.

Bev has a list, a resume as long as both of my arms as to why she should run for this office. You realize that to get to this position, you have to fulfill Unit, Department, Divisional, and National obligations. Bev has done so with pride and generosity.

The Department of North Dakota, The American Legion Family from North Dakota proudly presents Beverly Wolff for candidate for National Chaplain for the year 2009-2010.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Beverly Wolff is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the office of National Chaplain?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** 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.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Madam President and delegates, the Department of Arizona has an announced candidate.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Department of Arizona.

**PRESIDENT ZWALL:** Madam National President Desi, Vickey Zwall, Department of Arizona Delegation Chairman.

Arizona has a candidate for the office of National Historian. Please recognize the Delegate on the platform for the purpose of nomination.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from the Department of Arizona for the purpose of making a nomination.

**MS. DURAN:** Good morning, National President Desi Stoy, National Officers, distinguished guests, and members. My name is Sharon Duran (phonetic) from the Department of Arizona.

On behalf of the Department of Arizona, I proudly present Joyce Arent as a candidate for the position of National Historian.

Joyce was endorsed by Department action on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Joyce is eligible through her husband, Owen, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and through her son, Ted, who served in the U.S. Navy during the Panama conflict as well as in the Persian Gulf War.

Joyce is a charter member of the Pat Tillman Number 117 Unit in Phoenix, Arizona, which was formed in 1997, and she currently serves as the Unit Historian.

Prior to that, she was a member of Frank Wright Unit Number 34 in Cave Creek, Arizona, where she served as Unit President for five years. She

has served as Unit Chairman of most Auxiliary programs during her 24 years of membership.

She was selected as the Arizona Member of the Year in 1987, 1988. She has served as Arizona District 12 President, Vice President, and Chaplain.

On the Department level, Joyce has held the following chairmanships: Americanism, Children & Youth, VA&R, Membership, Home Service, Junior activities, Community Service, Public Relations, Historian, Chaplain, Second Vice President, Vice President, and was Department President in 2000-2001 and NEC the following year.

She has also served on the National level on the following committees: Leadership, Public Relations, Americanism, Junior Activities, Membership, and the Strategic Planning Committee.

It was a great honor for her to have served as the Chairman of the 2008 National Convention last year in Phoenix.

Joyce has won many awards for her Unit history and was the recipient of the National Toomey Trophy when serving as Department Historian.

She has also served for several years as Historian in her chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On a personal note, Joyce edifies the meaning of mentor, for that is what she has been to myself and to countless other members.

It is with great pride that the Department of Arizona nominate Joyce Arent for the position of National Historian 2009-2010.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Joyce Arent is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Historian? (Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Hearing none, nominations for National Historian are closed.

With these nominations and the nominations made during the Divisional Caucuses on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, nominations for the 2009-2010 National Officers are completed.

Rule number 17 of this convention provides that the nominees for the offices 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 New Mexico please introduce the candidate for National President.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Madam National President, I proudly present to you Rita Navarreté from the Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you, sis, for that wonderful nomination. I'm honored to have you here to represent the Department of New

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Mexico and also our Post Family, Otero-Garcia-Navarreté, that small post with the big heart.

You've always been a very special person in my life and your presence and words make today an extra special moment and what a moment this is as I stand before you today and accept the nomination for the highest office of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I'm fortunate to have been blessed by God with a full and joyful life and as I reach toward the fullness that still lies ahead, I'm ready to meet it with great enthusiasm and excitement while at the same time living each moment in the here and now.

At an early age, I realized that my true passion and dream was to become a leader and that vision never wavered through the years as I resumed responsibilities and challenges and turned them into accomplishments. That passion is the force that has brought me to today's moment.

As I visualize the life as the Auxiliary's National President through the eyes of faith, I come to see that the dream can come true with your support. I'm ready to assume the duties and responsibilities and ready to serve as your National President.

Undoubtedly there is critical and necessary work ahead at every level of the organization and today I pledge my full commitment with renewed spirit to face those challenges ahead which I believe will be the stepping stones toward achieving full success.

To the Department of New Mexico, I am grateful for and so value your trust and friendship and your support of my candidacy.

Madam President, may I have a personal privilege and have the Department of New Mexico please stand.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Perhaps a small Department, but mighty strong.

To my personal family, I know you're out there sitting in the guest area, would you please stand too.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you so very, very much for your tremendous love and continued support which have allowed me to served and lead an organization that serves veterans, their families, and communities throughout this great nation. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Will the representative from Texas present the candidate for National Vice President.

**VOICE:** It is with pride and a great honor that I introduce Texas' candidate for National Vice President, Mrs. Carlene Ashworth.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Thank you, Catherine, for those wonderful remarks. I love you and I cherish your friendship.

I am humbled and thrilled to be standing here before you as a candidate for National Vice President. It has been an exciting journey. And as we go forth into our 90<sup>th</sup> year of this great organization, it's going to get even more exciting.

I am proud to be a part of the challenges that will continue to move us forward as we embrace changes that are sometimes difficult, but necessary, new technology that will take us to greater heights and always new ideas that come from our many talented members from across the country.

If elected, I pledge my total support to our National President and her programs as she fulfills her dreams of serving during our 90<sup>th</sup> year of service, not self.

Thank you all for your support and especially my family and the Department of Texas American Legion Auxiliary and Legionnaires. And I ask for your continued support and consideration as a candidate for National Vice President. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Will the representative from North Dakota present the candidate for National Chaplain.

**MS. TWETE:** The Department of North Dakota presents your spiritual leader for 2009-2010, Beverly Wolff.

(Applause.)

**MS. WOLFF:** Good morning. Madam National President, officers, guests, American Legion Auxiliary members, and friends, Beverly Jean Wolff is my name. From the Department of North Dakota, I came, a candidate for National Chaplain with the hope of the office to claim for God and country and not for fame. For everyone, He has a plan. It is for Him and the organization I ran.

My late husband, Daryl, gave 20 years serving his country in the Air Force Blue. This is why I serve the ALA, to honor his memory and all veterans too.

If we are to succeed in all that we do, we must remember the Auxiliary programs and follow through. As Unit, District, Department Officers, and Northwest Division Chairman I have served. If you read the *HomeFront*, you would have observed the bios and photos of all the endorsed National Officer candidates that would like to serve.

Thank you for doing all that you do. Continue your volunteering, always be true to God and country and the veteran too. God bless you and God bless America. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Will the representative from Arizona present the candidate for National Historian.

**MS. DURAN:** It is with a great deal of pride and respect that the Department of Arizona announces and introduces and presents the National Historian for 2009-2010, Joyce Arent.

(Applause.)

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**CHAIRMAN ARENT:** Good morning. I can't tell you how honored I am to receive this nomination. And if I elected, I will certainly do my best to write an accurate and interesting history for this 2009-2010 year.

History has been my passion for many years and I am excited about this. And I am so humbled by this -- by doing this.

And I really would like to thank the Department of Arizona for their support over the years and what they have allowed me to do being a Department President and onward from there. And as I say, if I am elected, I will write a most interesting and accurate history for this year. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** This concludes the nominations for the 2009-2010 National Officers.

Sherry McLaughlin, the Past Presidents Parley Chairman, will now give her report. Sherry.

**CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN:** Madam President, for 89 years of existence, the American Legion Auxiliary Past Presidents, regardless of their level of service, have always stepped forward to provide mentoring and service.

They have returned to their units as grass-roots members and have provided leadership, training, encouragement, and guidance to subsequent officers and have been called upon to do many things to continue to make our organization one of the greatest in the world.

In recent years, Parleys have focused on honoring women veterans in addition to almost every other program within our organization. Care has been provided for many women veterans who reside in VA hospitals, nursing homes, day care facilities, and their own homes.

Projects have included trips to shopping malls, providing money to fix a vehicle, packages to veterans overseas, and providing personal care items which are not available in commissaries.

Dues have been paid for needy veterans, many, many parties and luncheons held, women veterans have been adopted, and lots of fun activities such as a Name the Baby Contest and a sock hop have been held.

Even though year end reports are not required, 21 Chairmen were so excited to report the work being done in their departments. One hundred and seventy-five nursing or healthcare scholarships were reported by these 21, but imagine the impacts if all departments had reported their work.

The Department of Illinois raised over \$16,000 to provide 30 scholarships. And the Department of Arizona received 43 qualified nursing and healthcare scholarship applications.

Many departments reported awarding a smaller number of grants, but I am sure that each recipient is most grateful for the focus of the Past Presidents Parley Program.

Departments had many, many different ways of honoring their Unit Member of the Year and competition was stiff for this honor. I wish you all could have read of the magnificent work these women have done in their units. This truly is leadership at its best at the grass-roots level.

Today we honor four outstanding women veterans from various branches of the service. Our first guest with us today is Staff Sergeant Lisa Woods, a member of the U.S. Army, whose home is in San Antonio, Texas. Her application was submitted by the Department of Texas.

Lisa was raised by her grandparents, Andrew and Matera (phonetic) Woods. She joined the Army in June of 1996 and took her basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Upon completion, her orders took her to Fort Benning, Georgia and from there she was deployed to Bosnia in 2000 and Kosovo in 2001. From there, she spent time in Korea.

Following this tour of duty, she was stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey and then at Fort Hood, Texas. From there, she was deployed to Iraq.

Upon her return, she was sent to Fort Sam Houston to serve as a Platoon Sergeant training troops to become combat medics.

Staff Sergeant Woods has one daughter age ten who resides with her in San Antonio, Texas. Lisa believes that her success stems from the support of her family and friends and constant prayers by her grandparents.

She is currently working on a BA in nursing. Staff Sergeant Woods writes, and I quote, "I support the women's role in today's Armed Forces by teaching, coaching, and mentoring young female civilians how to become well-rounded female soldiers. I take training female soldiers in today's Armed Forces personally and instill in them a pride no one will take from them, the pride of being a woman."

It is my pleasure to present Lisa Woods.

(Applause.)

**SERGEANT WOODS:** Wow. Thank you all so much. The first thing I would like to do is give an honor to God because without him, this would not be possible. My family also who came out to support me, my uncle, my aunt, and, of course, my loving grandmother who's sitting out there somewhere and I can't see them and, of course, my Post who nominated me from Snellville, Georgia, who is here somewhere out there, I believe, too, who gave that nomination.

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

**SERGEANT WOODS:** I wanted to speak about what I wrote. I had an opportunity to train 3,000 medical soldiers to go out there on the battlefield and save lives. Out of that 3,000, 1,000 of them are women, women female soldiers, young, 17 to 42, who don't quite understand what the struggle was when we could not go out on the battlefield as women, when we had to dress as men, when we were staged in the back so that we could take care of our fallen comrades, and now we have a voice. Now we have an opinion. Now we have a chance to be leaders and we should do so.

Some of our female soldiers would like to hide behind the limelight and just take a shuttered approach to the military, but I teach them to be prideful, to understand that, yes, we are women. However, we do have an opinion and we do have a voice.

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Once again, I want to thank Post 232 for my nomination and thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's my pleasure to present Staff Sergeant Lisa Woods with this certificate, Past Presidents Parley salute to an active-duty servicewoman or women veteran, presented to Staff Sergeant Lisa Woods and also a one-year membership in the American Legion Auxiliary at the Department of your choice.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We welcome you as a member. And the plaque reads, "For your honorable military service in the War on Terrorism, on behalf of a grateful nation, presented this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009 by the American Legion Auxiliary.

**SERGEANT WOODS:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You're welcome. Congratulations. Thank you so much for being here.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN:** Our second honoree today is Hollie Boley Rinachler who serves in the Navy and is stationed at Chesapeake, Virginia. Her application was submitted by the Department of Iowa.

Hollie joined the Navy on February 11<sup>th</sup> of 1992. She completed college about the time of Desert Storm and decided to join the Navy following her college graduation.

Her husband is serving in the U.S. Navy and she believes that her support for him during his deployments are an important part of her role in the U.S. Navy.

Hollie says, and I quote, "I have never regretted joining the service. Women have played a big role in military history and I thank those who went before as they laid the groundwork for those of us who serve today. Women are serving in all branches of the service side by side with men doing the same jobs.

Why do I support women in the U.S. military? Because without them, we would not be the strong fighting force that we are and are known for around the world. God bless all active-duty and retired reservist women as well as the wives of active-duty military males."

Unfortunately, Hollie is unable to be with us today, but it has been my pleasure to present a few of her remarks from her essay.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN:** Our third honoree today is Staff Sergeant Kristine LaGuardia, a member of the U.S. Air Force of Phoenix, Arizona. Her application was submitted by the Department of Arizona.

Kristine remembers a family picnic where military stories were being told and everyone was questioning who would be the next veteran of this active family. At the time, she certainly didn't think it would be her.

A few weeks later, Kristine learned of the collapse of the twin towers in New York City. She had a feeling of disgust and also was questioning if she needed to be one of those to step up to help remedy the situation.

Even though she was frightened and worried about being sent away to a far different destination, she made the choice to join the United States Air Force.

Kristine says, and I quote, “That moment, I know I made the best decision for my country, my family, and myself. I am no longer in fear of being attacked since I know I can do something to stop it and I know that this country has the best uniformed Armed Forces in the world. I know that I am in good hands with my comrades and leaders who I fully trust to lead us into a great victory against the War on Terrorism.”

Ladies, it is my pleasure to present to you Staff Sergeant Kristine LaGuardia.

(Applause.)

**SERGEANT LAGUARDIA:** Morning.

**VOICES:** Morning.

**SERGEANT LAGUARDIA:** I’m so happy and honored to accept this award. As you can tell, I’m really nervous.

(Laughter.)

**SERGEANT LAGUARDIA:** I would like to thank first and foremost the American Legion Auxiliary, my Air Force Unit, 12<sup>th</sup> Air Force Southern Command Commander for letting me fly out to beautiful Louisville, Kentucky, my Post, McCullough Coagner (phonetic) American Legion 109 Family in Tucson, Arizona.

(Applause.)

**SERGEANT LAGUARDIA:** And, finally, the retired Air Force Master Sergeant, Jackie Salter (phonetic) and Ms. Linda Smith, who put me in for this award.

Like I said, I’m not the best speaker nor, you know, the best writer and my grammar is probably not the best either. But in spite of that, I was selected for this honor.

Thank you all for affording me the chance to really express myself here today and to tell you why I joined the military.

Many people have asked me why I’ve joined the military and more specifically the Air Force. I tell them two things. First, 9/11; and the second, appreciation.

I do not know anyone who was not devastated after the 9/11 attack. No matter what race, gender, or ideology, it pulled us together as a country. No matter what our differences were before that day, we knew that there was someone out there that did not care about those differences. They wanted to bring down the entire United States at all cost. It made a lot of people like me feel we had to do something to help preserve this great country.

The second reason I tell them I joined the United States Air Force is appreciation. While I’ll always be proud of the country where I was born, I am also equally proud to be an adopted daughter of this country. I love what this

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country has done for me and my family. I love how we were embraced under no conditions except come here legally, work hard --

(Applause.)

**SERGEANT LAGUARDIA:** -- work hard and do it the right way. That's what my mom always tells me. This is probably the only country that I know of where you can work hard and actually get rewarded for it, where freedom of all kinds are exercised daily, where your dreams and my American dream actually stand a strong chance of coming true.

Thank you again, American Legion Auxiliary. I hope you all have a good rest of today. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It certainly is this National President's honor to present to Staff Sergeant Kristine LaGuardia for your honorable military service in the War on Terror on behalf of a grateful nation presented this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009 by the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you so much. Please accept this.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And we also have a certificate and a one-year membership to the American Legion Auxiliary at the Department of your choice. So please enjoy this and welcome.

**SERGEANT LAGUARDIA:** Thank you. Appreciate that. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN:** These three women are the recipients of the War on Terrorism salute to an active-duty servicewoman. Excuse me. We commend each of them and are so glad to learn that they are serving and truly believe in the mission of women veterans in today's society.

Our last honoree is a new award this year, that of the outstanding female National Guard veteran. There was much interest in this award and I truly wish that I could have given each of these applicants the award.

The award was based on the veteran's wartime service or volunteer service within their community. Master Sergeant Roberta Moline-Lueck is a truly wonderful example of all these women who are serving in the National Guard. Roberta or Bert as she is known has been a member of the National Guard since 1987. She is the mother and stepmother of five children.

Since the year 2005, Master Sergeant Moline-Lueck has been the chief logistics noncommissioned officer, a position which has taken her throughout the United States.

She was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 where she planned and executed the movement for over 3,200 soldiers from Camp Shelby, Mississippi to Afghanistan for their 18-month tour. She coordinated, received, accounted for, and initiated equipment, food, fuel, ammunition, uniforms, and weapons systems for each soldier.

She has been stationed in Fort Stewart, Georgia, where she has been duplicating her efforts for the second deployment, the largest Oregon National Guard deployment since World War II.

Between deployments, Bert supports her community in youth sports activities in the city of Milwaukie, Oregon as well as volunteering countless hours at American Legion Post 180, helping plan and support program fund raising activities.

Master Sergeant Moline-Lueck is a true representative of what America stands for and her professional, dedicated, selfless service to her state and nation is an example for all to emulate.

Unfortunately, we have learned that Master Sergeant Roberta Moline-Lueck is currently serving in Iraq. As much as we would like to have her at our convention, her deployment to Iraq is truly what her service is all about. And I am sure she is very happy to be serving with her Unit helping to stem the War on Terrorism. However, she has sent us this recorded message.

**SERGEANT MOLINE-LUECK:** I'd like to take this time to thank you for selecting me as the outstanding female Guard veteran of the year which I accept with deep appreciation. Being part of the service has given me a chance to experience things many others will not have a chance to. Those circumstances are not always perfect. These opportunities have helped shaped me and others like me to become the leaders that they are today.

Looking back on my career when I was a Private, I never imagined I would be accepting this prestigious award. It's a testament no matter what gender, race, or religion you may be in the service, you can excel to whatever degree you commit yourself to.

Being part of the American Legion Family and Post 180 offers me camaraderie, support, and I made life-long friendships. I just wanted to thank everyone involved in the selection process for this honor and I wanted to thank each of the members of the American Legion Auxiliary for their love and unwavering support that is shown to me and to all of our troops. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN:** Isn't she a great representative of our National Guard women veterans?

President Desi, your theme, hope, honoring our promises every day has certainly been reflected in the work of the Past Presidents Parleys throughout this country. They have truly made life better for hundreds of women veterans throughout America.

This concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Sherry.

Sherry, are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN MCLAUGHLIN:** We have none.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Thank you.

Our honorees were very deserving, weren't they? Absolutely.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Bringing our Community Service report is the National Chairman for Community Service, Sharon Conatser.

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Sharon.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN CONATSER:** Madam National President, Wikipedia defines community service as a service that a person performs for the benefit of his or her local community. Some people may view community service as a hassle, but others may view it as a good thing to do. It is also an alternative sentencing technique in the justice system. And at times, groups of people will commit to perform service to the community as a gesture to the larger community as part of a gift of economics.

Mandatory community research has recently increased in many schools in the United States. A study was done that correlates community service with academic success. Students who maintain a weekly community service record 85 percent of the time are more likely to succeed and have a higher grade point average than those who do none at all.

Martin Luther King Day of Service, a day on, not a day off, a collaborative effort with the Corporation for National and Community Service was supported by the American Legion Auxiliary in the four marquee cities across the nation. From Denver to Chicago to the North Carolina triangle and on to Boston, the members supported homeless shelters, contacted soldiers in their community that had returned from deployment, and helped them with personal and family needs such as yard work, painting, car repairs, meals, and babysitting.

These efforts with communities empower individuals, our members, which was also a goal of Dr. King's. A quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love," end quote.

Working together will strengthen our organization at all levels and will make a real difference as we work the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

One Unit used a pocket flag project as a community service project. They used their local media to solicit funds and community helped to make the pocket flags to send to all service men and women deployed from North Carolina. They get help from other civic groups making this a community service project in their community.

Habitat for Humanity continues to be strong in our program. Members around the nation stepped up to the plate to volunteer for this program in many ways. Serving the community that veterans have secured for us, a priority for this program, found units supporting this in many ways.

One Florida Unit helped raise money for K-9 vests for their Sheriff's Office totaling \$6,400.

Another Unit in Florida raised \$10,000 in five weeks to help Auxiliary members of Unit 33 in Beaumont, Texas rebuild after a hurricane.

Another Unit teamed up with neighborhood watch groups, police, and fire departments and public officials to promote safety.

A Maine Unit used memorial funds from a long time member's memorial to make a game room at a local veterans' home.

A Unit in Lubbock, Texas, sold 500 tickets for a breakfast to raise money to provide adaptable housing for a double amputee who lost his legs in Iraq.

Through a great media campaign, other organizations volunteered to help. They served 800 breakfasts raising \$13,000 and received donations of building materials and labor from local merchants.

Members sponsored and/or participated in Locks of Love and Relay for Life to raise funds for cancer awareness.

One Unit held a golf tournament raising \$7,100 and stuffed 94 canvas bags with necessities for children in foster care in CASA.

Other units hosted programs with Child Protection Services where they provided children with safety information. Attendees then made pictures to send to the deployed troops.

One participated in the Child Identification Program, collecting DNA and dental records for families.

Another Unit in California collected \$36,945 for cancer research with rallies and other fund raisers.

Make a difference in someone's life like Unit 233 in Georgia. They work with the fish organization providing lunches during the summer for underprivileged children.

One Minnesota Unit held a baby shower for needy families in their area.

All reports received reported that they provided food for area food banks and homeless shelters in this time of economic uncertainty.

The American Legion Family numbering 800 worked together to greet 147 wounded men and women and their families arriving in Orlando for the fifth annual Road to Recovery Conference at Disney, handing out American flags and small gifts for the children.

A freedom walk was held in observance of 9/11 where the American Legion Family, JROTC, Legion baseball teams, and the community worked to remember.

The Smyrna, Georgia, family raised over \$7,000 for Special Olympics through fund raisers that found 30 volunteers earning 256 hours.

Adopt a Highway found a Minnesota Unit spending \$1,906.02 and volunteering 802 hours on a project to beautify their community.

One unique project was in Concordia, Kansas. Six hundred pounds of shoes were collected for old shoes can benefit a vet. If the veterans cannot use them, they're ground for highway improvements.

In closing, Ohio Unit 496, congratulations on your unique project at the county clothing center. Six volunteers volunteer one day a month and another Unit member volunteered over 900 hours this year.

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In the late summer, they have a back to school supply program. The center with the help of our members helped serve over 650 children whose families were unable to supply the necessary school supplies for them to start the school year.

In May, when Kent State students are leaving for the summer, they host a Throw and Go Program to encourage the students to recycle usable items.

Santa's Closet in December and members donate clothing to children from low-income families and they may choose three gifts for three family members and have them wrapped by volunteers. Members donated cash, gifts, and helped the children shop.

In another part of Santa's Closet, 125 parents and grandparents shopped and picked such items as toys, books, hair accessories, jewelry, new clothes, and games. Total gifts and items totaled 5,945.

In October, they host a black cat attire and you guessed right, they filled the room with Halloween costumes and the children and adults can pick out a costume for Halloween and put a deposit on it. And when they return the costume, they get their money back. What a great program for this Unit to be involved in. And this is not their only community service project.

One Department Chairman used a play story for her program, and I quote, "A bright shiny car meaning programs, donations, honors, and celebration is sitting in your garage. Unless it gets some fuel, community service, it cannot get to its destination and won't be able to do anyone any good."

Another quote, "Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another." And that's my Erma Bombeck.

American Legion Auxiliary volunteers remember we need each and every one of you to care for your community.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN CONATSER:** No, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Sharon.

Before we continue with our next report, I would like to take a personal privilege and introduce to this assembly my husband, Mr. Stoy.

(Applause.)

**MR. STOY:** Good morning, everyone.

**VOICES:** Good morning.

**MR. STOY:** I just wanted to thank the organization for allowing me to travel with my wife all over the world and enjoy all the things that she's seen and witness all the good doing that the organization does worldwide and throughout the United States. So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** His first words were "Where do I go from here?"

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Janet Jefford, the National Education Chairman, will now give the Education Program report.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Madam National President, you asked us to honor our promise every day. In the words of one of our scholarship recipients, our military and veterans have honored their promise every day by defending, representing, protecting, and guiding our nation. The actions by our troops give us, the citizens, hope.

To hope is to believe in a positive outcome, to look forward with reasonable confidence. That is exactly what our troops and veterans give to us, a secure feeling, a positive outcome. How can I honor our promise every day? I can start with a simple sincere thank you.

Each and every veteran deserves a personal thank you from somebody, anybody, face to face, handshake after handshake, smile after smile, a genuine look them in the eye thank you.

These words show that our young men and women are aware of the sacrifices and service of our veterans due in large part to your continued efforts in our Veterans in the Classroom Program.

The Oak Orchard Riverdale Unit 28 in Millsboro, Delaware, has been teaching the children of their community about veterans for many years. Their program scheduled around Veterans Day targets fourth and fifth graders in five schools.

Unit Education Chairman Floss Brady (phonetic) and Unit members are accompanied by the Post 28 Honor Guard and the Unit 28 Colorettes and veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Each program begins with the showing of the DVD "What is a Veteran." Students receive flags and patriotic coloring books. The Honor Guard presents the flag folding ceremony with the meaning of each fold is read by an Auxiliary member.

Prior to visiting the schools, the Unit donates to the libraries a book entitled America's White Table. Teachers are encouraged to read and discuss this book in class before Veterans Day.

America's White Table, a picture book by Margot Theis Raven, is geared towards children ages six to twelve and tells how young Katie and her sisters learn how to set a white table in memory of servicemembers missing in action, and especially her Uncle John who was a POW from Vietnam.

This book is a great way to teach children the importance of honoring our Armed Forces for their service.

To reinforce what the students have learned, a POW MIA table is displayed and the ceremony is performed explaining the meaning of each item as on the table as described in the book.

A question and answer session follows the program. The children are always enthusiastic and the veterans have received many interesting questions.

For the veterans, this interaction with the students is the best part of the program, but learning is a two-way street as shown in this picture of the children teaching Veteran Lou how to do the Macarena.

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(Laughter.)

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** To quote Unit President Floss, all of us who attend this program, both adults and children, have found it to be both rewarding and worthwhile. And each year, we feel that we convey to the students the importance of what our veterans have done for them and for our country in the past, present, and future.

Through the many scholarships offered by departments and units, many students have been helped in their pursuit of higher education.

I'd like to share with you the story of Unit 432 in Wheatland, Pennsylvania --

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** -- and their Scholarship Chairman, Nancy Thompson. About 20 years ago, their bingo started showing a profit. Their Treasurer at that time, Shirley Rainor (phonetic), encouraged them to use the money for scholarships.

Her granddaughters were getting ready to go off to college and Shirley couldn't afford to help them. She knew other Unit members faced a similar situation and so their program began.

The first year, two \$250 scholarships were awarded. The amount was raised to 500 the next year. This year, 23 scholarships totaling \$27,600 --

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** -- were given to help children and grandchildren of Post and Unit members attend college. Over the last ten years, this Unit has awarded scholarships totaling \$296,900.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** That is just from one Unit. Imagine the total impact we as a Legion family have had on the shaping of America and our future leaders.

I'd like to share with you parts of a letter from one scholarship recipient to help you understand how much we are influencing lives.

My father died as a result of his posttraumatic stress disorder and major depressive disorder. He apparently couldn't cope with the trauma inside his own head from his combat-related service and so he killed himself.

My mother and father divorced when I was five as a result of his military career and erratic behavior. However, my dad had just begun to reach out to me and my brother shortly before he died.

I don't know what made him decide to contact us again. Perhaps he was telling us goodbye. We'll never know. Please accept my application. I've lost my father in life now permanently. I had always hoped we would reconcile one day in the future. Now I know why he hasn't been able to have a relationship with me and for that, I am sorry.

While money won't bring back this student's father, I believe it will in some small way help the student look past the pain of losing a father and look forward with hope to a brighter future. You're giving counts. It impacts lives.

It truly does advance our mission of serving veterans, their families, and their communities.

Madam National President, that concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Janet, are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** We have none.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Diane Duscheck, National Leadership Chairman, will now give her report.

Diane.

**CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK:** Madam National President, where can an Auxiliary member go to laugh and have fun, see seasoned members wearing heavy makeup, midriff tops, flip-flops and short shorts, win prizes and learn valuable information at the same time? A Leadership workshop.

Workshops were carried out with the intent of energizing members who participated. These learning sessions took many forms and varied in length from 15-minute mini workshops during Auxiliary meetings to eight-hour seminars. In all cases, instruction was tailored to meet the needs and backgrounds of the attendees so everyone would have a chance to learn something new.

Not all members were able to attend many workshops, however, and for these, the national correspondence course was stressed.

In almost every Department, skits and plays were used to make a point.

In West Virginia's Who Has Talent competition, members and Chairmen were challenged to write and perform skits to illustrate Auxiliary programs.

Girls State Chairmen dressed in beach appropriate short shorts to demonstrate the preparedness or lack of preparedness for the Girls State session.

At the end of the day, copies of all skits were available for participants so they could take them back to their own units and districts.

The games that were developed by Leadership Chairmen rival some of the best game shows on daytime television.

In Missouri, parliamentary bingo was played with gusto as members carefully listened to clues given and matched the correct answers on their bingo cards.

Deal or No Deal was played in Illinois using questions related to the duties of officers and Chairmen.

Then there were the 12 Days of Leadership and Auxiliary Squares. These were games that Pat Sajak and Alex Trebek would love to host.

Mentoring is a buzz word that has become very popular. A person who is willing to listen, offer advice, and be open to new ideas is a good mentor. Mentoring was demonstrated during breakout sessions as past Chairmen aided new Chairmen explaining Auxiliary programs.

Mentors also attended new member orientations and encouraged newer members to attend community, District, and Department activities.

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An abundance of leadership materials were available to members. Leadership Chairmen compiled a variety of resources with titles like the Back to Basics Manual, the Mini Workshop Guidebook for Units, and ABC School.

The Department of New York developed an on-line supernova leadership library that included resources pertaining to the National plan of action with the hope that this new resource will continue to be developed year after year by each successive Chairmen.

Leaders needed to be thoughtful and reflective to devise methods of meeting the needs of a variety of members. To this end, Leadership Chairmen used training sessions, mentoring, and resources to inspire the members to become more involved.

The more members learned and the more fun the members had, the more they attended meetings and became involved in activities.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Diane, are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK:** No, Madam President, there are not.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

And now we have a special presentation. I would like to welcome Mike Alerding, the Auxiliary's hired accountant. Mike is a certified public accountant and managing partner of Alerding & Company, LLC, the Auxiliary's audit firm. Mike's distinguished career in public accounting spans more than 30 years. In addition to being a CPA, Mike is also a certified valuation analyst, a certified mediator, and has handled large national cases for the American Arbitration Association. Plus he serves as a consultant to nonprofits, law firms, and corporations, and trains audit committees across the country.

Mike has won many awards and cares deeply about nonprofits. He has served in leadership positions on over 30 nonprofit boards both locally and nationally including the immediate past Chairman of the Board for the country's 12<sup>th</sup> largest public television corporation and one of the country's largest healthcare systems.

Mike is an advisor to many nonprofit Boards of Directors on matters of Board governance, structure, leadership, accountability, and transparency.

He is a frequent author on nonprofit management, especially emerging issues surrounding the new IRS 990.

Mike will speak to us today about issues resulting from his firm's audit for the Auxiliary's financial statements relating to governance, structure, and other matters related to the new IRS 990.

His comments are very timely and urgent in view of the changing marketplace in the nonprofit environment including actions by Congress to limit or eliminate tax exemption for certain nonprofit entities. Please welcome Mike Alerding. And as Mike comes to the platform, I would ask the National Vice President to assume the Chair as I have the opportunity to speak to The American Legion.

So thank you.

(Applause.)

**MR. ALERDING:** Thank you very much.

We're trying to hook up some lavaliers and it looks like that's not going to work, so we're going to have to fake it a little bit here with the -- with some of the -- with the presentation thing.

First of all, thank you for having me today. I really do appreciate it and I'm overwhelmed by the amount this organization has done and by the way you all come together so often in such an organized and a focused fashion. And I do appreciate your giving me the opportunity to be here today.

I'm going to talk about something. It's a six letter word and it's one that none of us seem to like. We don't like a lot of four letter words, but one of them that's a six letter word we really don't like and that's called change. And it's not something that we looked for, that we asked for, but it is something that's upon us right now and the organization as old as it is, as storied as it is has to go through a period of change.

Now, this is not something that I came up with. But four years ago when I started working with the American Legion Auxiliary, it became apparent to me that it was going to be a difficult challenge from an audit perspective and a financial perspective because you are so big and so disaggregated.

Right now the ALA is the premier women's patriotic organization in the country. I don't know if you realize what a responsibility that is to all of you in this room.

In the storied history of ALA, this National Convention right here has the opportunity to effect positive change and necessary changes in its organization structure and the effectiveness of the organization. This is an awesome responsibility, one that will profoundly affect the lives of servicewomen, servicemen, and those who have served our country in the past, those who are serving it today, and those who are going to serve it in the future.

The next 30 minutes or so, I want to issue a challenge to the delegates that are before me. You are elected to make sure that the organization not only succeeds but survives through a period of radical change in the whole not-for-profit world.

Right now is an opportunity that should be relished by all of you because it will never happen again, we hope, that you'll have to go through something quite so radical.

If we don't make these changes, ladies, I fear that you will not be around to see the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Now, I'm not an alarmist. I'm not here to scare everyone. And amongst all these wonderful speakers, I don't want to be the downer for the day, but I do have a responsibility.

I'm the audit partner on the audit of the ALA Headquarters and as a result, four years ago when we first became involved, I recommended to the Headquarters that we re-look at the entire area of governance, accountability, and transparency because I knew that on the horizon based on some things that had been going on politically, economically, and otherwise there were going

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to be radical changes not just with ALA but with 1.3 million not-for-profit organizations in this country.

As an audit firm, we consider the organization structure and governance that ALA has right now to be a significant risk to your organization. Establishing an Audit Committee will help focus ALA on its governance responsibilities and ensure that the entity level risks are mitigated to the extent you can.

An Audit Committee is mandatory, but it's only the beginning of the things that will have to happen over the next year or so.

Why change and why change now? I don't like -- I'm 60 years old. I'm tired of change. I don't like change. But we have to change. And this is a situation where it will have to be changed in a rather radical and quick method.

The organizational and governance model and structure of ALA has become progressively outdated and ineffective. You're 90 years old. When things happened 90 years ago and this was established, the entire world was different, not just in the last 10 years, but the last 90 years, a lot of things have changed.

Our society first of all and now regulatory agencies, primarily our friends at the IRS, require now -- this is not something that they're suggesting -- they require that not-for-profit organizations be accountable, be transparent, and be governed effectively.

These changes, as you all know, began after Enron. The Enron scandal caused a lot of trouble in this country in a lot of different areas. That was followed and preceded in some cases by some of the scandals both at the religious level with some of the Evangelist organizations as well as the United Way and other not-for-profit organizations where abuses were found to be rather pervasive throughout the not-for-profit world.

Now, keep in mind that Congress allows not-for-profits to be exempt from tax and that's important, but they also allow certain organizations to have their constituents deduct, reduce their taxes for contributions made to those organizations. You are one of the organizations.

That according to our law, to Congress, and to the IRS is a privilege and that privilege rests solely with the Internal Revenue Service.

In 2003, our friend, Senator Grassley from Iowa, who was again in the news this morning and last night and yesterday, began hearings in the Senate Finance Committee. And for those of you who don't know, the Senate Finance Committee is the most powerful Committee in Congress because it controls the purse strings.

He began hearings because he was fed up with the fact that he believed and his Committee believed that one-third of the not-for-profit organizations in this country were abusive. That's right, abusive. You are not abusive. The point is that one-third are and what Senator Grassley said was we're going to get rid of those.

Now, I know of a number of them. I sit on boards all across this country and I know of a number of organizations, not-for-profit organizations

that are, in fact, abusing their right, their privilege, if you will, to be tax exempt because they're not really serving a charitable purpose.

Keep in mind when Congress established all of this, the government did not want to provide all of the services that were necessary to serve society. And in lieu of doing that, they created a tax exempt status. That's how this all arose. And with the Internal Revenue Service Act of 1913, they started providing exemptions to certain organizations.

Well, Senator Grassley as powerful as he is and the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means as powerful as they are were unable to get any legislation passed as direct legislation. This small skirmish in the Middle East and a few hurricanes kind of put Congress into the mood where they didn't want to take on the not-for-profit world directly.

So what happens in politics when you can't take things on directly? You go to a regulatory agency and get what you want through regulation. And that's exactly what Senator Grassley did.

In 2007, the Internal Revenue Service radically revised its form 990. Now, a form 990, many of you are familiar in your own state, your own Department, your own Unit. Those are returns that are required to be filed every year by every not-for-profit and for 40 some years, that return never changed.

In 2007, it didn't just change, ladies. It radically changed. It is completely different. And, in fact, if you happen to be a not-for-profit hospital, and I know some of you are involved with those, that teaches and you hit another click that I can't remember, your return could be 120 pages long. It is staggering what they did, a little bit overboard.

So ALA and a lot of other organizations have a choice. It can effect organizational and governance changes now, and I do mean now, or it can be forced to do so under the oversight of the IRS. One way or another, change is going to occur. You have the choice as to which way it will occur.

And I have a little personal experience in this. I'm a CPA. Following Enron and the fall of Arthur Anderson, the entire profession was put on notice by Congress, our friend, Senator Grassley, I might add again, that if you don't straighten up your act, you'll work for us. So there will be no more Arthur Anderson's PriceWaterhouse. There will be no more of you. You will all be part of the General Accounting Office and you will be part of an oversight group that is strictly working for Congress.

Well, I've worked too long to get where I have gotten such as it is and I'm not going to work for the government. It's something I choose not to do.

So the accounting profession not unlike what the not-for-profit organizations are going through today, we had to go through radical, meaningful, substantial, and immediate change by forming a separate independent group called the Public Oversight Board. And that board reorganized us and we now, the audits we do today are so much different than those audits that were done when I started this profession 39 years ago. Had you told me this, I would have told you it would be easier to live on Mars than it would to do an audit the way we have to do them today.

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Our malpractice insurance alone following Enron went up 500 percent. It is difficult change and I understand that. I tell you that because I empathize with what has to happen in the not-for-profit world.

Well, what's the current state of ALA? First of all, you are the women's -- the largest -- the world's largest woman organization, women's organization, the largest. There is an aging population in your constituency and your membership. You've had over a decade of declining membership. So for more than ten years, membership has been going down.

Your mission statement and your vision, although very important, is somewhat ambiguous. And when you look at some of the programs, sometimes it's difficult to translate that into your mission and purpose.

The organizational and governance structure is antiquated and certainly detached from its mission and purpose. When you look at the organization structure and the mission and purpose, they don't always get together.

Declining financial resources because of the stock market where you took your share, you took your hit like everyone else, and declining membership have now reduced the financial resources available to this organization that's been around for so long.

All of those issues now are coming together in the current state of the ALA, every one of them in the face of increasing, more than increasing needs for veterans. And don't forget, that's why we're here.

You can listen to all the suits you want to listen to and talk about all the organizational and governance things you want to talk about, but most importantly, we cannot lose sight of the reason that you're all here and the reason for this organization.

Mandates for change, the new IRS form. The last thing you want to do today is listen to someone tell you what's in an IRS form. So I'm not going to because we'd be here for a week.

What I thought I'd do instead is just give you a brief overview of why they did what they did and what is now required.

First of all, the new form was designed to take into account and to demonstrate for every organization the following:

Consistency. They want to see that your organization has some degree of consistent oversight. They want to make sure that your principles are mission-based principles and that they have a connection to what's going on in society.

The form is designed to draw out accountability throughout the entire organization. Keep in mind, ladies, what I said. The word is entire organization which doesn't just mean Headquarters. Departments, units, everything, they want to see consistency and they want to see accountability.

And then lastly, they want to show -- they want to make sure that you're showing transparency throughout not only what you do, some of the wonderful presentations this morning, some of the great things you've accomplished, they want that to be transparent, but they also want to show your governance, your controls, and your finances in a transparent way.

This new 990 is not your grandmother's tax return. In fact, it's not a tax return. Seldom does any tax come out of this return. It's not like you do in your business at home or in your personal return where you account for taxes. It's a clear misnomer to say it's a tax return.

What this is, it's an annual report to the public on what you're doing, what you're about, and why you deserve to have a tax exemption.

There's a form and it's an awful form for those who have had deal with it called form 1023. And if you ever want to have a not-for-profit or start one, you have to fill out this form. And it is obnoxious. It's very long, very detailed. No one wants to do it.

It used to be that you only filled it out once and once you were accepted as a not-for-profit by the Internal Revenue Service and given exemption, you didn't have to do it again.

The new 990 changes that. It effectively says you have to re-up every year. You have to reestablish for the government, for the watchdog organizations, and for the general public, you have to tell them again why are you important, how are you being managed, how are the controls there.

The items that the form will focus on are the value of the organization's mission and purpose to society.

I have a client, a wonderful client, one of my favorite clients in our Indianapolis office that I dearly love. It's the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Miniature Collectors. They are wonderful. They're a great organizations. Ladies, they're a 501(c)(3).

Now, why are they a 501(c)(3)? Because in 1961 when they applied, they were giving out 501(c)(3)s like they give out candy. They didn't check it. This organization should not be a (c)(3). It should not be a charitable organization because it doesn't provide a charitable service.

So the form says we want to check and see is the value you're providing to your constituents, your members, and society, is it valuable.

Secondly, it wants you to disclose and to justify the effectiveness of the organization's delivery, how is it delivered of your charitable and patriotic services, how do you deliver that. Is it delivered through your membership? Is it delivered through volunteers or is it delivered through paid employees?

It wants to demonstrate the quality and the effectiveness of the organization's internal controls and governance. This is the United Way issue. This is the one -- and I sit on the United Way of Indiana's Board and its Audit Committee, so I'm not picking on United Way, but it's the easiest one to remember.

United Way many years ago had problems and the reason they had problems is they didn't have effective governance and they had very poor internal controls. No one was watching the shop.

It also wants to serve as the manner, and this is important, the manner in which the organization receives its funding, from where are you getting your funding, and, most importantly, how are you spending those dollars.

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You're going to hear these really cute little words in the paper all the time called personal enornate and that's a big, big thing with the Internal Revenue Service. Is anyone personally getting a benefit out of the organization? Even though it's a charitable organization, is it benefitting individuals personally?

And there are a number of organizations the IRS has already targeted, some of the credit counseling organizations and some others, and they've said we're going to get rid of you, sorry. You can go out and do what you want to do, but you're going to be a for-profit entity.

Lastly, they want to make sure that the transparency the organization is reporting, how do you report that it's transparent both as to its mission and to its financial information.

These concepts, ladies, don't just apply to Headquarters. They apply to every single Unit and Department in the Auxiliary.

Now, some of you are small enough that you don't have to file the full form 990 in 2009. In 2010, many of you will escape because of the size of the organization. In 2011, a few of you will escape. By 2012, virtually not of you will escape it. As small as you may be, you may have to file this -- you will in 2012 have to file this obnoxious return.

The eyes of the IRS are on all entities and affiliates and it will be perceived as one. This organization, I see all the signs around here and all the individuals and the wonderful work you do at every local level, for the IRS and from the donors' perspective and from the watchdog perspective, you are viewed as one organization.

Now, I know that sounds like heresy and I do have the route out of here marked so I can get out of here.

(Laughter.)

**MR. ALERDING:** Told you. I made that clear before I got up here I needed to make sure I had the escape route clear. It is heretic. I feel as a heretic. But it's my job. I get paid to do this. And it's important.

I love this organization and anyone who has worked with me will tell you that I dearly love the what you do, way you do it, and I thoroughly get involved in your passion. I don't want to see something happen to this that creates negative publicity. And as soon as that happens, as you saw in United Way, it takes decades to recover.

So you're one organization to the IRS. You may not like it, but it looks like that's the way they're going to view you.

The disaggregation that you have of governance and accountability, it is a bit dysfunctional in terms of the way the IRS is developed. And you'll see that when you go through it.

The ALA needs to define a definitive and targeted plan, not just a bunch of speakers and talking. There needs to be a definitive, targeted, and immediate plan for making changes in the organizational structure.

Right away the form 990 for the period in 2009 has to be reviewed by what the IRS refers to as the governing body. I spent a week asking people who

that was. I couldn't figure it out. The NEC, obviously the NEC is clearly the governing body, but there are a lot of people in the NEC, number one. Number two, the NEC members generally are only elected for one year. How effective could they possibly be at reviewing potentially a hundred page form, each of them, and providing comments? It's just not possible.

So in order to effect this year, we've recommended and management -- and I know -- I believe the NEC has approved a 990 Review Committee. If it has not, it is going to be something I think that will be talked about here today.

It will be a special Committee. It is not a permanent Committee. It's a special Committee that begins in 2009 and it includes the incoming National President, the incoming National Vice President, the Chair of VA&R, the Chair of C&Y, the Chair of the Finance Committee, and then an at large member from the NEC who has, or from the constituency, from your membership group, who has expertise in governance and accountability.

It's important that this group be the one that you appoint to do on your behalf, on the behalf of the NEC to review this form because it has to be done by a governing body.

But this is a stop gap measure. This is one for 2009, perhaps 2010, and it needs to be done immediately because 9/30/09 is the year end of the organization, so the return will be due in the middle of '10.

Okay. I've said all these terrible things. Now I'm going to tell you what I think needs to happen in terms of the organizational structure of this organization. And this is primarily why I needed an escape route that I could get to pretty quickly. I'm 60, but I can still fly at least for 20 yards.

First of all, the states will continue to have representation at the NEC level just like they do now. Nothing changes there. Everything stays the same.

The NEC in my view elects a Board of Directors from its constituency to govern ALA comprising nine to thirteen members. The Board of Directors' members each serve a three-year term and can be reelected for one additional three-year term.

There will be an annual rotation of directors. So the first group that would be elected would have -- some would have a three-year term, a two-year term, and a one-year term and then they would go through a reelection process.

The Board of Directors then would be responsible for hiring the CEO, the CFO, the management group. And management then would be responsible for reporting to the Board of Directors.

The Board would have standing committees because the Board can't do everything. It can't possibly have the expertise necessary nor the time to do all of the governing measures that need to be completed for an organization of this size.

The Board itself would act as the Executive Committee, if you will. It will meet regularly and it will govern. It does not manage. This is not politics, ladies. It has nothing to do with this. This is governance, a completely different concept.

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An Audit Committee that you hopefully will approve will report directly to the Board and to the NEC. And the Audit Committee's job is to make sure that risks to this organization are mitigated.

A Finance Committee will report directly to the Board and then other standing committees will also be developed from the Board which would include the long-range Planning Committee, strategic planning which I think is critical, the Development Committee which in this world trying to develop contributions, revenue sources is critical, and the Compensation Committee. Now, that's kind of a hoey one that comes out of the Internal Revenue Service regs.

And what they're concerned about is people making too much money working for the organization. Trust me when I tell you this. You don't have anyone making too much money. I have looked in the parking lot at the cars they drive and we do the audit. I can tell you no one's making much money.

There will also be some special committees the Board will need to create. One of them, for example, is the 990 Review Committee would be an example of what they might do.

The committees now would be chaired by members of the Board, the Chair, but they would include members from the entire membership group and the NEC. The reason for this is if you've got -- ladies, you've got almost a million members. You've got eight hundred and some thousand members.

There is an enormous reservoir of talent out there and if we need talent in the Development Committee, someone who really has a special talent for developing revenue sources, why should we not allow that person to serve on a Committee and provide a wonderful service to the organization?

So my thought is to open it up, memberships now, on the committees to anyone and everyone. From an expertise standpoint, it certainly makes sense.

Now, if I ask you to change, I'm not stupid enough to think I can ask change without telling you why I think it will benefit you.

One, you'll be around to see your hundredth anniversary, first thing.

Second thing, the states don't lose any control. Everything stays in the NEC. Nothing moves. All of that control is continuing to focus where it belongs and that's at the grass-roots level. That's what makes you special. We don't want to lose that.

However, the Board of Directors becomes highly effective because it's small enough to move. It's small enough to make changes when they need to be made. It's small enough to provide expertise and governance at a level that is -- that shows responsibility and accountability.

The ALA is organized and governed using a corporate structure that is appropriate for its size, its reputation, and its national prominence. When people interview, when people talk about what the ALA -- they have a spokesperson group that is the governing group, not the managing group, not the politically active group, not -- it is the governing group.

The Committee structure I just went through provides for expertise and experience at the levels that you need it at. You need it at these levels.

Rotating terms, the fact that we're going to have people on there for three years, possibly as long as six provides continuity, provides consistency. And I've served on 30 some boards and I can tell you that if you're not there more than a couple of years, you don't get it. You don't get it. You may think it because you've got the passion built up inside of it.

And keep in mind boards are usually the three Ws. They're usually made up of the three Ws, work, wisdom, and wealth. Those are the people on the Board, work, wisdom, and wealth. You have a third of each, you're in business.

The workers are the passion people, people who want to get things done. The wisdom are the old folks like me. I keep asking my father, he's 89, when do I finally get out of the work mode and become a wisdom. And he said how old are you and I said 60. He goes, ah, you're not quite there yet. I hope. The last one, of course, is the wealth. You want some folks with some bucks.

And if you can make that work, this Board will be highly effective in governing. This kind of a structure provides -- it mitigates the overall risks to the organization from outsiders. And outsiders means these watchdog organizations that watch not-for-profits, donors, and, of course, our friends at the IRS.

Management also is given the authority but also the responsibility to manage. There's a whole difference between management and governance. The managers need to manage and this does that.

To end my comments, I just want to say that this was not an easy thing for me to do. I've been -- I think I've given a dozen or so talks. Many of you have probably heard me in the NEC, in a number of different meetings. And I feel as though the record has gotten a bit worn and broken.

This is a very dynamic period of change, not just what I've talked about, but everything is really moving. This is a chance for this convention to step forward and really show leadership, show fortitude, determination, and wisdom. It's the beginning of an era of renewal and a progress -- and progress at a time when the veterans' needs could not be greater. And depending on how healthcare falls out and how our deficit falls out, it could get a lot worse and I think everyone in this room knows that.

And immediate and responsible changes are needed and they're immediate and they're responsible. They need to be done now. This is a call to action, ladies. It's a time to demonstrate the determination and strength of the organization in bringing its governance, accountability, and transparency into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Madam President, those are my remarks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you, Mike. We know we will do all in our power and properly prepare that new 990 at all levels of this organization.

**MR. ALERDING:** Very good. Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you.

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**MR. ALERDING:** Thank you all.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Next the Chair will ask Linda Boone, National Finance Chairman, to now give her report.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Good morning.

**VOICES:** Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Madam National President, the National Finance Committee is a five-member Committee with each member appointed to serve a five-year period. Responsibilities include oversight of the general financial policy of the National organization, preparation of the annual budget, and supervision of the expenditures under that budget.

On the income side, investments can provide significant income. We continue diversification of investments per an adopted policy to be able to weather stock market fluctuations in the long term.

This year has been particularly volatile and we experienced significant losses but also have experienced some recovery.

Our annual audit gives us the opportunity to reflect on past actions and develop new strategies to improve results.

With the new filing details and practices demanded by the IRS, the organization will need to make changes to some of our practices in governance and operations.

Departments will also need to review their practices to be able to adhere to the new IRS requirements.

Budget oversight consists of monthly review and a discussion during each meeting. To ensure internal control, the Finance Committee developed and recommended policies and procedures for NEC adoption.

The Committee has the obligation to report on financial issues to a variety of audiences which you see here.

The responsibility of education and training is key for the National Committee and departments. And here you see lists of what we've done.

Planning for the future needs of the organization is a critical responsibility of every Finance Committee. Your National Committee is currently focused on these areas, strategic planning, 990 compliance, income diversity, and developing relationships with new committees.

Madam President, this concludes our report.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes. I believe we have three Resolutions.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We will have a three-minute recess. No one is to leave the room. Thank you.

(Whereupon, there was a brief recess taken.)

(Ringing of the bell.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** If you will take your seats, we will begin.

(Ringing of the bell.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair calls upon the Resolution Committee Chairman, Kenya Ostermeier.

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, Resolution number one was submitted by Mary Price of Idaho, Rusty Beeg of Maryland, and Beverly Burns of Rhode Island. The subject is National Magazine content and it reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The National Magazine is the only publication every member receives and they need information about our programs; and

WHEREAS, The strategic plan calls for: Continually assuring American Legion Auxiliary programs are relevant and to provide incoming leadership with ideas and information to assist in programming decisions; and

Developing volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization by investing in a variety of resources and to provide annual relevant training and resource plans to enhance the skills of the volunteer leaders at the National, state, and Unit levels; and

WHEREAS, The National Magazine previously contained program mini plans of work and articles from National Chairmen to encourage and help members work the Auxiliary programs in their units; and

WHEREAS, This was valuable information and ideas for members, Unit and Department Chairmen and a way for members to hear from National Chairmen; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, That the fall issue of the National American Legion Auxiliary Magazine will contain many plans of work (action) of at least 450 words for each program; and be it

Resolved, That each subsequent issue will contain articles of a minimum 600 words regarding at least four of the programs by the National Chairmen; and be it finally

Resolved, That this Resolution will become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year.

The Finance Pre-Convention Committee and Resolution Pre-Convention Committee recommend that this Resolution be adopted.

Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of this Resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of Resolution number one, that the fall issue of the National American Legion Auxiliary Magazine will contain mini plans of work (action) of at least 450 words for each program and that each subsequent issue will contain articles of a minimum 600 words regarding at least four of the programs by the National Chairmen and that this Resolution will become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year.

Is there any discussion?

**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** Madam President, Virginia Nelsen, Department of Nebraska, National Public Relations Chairman.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Nebraska.

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**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** I want to speak for this Resolution. It will allow each National Chairman to reach every member, active or not, and gives the Chairmen the opportunity to share the highlights of the mini plans of action firsthand, thereby motivating more members to become interested and active. Reaching each member this way may also benefit the organization through participation and even donations.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the Resolution?

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BURNS:** Beverly Burns, the Department of Rhode Island.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Rhode Island.

**SECRETARY BURNS:** I'd like to speak in favor of this Resolution obviously as one of the makers. I have received as Department Secretary complaints from various members regarding the fact that not all of the members have access to the Web site which seems to be where most of the vital information is for use in chairmanships, et cetera.

And I just feel that by putting a mini plan back into the magazine which everyone receives will benefit not only the National Chairmen in getting their word out, but on the grass-roots level Unit members who want more information.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the Resolution?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT SANDERS:** Madam Chairman, Nancy Sanders, Delegate from Department of Mississippi.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Mississippi.

**PRESIDENT SANDERS:** I would like to speak on behalf of the Resolution. When I joined the Auxiliary several years ago, I was immediately a Junior rep. And needless to say, the plans of work were so over our heads. Had it not been for the mini plans of work that was contained in our magazine, I would have never understood anything. So I was real pleased to read that.

And it also kept us so informed on our various ideas and recommendations of our National Chairmen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the Resolution?

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Janet Jefford, Delegate from Connecticut.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Connecticut.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Yes. I am in favor of the spirit of this Resolution. What I do question is the -- specifying the number of words in there because I always feel that when you make Resolutions that are too specific, there are times that they can't be followed exactly.

So I would like to know if an amendment is in order at this time.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** If you wish to do so.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Yes. I move to amend this Resolution by striking out the words of at least 450 words and in the second resolve clause, strike the words of a minimum of 600 words regarding at least four.

So that would read that each subsequent issue will contain articles of the programs by the National Chairmen. And the one above it would just read will contain the mini plans of work for each program.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Do you have that in writing, Janet?

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** I do not because I just thought of it.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** According to the rules --

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- I need that submitted to the Chair in writing.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Can I --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Very quickly.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Forms are on the table at the side of the room.

**MS. CRAIG:** Madam President, microphone three.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** State your name and Department, please.

**MS. CRAIG:** Yes, I will. I just wanted to be sure you knew where I was standing.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

**MS. CRAIG:** Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

I guess my concern with eliminating the numbers of words, as it stands now, the Auxiliary portion of the Home Front Magazine is four little pages in the middle. And without the specification of the numbers of words, I have fear that those articles are going to get condensed in a two-inch section or something within one of those four pages.

And so the words were put in there to ensure that the National Chairmen would have sufficient space to write what they needed to write about their programs. And, again, my concern is the little space. And I think also what this Resolution probably is saying that it is important to the membership that the focal point of the magazine be those articles by the National Chairmen and then whatever number of pages left can cover those special articles that staff writes. But the critical issue is that the membership wants those articles in there from the National Chairmen.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland, number four.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Sandi, just a moment, please. If the Chair may ask you just to hold tight for a second until we give the Delegate the chance to get the amendment up here if you would. That would assist the Chair greatly and conform to our rules.

(Whereupon, there was a pause in the proceedings.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Now that we have a written copy -- pardon me -- of the amendment, is there a second?

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**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** Madam Chair, Carlene Ashworth, Department of Texas, seconds.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Carlene Ashworth, Department of Texas seconds. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland.

We want our magazine back.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any further discussion? Anyone else interested on speaking on the amendment? And the Chair will recognize the Delegate from the Department of Connecticut.

**CHAIRMAN JEFFORD:** I hear you, Sandi. And I think a lot of members are agreeing. But I just think we shouldn't tie our hands. If I write an article that's only 555 words, am I going to be punished because it's not 600 or add things that wouldn't be relevant?

I just think it's -- the spirit of the original Resolution is good, but you shouldn't make it that specific.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Janet.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**CHAIRMAN OWENS:** Madam President, Krisann Owens, Department of Oregon.

Ladies, I find that limiting myself to four or six hundred words is very difficult when I want to get out everything in my program. So I agree with the Delegate from Connecticut that there should be no limitation, so we can just expand our program and get as much information out as possible.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. WALLACE:** Eva Wallace, Delegate from the Department of Washington.

I'm in full agreement that our Chairmen --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Can't hear you.

**MS. WALLACE:** Oh, I guess I'm short. Eva Wallace, Department of Washington Delegate.

I'm in full agreement with the amendment. I feel that our National Chairmen need to get the information out on our programs and this is the best way to communicate with our membership.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Eva.

Does anyone -- the Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**PRESIDENT DAHL:** Madam President, Cyndi Dahl, Department of Oregon.

The magazine has a lot of good articles, but the count number on the pages will probably be limited because of expense. I would like to see more articles from the National Chairmen, less articles about our other things that do not have participation or do not participate anything with the Auxiliary.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Cyndi.

(Applause.)

**VOICE:** Madam President --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. I ask that those speaking then are speaking to the merits of the amendment.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**VOICE:** Madam President, this amendment if supported -- as supported by the last National Chairman that spoke that it's difficult to cut your words to that, I refer back to the original motion which says a minimum. It does not limit how much they can put in it. It's only a minimum of 450 words and a minimum of 600.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on the amendment?

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER BRIERE:** Robin Briere, Department of Florida.

Department of Florida say it's against the amendment simply because if a Chairman is unable to come up with 400 or 600 words on their program, I'm sure a smaller article would be greatly accepted by the public relations team.

However, I think the fear is that by taking the numbers out, they will constantly be told there is no room for your article this month and we really want that more than the special items.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**CHAIRMAN DAVIS:** Mary Davis, Department of Washington.

I speak to the amendment. The count to me does not -- the number count does not make sense because you can reduce the size of print. If you were to look at the amount of print on the page, say a half a page or a full page, that would make sense to me as opposed to the count of words, like I said, because of the size of print that you can put in it.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Mary.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the amendment? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**VICE CHAIRMAN MCCLUNG:** Dianne McCung, Department of West Virginia.

Being a past member of my newspaper staff and loving PR, I know you can control your words or your length of your reports. I think our main concern is the management or the editor chopping our articles. And, therefore, I think we need a limitation or a minimum for our articles.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** Carol Van Kirk, Department of Nebraska.

I call for the vote.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**VOICES:** Second.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** That requires a two-thirds vote. So all in favor of the -- for the ending debate, a call for the question, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Please be seated.

All those opposed to end debate, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You have voted to end debate and we will call for the question.

So the question is on the amendment which reads to amend by striking the words in the first reserved clause of at least 450 words and strike in the second resolved clause a minimum of 600 words regarding at least four of the.

Okay. So all in favor of the amendment -- all those in favor of the amendment, please say aye.

**VOICES:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Those opposed, no.

**VOICES:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair is not in question. The amendment fails.

So back to the original Resolution. Is there any further discussion on the original Resolution? The Chair recognizes the Delegate from New Mexico.

**VOICE:** Totally understand the spirit of the Resolution, have heard the voices of the concerns of the membership. And you must know that I'm a grass-roots member.

However, I feel that this is an administrative management area and if we -- our voices are going to be heard and they are being heard, the leadership of this organization which are your National Chairmen are going to be able to do many things.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any further discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are you ready for the question?

**VOICES:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All those in favor of the proposed Resolution number one, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. You may be seated.

All those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Please be seated.

The affirmative have it and the Resolution is adopted.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, Resolution number two was submitted by the Department of Maryland. The subject is release of known donor information from previous direct mailings. And it reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the National organization has discontinued sharing revenue for most of the affinity programs; and

WHEREAS, the National organization has authorization rights to the known donor list from previous direct mail solicitations; and

WHEREAS, many departments are in need of revenue and may wish to participate in direct mail solicitations to increase their income sources; and

WHEREAS, participation in direct mail solicitations would be more efficiently and economically accomplished if previous known donor lists were available; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, That upon request from a Department, the National organization will authorize release to that Department its list of known donors from the direct mail solicitations with any associated costs from the vendors to be borne by that Department; and be it further

Resolved, That this Resolution become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year or sooner.

The Finance Pre-Convention Committee recommends that this Resolution be adopted. The Resolutions Pre-Convention Committee recommends that this Resolution not be adopted.

Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of this Resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the Resolution number two, that upon request from a Department, the National organization will authorize release to that Department its list of known donors from the direct mail solicitations with any associated costs from the vendors to be borne by that Department, and that this Resolution become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year or sooner.

Is there any discussion?

**VOICE:** Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**VOICE:** Before we discuss the Resolution, I would like to ask if I could make a grammatical change without objection. The word I would like to change is "its" in the first resolved to clarify that we mean the list belonging to the Department, not to the National list in its entirety.

So I would like to change the word its to the departments. And I do have a copy showing that change coming forward.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Is there any objection to making that grammatical change?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Hearing none, that change has -- will be made, is made.

**VOICE:** Okay. May I discuss the Resolution?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please.

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**VOICE:** In the past, we have received income from affinity programs that the National organization has conducted and shared with the departments. And a large part of that income was from direct mail solicitation of merchandise such as labels and cards and so forth. And that income has greatly been reduced because the National organization discontinued that particular kind of affinity program.

So we would like, like many other departments, to increase our income on our own. But in looking at the direct mail picture, the vendors keep lists of who is interested in contributing for these items and those who are not. And so you weed your list down and, therefore, it's less expensive to send a mailing to a targeted audience.

The vendors who have these lists will not release that information without the permission of the National organization. Since they were the ones who entered into the original contracts, they own these lists.

What we would like by reason of this Resolution is to ask the National organization to release those -- to release the vendor from his commitment not to release the information downward so that we can utilize those lists if we decide that we want to go in that direction in order to cut our costs since we've already basically paid for that information since National is us and we -- our income was reduced by having paid for those lists to be generated in the first place.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**MS. MAHONEY:** Jean Mahoney (phonetic), the Department of Florida.

I was in the Resolutions Committee meeting and my understanding of why it was rejected there had too much to do with the Privacy Act which has nothing to do with the Resolution as it's written.

We have lost thousands of dollars by not being involved in this. And if we request our -- your list from National, we will have a donor list in our hand that we can use like ya'll gave us before. Thank you for giving it to us. We're sorry you took it away, but we'll take it back.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**MS. COSCA:** Linda Cosca (phonetic) for the state of Wisconsin.

I'm against this Resolution because of HIPAA laws. You really have to start a new list with their permission to pass it to anyone else.

I have people in my own city that will not let me give their names or thank them in the newspaper or any other way because they do not want to be harassed by everyone else.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. BIBLE:** Marsha Bible, Department of Minnesota.

My Unit lost a very generous, hard-working, 39-year member who contributed to our Unit greatly and to all National fund raisers when she received a Visa application with the American Legion Auxiliary emblem on it. Shortly after that, she started being hounded by other credit card companies. She was not happy about that. She felt that her name had been sold and she will not rejoin.

I suggest that those lists be shredded and not forwarded to anyone. I am strongly opposed to this.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**MS. NEWMAN:** Rosey Newman, Department of Indiana.

These -- this is a list we're asking for of donors. They don't care. They're already donating to us. So it's not like we're invading their privacy. But these are our members. National has our members from the units and the districts and the departments. We have a right to them.

Our members would just as soon donate to the departments as they would to National. I mean, National has to realize they do not own them and like someone said earlier, the members paid for National to get that. Yes, it cost money, but who did it get the money from? Us.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

**MS. CLAPP:** Nicole Clapp, Department of Iowa.

I just wanted to clarify a point. This came up in the Resolutions Committee as well. We've been talking about HIPAA information. HIPAA information as a hospital CEO is health information.

And so this would be information, and I guess it would be more of a question to the platform, is, is the information being released strictly name, address, phone number, and that that has already been granted release because it came from National?

So I guess in comment, I wanted to clarify the content of the information and that if it's an opportunity for the departments to again increase fund raising because we know we have donors who want to help us, then it is an opportunity hopefully to attract money back to the states.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, there was a discussion off the record.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** The Chair just asked me to approach the mike and clarify a question or clarify the concern.

The concern, I understand, is that members want -- well, actually, you'll -- I'll be able to tell from your reaction. Members want a list of the donors from their states who are members of your Department organization. Is that --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Just what information that would be.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** So the information that would be provided would be the name and address of the donor. That can be done.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. POLLARD:** Vicky Pollard (phonetic), Department of Texas.

The Secretary answered my question. My concern was there is a possibility of someone who is not a member of the organization making donations. If that were dispensed down to the Department, we are setting ourselves up for a lawsuit under the Privacy Act.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Nancy Brown-Park, Department of California.

I -- when I signed up and when I -- or I guess when my mother signed me up, there is a privacy protection for Unit members. And it says officers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary are forbidden by National Convention Resolution to distribute the names and addresses of any units or members of the Auxiliary except in carrying out the duties of their office.

I personally do not want my name sent out. And when I joined, this was my Privacy Act. So I'm opposed to this Resolution.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland.

I just wanted to clarify. This came from our Department. Because as Finance Chairman, we lost revenue. In the past, National used to send out the labels and people would send money back and whatever National got as a profit, they gave half to the Department.

National is not doing that anymore, so our Department lost about \$15,000 in revenue. So we approached or the vendor -- people approached us about doing --

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes Rita Navarreté.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** (Inaudible.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The point of order made is the Delegate should address the Chair.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Well, I want them to see what I'm saying.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** They're hearing you, so please address the Chair.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Do I have to face this way?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Sorry.

**MS. DUTTON:** So we in Maryland asked that the -- we were -- discussed with the vendor that we were going to do our own direct mail. We've contacted several departments and they were with us. They want to do this. They need the money.

So we had to get permission from National to use the known donor list. We don't want to start from scratch and mail to everybody. We want to mail to those people who have supported the American Legion Auxiliary in the past because it's so much cheaper to use a known donor list.

We contacted the National organization and we -- they refused to give us the list. They said you can't have it. So the only choice that we had and all these departments, and you know who you are, that wanted to go in with Maryland and do the fund raising was to write a Resolution.

It's not sending -- it's no Privacy Act. National has already sent and continues to send things to all of our members. If National can send it --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Time.

**MS. DUTTON:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on the Resolution? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. IMBURGIA:** Priscilla Imburgia, the Department of New York.

I did not intend to speak on this Resolution at all. However, I hear people that are in conflict with themselves. If someone is opposed and considers this their Privacy Act, then I would assume that they're opposed to the fact that they're putting it in the National Magazine that we have in our hands of what they donated this year.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on the Resolution?

**CHAIRMAN NOBLE:** Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**CHAIRMAN NOBLE:** Thank you. Debra Noble, Delegate, New Jersey.

I was an observer in the finance meeting when this Resolution came up. And I think the first thing that struck me when it came and the Chairman was questioned why the departments could not have it, they were point blank told it belongs to the National organization. That showed such a disconnect in our membership that there's the National organization; there's the rest of us. I was appalled.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN NOBLE:** I had always thought as a Unit member, a member of my county and Department that I belonged to the National organization also.

But I believe there is certainly on a National level a difference of opinion there because for someone to say it belongs to the National organization, we are the National organization.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**MS. BRAVE:** Madam President, Annette Brave (phonetic), Department of Minnesota.

I call for the vote.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**VOICES:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. It's been moved and seconded to call for the vote. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. I think that's not debatable. All those in favor, say aye.

**VOICES:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed, no.

**VOICES:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The affirmative have it and debate is ended.

So is there any further -- well, okay. Are you ready for the question apparently? So all those in favor of proposed Resolution number two, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please be seated.

All those -- point of order.

**VOICE:** We don't understand what we're voting for. Please say it again.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All those in favor of the proposed Resolution number two.

Okay. Resolved, By the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, That upon request from a Department, the National organization will authorize release to that Department the Department's list for known donors from the direct mail solicitations with any associated costs from the vendors to be borne by that Department.

Where's the rest of it? Resolved that this Resolution become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year or sooner. That is Resolution number two.

Okay. So the Chair will ask again. All those in favor of the Resolution to please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. You may be seated.

All those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair is in question of the outcome of this vote. What's the plan? So this will take a roll call vote.

So does the Secretary come up? I assume you come up and do that. Madam Secretary, please call the roll call vote.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** A roll call vote has been called for. There has been a call for a roll call vote. We will conduct it in this manner. As I call each state's name, and they're going to be alphabetical, so to make this expeditious, if you don't have someone with a loud voice, if you'll please start approaching the microphones, I need -- we will need to know how many from each state based on the number of delegates you have will be voting affirmatively or negatively.

So, for example, when I call Alabama, Alabama has 11 votes. So a representative from Alabama would hopefully quickly holler out so we can hear up here or approach a microphone if they're soft-spoken and say Alabama casts blank yes and blank no. Is that clear?

All right. Then we shall proceed. Alabama, you are on notice you're going to be first up.

Alabama has 11 votes.

**VOICE:** (Inaudible.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I do ask your cooperation because it's very hard to hear up here with some of the feedback.

Alabama, would you please repeat.

**VOICE:** Eleven votes yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Alaska.

**VOICE:** Nine votes yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Arizona.

**VOICE:** Sixteen yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Sixteen votes yes.

Arkansas.

**VOICE:** Nine votes no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Did I hear nine votes no?

**VOICE:** Yes. Correct.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** California.

**VOICE:** One moment, please.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Would the Chair or would the body mind if we proceeded and came back to California?

**VOICE:** We're ready.

**VOICE:** They're ready.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** All right. California, 25 votes.

**VOICE:** I have eight yes, seventeen no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Eight yes, seventeen no; is that correct?

**VOICE:** Correct.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Colorado.

**VOICE:** Ten votes for.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Connecticut.

**VOICE:** Connecticut nine no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Delaware.

**VOICE:** Nine yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** District of Columbia has six votes.

**VOICE:** District of Columbia six yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Six in the affirmative? Is that what I heard?

**VOICE:** Yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Florida, 33 votes.

**VOICE:** Florida casts 33 in the affirmative.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Georgia 13.

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**VOICE:** Nine for, four against.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Hawaii seven.

**VOICE:** Seven nos.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Idaho, eight.

**VOICE:** Idaho eight yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Illinois, 33.

**VOICE:** Thirty-three yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Indiana, 46.

**VOICE:** Thirty-eight yes and eight nos.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Iowa, 29. Iowa.

**VOICE:** Iowa 21 no, eight yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Kansas.

**VOICE:** Kansas casts 19 no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Kentucky.

**VOICE:** Kentucky ten yes, two no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I heard ten yes, two no; is that correct?

**VOICE:** Correct.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Louisiana, 13.

**VOICE:** Louisiana nine yes, four no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you very much.

Maine.

**VOICE:** Thirteen yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I heard 13 yes?

**VOICE:** Yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Maryland 25.

**VOICE:** Twenty-five yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Massachusetts, 12.

**VOICE:** Massachusetts three yes, eight no, one abstain.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Michigan, 28.

**VOICE:** Twenty-eight no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Minnesota, 39.

**VOICE:** Four yes, 35 no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I heard four yes, 35 no. Thank you.

Mississippi.

**VOICE:** Nine yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Missouri, 19.

**VOICE:** Nineteen no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Montana, nine.

**VOICE:** Nine yes. Nine yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Nine yes. Thank you.

Nebraska, 24.

**VOICE:** Nebraska 24 for the vote.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Twenty-four yes?

**VOICE:** Yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Nevada, seven.

**VOICE:** Nevada seven yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

New Hampshire, 13.

**VOICE:** Nine yes, four no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you very much.

New Jersey, 15.

**VOICE:** Fifteen yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

New Mexico, ten. New Mexico.

**VOICE:** New Mexico votes no ten.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

New York, 40.

**VOICE:** New York yes 32, no eight.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

North Carolina, 13.

**VOICE:** North Carolina 13 yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

North Dakota, 17.

**VOICE:** Yes 12, no five.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Ohio, 40.

**VOICE:** Ohio 15 yes, 25 no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Oklahoma, 11.

**VOICE:** Eleven no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

The Chair entertain -- or the Chair. Excuse me. Prerogative of the mic, I need an extra piece of paper. Would you please indulge me a second.

(Whereupon, there was a pause in the proceedings.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

And the last vote I had was from --

**VOICE:** Ohio.

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**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

So the next would be Oregon, 13.

**VOICE:** Thirteen no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you very much.

Oh, that's helpful.

Oregon, with all due respect, would you repeat your vote so I can get my tally back in line. I now have one that has lines on it.

**VOICE:** No, 13 no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thirteen no. Thank you very much. I beg your pardon for having to ask again.

Pennsylvania, 51.

**VOICE:** Four yes, 46 no, and one abstain.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** And one abstain. Four yes, 46 no, and one abstain. Thank you very much.

Philippines.

**VOICE:** No.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** That would be six. Thank you.

Puerto Rico, seven.

**VOICE:** Four no, two yes, one abstain.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you very much.

Rhode Island.

**VOICE:** Seven yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

South Carolina, ten.

**VOICE:** Seven yes, three no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you very much.

South Dakota, 16.

**VOICE:** Fourteen yes, two no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Tennessee, ten.

**VOICE:** Ten yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Texas, 24.

**VOICE:** Texas votes 23 no, one yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Utah, nine.

**VOICE:** Nine no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Vermont, 12.

**VOICE:** Ten yes, two no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Virginia, 13.

**VOICE:** Virginia 11 no, two yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

Washington, 12.

**VOICE:** Washington ten no, two yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.  
West Virginia, 12.

**VOICE:** Yes nine, two no, one abstain.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.  
Wisconsin, 29.

**VOICE:** Wisconsin 12 yes, 17 no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.  
Wyoming.

**VOICE:** Wyoming nine yes.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you.

**VOICE:** Madam Secretary, we have a correction on Iowa. It's 18 yes and 11 no.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Eighteen yes and 11 no.

**VOICE:** Yes, ma'am.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** All right. Thank you.

We will be tallying the vote. We indulge your patience.

(Whereupon, there was a pause in the proceedings.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** For your edification, because action already exists on this item, privacy protection for Unit members, this Resolution will require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative to pass. Okay?

In the essence of time, while they calculate the vote, I will call the Resolutions Chairman so that we can proceed to the next Resolution.

Kenya.

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, Resolution number three was submitted by Mary Price of Idaho, Rusty Beeg of Maryland, and Beverly Burns of Rhode Island. The subject is number of National Magazine issues and it reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The National organization has asked for a dues increase;  
and

WHEREAS, The strategic plan calls for developing volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization by investing in a variety of resources and to provide annual relevant training and resource plans to enhance the skills of the volunteer leaders at the National, state and Unit levels; and

WHEREAS, the National Magazine can encourage, motivate, inform, and help members work the Auxiliary programs in their units; and

WHEREAS, The number of issues was previously reduced because of budget concerns; and

WHEREAS, If the dues increase passes, the National organization will again be able to afford to produce more issue of the National Magazine; therefore be it

Resolved, By the American Legion Auxiliary in national convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, That if the dues increase passes, the number of issues of the National Magazine be increased to six; and be it further

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Resolved, That this Resolution become effective with the dues increase.

The Finance Pre-Convention Committee and the Resolutions Pre-Convention Committee recommend that this Resolution be adopted.

Shall I go ahead with the other thing or wait because we haven't finished? Shall I go ahead and move the adoption? Shall I go ahead and move the adoption before we finish? Okay.

Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of this Resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the Resolution that if the dues increase passes, the number of issues of the National Magazine be increased to six and that this Resolution become effective -- pardon me -- with the dues increase.

Is there any discussion? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**PRESIDENT VORWALD:** Sue Vorwald, Wisconsin.

Resolution number one was passed to allow more articles and I know the cost of the magazine is extreme. I myself personally feel if we pass the one Resolution, those articles should cover in many respects what you would have gotten in the six issues.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any -- the Chair recognizes the National Vice President.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I speak in favor of this because with a dues increase, we can go to six issues.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT HAUCK:** Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**PRESIDENT HAUCK:** Rosemarie Hauck, Department of Missouri.

Financially my concern is if we raise the dues two dollars and we go up to another issue, that will take up quite a bit of the money from the two dollars. So my request is how much will it cost to add another issue?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are either of you prepared to answer that question?

**PRESIDENT HAUCK:** Another two issues. I'm sorry.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** A cost per issue.

(Whereupon, there was a discussion off the record.)

Rosemarie, one moment.

**PRESIDENT HAUCK:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair calls on the National Secretary to see if she can give us like a cost per issue or give us some of the variables regarding the cost per issue.

**PRESIDENT HAUCK:** Thank you.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you, Madam President.

The cost of the magazine fluctuates and it fluctuates from issue to issue. The cost of paper to print one issue of the magazine might be X amount for this issue and then for the next issue, the cost of paper could have increased

or decreased. So those costs to produce the magazine are not fixed within an annual budget. They fluctuate from issue to issue.

For some of you who might not be aware, I come -- I came to this organization as an associate publisher of the largest circulation magazine in the state of Indiana, Consumer Publication, so I do have some knowledge about communications.

As a point of personal privilege, I would just say that I have heard the concerns before we arrived at convention. We are in the middle of contracts that we have to wait to expire. There are great changes being planned to overhaul this magazine and make it a magazine for the entire organization. That would have been my intention without having even heard some of the concerns that came here because I've already heard them before we arrived. We do understand this is your magazine. We do understand great many changes need to take place.

I need to tell you as a businessperson who's been in this business you cannot tie the cost of producing a magazine to a two dollar increase to the dues. So I'm concerned about that just from a business standpoint, that that -- your intention is heard, believe me it's heard, but your method for implementing your intention is impractical from a business standpoint.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT HAUCK:** Thank you, Madam President. That was my concern.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**CHAIRMAN DAVIS:** Mary Davis, Department of Washington.

Madam President, I speak for this Resolution not just from a membership standpoint. I think we've already spoken previously about the importance of our magazine to our members and informing them of what's going on but also as a public relations tool that we have to get out to people who do not know about our organization. And it allows us then that many more times a year that we can use it as a public relations tool.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

**PRESIDENT DAHL:** Cyndi Dahl, Department of Oregon.

Everybody is concerned about the two dollar increase in membership, but we also have advertisers that also help pay for the publication and mailing of this magazine. I speak in favor of the two issue increase.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**VOICE:** (Inaudible), Department of Ohio.

I rise in opposition. Number one, we need an increase. We don't need an increase for more magazines, more paper. We have addressed this in the -- in our previous Resolution. We're going to put more in it. We're going to inform our members. And I feel that four is very, very substantial.

Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

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Does anyone else wish to speak on the Resolution? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. BAILEY:** Elsie Bailey, Delegate, New Jersey.

Did I misunderstand? Didn't -- wasn't it reported that the Finance Committee approved this Resolution?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The -- she informed the convention body by direction of the Resolutions Committee she -- the Finance Committee Pre-Convention meeting and the Resolutions Pre-Convention meeting recommend that this Resolution be adopted.

**MS. BAILEY:** Well, they must have discussed the financial end of it, so I would speak in support of the Resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on this issue? The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**VOICE:** Madam President, I call for the question.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question has been called. Is there a second?

**VOICES:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All those in favor for the call for the question, say aye.

**VOICES:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed, no.

**VOICES:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Debate is ended. Okay. All those in favor of proposed Resolution number three -- all right. So all those in favor of proposed Resolution number three, please stand. And this also takes a two-thirds vote in the affirmative to pass. So please stand, those in favor of proposed Resolution number three.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And for your edification, that's if the dues increase passes, the number of issues of the National Magazine be increased to six.

Okay. Please be seated.

Those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Resolution did not receive two-thirds in the affirmative. The Resolution is defeated.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Do we have a response yet?

(Whereupon, there was a discussion off the record.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. BACHMAN:** Madam President, Phyllis Bachman, Department of New York.

Point of information. Would you please explain slowly why a two-thirds vote was needed on this Resolution?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes. Because there was already action taken on this issue previous, yeah, to reduce it to four.

**MS. BACHMAN:** No. That was never action taken by this body.

**VOICE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Previous convention, right? Do we have that in writing somewhere?

**VOICE:** It was administrated through the budget.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's your understanding it was a previous convention?

**MS. BACHMAN:** It was my understanding that a majority vote is required for any Resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You are correct, Phyllis. It was by direction here that we had previous action on this at a previous convention. If that is an error, we will check that out. Okay?

**MS. BACHMAN:** If you would recall that it wasn't convention action, but it was a decision by the National Finance Committee on the condition that ten issues each of a newsletter be delivered to every Unit in the country every month. And then the Finance Committee was told that it was not feasible and it went down to four issues anyway.

**VOICE:** Correct.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Did we have follow-up action at the next convention on that issue?

**MS. BACHMAN:** Nothing was talked about at the next convention. There might have been an item in the budget that was passed, but they never passed four issues. It was just a number, an expense number for the National News Magazine which changed its name.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Thanks, Phyllis, for your additional information because the information received here that it was a previous action of a convention body so it would require a two-thirds vote. No one here can find that that be the case.

And so what Phyllis is telling us then is what is of record. So the Chair was in question of whether we had a majority or not as well. So we will ask for the vote again. Okay?

So I would ask that those of you in favor of adopting Resolution number three, that if the dues increase passes, the number of issues of the National Magazine be increased to six, to please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

Do you have a quick keen eye on that? Yes.

Those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is the decision of the Chair that the majority are in opposition of this Resolution and it is defeated.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And the Chair thanks the Delegate from New York for her remarks as well.

I believe we have the results of the vote on Resolution number two. Okay. Okay, Madam Secretary.

(Whereupon, there was a discussion off the record.)

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. With regard to Resolution two, that Resolution needed two-thirds majority in order to be adopted which the magic number is 601, it received 511 votes in the affirmative, 387 votes to the negative and three abstentions, a two-thirds majority was not received, so the Resolution fails.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We're done with Resolutions, right?

The Chair recognizes the Delegate from -- at microphone four.

**MS. BACHMAN:** Phyllis Bachman, Department of New York.

A point of information. Could you please explain slowly why two-thirds was needed on this Resolution?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Was your question on why it's needed or what --

**MS. BACHMAN:** Why is it being required -- a two-thirds vote is being required on this Resolution?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** In the Unit Handbook on page 34, privacy protection for Unit members, officers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary are forbidden by National Convention Resolution to distribute the names and addresses of any Unit or members of the Auxiliary except in carrying out the duties of their offices.

This action was taken at the fourth National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota September 15 through 19, 1924. The Resolution adopted by the National Convention reads, "Because something was previously adopted, then we needed a two-thirds majority --

**VOICE:** To turn it around.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- because of -- and no advanced notice was received by the convention body on this Resolution.

**MS. BACHMAN:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

If notice had been received in advance by all the convention body, then a majority would have been effective. Okay?

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton from Maryland.

So just so I understand it, then the National News is out of order and all solicitations from the National organization are out of order and we will not ever receive another solicitation from the National organization at all? Is that what you're saying?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** What we voted on was the Resolution was defeated, so the Resolution that was presented to this convention body is defeated.

**MS. DUTTON:** I understand that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

**MS. DUTTON:** I'm asking about the -- when National sends us a solicitation, due to that rule that you just read, that's illegal; is that correct? I'm asking.

(Whereupon, there was a discussion off the record.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** In trying to answer the question of the Delegate from Maryland, the only definition I have for you is as stated in the Unit Handbook, except in carrying out the duties of their office.

**MS. DUTTON:** That means that the National organization cannot send us anything else?

**VOICES:** No.

**MS. DUTTON:** Well, then someone explain it to me.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Sandi, if you'd like to have conversation with the National Secretary, we will try to further define and answer your question if we can.

**MS. DUTTON:** You understand my question, right?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The only answer I can give you to your question is what is here.

**MS. MAHONEY:** Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**MS. MAHONEY:** I would request -- Jean Mahoney, the Department of Florida.

I would request that when we are voting that you will please read the Resolution in its entirety. I saw some people standing up to say no, they didn't want six issues of the magazine and I can't imagine why they wouldn't want to learn something more with a couple of more issues.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair rereads the Resolution and then after discussion, if it is indeed lengthy, I will gladly read the Resolution again.

Thank you, Jean.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**MS. NEWMAN:** Rosey Newman, Department of Indiana.

Since the National organization has this list and they don't want us to have it, does this mean the National organization is a different organization than the departments are?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is not the intention of the National organization to set itself separate from the rest of our grass-roots members.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

**MS. FOLLOWELL:** Madam President, Nancy Followell (phonetic) from the Department of Arkansas.

I have one comment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I'm sorry, Nancy. Unless you have a motion to make before this convention body, we will move forward with our agenda. Thank you.

Yes. The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. PORTER:** Madam President, Terri Porter from Colorado.

I hope that the Chair has heard the concerns of the body and I would call for the orders of the day. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Terri. It was not my intent to cut off the Delegate at microphone one, but -- I'm sorry -- but we need to move forward with our convention agenda.

And the Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

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**MS. DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton from Maryland.

I move that we recognize the Delegate from Arkansas.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** For what purpose?

**MS. DUTTON:** To hear what she has to say.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Unless the Delegate at microphone one has a motion, there is no debate, unless you want to suspend the rules of this convention.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chairman recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

**MS. BLALOCK:** Madam President, Ann Blalock (phonetic) from the Department of Alabama.

I just -- I wanted to ask a question. Everything that we do, every program and everything that we abide by is adopted by this organization earlier. Is every Resolution going to have to have a two-thirds vote to pass?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** No.

**MS. BLALOCK:** I'm confused because of the --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The answer to your question is no, Ann.

**MS. BLALOCK:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. So the motion -- okay. The motion to move on with the business of our agenda does not need a second. It is not debatable. So we will continue with our agenda.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Our next business is to hear from Nancy Brown-Park, the National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman.

Nancy.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Okay. Don't boo me off the stage.

(Laughter.)

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** I haven't even started yet.

Madam National President, as we celebrate National President Stoy's theme of honoring our promise every day, the concept of honoring our promise takes many forms.

Honoring our commitment to governance allows us to function effectively and efficiently for the benefit of all our members and not just a select few.

Our goal was to encourage units and members to learn and understand these important documents and how their integrity and strength can determine how we function and how effectively we operate.

The Department of West Virginia worked hard this year to update their Unit's Constitution & Bylaws. At the beginning of the administrative year, the Committee divided up the list of units that needed to be updated -- needed to update their governing documents. They sent letters, made phone calls, and sent e-mails to encourage the units to review their documents and make the necessary changes.

Once they had this plan in place, they started to look over the Department governing documents. They decided to meet during their fall conference to discuss any changes they felt needed to be made.

Once they had completed the task, they suggested the change -- the suggested changes were presented at their Department convention in July of this year.

The Chairman reported that the Committee worked endless hours on the Unit's and Department's Constitution and Bylaws and have made sure that once -- that one was correct according to the National Constitution and Bylaws.

Hats off to the Department of West Virginia Constitution and Bylaws Committee for their many hours of hard work.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Many inquiries were received during the year. They covered all kinds of topics from job descriptions to eligibility. With the help of our outstanding Parliamentarian and National staff, we were able to answer almost all of your questions.

The Chairman used games, bulletins, and phone calls to help members get excited about our very important documents.

Maya Angelou wrote, "When you know better, you do better."

Several departments supplied National Headquarters with updated governing documents. A big thank you to the ten departments who sent in updated Constitution & Bylaws. Are yours updated?

During the year, all levels of Constitution & Bylaws Chairmen met the mission of this Committee to inform and educate the members of the American Legion Auxiliary on the importance and power of properly written, reviewed, and updated documents.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Nancy.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The time is now 11:30 and we will recess for the day. Our first order of business will be the proposed amendments. You are in recess.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Before you exit, I will call on the National Secretary for announcements.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** May I have your attention, please, and would you please get comfortable. A number of announcements to make.

I have announcements regarding meetings, ticket availability, and some very important lost and found items, so would you please bear with me through the announcements.

There have been many requests for the information presented by CPA Michael Alerding. That will be on the Web site to view. If after we get back to our departments anyone would like a hard copy of that, if you would contact National Headquarters, we'd be happy to make that available to you.

Minnesota has two tickets to the luncheon available. Please see Marsha Bible of Minnesota if you are interested.

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Nebraska has two Commanders Banquet tickets for sale. Please see a representative from Nebraska for these tickets.

The Oklahoma Delegation has two States Dinner tickets available to sell. Please see someone from the Department of Oklahoma.

The Department of Missouri has two States Dinner tickets for sale. Please contact Mary Jane --

**VOICE:** Doerhoff.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** -- Doerhoff, thank you very much, the Department Secretary.

The Department of Massachusetts, Beverly Childress (phonetic), has extra States Dinner tickets available.

The 2009-2010 incoming Children & Youth Committee will meet at the rear of the room immediately following adjournment for a very brief meeting with Peggy Thomas.

The Department Membership Chairmen in the Southern Division will please meet with the Southern Division Membership Chair under the Virginia sign, center aisle.

The 2009-2010 National Security Team will meet briefly at the conclusion of today's convention session at the Wisconsin sign. National Security Team, Wisconsin sign.

To Unit Members of the Year, National Officers, Past National Presidents, Distinguished Guest Committee, National Chairmen, and Department Presidents escorting the Unit Members of the Year, the Woman of the Year reception has been moved to Rooms 110 and 111. That has been moved to Room 110 and 111.

The 2009-10 VA&R Committee will meet immediately following the luncheon at table 18. The VA&R Committee will meet immediately following the luncheon at table 18.

The 2009-10 Girls State Committee will meet immediately following the luncheon at table 10. Girls State Committee, table 10.

The 2009-2010 AEF Committee will meet immediately after the Woman of the Year luncheon in the back of the room.

All Past National Presidents are requested to meet briefly near the head table at the conclusion of today's luncheon. All Past National Presidents are requested to meet near the head table at the conclusion of today's luncheon.

Sandi's Surfers will meet after the luncheon in the back of the room, submitted by Sandi Dutton.

The 2002-2003 Department Presidents, please meet with Past National President Elsie Bailey Wednesday following the close of session in Room 753 at the Galt House. Room 753 of the Galt House, Past National President, Elsie Bailey, requesting a meeting with the 2002-2003 Department Presidents.

The 2009-10 Constitution & Bylaws Committee, there will be a brief meeting tomorrow morning at eight a.m. in front of the alternate section. Constitution & Bylaws Committee, tomorrow morning eight a.m. in front of the alternates section.

Tomorrow's session may run long.

(Laughter.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** You are asked to please be prepared as it may run through the scheduled time for lunch and to please plan accordingly. I don't know what the restrictions are for coolers in the Convention Center.

(Laughter.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Now, we have serious lost and found items. Please pay attention.

Nancy Sanders, we have a debit card. We thought you might like it.

Diann Long from Ohio, we have your alternate badge.

**VOICE:** (Inaudible.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Oh, she's a -- oh, sorry.

And a very important lost item. We found a Department -- Past Department President pin.

**VOICE:** (Inaudible.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** You'll have to describe it in great detail.

(Laughter.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** If you'll please come and see -- the person who believes this pin belongs to them, if you will please come and see someone up here at the head table immediately following announcements, we'll make sure that you get that back.

And, Nancy Sanders, are you in the room?

**VOICE:** I'll get it for her.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** All right.

Madam President, that concludes our lengthy announcements. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We are in recess until tomorrow morning. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:40 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was recessed.)

**PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2009, 8:18 A.M. TO 2:55 P.M.**

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Good morning. The 89th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will come to order. At this time I want to ask the National Chaplain Unit member Cherita Potter to come forward and give the invocation.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Please rise and join me in prayer.

Good morning Lord, we thank you for bringing us together once again this morning. Inspire us with a renewed enthusiasm for our programs and the ability to move forward with our busy schedule. Prepare our minds for action and guide us in our deliberations that they are true and just. Help us to act in the best interest of our members and our organization, and may will always be respectful of others.

We continue to pray for our troops as they continue to defend us and protect us with faithfulness. Instill in them faith, hope, and love, minister to their spirits.

And this morning we ask a special prayer for Ellie, from the Department of Minnesota. Wrap your healing arms around her and let us keep her in our hearts and prayers. In your name we pray, amen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please be seated. The Chair appreciates that the assembly had the presence of mind to stand for this invocation as I failed to direct you to do so.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. We will proceed with the election of National officers. Will all the nominees please come to the platform and be seated on the stage.

The Chair asks the National Secretary to read the rules governing the election.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you, Madam President. Convention rule number 19 reads:

“When there is but one candidate for any office the roll call may be dispensed with and the nominee elected by voice. When there is more than one candidate for National office the election shall be by secret ballot.

The National President shall appoint an Election Committee consisting of one election judge and six election officials.

A ballot envelope shall be provided for each Department. Placed inside each envelope shall be the number of ballots to be cast by each Department. One certificate receipt which shall have the number of votes to be cast as certified by the credentials chair. A ballot envelope shall be distributed to the chairman of each delegation. When all ballot envelopes have been distributed, a 15-minute recess shall be called.

Each chairman of the delegation shall appoint two delegates to assist her in counting the number of votes cast. The chairman shall give a ballot to

each voting delegate. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. No vote may be divided into parts.

The vote of each past National President and members of the National Executive Committee in good standing in their local unit and attending the convention shall be exercised within their Department. The vote of a past National President or National officer not present at the convention shall be cast as an absentee ballot.

The Chairman of the delegation shall cast an absentee ballot for each absent delegate. Such absentee vote shall be cast with the majority.

The Chairman of the delegation shall enter in on the certification sheet the total number of votes cast, plus the absentee votes witnessed by assistance.

The Chairman of the delegation shall place the certification sheet and all the ballots in the ballot envelope.

The name of the Department shall be removed from the ballot envelope by the chairman of the delegation.

The Chairman shall return the ballot envelope to the election official. When the 15-minute recess for voting has elapsed the National President shall declare the election closed.

When votes have been tabulated by the Election Committee three tally sheets shall be taken to the National President by the election judge. Each tally sheet shall be signed by all election officials. A majority of votes cast shall elect.

The election judge shall read the report of the Election Committee. The National President shall declare as elected the candidates who received the majority of votes cast.

Madam President, this completes the reading of the election rules.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Madam Secretary. The Chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the election rules as read.

**AUDIENCE:** (Indiscernible).

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the election rules as just read. Is there any discussion? Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All those in favor please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Those opposed say no. The election rules are adopted.

On Tuesday morning you nominated Rita Navarreté of New Mexico for the Office of National President. Nominations are closed.

In accordance with the rules you have adopted if there is but one candidate for an office the roll call may be dispensed with and the nominee elected by voice.

All in favor of electing Rita Navarreté as National President for the 2009-2010 administrative year please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

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The Chair declares Rita Navarreté of New Mexico duly elected as National President for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Rita, will you please stand.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Carlene Ashworth of Texas is the only nominee for the Office of National Vice President.

All in favor of Carlene Ashworth for the office of National Vice President please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

Carlene Ashworth has been duly elected as National Vice President for the 2009-2010 administrative year. Carlene, please stand.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** On Saturday at the Division caucuses each division nominated a candidate for Division National Vice President, and the current Division National Vice Presidents has certified to the Chairman the following nominees.

Norma Swanson of Kansas has been nominated for the Office of Central Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Norma Swanson as Central Division National Vice President please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

Norma Swanson has been duly elected as Central Division National Vice President. Norma, please stand.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Barbara Golde of Rhode Island has been nominated for the Office of Eastern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Barbara Golde for Eastern Division National Vice President please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

You have elected Barbara Golde as Eastern Division National Vice President. Barbara will you please stand.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Joyce Babcock of Montana has been nominated for the Office of Northwestern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Joyce Babcock as the Northwestern Division National Vice President please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

You have elected Joyce Babcock as the Northwestern Division National Vice President. Joyce.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Lynda Horton-Turk of Texas has been nominated for the Office of Southern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Lynda Horton-Turk as the Southern Division National Vice President please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

You have elected Lynda Horton-Turk as the Southern Division National Vice President. Lynda.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Peggy Brown of New Mexico has been nominated for the Office of Western Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Peggy Brown as the Western Division National Vice President please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

Peggy Brown has been elected the Western Division National Vice President. Peggy.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Beverly Wolff of North Dakota has been nominated for the Office of National Chaplain.

All those in favor of Beverly Wolff as the National Chaplain say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

Beverly Wolff has been elected the National Chaplain. Beverly.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Joyce Arent from Arizona has been nominated for the Office of National Historian.

All those in favor of Joyce Arent as the National Historian please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

Joyce Arent has been elected the National Historian. Joyce.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That concludes the election of the 2009-2010 National officers.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Now we will pick up yesterday's business. Before we do, I do have some announcements.

Yesterday during the Past Presidents Parley Report the Chairman made a mistake on a report on the war on terrorism, Staff Sergeant Lisa Wood of the Army, our honoree. She mentioned that she was nominated by the Department of Texas; however, she was nominated by the Department of Georgia. So let's give Georgia an opportunity to woo-hoo.

(Applause.)

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Yesterday during our business regarding the resolution on the -- what resolution number -- do we know what number? Two, resolution number 2. The Chair referred to the Unit Constitution & Bylaws, page 34, Privacy Protection for Unit Members. This is on the resolution with regard to the -- regarding the -- WHEREAS, the National organization has discontinued sharing revenue for most of our affinity programs; and

WHEREAS the National organization has authorized rights to the known donor list from previous direct mail solicitations; and

WHEREAS, many Departments are in need of revenue and may wish to participate in direct mail solicitations.

There are several ways -- I referred to -- when we made the -- when the Chair made the decision that it would require a two-thirds vote on the basis that it was a change, so if we have a change and there's no advance notice it requires a two-thirds vote. Well there -- this resolution was in 1924, and so it's been in question as to what the intent of this action from 1924, how it was interpreted. The Chair yesterday interpreted it as a change.

So let me read to you that segment in its entirety, because there's a resolution in the unit handbook and then up above it is the interpretation of the resolution, and so what we read to you yesterday was the interpretation. So allow me, if you will, to read the entire section so that we can determine the action.

“Privacy Protection for Unit Members. Officers and members of the American Legion Auxiliary are forbidden by the National Convention Resolution to distribute the names and addresses of any units or members of the Auxiliary, except in carrying out the duties of their offices.

This action was taken at the 4th National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota, September 15th through the 19th, 1924.

The resolution adopted by the convention reads. That the Executive Committee recommended that no officer or individual of local Department or National organization shall circularize the Units or membership of the American Legion Auxiliary outside her immediate jurisdiction, and no committee chair shall circularize all or any portion of the units or membership of the American Legion Auxiliary for donations to special funds or relative to any phase of activity without the consent of the National Executive Committee.

When such authority is given, all funds and accounting shall be through the National Treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary.”

So the question is shall the decision of the Chair stand, which was that it was indeed a change and require a two-thirds vote, or if you interpret that there's no change, then a simple majority is needed.

So the Chair will defer to the assembly as to how we feel. Whether we accept the decision of the Chair that it is indeed a change, or it is not.

Does anyone wish to speak on the subject? And the Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. DUTTON:** Thank you, Desi. Sandi Dutton from the Department of Maryland. Since the resolution originated with the Department of Maryland, I wanted to speak to it.

It says “in carrying out the duties,” which that is what Maryland is trying to do, carry out the duty of making revenue for our Department, it says, “no officer or individual.” We’re not an officer or individual, we are a Department. And it says, “our immediate jurisdiction.” And all we want to do is the Department of Maryland. So it is our immediate jurisdiction.

So we do not feel it was a change to what was previously done by NEC and Convention.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The delegate recognizes -- the delegate -- the Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. BACHMAN:** Phyllis Bachman, Department of New York. I rise in support of the previous argument.

I consider this resolution obsolete. We don’t even forward anything to the National Treasurer, Departments make their own decisions on fund raising, Departments already own all of the names and addresses of the people they’re asking for any way. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the issue? Okay.

So the question before you is if you feel that this was a change all in favor say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All who feel that it is not a change now please say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The Chair defers to the will of the body. Yesterday that resolution received a majority so that resolution is adopted.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yesterday we received the report from our National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Nancy Brown-Park. Nancy, are there any proposed amendments?

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Yes, Madam President, there are nine amendments.

It is the responsibility of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to bring all proposed amendments to the floor to deliberation. Therefore, regardless of the Pre-Convention Committee’s recommendation on the adoption of the amendments, I will, on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee move for the adoption of all amendments so they can be brought to the convention floor for discussion.

Before moving to the business at hand by direction of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I move that the Constitution & Bylaws Committee be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references, and to make sure technical and editorial changes as may be necessary to assure the accuracy and read ability of our governing documents.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is moved that the Constitution & Bylaws Committee be authorized to correct the article and section designations, punctuation and cross references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of this organization in connection with our governing documents.

Is there any discussion? Are you ready for the question? All in favor say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All opposed say no?

The affirmative have it and the motion is adopted.

Nancy, please continue.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presented the following proposed amendments to amend the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligibility Section 1, submitted by the Department of Minnesota and the Department of Alaska. This amendment is number 1 in your packet.

This proposed amendment inserts the word “spouses,” following the word “wives,” with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21st through August 27th, 2009, it will not be in effect until the petition for this change is approved by the American Legion.

If amended the section will read, ”Section 1. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, spouses, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of the members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of all men and women who are in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods. April 6th, 1917 to November 11th, 1918. December 7th, 1941 to December 31st, 1946. June 25th, 1950 to January 31st, 1955. February 28th, 1961 to May 7th, 1975. August 24th, 1982 to July 31st, 1984.

December 20th, 1989 to January 31st, 1990. August 2nd, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostility as determined by the Government of the United States.

All dates inclusive or being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces in any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge, and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee remains neutral on this amendment. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 1.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the amendment number 1 to amend the National Constitution Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1 by inserting the word “spouses,” following the word “wives,” with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in

Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the petition for this change is approved by the American Legion.

Is there discussion? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. SUSAG:** Madam Chairman, Karen Susag, Department of Montana. We stand in favor of this amendment, because there -- with the -- oh, you can't hear me? Is it on?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Uh-huh.

**MS. SUSAG:** Closer, okay. There are so many --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Karen, if you would start with, "we stand," because that's where they stopped being able to hear you.

**MS. SUSAG:** Oh. We stand in support of this amendment because there are so many young ladies joining the American Legion and their husbands, spouse, cannot join the Legion family because they are not eligible as Sons or eligible to the American Legion in their own right, and they are very diligent, and we espouse the Legion family, and we feel that this would be inclusive if we voted for this amendment. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the amendment? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. FOLLOWELL:** Madam President, Nancy Followell, incoming Department President for the great State of Arkansas.

We oppose this proposal until further investigation is done to it. As we feel that by inserting the word "spouse" we are opening our self to litigation when a male spouse of a female veteran tries to join our organization, the ladies Auxiliary, and we turn them away, we will be facing discrimination charges, and we need to investigate this further as to where we can possibly come up with a way to where we can have -- the spouses have their own Auxiliary.

As I was -- it was stated by National that the men need to -- if they lose the spouse -- female spouse in combat, they need to man up and join the Army. They are not allowed to do that as they are a liability. They are a liability because they are already under the influence of PTSD from losing a spouse. They will go over there and they will be in jeopardy -- they will be jeopardizing other soldiers because they are looking for not only doing their job, but the revenge of the death of their spouse. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 2.

**VOICE:** Good morning, Madam President, thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Good morning.

**VOICE:** I also am opposed to this, as we have fathers and grandfathers who for the past eighty-nine years have not been eligible for membership in the Auxiliary. However, that being said -- I have my motion form here -- I move to amend this amendment by striking the word "wives," and replacing that and inserting the word "spouses," in the place of wives.

So it would read, "Section 1, membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters,

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grandmothers -- I'm sorry -- granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of members of the American Legion --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Do you have a copy?

**VOICE:** -- and to the mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of all men and women who are in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods." And then as continues.

The reason for that is that wives and spouses are synonymous, and therefore that's redundant.

(Pause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. This is an amazing convention.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The amendment, as I conferred with our parliamentarian just made by the delegate, is out of scope. So we can amend an amendment within the scope of the amendment. But the Chair will give the assembly the opportunity to second the amendment if they so wish so that we can take action on it. But because there is no notice for an amendment then it would require a unanimous vote.

So the Chair will defer to the assembly if you wish to second the amendment. Okay. The amendment dies for lack of a second. Okay.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So now back to the original amendment. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. NOBLE:** Thank you, Madam President, Deborah Noble, Department of New Jersey.

While I understand that there are some people who want to include spouses, if passed this amendment would change the nature of our organization. And I quote an Article 2 of our Constitution & Bylaws, Section 1, "The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian organization of women."

(Applause.)

**MS. NOBLE:** Now my question is, if this amendment was passed, does it automatically update every other applicable section of our Constitution & Bylaws, or do they have to be spelled out in the amendment that is proposed? Because the amendment does not include changing section -- I'm sorry -- Article 2, Section 1.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You are correct that we would have to have separate amendments to make those other changes.

**MS. NOBLE:** So there is no amendment to change Article 2, Section 1.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Not yet.

**MS. NOBLE:** So you cannot vote on this amendment.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**VOICE:** The Department of Florida stands opposed to this amendment for the simple reason that we enjoy being part of an organization of women.

I agree, we need to find a way to capture that volunteer base of the husbands of female veterans, but I want to belong to an organization of women, people who have the similar ideas that I do. We think differently than men, we do things differently than men, and there's a time and place for a man, and it's not in our organization.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair calls on the delegate at microphone 3.

**VOICE:** From my understanding what we're being told here today in 1920 the word "woman" was deleted. However, in our membership application it says, and I quote, "The American Legion Auxiliary is the largest patriotic woman's service organization in the world."

Since I have been a member of the Auxiliary I have been proud to say that, and I am opposed to this. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. PRENDERGAST:** Thank you, Madam President, Mickie Prendergast from the great State of Texas.

We are opposed to this amendment also. And as this lady just said, we are the largest woman's patriotic organization in the world, we wouldn't be that anymore if we were -- it would say the largest patriotic men and women's organization in the world? I don't think so.

The -- I understand the trauma that these people go through, these service women and their husbands want to join, and it's very possible under the American Legion another umbrella as SAL and the Riders, they could organize under the American Legion, organize their very own Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. DORAN:** Sharon Doran, Department of Arizona.

Actually they said everything I was just going to say, but since I'm standing here I would like to applaud you for your diligence at the platform, and will also say that I do believe that it is being discussed in the American Legion to open up a program for the men of service women of which my daughter is, so I do understand the need for them to be part of an organization, but we will dilute our power if we keep messing around with our Constitution, and we need to cease and desist.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair thanks you for your compliment and recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. SWAFFORD:** Debra Swafford, Department of Utah.

Just as the Sons are the program under the Legion, Girls State is a program under the Auxiliary. Why not a program of spouses and nieces together if they can't join under their own?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you for your question, the Chair will continue with debate on the question at hand and recognize the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. PEOPLES:** Emma Peoples, Department of Washington.

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I was in the Resolutions Meeting, I've heard this discussed before; however, I have a point that I would like to say.

At one time the person at home keeping the home fires burning was the wife. That is no longer the case. We have men at home keeping the home fires burning while their wives are deployed. I would just suggest that we give that some thought.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**VOICE:** Madam President, I call for the question.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of -- it needs a second.

**AUDIENCE:** I second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That needs a two-thirds vote. Okay. So is there any objection to ending debate? Needs two-thirds vote. So is there any -- okay -- is there any objection to ending debate?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Great, thank you, we will move on. The question is on the adoption of the amendment number 1 to amend the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1, by inserting the word "husbands," following the word --

**AUDIENCE:** Spouses.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That doesn't sound right to even me.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's spouses, right? By inserting the word "spouses," following the word "wives," with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will be in effect until the petition for this change -- it will not be in effect until the petition for this change is approved by The American Legion.

This takes at a two-thirds vote to pass. Those in favor please stand. Thank you.

Those opposed please stand. Thank you, you may be seated.

The negative has it, and the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1 is not amended.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Nancy, please continue.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Constitution, Article 3, Section 1 submitted by the Department of District of Columbia, this is amendment number 2 in your packet.

This proposed amendment inserts the words, "and to the Sons of the American Legion," following the words, "women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion." With the attached proviso

that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky,

August 21st through August 27th, 2009, it will not be in effect until the petition for this change is approved by The American Legion.

If amended the section will read. "Section 1. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of members of the American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of all men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods. April 6th, 1917 to November 11th, 1918. December 7th, 1941 to December 31st, 1946. June 25th, 1950 to January 31st, 1955. February 28th, 1961 to May 7th, 1975. August 24th, 1982 to July 31st, 1984. December 30th, 1989 to January 31st, 1990. August 2nd, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States.

All dates inclusive or who being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge, and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion and to the wives of the Sons of the American Legion."

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee remains neutral on that amendment. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 2.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 2, to amend the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1, by inserting the words, "and to the wives of Sons of the American Legion," following the words, "women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion." With the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the petition for this change is approved by The American Legion.

Is there discussion? The Chair recognizes a delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** Madam National President, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Department of Wisconsin.

I am opposed to this, and I will try to clarify a little bit my reasons why. You may recall when I was the incoming National President I wanted to have three groups of people considered as programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. One was the husbands of women veterans. The second was husbands like my own who cannot be a member of The American Legion because he wasn't in service at the right time. And the third was to consider the wives of the Sons as a program.

The Advisory Committee that year then contacted the Counsel General and he advised that we would start with the wives of the Sons as they were women like us.

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I contacted The American Legion commander with a formal letter requesting that we would have members of the Auxiliary, members of the Sons, and members of The American Legion combined to form a committee to consider those for a program, such as the Sons are a program of The American Legion.

When he met with his advisory counsel at the Awareness that year in Washington, D.C. we were turned down; they would not consider the proposal, telling us that they wanted to see what the Auxiliary to the veterans -- the women veterans of the foreign wars or however it's described would do, and I kind of wondered why as the largest patriotic organization, both The American Legion and the Auxiliary, we were not the cutting edge in considering this rather than waiting for the Veterans of the Foreign Wars to do something.

But I really think we're butting our heads against a stone wall here by trying to make this change. Even if we adopt it here I'm sure it's not going to go any farther with The American Legion based on that decision they made a year ago. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. FOLLOWELL:** Nancy Followell from the Department of Arkansas.

If we will not allow the male spouses of female veterans to join in our Auxiliary or in our Posts and Units, then the Sons of the American Legion, they are the sons of veterans. We need to have -- the wives should not be -- I'm opposed to this because the wives would have to have their own Auxiliary, and it is something that I do not feel that would pass, and it would not be fair, because the wives could get in as to the a male veteran whose spouse is in the military cannot.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes a delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. BIBLE:** Marsha Bible, Department of Minnesota.

Madam President and delegates I have a unique experience of being both a daughter and a spouse of a past National SAL commander.

I speak in opposition to this because The American Legion membership and the Auxiliary membership is regulated by the IRS regulations. There is a percentage of number of members that can be in an Auxiliary, and I know how the membership in the SAL is blossoming very quickly, and if we invite members of wives to participate and belong that don't belong already we will be bigger than The American Legion and we will violate the IRS regulations.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes a delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. STEWART-WILSON:** Rebecca Stewart-Wilson, Department of California. When the SALs commander spoke, he spoke of a 102 percent increase in just the SALs. We have for the past three years had the same discussion, yes. We have lost many members. Can you imagine opening up the doors for the SAL's wives to be a part of the Auxiliary with a 102 percent membership of the SALs, that that would help bring up our membership which is slowly and fastly (sic) decreasing because of various reasons. We open up the doors to the SAL's wives, we have young women, we have energetic women, we

have new ideas coming in, and those are the ones that we need to start courting to maintain our own active Auxiliary.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. DORAN:** Sharon Doran, Department of Arizona.

I would look forward to having a humongous Auxiliary, but I think there needs to be something looked at here, and I am opposed to this based on the principals that the Sons of the American Legion is growing so rapidly that from the rumors that I have heard they may very shortly be eligible to split away from the American Legion and have their own, because they are at a point where they can sustain their own monetary programs. And I believe that that is coming. I could be wrong here, but through the discussions I have heard this is a thought or a dream down the road, and at that time they could form their programs for their wives. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes Rita Navarreté.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I move for the previous question.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** A motion has been made to end debate to move to the previous question. Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. All in favor to end -- well the -- what's the -- is there any objection to ending debate?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay, debate is ended and we will move forward.

The question is on the adoption of amend number 2 to amend the National Constitution Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1 by inserting the words "and to the wives of the Sons of the American Legion," following the words "women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion." With the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the petition for this change is approved by The American Legion.

This amendment requires a two-thirds vote. Those in favor of the amendment please stand. Thank you. You may be seated.

Those opposed please stand. Thank you.

The negative has it and the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligible, Section 1 is not amended.

Thank you. Nancy, carry on.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Constitution, Article 5, National Executive Committee, Section 2, submitted by the National Advisory Committee. This is amendment number 3 in your packet.

This proposed amendment strikes the word "without," and inserts the words "with all rights, except to the right to."

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If amended the section will read, "Section 2. All Past National Presidents in good standing in the local Units shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee with all rights, except the right to vote."

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 3.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 3 to amend the National Constitution, Article 5, National Executive Committee, Section 2 by striking the word "without," and inserting the word "with all rights, except to the right to."

Is there discussion? The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone four.

**MS. BROWN:** Yeah, good morning. Peggy Brown, Department of New Mexico.

A point of clarification. May we ask on the rationale? It states that they will have -- "with the right to speak on issues and to offer motions." Our clarification -- we're asking if one can offer a motion, one cannot vote on their own motion. Is that what this is saying? We were confused about it. We just wanted to know if we could have some clarification. If a Past National President can offer a motion then they're not allowed to vote on it.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Correct.

**MS. BROWN:** Okay. We were just confused.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any further discussion? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. SANDERS:** Nancy Sanders, Department of Mississippi.

Clarification question also. When they speak of all rights, does that mean their rights to have their part of the expenses paid to do this also?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Right. This goes back to members have four rights: make motions, debate, vote --

**MS. SANDERS:** No vote?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- and nominate candidates for office. So the only right that is taken away is the right to vote.

**MS. SANDERS:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay?

**MS. SANDERS:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any other discussion? Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the amendment number 3 to amend the National Constitution, Article 5, National Executive Committee, Section 2 by striking the words "without," and inserting the words "with all rights, except to the right to."

This requires a two-thirds vote. Those in favor please stand. I'm giving you -- some of you are a little slower at standing than others, so I was -- okay. Okay, be seated.

Those opposed please stand.

The affirmative have it and the National Constitution, Article 5, National Executive Committee, Section 2 of the Constitution is amended.

Nancy, please continue.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam National President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws Article 3, Duties of Officers, Section 7, National Historian by the national -- submitted by the National Advisory Committee. This amendment number 4 is in your packet.

This proposed amendment strikes the current Section 7 and inserts a new Section 7. If amended, the Bylaws will read. "Section 7, National Historian. It shall be the duty of the National Historian to complete the historical records of the National organization and to make a report to the National convention. She shall prepare a written account of the years activities for reference in the compilation of the future National history books.

Quarterly reports are due within 30 days of the end of quarter for the first three quarters of the administrative year. Failure to submit reports will result in a termination of travel authorization.

The completed report is to be filed in National Headquarters no later than December 31st following the National convention, copy to be sent to the National President with whom she served.

The past National Historian pin will be presented with a completed history -- when a completed history is received and accepted by the December 31st deadline."

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted with an amendment.

Sherry Hoffman from the Department of Delaware and a member of the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention meeting will present the amendment after our National President places amendment number 4 on the floor.

On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 4.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 4 to amend the National Bylaws Article 3, Duties of Office, Section 7, National Historian by striking Section 7 and inserting a new Section 7.

Is there a discussion? The chair should recognize Sherry, microphone 3.

**MS. HOFFMAN:** Sherry Hoffman, Department of Delaware. We move that we amend the amendment by striking the word "when a completed history is received and accepted by the December the 31st deadline," and inserting the words "provided the first three quarterly reports have been filed as required."

This is because at the National convention the unit -- the National Historian would not receive her pin like everyone else because she'd have to wait until after December 31st. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** It has been moved to amend the amendment and to insert “when a completed history is required and accepted by the December 31st deadline date,” and inserting the word -- okay -- by strike -- I failed to say by striking the words “when a completed history is received and accepted by the December 31st deadline,” and insert the word “provided the first three quarterly reports have been filed as required.”

So is there any discussion on the amendment to the amendment? Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All those in favor of accepting the amendment to the amendment please -- is that required, two-thirds? Yes. Say aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The amendment to the amendment has passed. So now I should read the amended amendment.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Now discussion on the amended amendment? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. NELSEN:** Virginia Nelsen, past National Historian, Department of Nebraska.

When this resolution came to my house I found it 100 percent humiliating, I felt very bad, and I wondered whether it was necessary.

I also -- it is my personal opinion that maybe this should be something that the National President and her Historian figure out between themselves.

And as far as -- I think there's another resolution about money. I'd just like to say for the record I have never put in for a nickel since 2001, and so this was a problem for me, and I want to express that. When everyone goes home from that convention everyone is done expect for one woman in the room and that is the Historian. And it is a daunting assignment. I think that concludes my remarks.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does anyone else wish to speak on the amended amendment? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. DORAN:** Sharon Doran, Department of Arizona.

I believe the history is probably the hardest job that any of us will ever have to do, because it requires the help of each Unit, District, Division, Department.

Although the nature of the way that the amendment is read could be construed as insulting, I would prefer to look at it as a positive motion to help the National Historian write an accurate description of the history, and this will require some help the Departments, and it will give them some guidelines to help write their history, and it will require the National President to be in closer association with her National Historian so that they can write the National history on a timely basis.

Look at it as a tool and a job description and procedures and policy, and I believe that you can put it in a positive light.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. CRAIG:** Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina. I am a former National Historian and suspect part of this amendment is coming because I was very slow. Very slow in compiling my history.

And when it came -- originally came out the part that really bothered me, and I referenced this to the Chairman of the National Advisory Committee, was the fact that the National Historian would not receive her pin during the installation ceremony when everyone else received their Division and Chaplain received theirs.

So I have no problem with it as amended because the National Historian will now receive her pin for having done three quarters of the work, and feel confident she will get the other done. So I do support the amended amendment.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing a delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. DUNTZ:** Sandra Duntz, Department of Nebraska.

I feel that this amendment is something that is picking on one office saying you didn't do a good job one year, so therefore we're going to tell everybody that they have to do it in a certain manner, and I don't feel that our organization needs to be that petty.

If you're elected to that position I'm sure you should have the responsibility and will do your duties in the manner you can, and until you get the information you need you cannot complete your report.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes a delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. BOONE:** Hi, good morning, National President. Linda Boone from the Department of Oregon, a Past National President.

And this is not a new issue. This issue goes back to when I was National President and before when I was National Vice President. We have had a series of National Historians that have not ever completed a history or it is a year late, and then we've had some great Historians that do some things on time. But for those -- when we're trying to compile like to ten-year history of the organization it's very difficult to go back when there is no history or it is incomplete.

So it's really an incentive package to the National Historians to get the things done on time and then there's no problem. So it's really -- it's not a punishment, it's an incentive. Let's get it done and then you will have fulfilled your duties as a National officer.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. PEOPLES:** Emma Peoples, Department of Washington.

There was a previous speaker that mentioned the -- having to get the information from the Departments. The Historian cannot compile her report if

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she does not have the information. It's awful hard to do something with what you don't have.

So if this amendment passes, or even if it doesn't, the Departments need to be very diligent in getting that information out. I think the deadline needs to be for more than one person.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any further discussion? Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the amended amendment. Section 7, National Historian. It shall be the duty of the National Historian to complete the historical records of the National organization and to make a report to the National Convention. She shall prepare a written account of the years activities for reference in the compilation of future national history books.

Quarterly reports are due within 30 days of end of quarter for the first three quarters of the administrative year. Failure to submit reports will result in a termination of travel authorizations.

The completed report is to be filed at National Headquarters no later than December 31 following the National Convention. Copy to be sent to the National President with whom she served.

The Past National President pin shall be presented, provided the first three quarterly reports have been filed as required.

This takes a two-thirds vote. All those in favor please stand. Please be seated.

Those opposed please stand.

The affirmative have it and the National Bylaws Article 3, Duties of Officer, Section 7, National Historian is amended.

Nancy. There's more.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committees Submitted by the National Finance Committee. This is amendment number 5 in your packet.

This proposed amendment inserts a new Section 4 and a new Section 5, and renumbers the current sections delineating duties of the standing program committees in alphabetical alignment. It is offered with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21st through August 27th, 2009, it will not be in effect until the start of the fiscal year 2010 administrative year.

If amended the section will read, "Section 4. There will be the following Administrative Committees, Audit. Section 5. There shall be an Audit Committee under Administrative Committees that shall consist of three members appointed annually by the National President and ratified by the NEC.

The first operating year of the Committee, one member will be appointed to serve a term of three years, or until her successor is appointed, one member will be appointed to serve a term of two years or until her successor is appointed, and one member will be appointed to serve a term of one year.

Thereafter one member will be appointed annually to serve a term of three years or until her successor is appointed.

The Audit Committee shall be responsible for providing oversight assistance to the National Executive Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to accounting and reporting practices, reliable systems of internal control, the corporate responsibility program, and the quality and integrity of the Auxiliary's financials reporting.

Audit Committee members will be financially literate, and chairman of the Committee will have the necessary background to be considered an Audit Committee financial expert in matters dealing with accounting and auditing.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 5.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 5 to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committees, by inserting a new Section 4, a new Section 5, and renumbering the current sections delineating duties of the stand program committees in alphabetical alignment. It is offered with an attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the start of the FY10 administrative year. Is there discussion? And the Chair recognizing the delegate from microphone 2.

**MS. KRANIG:** Madam National President, Barbara Kranig, Department of Wisconsin.

Last year I spoke in opposition to the Audit Committee being placed in the section relating to Auxiliary programs. At this time the section has been renumbered and there's a separate section for the Audit Committee, and I feel this meets all my objections of last year, and I support this amendment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. WALLACE:** Madam Chairman, Eva Wallace, Department of Washington.

I speak in complete agreement with the changes that are recommended in this resolution. We're a very large non-profit corporation and we have a duty to our Departments and Units to maintain this organization according to the new IRS regulations.

I worked in insurance with many large and small non-profits, public entities, and trusts. Some of my -- one of my clients had one of the largest losses, over \$350 million, that could have impacted many thousands of union members. This was one of the driving forces of the new IRS regulations after Enron to protect the non-profit corporations and the memberships.

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We need to make these changes to protect our organization. It does not change our mission to help veterans, families, and our communities. It enhances and expands our future opportunity to continue this great organization.

Ladies, there's do what's right for our future.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. GROUT:** Thank you, madam president, Coral May Grout, Department of Massachusetts.

I've been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 56 years. Now you know how old I am. And an active member for 50. I'm a retired superintendent of schools who used to work heavily with the financial components of our industry. But more importantly, I'm a member of the Board of the (indiscernible) which is the oldest fraternal organization in the United States.

Four years ago we were approached by our auditors that we needed an audit committee. Their bottom line was this was coming from the federal government, and that it wasn't a question as to whether we would be audited by the IRS, it was just a question of how long it's going to be.

The audit committee that we have does not include members of our Finance Committee. It's a separate entity. They meet off site once a year, it's not a heavy cost to your organization, which is much smaller. But the bottom line is that they're responsible for checking the risks of our organization to ensure that we don't have a problem down the report.

And so I would support this. We've had four years of experience with the audit committee. It's been a very beneficial component to our organization, and as of now we haven't been audited. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** Thank you, madam national president, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from the Department of Wisconsin.

I too support this necessary Committee change. The Audit Committee name is really a misnomer, rather it should be called a risk management committee; however, we have to go along with what the IRS is deciding we need to be called, but it would be composed of professionals qualified to do this mandatory work. It will not be composed of current leadership or a member of the Finance Committee.

It is really an oversight committee for the organization with responsibilities to be sure we are in compliance on such issues as an ethics policy, a whistle blowing policy, financial standards that should be an order, and appropriate human resources policies, just to name a few.

This is not an auditing body only providing oversight on finances in general, but on a far greater scope. Only one meeting has been budgeted for this Committee and two conference calls. This Committee will not be called in for assemblies and conventions, it will really be detached from the leadership, members, volunteers, and staff.

If we feel this is too expensive for this Committee's operation, when the National organization is audited, and we will be, the cost of such audit will be considerably more than the cost of one meeting for this Committee.

The new Form 990 is truly a changed document from previous forms and will require all non-profit organizations to make this change if we want to stay in business. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. BRIERE:** Robin Briere, Department of Florida.

The Department of Florida came to this convention prepared to oppose this amendment simply out of lack of understanding. The term Audit Committee offended our Finance Committee. They felt it was a committee to check up on them. And quite frankly, as secretary, I was offended by it because I diligently make sure our Units are complying with all the new IRS regulations upon advise of your accounting firm.

However, after arriving here and speaking to leadership and gaining a new understanding of what this is, the Department of Florida wholly embraces this amendment, because we have to comply with the IRS. We don't have to agree with the name that they've given it, Auditing Committee, in your mind call it oversight committee, call it risk management, but bottom line is we have to comply with IRS.

And so our opposal (sic) to this was simply out of lack of understanding. And at -- and now that we have this new understanding the Department of Florida wholeheartedly, seriously supporting this amendment. And please don't let the word "auditing" scare you or think that there's a hidden agenda here, because this is merely helping to make sure we stay in compliance with the IRS. I don't want them knocking on our door, I can tell you that.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing a delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. CLAPP:** Nicole Clapp, Department of Iowa.

Actually a lot of I was going to comment on has been said. But as a CEO of a hospital and the appointee for the new Finance Committee for next year candidate, realizing that we didn't have an audit committee did surprise me. Realizing that we've had an audit committee in our hospital now going on I think our fourth year, and our Finance Committee had some of those same reservations at first.

But realizing what it is, it's not to assess blame, but I think Jan said it very eloquently, that it is to look at risk. And I would be very happy to help support that and what we can do, and I think it's a necessary cost of just doing business in today's world. And I agree, I don't want the IRS on my doorstep, and I know we don't as an Auxiliary, so please everyone recognize it's a necessary evil that we have to comply with, and I hope that we support this, and we need to adopt it now so that we don't have to worry in the next two to three years how do we get there when we have time to plan and do it appropriately. Thank you.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing and welcomes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. JUNGE:** Miriam Junge, delegate from Ohio.

(Applause.)

**MS. JUNGE:** I speak in support of this amendment. You've all heard the rationale, but the bottom line, it's just good business practices and it's essential that we pass that amendment today.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** Call for the question.

**AUDIENCE:** Yeah.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there any objection for ending debate? The Chair deems there is none so we will -- we will call for the question here.

The question is on the adoption of amendment 5 to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committee's, by inserting a new Section 4, a new Section 5, and we numbering the current sections delineating duties of the standing program committee's in alphabetical alignment. It is offered with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the start of the FY10 administrative year.

This requires a two-thirds vote. Those in favor of the amendment please stand. You may be seated.

Those opposed please stand.

The affirmative have it and the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committees is amended.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please continue, Nancy.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committees, submitted by the Special Committee of Human Resources. This amendment is number 6 in your packet.

This proposed amendment inserts a new Section 4 and a new Section 5 and numbers the current sections delineating duties of the standing program committees in alphabetical alignment. It is offered with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21st through 27th, 2009, it will not be in effect until the start of the fiscal year 2010 administrative year.

If amended this section will read. "Section 4, there shall be the following administrative committees, Human Resources, HR.

Section 5, this shall be a Human Resources Committee that shall consist of five members, three serving by position title as National Vice

President, Director of Human Resources, and National Treasurer, and two will be appointed by the National President and ratified by the National Executive Committee the first year. One member to serve two years and one serve one year or until her successor is appointed. Thereafter one member will be appointed for a two-year term or until her successor is appointed.

The Human Resources Committee shall be responsible for fostering an ongoing dedication of the American Legion Auxiliary employees by providing an independent review of human resources, practices, and serving as a resource for HR staff throughout the year.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 6.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 6 to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committees, by inserting a new Section 4, a new Section 5, and renumbering the current sections delineating duties of standing program committees in alphabetical alignment. It is further offered with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the start of the FY10 administrative year.

Is there discussion? The Chair recognizing the -- I should say it came from the HR Committee, so I will give the privilege to speak first to the chair. The Chair recognizing the chairman of the special committee, HR.

**VOICE:** As a member of the world’s largest women’s patriotic organization and also an organization that must know we have to do the right thing in having a good business practice, I am totally in support of having this a permanent administrative committee as outlined in the proposed and rationale, we need to start doing business as a very professional organization. I ask for your support.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. CRAIG:** Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

I really question why there is a need for this Committee. I’m also concerned that generally our Standing Committee Chairmen are called in to the Presidents & Secretaries Conference, the Awareness Assembly, the National Convention, costing, you know, a couple thousand dollars, and I’m thinking that money is supposed to be an issue for us right now.

I also kind of have questions about why is it the -- why is the National Treasurer the one that would be on the Committee as opposed to the National Secretary?

And I -- we have a National human relations director, and I’m wondering would this not be part of that human relations director’s job? And why a five member committee. When three of those members propose, one is the National Treasurer, one is the National Director of Human Resources, and so -- and the National Vice President, to that leaves two. Those three are already in the (indiscernible) area mostly, and so where are the other two coming from and how often is this Committee going to meet, and what expense is it to bring two other members in for meetings? So how will those outside appointees be made?

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There's nothing in this resolution or proposed amendment that says they must have any resource experience. That bothers me. Why can't the National Secretary/Executive Director review our human resources practices, along with the human resource director? And according to our Policies & Procedures, the National Secretary is the one who is authorized to manage the headquarter staff. So I'm thinking let the National Secretary manage staff.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Time.

**MS. CRAIG:** Thank you very much.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** Madam President, Department of New York is fortunate to have had many presidents and members that have raised large sums of monies for our program and with many long lineage of finance members that have exceedingly invested our funds wisely. Thus however that responsibility has forced us now with the 990s to hire a premier non-profit accounting firm this past year spending great sums of money to have that firm represent us. They have helped us move forward with many items. They have not recommended an HR committee.

HR, as I have always known it in my private life and business, would be trained personnel to handle internal conflicts, harassment between employees, a safe and impartial person go to within the organization of that company or organization. Someone skilled in interviewing potential employees or those seeking to move up. A person who handles benefits and seeks out new benefits and handles them fairly within the applicable laws to that organization. A person that then reports back for the finance level of the company and/or legal departments. They don't set salaries. That removes a big portion of their impartiality.

I formally put forth a point of inquiry to this Committee that proposed this exactly what is it they are trying to achieve by an HR Committee?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** In an attempt to answer your question, the delegate from New York, as we have the opportunity, those members of that Committee, if you would come forward if you would like to address that so you can confer with the chair. But while you're doing that let me try to address your question while they assemble to some of the history.

This special committee has been appointed -- this is the second year it has been appointed. Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan appointed a special committee for HR. The overall scope of the committee that was to evaluate some of the tools and documents to help with HR that are in the office that exists, and then to move forward in an oversight capacity.

So the first year's committee appointed by President Pulvermacher-Ryan consisted of myself, and then the balance included HR professionals from the volunteer side of the organization, as well as the National Secretary -- I mean the National Treasurer -- and other staff members that worked in the area of HR at the office.

So when this Committee first met there were several things missing from our organization. Consistent job titles, job descriptions. So the Committee worked in collaboration and moved some of those documents forward, and it became very evident to us that there was a need for an ongoing Committee.

I've had conversation with the Judge Advocate of The American Legion and he recommended that we do need this Committee, and that there's been -- there was some conversation as to what the Committee should be called. Should it be called HR, should it be called compensation committee? And his response to my question was, "He didn't care what we called it, we just needed to do it."

So I can tell you that is some of the previous dialogue on the question. If the Committee is ready to try to address further your question I will invite them to the podium to do so.

They're still conferring. The Chair -- with your -- you know, I would ask if we may continue with discussion while they prepare. Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. NEWMAN:** Rosey Newman, Department of Indiana. I guess I am opposed to this. We are paying an employee to do this. I don't know why we need a committee.

You did say we've had this Committee appointed for the past two years, but being appointed and accepted by an NEC Committee that did not have time to research it to me is not fair to the delegates or to the Departments.

I feel the delegation needs to vote and they need for know what they're voting on. So I do speak opposed to this. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 2.

**VOICE:** I hope I'm correct and not out of order here, but I truly am lost here. I guess I have CSR today. But I need to know what this job description is and what authority do they have over everybody, you know? If you don't know what CSR is, I'll explain it later.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So I'm hoping that when the -- since the HR Committee has a chance to confer that they can bring forth some rationale that will help you with what the responsibilities are.

**VOICE:** Okay. And it's CRS, I still got it backwards; I'm dyslexic. Can't remember. Whatever that word is.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 3.

**VOICE:** Madam President, I would defer to the committee if they're ready to go. I'd actually like to hear what they have to say before I extend my remarks.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Are you ready? Or do you want to have more conversation and allow more dialogue here?

**VOICE:** Oh, no, I think we're ready.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. All right. Please confer.

**MS. HARLEY:** Thank you, Madam National President. I am Diane Harley, a delegate from the Department of South Carolina, and I have been privileged

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to serve on this Committee for the past two years, along with our National President and National Vice President.

The original charge of this Committee was to actually oversee the policies or review and present recommendations for updating the policies and procedures of the American Legion Auxiliary's National Headquarters. This was to be able to have us, the volunteers, have a part in developing these policies and procedures, rather than just having it come from the paid staff.

I am a professional in human resources, and I do understand some of the concerns that have been coming forth, but having been involved in this area for many, many years, I have seen a dramatic change in human resources. We now sit at the table with the senior leadership of our companies and we do have a say in our strategic planning.

So I would like you to take into serious consideration this proposed amendment so that it will give the volunteers some oversight in what -- in the policies and procedures of our National organization. Thank you.

**MS. TAYLOR:** Good afternoon -- nope, morning still. It feels like afternoon. My name is Melanie Taylor and I'm from the Department of California, and I have served the last two years on the Human Resources Committee.

And I speak in favor of this not just because I've been on the Committee, but because I feel that our Human Resources Committee has accomplished a lot in the two years that we have been working with the National officers.

We have not come into the National office; we have saved the National office money. We have met by telephone conference and e-mail and telephones, and this has accomplished a lot, and I do hope that you seriously consider in favor of our Human Resources Committee, it is a necessity. Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And one more point of information. The plans for the Committee, only the chair has been named, not any members of the Committee.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I hope that addresses many of your questions, delegate from New York, and so then the Chair will again recognize the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. PORTER:** Thank you, Madam President, Terry Porter from Colorado.

I am quite concerned with the language that has been proposed. As we've already seen, language makes a huge difference in anything and everything we read. And if the delegates haven't already read, it's really -- I'm not quite sure what this Committee is going to do by the language that's in here when it says, "The Human Resources Committee somebody responsible for fostering an ongoing dedication of the American Legion Auxiliary employees." I'm not too sure we can foster a dedication in our employees, I think that's something they have. And by providing an independent review of human resources practices and serving as a resource for HR staff, and when you put initials into documents like our Constitution & Bylaws, that's really opening us too.

And so I would really encourage our members to either vote this down or really look at a serious amendment -- or sending it back to Committee so that we can have better language, and in the meantime allowing this Special Committee to continue as a Special Committee to do the work. But we've also not heard what great things -- we heard that they said they've done a lot, but we haven't heard from them.

So I am really opposed to this to going into our documents as it is now. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. NELSON:** Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota. I speak in favor of this amendment.

Yesterday Mike Alerding, our accountant, asked that we consider a compensation committee, and the Human Resource Committee can do the research and present it to the Finance Committee on the salaries and benefits. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. BAILEY:** Elsie Bailey, delegate New Jersey.

Having been in human resources my entire life and retained as a consultant since my retirement, and having served on the Finance Committee and been a Past National President, I feel that the HR Committee may have done a, you know, a great job in the past. I think we've hired professional staff that are capable of performing those tasks now. And as I worked in the HR Department, if any committee came in and did what I was supposed to be doing I was be insulted.

I speak in opposition of this amendment.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. IMBURGIA:** Madam President, Priscilla Imburgia, Department of New York.

I thank the Chair and the Committee for response to my point of inquiry, I appreciate their answers. A couple of the things that they did mention were to provide oversight and to update. It's my understanding that they have set job titles and descriptions, all of which do tend to change as time goes on.

And I do understand the need to perhaps some HR; however, I also believe that this undermines the now -- the professional person that we hire within the office that we didn't previously have. Only in the past two years have we had an HR director.

Between her and between our National Secretary, with some oversight and some responses back to our NEC, I do believe that we do have oversight, and I'm not sure that we need a permanent committee. Perhaps every now and then we need an ad hoc committee.

I vote -- I certainly stand opposed to this at the present time.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. For a point of clarification, the HR director or person at the National Headquarters has always served on this Special Committee. Just as a point of clarification.

Yes, the Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** To call for the question, please.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Is there any objection to ending debate and moving onto the question? Thank you.

The question is on the adoption of amendment 5 to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committees, by inserting a new Section 4, a new Section 5, and renumbering the current sections, delineating duties of standing program committees in alphabetical alignment. It is offered with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the start of the FY10 administrative year.

This requires a two-thirds vote. Those in favor please stand. Those in favor please stand. Thank you.

Those opposed please stand. Thank you.

The negative have it and the National Bylaws Article 5, Committees is not amended.

Nancy, please continue.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Okay, I am right here at your back.

Madam president, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws. Article 5, Committees, Section 4, submitted by the Department of Minnesota. This is amendment number 7 in your packet.

This proposed amendment strikes the first and second paragraphs, and inserts two new paragraphs. If amended the section will read, "The Finance Committee shall be composed of five members of whom a minimum of three shall be Past National Presidents, appointed by the National President and subject to ratification of the National Executive Committee. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a five-year term.

The National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be members of said Committee with voice, but without vote.

The Finance Committee shall meet four times each year at the call of the National President.

Special meetings shall be held at the request of three of the five committee members.

The National Finance Committee shall oversee the development and implementation of the general finance policy of the National organization, subject to ratification of the National Executive Committee.

It shall be charged with the preparation of the yearly budget for a fiscal year, subject to approval of the National Executive Committee, and it shall

provide oversight of the expenditures of funds in the budget and report for the National Executive Committee.

The National Vice President, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children & Youth Chairman are invited guests to serve as a learning experience.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee remains neutral on this amendment. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 7.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 7 to amend the National Bylaws Article 5, Committee, Section 4 by striking the first and second paragraphs and inserting two new paragraphs.

Is there discussion? The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. NELSON:** Madam President, Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota. Because of the confusion surrounding the distribution of this I move to withdraw the amendment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair believes that this -- your request is coming at the request of your entire Department so it will not need a second. Is there any objection to the amendments withdrawal? Okay, hearing none the amendment is withdrawn.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Nancy, please continue.

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Just a little levity. The fellow in the back doing the mics cheered when you said there were no objections.

(Laughter.)

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws Article 9, Section 3, submitted by the National Finance Committee. This is amendment number 8 in your packet.

This proposed amendment strikes the current Section 3 and inserts a new Section 3, with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21st through 27th, 2009, it will not be in effect until the 2011 membership year.

If amended the section will read. “Section 3, the national per capita dues shall be \$2 for junior members and \$7 per annum for senior members effective in the 2011 membership year, and shall include a subscription of the American Legion Auxiliary magazine for senior members.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee remains neutral on this amendment. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 8.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption amendment number 8 to amend the National Bylaws Article 9, Finance, by striking the current section and inserting a new section.

Is there any discussion? The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

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**MS. DUTTON:** President, Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland.

I rise in opposition to this. It is not the time to raise dues. Our Units and our Departments are struggling. We're going to lose members. We cannot afford to raise our dues. Now is not the time.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 2.

**VOICE:** Thank you, Madam National President.

Madam President, I would like to offer an amendment to the amendment. I move to amend by striking the year 2011 and inserting 2012.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second? Well apparently your amendment to the amendment dies for lack of a --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. We have -- continue.

**VOICE:** Heard them all, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

**VOICE:** First of all, I do support the fact that we need a dues increase; however, my concern is with the implementation of that dues raise.

First of all, there are several Departments that have not yet raised their dues for 2011 to cover the proposed dues increase. And if -- you know, they have the right to wait and see what action is taken at this convention, and so I respect their right to do that. But this means that they will -- if a dues raise is approved today they will have to go back to their Departments at their conventions next summer to have that included in their Department dues. That means they will miss the deadline for the notification for dues that is sent out by the national organization. And we all remember the problems we got into a couple of years ago when we eliminated that first dues notice. It set us way behind for the whole year in trying to achieve our membership objectives.

So I would suggest that by postponing this for one year it will give the Departments an opportunity to catch up to what National needs and maybe we'll act favorably today. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. WHEATLEY:** Marcia Wheatley, Department of Virginia.

I rise in favor of this proposal, Madam President. Since 1996 for instance, milk has increased 68.9 percent, gas as we all know has increased 55.5 percent. I know in the State of Virginia alone a lot of services have been cut due to the budget short fall by the State of Virginia. How can we expect National to continue to provide the services they have been providing for these many years without giving them the additional money they need to do the work? Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Marcia. The Chair with ask you -- that we are voting on the amendment to the amendment to delay it by one year. So I would ask those speaking to keep their comments to the amendment to the

amendment so that the Chair is clear on how you support this, okay? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. DELASHMIT:** Thank you, I'm Diane Delashmit from the Department of California.

I speak in opposition of the amendment to the amendment. I know that some of the Departments have their bylaws written stating a total dollar amount of their Department and National per capita. If bylaws were written stating each per capita and not totaling that amount it would alleviate the problem, since whatever the outcome is today will be a National mandate.

I urge that you go back to your Units, encourage them to increase their dues if they so wish, and do it now so that in the future they will be prepared for any changes that would occur. This can be done now so that we're ready for the 2011 dues. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. SCHMID:** Gayla Schmid from the Department of Nebraska. I oppose this amendment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The amendment to the amendment?

**MS. SCHMID:** The amendment to the amendment. Even if we delay the increase, we will still have dues increase, right? And in that increase is dues for the Juniors, right? What do they get? They do not get the National magazine, they do not get any benefits. This is wrong.

I agree, we do need some kind of a guideline to help us get through this recession, but we will be losing members, and dedicated members, because they can't afford it because they're on a limited income.

Once again we should be cutting back at National too. There is --

(Applause.)

**MS. SCHMID:** -- there's some changes we need to make there. If we have to cut back, they should have to cut back. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. WALLACE:** Thank you, Madam Chairman, Eva Wallace, Department of Washington.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And again, I ask you to speak to the amendment to the amendment.

**MS. WALLACE:** I am speaking to the amendment to the amendment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

**MS. WALLACE:** This proposed dues increase was brought to our attention at the NEC meeting during the Awareness Assembly, and at that time this should have been brought back to the Departments as it was done in our Department, advising them that these changes were coming up, the due dates for dues increases, and all of this information went out to our units at that time. And I know personally our unit is in the process of considering the dues increase to go along with this National. And I think it's needed, we've needed it for a long time in order to operate efficiently and effectively as a National organization.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The chair recognizing the delegate at microphone one.

**MS. BRIERE:** Robin Briere, Department of Florida.

I'm opposed to the amendment to the amendment. To try and anticipate what our financial needs are going to be two years from now I think is premature. If you pass this mandating a dues increase in two years, first of all we don't know if it would even be sizable enough to make a dent. But had we done this, you know, two years ago we maybe wouldn't have been in -- you know, I mean, we don't know what the future holds. Having had the privilege of sitting in on the National Executive Committee Meeting for the first time this year and the financial chairman gave her report, absolutely we took a serious hit in income. I'm sure every Department did as well.

I know the Department of Florida didn't make budget this year. But I was amazed at the amount of money under our new leadership with our new secretary, and of course, Marta Hedding, that they were able to decrease the expenses. I was amazed. I wish the Department of Florida had enough places to keep trimming.

I think this decision to raise the dues even two years from now is premature. I don't think we've given our National Secretary adequate time to make an impact on our organization, and I think it's premature. And I don't want to anticipate two years from now. I don't see how anyone in this room can do that. So we are opposed -- or I stand opposed to the amendment to the amendment.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** Call for the question. I ask we call for the question.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. The -- she has called for the question.

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** There's a second. Is there any objection to ending debate?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay, then we will move onto the question. The question is on the adoption of amendment number 8 -- oh, no -- on the amendment to amendment number 8 to strike 2011 and insert 2012 in Constitution Bylaws amendment number 8 to read in part, "effective in the 2012 membership year."

Okay, all those in favor of the amendment to the amendment please say -- please stand. Okay. Thank you.

All opposed to the amendment to the amendment please stand.

Okay, the amendment to the amendment fails. Thank you so much.

Okay.

Now back to the original amendment number 8. Is there any discussion?

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. CRAIG:** Thank you, Madam President –

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And the Chair asks the delegate to address the chair when she speaks. I know you're concerned about those behind you.

**MS. CRAIG:** Well, you know, can I ask the parliamentarian a question? Or can you -- will you ask the parliamentarian, please, because this came up yesterday as well. Address the Chair I thought meant to ask the Chair for permission, I didn't ever realize that that meant my comments had to be solely to the Chair, so that would help everybody I think, if you would ask the parliamentarian to clarify that.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That's my understanding.

**MS. CRAIG:** So okay, that's fine, I can do that. I can do that. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So I wasn't being mean.

**MS. CRAIG:** No, no, no. No, that's fine, but no, I think there were a lot of us who had questions. I can take it, you know that.

(Laughter.)

**MS. CRAIG:** We need a laugh. Thank you Madam President, Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

I am in opposition to the dues increase, and I understand, you know, where you're coming from, but also understand that we have 16 states across this nation who have double-digit unemployment. We also have an additional 16 states with unemployment of eight and nine percent, and I just ask these folks to think where you are within your Department and your state with unemployment.

In the finance pre-time meeting Saturday morning we were told that membership is going down nine percent a year, and I understand that. One hundred and thirty charters have been taken with the Awareness Assembly NEC, the Convention NEC, 130 charters. We didn't retain all of those members, so why do we want to do anything else that would encourage additional loss of membership?

Also with the \$2 dues increase National can afford to lose 210,000 senior members, 25 percent of our membership and still have the revenue they have right now. How many Units, how many Departments can afford to lose 25 percent of your revenue and continue to be able to function?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. WARD:** Thank you, Madam National President, Trish Ward, Department of Kansas.

I speak passionately in favor of this resolution. I would like everyone in this room to just kind of think for a moment, you know, about the Titanic when it kind of steamed out of England and everything was great. And can you imagine what would have happened if that captain listened to his buddies who said, "Hey dude, there's icebergs out there. You need to not go that way; you need to make some adjustments now while you have time, because out there is trouble. We've seen it, we know it. So while you have time, you know, turn the wheel a little bit, go south, head into warmer waters. Let's go to Florida,

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let's see Robin, you know, let's go that way. So while you have time to make changes it's time to make changes."

And so is moral of this story is you turn the wheel when you have a chance, you don't wait until the iceberg is looming right in front of you. Okay?

So this is our opportunity as members to take hold of that wheel and turn it a little bit. And I'm not preaching doom and gloom up here, I don't like to do that, but I'm telling you, there's some icebergs out there and they're waiting for us. They're in the form of a declining membership. They're in the form of a bad economy. And they're in the form of a lot of other things we don't know, like a million other non-profits that are out there trying to engage the members that are currently a part of this organization and that we haven't gotten yet. That's what's going on. Those are the icebergs that are out there and we need to think about that.

This revenue and this income opportunity gives our National leadership the opportunity to strengthen our organization, to solidify our programs, and to make sure that they have the revenue and the income that they need to keep the staff, our National team in Indianapolis, who have our backs and who work on our behalf, and I believe that we need to keep them. This is a revenue and an income opportunity.

Madam National President, this is a very emotional issue, this is a very personal issue for a lot of members, and I move for a ballot vote.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair will ask the audience to be silent. We have a timer up here, and she was within time. Please respect other speakers.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** (Indiscernible) of Minnesota, I speak in favor of this resolution.

But first I want to compliment the leaders and the Finance Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary for their excellent decision making with the finances they've had to work with the past 14 years, and yet they have kept the organization a topnotch organization and made me proud to be a 40-year member.

I just wonder how many of us would have stayed at our jobs for 14 years had we not ever gotten a raise. This is not -- to me this is not anything to do with the recession, the recession just got in the way, and this dues increase is long overdue.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. It's been brought to the Chair's attention that the last delegate to speak at microphone 1 moved for a paper ballot. Because of the disruption of the assembly the Chair did not hear that motion. So if -- I want to confirm that that is correct.

**MS. WARD:** Madam National President, I move for a ballot vote.

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. Okay, it's been moved and seconded. This does not end debate; it just decides on how we will handle this motion when we decide.

Okay, so is there any discussion of the motion to vote by ballot? There is no discussion, thank you.

So all in favor of the vote method will be by ballot on this amendment say aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

(A chorus of no.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Because the Chair feels that perhaps the numbers are not correct, but that because you're more vociferous on the negative I would ask you to stand. So those who would like us to vote by ballot on this amendment please stand. Thank you. Okay thank you, sit down.

Okay those who are opposed please stand. Okay. The motion failed, and we will not be handling the adoption by ballot.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It was close, it was hard to decide there. The Chair recognizing the delegate from the -- microphone 4.

**MS. JEFFORD:** Janet Jefford, Department of Connecticut.

I rise for two purposes. First my delegation has a question on how the amended section here was handed out. The original section had a last sentence that said, "Each Department shall remit the National per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least once each month."

When -- where you have had -- where amended the section with read, that sentence was left out. And our question is, was that left out on purpose or was that a mistake?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay, that is a question for the Finance Committee to answer since they submitted the amendment. The Chairman recognizes the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. BOONE:** Thank you, Madam President, Linda Boone, Chairman of the Finance.

I don't have all my paperwork for that particular piece with me, but I don't remember a discussion that we wanted to remove that. The -- our discussion resolved around the amount. So I would say it needs to be left in.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** So that needs to be moved to do so. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. JEFFORD:** All right, I move that the sentence be reinserted so that the amendment as proposed ends with the sentence, "Each Department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the national treasurer at least once each month."

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Nancy, did you get that? Okay. So do you need that to be read in its entirety again?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

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**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. All right. Thank you. Oh, second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All in favor say aye?

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All opposed say no. Thank you, the motion is adopted. Thank you to the delegate from Connecticut.

**MS. JEFFORD:** Thank you. And I also rise in support of this amendment. Fourteen years is a long time to go without a raise. I wonder how many people in the audience are making the same salary that they did 14 years ago. I bought a bottle of water yesterday for 1.50, and I kind of thought to myself, I could sacrifice one bottle of water and drink tap water and put that \$1.50 towards my dues.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. SHIPLEY:** Madam President, Mona Shipley, Department of Ohio.

I speak in support of this amendment. I am a working Auxiliary member, dedicated, work 40 to 60 hours a week, and yes, I am not a VIM member, but I pay my dues yearly, and I feel that we need this to be a fiscally responsible National organization. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. LYNCH:** Madam President, Judy Lynch from the Department of Michigan.

I know everyone needs more funding. Departments need it, the Units need it. In 17 years that I've had 100 percent in my Unit as the unit president, I lost 17 members this year, and they all told me I cannot afford it, I'm laid off now. In the area we're at we're hit hard. If dues goes up I don't know how many more I will lose. So I -- sorry, I cannot support it.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. BUTT:** Madam President, Donna Butt, Department of Maryland.

I speak in opposition to this amendment, and I speak as a membership chair from my Unit, and I speak as a member of my Finance Committee from my Department.

I feel National has lost its support for our members, our Departments in many ways, and our membership is declining, and I as a membership chairman have seen that decline in the last ten years as Membership Chairman. I don't feel it's a sound rational to raise dues, because we haven't raised dues in 14 years. I think we need to be working on those membership programs that bring up the membership. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. OWENS:** Madam President, Krisann Owens, Department of Oregon. I am the Finance Chairman for the Department of Oregon.

This resolution -- or this amendment was brought back to our Department by our NEC woman, it was voted on at Department convention and passed, with also a dollar raise from our Department.

We understand that 14 years is a long time to not have a dues increase when other organizations are continuing to do so at a regular rate where we have not, and unfortunately whether you think of this as a business or not, but the cost of doing business does go up.

Now Oregon suffered more and as much as anyone else, 17 to 21 percent unemployment rate constantly, but we did vote this in because we need to continue to do the business of this organization. And you can't do it on the pennies of 14 years ago.

And I'm sorry, we speak in favor of this resolution, and I'm not going to say it wasn't without debate, it was. But we do speak in favor of it. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. MAHONEY:** Jean Mahoney from the Department of Florida. And I think everybody knows that everybody retires to Florida on Social Security.

(Laughter.)

**MS. MAHONEY:** I have a question. I know -- I know that we need to raise dues, but in the examples we got of the other organizations of what their dues are, please tell me that that's a typo. That the biggest opposition we have to our organization is the VFW, and their national dues are only \$3.50. That's what it says. Is that correct or is that a typo?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** To my knowledge that information is correct, but the part that needs to be corrected is the statement about them being the biggest opposition to this organization.

**MS. MAHONEY:** They'd like to be. Madam President, then can we get an explanation of why their dues are less? Someone tells me that they got a grant, and that is why their dues are less national-wise.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I'm sorry; I appreciate the question from the delegate from Florida, but I don't know that we have any VFW experts in the audience in order to answer your question as to their rationale and their finances. So thank you for the question.

The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. HARVEY:** Madam President, Chris Harvey from the Department of Colorado.

I rise against this. I feel that we will do more damage to our organization while we're already in a decline of membership, and it will just make it decline more.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. DAVIS:** Mary Davis, Department of Washington.

I speak in favor of this amendment. I have a 90-year-old mother who is on a fixed income. She also is a veteran. She belongs to this organization

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because she believes in the work that we do. She gets new members every year for her Unit and for her neighboring Unit because she believes in our organization. Being on a fixed income, paying her dues, she also pays the dues of as many family members as we she. Not mine, she let me pay my own.

But it is -- I know how it's very easy to say we have older members that we are going to lose because of this, that's a great generality, but we have older members who are on fixed income who yes, maybe have a hard time paying the dues, but because of their love of our organization continue to find that money to pay their dues.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the National Vice President.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I would like a point of information.

**AUDIENCE:** We can't hear you.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I would like to ask for a point of information by our National Secretary.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** To -- for what purpose?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Of -- the purpose is to let her have the opportunity to talk about what we've heard this morning of increased costs for the National Headquarters operation. What will be addressed is the status of cost containment.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** The American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters has reduced expenditures by over 16 percent for the last 11 months. The budget proposed by National Headquarters was a 10 percent reduction. And the budget proposal that the Finance Committee recommended for adoption is reduced by eight percent. We are currently operating with a 15 percent vacancy factor, and we have been operating for the past 19 months without compensation increases for curtail costs.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Does that address your point of inquiry?

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. CRAVEN:** Thank you, Madam President, Charlotte Craven, Department of New York.

Madam President, two years ago we were told that there'd be no dues raises in the foreseeable future. Ordinarily I would be for a raise, but outside of the expenditures of the office, I understand that thousands of dollars have been spent that we don't hear about, and I oppose this for that reason.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** To clarify the statement by the delegate as far as thousands of dollars that have been spent that you don't know about, we are 16 percent under budget. So all the dollars that you authorize the National Headquarters and the National staff to spend are 16 percent less than what you've authorized. Just as a point of clarification.

The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. SCHMID:** Thank you, Madam President, Gayla Schmid from the Department of Nebraska.

I still oppose this amendment, but I want to amend it to read \$1 increase instead of the amount it's doing.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The motion is to amend the amendment to strike the \$2 to \$1. The chair needs a copy of that amendment in writing. And while you work to do so is there a second? If not, the amendment to the amendment dies for lack of a second.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. VORWALD:** Madam President, Susan Vorwald, State of Wisconsin.

This amendment would not be approved by Wisconsin for the fact that the previous amendment would have given us an additional year to raise funds within our own district. At this time -- or our own state -- pardon me. At this time our Department is operating in the red, and that would be our reasoning for not approving this at this time. But if we had that extra year, possibly as we stated we would have been in favor. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. NELSON:** Madam President, Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota.

I speak in favor of this amendment. I've been fortunate to be able to listen to the discussion in the Finance Committee Meetings the last two times and to listen to Mike Alerding, and he told us that in order to receive large grants we have to prove that we are ourselves fiduciarily (sic) responsible and that we have containing expenses. And my understanding is this year's budget is another \$350,000 deficit. We -- our members are telling us that they want tools to increase the membership. We can't do public service announcements, we can't send leaders out to train because we don't have the funds. So I speak in favor of this amendment. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. SIMPSON:** Gail Simpson, Department of Texas.

I speak in favor of this amendment. I know there are many economically disadvantaged areas in our country. I speak because I am one of the mayors of one of those cities, and we do have many costs that are there, and we have to cut our costs as much as we possibly can. But you still have to look at even cutting costs. There are those things that are out of your control that you still have to raise -- your revenues in order to meet your demands.

And so I say if our membership is declining there are thousands of members out there that we could possibly get, the ladies that are there, and let's go get them to help with that, but then also support this increase for our function of our organization.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. RIGGS:** Madam President, Shelly Riggs, Department of Ohio.

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I speak in favor of this amendment. Dues is -- we need to increase our dues, but I feel that dues isn't all about money. We pay our dues once a year, but I think membership has more to do with our retaining of members and how we treat our members in our Unit, in our Districts, in our Departments. There's many new members out there to seek, just seek them in a friendly way and ask them to join. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. BUELL:** Madam President, Ellie Buell from Oregon.

I realize we're all in bad straits in these days. We have got to learn to budget better. This proposal will not only hurt members that are living on \$1,000 or less or month, it will hurt our Units where their per capita will go up. It will hurt our Departments.

And I'm going to share, I was a military wife, and I had to learn how to budget, and I still budget. So I am opposed to this dues increase. And thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 3.

**MS. DAHL:** Cyndi Dahl, Department of Oregon.

I, like many of the people, I may not look like it, but I am on a fixed income. There are plenty of rationales in the packet that was send out on the proposal of this amendment increase, and if Units, Departments are having trouble raising the \$2 increase for their members, go out and get more members. There is a multitude out there. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** (Indiscernible) Department of Washington.

I speak in favor of this amendment. It need not be an imposition on any one individual for this increase. There are fund raisers and so forth that could be done so that the individuals themselves do not have to defray all of that expense. And I recommend that those fundraisers be things outside of our American Legion family, so we're not dipping in our own pockets.

That being said, if we keep putting off what is necessary, eventually the raise that we're going to be talking about here is going to have to be even larger than this one.

That being said, Madam President, I move for the question.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You have to wait until I ask for it.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is moved and seconded to call for the question to end debate. All in favor say aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no.

The Chair is not in question, the ayes have it and debate is ended. The question as you recall --

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** -- is on an amendment -- is on the deposition of amendment number 8. Strike out the current Section 3 and insert a new Section 3, with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the 2011 membership year. Each Department shall remit the National per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least once each month.

Okay. This takes a two-thirds vote. I will ask all of those in favor of this amendment to please stand. Those opposed --

**AUDIENCE:** Could you clarify what we're voting on?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** A dues increase. Okay. Amendment number 8 in your packet as amended by this convention body to add that extra line back in it. Do I need to read the amendment if in its entirety?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please be seated. The Chair is in question if you understand what you're voting on.

The question to you again is do I need to read the amendment in its entirety?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** One at a time. Those who say yes to my question only, do you -- I need to read the amendment in its entirety to this convention body?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay. I heard you. As long as someone said yes, and this Chair feels that there are people that have questions, I will read the amendment.

The proposal from the National Finance Committee to amend Bylaws Article 9, Finance, Section 3 by striking the section and inserting a new section. The section -- do I need to read the presently reads, or just the -- thank you.

Okay. The proposed amendment. Strike out the current Section 3 and insert a new Section 3 with the attached proviso that if the amendment is adopted by this convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21 through 27, 2009, it will not be in effect until the 2011 membership year. Each Department shall remit the National per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least once each month.

Section -- when amended the section will read. "Section 3, the National per capita dues shall be \$2 for junior members and \$7 per annum for senior members effective in the 2011 membership years, and shall be included a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary magazine for senior members." Okay? "Each Department shall remit the National per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least once a month."

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Okay. This requires a two-thirds vote. All in favor of the amendment, again, please stand. Okay, thank you, be seated.

Those opposed to this amendment please stand.

The amendment has failed.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The National Bylaws Article 9, Finance is not amended.

The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. PORTER:** Madam President, Terry Porter. I would like to commend this audience, and more importantly you as the Chair for the way you have handled the discussion for the resolutions and the amendments yesterday and today.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Thank you so much. Does anyone want my job?

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I appreciate -- I appreciate the delegates' remarks, and certainly your response to her remarks. Thank you so much.

Nancy, please continue.

(Laughter.)

**CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK:** We're not quite done.

Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Standing Rule I, National organization, Section 5, submitted by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, this is amendment number 9 in your packet.

This proposed amendment inserts the words "and if possible," following the first occurrence of the word "program" in I, National organization Section 5 of the National Standing Rules.

If amended the section will read, "The candidates for National President for the ensuing years with the cooperation of the National President and National Secretary shall plan a membership theme and program, and if possible, in correlation with that of The American Legion for the following year. And these plans should be presented to the Department no later than June 1st of the same year, enabling the Departments to coordinate their membership objectives and program to those of the National organization."

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted. On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number 9.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of amendment number 9, the last amendment we have.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That I know of.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** To amend the National Standing Rules I, National organization Section 5 by inserting the words "and if possible" following the first occurrence of the word "program."

Is there discussion? Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the deposition of amendment number 9, to amend the National Standing Rules I, National organization Section 5 by inserting the words “and if possible” following the first occurrence of the word “program.”

This requires is two-thirds vote. Those in favor of this amendment please stand. Thank you.

Those opposed please stand.

The affirmative have it and the National Standing Rule I, National organization Section 5 is amended. Thank you, Nancy.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Go, go, run. Go, run. Run.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Marian “Pic” Webster, National Historian, will now give her report.

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** Madam National President, it seems just a few short months ago that you were elected to lead the American Legion Auxiliary with the theme of HOPE, Honoring Our Promise Everyday.

Historians on all levels had taken their charge promising to preserve and compile the records of your organization, keeping in mind that the future can only be judged by the past. And I am sure that there are many members here today that were with us last year when the elections and installations took place.

I would like to thank my peers again for electing me to the National Historian and ask them if they remember Pic’s promise, if they pick me. That I would pick up my pen or pencil and put the point on the paper and prepare to print the history.

Over all the goal was to have 100 percent reporting, and I’m excited to report that 863 senior histories and 42 Junior histories were written. Of these 533 senior histories and 36 Junior histories were submitted for competition. I’m sure that there were many more but were not reported. Thirty-four of 53 Department historians submitted their history in competition, and each one of these received a certificate of participation.

Your Divisional Vice Presidents had the task of judging the Department histories within their divisions, and it was quite a job. We are blessed with many significant writers.

Our five Divisional winners were presented at the Pre-Convention Meeting, and each one has received a certificate of merit.

The winner of the Toomey Trophy for the best overall history went to Diana Sirovina of the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** And the winner of the Junior History Plaque was presented at the Juniors convention to Katherine Lang of the Department of Indiana.

(Applause.)

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**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** Adding to your history this year are 48 annual Department reports.

Some interesting facts to present. Fact, that Madam President earned her first volunteer hours -- first volunteer hours while making a visit at the VA Hospital in Portland, Oregon, accumulating a total of six hours within two days. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** Fact, that somewhere in her travels it seems she acquired a taste for seafood, such as lobster and crab legs, and you know what they say, bibs are for kids.

(Laughter.)

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** And fact, that a wild ride in a Jeep is worth noting also. The Veterans History Project of interviewing and recording veterans experiences was very fruitful. The Department of Ohio did a fantastic job of recording the military lives of several W.O.W., Wonderful Ohio Women.

The senior and Junior interviewers in the Department of Oregon and the Department of Florida in 176 Units recorded the stories of 360 veterans. My thanks to all the historians on all levels for your participation.

Madam President, I would like to report today that the history of your administrative year, 2008-2009 is an informative and historical work in progress to be completed by December 31st.

(Laughter.)

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** That was in my script before this morning. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as your National Historian, even though the volume of work was often daunting.

(Laughter.)

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** Madam President Desi, it will be my honor to finish reporting all that you have done and all that you have left to do to complete your year as a leader of the largest and best female volunteer organization in the world, and be assured, we will continue to hope.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That was wonderful. Thank you very much. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** No, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** National Chaplain Cherita Potter will now give her report.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Madam National President, my factual report is in the book of reports, but I would like to add a few words. I hope you'll take time to read the report that's in the book of reports. We had 48 states that reported.

The commitment of faith, hope, and love was truly evident throughout this year as these caring individuals gave of themselves countless hours and funds assisting our veterans, our elderly, our children in need.

Memorials were held, prayer books were prepared and shared in nursing homes and senior centers. Chapel of Four Chaplains ceremonies were held jointly with The American Legion Family, hundreds of grace cards were distributed, get well cards and thoughtful cards sent out.

Madam President Desi, I thank you and all the chaplains that I served with this year. It has been a wonderful experience and I will cherish it for the rest of my life.

We had 44 e-mail prayer chain participants praying daily. From the very beginning of the year we bonded, we shared, we laughed, we cried. Many times we were fortunate enough to feel and share the positive effects of our efforts.

My wish to you is that you will always be as blessed as others are blessed to have you.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks, but may I have permission to make a presentation?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** This weighs as much as you do. And this is just Volume I. So this is a gift to you from your chaplains and Auxiliary members from across the nation, and it's a gift of love and we want you to open it now.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

(Laughter.)

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** That's just the bottom of the bag. There you go, cut it.

(Laughter.)

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** And turn it over. It's upside down. There you go.

(Laughter.)

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** This goes in here.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Okay.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** This is a flash drive, and on the flash drive is all the prayers that we couldn't share with you that are animated and have music and funny things and sad things. So you can take it home and put it in your computer and share it later. The ladies really said a lot of wonderful things and I thought you've got to see them all.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's beautiful. Thank you, Cherita. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** No, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. It is beautiful. And the flash drive, that's just an extra bonus, very creative. Thank you very much.

And now our National Chaplain Cherita will present our memorial service for Past National President Ione Kubby of Texas.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Thank you for your patience. At this time I ask for Katherine Morris from the -- Past National President from the Department

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of Texas to assist me. And we are going to have a celebration of life of Ione Kubby, Past National President from Texas. Will you please rise and join me in a memorial prayer.

Do not stand at my grave and weep, I am not there, I do not sleep. I'm a thousand winds that blow; I am the diamond glint on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush I am the swift uplifting rush of white doves in circle flight. I am the stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there, I am safely home dear ones, I am now at peace forever.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT MORRIS:** Josephine Ione Crowe Kubby was born in Big Spring, Texas, July the 24th, 1913. She passed away peacefully on November the 25th, 2008, at the age of 95. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Maurice Kubby, and her grandson, Steve Wager. She is survived by two daughters, Norma Jean Wager and Nancy K. Britner, both of Wimberley, Texas. Seven grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Ione's background ably suited her for your important assignment. She was born in the ranch country of west Texas. She attended Abilene Business College and the University of Texas in El Paso. She was a charter and life member of Paso Del Norte Unit 58.

Ione's outstanding business activities and experience merited for her two coveted recognitions, that of Outstanding Businesswoman of El Paso, and the citing by the Texas legislature as Outstanding Woman of Texas.

Living as she did on the border of Texas and Mexico she was very interested and active in promoting friendly relations between the State of Texas and our neighboring country, and her endeavors gained for her the awarding of the Order of Friendship by Mexico.

On two occasions she was named El Paso Woman of the Year, and is the recipient of a prestigious award, illustrious title of Conquistadora for her community work in the city.

In Texas, Ione was affectionately known as our own Ione. In 1974 our own Ione was elected to the high office of National President in Hollywood, Florida, adopting the theme, "Achieve the impossible," and she did with her many accomplishments during that year.

As the first and only Texas member to be elected National President, the pride in the state for her election was great.

Among Ione's many talents and leadership qualities she had the ability to inspire others with her own enthusiasm. She was never too busy to respond to a question or to share information or experiences or a helping hand when someone was in need. Some of her experiences had us laughing for hours.

I am very proud to stand before you today and say Ione was my mentor as well as for many others who achieved greater heights.

I have touched upon her many achievements today, and we will forever miss her enthusiasm and the vision she had for the organization she loved so dearly.

Rest in peace our own Ione, because you will never be forgotten. Your legacy of service lives on in each of us in a special way. We love you.

(Music played.)

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Please rise and join me in prayer. Dear Lord, in this time of honor and remembrance help us to keep the zeal of Ione -- help us to keep Ione's zeal for patriotism and devotion to duty as a pattern for our own lives. Help us to continue the work she began, and let her be as a beacon of light leading us on our way. According to the grace of God given to me, a skilled master builder laid the foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Corinthians 3:10. In your name we pray, amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Madam President, this concludes our memorial.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you Cherita.

Katherine Morris, Cavalcade of Memories Chairman will present her report.

**CHAIRMAN MORRIS:** Madam National President, your theme, HOPE, H-O-P-E, Honoring Our Promise Everyday has proven to be appropriate for the Cavalcade of Memories. Our mission statement to collect, help chronicle, and preserve the history of American Legion Auxiliary by telling the organization story through pictures, documents, personal mementos, and other artifacts. Very few organizations in our Nation can brag about having a history as long as that of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Cavalcade of Memories gives us the visual proof of the Auxiliary's accomplishment past and present.

Since moving to our new headquarters building our Cavalcade of Memories room cannot accommodate our collection of Auxiliary memorabilia and our cherished memories that tell the story of our organization. Therefore, guidelines for donations were established, and we ask that you please adhere to those guidelines when donating to the Cavalcade.

Contributions for the Cavalcade of Memories this year totaled \$3,409, and we're very proud of that amount.

We want to thank the Department of Florida, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, and Texas for making this amount possible. We thank you for your generosity.

I would be remiss if I did not thank National President's Department of Ohio for their generous donation of \$2,000 to purchase a display case for the Hobart Gown as Desi and Hobart are both from Ohio. And this donation was made in honor of your National President, Desi.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Katherine.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN MORRIS:** I hope not. No, there aren't.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you Katherine.

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Martha Corriher, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman will now give her report.

**CHAIRMAN CORRIHER:** Madam National President, the stories you are about to hear are not for if faint of heart. These are true happenings that can and do happen all across our country.

It started just like any rainy day and then suddenly reports came in to say the weather front has changed and it could last for days. What began as days turned into weeks. Suddenly what seemed to be a nice quiet river has turned into a raging sea. What used to be someone's yard has become oceanfront property. What used to be a home has become a flooded building beyond recognition.

The pages turn, the wild fires have begun, firefighters try to get it under control but the fire is too strong. It quickly spreads to homes nearby. Residents only have time to get themselves into cars and flee the raging fire.

In other news a 25-year employee reports to work only to find out the company has been sold. Still not thinking that to be a bad thing, word comes down that the company will be closing. That location and pink slips are handed out immediately.

If these stories aren't bad enough what seems to be a regular checkup at the doctor turns your life around. You go in feeling great, planning your retirement, and then it happens. The doctor comes in and says those words no one wants to hear, your health has taken a turn for the worse. We will do everything possible to get it under control.

Madam National President, never fear, the American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund is always near. Auxiliary members took on their own mission to raise funds for this -- to help their own members. You held raffles, bake sales, 50/50s, dinner dances, barbecue dinners, fish fries, rummage sales, silent auctions, played bingo -- lots of bingo -- held spaghetti dinners, made donation cards to display, had motorcycle runs, book sales, collected change, and a Department even held a USS Duckly Do Right race to raise money.

As of August the 18th, 2009, donations totaled over \$181,000, there were 232 grants awarded, with a total disbursement of almost \$219,000. Donations were received from all but four Departments.

The American Legion Auxiliary members should be very proud of surpassing last year's contributions. However, we cannot continue to operate this fund ending in a deficit. We should raise more funds than grants awarded. I am confident though that we can do this by our driven legacy, determination, and energy.

One member who received a grant returned it stating the following. "I was misdiagnosed and feel that I can make it through this time without the money. May God bless all of you for your readiness and commitment to families like mine."

That is what it's all about, our readiness and commitment to help our fellow members in need any time, any place.

This Chairman believes just what our preamble states, for God and Country. Yes, all these situations were a God thing, and I have seen Him moving and working through all of you.

As an Auxiliary member, are you woman enough to walk in their shoes? Donations are needed 24/7, 365 days of the year. We can continue to make a difference in the lives of others, but it will take each of us working together to make those donations.

Madam National President this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Martha. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN CORRIHER:** No, Madam President, there are none.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** National Security Chairman Krisann Owens will present her report. Krisann.

**CHAIRMAN OWENS:** Madam National President, the National Security Program has enjoyed a year of outstanding service with the support of the National Security Committee.

Our members took the initiative and dedicated themselves to promoting the programs from welcome home events to our returning troops, to the fabled coupon clipping program. Our members showed their talents with USO shows across the country for our troops, and their compassion for others by participating in blood donating programs. Making quilts for our troops, their children and veterans, providing comfort, warmth and love. Care packages are still being sent overseas by the thousands.

Citizens Emergency Response Training, or CERT, moved forward this year with the motto, "It's not okay to be a victim." This program enlightened us to the importance of personal preparedness in an emergency. This program was highlighted by the introduction of CERT into several Girls State programs. This provided an excellent opportunity to give each of these young citizens the knowledge not only to be personally prepared in the event of an emergency, but also to pass this information onto their peers.

The Blue Star Banner is being distributed by Units all across the country showing each active duty service member and their families that we are proud and grateful for their service.

Many Units have recognized the sacrifices of military families with gold star banners, and recognition for POW and MIAs is practiced throughout the organization. The children of our service members also benefit from our dedication.

Many Departments have built relationships with their states' Operation Military Kids and have participated in the Hero Pack Program, once again in great Auxiliary fashion extending an open heart and hand to the smallest of heroes.

A letter written by a family readiness officer states, "The postal service theme fits you ladies perfectly, through wind, rain, and snow our weather gave us all three that day. It is nice to know our Marines can always count on you.

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Even when the commander officer said you did not need to wait in the cold to wave your farewells you did any way. Your dedication is invaluable, our marines love you for it.” That letter was written to Banner Unit 109 in Fort Oaks, North Carolina, Wanda Moore chairman.

This Unit has taken the term “volunteer” to a new level with their association, with their local military bases, and with the USO. The statistics for USO volunteering are staggering, 5,000 volunteer hours, and over \$18,000 in contributions. Their Banner Unit 109 also supports the local military families with participation in 36 deployment ceremonies, 17 home comings, and lots of military celebrations. I quote, “We love every blurry-eyed minute of it.” They distribute pocket flags and hugs to deploying service members and for those returning from deployment. The Unit supports the families waiting and have given away 1600 stuffed animals. They’ve stickered, tattooed, pasted, and painted their way through hundreds of welcome home posters, which they affectionately call a diversionary tactic to help with the parents who are waiting, because we all know that the time of return is estimated. Support packets with various sundries, coupon clipping, serving hot dogs to thousands of attendees at a golf tournament benefiting wounded warriors, adopting military units, including National Guard personnel, and the list goes on and on, of the accomplishments of Banner Unit 109.

The Lance Jewel Hospital Care Project has inspired several Units to become active in raising donations and sending much needed items to patients.

I would like to recognize some of these Units. From the far north, the Department of Alaska, Ketchikan Unit 3 of Ketchikan. Auke Bay, Unit 25 of Auke Bay. And C. Russell Huber, Unit 57 of Fairbanks.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN OWENS:** We are proud of your efforts in raising a total of \$1,350 for the Lance Jewel Hospital Care Project.

Also deserving of recognition is Ole Smelling Unit 135 of McVile, North Dakota, who did their research, discovered exactly what was needed, and in doing so sent lightweight flannel pants, cotton scrub pants, and color cotton T-shirts to Lance Jewel Hospital. A thank you letter written from the founder and president of Lance Jewel Hospital care project states, “I thank you for reaching out to your fellow countrymen, for uniting with us and showing we are a country that can show we have respect, gratitude, and compassion, not only for ourselves but for those who we don’t know and may never know.”

These are perfect examples of our members doing their best in making a difference in someone’s life, upholding the values of our organization, and each day accomplish the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, confirming our dedication to God and Country.

Madam National President this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are there any resolutions or recommendations, National Security Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN OWENS:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. We will ask Denise Delaney-Wrolen, the National Legislative Committee Chairman to present her report.

As she comes forward I want to let you know that we have tried to gauge how much work we have to do yet for this session, and we had originally planned to adjourn about 1:00, but it looks like it's going to be 2:00ish. Catch the -ish? Okay. So what I would like to tell you that we plan to move forward and on through the business of the day, but the facility has sandwiches and salads available on this level near the ballroom that can be brought into this room if you so desire. So I wanted to let you know that, that it looks like it's going to be 2:00ish and that there's food available if you so desire.

Without further adieu, Denise.

**CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN:** Madam National President, what a historical year of hope this has been as the citizens of this great Nation came together to make a change in our country by electing Barack Obama as the first black President of the United States.

As members of the largest patriotic women's organization in the world, this year it has been the members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have made the difference in the legislative program as they worked diligently to follow the mandates of the American Legion in promoting legislation that would directly benefit our members, their families, our veterans, and our active service men and women. We should be very proud of our members as they worked tirelessly to build relationships with their congressional leadership both at the local office and in our Nation's capitol.

Writing letters, sending e-mails, faxes, and making phone calls were the easiest ways for contacting elected officials. Personal visits were also made to discuss the issues that continue to have an impact on the legislative action of tomorrow. Together with the American Legion family our voices were heard.

As strong legislative advocates for veterans issues many resources were made available for members this year pertaining to veterans benefits, VA funding, PTSD, the GI Bill of Health, women's health care issues, and our homeless veterans, just to name a few.

The American Legion Dispatch is a well-written publication filled with available information to educate and inform our members and communities about relevant issues pertaining to our veterans.

This year we saw an increase of our members receiving the e-newsletter Spirit of America directly delivered to them via e-mail.

The American Legion Auxiliary Advocacy Guide was another available tool for members to use with topics ranging from how to build a relationship with members of congress to important legislative issues that affect our veterans.

I am excited to report that 42 Departments and 3,240 Units from across this Nation were intensely engaged in activities to recognize the issues facing our veterans, as well as to honor them.

During the Awareness Assembly one Department had five members participate in a legislative briefing on PTSD and TBIs prior to meeting with their congressional leaders. Several Units sponsored a recognition day luncheon and

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honored 22 women veterans from World War II to the present, including some who are still on active duty today. Many female military personnel have been supported with packages and other service activities. Unit members wrote to military friends and families to make sure they would vote, and one unit spoke to the local armory to remind soldiers who were being deployed to put in for their absentee ballots prior to deployment. Many Units promoted the Get Out The Vote Program, and many members individually campaigned to candidates, worked at their local voting polls, and assisted voters to get to the polls.

In Alaska one Unit's newly organized Junior group wrote letters to state legislators expressing their concerns about issues pertaining to our veterans.

In Georgia one Unit held mock elections at two elementary schools where the election process was fully explained, and students picked their candidates and elected their officials. The students loved this process and had a new understanding of how hard it was to elect officials.

In Indiana members wrote letters and immeasurable e-mails to state officials and attend numerous rallies in a fight to keep the Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home open, and to ask the governor to keep the home in the budget. Unfortunately the home was closed.

One Unit member in Kansas volunteered to be a federal voting assistant office in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to ensure that soldiers and their eligible family members understood their voting rights and how to register and vote absentee from their state of residence. She provided accurate non-partisan voting information and assistance. She also researched and provided the federal write in ballot for soldiers and eligible family members who did not receive their absentee ballot in time to vote.

The Department of Kentucky held a luncheon meeting in Washington, D.C., where members of The Legion Family attended as a united group to discuss legislative issues. As a result of this unity they were able to establish a personal rapport with several of their congressmen, giving them the ability to discuss veterans issues and legislation directly. This event allowed the members a chance to witness firsthand that personal contact does in fact work when lobbying our legislators.

As you can see there is definitely hope throughout our organization and our Nation in the legislative program as our members continue to give of themselves and volunteer countless hours of lobbying our elected officials, educating our youth about the election promise, and honoring our promises every day.

Madam National President, this includes my platform remarks.  
(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Denise. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN:** No, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And now the Chairman of the National Membership Committee, Rene Reese, will give her report.

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** This past year began with collaboration of the National Membership Committee. National officers and National office staff sending Post-it notes flying and brainstorming together to develop an exciting plan that would engage everyone in the membership process. The result was to give each Department the opportunity to take part in deciding their own Department goal.

At the membership workshop Departments took on the task of coordinating a yearlong plan outlining strategies and signing contracts of their commitment to membership. While most embraced this new concept, there were some reservations, after all this was a new idea and we realized there would be a few hiccups along the way. The good news is that Departments did move forward.

The Department of Minnesota put on a big game hunt. They took aim and tried to beg -- I mean, recruit as many new members as possible. The bulletins were sent out regularly keeping everyone informed of how the hunt was going.

The Department of Missouri decided to shake, rattle, and roll membership just like in the '50s.

Kansas got on board the train and used unity and service to get membership chugging across their state.

South Carolina raced for the cup with challenges and rewards throughout the year to encourage members as they raced towards their goal.

Units across the country held early bird dinners, membership recognition events, set up information tables at county fairs, held round ups and visited Units, they called on members, making house calls adding that personal touch, and they involved Legionnaires, Sons of the Legion, and juniors in membership actives. These projects and programs were only limited by their imagination, and membership teams in every state kept the enthusiasm and energy going strong.

Communication this year was key as the Divisional Chairman and the Divisional National Vice Presidents kept in touch with Departments across the country providing information and support.

Southern Division Chairman Sue Heil, shared her idea of putting together a tub packed with membership items, patriotic items, and things that relate to our various programs. The tub was always ready to go when needed to display at any event. Whether at a post, school, church, or other organization, her message of being prepared hit the target.

It soon became apparent that growth does depend on membership, and the success of membership depending on everyone.

Of course there were challenges, getting members excited about our programs, bringing back members who were no longer active, recruiting younger women and selling them on our organization, and now more than ever, finding a way to address the economic struggle our members face. But in

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spite of these challenges, membership teams remained full of hope and stayed positive. There were successes and goals were reached.

I want to share with you some of the positive outcomes of this year. Thirty-one Departments chartered 60 new Units.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** Many of those were with the help of American Legion post members who assisted to make it happen. Twenty Departments reached over 95 percent of their goal. That's fantastic.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** And now I'd like you to help me recognize some special Departments. Congratulations to the Departments reaching all time high, the Department of Alaska and the Department of Arizona.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** It's my privilege to announce the Departments that reached 100 percent goal by the first Wednesday in June, the Department of Indiana at 100.024 percent.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** The Department of New Hampshire with 102.509 percent.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** The Department of Alaska with 102.726 percent.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** Departments reaching their goal by close of our books, the Department of Missouri.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** The Department of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** And the Department of Alabama.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** Let's give them another congratulations.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** Thank you so much. Don't fall.

I would like to end with a quote from Sue Jones, Membership Chairman for North Carolina. She said, "My main goal is to change the mind set of members from dreading the word membership to being excited and pumped up about it and making that contagious."

Remember: Success is a journey, not a destination. The journey all of you took this year was one that chartered new waters, took you to new places, introduced you to new concepts, created new friendships, and brought about success on all levels. Stay focused and energized, because you are all about to embark on yet a new adventure.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN REESE:** We just have one.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair calls upon Resolution Chairman Kenya Ostermeier.

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, resolution number one was submitted by the Department of Ohio, the subject is "Paid up for Life Membership or VIM, and it reads as follows.

"WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary was established by the American Legion in 1919 to assist the American Legion in carrying out the great programs of peacetime service to America to which the American Legion is dedicated.

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic organization offering membership to any female who is an immediate family member of an American Legion member or a deceased veteran.

WHEREAS, the dues of American Legion Auxiliary members shall be payable annually or for life.

WHEREAS, the very important membership or VIM paid up for life is paid in one lump sum according to the VIM chart.

WHEREAS, during these economic times and personal financial hardships it is more and more difficult to obtain and sustain membership in the American Legion Auxiliary, and;

WHEREAS, the membership is the foundation on which the program of the American Legion Auxiliary is built and the success or failure of that program depends largely on how well that foundation is laid.

Now therefore, be it resolved, by the American Legion Auxiliary and National convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21st through the 27th, 2009, that there be a time payment plan to purchase a VIM membership through National Headquarters with no interest or service charge added.

Be it further resolved that the applicant must be a member in good standing, meaning the member must have a valid membership card for the current Auxiliary year.

Be it further resolved that a percentage of the payment would be made with application, and upon acceptance of the application a monthly payment schedule would be given to the member to complete payments within one year of the application date.

And resolved, that the life blood of the Auxiliary in its membership therefore a time payment plan for VIM membership will help attract new members and entice current members to remain in the American Legion Auxiliary, and that these provisions become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year or sooner."

The Finance Pre-Convention Committee recommends that this resolution be adopted. Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of this resolution. Okay, I'm sorry. The Finance Pre-convention Committee recommends that the resolution not be adopted.

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Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of this resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The question is on the adoption of the resolution that there be a time payment plan to purchase a VIM membership through National Headquarters with no interest or service charge added, and that the applicant must be a member in good standing, meaning the member must have a valid membership card for the current Auxiliary year, and that a percentage of payment would be made with application, and upon acceptance of the application a monthly payment schedule would be given to the member to complete payments within one year of the application date. And that the life blood of the Auxiliary is its membership, therefore a time payment plan for VIM membership will help attract new members and entice current members to remain in the American Legion Auxiliary, and that these provisions become effective with the 2010-2011 administrative year or sooner.

Is there any discussion? The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. VANKIRK:** Carol Van Kirk, Nebraska.

I speak in opposition to this resolution. During the -- I'm a member of the Finance Committee, and our concern is that it would be very expensive for our National staff to handle this.

I understand the theory behind it, but at this time it would have to be done manually. Possibly when the new membership software is in place and they are trained to handle it that it might be something to consider at that time, but I feel it's premature now. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. BRIERE:** Robin Briere, Department of Florida, Secretary Treasurer and member of the Strategic Planning Team for technology.

I agree with the delegate before me and stand in opposition of this. Not because I don't think we need a payment plan to offer to our members, I wholly embrace that, and I know from my conversations with other secretaries we are very anxious to be able to offer that option to our members, as well as credit card payment with automatic renewal every year, and these issues have all been addressed with the new membership information database, IMIS, that is coming in the hopefully near future, and I think it's premature to act on this at this time.

We've heard all those concerns at least from the technology point of view in the surveys that we've done, and no one will fight harder to make sure that our members have the opportunity to participate in a payment plan and to be able to go online and renew their membership with a credit card and to set it up for automatic renewal than I will, but at this time it is premature and I oppose this resolution. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes a delegate at microphone 2.

**MS. KOSTKA:** Linda Kostka from the State of Wisconsin delegate.

I am all for this. I have loaned people money so they could become life members. I am a life member. I am also a life member of that dreaded VFW.

Life membership makes it easier for us non-computer people to just give you one check and be done with you. Now this payment plan will help me with my younger members who cannot afford these lump sums to become VIMs, and my strive is to get all VIMs in, especially us dinosaurs who don't do this electronic stuff. And even some of them that do to the electronic stuff say they're not giving that information on the computer. And you know what, my stuff has been purged twice because my husband was a 20-year Air Force man, and these computers and that information has been purged.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizing the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. ROBINSON:** Madam Chairman, Carol T. Robinson, the Department of Ohio.

I believe in this paid up for life. Our mission is to serve our veterans, our children and youth, and our community. How do we do this with members, to retain our members, to entice new members? What a better way to do this by having a monthly payment or quarterly payment system that we can pay up for life, they'll use this money to investment. It's time for change. We need to maintain the focus of our mission and our vision by having a paid up for life membership. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. MONTANEY:** Madam President, Jane Montaney, Department of Washington.

I think this is a skatingly brilliant idea, I really do, and I was going to stand up in favor of it until I -- I wanted to know why the Finance Committee was objecting to it. I understand now we do not have the material, the necessary things in place. Is it allowable at this time for me to ask how long it will take for us to get those things in place? And if it could be done within a year could we not pass this with an amendment stating that it would become effective upon the placement of the necessary materials?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Anybody wish to address the question? It is my understanding and conferring with the National Treasurer that the first that this new program would be implemented would be 2012 membership year. So if that answers your question as to when implementation.

**MS. MONTANEY:** So could we not pass this with the -- amend it to be effective with the 2012 membership year?

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The assembly can do anything they want.

(Laughter and applause.)

**MS. MONTANEY:** I got to go write it out, but consider them --

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 1.

**MS. NEWMAN:** Rosey Newman, Department of Indiana.

At the Finance Committee we were told if they did not have it paid in one year they would lose the money they did pay. Now that is not listed anywhere in that application, that recommendation. So we'd have some very upset members if they did not have the complete amount of money within a 12-month time.

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I would like to ask, is it possible for them to pay it by credit card to the National organization? Then they would make their payments as they could to the credit card.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You can do that now.

**MS. NEWMAN:** You can, okay.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Yes.

**MS. NEWMAN:** Then that would save them from losing their money. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Uh-huh. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone 4.

**MS. POLLARD:** Vicki Pollard, Department of Texas.

I think the idea is a wonderful one; however, I do have concerns about certain legalities and disclosures that have to be made any time you enter into an installment agreement. I would like to see us hold off until the new processing equipment is in place and our staff has had an opportunity to review with the legal staff the consequences and any legal disclosures that may be required.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there anything else -- the Chair recognizes a delegate at microphone 4.

**VOICE:** Madam President, in the Finance Committee Meeting it was also disclosed there about -- was guesstimated about 800 of these VIM applications that come in in a year, and another reason that the Committee voted it down was because they felt that is an overwhelming task for our National staff to try to monitor, if many of those were on this payment plan, and given the opportunity to pay their -- this membership fee with their credit cards gives them their own payment plan. And so we thought in this time we'd want to make our job simpler for our staff, not more difficult, and that was the reason. And with that I would like to move previous question, please.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The motion is for the previous question to end debate. Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** If there is no objection we will end debate. Thank you. We will move to the adoption or not of the resolution. Are you -- okay, all those in favor of the proposed resolution number 1 please stand. Thank you.

Those opposed to resolution number one please stand.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I did hear the delegate in the room somewhere ask for the reading of the resolution. I would ask this body, do you need me to read the resolution in its entirety?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Okay. So those opposed to the resolution, that's where we were.

The motion is defeated, and the resolution is not adopted.

Okay. Please welcome National Chairman of Public Relations Committee Virginia Nelsen to give her report.

**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** Madam President, ladies, today I will focus on events and projects brought about through the use of good public relations. Great PR

was evident nationwide during the Memorial Day thanks to the Fox Television Network when they featured our American Legion memorial poppy.

Arizona is the home of Apache Junction Unit 27, National winner of the unit Web site award.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** This site is a testament to The American Legion Family. User-friendly, informative on all levels, fun, and beautiful. It is an Internet trip that I want to take again.

California put together a how to make a press kit which included a contact list of all print media in their state.

Florida reported the benefits of promoting Adopt A Highway, and Unit 347's quilt drive was successful because their print coverage was picked up by local TV.

Publicizing their service men project brought the Honeywell Corporation on board with Unit 135, and together they prepared 200 care packages for our soldiers.

Unit 336, good PR resulted in their ability to purchase four K-9 vests valued at \$6,400.

Unit 201 in Alpharetta, Georgia, publicized their annual Old Soldiers Day Program which engendered participation from The American Legion Family members and over civic organizations from all over their state.

In Idaho the Liberty Flag Project and Unit 56 put up 1776 flags. Members also distributed 10,000 project bookmarks. And Unit 56 was credited in the Title of Liberty brochures for the help that they provided.

In Maryland the National President's visit was a priority with 233 hours of promotion via phone, fax, e-mail, fliers, and media sources. Unique and most effective 24-hours every day are the Department of Maryland license plates featuring our American Legion Auxiliary emblem.

Oklahoma made the Awareness Assembly really count for veterans by supporting Congressman Shelton's resolution to designate 2009 as the year of the military family and publicizing the American Legion's legislative initiatives.

The Department of Virginia must be proud of the Junior members from Unit 180 for their Adopting the Troops Project. These winners of the junior award detailed a wonderful progression of good PR. Press releases reaching over 18,000 readers, including front page coverage, letters on official stationery to potential sponsors, and information posted on their entertaining Unit website assured a successful project.

Wisconsin's chairman presented a PowerPoint program highlighting internet access using everyday language in an easily understood format that would meet any organization's future electronic objectives. The How to Succeed PR plan posted on their website is one of the best this Chairman has ever read.

I am most proud of a yearlong promotion called W.O.W.

(Applause.)

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**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** Wonderful Ohio Women. I couldn't wait to read each colorful, one-page newsletter titled, "Read All About It," featuring accomplishments, bios, even calendars, personal notes, and encouragement for membership. I loved it. All this in addition to conferences, conventions, sample media promos, Girls State publications, Department newsletters, final reports, all chairmen must do, and the happiest group of Auxiliary members ever photographed were included.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** A National President was in the mix also, but every member in the trenches was remembered too.

Thank you Chairman Linda Close for the wonderful profile of public relations in Ohio, it was a pleasure to read your presentation.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** Twenty-three Departments in our world did a wonderful job. Heartfelt thanks to each of you for promoting the American Legion Auxiliary and taking the time to share how you did it.

Madam President, this concludes my remarks.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

**CHAIRMAN NELSEN:** No, there are not, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Ginny.

I'm pleased now to present to you your National Secretary, Dubbie Buckler, for her report.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you, Madam President. It's been almost seven months since I joined the Leadership Team of the American Legion Auxiliary and what an interesting time it's been. It's been a pleasure to meet many of you and to get to know the grassroots leadership team and the terrific people who staff your National Headquarters. I want to particularly thank our National President, our National Leadership Team, and Miriam Junge for her mentoring of me, and for National Treasurer Marta Hedding and the AL staff here, her working so hard to make this convention run smoothly.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you. When I was contacted about the opportunity to come to the ALA as its executive director I was intrigued. I wasn't looking to make a change, but I had spent much of my career in public service championing our heritage of freedom and democracy and supporting our military. I was attracted because my late father was a World War II Army Air Corps major and member of The American Legion, and my oldest son, a recent veteran of the War on Terror. I was attracted because one of my favorite life experiences was serving as a federalist party chair of Hoosier Girls State.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** So the opportunity to join the Leadership Team of the largest women's patriotic service organization spoke to my passion to

honor our veterans and to promote the ideals I hold dear to my heart; patriotism, advocacy, and grassroots community enrichment.

When I arrived I realized we were facing some realities. The number one being a revenue short fall approaching 15 percent. Your ALA Headquarters pulled together to find ways to cut, curtail, and postpone expenditures. We are meeting the challenges of doing more with less, and we will continue to do that, and when we end the fiscal year your Headquarters and National officers will have saved the organization well over 15 percent in budgeted expenses; no easy feat.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you. I've spent considerable time learning the passion and talents of your National Headquarters staff. We're thinking outside the box and coming up with new team approaches that is mission focused and capitalizes on our individual strengths.

At your ALA Headquarters we are indeed energized with a renewed (indiscernible), we're pulling together with creative solutions, and we recognize we are the customer service support system for the entire organization.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I am thrilled we have accomplished a first for the American Legion Auxiliary, an infusion of a half million dollar federal grant bringing 20 Volunteers In Service To America to launch the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps, with several Departments here enthusiastically participating at field sites so that collectively we can grow our capacity to better meet our mission goals.

The ALA Call to Service Corps VISTAs are some very talented and experienced individuals, I hope some of you got to meet them, and they will help us expand our volunteer base by developing membership tool kits that will benefit every Department and Unit here so that we can attract, retain, and engage members. We will all benefit from this initiative.

There's been discussion about things relative to the new American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System. It is in progress, with implementation at test sites scheduled for spring of next year. The Strategic Planning Team, IT experts, and our Departments are providing valuable input.

Also the ALA Web site is undergoing a much needed redesign and escalated by the fact that the company that was hosting it abruptly went out of business, with the same level of widespread input. We're working in harmony with The American Legion, which is also redesigning its Web site and that of the Sons.

We are maintaining widespread involvement of our members, staff and experts to ensure that these critical projects are successful.

We've asked for your opinion and input along the way, we continue to do that, and we appreciate those of you who are helping us. You're the pulse point so that we get this right.

We are energized to ensure that these things have stellar outcomes.

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We've added six new member benefits, two are enhanced, offering members more opportunities for special services and discounts. We need to do a better job of informing you about that.

And regarding the effectiveness of our communications, I've heard you loud and clear, and I was listening before ever arriving to Louisville. We restarted our online news and are taking steps to improve the magazine. I have been asking and I have been listening. I see clearly its shortcomings and understand what we, the customer base want. We've already been exploring ways to move to a bimonthly schedule.

So this is a great group to ask, let me ask you. Would you sacrifice the quality of paper in the magazine if we could move it to six months? Not a slick paper, but have it more frequent?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I will take that as a directive. Do you like the name *HomeFront*?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I won't even ask for an alternate opinion on that.

(Laughter.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** The magazine is a membership publication, it is also a marketing tool. It needs to be the right mix, and right now it isn't. I get it. I also heard the editorial comments.

(Laughter.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** It will be -- it will take some time to make the changes that it needs. In fact, two of our VISTA members coming to National Headquarters are going to help us in that regard, so stay tuned, we're listening as we devote more of our energy to do a better job with communications.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Thank you. As the American Legion Auxiliary begins to celebrate 90 years of service to veterans let us reflect on how we are investing our hearts, our time, and our money. It is about the mission, and through our outreach programs I want to just capitalize on some of these numbers. We've served over 930,000 veterans, that's a ratio of one member serving one veteran. Every member in the organization has done something to help at least one veteran. That's a great ratio.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** We've collectively contributed over \$6 million to benefit our veterans, we've collectively volunteered nearly two million hours, we've raised nearly \$2 million, and we've awarded over one million in scholarships and one million to operate military kids, volunteers nearly a million hours to youth programs, volunteered over two million hours in community service projects, and awarded over 200,000 to help our members through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** You all have done that. At the grassroots across this great country the American Legion Auxiliary embodies service not self to honor the sacrifice of those who serve. Our hearts are invested, our time is invested, now let's energize and invest in our ability to grow and do more to enhance the lives of our veterans, our military, and their families both at home and abroad.

I thank you all for the opportunity to be here, I thank our Madam President, our incoming officers, and Madam President, members, this concludes my remarks. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Madam Secretary.

It is now my pleasure to again introduce to you the National Convention Chairman, Pamela Rice, to present the Local Convention Committees.

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Thank you, Madam President. It's my pleasure today to introduce our Local Convention Committee.

First of all our Honorary Convention Chairman is Past National President Virginia Hobbs.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Our Vice Chairman, Barbara Alston.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Local Pages Chairman, Bonita Robey.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Our Local Pages Vice Chairman, Kathy Bottom.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Mail Room Chairman, Brenda Berry.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Mail Room Vice Chairman, Myrtle Collins.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Flowers Chairman, Rose Wren.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** And your Flowers Vice Chairman, Diane Spencer.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Ladies, I do want to say that we had numerous volunteers behind the scenes that aren't up here on this stage and we really appreciate the opportunity to have you all in Kentucky. And I will ask Barbara Alston, my Vice Chairman, if she has anything she'd like to say.

**VICE CHAIRMAN ALSTON:** Madam National President, distinguished members, I hope you all have enjoyed this wonderful Kentucky weather.

(Applause.)

**VICE CHAIRMAN ALSTON:** This is really not our normal weather pattern, but we've had a beautiful, beautiful weather pattern this time, and we have enjoyed so much having all of you here. You have all been just gracious and we hope you've enjoyed our hospitality.

(Applause.)

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**CHAIRMAN RICE:** And I'll ask our Honorary Chairman, Ms. Virginia Hobbs, to come forward and we have a gift for our National President.

**MS. HOBBS:** Madam National President, on behalf of your host Department, the Department of Kentucky, it is indeed a pleasure to present you with this token from your convention. We hope that it has been one which will be very memorable to you.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Oh, yeah.

(Laughter.)

**MS. HOBBS:** And as you look back -- as you read the proceedings and look back on it that you will smile and it will bring your joy from all the fellowship, the information, and the hard work of not only you during the year, but also for our entire membership as they have hope.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Isn't this beautiful. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** I want to certainly thank the Department of Kentucky for this lovely memento of this convention. I have a small collection of old world Santas, and so this is -- this is beautiful. Thank you so much, and for all the work that you have done to get ready to host this convention all year long. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** And we're not finished just yet. I'll ask our Local Page Chairman, Bonita Robey, to come forward, and I would also ask that National President Desi and National Vice President Ms. Rita Navarreté come forward.

National President Desi Stoy and National First Vice President Rita Navarreté, on behalf of the Kentucky governor, Steve Beshear, the Department of Kentucky would like to present you with a highest honor awarded by the Commissions of Kentucky, the Kentucky Colonel.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** Commissions of Kentucky Colonels are presented to -- for their contributions to the community, state, and Nation for special achievements of all kinds. With your commission as a Kentucky Colonel the governor recognizes your service and accomplishments on behalf of others.

The Kentucky Colonel is hung on the walls of such distinguished leaders as President Lyndon B. Johnson and English Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. John Glenn from Ohio, America's first man in space, was commissioned while orbiting on his historic commission. Other well known Colonels include such people as Carol Channing, Ann-Margaret, Tiger Woods, Dwight Yoakam, Mohammed Ali, Jeff Foxworthy, and Whoopi Goldberg.

It is an honor for the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Kentucky to place your name in with this elite group of citizens of the United States of America, and it is pleasure to present you with your Kentucky Colonel certificate from Governor Steve Beshear.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** One last thing. Has everybody had a good time?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** I didn't hear you. Has everybody had a good time?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** All right, you're energized. Thank you all.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Uh-huh, thank you. Thank you so much. It's beautiful. On behalf of both Rita and myself we are both humbled to accept these awards, and behalf of all of you we do so. So thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN RICE:** You're welcome.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The best National Convention Chairman ever and her Committee.

(Applause.)

(Video clip.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** That's right, it's time for the President's Award for Excellence.

Take a moment to think about one of the best experiences of your life. I feel confident in assuming that something about that experience involved your relationship with special people, your emotional connection with other individuals.

Allow me to illustrate. Riding on a crowded bus or train on your way to work probably wouldn't make the best experiences of my life list, unless seated next to you on that bus or train was your fiancée, or your daughter, and your first grandchild.

You see, it's our relationships with people that make life rich and meaningful. Relationships we enjoy can make the mundane marvelous, the ordinary outstanding. And so it is in our nationwide organization of more than 800,000 members our greatest strength, the conduit with which all of impressive far reaching impact occurs in its relationships between people.

The relationship I want to lift up today as exemplary is that connection we have with the people in our communities through the local Unit.

First I want to thank each and every Unit who submitted an application for this year's President's Award for Excellence. It was a privilege to read each one. And the Committee that judged them was so impressed with how much is being done at the grass roots level. As we read these submissions we were struck by the fact that there are undoubtedly literally thousands of other Units out there doing this same kind of work. That is an all inspiring thought.

So to everyone who submitted and for all of our more than 9,500 Units we congratulate you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Today five American Legion Auxiliary Units are receiving the President's Award for Excellence. Units whose members have joined together in service to veterans, their families, and their communities. Units that in some ways may be just like yours. Units that have taken the goals

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of the Auxiliary to heart and have dedicated themselves to not just reaching, but surpassing those goals.

Today a press release will drop at each hometown newspaper of our winning Units announcing that they are the recipients of the coveted President's Award for Excellence for the American Legion Auxiliary.

And we're not done there, letters are being sent to their senators and congressmen asking that our winning Units achievement be added to the Congressional record.

And oh, yes there's more.

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Winners will also be featured in an article in your national magazine.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is with great pride and excitement that we are sharing the stories of these five stellar Units. It would literally take hours to read every detail from each report, so what you will hear is a brief synopsis of some highlights. I'm sure if you ask, any member of these winning Units would be thrilled to share more about their spectacular accomplishments this year. Here we go.

The first award is presented to Bert S. Crossland Unit 170 in Torrance, California, Rose Ann Kroll, President.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It is with a great deal of pride to recognize this outstanding Unit. This group of 52 -- 52 dedicated women logged more than 550 hours in volunteer service through their Americanism, Community Service, and Public Relations programs.

This Unit successfully leveraged to receive coverage in the Out and About Section of their local paper for activities such as Girls State, barbecue basket fundraiser and has made contact with the local television station to be included in parade news programs.

Along with a banner that they carry in parades members distribute flags before and after the parades, and include information about the Auxiliary and their unit meetings. A simple yet effective method of getting the word out about who they are and what they do.

As a part of their welcome home veterans activities they sent 155 postcards thanking the returning vets for their service.

They spontaneously offered what they had to help a young American Legion member with expenses as he was too injured to work, and they donated \$5,234 to numerous causes from the Child Welfare Foundation to their Red Cross. And remember, this is accomplished with 52 members. Way to go, ladies.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Stand up here with me.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Their Unit fact sheet is updated every year and is used to keep community members informed about their goals and activities. They have done an outstanding job working as an American Legion family on every letter sent by the Legion to post members or prospective members, information about the Unit is included. Yeah. This year alone that messaging reached 500 individuals.

Thank you to Bert S. Crossland Unit 170 for all you do to keep the American Legion Auxiliary alive and well in Torrance, California. The veterans in your community thank you, their families thank you, and we thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Congratulations.

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Are you ready for the second one?

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The second Unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is Leander J. Kinchen Unit 47 in Hammond, Louisiana. Cindy K. Newton, President.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** This is like the Academy Awards.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** This proud group of 138 women share the successes of their Americanism, Community Service, and VA&R programs.

American flags were flying in Hammond this year as 350 were donated for the veterans programs at medical centers.

Unit members placed 35 large flags in a local cemetery for the Avenue of Flags honoring deceased veterans on Memorial Day, Flag Day, July the 4th, and Veterans Day.

Thirty-five Americanism essays were received and they sponsored seven Girls State attendees.

Operation Bear Hug raised \$1,000 for families of soldiers in Iraq, and 30 blue star banners were donated to families in the area.

Members donated more than 2500 field service and home service hours.

They visited 3rd and 4th grade classes and talked about the flag and how to fold it.

Five families were adopted at Christmas and received food and toys.

One member even adopted nine veterans herself that she sent cards and gifts during the year.

Junior members were busy too making gifts for veterans on different holidays and writing letters to Gold Star Mothers and Sisters. And the people in Hammond knew what was happening.

Unit 47 had press in five town newspapers and on cable TV and radio stations.

Overall this dynamic group of ladies donated 9,850 hours. They drove 7,500 combined miles, and donated more than \$55,000 to the programs this year. All I can say is wow. Imagine if every Unit nationwide could turn out those kinds of statistics.

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Congratulations, Leander J. Kinchen Unit 47! You make us all proud to be associated with the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** The third Unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is Palmer Roberts Unit 214 from Willoughby, Ohio. Martha Setlock, President.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN ASHWORTH:** This vibrant group of 240 women reported on the accomplishments of their Americanism, Children & Youth, Education, National Security, and Public Relations programs. The list was long, and as with the other winning Units, this short overview fails to do it justice.

Six needy families in the community felt the love and support of this Unit through their gifts at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter this year.

Additionally, a grandmother and two boys whose father was deployed were assisted financially and emotionally.

You've no doubt heard of coupon clipping. Well this dedicated Unit sent \$485,883 worth of coupons weighing 328 pounds to a military post in Germany, and they plan to keep on clipping.

Caring for deployed took place on both sides of the ocean. Two soldiers in Afghanistan were adopted and supplied with cards and gifts. And while back home in Willoughby, two boys whose father was serving overseas were treated to a Cavaliers game where they shook hands with LeBron James.

Americanism was promoted in three assembles held for 700 students complete with a parade and music. The Unit chaplain spoke and explained the significance of the poppy. The children were then given a poppy and poppy bookmark as a memento.

School supplies and backpacks were collected for five schools to the tune of \$1,685.

Unit 214 received PR in abundance due in part to their tenacious submission of stories to newspapers before every event. They had 33 articles in two newspapers. They also shared that there are two community editors who contact them as much as they reach out to the newspaper. The editors call with questions about their programs and then write the stories.

Talk about the importance of relationship, but just think, it's because the programs of this Unit are having an impact on the people in the community.

The women of Unit 214 are reaching out in so many ways, touching so many lives, and truly making a difference. It's easy to see why that exceptional Unit is receiving the President's Award for Excellence. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The fourth Unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is K.T. Crossen Unit 21 from Athens, Ohio. Mary Ann Michael, President.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Here she comes.

(Applause.)

**VICE PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Two hundred and eighty-seven strong, this dynamic Unit recounted the successful activities of their Americanism, Children & Youth, Education, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Public Relations, and VA&R programs. It should be noted that they were particularly pleased to have surpassed their membership goal.

Boosting a strong family connection they have instituted two monthly dinners with The American Legion. And while working on their unit Web site they are also collaborating on a Post 21 family page. Junior members have been utilized to assist this in and all computer projects, including the soon-to-be-posted Facebook page.

One thousand one dollars were raised for both the homeless teens and homeless veterans.

Three hundred thousands worth of items were donated at a stand down, and a whopping \$15,600 was raised for the Home Flight Program which will occur on September 12th.

More than \$4,000 of clothes and school supplies were donated, and \$200 was paid to have newspapers delivered to four schools for a month.

The winner of the middle school essay contest read her speech at the Veterans Day ceremony.

A great relationship has been established with the Chamber of Commerce and the unit fact sheets are supplied for distribution.

Public Relations in Athens is at a full tilt with 3 published interviews, 19 published articles, eight published letters to the editor, 10 press releases, 15 events covered by radio, one by television, 18 PSAs, and they have a joint bimonthly news letter with the Post.

Both the state senator and state attorney general spoke at this post this year. A network has been created between The American Legion Family and the VFW, AMVETS, DAV, VBA, Elks, Veterans Service Officers, (indiscernible) coordinator in the South Eastern Family Assistance Center. These folks obviously see the benefits of collaboration.

And finally, 250 people attended a welcome home ceremony for a hometown hero who had served in Afghanistan.

Games, phone cards, special treats, and words of encouragement have been sent to Master Sergeant Scott Ford and his teammates while they recovered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from serious injured suffered in the war. At the ceremony honoring him he remarked, "that his buddies were astonished that people who didn't even know them would send them gifts because they didn't get that from their hometown. They all wanted to move to Athens because it is such a caring and supportive community."

This is truly what we are all about. Well done, Unit 21; you are doing a remarkable job of fulfilling the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. And she's still shaking. Congratulations, God bless you.

(Applause.)

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**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** The fifth and final Unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is Jackson County, Unit 160, Pascagoula, Mississippi, Lillian Wall, President.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** Unit 160 is the largest of our winning Units with 327 members. They were thrilled to report reaching their membership goal, not only because they did it in January this year, but also because this is the first time since Hurricane Katrina. They are proud to be listed as a second largest Unit in the Department of Mississippi. Congratulations Unit 160.

They also detailed results from their Americanism, Chaplain, Children & Youth, Community Service, Education, Girls State, Junior Activities, National Security, Poppy, and VA&R programs. Here are some of their highlights.

Two hundred Americanism essays were received, 300 flags were presented to schools and other organizations, 20,000 pop tops were collected for Ronald McDonald House, 430 people were served in adult literacy programs, \$800 in clothing, toiletries and linens was donated to the Salvation Army, 26 delegates were sent to Girls State, and the local newspaper ran a photo of each girl along with her story.

A creative sensation was the free dance class for Junior members. More than 35 new Juniors signed up, and the classes are full every week. And their Junior membership now stands at 69.

Their Mardi Gras parade was televised, and the Junior float and Miss Poppy were specifically mentioned in the telecast.

On the other end of the spectrum there were things done in relative quiet, but nonetheless important. Meals were prepared for shut-ins, and when delivered, members gladly sat with them for company. \$200 was given to a seriously ill child, and 175 was given to a member in need.

One of their family moments occurred when they threw a 90th anniversary party for The American Legion.

Maybe we can get some pointers to prepare to celebrate the Auxiliary's National -- 90th anniversary this fall.

Operation Sun Screen was a huge success through partnerships with businesses and promotion in news print and a radio, grand total of \$9,000 was raised sun screen and lotions to be provided to the troops in Iraq.

And finally, a simple yet powerful reminder, each woman was given a small toy soldier to place in her purse. Each time she touches it when reaching for something she is to say, "Thank you for keeping us safe, God bless you." Oh that would be a reminder for each of us each day.

Jackson County Unit 160, you inspire us with your enthusiasm and your innovative initiatives. Without a doubt the veterans and your families in your community are in expert hands. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

**MS. WALL:** Isn't it great to be an American?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And now for the coveted President's Award for Excellence Department Award.

Remember when I asked you to think about one of the best experiences of your life a few minutes ago? Now I'd like for you to take that memory and expand it to include the best year of your life. As you do I'm guessing that the number of people in that picture has expanded. That multiplication of marvelous is exactly what this last award represents.

Compiling all the projects, volunteer hours, and monetary contributions that occur at the Department level have exponentially expanded the depths and breath of our mission. It is pretty straightforward. Most people involved in service equals more mission level impact.

I am extremely proud to present the President's Award for Excellence Department Award to a group of women that is reaching out across their state to make a huge difference in the lives of veterans, their families, and their communities. Congratulations to the Department of Wisconsin, Sue Vorwald, president.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Department of Wisconsin achieved 100 percent in their reporting submitting information on their Americanism, Children & Youth, Education, Junior Activities, Legislative, National Security, Poppy, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs.

Twenty-eight thousand two hundred and thirty-seven members strong, these dedicated women clearly have to passion for what they are doing. And as with the five Units receiving the President's Award for Excellence, this short narrative of their accomplishments doesn't even begin to do justice to their outstanding work, but I do want to share some highlights.

Wisconsin had 82 Unit-winning Americanism essays, and presented 3,609 flags to schools, organizations, and parades.

One Unit held its 26th annual all school Red, White, and Blue Day. Think about that, they have held that event for 26 years.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** An impressive \$26,521 was spent serving nearly 5,000 youth, with 11,578 for direct aid to children of veterans.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** They also awarded Department and Unit scholarships in the amount of \$58,730 to 89 students.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Juniors are thriving in Wisconsin with 70 percent of their Units reporting Junior members. Wow.

A few of their Youth Hero and Good Deed Award recipients include Steven, age 13, who helped to get students out of a bus that had been hit by a car when he himself suffered a broken hip.

Two young boys who emptied their piggy bank to help send a veteran on the Freedom Honor Flight.

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And a seven-year-old who helps to support Sheboygan Meals on Wheels by doing radio announcements.

Elected officials heard from Wisconsin this year. Nearly 800 letters, phone calls, e-mails, and personal visits were reported to national, state, and local officials. Just think about the impact our organization could have if every Department matched those numbers.

Clearly supporting our military families in tangible ways is near and dear to the women of Wisconsin. \$19,455 was collected, and 8,693 volunteer hours served for support military families.

Seventeen Units reported volunteering 1,154 hours for welcome home parties, and clipped 757 pounds of coupons.

Operation Snuggles provided 2,424 quilts to military kids, 215 to wounded veterans, and 40 to gold star families. What a perfect example of the warmth and care of our Auxiliary members.

And 4,773 pocket flags were sent to our troops.

Poppy distribution raised -- wow -- \$238,100 to support veterans, medical center homes, and rehabilitation programs.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** An illustration of just how effective the ladies are with their poppy promoting, Wisconsin's governor issued a proclamation designating May as Auxiliary Poppy Month. And following -- that's right -- and following his lead many local mayors issued poppy proclamations as well. That is simply fantastic.

Get ready for some more impressive statistics. Wisconsin volunteers gave 67,925 hours in field and home service hours this year. Well done.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And another manifestation of their success was that 142 new volunteers joined their ranks. Now that's outstanding growth.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Fisher House received \$4,670, the USO donations equaled \$5,400, National Veterans Creative Arts Festival was supported to the tune of \$6,797.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** You're doing your part, Sue. Eighty-six Units donated over 13,000 for the Operation of Camp American Legion.

And as evidenced that these ladies understand the importance of Christmas season to hospitalized veterans, 133 Units donated \$26,465 to Wisconsin's Christmas Gift Shop.

For all you have done we know you will continue to do. Please accept our heartfelt thanks on behalf of those you serve. Department of Wisconsin, you truly represent the Auxiliary at its finest. Congratulations on winning the Department President's Award for Excellence. You are simply amazing.

(Applause.)

**MS. VORWALD:** Thank you, ladies. First off I need to thank the State of Wisconsin for working hard and getting their reports in.

I'd like to thank Joanie Chwala who did my writing for me. We had to have a lot of encouragement. Our secretary, Kathy Wollmer continually e-mailing and letting ladies know their reports weren't in and how important it was and what we needed to accomplish this.

I'd like to thank every single chairman for all their support. And I would also like to thank every single Auxiliary member in the State of Wisconsin for all their generous donations and all their volunteer service. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Congratulations to all of you.

I trust you've been inspired by the evidence of excellence shared here today. It is my sincere hope that each of you will return to your Units energized about what we as an organization, as Auxiliary members are able to accomplish, and I want you to be encouraged to submit your Unit and your Department award next year for the President's Award for Excellence. Who knows, the impact of working together toward a goal with your Unit or your Department might be the catalyst for adding something new to your best experiences of my life list.

Thank you for your attention and congratulations once again to all our winners.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Before we go to our next order of business I would ask the Past National Presidents, should at this time make their way backstage, if they have not already done so.

Would Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch, Scrapbook Chairman, please come to the podium. I heard she has a presentation.

**CHAIRMAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH:** Madam President Desi, it has been a year of hopes and dreams for you this year as you traveled throughout the country and met the many Auxiliary members in The American Legion Family that are so dedicated to this organization and have contributed to your quest. Time flies by so fast.

This mini, and I mean mini, version of your travels throughout is only one of the -- when I wrote my report it was five, and I must tell you we are now up to seven volumes -- that tells your story and features memories that will last a lifetime.

Madam President Desi, I present you with your HOPE book so you can reflect on your travels of your year. Especially this page. It has been a pleasure serving as your National Scrapbook Chairman -- she doesn't know where I got these pictures -- and your friend.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** They're old.

**CHAIRMAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH:** She tells me they're old. When your National convention is over and the memories are complete you can sit back and reflect on your year. Congratulations for a great year, and my sincere thanks to all the American Legion Auxiliary members for making your memories of your hopes and dreams come true. Friends and memories last a lifetime and they

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are preserved in each of their own ways. And thank you Madam President for allowing me this privilege.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And thank you for everything you've done.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** This is not the end of our session, but because the order of our business I have asked the National Secretary to please come forward and make announcements at this point. Dubbie.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Get comfortable. Thank you, Madam President. There are several announcements about ticket opportunities, meetings, and some important lost and found items.

The Department of Connecticut has one States Dinner ticket for sale. Please see Rita Barylski, Department secretary. The Department of Minnesota has three States Dinner tickets available. Please see someone from Minnesota if you were interested. The Department of Oklahoma has two States Dinner tickets available; see Gwenell Knight at the Oklahoma delegation. The Department of California has three States Dinner tickets. Please see the Department of California if you are interested. I believe those are all of the opportunities for States Dinner tickets.

The Constitution & Bylaws Committee Meeting has been moved to tomorrow morning.

The 2002-2003 Department Presidents Meeting with Elsie Bailey will be by the New Jersey delegation sign, proceeding near where the New Jersey delegation rather than in Room 753. So again, those Department presidents who served during 2002-2003, if you would please meet with Elsie Bailey at the New Jersey delegation sign.

All incoming Department Presidents for 2009-2010 will be part of the installation ceremony and will be seated in the front rows of the stage by 8 a.m. All incoming Department Presidents for 2009 and '10 will be part of the installation ceremony and will be seated in the front rows of the stage by 8 a.m.

Oh, now we're into lost and founds. Okay. First found, a green Samsung cell phone. This was found on the shuttle bus. A green Samsung cell phone found on the shuttle bus.

Also there was an announcement for a lost phone. Please, if anyone found a cell phone in the visitor's section, the mother of Kathy Cox lost hers, so I don't know if these are one in the same, but we have a lost cell phone and a found cell phone.

One of the alternates from the delegation of Iowa lost a green earring yesterday. If you find it please hand it to one of the pages.

The Department -- the past -- oh, we have lost Department -- Past Department President pins. We have three lost Past Department President pins. One from Nebraska is the silver variety and is missing the blue ears on the top and the bottom. Another the Department of Utah. So we have collectively now three lost Presidents pins -- Department -- Past Department President pins. So if you are finding any of these please let us know. A blue pin ribbon has been lost. It has two past President pins attached to it by a gavel. A red, white, and blue

angel pin and the New York Auxiliary President's pin shaped like a beehive on it. If anyone has found this pin please give it to the Department of New York.

And Madam President, I believe this is the final announcement.

The American Legion and Black Horse Productions have partnered in the production of the documentary video, "The History of the American Legion." This historical film will include the entire American Legion Family. More information will be available through the American Legion Auxiliary publications in 2010, but stay tuned for more information on the history of the American Legion and production to be produced as a documentary video.

Madam President, this concludes the announcements that I have at this time.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. I would now like to introduce Past National President Barbara Kranig.

**MS. KRANIG:** At this time would one of the pages from the Department of Ohio please bring Miriam Junge to the platform.

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT KRANIG:** At this time would the Past National Presidents please join us on stage.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Please be seated.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT KRANIG:** Would you all please be seated.

Miriam, a circle has no beginning and no end, it keeps us together, a circle of friends. These Past National Presidents are your circle of friends.

I have a resolution which is submitted by the National President and the past National President's Club.

WHEREAS, Miriam Junge has a long history of devoted service to the American Legion Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, Miriam, after outstanding service to her beloved Department of Ohio was recognized for her remarkable leadership skills serving the National organization as a National Chairman; and

WHEREAS, Miriam ended her opportunity to become a National President by answering the call to service as National Secretary on the retirement of Doris Anderson; and

WHEREAS, Department Secretaries had the ultimate respect for Miriam and relied on the knowledge, cooperation, and support Miriam provided to them in the conduct of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Past National Presidents who served with Miriam were appreciative of her commitment, dedicated efforts, and dynamic leadership; and,

WHEREAS, Miriam left the comfort of retirement to reassume the office of National Secretary when her skills were urgently needed this past year; and

WHEREAS, Miriam has been an inspiration to all during her 15 years of service as National Secretary with recognition of her unique administrative and organizational talents.

Now therefore, be it revolved, by the American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, on this date August

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26th, 2009, that the title of Honorary Past National President with all privileges”

--

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT KRANIG:** -- “with all privileges and rights pertaining to said office” --

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT KRANIG:** Just so we make this official and legal, I want to finish this. We don’t want anybody to say it didn’t reach conclusion.

“That we grant her all privileges and rights pertaining to such office.

Be and hereby is bestowed upon Miriam Junge in recognition of her outstanding and extraordinary contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary.”

Madam National President, I move for the adoption of this resolution.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Second.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Resolved. By the American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, on this date, August 26, 2009, that the title of Honorary Past National President with all privileges and rights pertaining to such office be and hereby is bestowed on Miriam Junge in recognition of her outstanding and exemplary contributions to the American Legion Auxiliary.

All in favor of the -- oh, any discussion?

(Laughter.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** All in favor of this resolution say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** The Chair declares the resolution adopted.

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT KRANIG:** At this time we will ask our National President to present Miriam with her Past National President ribbon and Past National President pin.

(Applause.)

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT KRANIG:** At this time Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan will present the colors.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** Miriam, dear friend, would you join between the two flags that are presented on stage by Kris West and Sherry McLaughlin, please.

The American Legion and its members recognize your many years of dedicated service to our organization in a number of capacities.

First as simply a dedicated member of the Department of Ohio working with others to carry out principals expressed in our preamble.

Secondly being recognized by the National organization as an individual of outstanding talent and ability and serving as a National Chairman for many years with an eye on the prize of serving as National President.

But then life offered a different path, a different opportunity as you were asked to serve as our National Secretary, a position that you held for 15 years.

You conducted yourself admirably during that term of office directing the office staff, reporting to the membership, and filling a very necessary role in our organization. You brought wonderful talent and strength to that position. Handling the office efficiently, but well aware of the volunteer side of the organization as you had personally worked so tirelessly to support those efforts for so many years.

Then you retired to take your place at home with your husband and your family, not realizing that once again you would be called to action to become our interim National Secretary last fall. And so you filled that role once again with your remarkable style and dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary. And we are so grateful to both you and Mel for that service.

So today on behalf of all of the members of our American Legion Auxiliary we are proud to present to you this wonderful stand of colors that you have so ably served in so many different capacities for so many years. We know that by your service you have truly honored what they stand for. The flag of the United States standing all always for freedom, and the banner of the American Legion Auxiliary standing for pride of membership, a sense of duty and loyalty to a cause greater than each of us, service, not self.

So as you return home know that you take with you the gratitude of all of our members for servicing rendered, sacrifices made, and a life well lived. Thank you for all you've done. We love you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Would you like to say something?

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** Would I like to say something?

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** I think the word is shocked.

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** My emotions are running a million miles today, because when Desi called a couple weeks ago and asked if it would be possible to come to the National convention just for one day if that was possible, because she knew my husband had been going through a series of surgeries for cancer in his mouth. I mean, and when we drove in yesterday and attending the convention today never in a million years did I ever, ever, ever think anything like this would ever, ever happen, and I am so grateful.

We used to -- my brother and my sister and I when I saw the American flag we marched by our dad in that parade from little kids up. I had a brother and a sister, she was younger than me, and dad used to carry her in the parades and we'd march by him. It didn't matter if we were out of step, we were all there as family. And I was one of them kids that accompanied dad along to all the Legion and Auxiliary activities. In fact, I always talked so much I think the

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only reason my aunt ever took me with her is to keep her awake during those 20 miles we drove.

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** And it was just kind of fun. When I went to my first Unit meeting and it was so boring and I tried to change things even then.

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** They played this dumb game of Bunco.

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** And I thought how stupid to shake a dice and try to make a game out of it.

I volunteered to be on the food committee, and I changed the lunch.

They were used to having something, I don't know what it was, but I changed it. And after that I realized that that wasn't the place for me, even though my dad had been a Legionnaire for all those years, and we didn't know there was Junior members. You realize that I'm almost 100 years old, you know.

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** But by the same token that love for the organization has grown.

I thank my own Department from Ohio, because I know how disappointed they were when I made to decision to go in and serve as the National Secretary. There were days that was a wonderful decision. And if you've ever served in that role, there were days it wasn't such a wonderful decision.

(Laughter.)

**HONORARY PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT JUNGE:** But never in a million years did I ever dream that I would have this wonderful privilege and this wonderful honor bestowed on me. And I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. I am pleased to introduce the members of the very hard working Resolutions Committee. Kenya Ostermeier, Chairman.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Diane McCung, Vice Chairman.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Nicole Clapp, Committee Member.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** And I will ask Kenya now to present her report.

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** That's hard, I was crying. That was wonderful.

Madam National President, the Pre-Convention Resolutions Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. in Room 113 of the Kentucky International Convention Center on Saturday, August 22nd by the

presiding officer, Kenya Ostermeier. Elizabeth Stewart, Past National President represented National President Desiree Stoy.

There being no objections, Pamela Jackson of Ohio was appointed Secretary, and Florence Salvatore of Indiana and Barbara Klousing (phonetic) of Ohio were appointed Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

Committee member Nicole Clapp offered prayer, and Diane McClung, Vice Chairman of the Resolutions Committee led the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Ostermeier welcomed all the Department representatives and visitors.

The resolutions were reviewed and the routing system discussed.

Individual roll call list showed 50 representatives and 8 visitors in attendance.

The following Committee actions were reported. Junior activities, one resolution was routed to the Junior Activities Committee, and the resolution was passed by this Committee.

Membership. One resolution was routed to the Finance Committee. The resolution was rejected by the Finance Committee.

Finance. There were three resolutions recommended to be approved by the Finance Committee. Resolution one of three was recommended to be approved by the Finance Committee and the Pre-Convention Resolutions Committee. Resolutions two of three was recommended to be approved by the Finance Committee and recommended to be rejected by the Resolutions Pre-Convention Committee. Resolution three of three was recommended to be approved by the Finance Committee and the Pre-Convention Resolutions Committee.

Madam President, this concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee with the exceptions of the courtesy resolutions.

Madam National President, may we consider courtesy resolutions number 1 and 2 with one vote?

Madam president, Diane McClung, Vice Chairman of the Committee will presently courtesy resolution number 1, and the second one will be presented by Nicole Clapp, member, and I will present the third one.

**VICE CHAIRMAN MCCLUNG:** Madam National President, WHEREAS, throughout the year the National officers and chairmen have implemented and offered suggestions to demonstrate more meaningful ways to promote the Auxiliary's programs and projects;

WHEREAS, the members of this outstanding organization valued the direction that they received as the reports outlining their many accomplishments has shown;

WHEREAS, the Past National Presidents willingly continue to be involved and they're presence at each convention is always an inspiration;

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary staff, the local convention committees chaired by Pamela Rice, the Gold House Hotel and Suites, and the Kentucky International Convention Center staff were present to keep events running smoothly; and

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WHEREAS, delegates from across the nation attending this convention have weighed issues in a democratic manner.

Now therefore, be it resolved, by our applause we show our appreciation to each of the above named participates.

(Applause.)

**MS. CLAPP:** Madam National President, WHEREAS, this National convention has been graced by many distinguished guests from The American Legion led by National Commander David K. Rehbein and his staff, Sons of the American Legion Commander Thomas E. Cisna, along with dignitaries of Eight and Forty, and the Taiwan Veterans Administration;

WHEREAS, individuals who directly benefitted from the American Legion Auxiliary programs and projects representing Girls Nation, the Juniors, National Miss Poppies, the Woman of the Year Lori Stevens, along with the Department Unit members of the year, our active duty service women honorees, as well as Miss America and the Call to Service Corps VISTA program volunteers who have expressed their appreciation for the countless hours expended by our volunteers during this past year.

Now being it resolved that by our applause we thank these participates for contributing to our National convention.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of courtesy resolutions number 1 and 2.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It has been moved to accept courtesy resolutions 1 and 2. All in favor say, aye.

(A chorus of ayes.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Opposed no. The resolutions have been adopted.

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Madam National President, WHEREAS, one year ago when you enthusiastically accepted the presidency of this exceptional organization you chose the theme of HOPE, Honoring Our Promise Everyday, to guide and motivate us, to remember our mission, and build membership.

Your goals included having members work this year to address the needs of military families and veterans, male and female at home, in facilities, and on the street. You told us to never let one military family say there was no hope.

You asked us to support the National President's Scholarship Fund, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

You continued with the strategic planning phase two of implements our first three goals, continuing to move forward and continuing to benchmark decisions against the plans.

You launched the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA project.

You asked us to bring hope to community after community where our neighbors see the value of our organization in providing hope to America.

And WHEREAS, under your capable leadership you have left a legacy of hope for our exceptional organization, a significant difference for children, veterans in our communities.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that we, the delegates to this convention by a standing ovation and our applause show how much we love and appreciate you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER:** Again, a big thank-you for a job well done, and God bless you. This concludes my report.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We have just a little bit more business to come before our convention. And I have something special to tell you. We have a special surprise guest who wishes to address our convention. We are delighted that she has asked to address the American Legion Auxiliary.

Please join me in welcoming the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** Hi. I was addressing the other group upstairs and they told me the Auxiliary was here and I said, I have to go say hello to the Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** And I also have to say a great big thank-you. As I shared upstairs, my relationship with the Legion goes back many, many years to Girls State in New Mexico.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** And I will tell you, I don't come from a political family, but that was my -- so that was my first real exposure to government and politics and running for office. You are looking at the 1974 Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico Girls State.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** I ended up after getting my education moving to Arizona, and I see Arizona over there, where I served as the United States Attorney, which is the chief federal prosecutor. Then as the elected Attorney General, then as the two-time elected Governor of the State of Arizona.

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** Before being asked by the President to serve in a different and somewhat larger post in a way.

I miss Arizona by the way, and I hope you will share my greetings to all of your members back home, because it's a beautiful, beautiful state, and with a beautiful, beautiful future.

So thank you for being here, but please know that it was not the easiest choice to leave a governorship of a beautiful state, but my view when the President calls your answer is yes.

(Laughter.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** Isn't that right? And the opportunity to serve in this Department was particularly attractive. It's a new Department, it was

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formed in the wake of 2001 and the attacks of 9-1-1. It is designed to make sure that we are protecting ourselves as much as possible against the threat of terrorism, but also that we are working for -- to make sure that we are always prepared for whatever kind of disaster should occur, whether it be a terrorist induced disaster or mother nature. And I'm here in Kentucky. Kentucky has had a hard year with mother nature I have to say between ice storms and floods and the like, and that will be the subject of some meetings I'll have here this afternoon. But the notion is already be ready to serve and always to be thinking about what we need to do as individuals to always be prepared.

And so if I can leave you with a message, it's the same message really I left upstairs, which is to say that the security of the United States is a shared responsibility. We shouldn't just say oh, we got this department, this federal department and it'll take care of everything, that's not the way it works. We can help educate, we can coordinate, we do a lot of other things, but individuals, families, communities, all have a responsibility here, and it's from the very simple making sure that as we enter what will be a very heavy flu season that we're washing our hands correctly. Meaning that you sing happy birthday while you wash your hands, because that's how long you have to wash your hands. We cough in our sleeves not in our hands. We keep our kids home from school if they're sick. We stay home from work if we're sick. If we have employees that need to stay home we're understanding of that so that we slow the transmission of the flu while we wait for vaccine, because in all likelihood flu will be upon us been vaccine will be available. If we haven't been getting a seasonal -- a regular flu shot, get one and tell you neighbors to get one and tell your fellow post members to get one and get it early so that we can reduce the incidents of regular flu and focus on getting the H1N1, the new flu vaccine out once it becomes available.

So that shared preparedness is everything from that to doing as we did at the headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security last week, refreshing our CPR training or taking it, because that literally saves thousands of lives across the United States every year, and it's something that the American Red Cross is really well position to do so. And you can do that at your post or at your post hall. To really thinking through what you would do in the case of hurricane, tornado, earthquake, or any other kind of mass disaster where your family may be separated and the like.

Focus on making sure you know how to take care of yourselves, your families, so that the government can focus on those who have special needs and that we need to get to first.

And I know that you all as members of the Auxiliary are used to that message of service, are used to that message of community and individual participation, and as the Secretary of Homeland Security, the third Secretary, the first woman Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security I might say --

(Applause.)

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** -- I would just urge and re-urge that message again.

So any way there was no -- I'm not scheduled to be on your calendar, I'm probably putting you way behind, but -- that's okay -- but I couldn't let this opportunity go by to say, and I hope you understand how important my experience was as a high schooler to get me started in thinking in a new direction, which really helped get me to where I am today. And I hope that the Auxiliary keeps that program going, keeps it alive and well. These young girls out there need to know that the future is theirs, and you can help them get started too. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much. You're an added value to our convention.

**SECRETARY NAPOLITANO:** You bet. Thanks for letting me drop by.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** What a pleasant surprise, wouldn't you agree?

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We can come to the time on our agenda set aside for the National President's report, so I would invite those of you on stage to join the audience so you may better view the video that includes the national president's report.

As you make your way to the audience there is something that I want to mention, as I would like it a part of this official proceedings of this convention, and that is to acknowledge the number one American Legion Auxiliary Color Guard in the Nation from the competition the other day, Lady Liberty Color Guard unit 1830, Chili, New York.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** It's hard to capture a full year in a brief video report, but I hope that you get a feel for the opportunity you gave me this year.

I wish all of you could have been with me, each and every one of you. So I hope that you will enjoy this report.

If there are pages available that can do that and can make that possible fine, if not then I ask your indulgence. Okay?

(Video clip.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. It seems just a few days ago my term in office began. We have shared a great year and I thank you for the role you played in our success. There is simply no way we can include all the accomplishments of this past year in this short video, and there's no way that I can begin to thank everyone who helped me, laughed with me, cried with me these 12 months. Just know that I thank each and every one of you, and I cherish ever opportunity I had, every member I saw, every veteran I touched. Thank you.

Yes, I wish you could have been with me on my trips far and wide across America. Our national culture cannot be generalized. From the northeast to the southwest and hundreds of places in between. I saw moose in Alaska. I've experienced unique cultures shaped by generations. We've traveled this

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road together. And sometimes it's been hard, but always the results have been worth ever bit of our considerable energy. I couldn't have hoped for more.

Before we leave Louisville I want to say a special thank you to all our members from Kentucky who worked so hard, mostly behind the scenes, to make this convention something special.

So before we close this session we have a special treat for you. The bluegrass state of Kentucky has been the birthplace of many unique American experiences. Music is a big part of the Kentucky culture. And someone who can share a taste of that uniqueness is John Gage, he's a story teller and a bluegrass musician, and he applies his craft with ease. Please welcome John to our stage.

(Applause.)

**MR. GAGE:** Welcome everyone to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the home of bluegrass music, and that's the music of the people. I think it's fitting that you would have bluegrass music here on this stage as a part of the finale. And just to make it even more powerful, I brought a friend of mine, Mr. Mike Schroeder, he's a mandolin player extraordinaire and a founding member of the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra.

So we're happy to be here. We have a song for you, we're going to dedicate to President Stoy and all the National Presidents that preceded her, and those -- it's those folks who in the process of building a strong organization such as this did a whole lot of hard traveling.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

**MR. GAGE:** All right. Mike Schroeder is playing hot. That makes it fun. That gives you a little sense of what it's all about.

And you know we could look back, but I'm in the mood to look forward today, and I want to say thanks to The American Legion, to the American Legion Auxiliary specifically, I have a long line of veterans in my family going all the way back to the Spanish American War, and I want to thank The American Legion for the support that they brought to the family, to the community, taking care of folks.

And you know, I think about it sometimes, I think politicians will come and go, ideologies will come and go, but there are certain things that endure, and it's your spirits and your beliefs that endure. It's your love and your commitment, commit to God, commitment to freedom and liberty, commitment to justice, and a commitment to the veteran.

We got a song that we think expresses that. Thank you, God bless you. A tip of the hat.

(Applause.)

**MR. GAGE:** We got a song that expresses pretty much what we feel, and we think it was perfect for today. We even got together and made a little video. So we got our own music video here just for you all. Ladies and gentlemen, here it is.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you so much gentlemen for the added value to our convention. I hope you enjoyed.

(Applause.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** We will reconvene tomorrow morning at 8:15 here in the Cascade Ballroom where great things will happen. Please join us for the installation of your new National officers.

On behalf of all my officers we thank you for your service this year to the American Legion Auxiliary. I look forward to seeing many of you tonight at our States Dinner. If I don't have the opportunity to see you, I will see you first thing tomorrow morning.

We are in recess. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 2:55 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2009**  
(Whereupon, this meeting began at 8:15 a.m.)

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** This meeting of the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention will now come to order.

We are assembled this morning for the installation of the 2009-2010 newly elected officers.

Would you please stand as National Chaplain Cherita Potter says our opening prayer.

**CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Lets us pray.

Good morning, Lord. We thank you for the enthusiasm in our hearts and for all the gifts you have bestowed upon us; two ears to listen, two eyes to see the need, two hands to give a gentle touch, two arms to pick up another's load. Thank you for giving us exactly what we need to be of service.

Help us to keep our promises to our veterans, our communities and our country.

We ask your blessings on the members and officers assembled here today. Help us to fulfill our duties with determination and loyalty. Fill us with grace and wisdom to work our programs of service.

Lord, we ask that you protect and provide for our troops wherever they are and bring them home safely.

These things we ask in your name. Amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you. Please be seated for the next segment of our program.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BOONE:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BOONE:** I have the opportunity to present our National President Desi Stoy with her Past National President's pin.

And Desi, I wanted to tell you that this pin is a symbol of the pinnacle of your success in your lifetime of giving for the American Legion Auxiliary. And it also represents the expectation that you will continue your leadership and help mentor those and support the future dreams of this organization, so that we can continue to have hope for our organization.

So Desi congratulations on a wonderful career in the American Legion Auxiliary.

*(Applause)*

*(Pin is presented to Madam President Desi)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** Will the National President's Personal Pages please bring forward her stand of colors?

*(Flags of National President Stoy presented)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** To my dear friend, Desi.

Madam President, I would ask that you and Tim please stand between these two beautiful flags and remember that not only in your minds, but in your hearts, this incredible year of service.

You may be seated.

*(Audience is seated)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:** One year ago these beautiful flags were entrusted to your care to guard wisely for one year. They stand as they have for years, for patriotism, for an unrelenting love of country and service to a cause greater than all of us. May they always hold a place of honor in your hearts.

As you traveled this year they were always there as your support, the wind beneath your wings.

You've touched the hearts of many as you spoke to veterans, to the military and to our wounded soldiers, about your continuing commitment to make life better for all.

You and Tim represented us with dignity and pride as you journeyed beyond our shores to foreign lands as our ambassadors of goodwill not only for the American Legion Auxiliary but for the United States of America.

You two answered our Nation's call to service during this remarkable year. And now this year which seemed to stretch forever when you first donned the mantle of national president has come to a close, as it should, with many chapters written with memories to be cherished and wonderfully fulfilling moments to be treasured.

Now you and Tim can return to Ohio knowing that you have lived your dream.

Awaiting you when you arrive home again will be these beautiful flags, the scarlet banner of the American Legion Auxiliary proudly waving as you ask all of us to hope, honoring our promises every day.

The story of the American Legion Auxiliary is part of the tremendous epic of America. It is the story of a large and typical group of American women who serve for human dignity and liberty. It is a story of success of wonderful women doing magnificent things for America, and you are one of those successful women.

The proud flag of the United States, its red and white stripes and its blue stars represent our Nation's most revered and precious replica of the freedom we all cherish.

As members of this great organization we are keenly aware of the sacrifice of many who have died to preserve our precious way of life.

This flag that we honor and under which we serve is much more than a piece of cloth. It represents the very essence of our people. It is engraved in our very soul. And is indeed the treasured emblem of our unity and purpose as a nation.

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As you depart from this convention know that you take with you the friendship and love of our members for this incredible year of service. Cherish the memories of this year as you reflect on this great journey. May God continue to bless you with good health and happiness wherever life or circumstances takes you.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you to each and every one of you.

It is my privilege this morning to introduce to you our National Installing Officer, Past National President JoAnn Cronin.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you, Past National President Desi, and welcome to our group.

*(Laughter)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Welcome to the installation of Rita Navarreté from the Department of New Mexico as National President, the 90<sup>th</sup> president of our Organization.

And also the national officers and department presidents who will serve with her as they begin a new year of service to God and Country.

Participants in this morning's program are the following:

Sergeant-at-Arms, Mary Lou Lopez and Rosalie Lopez;

Color bearers, Linda Montoya, Janice Montoya carrying her Unit

Colors;

Bernadine Dial and Nancy King carrying the Department Colors;

Carol Moye will be leading the Pledge of Allegiance;

Vocalist, Rachel Arthu;

Installing Chaplain, Loreen Jorgensen;

Members of her family;

The New Mexico American Legion Family;

The Mistress of Ceremony will be Cecilia Martinez, Rita's sister.

Now would you please welcome the National Vice President Carlene Ashworth escorted by Past National Commander, John Brieden.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Okay. Please remain standing as the colors of Otero-Garcia-Navarreté Unit 72, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the Department of New Mexico are presented.

*(Colors presented and music being played)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** And now it is with great pleasure that I ask you to welcome the 90<sup>th</sup> National President of the American Legion Auxiliary for 2009-2010, Mrs. Rita Navarreté, escorted by her husband, Richard Navarreté.

*(Applause)*

*(Music)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Also coming with her are her two sons, her brother and her brother-in-law.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Please remain standing for the opening prayer given by Loreen Jorgensen, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, by Carol Moye, and then the singing of the National Anthem by Rachel Arthu, who is from the Air Force Academy Cadet and she's a former Girls State citizen.

*(Applause)*

**INSTALLING CHAPLAIN JORGENSEN:** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the leadership of this great organization under the direction of Desireé that has just completed another successful year helping our veterans, their families and communities.

We ask Lord that you watch over President Rita as she travels reaching out to our members. We ask that you guide Rita and the other leaders to help us strengthen and bind us together for the betterment of what we stand for, God and Country.

Finally Heavenly Father we thank you for Rita's family and friends that were able to be with us today. We ask that you watch over them as they travel back home to their love ones. We also ask that you be with our service men and women and pray they will return home safely. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**MS. MOYE:** Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

*(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited)*

*(Star Spangled Banner sung by Cadet Rachel Arthu)*

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you ladies, you may be seated.

At this time would the newly elected national officers please rise to take your oath of office?

*(Newly Elected National Officers Rise)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** The members of the American Legion Auxiliary have entrusted you with great responsibility. You have been elected to provide guidance in the activities of our organization.

You will familiarize with the duties of your respective offices. Always remember that the welfare and success of this organization depends upon you.

Every American Legion Auxiliary member assumes the responsibility and obligation of preserving the integrity of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary, contributing to the aims and purposes of our organization

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine:

*(Newly Elected National Officers are sworn in)*

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I, JoAnn Cronin, promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office I am about to assume; I further pledge that I am not a member of and do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government.

Thank you. You may lower your hands and be seated.

*(Newly Elected National Officers are seated)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Now would the newly elected department presidents please rise?

*(Newly Elected Department Presidents rise)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** National President Rita will you step forward and give the oath of office to these department presidents that will be serving with you this year.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Ladies please raise your hand and repeat after me giving your name where I give mine.

*(Newly Elected Department Presidents sworn)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I, Rita Navarreté, promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office I am about to assume; I further pledge that I am not a member of and do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government.

Thank you. You may lower your hands. Congratulations to each of you.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Congratulations ladies.

You, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have chosen outstanding officers to lead us this year. I have charged them with a serious responsibility and I likewise charge you.

Will all members of the American Legion Auxiliary please stand and raise your right hands repeating after me?

*(Audience stands to be sworn)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** I solemnly promise to renew my pledge of service to the American Legion Auxiliary and to give wholehearted support to these newly elected officers.

You may lower your hands and you may be seated. Oh excuse me, remain standing please.

Our Installation Chaplain Loreen Jorgenson will now offer prayer at this time. Do you have a prayer?

**INSTALLING CHAPLAIN JORGENSEN:** No.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Okay. All right, you may be seated.

*(Audience is seated)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** At this time we will have the retiring officers transfer the pins and ribbons to the office of their successors.

Ladies.

*(Pins and ribbons are transferred)*

*(Music is being played)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** The retiring officers will now come forward and present to you, the newly elected and installed officers for 2009-2010.

As the outgoing officers return to their seats, Past National President Desiree Stoy will present them with their ribbons and pin.

We will begin with the Chaplain Cherita Potter who will introduce the new chaplain.

Cherita.

**PAST CHAPLAIN POTTER:** I am proud to present Beverly Wolff your National Chaplain from the Department of North Dakota.

*(Applause)*

**CHAPLAIN WOLFF:** Madam National President, officers, ALA Members and friends, thank you so much for your vote of confidence in me.

And I want to thank the Department of North Dakota for all the support that The American Legion Family has given to me.

It only takes a spark to get a fire going and soon all those around will find themselves going. That's how it is with God's love once you've discovered it. Its fresh like spring, you want to sing, you want to pass it on.

And this year your national chaplain along with all the department chaplains would like to take that spark and energize it and get that fire going for the veterans and for God and Country.

Thank you. God bless all of you and may God bless American. Amen.

*(Applause)*

**PAST HISTORIAN WEBSTER:** I would like to proudly present to you our new National Historian from the Department of Arizona, Joyce Arent.

*(Applause)*

**HISTORIAN ARENT:** Thank you. I am honored to have this position. It is a lifelong dream that is being fulfilled for me and I thank you all for that opportunity.

I will endeavor to record this year's history to the best of my ability, and I would like to acknowledge the Department of Arizona for all their support over the years and especially for this year also. And I thank you all.

*(Applause)*

**MS. KEANU:** May I present to you the Western Division National Vice President from the Department of New Mexico, Peggy Brown.

*(Applause)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT BROWN:** Thank you, Josephine.

I find myself in a unique position where I get to share this year with a national president. I want to thank the Department of New Mexico for all their support. I want to thank you, and I'm ready to begin this year and begin this celebration of 90 years of "Service and Not Self," that the American Legion Auxiliary will be celebrating this year with the American Legion Family. We can celebrate 90 years of continuing aid and help and support of our veterans and their families and our communities.

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So I'm ready to start the year and I just want to thank you again for all your support and keep me in your prayers, I'm going to need them.

*(Applause)*

**MS. JORDAN:** It is my pleasure to present to you your new Southern Division National Vice President, Lynda Horton-Turk from the Department of Texas. Congratulations Lynda.

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT HORTON-TURK:** Thank you very much. Madam President Rita, it's going to be a great year and I look forward to working with you. I also look forward to visiting all the departments in the Southern Division.

On a more personal note I'd like to thank my husband back home and my family, my Unit, the Department of Texas. And if I may, Madam President, may I recognize the Department of Texas?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT HORTON-TURK:** Would the Department of Texas please stand?

*(Department of Texas stands)*

*(Applause and cheers)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT HORTON-TURK:** Thank you very much for your continued support and I look forward to this year. Thank you.

**MS. FUELLER:** The great Northwestern Division is proud to present Joyce Babcock for the Northwest Division Vice President for next year.

She is from the Big Sky country of Montana.

*(Applause)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT BABCOCK:** Thank you.

I want to thank Tootie for that introduction and I want to thank the Northwest Division for electing me for this office. I hope I can do the best I can for you and I'm looking forward to working with you in membership and programs to keep Rita's program at the top. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**MS. VENTULETT:** It is indeed a pleasure to introduce to you the Eastern Divisional Vice President Barbara Golde from the Department of Rhode Island. Congratulations.

*(Applause)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT GOLDE:** Thank you. Thank you very much. Madam President Rita, I am looking forward to this year and the Eastern Division will be number one next year.

*(Cheers and applause)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT GOLDE:** Thank you Eastern Division and thank you the great State of Rhode Island. Thank you for all your backing all these years. Thank you very much.

*(Applause)*

**MS. KODL:** It is my distinct honor and privilege to present to you Norma Swanson as the Central Division National Vice President from the great State of Kansas.

*(Applause)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT SWANSON:** Thank you, Virginia.

Madam President Rita, I've got to remember I'm not in Kansas anymore.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** But Dorothy is.

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT SWANSON:** Dorothy is back there, yeah, we'll leave her there. But I'm on a national stage now and I'm so happy and I want to pledge to you that when you give out your President's Award of Excellence next year it will be to one of the states from Central Division.

*(Applause and cheers)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT SWANSON:** May I ask Central Division to please stand?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT SWANSON:** Central Division, please.

*(Central Division stands)*

*(Applause and cheers)*

**DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT SWANSON:** You know your charge; fill out those reports. Thank you.

*(Laughter and applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you, ladies.

There are also two other nominees that will be selected at the NEC Meeting that are up here this morning and that is our current National Secretary Mary "Dubbie" Buckler.

There she is.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** And our National Treasurer, Marta.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** National Vice President Carlene Ashworth from the Department of Texas, please come forward along with National President Rita Navarreté and you will now exchange your pins and your ribbon.

*(Pins and ribbons are being exchanged)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Desi, I didn't lose the pin.

*(Laughter)*

*(Applause)*

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**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I proudly present to you the 2009-2010 National Vice President for the greatest organization, the American Legion Auxiliary Carlene Ashworth from the Department of Texas.

*(Applause)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Thank you.

Madam National President Rita, National Officers, members and guests, thank you so very much for giving me the opportunity to serve as your national vice president.

I pledge to all of you my total support and I am committed to serving this organization to the very best of my ability.

I want to thank my Heavenly Father for putting me in this place at this time and I give him all the glory.

I know that President Rita will continue to lead us with dignity, pride and energy. Never forgetting our past, but propelling us onward to the future as we move our Organization into our next 90 years of service to our veterans and their families.

Rita's love for God and Country cannot be surpassed, and I am honored to be standing at her side. Your time is now, my good friend.

I have a large family but unfortunately it was impossible for them to be here this year. But I do want to thank Past National Commander John Brieden for giving me the honor of escorting me in this morning.

There are some other special people in the audience I would like to recognize.

First of all I want to thank my Unit for their total continued support in all my endeavors. They have stood beside me all these years and we have grown together through many challenges.

I personally want to say thank you to our Unit President, Jean Pruiett and our Unit Secretary, Verdean Wilson (phonetic), who are both in the audience, that I love you both and I thank you all for the love and friendship you have given me in return.

I also want to thank two more of my very dear friends who have stood beside me and walked this route with me, Pat Wannarick (phonetic) and Laurie Oxley (phonetic) who continue to put up with listening to me when I'm on my soapbox about one issue or another, but love me anyway as I love them, and for just being there when I need to talk and a huge thank you to my dear friend Katherine Morris, for always being there for me to guide me along the way. I love you, Katherine.

I also want to thank my dear friend, Kris Nelson, whom I've grown to love for her support as we have worked so closely together this past year.

And finally I want to thank the members of the Department of Texas, The American Legion Family, for their total support. I would not be standing before you today if it were not for your friendship and love and I have many dear, dear friends here today who have come to give me their support and I love you all very much from the bottom of my heart. And I would like to call them

all by name, but that would take awhile, so will all the Texas Delegation please stand and be recognized?

*(Applause)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Thank you. I also want to be one of the first to congratulate my good friend Lynda Horton-Turk on her election to Southern Division National Vice President. It will be an honor to serve with you, Lynda.

Thank you to all the Past National Presidents who have given me the opportunity to serve this organization over the past 15 years and especially to my dear friend Kris West who gave me my first chairmanship, and also to Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan for giving me the incredible opportunity to be standing here today.

I have thoroughly enjoyed every committee and would not trade this experience for anything.

To all of my friends here today from across the country, those whom I have served with on committees, National Chairmen I have had the pleasure and the honor to work with and those I've met along the way, thank you all for your friendship and support.

To those of you who know me well you know that I'm very passionate about this organization and the work we do to serve our veterans and I will continue that passion as we go forward.

Thank you again for electing me as your National Vice President. I will dedicate myself to fulfilling my duties in the very best way I know how.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you Carlene.

Rita would you please come to the podium, and Desi would transfer the ribbon to Rita.

*(National President's Ribbon Transferred)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** It is my pleasure to once again present the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Rita Navarreté from New Mexico.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Congratulations.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Before Rita speaks she would like to have India Archer who I missed as one of the participants for today and she will sing the "Wind Beneath My Wings," which was Rita's mother's favorite song.

So Rita, why don't you stand up here while India sings that song?

Okay.

*(Winds Beneath My Wings sung by India Archer)*

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I believe I have the privilege of making some personal remarks before I give my formal remark.

You know I believe I can fly today and I've got Dorothy's adult shoes to make all those wishes come true.

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*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** What a moment that you all have given me. Those 16 years ago when I started, my family has been there to support and love me through my journey. Thank you.

The second family I have is of course The American Legion Family, all the way from the Unit and the District and the Department Level, thank you. Department of New Mexico, would you please stand right now.

*(Department of New Mexico stands)*

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You may be seated.

You know from that Unit level where we have our members and so important our Juniors, our District, our Sons of the American Legion, The Legion Riders, have been so supportive as we've grown in this organization together.

Things began to happen back in 1993, and I am a firm believer, that things happen for a reason, but you've got to make those changes happen.

JoAnn Cronin, Past National President from the Department of Missouri served in her first --

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes, she deserves that, she has earned the right.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** -- served as her first chairmanship when I was on her committee to Girls State.

So our paths have been together since then. To all the Past National Presidents who saw something in me and believed that I had that potential and then I earned with accomplishments the right to lead and here I am today. I thank you.

And my love for God and Country instilled at a very young age was Old Glory, the red, white and blue.

Good morning everyone. Yes, the strength beneath my wings started at an early age. My mother, my mentor, my role model influenced who I am today. The young girl who sat with her mom at Unit meetings listening and not moving unless told to. How I remember those days even though many, many years ago. At a young age I knew and I believed I could be that person leading the group. I knew my love for God and Country was real and I wanted to work and serve for those reasons.

My belief that things happen for a reason have given me time and have been evident throughout my life, not only with my family, but with the American Legion Auxiliary. I have been given the gifts of passion, energy and vision as I continue to serve today. Taking the most important oath of my Auxiliary career it allows me to once again use those gifts in serving in the highest office of the Organization, your National President.

I am your leader who will lead in advocating our purpose and mission of serving veterans, their families and communities and you might say a very proud veteran advocate.

This year the American Legion Auxiliary celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and you can make your mark to be a part of it. This is a critical time to reconnect with our heritage to strengthen our future with our members, veterans and communities in our support for veterans in supporting this 90-Year milestone.

Let me for a moment take you back in the early years of the American Legion Auxiliary's history.

After the end of World War I in 1918 a group of American servicemen bonded together to form the American Legion to represent American Veterans and to remind a grateful nation of its responsibilities to the veteran, his widow and orphan.

The first national convention held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, November 10 through 12, 1919, the American Legion considered to propose to establish a women's auxiliary, proposal approved. And on November 10, 1919, we were born.

By the second national convention the American Legion there were 1,342 Units in 45 states with 11 thousand members. Minnesota was the first Department to qualify for a charter. By the summer of 1921 enough department organizations had been established to justify the calling of a national convention.

It convened in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1921.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It was at that convention that the name of the organization was changed from the Women's Auxiliary to the American Legion Auxiliary and adopted the poppy as the memorial flower.

The early years of the American Legion Auxiliary were occupied with developing a program to meet the urgent needs of World War I Veterans, their families, widows and orphans of the dead. Members supported the American Legion in its fight to secure adjusted compensation of World War I Veterans. Carrying and support for hospitalized and disabled veterans became a top priority along with their rehabilitation.

The years went by and the mission of the organization remained constant in serving and caring for all veterans.

Members of the organization continued to volunteer their services and support, activities and establish programs. History books bream of history of the organization into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Volume VII, which was completed in 2008.

Highlights I want to share with you:

1941-42, the first veteran elected National President.

1950-1951, the National President was of Native American descent.

In 1958-59, the National President stated needs on the organization one being membership must continue to grow.

In 1969, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary time capsule in St. Louis, Missouri where historic documents and pictures were placed for the 100<sup>th</sup> National President.

I am the second national president from the Department of New Mexico. Marcella Davidson celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that was

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40 years ago, add them up, I am the 90<sup>th</sup> National President of this great organization.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** 1992-1993, focus on homeless veterans.

1994-1995, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Seventy-five years of “Service not Self.”

1995-1996, the focus on home and community.

And 1999-2000 was the last elected president of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the first to serve into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Perhaps said best by the 1980 history author, one of the reasons for the strength of the organization is its adherence to the basic programs, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation and Children in Youth. These two programs together with Americanism and National Security have been the cornerstone of activity. Though other programs have been added from time to time, the American Legion’s Auxiliary’s efforts have remained true to these programs. It marks a special dedication to the welfare of the veterans and his family or her family to the concern of our nation.

What is happening today?

Today we face a dilemma; our organization is not growing at a healthy pace.

How will we reach new members? I believe we will.

How will we be able to serve the needs of our current military forces? I believe we will meet those needs.

What will be our plan? I believe we have the plan.

Where will we be in the next ten years? We will exceed all goals and objectives.

I want to be a part of a team that will move forward with new ideas and ways to retain our current members and reach out to individuals in our communities who are eligible and who want to join.

You see, I believe promoting our programs and activities in our communities will bring growth to the organization. Singing to the choir is no longer an effective tool. We each have a responsibility to tell our stories and let people know who we are, what we do and how we can make a difference in our communities.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** My vision is to have everyone in our own communities know who we are so that when we celebrate that 100<sup>th</sup> year the name of the American Legion Auxiliary is known throughout.

Can you for a moment image our military families coming to us for services? I believe that we can imagine that.

Can you imagine school officials knowing we are the group for citizenship training?

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Can you imagine our volunteers at medical centers throughout this country leading and serving the needs of women veterans and their families?

**AUDIENCE:** I believe.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I not only can imagine I believe this is possible. The following poem is a favorite one of mine:

If you believe; then you can achieve all your dreams.

If you can see it; then you can do it.

If you believe it; you can achieve it.

It is up to you. You can make your dreams come true.

It is a critical time for our organization and I am passionate about leading it to a new way of planning for a year of action to meet the objectives. All programs must align with our mission of serving veterans, their families and communities. It's time to reconnect our resources to mission based activities, a unified message for our plans of action emphasize our need to reconnect with our heritage to strengthen our future.

This is the right thing to do and now is the time. It's not about me; it's about every member of this great Organization, every officer of this great Organization, every volunteer of this great Organization.

You see, collective abilities to do the right thing will continue to make history and history starts now.

Plans for the year will cover reconnecting with our members, our veterans and our communities.

The rich history and traditions of the American Legion Auxiliary will continue to be the foundation that will not only support our mission but will enrich the quality of lives of those that we serve.

Objectives for the year will cover reconnecting with our members again, our veterans and our communities. That member connection, the reconnecting with membership by working together to regain a culture of trust that will allow open communication and engage members to want to retain their membership and recruit new members.

The passion of serving is the driving force that continues to keep our organization strong. We must work hard to keep all members engaged for them to be proud of belonging.

This national president has heard your voices, and will continue to listen to the needs of the membership.

I ask for your trust and patience to work hand-in-hand in planning and implementing the strategic changes that must move us forward. Our organization has much to give and so many are willing to do whatever it takes to get that job done.

Let's reconnect with our members and get them engaged once again to stand proud of what we do and what we stand for and begin to let our spirit grow as we retain and recruit members.

Allow the Organization leadership to continue their efforts and commitment to achieve what needs to get done.

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Our new partnership with the VISTA program under the Corporation for the National and Community Service is just beginning, and believe it will bring success in capacity building for membership growth, but most important, serve our veterans in need.

Under the umbrella of membership will be the theme of “Membership Begins with Me,” and retain that 95 percent of membership as of 12/31/2008, and gain 38 thousand new members, goals which are in our current strategic plans.

The new name this year for revitalization activity is “Membership Support.”

National chairmen will be a part of an opportunity to provide department training this coming year at almost no or little costs to departments, details to be announced during the October Presidents and Secretaries Conference.

We want to provide training to demonstrate support in investing in your leadership. That veteran connection, reconnect with the ideals for which they fought and continue to fight to protect the freedom we so enjoy today.

What brought us together in 1990 is ever more relevant to us today. Our services are needed to all veterans and meeting the needs of the new veteran and his and her family is what is now relevant.

Let’s not forget the homeless veteran. Do you realize there are per the Veterans’ Affairs statistics, at any given night; 131 thousand homeless veterans and four percent of those are women.

They need our help.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Grant Program will continue as more volunteers are needed in our VA medical facilities. The process has not changed and it’s listed in the Plan of Action administered by the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman nominee, Kris Nelson.

This year we will also focus in supporting the outdoor cycling program at the VA locations around the U.S. to help wounded heroes to overcome obstacles they face. Cycling is an important part of that recovery and rehabilitating program. The Ride to Recovery Program will connect our membership with these veterans and also allow our involvement with our communities by supporting the scheduled cycling events.

The American Legion Auxiliary has been an active supporter this last year, and I want to focus on getting members to volunteer their time in promoting the activities surrounding each event, more to come.

Our support of the Veterans’ Creative Arts Festival continues and donations are needed to meet our \$100 thousand sponsorship fee.

This year’s festival is in San Antonio, Texas, October 11, 2009. The show is free and is open to the public.

Community Connection. Join me in making this 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary year an exciting and historical milestone of achievement as together we change and grow a stronger organization for it is service, not self that we continue being strong citizens in the greatest country.

Past National President Desi, said it so well a year ago: ‘We will have a new leadership and new theme to motivate us, but I hope that the legacy I leave will be one of hope. Hope for an even better tomorrow where the best is yet to come.’”

Well the best once again came as we heard of the unit accomplishments throughout this great nation and community projects were held in promoting the ideals and principals of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you, Desi, for that leadership.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Keeping patriotism a part of the education of every child, the love for God and Country. The welfare of the children of veterans who have given their lives for our country and the betterment of our communities in which we live. The recipients of the President’s Excellence Awards this year proved the work is being done.

Hope is to believe, and what an opportunity we have this 90<sup>th</sup> year to renew our pledge and recommit our promise to serve others first and not self.

As my mother so often said to me, “Con Dios todo es posible,” “With God all is possible.”

Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Madam President Rita, each year our membership anticipates the transition from one administration to another with wonder and excitement. You have laid out for our organization ambitious expectations that will strengthen our ability to support our mission for veterans, their families, children and communities.

As the 90<sup>th</sup> National President, our Organization, once again, has chosen the right leader for the right time. And we are —

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Go ahead.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** — we are up to the challenges you have placed before us.

Thank you for placing the American Legion Auxiliary as a priority in your life as you lead the Organization this year. And thank you to your family for their support.

It is an honor for me to present an outstanding Legionnaire who is expected to serve with Rita this year as the National Commander of The American Legion.

Please welcome Clarence Hill from the Department of Florida along with his lovely wife, Liz.

*(Applause and cheers)*

**COMMANDER HILL:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

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**COMMANDER HILL:** It is a pleasure to be here. Although I'm still anticipating a ceremony like this, it is a pleasure to be here and I'm glad to be here on this occasion.

I thank you New Mexico, I thank you Navarreté family for electing Rita to this position. You've obviously chosen someone with passion and with drive that's going to make this a wonderful year.

If she'll agree to drop off the history part of her speech, she can come and make mine.

*(Laughter)*

**COMMANDER HILL:** Because a lot of what she said is going to be said to the Legion. These are challenging times, and there are a lot of things that are happening, and our Organization keeps losing members, and we can't keep losing members and do our jobs.

So I think you have chosen a woman that's going to make that happen for the Auxiliary and I hope I can do that for the Legion.

So thank you again for electing Rita, and I'm happy to be here. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**COMMANDER HILL:** Since I haven't been elected yet I'm allowed to make these mistakes.

*(Laughter)*

**COMMANDER HILL:** This is my wife, Liz.

*(Applause)*

**COMMANDER HILL:** We've only been together for 35 years, so I don't know how I keep doing this, but I do.

*(Laughter)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you.

The Sons of the American Legion newly elected National Commander who will be serving with Rita this year is Mark Arneson from the Department of Georgia and we're pleased to have him with us today along with his wife, Kathy and their two-year-old daughter, Regan.

Would you please come forward?

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** Good morning, ya'll.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** I've decided it's my lot in life to be surrounded by beautiful women.

*(Laughter)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** You see at home I have my lovely wife and three daughters all Auxiliary members.

*(Cheers and applause)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** And for these last 20 years I've been fortunate enough to have one of the greatest Departments, The Georgia Auxiliary, backing me and making this possible here today.

Georgia where you at?

*(Cheers and applause)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** All right. Thank you so much. Thank you so much.

Wow, you hear the figure 90. Wow, 90 years of success. And it causes you to pause and think and go “wow,” how did that happen? And to me it is not because of luck, chance, it is because when you stop and think about how ya’ll start off every meeting, “For God and Country.”

Because when you have God on your side everything is possible.

*(Applause)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** I’ve asked Kathy to stand here with me along with Regan. I was practicing my speech and I guess I put her to sleep earlier.

*(Laughter)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** But I would ask also for Rita to step forward as well.

*(President Navarreté steps forward)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** This next year we will serve together as a Legion Family.

On Sunday as I shared with the Sons my mama couldn’t be there. Mama has succumbed to Alzheimer disease.

So this next year as I travel, I will look to Rita to serve as my mother figure and as my parent.

*(Laughter and applause)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** I wish ya’ll much success. I look for us to create many more victories for veterans as this last administration has and make this the greatest country possible.

Thank you and God bless.

*(Applause)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** And we also have a connection. Rita’s husband was stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia, for 18 months.

So we’ve already got a common bond.

*(Laughter)*

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** And I also want to mention. I looked on with envy and pride at the relationship between Tommie and Desi on Monday.

We’re starting out as friends but we’re going to share that same love this time next year.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You too. God bless you.

**COMMANDER ARNESON:** God bless.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you to those who just spoke.

Commander, good luck in your endeavors this year and thank you for coming by, and Commander Mark, the same to you. Good luck in yours and whenever you need to leave — I know you have lots of responsibilities and

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duties and one really, really important election that you probably do not want to miss.

*(Laughter)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Thank you, again.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** And I just love it, because they came right in time, right in my script, I didn't have to change anything.

*(Laughter)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** I'm now going to present to you Cecilia Martinez, "Cee Cee," who will introduce the delegates from the Department of New Mexico.

Cee Cee.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you, JoAnn.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Uh-huh.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** I've got to get to my page, hold on. I've got to take a deep breath because I'm nervous, so bear with me.

I would like to have the Department of New Mexico again please stand so everybody will know where you're at.

*(Department of New Mexico stands)*

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** You may be seated. Thank you.

*(Department of New Mexico is seated)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** We will have a few words from Rita's Post and Unit; Unit 72, and Post 72, "The Little Post with the Big Heart." And I will first call upon the Unit President Carla Segura, who is our niece, and I will upon Prospero Sanchez, who is the Post Commander's representative to give a few words and I will direct them to the middle of the podium there, so they can give their words.

Is that better?

*(No verbal response heard)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Okay. Thank you.

We've got to get them over there. We have a little bit of a delay. There's someone on wheels here.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Right here on this one Carla.

**MS. SEGURA:** We practiced on that one.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Oh, you practiced on that one. Okay. All right, we can ad-lib here.

**MS. SEGURA:** Okay. I'm nervous, you guys.

Greetings from Unit 72, "The Little Post with the Big Heart," in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the home of Rita Navarreté, the first Hispanic National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

*(Applause)*

**MS. SEGURA:** President Navarreté resides four generations of women who have brought honor, pride, commitment, dedication and service to our Unit.

We are honored to be represented by a lady who has demonstrated leadership, tempered with common sense. Her work within Unit 72 has earned her respect and trust of her fellow members.

We are Rita's biggest supporters and take great pride in acknowledging her accomplishments. We want Rita to know that our love and support comes from the heart, and it is our wish that she carry this sentiment with her thoughts of her presidential year.

Thank you.

**MR. SANCHEZ:** Madam President, on behalf of the Legionnaires and the Sons of the American Legion from Post 72, we congratulate you and I know you'll have one hell of a year.

*(Laughter and applause)*

**MR. SANCHEZ:** Also Rita we would like to make a little presentation.

**MS. SEGURA:** This is from the Unit and the SALs and the Post.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Their words are: "Believe all things are possible with God," from "The Little Post with the Big Heart," our Legion Family.

**MR. SANCHEZ:** And there's the rest of it.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Oh, they're beautiful. They are gold earrings with a cross.

*(Applause)*

**MS. SEGURA:** There is an inscription.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** With an engraved belief.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you Carla and Prospero; as people call him Popov. He wanted to come whether he came in a wheelchair or not. So he made it.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** And now we'll have the District representatives from the Department of New Mexico, District 9, which is Rita's district. And we'll have District President Mary Schroenghamer and District 9 Commander Robert Jaramillo; if you'll step forward, please.

Don't be shy.

**MS. SCHROENGHAMER:** Dear Madam President Rita, how exciting. Thank you so much for inviting me to speak on behalf of your District 9 sisters.

In 1988 and 1989 when you were president of this District, did you ever imagine you'd be here today?

It happened with a lot of unselfish volunteering, dedication, hard work and lifting up those around you.

You go out of your way to include everybody. Your kindness and your class are an inspiration to all of us. You set a high example.

This year as you fulfill your duties and serve the membership of this wonderful Organization, I personally assure you that you have District 9's wholehearted support.

We send you our love. We wish you well and we look forward to all your successes this coming year. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

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**MR. JARAMILLO:** A few words about our new National Auxiliary president.

Rita Navarreté has been a driving force for the American Legion Auxiliary in the State of New Mexico for more than 40 years.

She has served the Department in virtually every capacity at the Post, District and Department level.

Rita is an organizer, a motivator and a cheerful component of any activity in which she is involved. She's been a strong advocate for the Girls State program as well as other programs of the American Legion and it's Auxiliary.

One of her strongest beliefs is to promote the patriotism and her faith to God and Country.

Her continued efforts to unite the Legion Family have been ongoing.

On the path to this highest position she has served the National organization in committee and other official capacities, so this, although perhaps daunting will not be beyond her capacity to meet the challenge to the benefit of your entire membership.

We congratulate you and welcome you Rita to this position of the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you, Mary and Robert. It's over. You can relax now.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** I was just as nervous as you were.

Okay. Now we'll have a few words from the Department Commander and the Department President. The Department President is JoAnn Rodgers. The Department Commander is Felix Trujillo and they have a few words to say. Would you come forward, please?

*(Applause)*

**MS. RODGERS:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MS. RODGERS:** I'm going to let our Commander go first because as you all know, women have more to say.

*(LAUGHTER)*

**MR. TRUJILLO:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**MR. TRUJILLO:** Madam National President I believe that you've done it, and we are proud of you. On behalf of the Department of New Mexico and its Legion Family, we all share the enthusiasm and pride that you have brought to New Mexico, being the second National Auxiliary President since 1969.

Today we honor you as National President not by wishing and not by dreaming, but by hard work, perseverance, diligence and determination, that we, the Legion Family of New Mexico are proud of you and we're behind you all the step of the way.

There are two things to aim in life. First to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it and only the wisest, I believe, of having achieved the second, and you have achieved the second.

Enjoy your presidency. Good luck, God bless you and my extended heartfelt congratulations. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**MS. RODGERS:** Good morning, Madam President Rita. Madam National President Rita.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It sounds good. Good morning.

**MS. RODGERS:** On behalf of your Auxiliary and Junior members from our beautiful land of enchantment; it is with great pride and admiration that we extend our congratulations to you on this very prestigious accomplishment.

We want you to know that we will be there for you to support you with our hearts and our souls to make your year as national president an outstanding and successful one.

We believe as you believe, we are here for our veterans, our children, our families and our communities.

We love you Madam President. Thank you being a mentor and a friend, May God bless you and your family. Congratulations.

*(Applause)*

**MS. RODGERS:** And now with your permission I have a couple of more things.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay.

**MS. RODGERS:** Okay. This is a certificate from our governor of the State of New Mexico.

“Having learned the outstanding achievement and exceptional accomplishment of Rita Navarreté, does hereby extend congratulations and acknowledgment for her upcoming term as National President in the American Legion Auxiliary and the first Hispanic National President of the largest women’s patriotic organization in the world; and

FURTHER, does herein direct, that this official expression of pride be forthwith sent on behalf of the people of the State of New Mexico to the second New Mexican to ever serve in the prestigious position.

Signed and sealed at the Office of the Governor in the city of Santé Fe, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August 2009. Bill Richardson, Governor.”

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Wow.

*(Applause)*

**MS. RODGERS:** Okay. I have one more.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay, what a surprise.

**MS. RODGERS:** Okay. This one is an Executive Order from the Desk of Mayor Martin J. Chávez.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rita Navarreté will be installed as the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary educates children, organizes community events and helps our nation’s veterans through legislative action and volunteerism; and

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WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization with nearly one million members in 10,100 communities; and

WHEREAS, Auxiliary members are a unique group of women joined in the fellowship of volunteerism, patriotism and dedication to veterans, young people and communities; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Navarreté is a proud native of New Mexico and was born in Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Navarreté is the second New Mexican and first Hispanic woman to become a national president of the Organization; and, now

Therefore, I, Martin J. Chávez, Mayor of Albuquerque, New Mexico, on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August of 2009, do hereby proclaim Mrs. Navarreté Day —

*(Laughter)*

**MS. RODGERS:** — and encourage all citizens to join me in celebrating this extraordinary accomplishment that brings further honor and prestige to our entire community. Martin J. Chávez, Mayor.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you so much.

**MS. RODGERS:** You're welcome. I'll put them back in the envelope for you.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you, JoAnn and Felix. JoAnn, thank you for that presentation.

And now we'll continue our National Executive Committee from New Mexico.

We have the Auxiliary NEC, Kathy King, the Legion NEC, Bruce Jorgensen, and the NEC Sons of American Legion, Jim Mariner.

If you'll come forward.

**MS. KING:** Rita, I wish to congratulate you on your election as national president. You have proudly put New Mexico back on the map. The Department of New Mexico stands behind you and will support you in all that you do.

On behalf of the Department of New Mexico, I want to wish you, Rita, the best of luck as you begin your journey as national president.

May your journey not only be memorable, and enjoyable but knowledgeable as well. As Abraham Lincoln once said, "I will prepare and someday and my chance will come." After many years of preparing your chance has finally arrived Rita and we wish you the best of luck. Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**MR. MARINER:** National President Rita Navarreté we are proud possessors of a priceless heritage and over the many years we have worked to serve our veterans, our armed forces and the numerous programs of the American Legion, and we will continue to do this reporting our history and saving the memories to carry on for God and Country.

Thank you, Rita.

*(Applause)*

**MR. JORGENSEN:** Since the time that Rita joined the American Legion Auxiliary several years back she's worked diligently and with dedication to all the programs and the offices of the American Legion Auxiliary. Not really knowing that her efforts then would lead her to the highest office of the American Legion Auxiliary which is the national president.

I know that she will represent the Legion Family in her travels throughout the world with the highest of standards and her dedication that has brought her to this position to start with.

Oh, and don't worry about Richard either because we'll take good care of him while you're gone.

*(Laughter)*

**MR. JORGENSEN:** New Mexico is proud of you to be one of only two of the ladies that have received that high honor of national president from the Department of New Mexico. We congratulate you and good luck in your endeavors in the coming year and congratulations Rita.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you NEC Reps.

I want to let you know that Jim Mariner was supposed to leave yesterday. He called me to tell me that he would be able to be on stage today to give a few words. He changed his flight so that he could be here today. I want to thank you, Jim, for doing that.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** And for now I'd like to just recognize our past Department Presidents from the State of New Mexico; if you'll please stand and be recognized.

*(Past Departments Presidents stand)*

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** We have Bev Miller, Mary CdeBaca, Joann Pokipala, Bernardine Dial, Mary Lou Lopez, and Kathy King, and Peggy Brown on the other side and the most important one, Rita Navarreté.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** And now we'll have recognition of the Past National Presidents of the Western Division. Linda Boone will say a few words, but we invited Josie Melgard who could not be here and Betty Calder.

So Linda if you'll say a few words from the Western Division Past National Presidents.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BOONE:** We are so excited in the Western Division. It's been 17 years since we had a national president.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BOONE:** Seventeen long years we've been waiting for the stars to come up the line and Rita is there. In the Western Division out of our 90 year history the Western Division has had 18 members that have served in the national president's role, and we are so looking forward to embracing you, Rita, and supporting you through your journey,

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and welcoming you back home to help mentor those upcoming leaders in the Western Division.

So everybody in the Western Division stand up.

*(Western Division stands)*

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BOONE:** Thank you.

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you, Linda.

And I will introduce again our Rita's immediate family. Her husband, Tony Richard Navarreté; Joseph Navarreté, her oldest son; Steven Navarreté, her youngest, who just recently got married.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** I had a fun time Steven.

And Tony Richard would you like to say a few words? This is your opportunity.

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Do you want your sons with you?

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** Well we just want Rita to know -- I mean she just found out that she has the support of the Department of New Mexico Legion/Auxiliary/SALs and the National.

But we do want her to know that she also has the support of all of her family.

*(Applause)*

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** Especially us three, the ones that are here now. You know, Sam is back there, her brother Ernie and Richard and you know, just everybody. Everybody was trying to come out and just couldn't make it, but she does have the support and we'll be waiting for her when she does come and change suitcases.

*(Laughter)*

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** You know more than likely one of us will have to be at the airport with a new suitcase and just hand it to her.

*(Laughter)*

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** But we do want to pin a little guardian angel to keep her safe during her travels.

*(Applause)*

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** This guardian angel has been around quite a while. It was the pin we pinned on her when she became department president.

*(Applause)*

**MR. JOSEPH NAVARRETÉ:** Madam National President, but most importantly, Mom, words can't express how proud we are of you and how honored we are to be in your presence. You're an inspiration to us and to our children who couldn't be here today but are with you in spirit. We love you.

*(Applause)*

**MR. STEVEN NAVARRETÉ:** Good morning. I remember coming to these many years ago and sitting in the back watching as you tentatively did your

work. And over the years you always told me this is a great organization to love your country and God and be patriotic, take care of the veterans, they have supported us and we've got to support them, and you made me believe in this program.

So it's only fitting that your theme for the year is "Belief," because everybody in this room believes in this program, and it is an honor to be your son, and I'm very proud of you today. It's been many years, but you finally did it.

So it's an honor to call you Madam President and also Mom.

*(Applause)*

**MR. NAVARRETÉ:** That second son there, he's not use to talking a lot, he's more used to putting out fires.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you. A little emotional there so let me compose myself.

Again I'd like to have Rita's extended family in the back; our brother, Ernie if he'll stand and wave out.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** He's our oldest brother.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** And then next to my brother is my husband, Sam, Rita's favorite brother-in-law. No, just kidding.

*(Applause and laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** He is one of her biggest supporters, and Richard Segura, who is Carla's husband; if you'll stand Richard.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Thank you. And Carla spoke earlier. And then we have Ernie's wife, Janice who is carrying one of the flags.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** Our brother, Tony's, who is now gone, but he's with us here in spirit, wife, Linda.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** I want to thank them for being here today. They really made the effort and they are so happy and proud of Rita as I am.

Thank you, Sis.

*(Applause)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** And now I think my part is over.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. MARTINEZ:** And now we will have a song from Rachel Arthu. And it's a song that Rita picked or she chose after many, many songs, and if Rachel will come forward and they'll start your music.

*(When You Believe, sung by Rachel Arthu)*

*(Applause)*

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**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** What a beautiful voice. Thank you, Rachel. And I just found out not only did she attend Girls State, but she was Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico when she did.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** And we're honored that you're now serving as you're attending college and then going to serve our country. Thank you so much.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** I believe we're going to have a great year, don't you?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** We believe that we will, and congratulations to Rita, again. And Rita thank you for the privilege and honor to be able to serve as your installing officer. It was quite a privilege. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ':** My honor.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** And now I'd like to call you forward.

So if you would, please come forward, Rita and return the gavel to Past National President Desi Stoy, so that she may close her meeting.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT CRONIN:** Immediately following the close of this meeting the NECs are to meet in Room 207 and 208 for the NEC Meeting. So please go directly there so Rita can start her meeting. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ':** Hope is to believe. I give to you and return to you the gavel that you so richly have used to close your convention.

*(Gavel is passed from Navarreté to Stoy)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you.

*(Applause)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** I would now ask the installation sergeant-of-arms and the assistant sergeant-of-arms to retrieve and retire the colors of Rita's Unit Number 72, and the Department of Mexico, followed by a recessional of National President Rita, her family and platform guest.

Please stand.

*(Music played during recessional ceremony)*

*(Applause and cheers)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** At this time I ask the National Chaplain Cherita Potter to offer our closing prayer.

**PAST CHAPLAIN POTTER:** Please join me in prayer.

Dear Lord, help us to call upon our inner light to shine as a beacon. Help us to respond to others with compassion and welcome opportunities to share kind words and show consideration for others in our lives.

We are grateful for the successes of this year as we come to the close of one and the beginning of another. Fill us with thoughtful and encouraging words and actions to build on and strengthen our Organization.

Fill us with a renewed spirit to never waiver when the way is hard. Prepare each of us to open our hearts and broaden our minds. Direct our thoughts and emotions so that we may exhibit fair judgment. Open the eyes to the needs of others. Make us sensitive to the issues of our veterans. Help us to recognize and grasp the opportunities for service that each one of us might make a difference.

Lord we thank you for this opportunity to work together with our Legion Family. We thank you for the blessings of service men and women who defend and protect our freedoms. Help us to always know how to honor and support them. Give them strength and courage to endure. Protect and provide for them, bring them home safely and may we never forget our duty to them.

We are comforted by your presence as we pray for a peaceful nation. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Cherita.

Will the Pages retrieve and retire the colors under which this National President served.

*(Colors are Retrieved and Retired)*

*(Song, "High Hopes," is being played)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you for honoring your promises every day. And as the Chair closes this convention, the 2008-2009 National Officers will join me as we exit just as we started this year, with high hopes.

High hopes for an even better tomorrow, where the best is yet to come. Thank you, to all of you.

*(Applause)*

(Whereupon, this meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.)

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**POST-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING PROCEEDINGS  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2009**

*(Whereupon, this meeting began at 10:35 a.m.)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Will the National Executive Committee Meeting please come to order.

As we begin, I would ask that you please disable all your electronic devices, or place them in a silent mode.

Please rise and remain standing for the Opening Ceremonies. We will proceed without interruption with the following:

Beverly Wolff, National Chaplain, will lead us in our invocation and moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those serving our Nation today for the protection of our freedom.

Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Krisann Owens will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Coral May Grout leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution. And that's the appointee for the chairman.

Beverly?

**CHAPLAIN WOLFF:** Good morning.

**AUDIENCE:** Good morning.

**CHAPLAIN WOLFF:** Let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer.

Great peace have those who live in Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

Holy Heavenly Father, guide us and give us clarity, peace and directions as we meet and make decisions. Bring alive our spirits so that we may illuminate our minds and souls. Keep us on the narrow path that leads to life. Shine the lamp of truth and show us what steps to take, in His name. Amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

*(The Pledge of Allegiance is recited)*

**CHAIRMAN OWENS:** 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.

*(The Star Spangled Banner is sung in unison)*

*(Preamble Constitution recited)*

**CHAIRMAN GROUT:** 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 in the 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 accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You may be seated.

(One bell)

This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened.

In one of my garden books there is a chapter with a very interesting title, "Flowers that Grow in the Shade." It deals with those areas of the garden that never catch direct sunlight and lists the kinds of flowers that not only grow in the dark corners but actually seem to like them and to flourish in them.

There are similarities here to the spiritual world. There are Christians who seem to blossom when their material circumstances become the most harsh and severe. They grow in the darkness and shade.

If this were not true how could we otherwise explain some of the experiences of the Apostle Paul?

Before we begin our business, I want to remind anyone wishing to speak is first asked to make their way to the microphones in the center aisle as this is the only way your remarks can be heard and recorded by our reporter for the transcript of the meeting. Remember too to give your name and also please address to the Chair.

Each of you is charged with the responsibility to document your attendance at this meeting. Attendance sheets are provided for your convenience. Please indicate your attendance in the appropriate spot. These sheets will be collected at the close of the meeting.

For our first order of business may I have your consent for the appointment of Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, to serve as National Secretary pro tem and Marta Hedding to serve as National Treasurer pro tem?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you.

Serving as parliamentarian for this meeting is Barbara Kranig from the Department of Wisconsin. And you have your red and white and blue scarf already at your table enjoying our tea.

Reading and approval of the NEC Meeting minutes from Saturday, August 22, will be read at our next NEC Meeting.

Our next order of business is the election of a national secretary and a national treasurer.

Will the National Vice President Carlene assume the Chair?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The Chair recognizes the National President for the purpose of nominating a national secretary and a national treasurer.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** One of the first responsibilities of the National President is to nominate the national secretary and the national treasurer.

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Mary "Dubbie" Buckler for the office of National Secretary for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

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Dubbie continues to exhibit the traits and qualities and knowledge required for the position. She was officially introduced at the Awareness Assembly when she accepted the position. Further, Miriam Junge assisted in her transaction into the position reported that, I quote: “We made the right choice when she was hired.”

Dubbie’s eligibility comes from her father who served in World War II.

I’ve had the opportunity to work with her during the transition months in preparing for my office and can assure all that she is managing the headquarters office with open communications and teamwork.

Much has been accomplished in her short time with us, and I have no doubt that she will continue her service with a renewed relevance to our mission and strategic planning in the year ahead.

Dubbie has two sons, Brian and Steven. It’s been two years since Brian returned from serving his country in Iraq. Also, as a side note a Hoosier Girl Stater.

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Mary “Dubbie” Buckler to the office of National Secretary for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

*(Applause)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** You have heard the nomination of Mary “Dubbie” Buckler for the office of National Secretary. All in favor say, “Aye.”

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** All opposed say, “no.”

*(No verbal response)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** You have elected Mary “Dubbie” Buckler your National Secretary for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I am very pleased to nominate Marta Hedding for the office of national treasurer for 2009-2010 administrative year.

Now another member of the staff, providing excellent service to both staff and members is Marta Hedding.

Her membership eligibility comes from her father, a Navy World War II veteran.

Marta has been with the Organization for 15 years. She brings both operational and organizational knowledge to the table. She continues to display professionalism and is well admired by her entire staff.

She shared with me recently that when she joined the staff her children were four and five, now they are 19 and 21.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Sarah just turned 21.

Time does fly by, doesn’t it, Marta?

I’m very pleased to nominate Marta Hedding for the office of National Treasurer for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** You have heard the nomination of Marta Hedding for the office of National Treasurer, all in favor say, “aye.”

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** All opposed say, “no.”

*(No verbal response)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** You have elected Marta Hedding your national treasurer for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And I have asked both of them to give brief, brief remarks.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** In the interest of time and understanding that the mind can only absorb what the seat can endure, and that we have another meeting coming in here afterwards, I will just say quickly, I am honored to be serving as your National Secretary. We are listening to you loud and clear. We understand this is an organization of 800 thousand members. It is not an organization of a few and we will do our best to make sure that we can position ourselves so that we can grow.

You've heard me say this before; my primary concern is since September 11, 2001, this Nation has been focused on honoring and supporting our troops. Never have we had a backdrop against which to grow the membership of this organization. We need to grow this organization. What you do, the mission, is too valuable to be looking at dwindling membership numbers. We need to double our membership, not watch those numbers go down with all that we have to do with our returning veterans. Thank you so much. It is an honor to serve you.

*(Applause)*

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Well I'm just going to thank Rita for the appointment and I thank all of you for agreeing with her.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** They're having a hard time hearing me and probably bringing the microphone will help.

Is that a little bit better?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you, Carlene.

Would the newly elected National Secretary and National Treasurer please join me at the podium for the oath of the office?

You will raise your right hand and repeat after me using your name and the office where I use mine.

*(Nation Secretary and Treasurer sworn.)*

I, Rita Navarreté, Marta Hedding, Mary Buckler, do hereby accept the responsibilities of the office of National Treasurer and National Secretary, and National President.

Congratulations and thank you for your service.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Would all the National Officers please stand and be recognized?

*(National Officers stand)*

*(Applause)*

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**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You just got elected. You just got elected.

Would all the Past National Presidents please stand and be recognized at this time?

*(Past National Presidents stand)*

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Before I start I need to know that you have a handout that has a brief summary of Trish Ward. Do you have that with you?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Would you please pull it out.

The next item of business is the ratification of the board member of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. The Board of the Foundation has asked that you ratify Patricia “Trish” Ward, to serve a three-year term commencing today and ending with the closing of convention in August 2012.

You’ve received that brief summary of Trish’s qualifications on the chairs this morning.

The Chair will entertain a motion to ratify Trish Ward for a three-year term on the Board of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

**MS. HAUCK:** Rosemarie Hauck from the Department of Missouri.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Rosemarie from the Department of Missouri to be recognized?

**MS. HAUCK:** Thank you. I nominate Trish Ward as a three-year member of the Foundation.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It has been moved to ratify Trish Ward for the three-year term on the Board of the American Legion Auxiliary to serve a three-year term; is there any discussion?

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Are you ready for the question?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Rita you need a second.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Pardon?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** You do need a second.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All in favor say “aye.”

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed say, “no.”

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The ratification of the Board Member of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation has passed.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is Trish Ward in the room?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** She’s right there.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Trish.

The next item of business is the ratification of the Standing Committee appointments for 2009 and 2010. Do you have that handout in front of you?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Before I entertain a motion, I need to let you know that there are two appointments in there who have substitutions as the result of the election of Beverly Wolff and Joyce Arent. And you may enter probably their first name and you will get the revised sheet.

The Americanism Committee, Committee Member Joyce Arent's substitution will be Kimberly Wynn from the Department of Arizona. And I've made the decision to keep the appointment in that Department. She's from Tucson, Arizona.s

The Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee, the Northwest Division Chairman, Beverly Wolff's name is removed and the substitution is Maryann and I'll spell the last name. G-E-F-as in Frank-R-O-H.

And because the lists were already printed and shipped, I made the decision on advice of Barbara to ask that the substitutions be made as read.

You have received the entire copy with the entire appointments listed. I will, however, only read the names of the Chairman and then ask you to ratify the entire list.

Americanism, Krisann Owens.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Kathy Dungan.

Cavalcade of Memories, Kenya Ostermeier.

Children & Youth, Peggy Thomas.

Community Service, Denise Delaney-Wrolen.

Constitution & Bylaws, Coral May Grout.

Education, Mary Davis.

Finance, Linda Boone.

Girls State, Janet Jefford.

Junior Activities, Martha Corriher.

Leadership, Sharon Conatser.

Legislative, Vickie Koutz.

Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation, Katherine Morris.

Membership, Nancy Brown-Park.

National Security, Diane Duscheck.

Past Presidents Parley, Elsie Bailey.

Poppy, Diane Spencer.

Public Relations, Linda Moseman-Raymond.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Kris Nelson.

The Chair will entertain a motion to ratify the entire list of appointments with the two substitutions to Standing Committees for administrative year 2009-2010 as presented.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** Madam President, Kathee Coughlin, Department of Florida. I move that we ratify the appointments as presented with the two corrections.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It has been moved and seconded to ratify the list of appointments to the standing committees for the administrative year 2009-2010 as presented. Is there any discussion?

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*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed say, "no."

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The motion to ratify the entire list of appointments to the standing committees with the substitutions for the administrative year of 2009-2010 has passed.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you.

The next item of business is the ratification of the standing administrative committee appointment for the 2009-2010 administrative year.

You have received a copy of the entire appointments. I will however just read the name of the standing administrative committee that was approved by the governing delegation at this convention.

Standing Committee Administrative list for the audit committee only the chairman has been named. Virginia Hobbs.

The Chair will entertain a motion to ratify the appointment of the standing administrative committee for audit, Virginia Hobbs, Chairman.

**MS. HARVEY:** Madam President, Chris Harvey, Department of Colorado, I'd like to move or make a motion that we ratify Virginia Hobbs for Audit.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Chris Harvey from the Department of Colorado.

Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It has been moved and seconded to ratify the appointment of the standing administrative committee for the Audit Committee, Virginia Hobbs Chairman for the administrative year 2009-2010. Is there any discussion?

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Are you ready for the question?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed say, "no."

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The motion to ratify the standing administrative committee, Audit Committee, Chaired by Virginia Hobbs has passed.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The next item of business is the ratification of the appointments to special committees.

The lists of special committees list:

The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Kristine West.

Human Resources, Carlene Ashworth.

The Long Range Strategic Planning, it's being co-chaired by Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan and Dubbie Buckler.

Do you have that handout?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you.

The Chair will entertain a motion to ratify the entire list of the special committees as read for the special appointments for the administrative year 2009-2010.

**MS. JOHNSON:** Madam President, I move to ratify the special committee.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Would you please state your name?

**MS. JOHNSON:** Gloria Johnson, Department of Georgia.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Gloria Johnson, the Department of Georgia.

Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It has been moved and seconded to ratify the entire list of the special committees with the chairman being made for the administrative year 2009-2010 as presented.

Is there any discussion?

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Madam President, is it your intent to have an Advisory Committee?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I will entertain an amendment to the motion.

It has been brought to my attention that it was an oversight that the Advisory Committee Chair and the members were not listed in the handout.

Desi Stoy is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Madam President, Carlene Ashworth, National Vice President, I move to amend the motion to add Desi Stoy, and the Advisory Committee to that list.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You have heard the amendment, all those in favor of the amendment; signify by saying, "Yes".

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed, no.

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Thank you so much again. Complete oversight.

Now we go back to the original motion. How soon we forget.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The motion to approve to ratify the appointment of the Advisory Committee Chairman and members as to be listed as a special committee all the appointments at this time as either handed out or has been amended and substituted, I entertain a motion.

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**MS. HAUCK:** Rosemarie Hauck from the Department of Missouri.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Rosemarie Hauck. And the Department?

**MS. HAUCK:** Rosemarie.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And the Department?

**MS. HAUCK:** Missouri.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Rosemarie from the Department of Missouri.

**MS. HAUCK:** That all of the committee members (unintelligible).

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All we need is the vote. Yes. Discussion?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President, I noticed that we also do not have a National Convention Chairman listed. Is that customarily an appointment that would have been included?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes and the Convention Chair has been named and it looks like that one did not get to that last sheet of the appointments because they were all listed. Okay.

Thank you for bringing that to my attention because the Scrapbook Chairman was also listed on that list.

So thank you Jenny because we do need to make sure that we have things recorded and documented and just sorry that wasn't included on that last sheet.

Diane Sirovina and she is from the Department of Wisconsin is the National Convention Chair and also the Scrapbook Chair is Matilda, we know her as Tillie, Lopez from Unit 72, there is Albuquerque.

Okay. The Chair will entertain an amendment to add the additional appointees.

**MS. MORRISSETTE:** Mary Ellen Morrisette, at the Department of Massachusetts. I move that we ratify the National Convention and the Nation Scrapbook Chairmen.

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second to the amendment?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** What we will vote on is amendment.

All of those in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed say, "no."

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The amendment has passed.

Now we go to the original motion, the six committees as named and the chairs of those.

All in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**MS. LYNN:** Elisa Lynn (phonetic) from the Department of Alaska. During our commission (unintelligible) that we did not see a HR Committee.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It is not a standing committee, but it is a special committee and that's how it was identified.

All in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed, no.

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The motion has passed and I thank you so much and thanks for that help.

**MS. DUTTON:** Madam President?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT DUTTON:** Sandi Dutton from Maryland, Past National President.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT DUTTON:** Under Legislative we definitely love the Department of Delaware, but Cass Wheeler is from Maryland and we want to claim her.

*(Laughter)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT DUTTON:** So if you could make sure that correction is made?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Just hold on a second and we'll just get it.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT DUTTON:** Catherine Wheeler under Legislative. It says on the paper, Delaware, but she's definitely from Maryland.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. I had a couple of calls on states, and they were from, say the Eastern but they lived in another state.

So I had that brought to my attention. But we will so note it and we will correct that. And I apologize for that not being listed correctly.

I'd now like to welcome Carol Moye from the Department of New Mexico, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board President to present the Foundation's FY-10 Budget.

**MS. MOYE:** Madam National President, National Officers, Members of the National Executive Committee and guests, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, established in 2007 by the American Legion Auxiliary, respectfully request acceptance of the Foundation's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

With your permission Madam President I would like to introduce the members of the Foundation Board for 2010.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**MS. MOYE:** As President of the Foundation Board, I'm pleased to introduce to you the officers of the Board.

If you are present, please stand to be recognized.

Carol Van Kirk, Vice President.

Patricia Ward, Secretary.

Deborah McBride, Treasurer.

Ex Officio Director, Rita Navarreté, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She's not present.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Present.

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*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Present.

**MS. MOYE:** The designated directors are: Carlene Ashworth, National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Kris Nelson, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary.

Peggy Thomas, Children & Youth Committee Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary.

Mary “Dubbie” Buckler, National Secretary, American Legion Auxiliary.

And Marta Hedding, National Treasurer, American Legion Auxiliary.

Leaving the Board this year is Past National President, Desi Stoy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members for their diligence throughout this past year and I look forward to working with them during the next year.

As a separate and duly incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and in accordance with our Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation and on the recommendation of the Counsel General, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board has prepared and adopted its budget.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation exists to support the programs and the services of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The American Legion Auxiliary is committed to the success of the Foundation and provides staffing to the Foundation as in-kind support.

The budget development process was completed with guidance and of assistance from the American Legion Auxiliary Executive and Finance Staff.

Every consideration was given to provide sufficient funds to support the work of the Foundation, while reducing wherever possible the impact on the American Legion Auxiliary Budget.

The Budget summary provided for your review reflects a reduction in total expenses for \$34,247.00 when compared to Fiscal Year 2009 Budget.

Personnel costs have been reduced by \$13,532.00 for a savings of \$22,727.00 in general staff costs.

Please note there is an increase of \$9,195.00 under Development Staff to support the hiring of new staff because development is very simply an essential component of any successful foundation.

The total revenues or fund-raising were forecast at \$82,500.00 for this next year.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Budget is conservative and reasonable. With your approval the work of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation for Fiscal Year 2010 will be conducted within the financial parameters established in this budget.

As president of the Foundation and on behalf of the board of directors of the Foundation, I move to accept the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Fiscal Year 2010 Budget.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All those in favor say, “Aye.”

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed say, “no.”

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The motion is passed.

**MS. MOYE:** Thank you, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I have some additional remarks that I’d like to make at this time and then we’ll go on to the FY-10 Budget.

The National President’s Plan for announcement at the Post NEC Meeting: The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities will begin through the decades into the next ten years and Christine West, we’ve got a lot of work to do, but we’re going to have some fun.

There will be a unified message; reconnect with our heritage to strengthen our future with a theme of “Reconnect and Continue that Energy and Energize.”

The internal tag-line; “Believing is Achieving,” promote tradition with change.

Promotion: Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Support the Right to Recovery Activities.

Promote membership under the umbrella of; “Membership Begins with Me,” retaining 95 percent of membership and gain, those 38 thousand new members as per our strategic plan.

And I want you to know that membership goals were revised at the call of the membership chairman and department presidents asking us to reconsider and that is why the membership plan of action was not sent out with all the others.

I made the decision to pull it back and I asked Nancy Brown-Park — where are you Nancy? Okay. Stand and be recognized please for your hard work and working with me and reviewing all the goals that we initially established. Carlene and Kris you were right along, Kris would you please stand, and be recognized, Kris Nelson, Carlene -- for working together in trying to get those membership goals to at least be attainable, and we were revised and the new name for the revitalization work for this year is the “Membership Support Team.”

Let’s give these ladies a round of applause.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Divisional Vice Presidents will be expected to carry the message of the National objectives and promote membership wherever you travel.

National Chairmen will you please all stand, 2009-2010.

*(2009-2010 National Chairmen recognized)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You too will be expected to carry the message of membership growth.

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In addition the National Program Chairmen will be a part of an opportunity to provide department training this coming year.

I have asked Sharon Conatser, Leadership Chairman, and Diane Duscheck, former Leadership Chairman and present National Security Chairman to co-lead this effort.

Ladies you have a national resource in your own back yard, your own department. Training topics to name are few: Planning and conducting effective meetings, listening skills, and building dynamic teams to get results.

These are already modules, power points that are sitting on the shelf and just ready to take the dust off of them and be used.

The details will be presented at the Presidents and Secretaries Conference in October.

Most exciting, the most excitement is, minimal or no costs to departments or National. Please stay tuned.

Please now welcome Finance Committee Chairman Linda Boone to present the FY-10 Budget of the American Legion Auxiliary and the FY-10 Budget of the 8/40.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Oh. Okay.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** I'm not going to do 8/40 Budget.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I believe it will probably --

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** That's (unintelligible).

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** -- I have a statement for that perhaps. Okay?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** All right. So you should have two packets. One is the budget which you should be pulling out and then also the narrative.

Has everybody got those?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We need to make sure that the NEC of 2009-2010 has a copy of that budget.

Does someone need -- that's -- they were in the packets to be delivered to them in the mail room.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Outgoing NEC stuff. Okay. Do you have that?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is that what happened?

*(Room chatter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. I'm sure as tradition, or process or practice or custom, they were identified as the 2009-2010 Budget. And some of you who have been obviously -- you're former NEC recognize that that should have been in your hands. But here is an extra copy if someone can use it and we will assure that --

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay. All right. We're presenting the budget.

What I might just tell you that we're going to take some action on the narrative on the reserve section in a moment. But this narrative part we've been developing over the last few years trying to make it more helpful to you as you review the budget so that it gives you some information.

So I just want to tell you in general how this budget was developed. The goal was to lower expenses overall by ten percent. And we achieved an

eight percent reduction and it was to reflect the priorities and the goals that were on the strategic plan for the Organization that had been adopted. And that we wanted it to be realistic. It is as close, as realistic as we can get when you're looking at a crystal ball.

So those were the basic things that we started with and then we've given you other details about the revenue category and the expense category.

Okay. So let's go over now to the actual numbers in this packet. And we'll go through here. My intent is not to read this to you; my intent is to give you an opportunity to ask questions of things as you review them.

So certainly speak up if you have the question.

So we'll just sort of run the revenue side and maybe see if there are any questions in the revenue side.

This is where we get our income from. And we've given you the numbers for FY-09 and what we're projecting in FY-10.

So a little bit more revenue for secretaries, less revenue for Girls Nation, AEF, magazine — advertising incomes significantly less. We're hopefully going to be able to surpass that, but this was the realistic number. The National Secretary with her staff is making some effort to increase that number but to be realistic this is the number we set upon.

Membership as we know, the membership has been reducing so that number is to reflect that.

And under veterans programs I'd like you note — maybe this might be a good time to go to last page of this where we talk about the Corporation for National and Community Service Grant that we've received.

You know that grant has different options, different fiscal years than your own organization and that's the case where the Corporation for National and Community Service to this grant.

So we have an impact for FY-09 finances and it will affect our FY-10.

So this how it impacted in which year. So that's what this sheet, Corporation for National and Community Service grant is trying to depict to you the revenues and what year they get, and what amount and what expenses get and what amount we anticipate and then the total net cost to the Organization over the two-year period is \$2,270.00, which will be our contribution towards the grant for those years.

Yes?

**MS. BRITTON:** Madam President though you to the Finance Chairman; Susan Britton, Department of New York. I just had a couple of questions as I was reviewing this yesterday afternoon going through one.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Which sheet are you in?

**MS. BRITTON:** The revenue sheet.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay.

**MS. BRITTON:** The first sheet.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Go ahead.

**MS. BRITTON:** Under Girls Nation, I noticed in the narrative that we're increasing the tuition from \$300.00 to \$325.00 per girl.

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**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**MS. BRITTON:** But this is showing a decrease in the revenue, so I'm wondering if we're increasing the cost, why would there be a decrease in the revenue.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yeah, that's just like \$2,500.00. I don't have the details.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Store income.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Oh, store income.

**MS. BRITTON:** Okay. And also you answered the question about magazine advertising. I had a question about that and also on Line Number 129, the general membership.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**MS. BRITTON:** Does that \$344 thousand decrease -- are you basically going with that because of a possible decrease in membership? Is that, in other words, the biggest factor in that decrease of revenue?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**MS. BRITTON:** It is. Okay.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Because we've actually made up from that by a couple of the infinity programs royalty are significantly -- a couple of them are going up a good amount so that's helping to recover.

**MS. BRITTON:** Okay. And just one last quick clarification, Line Number 132, in the management in general, can you kind of just give us a brief overview of exactly what's included in that so we can have a better idea of what that entails?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** The rent for the National Headquarters, the paper and pencils, that kind of stuff.

**MS. BRITTON:** As far as revenue though I mean.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Oh, I'm sorry.

**MS. BRITTON:** Because there's like a \$400 thousand decrease in the revenue.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** I'm on the expense side. Okay, so management general. Okay. Let me just get there.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** The investment account.

**MS. BRITTON:** Right, Line 132, the very first sheet, the revenue sheet.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay. Marta maybe you can --

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Investment income. Investment income.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Pardon me?

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Investment income.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Oh, investment income.

**MS. BRITTON:** Oh, investment income, okay. Great.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**MS. BRITTON:** Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Which is down significantly.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** That's an understatement.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes?

**MS. PRENDERGAST:** Madam Chairman, Mickie Prendergast, Department of Texas. I had basically the same question on the very first two, 108 and 109,

Awareness Assembly National Convention. Is that because membership has decreased that much that you do not expect that revenue? That's a big drop.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** The participation rate of people participating and what we will charge them for, the fees and income from registration fees.

**MS. PRENDERGAST:** And registration has not gone up, like in Awareness?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No, I'm pretty sure it hasn't.

**MS. PRENDERGAST:** Okay.

**MS. JOHNSON:** Chiron Johnson, Department of Wyoming.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Before you address the Chair, I'd like Marta to come forward and stand right here so when you make your responses to those particular questions it can be recorded as such.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Can she instead have the microphone over here because she's got a lot of papers?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yeah. Okay. She's got — yes.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes, just take it over here.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** I don't have it all in here.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** She probably has it in her — okay.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** Just to give you a little bit of information, this year the National Finance Committee changed our process of how we develop the budget. We broke the categories up, because we have a thousand line items in our budget, so we broke the categories up and assigned those categories to the five members of the Committee, and then we each worked with our categories in-depth and then we brought all that information back to the table so that we wouldn't all have to sit and look at a thousand line items. We would have our sections and then we would combine them.

So we're each sort of experts on different parts of the budget this year.

Okay.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President through you to Madam Chairman; on revenue Line 133 for the fund raisers —

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Uh-huh.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** — it shows that we will be spending \$483 thousand or excuse me; I'm sorry, \$424,259.00 to have the revenue of \$483 thousand which brings us to a revenue of \$58,741.00. Do we anticipate that going down since the departments will be able to get that donor's list now?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Maybe. It's hard to say. We don't have a huge donor list. I mean, we only have about 100 thousand donors on that active donor list.

So it's not our entire membership and it's not a huge donor list.

Part of the cost is — if we want to enlarge that donor pool is to acquisition because you — I always use the term “fishing.” You've got to throw a lot of lines in before you catch a fish, and so that is sort of what it is. To make a Heart Connection with someone about donating sometimes it takes a while, so you don't get immediate profits from that.

So when they go into the acquisition stage it costs us a little bit more to do fund-raising.

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**MS. JOHNSON:** Yes, Madam Chairman, Shareen Johnson, Department of Wyoming. I just have one point of clarification please.

You have listed as a Girls Nation delegate fee \$300.00. But currently the departments pay \$150.00 per senator. So where did the \$300.00 figure come from? We write a check for \$300.00 for two delegates to attend as senators.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Three hundred for each senator, right?

**MS. JOHNSON:** I thought it was for two.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** I don't know. To me we'll have to look at that --

**MS. JOHNSON:** All right. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Thank you for your question. Okay, all right, so back on revenue.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam Chairman, Madam President again on 133 on the revenue, we've got a significant jump from '09 to '10 on line --

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Where?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** -- 133, development and fund-raising.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** -- and then on the expenditure side, we're looking at spending more in '09, but a significant drop in expenditures in '10, and --

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Well it's like \$4 thousand, but then again --

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** -- no from \$424 to \$483 as far as the revenue -- no, I guess -- my question is we've got a projected revenue of \$483 in Line 133, and projected expenditures of \$424. Is that part of the realistic or if we have leftover money it will go into --

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Well there's always hangover that's from the previous year.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Right.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** So things come in late because people hold their little donation cards and when they get some extra money they will send it in. So we often get people from FY-09 expenditures donate in like FY-10. So that happens. And we're hoping that our fund-raising efforts will be more effective.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Okay. Just \$50 thousand wasn't pocket change and I was a little curious. Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay.

**MS. SKELTON:** Helen Skelton with the Department of Delaware. I have a question about the Creative Arts donations and investments here.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Uh-huh.

**MS. SKELTON:** The proposed budget now for this year is \$104 thousand, but we had \$129 thousand; is that because it wasn't reached this year? Have we reached that point?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No, we did not reach the \$129 thousand this year. And we just tried to be a little bit more realistic of what we were going to get. You don't want to inflate your revenue too much.

**MS. SKELTON:** Right.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** And then spend too much and then you're in trouble.

**MS. SKELTON:** Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** So that was what we were trying to do.

**MS. SKELTON:** Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Uh-huh. Okay. So any more questions on the revenue side?

*(No response)*

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** So that gives us a total anticipated revenue of \$6,639,306.00.

So now let's go to the expense side. And you have one sheet and then the detail sheet on the Standing Committee just to summarize because a lot of times people want to know; well how much are you spending on that one particular committee. So we pulled it out and just made a summary for you.

So we're going to go to page two now the expense categories. We tried to make a significant impact on use and expenses and in the narrative we gave you some of those categories that we looked at and some of the things that we tried to do to cut expenses.

Is there one category that particularly interests to ask a question?

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** Again Kathee Coughlin, Department of Florida. On about the fifth or sixth item down, on the forms and brochures, we already have a very slim budget in our department —

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** On the narrative?

**MS. COUGHLIN:** — yes, ma'am under the expenses.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** On the narrative.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** Where it says all forms, brochures, etc.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Uh-huh.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** — will be downloaded from Web site for printing and postage costs reduction. Concern with the departments that have a bunch of problems as I know National does as well and another concern is for small Departments and their small budgets and even ones that don't have computer capabilities because we know that there are some.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** Is there any relief in sight or any other ways that we can work with this item? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Thanks for your input. Anybody else?

**MS. PRENDERGAST:** Mickie Prendergast, Department of Texas. I was trying to see if the answers were in there and I missed it.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Uh-huh.

**MS. PRENDERGAST:** But we're still not too sure on this.

Could you just tell me how the National President and the National Vice President and the National Secretary can take such big cuts in the expenses and where do we pick up the money?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Well we had to cut expenses, so we had to do some things. Give up some traditions and some culture around travel expenses.

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The National President has made some decisions about not going some places that we might have gone to in the past. The amount of gifts that we're giving internally to each other has been reduced.

So there have been some significant things that we are no longer going to do this year.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** Oh, is there something that the states can do?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Well you could have passed a dues increase. No.

*(Laughter)*

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No, it's one of those things where when times are tight you have to cut out some things and then when times get a little bit better you can add some things back in or you cut someplace else and add something back in.

So the priorities of the National President were met.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** Good. Well maybe when they come to visit we can be just a little more —

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** That's right.

**MS. COUGHLIN:** — a little more —

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Madam Chairman I would like to just add to that. It just didn't start this year.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I give credit to Past National President Desi for having a good review of the budget constraints and started to make some changes and the percentage just doesn't come to me right away, Dubbie, but I know we had a significant reduction in savings in budget both — 16 percent reduction.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Not that we know that number right off the top of our head.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Right. Sixteen percent. Okay. So it has been happening and I can tell you that a lot of the traditions and customs and practices we are looking at them a little bit more closely like you do at home too in your departments. Maybe when your national president came, you got a suite, you got a fruit basket or cookie basket. Some of those things are going to affect your budget. So please know that this national president's main purpose there is to visit you and I'm going to be probably not spend a whole lot of time — just get me a bed and a nice pillow and I'll be very comfortable. Okay. We were looking but you need to know that I am not going to give up a tradition to get this Organization to grow. So I'm not throwing everything out, but we're just relooking at all those expenses. And please support that, and carry that down to your department and to your districts and to your units.

**MS. JOHNSTON:** Madam President, Gloria Johnston, Department of Georgia.

On Line Item 501, I just need a further explanation, because I know the Foundation is just starting and just wanted to know, there is no budget reposed for revenue and of course we'll be having expenses, so could you just give us a little further explanation on that one?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Oh, you've done a real good job.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And a point of information, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is its own 501(c)(3), so that is why that the American Legion Auxiliary doesn't include it in its budget as distributed to you. And we are going to give you more and more information of those processes because we've not done probably the best job that we could do to keep you educated and informed of what is going to governing this Organization.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** It's just what we give them to run their operation. And we don't expect any income yet because they're just getting started. When you start up and you're trying to cultivate resources and for the Foundation it is going to take a while before we start seeing the dollars come to the other side.

**MS. JOHNSTON:** Just one more question. Will there be, say a breakout session; at the next convention the Awareness Assembly to have it explained more about what the Foundation is doing?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We will write that down. Dubbie did you take that note?

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** What was the question?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Repeat your question or your request?

**MS. JOHNSTON:** The question was about the Foundation. Since it's just starting and we really don't know much about it yet. We just wanted to kind of have an update maybe at the Awareness Assembly as to what is occurring and what is planned. As you said through the years what the plan of work is for that.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Dubbie says it's already on the agenda. Georgia. NEC from Georgia.

**MS. MORRISSETTE:** Mary Ellen Morrisette, Department of Massachusetts, Madam National President through you to the Chairman. Could you just do a little brief overview of what Item Number 129, general membership, includes?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** I'll try and then Marta can do the — 129 expense category, can you give them some line items.

Let me see if I can give you some line items from here?

**TREASURER HEDDING:** It includes a portion of the credit card income that goes to departments, that's part of that expense. Awards for the membership committee, all the membership committee expenses are here. Staff time devoted to the membership program is here, membership supplies, all those free items you get, they're there.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Yeah, there's some travel in there for like the membership committee and the advisory committee.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** And then we print the plans of actions out of this category. The advisory committee is in here also.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Any outside legal expense or that sort of thing comes out of here.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** All the poppy brochures, those kinds of things.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Does that help? Is that enough?

**MS. MORRISSETTE:** Yes.

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**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay.

**MS. BRITTON:** Madam President through you to the Finance Chairman, Susan Britton, Department of New York. I just one other — oh, I just had a senior moment.

*(Laughter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You are too young.

**MS. BRITTON:** Oh, good grief I'm thinking about all these other things running through my mind.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** That's okay. If you think about it just don't hesitate to ask.

**MS. BRITTON:** Okay, I'll come back.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** We all have those moments.

**MS. COMIA:** Madam President, Cathy Camire, from the Department of Rhode Island. I'd just like some clarification on Line 400, the volunteer training and development for the National Officer NEC in department training. There is a considerable increase.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Marta would you run over that.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** We're getting there.

The program that you mentioned Rita there's a — this is where those tests workshops are going to be done for a full rollout next year.

Okay. There's a proposal, I'll answer that. You didn't ask me to, but I'll answer it. There's a proposal in this to test run a volunteer training program for that would be rolled out in FY-11.

So it would be developing the packages and doing some test audience training to fine-tune it so that it would be ready for rollout in FY-11.

So there's some money in there for that besides the fact that there's other training that we do and Rita is doing a really interesting technique that she'll be talking about with presidents and secretaries about providing voluntary training with some packages of workshops that have already been developed and are ready to take to the departments.

So she'll be talking about that at Presidents' and Secretaries'. And also in here is — several years ago we put together a proposal to the Finance Committee to provide for a small dollar amount of training that each upcoming leader could select that would help embellish their skills to maybe fill in on a area that they felt weak in. That they could take some personal classes that not everybody else would have to take or do some development personally that would make them a stronger leader when they sat in the chair.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** That might be a little confusing because you've just heard me say that the national chairmen are your resource, and there's going to be either no or minimal cost for that department training. And you need to know that there is no assigned budget for that one line item.

The other items that come up to that \$34,388.00 is the awards for the leadership team, the salary and wages, and employee benefits which total over \$12 thousand; it is training for you, the NEC. We'd like to plan one day for you to get some additional training while you're at the Awareness Assembly. It

covers telephone and headquarters conference calls that include the leadership committee, training printing materials for the leadership committee. Any type of speaker travel training. And we have a nominal amount because I've not just said we get professional speakers and pay that fee, that we have within our ranks people that have that skill and the ability to be able to train us.

So perhaps will that clarify that one item? You need to be assured that that department training does not have a budgeted amount to it.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay, one piece of it anyway.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Right, one piece of it.

**MS. CARTER:** Virginia Carter from the Department of Iowa.

Madam President, Chairman, now when this budget was proposed was the thought that this extra \$2.00 or \$4.00 was going to be coming in?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It wouldn't have been effective in this budget year; it would effective in 2011, so to answer, no.

**MS. CARTER:** Okay. Thank you.

**MS. BRITTON:** Sue, Madam President, my senior moment has passed, even though someone just mentioned that we maybe we should have senior moment training as part of your training.

*(Laughter)*

**MS. BRITTON:** Madam President through you to the Finance Chairman, I just want to mention that I commend the national officers and the national staff for all their reductions of expenses. It's admirable. And I was just wondering with this budget though we don't get to see where you made those savings, in other words with expenses to date. I know the fiscal year doesn't end until September 30, but when would we all as NECs receive that information? Will we not receive that until the actual fiscal year-end, because it might have been helpful to have that in here just so that we could see where all those savings so far are being made?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We attempted that information in the narrative summary. Perhaps I can speak, if I may, to our department, we give a total overall and then we attach a narrative summary and I know our department secretary/treasurer is here and she will attest she gives a thorough narrative summary to do that.

So we're hearing you and we will come up Dubbie with how we can enhance that process.

**MS. BRITTON:** So we do see that at the end of September?

**TREASURER HEDDING:** We'll have the actual numbers in (unintelligible), so we'll be able to (unintelligible more than ten words).

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Right.

**MS. BRITTON:** Right. Well thank you.

**TREASURER HEDDING:** (Unintelligible).

**MS. BRITTON:** Okay thank you very much.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** (Unintelligible).

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Madam Chair, I will entertain a motion.

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Oh, there's one more comment. We want to listen to you.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Sorry. Madam President, to the Chairman, I have a question under expenses. Since we voted on the floor to eliminate the human resources' committee, under Administrative Committee I assume that item will be struck from the budget before we vote on it?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** We will take \$2,330.00.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Okay.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We will save —

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** It will be reducing the deficit like that.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** — it will be reduced 'because it was in there as a proposal but it will be reduced.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** That item will be struck?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes as a standing committee. Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We did it as a special, but I can tell you that we're using conference calls, so there may be some expenses there. But there will be conferences calls or GoToMeetings to carry out their work.

Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President, I have a question concerning Line 132.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** On which side, expense or revenue?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** It would be on expenses, Madam Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Could you tell me the percentage of the salaries out of that total amount?

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No. We don't have — the salaries are distributed, allocated to each area that they support.

So if they support a program or if they support something else that's where their salaries go.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Okay.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** The total salary — I don't know that we — okay.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The salary budget was reduced by ten percent, and because of the standard accounting practices they need to be put into the program that they're servicing.

So if a staff person is working on five programs, her or his salary will be split to those five programs.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Okay. Thank you.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**MS. DUTTON:** I think you've done a wonderful job on the budget and I would commend the Finance Committee. I do suggest that the items that have multiple features in them like 132 or 400, maybe we could get a breakdown of some of the things that are in them mailed out, so that the committee, the NEC and those of us who care, would have access to the information of what is in those categories.

So I would make that as a suggestion that could come out after this meeting.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Your suggestion is well noted. And Carlene remember that notebook I asked you to keep, so that you can start taking notes as these events come up. And I know Dubbie has also noted that.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President, listening to the members of the NEC asking excellent questions, I got the feeling that the question on HR might have been confusing when they got the answer. I think they want to know why HR is in the budget when it was defeated and I think they need a little more explanation so that they understand it.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** It won't be a standing committee it will be a special committee.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** That's correct.

It's listed under the administrative line item, but it may be a conference call expense, that as a special committee or all special committees have to be categorized under that administrative item, I can have Marta pull that sheet for me and I will give you further information.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay. We need to move for the adoption —

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We allowed the conference call because we took away the face-to-face meeting in some of those committees.

**MS. JOHNSTON:** Madam President, Gloria Johnston, Department of Georgia.

These are questions that I'm just interested in because you operation of the Organization and it goes to 132, Line Item 132.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Sure. Sure. You have every right to be.

**MS. JOHNSTON:** The VISTA Volunteers that are going to be in the office how is it impacted. It looks that our expenses will be decreased because of that or the number of employees. Maybe you can speak on that.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** They are in-kind contributions. Their wages are being paid for by the federal government, so it's —

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** (unintelligible) additional employees because you have (unintelligible).

**MS. JOHNSTON:** Right.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** No. So I move the adoption of the FY-10 Budget as proposed, with a revenue of \$6,639,306.00 and the expenses \$6,987,387.00.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there any further discussion, if not, all in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All opposed "no."

*(No response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It is passed.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay Rita, we have to adopt the reserve funds, so in the narrative part if you would look at the narrative part, the second page, the bottom half. We've provided you with the anticipated balance of all of our funds

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that we have. Right now the total reserve funds are \$15.6 million. And of those we have \$727 thousand designated of those.

So what we're telling — this is our proposed for FY-10 is that we would reduce that to \$636 thousand.

Our proposal is to reduce some of the accounts as you will see reflected here, and to no longer have a reserve fund for strategic planning, since we are now being able to anticipate it, and its coming — so we're putting that in the budget each year before we weren't able to anticipate how much we were going to spend, now we have more of a handle on that, so we're just going to control it through the budgeting process.

So are there any questions about the reserve funds?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Some of those items under those designated reserves are technology, marketing the milestone events, scholarships, the NPSF, the contingency, professional service, national histories.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Okay. I move for the adoption of the reserve funds for the FY-10 year of \$636 thousand.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Any further discussion?

*(No response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All those in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** All those opposed say, "No."

*(No verbal response)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** The motion is passed. Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN BOONE:** Thank you for your questions.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I need to inform you that I was approached yesterday morning, yesterday afternoon, sometime yesterday that folks want to learn about our history this year. They are The Black Horse Productions who are doing a documentary for the American Legion and it has been approved by the American Legion and they approached us once they heard that we were here and what we do, and I have not made any commitment, what I have agreed to is to meet with them this afternoon at 2:00. I have two gentlemen here and I want you just to see — and you'll know who the two gentlemen are. They are Jason Heit — wave — can you see them? And they are Stephen — and pronounce your last name for me.

**MR. GRUDENIC:** Grudenic.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Grudenic. Okay. They have been gracious in waiting and I just want you to know I'm listening to them, there's been no commitment. But what they have to offer is not only with this documentary they would do some profit-sharing for us.

If we consider their proposal in promoting the video they would pay the American Legion Auxiliary 30 percent of all DVD sales, excluding the shipping and handling and the applicable taxes. The American Legion Auxiliary would

also be included in all other revenues such as television broadcasting, additional DVD sales, and ancillary rights.

Our goal is to produce a documentary that will help preserve the history of the American Legion Auxiliary, raise awareness, recruit new members and create a new source of revenue.

Thank you for coming to us and we'll look forward to meeting you this afternoon at your office here in the convention center.

In essence of the time is there something that you might want to say at this time that would be just very, very brief with your partnership with the Legion, because this has been an approved Legion project?

**MR. HEIT:** We do understand you're under time constraints, so we'll let you guys carry on. You have our proposal and if you have any further questions just please let us know. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay.

*(Applause)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Isn't it great to have organizations, companies, corporations come to us?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

Madam President?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Judy (Unintelligible) Department of (Unintelligible), some of our department -- Madam President some of our department members who have worked during the convention and have by necessity been out of the room, have been raising the question as to whether a DVD of the National Convention will be available?

So we pose that question to the Chair and to our National Secretary.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** The short answer is we're going to be working with the production crew when we get back to find out what the cost would be entailed to see if we can do that.

Right now it would be a budget consideration to do it as just available free of charge, because as you know free of charge does not mean free of costs, so we're going to determine the cost and then we will get back to everybody.

But we've had several people ask and we're going to explore it.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** And definitely I will have the input from the Finance Committee on that to review.

Dubbie, are there any announcements you would like to make at this time?

**MS. VAN KIRK:** Madam President?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** I move that the Finance Committee shall meet face-to-face four times during the fiscal year.

One meeting will be before or after Presidents & Secretaries Conference, one meeting be before or after the Washington Awareness Assembly, one meeting to be a spring budget meeting and another at the call of the president.

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The fall and spring meetings will be a minimum of two full days.

Would you like a copy of that?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Yes, will you please bring that to the table?

*(Room chatter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** We were double checking to see if it's not a conflict with the bylaws as already in the book just for a point of information.

*(Room chatter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** As listed in Article V of Committees, Section IV, the Bylaws state in part, the Finance Committee shall meet in conjunction with the Presidents and Secretaries Conference, in conjunction with the National Executive Committee Meetings, and shall also meet at the call of the National President.

The motion as presented: The Finance Committee shall meet face-to-face four times during the fiscal year.

One meeting will be before or after Presidents/Secretaries Conference, one meeting will be before or after the Washington Awareness Assembly, one meeting to be a spring budget meeting and another at the call of the president.

The fall and spring meetings will be a minimum of two full days.

*(Room chatter)*

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is Chris Dickey in the room?

**AUDIENCE:** She just left.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** She just left. Okay.

The ruling of what I've been advised is that this is in conflict with the Bylaws.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** How so?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** It's more restrictive than what the Bylaws require.

If I may ask Carlene, to please take the Chair.

**MS. VAN KIRK:** Do I not have a right to speak on it first?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** I second it.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** You have a right to make a motion. On what the ruling has been, is that it is in conflict with the established Bylaws.

Just take the Chair and recognize me.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** I recognize Madam President Rita Navarreté to speak.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I would like to ask your consideration that allow because of -- also budget constraints, but I also realize that this committee is very serious to the Organization. But if a meeting needs to be held by a conference call or GoToMeeting what this would do is be restrictive to what I could do to help manage the activities of this organization.

The October Meeting is before Presidents & Secretaries Conference as outline in the Bylaws. I'm restricted to that. I had had Plan B in the event that there was going to be an amendment to that to not hold me to that period because sometimes conflicts occur. And plus we've just went through the entire budget period, so what we do in October is go over very crucial action items of

policies and procedures that effect us and impact us, but it's also this year the week of the Creative Arts Festival. It just happened that way and then from there we go on to the Presidents & Secretaries Conference.

So I want to be able to have the National President be able to assess what needs to be done and how we handle that — I'm having all other committees also look at conference calls or GoToMeetings and perhaps not be able to have those face-to-face.

So those — I hope that you would not restrict the position of National President to be able to make those decision in the best interest of the Organization.

**MS. DUTTON:** Point of parliamentary order. Point of parliamentary order.

I move that the NEC vote to decide whether it's out of whatever you said it was; out of scope.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** (Unintelligible).

**MS. DUTTON:** Pardon me?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** (Unintelligible).

**MS. DUTTON:** I move that the NEC vote whether it's restrictive or not. The parliamentarian gives an opinion but it's really the NEC's decision whether it's

—

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** (Unintelligible).

**MS. DUTTON:** Yes. Well it's not the NEC's decision?

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** (Unintelligible).

**MS. DUTTON:** I move that the NEC vote whether it's to be allowed or not allowed.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Point of order, Madam Chairman. Point of order, Madam Chairman. The meetings for the Finance Committee are defined in our Constitution & Bylaws and in the Bylaws specifically. Those Bylaws cannot be — can only be amended at Convention. We learned this year that part -- members have the right of vote. All our members have the right to vote to change our Bylaws.

**MS. DUTTON:** Point of parliamentary order.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** May I please finish? Thank you, and then it will be your turn, I promise.

**MS. DUTTON:** Thank you.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** So if we — so this cannot be an action, or I do not believe it should be an action of the NEC, but it needs to go to the body as a whole at Convention.

**MS. DUTTON:** Point of parliamentary order. I'm not asking the NEC to change the Bylaws; I'm asking them for their interpretation on whether the Chair is interpreting it correctly, and I believe that was done on Convention Floor, and it can be done in this meeting. It's your decision, the NEC's decision as was done when we determined that we were not changing a previous ruling.

So I think you'll find that that the same thing we did on Resolution Number II applies to this meeting.

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**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Point of order. Do we not have two motions on the floor?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Okay. Let's clarify what we have on the floor.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** It has been ruled by the parliamentarian — it got turned off. It got turned off.

It has been ruled by the parliamentarian that the revised or that the motion as sent to the Chair is out of order, because it does not — it is in conflict with the Constitution & Bylaws as written.

**MS. DUTTON:** Point of parliamentary order. We just did this at Convention and the body was able to decide whether in fact it was in conflict. I'm not asking them to make a decision as far as the Bylaws, but on the National Convention Floor we decided whether something was in conflict.

So if the National Convention can decide it, so can the NEC. We did it on the Resolution Number II, I believe.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The Chair recognizes Desi Stoy.

**CHAIRMAN STOY:** Thank you. Desi Stoy, Immediate Past National President.

*(Laughter)*

**CHAIRMAN STOY:** On Convention Floor the ruling of the Chair was challenged, and the Chair was kind enough to defer to the assembly for their opinion, is how I handled that, I believe.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Uh-huh.

**CHAIRMAN STOY:** But I believe it's the Chair that makes the decision.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** According to the parliamentarian that was not over an issue; however that was in conflict with the Constitution & Bylaws.

**CHAIRMAN STOY:** And that's why I chose to defer to the Assembly.

Madam Chair?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Yes, Rosemarie.

**MS. HAUCK:** (Unintelligible).

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** We don't have a motion.

**MS. HAUCK:** I thought we had two motions on the floor.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Well there was no second to the first one. Was there a second to both of them?

**MS. HAUCK:** Yes.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Okay. The first one was ruled out of order.

**MS. HAUCK:** Correct.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The second motion — was there a second to the second motion, is that what you're asking for a vote on?

**MS. HAUCK:** Yes.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** So the second motion — are you saying that you want to vote on the second motion made by Past National President Sandi Dutton to allow you to vote —

**MS. HAUCK:** Correct, because —

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** — on whether to accept this or not?

**MS. HAUCK:** — it was never asked for a second.

(Room chatter)

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** There was already a motion on the floor, Rosemarie that's why.

**MS. HAUCK:** Okay. Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** And the — the second one is out of order. Okay. I'll turn the Chair back over to you.

You want that in your hand?

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I wanted one more remark.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Oh. Okay.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** For point of information the October Finance Committee because the Bylaws say that it is to be a meeting before I made the decision that it would be a conference call and not a face-to-face.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Madam President? Hello, hello. It's not on.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** It's on.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** You're sure that — oh I am on. Madam President, am I to understand that we're taking a vote on whether —

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** There's no vote on the floor at all.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** No.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** There's no vote.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** She read that out of the book that is correct —

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** — that should be case closed, right?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Yes.

**UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Right. Thank you.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Thank you. Okay. The Legion needs this room as soon as possible.

The Chair recognizes Phyllis Bachman.

**MS. BACHMAN:** I move that in the absence of severance policy the Finance Committee will review and approve any severance packages before they can be offered to any employees. And that if a severance policy is developed, it must be approved by the Finance Committee before it is presented to the National Executive Committee for their approval and that this become effective immediately with the 2009-2010 administrative year.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Is there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Any discussion?

**MS. BACHMAN:** Madam President as maker of the motion I would like to say a few words.

The National organization does not currently have a severance policy. And the National Constitution & Bylaws call for the National Finance Committee to oversee general financial policy of the Organization.

National Finance Committee members were not allowed direct knowledge of previous severance packages offered to dismissed employees.

The National Finance Committee members require accurate information to responsibly meet the fiduciary responsibilities.

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So I think we need this motion.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** Carlene will you take the Chair please?

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The Chair recognizes Rita Navarreté.

**PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ:** I ask for your support to allow the current administration to work with the policy on severance pay to allow the staff to be able to review and work within that policy that the Finance Committee is going to be working up and be patient.

You need to know that the previous activity was something that has been passed and we need to allow the current staff to review that, and also with a special committee that's under the HR that's probably an assignment that will look at salary ranges, okay and in addition perhaps that severance pay.

We've got to put it all together and so I ask for your patience that we will do the right thing to ensure that every employee is treated fairly and equitably in approving a severance package if that is what is going to be required when they terminate the Organization.

*(Applause)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The Chair recognizes Kris Nelson, VA&R Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN NELSON:** Madam President, I agree that the Finance Committee approves the budget and the finances of the Organization, but I think the (unintelligible) committee will also find that this is a risk because if you tell members why someone is being terminated; we're putting our organization at a risk.

And when you discuss a severance package you need to know why the employee is being terminated and offered a severance package.

So I would recommend that you defer that to legal counsel and not to the Finance Committee.

**MS. BAILEY:** The structure — Elsie Bailey. But the structure of our organization I don't understand how you can have a severance — or present or give or whatever you do, a severance package without permission of the Finance Committee. They should be the ones to give final approval the way we are structured at the present time.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The Chair recognizes Desireé Stoy.

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** Thank you, Madam Chairman. I speak in opposition of the motion. I have had a senior moment too.

*(Laughter)*

**PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY:** I concur with the HR Specialist Kris Nelson, in the fact that it is beyond the scope of the Finance Committee. When the NEC approves the budget, you set the limits that can be spent on wages and personnel.

So by doing that you're already limiting what can be done. So then we leave it up to those who are managing those people in the office.

It is an administrative issue to provide that severance package. And we do need to be concerned that we adhere to the legal and right things to do as far as HR.

And so the President has appointed a special committee for HR, which I am confident that she will have HR professionals on that special committee.

So I speak in opposition of the motion.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The Chair recognizes Peggy Brown.

**MS. BROWN:** Peggy Brown, Western Division National Vice President.

Madam Chair, I call the question.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Okay. I'm not sure I know exactly what the motion was that was made to begin with, so if you could please repeat that or if I could have a copy of it.

*(Room chatter)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Okay. The question has been called for, was there a second?

**AUDIENCE:** Seconded.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** All those in favor say, "Aye."

**AUDIENCE:** Aye.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Opposed "no."

**AUDIENCE:** No.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** I think the ayes do have it. We will vote on the motion.

I need my glasses please so I can see what I'm reading up here. Thank you.

Okay. The motion is that in the absence of severance -- I'm sorry.

Yes?

**MS. DUTTON:** I don't know how the (unintelligible).

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Does the call for the question vote?

Okay.

**MS. DUTTON:** To close debate. I'm asking I don't know. Does that --

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Yes. Okay. We'll have a show of hands.

All of those in favor of closing the debate, calling for the question, please raise your hand.

*(Hands are raised)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Opposed no -- raise your hand.

*(Hands are raised)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** I believe the question -- I think it has been approved.

Okay. We will now vote and the motion was: I move that in the absence of a severance policy the Finance Committee will review and approve any severance packages before they can be offered to any employees.

And that if a severance policy is developed, it must be approved by the Finance Committee before it is presented to the National Executive Committee for their approval and that this becomes effective immediately with the 2009-2010 administrative year.

All those in favor say, "Aye."

*(No verbal response)*

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Opposed no.

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**AUDIENCE:** No.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** The motion has failed.

Okay. We have to get out of this room. Ladies they are waiting for us to move out of here so I need to have the secretary to make the announcements.

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** This is the Price Waterhouse Version.

The documentary that you heard about earlier there would be no costs at all. They would bear all the costs up front that's why there's a 30/70 split. The 70 percent recovers all of their costs to produce the thing. The only thing we would get would be 30 percent.

NEC Members if you did not get a copy of the budget in your packet please take that up with your department secretary as all the information is distributed by National Headquarters to the department secretaries and then in turn they distribute them to the delegates.

*(Laughter)*

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** Our next NEC Meeting is scheduled in Washington, D.C., prior to the Awareness Assembly; you'll get information about that soon. 2009-2010 (unintelligible) will be returned to distribution in September.

And on behalf of President Rita Navarreté there are presents in the back of the room for National Officers, Past National Presidents, NECs. And the only reason you would need to worry about a severance package is if I would get shot, because we need to get out of this room.

Two people have left the office since I have been in power — in power, excuse me.

*(Laughter)*

**SECRETARY BUCKLER:** I held elective office once. Since I — I'm sorry, since I have been in office — well see I use to hold elective office, I'm sorry. I had the — I had the power over some of these things at once upon a time.

Since I've been at the American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters, we have had two people leave and there were no severance packages.

So with this I turn it over to Carlene. We stand adjourned.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Please stand with me as our National Chaplain Beverly Wolff offers the benediction.

**CHAPLAIN WOLFF:** And since I've missed my flight, let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer.

Holy Heavenly Father, be with us as we go our separate ways.

Let us keep in mind that we are sisters working together for the good of the American Legion Family and not for personal gain.

Help us to reconnect and energize in the coming year for President Rita.

Help us remember those who are putting their lives in danger at this moment to keep us free and to help others live in a free country. Bless them and keep them safe.

May we always look to you for the right answer to everything in our lives.

God bless American; go in peace, in His name. Amen.

**AUDIENCE:** Amen.

**VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH:** Until we meet again let us remember that our obligation to our Country can only be fulfilled by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship.

Let service to the community, state and nation be forever the main objective to the American Legion and its members.

Let us ever be watchful of our Organization and ourselves that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy.

There is no further business to come before this meeting. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is adjourned.

*(Whereupon, this meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.)*

**Appendix A**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE  
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS,  
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
ADOPTED BY  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
89<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 24-26, 2009  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

## **NATIONAL JUNIOR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The American Legion Auxiliary Junior Activities Patch Program promotes patriotism by educating its Junior Members while earning patches in Americanism, Poppy, VA&R, Community Service, Fitness, Leadership, Field Service, Education and other programs; and

WHEREAS, Junior Members should be challenged while completing the requirements of all patches; and

WHEREAS, Presently the age groups are:

Level 1: Ages Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

Level 2: Ages Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade

Level 3: Ages Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade (or 18 years old); and

WHEREAS, Levels 1 and 2 have such a huge age and grade gap; and

WHEREAS, Kindergarten through Third Grade are considered primary grades, and Fourth Grade through Eighth Grade are considered middle grades; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of all concerned that the age and grade gap of Level 1 and Level 2 be changed to correct the age and grade gap, with Level 3 remaining the same; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 21-27, 2009, that Level 1 and Level 2 be changed as follows:

Level 1: Ages Kindergarten through Third Grade

Level 2: Ages Fourth Grade through Eighth Grade

Level 3: Ages Ninth Grade through Twelfth Grade (or 18 years old)

RESOLVED, That all requirements for all Levels remain the same.

RESOLVED, That this change become effective with the 2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

## **NATIONAL MAGAZINE CONTENT RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The national magazine is the only publication every member receives and they need information about our programs; and

WHEREAS, The strategic plan calls for:

- Continually ensuring American Legion Auxiliary programs are relevant and to provide incoming leadership with ideas and information to assist

- in programming decisions; and
- Developing volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization by investing in a variety of resources and to provide annual relevant training and resource plans to enhance the skills of the volunteer leaders at the nation, state, and unit levels; and

WHEREAS, The national magazine previously contained program Mini Plans of Work and articles from National Chairmen to encourage and help members work the Auxiliary programs in their Units; and

WHEREAS, This was valuable information and ideas for members, Unit and Department Chairmen, and a way for members to hear from Nation Chairmen; therefore, be it

***RESOLVED***, By the American Legion Auxiliary in national convention assembled in Louisville, Kentucky, August 22-27, 2009, That the fall issue of the National American Legion Auxiliary magazine, will contain Mini Plans of Work (Action) of at least 450 words for each program; and, be it further

***RESOLVED***, That each subsequent issue will contain articles of a minimum 600 words regarding at least four of the programs by the National Chairmen; and, be it finally

***RESOLVED***, That this resolution will become effective with the 2010 – 2011 administrative year.

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE V, SECTION 2**  
**AMENDED TO READ:**

*Section 2.* All Past National Presidents in good standing in the local Units shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, with all rights except the right to vote.

**NATIONAL BYLAWS, ARTICLE III, SECTION 7**  
**AMENDED TO READ:**

*Section 7. National Historian:* It shall be the duty of the National Historian to complete the historical records of the National Organization and to make a report to the National Convention. She shall prepare a written account of the year's activities for reference in the compilation of future National History books. Quarterly reports are due within 30 days of end of quarter for the first three quarters of the administrative year. Failure to submit reports will result in a

termination of travel authorizations. The completed report is to be filed in National Headquarters, no later than December 31 following the National Convention, copy to be sent to the National President with whom she served. The Past National Historian pin will be presented when a completed history is received and accepted by the December 31 deadline.

**NATIONAL BYLAWS, ARTICLE V,**  
**AMENDED TO READ:**

*Section 4.* There shall be the following Administrative Committees: Audit.

*Section 5.* There shall be an Audit Committee under Administrative Committees that shall consist of three members appointed annually by the National President and ratified by the NEC. The first operating year of the committee, one member will be appointed to serve a term of three (3) years or until her successor is appointed; one member will be appointed to serve a term of two (2) years or until her successor is appointed; and, one member will be appointed to serve a term of one (1) year. Thereafter, one member will be appointed annually to serve a term of three (3) years or until her successor is appointed.

The Audit Committee shall be responsible for providing oversight assistance to the National Executive Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to accounting and reporting practices, reliable systems of internal control, the corporate responsibility program, and the quality and integrity of the Auxiliary's financial reporting. Audit Committee members will be financially literate and chairperson of the committee will have the necessary background to be considered an "audit committee financial expert" in matters dealing with accounting and auditing.

**STANDING RULES, 1. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, SECTION 5**  
**AMENDED TO READ:**

*Section 5.* The candidate(s) for National President for the ensuing year, with the cooperation of the National President and National Secretary, shall plan a membership theme and program and if possible in correlation with that of The American Legion for the following year; and these plans should be presented to the Departments no later than June 1 of the same year, enabling the Departments to coordinate their membership objectives and program to those of the National Organization.

## **Appendix B**

### **Awards and Trophies**

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Americanism**

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Dorothy Pearl Plaque	Engraved Plaque	Unit	Carries out and reports the most outstanding Americanism Youth Program	Beth McGinn, Oak Orchard-Rivertale Unit #28 Department of Delaware
Clara B. Smith Plaque	Engraved Plaque	Department	Most outstanding three-point program narrative encompassing youth, adult and community	Patti Williamson, Chairman Department of Illinois
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Michigan Mary Dubay
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	New York Kathryn Wood-Bacher
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Minnesota Dee Dee Buckley
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Georgia Ann Parks
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	California Anita Biggs
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	John Zimmerman (Missouri) St. Gregory's School
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Madelyn Reed (Michigan) Onsted Elementary School
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Zachary Scherzer (Michigan) St. Gregory's School
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Jordan Houchin (Indiana) Forest Park High School
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Laura Becharh (Wisconsin) Osseo Fairchild High School
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	F. Macalintal (New Jersey)

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Jordan Niles (New York) DeWitt Clinton Elementary School, Lockport, NY
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Rachel Murree (Maryland) Our Lady Star of the Sea School
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Brianne Earnest (Delaware)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Padua Academy Shannon Power (New York)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	St. Peter's High School for Kayla Ann (Montana)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Lone Rock School Pilar Ahmann (Nebraska)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Malcolm School Shelby Smith (Montana)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Winifred Public School Lindsey Milburn (Nebraska)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Gordon/Rushville High School Kristin Miller (Nebraska)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	West Boyd School Annanda Alsip (Texas)
Americanism Essay Contest Awards	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Robinson Elementary School Chris Tugman (Virginia) Linkhorn Middle School
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Madeline Bennett (Louisiana)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Champ Cooper School Gregory Epperson (Oklahoma) Grove High School

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Americanism**

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Katrina Graham (Mississippi)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Christian Collegiate Academy Samual Moore (Nevada)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Spring Creek Christian Jerry Carter (Oregon)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Seneca School Mary Rice (Utah)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Grand County Middle School Chelsea McCampbell (California)
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Jessica Avilez (Oregon)
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner - Central	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Lebanon High School Jessica Stieben (Kansas)
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner - Eastern	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Western Plains Junior High Lorena Ramirez (Delaware)
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner - Northwestern	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	East Millsboro Elementary Shaun Maher (South Dakota)
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner - Southern	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Timber Lake School Gage Cooke (North Carolina)
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner - Western	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Lawrence Academy Emma Philbrook (Washington)
Junior Americanism Award	Citation Plaque	Unit/Dept.	Awarded to a Junior group that reports the Most Outstanding Americanism Program	Waitsburg Elementary School
Girl Scout Achievement Award	\$1,000	Junior or Senior HS Student; Gold Award Winner		Cecil Toney Unit #118, LaYonne Mason, Chairman Madison Burke, 219 Vonbehren Dr., Chesterfield

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
40th Anniversary Award	Citation Plaque	Unit or Department- Central Division	Most Creative Fund Raising Project for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	2nd District Department of Michigan Carla Pohl, Chairman
40th Anniversary Award	Citation Plaque	Unit or Department- Eastern Division	Most Creative Fund Raising Project for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Dept. of Vermont Ellie Garland, Chairman
40th Anniversary Award	Citation Plaque	Unit or Department- Northwestern Division	Most Creative Fund Raising Project for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Dept. of Minnesota Pam Hoshal, Chairman
40th Anniversary Award	Citation Plaque	Unit or Department- Western Division	Most Creative Fund Raising Project for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Dept. of California Rhodna Enright, Chairman
40th Anniversary Award	Citation Plaque	Unit or Department- Southern Division	Most Creative Fund Raising Project for Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Hovious-Grayson Unit 112 Dept. of Mississippi Lorene Martin, Unit Chairman
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Unit	Contributing the largest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Department of New York Unit 144, Williston \$1,665 total
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Department	Contributing the largest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund	California (as of 06/30/09) \$15,160.96

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Children & Youth**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Best Overall Department Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Central Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Illinois Chairman Vickie Eckhardt
Best Overall Department Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Eastern Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	New York Chairman Nancy G. Kurk
Best Overall Department Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Nebraska Chairman JoAnn Ward
Best Overall Department Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Southern Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Florida Chairman Mary Ann Kearns
Best Overall Department Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Western Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	California Chairman Linda Fercho
Outstanding Unit Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Becky Dippman Ohio, Unit 240
Outstanding Unit Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Carol Kamdravi Delaware, Unit 28
Outstanding Unit Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Helen Miller Nebraska, Unit 318
Outstanding Unit Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Willa Mae Harvester North Carolina, Unit 109
Outstanding Unit Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Western Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Tara Deleonguertero Arizona, Unit 62

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Central Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less as well as annual report form.	Lisa Cadwallader Dept. of West Virginia
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less as well as annual report form.	No entry
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less as well as annual report form.	W. Jean Lennie Department of Colorado
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less as well as annual report form.	Wanda Moore Dept. of North Carolina
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Western Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less as well as annual report form.	Donna Murphy, Chair Bunny Hamilton and Barbara White, Members Department of Arizona
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Central Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit for a single community service activity. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form	Mary Ann Michael K.T. Crossen Unit #21 Dept. of Ohio

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Community Service**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit for a single community service activity. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form	Tina Washington Oak-Orchard-Riverdale Unit 328 Dept. of Delaware
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit for a single community service activity. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form	Judy Samuelson Cold Spring Unit #455 Dept. of Minnesota
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit for a single community service activity. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form	Ocean Beach Unit #129 Dept. of Florida
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit for a single community service activity. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form	Betty Smith Mathew B. Juan Unit #35 Dept. of Arizona
Outstanding Unit Award (Multiple Activities)	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Central Division	Outstanding activities for Community Service. Narrative of 1,000 words or less and a copy of annual report.	Margo Forrester Northeastern Unit #459 Dept. of Michigan
Outstanding Unit Award (Multiple Activities)	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Eastern Division	Outstanding activities for Community Service. Narrative of 1,000 words or less and a copy of annual report.	Peggy Doyon Fredonwarell Unit #17 Dept. of New Hampshire

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Outstanding Unit Award (Multiple Activities)	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Northwestern Division	Outstanding activities for Community Service. Narrative of 1,000 words or less and a copy of annual report.	Doris L. Dockter and Denise Wittmier Melvin E. Bender Unit #265 Dept. of North Dakota
Outstanding Unit Award (Multiple Activities)	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Southern Division	Outstanding activities for Community Service. Narrative of 1,000 words or less and a copy of annual report.	Jonesboro Unit #258 Dept. of Georgia
Outstanding Unit Award (Multiple Activities)	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	Outstanding activities for Community Service. Narrative of 1,000 words or less and a copy of annual report.	Nadine Ruehs John J. Morris Unit #62 Dept. of Arizona
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation Plaque, \$200	A Senior Member in the Central Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Judy Engles Walter Frazer Unit #108 Dept. of Michigan
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation Plaque, \$200	A Senior Member in the Eastern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Rita Clark Hudson Unit #48 Dept. of New Hampshire
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation Plaque, \$200	A Senior Member in the Northwestern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Dee Severson Carl Sydney Hanson Unit #255 Dept. of Minnesota

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Community Service**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation Plaque, \$200	A Senior Member in the Southern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Cindy K. Newton Leander J. Kinchen Unit #47 Dept. of Louisiana
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation Plaque, \$200	A Senior Member in the Western Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Beatrice Gwaltney-Scott Unit #77 Dept. of New Mexico
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$100.00 Cash/Citation	A Junior Member in the Central Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 250 words.	Jasmin R. Weger Richard Burns Unit #109 Dept. of Wisconsin
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$100.00 Cash/Citation	A Junior Member in the Eastern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 250 words.	Krista Byers General Smedley Unit #701 Dept. of Pennsylvania
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$100.00 Cash/Citation	A Junior Member in the Northwestern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 250 words.	Jennie Moore Jefferson-Steinke Unit #18 Dept. of North Dakota
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$100.00 Cash/Citation	A Junior Member in the Southern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 250 words.	Ashton Pierce Henderson Unit #77 Dept. of Tennessee

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$100.00 Cash/Citation	A Junior Member in the Western Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Work. Narrative of 250 words.	India Lee Archer Duran Y Gallegos Unit #69 Dept. of New Mexico
Serving this Community that Veterans have Secured for us	Citation Plaque	Unit in the Central Division	submits the best overall report on Serving the Community that Veterans have Secured for us. Narrative of 1,500 words.	Traci L. Knechtges Elyria, Unit #12 Dept. of Ohio
Serving this Community that Veterans have Secured for us	Citation Plaque	Unit in the Eastern Division	submits the best overall report on Serving the Community that Veterans have Secured for us. Narrative of 1,500 words.	Tina Washington Oak-Orchard-Riverdale Unit #28 Dept. of Delaware
Serving this Community that Veterans have Secured for us	Citation Plaque	Unit in the Northwestern Division	submits the best overall report on Serving the Community that Veterans have Secured for us. Narrative of 1,500 words.	Juanita Sinkie Abermathy Unit #16 Dept. of South Dakota
Serving this Community that Veterans have Secured for us	Citation Plaque	Unit in the Southern Division	submits the best overall report on Serving the Community that Veterans have Secured for us. Narrative of 1,500 words.	Herbert Griffin Unit #19 Dept. of Tennessee
Serving this Community that Veterans have Secured for us	Citation Plaque	Unit in the Western Division	submits the best overall report on Serving the Community that Veterans have Secured for us. Narrative of 1,500 words.	No Entry

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Most Outstanding American Education Week Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding American Education Week Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Arlington Unit 139 Department of Virginia Betty Ann Dahlke – Chairman
Most Outstanding Scholarship Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Scholarship Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Walter F. Howarth Unit 381 Department of Michigan Pie Webster, Chairman
Most Outstanding Literacy Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Literacy Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Cecil Torney Unit 118 Department of Wisconsin Diane Weggen –
Most Outstanding Veterans in the Classroom Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Veterans In The Classroom Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Unit 387 Department of Ohio Martha Arling, Chairman
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Central Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Central Division	Department of Illinois Teri Miller
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Eastern Division	Department of Maryland Cynthia Ray, Chairman
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Northwestern Division	Department of Minnesota Louise Kleitboer, Chairman
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Southern Division	Department of Virginia Nancy Harting, Chairman
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Western Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Western Division.	Department of Arizona Karen Smith, Chairman

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Central Division	Gail Roddy Department of Ohio
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Eastern Division	Janice Null Department of Maryland
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	Patricia Ecker Department of Minnesota
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	Christine Trahan Department of Texas
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Western Division	Sharon Doran Department of Arizona
Toomey Award	National Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best overall department history	Diana Sirovina Department of Wisconsin
National Plaque	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Accumulated the highest overall score for their department history	Catherine Lange Department of Indiana
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted a department history	47 Departments
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted a department history in the Central Division	Catherine Lange Department of Indiana
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted a department history in the Eastern Division	No entries
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	No entries

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Historian**

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	No entries
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Central Division	No entries
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Eastern Division	No entries
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Northwestern Division	No entries
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Western Division	No entries
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Southern Division	No entries
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Junior Member	Submits a department history	One History
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Junior Member	Forwards a copy of a Veterans History using Veterans History Project Form	No entries

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Junior Activities**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Junior Member of the Year	\$100.00 Savings Bond Citation folder	Junior Member	A Junior member in good standing, nominated by unit	Brittany Watts Department of Louisiana Tucker A. Gregoire Unit #258
National Plaque	Engraved National Plaque	Unit	Best Overall Junior Activities Program	Shenandoah Unit #88 Department of Iowa Marilyn Bayless, Junior Advisor
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Central Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Swisher - Unit 671 Department of Iowa Heidi Hronidko, Chairman
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Fredonwarell Unit 17 Department of New Hampshire Debra Lewis, Chairman
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	August-Vanek Unit 264 Department of Nebraska Marva Kasl, Junior Leader
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Tucker A. Gregoire Unit 258 Department of Louisiana Chella Needham, Chairman
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Western Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	No entry
Department Program of the Year *Overall winner	Citation Plaque \$500 Cash award	Department	Submitted a report describing the most outstanding Department Junior Activities Program.	Cindy Meyer Department of Iowa Junior Activities Chairman

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Leadership**

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING
Unit Leadership Training Recognition Certificate	Citation Folder	Unit Leadership Chairman	Unit Chairman who conducts 3 leadership training sessions

AWARDED TO:		Unit	Department
Name	Position		
Connie Brewer	Leadership Chairman	Lindsey-Garrett Unit 64	Georgia
Jane Shoemaker	Leadership Chairman	John J. Morris Unit 62	Arizona
Sandy Conklin	Leadership Chairman	Fountain Hills Unit 58	Arizona
Kimberly Wynn	President & PDP	Morgan McDermott Unit 7	Arizona
Betty Smith	Leadership Chairman	Mathew B. Juan Unit 35	Arizona
Amy Skaggs	Leadership Chairman	Letchfield Unit 81	Kentucky
Iola Morton	Leadership Chairman	John Roy Unit 120	Virginia
Donna Ford	Leadership Chairman	Sandston Unit 242	Virginia
Cheryl Shine	President	Gloucester Unit 75	Virginia
Edna Eagle	Leadership Chairman	General Billy Mitchell Unit 85	Virginia
Peggy Thomas	Leadership Chairman	Battlefields Unit 144	Virginia
Patricia Ryan Ashlaw	Leadership Chairman	Colonial Heights Unit 284	Virginia
Ruth DeHaven	President	Smithfield Unit 73	Virginia
Vivian Griffin	President	South Richmond Unit 157	Virginia
Susan Masten	Leadership Chairman	Dignam-Whitmore Unit 526	Ohio
Carol Saunders	Leadership Chairman	Carl E. Stitt Unit 232	Michigan
Phyllis A. Parent	Leadership Chairman	Tigard Unit 158	Oregon
Connie Suit	Leadership Chairman	Sumter Unit 15	South Carolina
Joann Szabo	President	Gordon Mattison Unit 422	Texas
Shirley Love Denson	Leadership Chairman	Dorie E. Miller Unit 817	Texas
Christine R. Trahan	President	Beaumont Unit 33	Texas
Lynn Parsons	President	Richard Holloway Unit 131	Texas
Anna Crow	President	Cedar Creek Unit 310	Texas
Tiffany Troxelair	President	Little Elm Unit 182	Texas
Rhonda Wright	President	Lake Texoma-Pottsboro Unit 231	Texas
Donna R. Burg	President	Jackson-Hughes Unit 368	Texas
Gwendoline Pate	President	John Lowe- Joe Smart Unit 53	Texas
Barbara Kundert	Leadership Chairman	Truite-Bishop Unit 426	Texas
Kim Palasota	Leadership Chairman	C.W. Joslin-Willis Unit 618	Texas

Lisa Ralls	President	Charles Jaegler Unit 42	Texas
Frances Bethards	President	Cunningham-Hamilton Unit 222	Texas
Juanita M. Rangel	President	South Fort Worth Unit 569	Texas
Yvonne South	President	Mansfield Unit 624	Texas
Sereita Giaketti	President	Harris, Hedgepeth, Rolls Unit 220	Texas
Ruth Peters	Leadership Chairman	Cuero Unit 3	Texas
Sandi Schendel	President	William F. Hollman Memorial Unit 179	Texas
Cathy Jackson	Leadership Chairman	H.U. Wood Unit 245	Texas
Belinda Grimes	Leadership Chairman	Col. Louis A. Carter Unit 832	Texas
Sandi Colman	President	Horizon City Unit 598	Texas
Marilyn Smith	President	Turnbow Higgs Unit 240	Texas
Dana McLaughlin	President	Farris Anderson Mineral Wells Unit 75	Texas
Sarah Toten	President	William M. Randolph Unit 593	Texas
Tommie Stroud	Leadership Chairman	Hovious-Grayson Unit 112	Mississippi

### AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009

### Committee: Leadership

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Most Outstanding Overall Department Leadership	Citation Plaque	Department	Department that submitted the best report on the overall activities and promotion of the Leadership program	Department of North Carolina Martha Whitaker, Chairman

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: Leadership**

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING
Unit Correspondence Course Recognition Certificate	Citation Folder	Unit Leadership Chairman or Officer	Unit Leadership Chairman who encourages 3 unit members to complete the Junior or Senior Correspondence Course
<b>AWARDED TO:</b>			
Name	Position	Unit	Department
Connie Suitt	Leadership Chairman	Sumter Unit 15	South Carolina
Donna Booth	Leadership Chairman	John Humiston Unit 11	New Hampshire
Cheryl Fournier	Leadership Chairman	LeClair-Caron-Pelletier Unit 13	New Hampshire
Melanie Jarry	Leadership Chairman	Hudson Unit 48	New Hampshire
Linda Hall	Leadership Chairman	Somersworth Unit 69	New Hampshire
Sandy Brown	Chairman	Unit 2	Arizona
Pat Kratochvil	Chairman	Unit 129	Arizona
Kimberly A. Wynn	Chairman	Unit 7	Arizona
Betty Smith	Chairman	Unit 35	Arizona
Helen Leasure	Leadership Chairman	Parkersburg Unit 15	West Virginia
Sue Sager	Leadership Chairman	John M. Galladay Unit 64	West Virginia
Phyllis A. Parent	Leadership Chairman	Tigard Unit 158	Oregon
Mary Heiligenthal	President	Joe Quesenberry Unit 10	New Mexico
Theresa Montoya	President	Duran Y. Gallegos Unit 69	New Mexico
Jaimie Baca	President	Otero-Garcia-Navarrete Unit 72	New Mexico
Jan Semrau	President	Bryan Mudgett Unit 7	New Mexico
Bette McMorrow	Leadership Chairman	Unit 186	South Carolina
Louise Williams	Leadership Chairman	Unit 215	South Carolina
Sandy Nalley	Leadership Chairman	Unit 71	South Carolina
Sheila Garren	Leadership Chairman	Unit 121	South Carolina
Tommie Stroud	Leadership Chairman	Hovious-Grayson Unit 112	Mississippi
Iola Morton	Leadership Chairman	John Roy Unit 120	Virginia
Charlotte Coleman	Leadership Chairman	Shelbourne Parish Unit 293	Virginia
Donna Ford	Leadership Chairman	Sandston Unit 242	Virginia

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Julia Moore Dept. of Illinois
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall Department program	Ann C. Geer Dept. of New York
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Nancy Jewell Dept. of Minnesota
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Jeanine Donaldson Dept. of Texas
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Rebecca Stewart Wilson-Dept. of California
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Central Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Madie Tillman General Daniel James Unit 776 Dept. of Ohio
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Jackie Madison Hudson Unit 48 Dept. of New Hampshire
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Jan Walker Wayzata Unit 118 Dept. of Minnesota
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Southern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Ruby Pelho Unit 258 Dept. of Louisiana
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Western Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Dee Sharpes Milwaukie Unit 180 Dept. of Oregon

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:			MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
2009 Target # 1	Cash award of \$100	Department Presidents Department Membership Chairman	Department reaching 50% of goal by the first Wednesday in December, 2008	Department	President	Membership Chairman	
2009 Target # 2	Cash award of \$100	Department Presidents Department Membership Chairman	Department reaching 75% of goal by the first Wednesday in February, 2009	Department	President	Membership Chairman	
				Iowa	Virginia Carter	Ann Crawford	
				South Dakota	Sherry Wolfjer	Patricia Coyle	
				Missouri	Rosemarie Hauck	Dorothy Joanne Snodgrass	
				North Dakota	Carrie Heinz	Sandra Erdman	
				Nebraska	Marva Kasl	Beverly Neel	
				Minnesota	Carol Bankknecht	Anna Mae Warmier	
				Wisconsin	Sue Vorwald	Violet Feldmann	
				Michigan	Suzanne Knapp	Comie Lynn Kovacs	
				Illinois	Carolee Jung	Barbara A Howe	
				Indiana	Shirley Firkins	Debra J Beeler	
				North Carolina	Beverly Walker	Susan Jones	
				Louisiana	Mary Henry	Barbara L Le Jeanne	
				Vermont	Martha Sheets	Pamela J Norton	
				Texas	Miracle Pendergast	Lotta K Mirns	
				Mississippi	Nancy Sanders	Angela S Kilcrease	
				Ohio	Cynthia Underwood	Martha L Thacher	
				Kansas	Myrna Rogers	Sharon Spiker	
				Arizona	Vickie Ziehl	Cathy Joris	
				Florida	Kathae Coughlin	Vera A Stevens	
				Tennessee	Linda Campbell	Brenda Drendorf	
				Pennsylvania	Ree Ann Ross	MaryLouise Kline	
				Maryland	Ruby Begg	V.L. Bash	
				Alaska	Lisa Williamson	Mary Ann Hospichal	
				Delaware	Helen Skelton	Cheryl S Rokemak	
				Virginia	Patricia Uphlaw	Brenda W Collins	
				South Carolina	Catherine Gibbs	Linda Lenker-Or	
				Wyoming	Linda Pezzer	Mary Sugar White	
				Massachusetts	MaryEllen Morissette	Karyn Foremski	
				New York	Susan Britton	Lola Ann Harper	
				Georgia	Gloria Johnston	Sharon A Cook	
				New Hampshire	Bonnie Knapp	Janelle Dee Hoffer	
				Washington	Dee Coughlin	JoAnn Rogers	
				New Mexico	Cathy King	Marlyn C Damsion	
				Montana	Janet Weaver	Margaret McMahon	
				New Jersey	Lynnda Stadler	Susan S Brown	
				West Virginia	Roxie Nicholson	Nora Earnest	
				Arkansas	Rose Weiss	Gloria J Fochmann	
				Alabama	Versie Rutherford	Margaria Cruz-Torres	
				Puerto Rico	Maria Montanez	Donna D Morin	
				Connecticut	Barbara McCarthy	Sandra M Shouse	
				Kentucky	Virginia An Betschke		

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
2009 Target # 3	Cash award of \$100	Department Presidents Department Membership Chairman	Department reaching 100% of goal by the first Wednesday in June.	Department Alaska New Hampshire Indiana	President Lisa Williamson Bonnie Knapp Shirley Frickens Membership Chairman V.L. Bash Sharon A Cook Barbara J Beeler
Meeting Every Target	Cash award of \$100	Department Presidents Department Membership Chairman	Departments that met every target date.	Department No Winners	President No Winners
Post Assistance to Newly Chartered Units	Citation and letter	American Legion Posts		Division West South East Northwest Central	Commander No Winners No Winners Bill Phillips No Winners No Winners No Winners Lucian "Ray" Bates
Awareness Assembly Award	A surprise award to the Department President and Membership Chairman of the winning Department. Winners announced previously at Awareness Assembly.	Department Presidents and Membership Chairman	A special award to the President and Membership Chairman of the Department achieving the highest percentage of goal, in their membership category, on the Wednesday immediately prior to the National Awareness Assembly opening. Winners were announced at Awareness Assembly.	Department Iowa South Dakota New Hampshire Alaska Mississippi	Membership Chairman Ann Crawford Patricia Coyle Sharon A Cook V.L. Bash Angela S Killebase
Presidents and Secretaries Award	Honored guests and the Presidents and Secretaries banquets-special table	Department Presidents and Secretaries	Top five Departments with the highest percentage of goal on the Wednesday immediately prior to the opening of the Presidents and Secretaries Conference.	Department Iowa Nebraska North Dakota Puerto Rico Florida	President Virginia Carter Marva KasL Carrie Heinz Maria Montanez Kathie Coughlin
Goal Department Award	National Trophy Plaque	Department Headquarters	Each Department reaching goal on or before the first Wednesday in June, 2009	Department/Percentage Alaska New Hampshire Indiana	Membership Chairman V.L. Bash Sharon A Cook Debra J Beeler
Hobart Trophy	National Trophy Plaque	Department Headquarters	Department with 1,000 or more members with the greatest percentage of increase, 30 days prior to the National Convention	Department Alaska	Percentage 5.670%
Ruth Hutton	National Trophy Plaque	Department Headquarters	Department with the greatest percentage of membership by the 1st Wednesday in June, 2007 over its highest membership of any year.	Department Alaska	Percentage 102.15%
Betty Burdett	National Trophy Plaque	Department Headquarters	Department with the greatest percentage of goal 30 days prior to the National Convention.	Department Alaska	Percentage 104.009%
Estella Hanell	Engraved Plaque	Department Headquarters	Department with the greatest numerical increase in membership 30 days prior to	Department Pennsylvania	Increase 656

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
All Time High	Engraved Plaque	Department Headquarters	National Convention. All Departments who reach an all time high in membership received in National Hdqtrs on or before 30 days prior to National Convention.	Department Alaska Arizona	Increase 129 71	Recruiter Janet Skapura Sue Bronson Edis J Anderson Linda Campbell Kathleen Falk
National President's Top Recruiter Award	Cash Award of \$300	Auxiliary Members	Member from each division who recruited them most senior members by	Division Central Eastern Northwestern Southern Western	Department Ohio Vermont South Dakota Tennessee Arizona	Department Tennessee Ohio Michigan South Dakota Nevada Florida Missouri Wisconsin New York Montana
National Presidents Recruiter Award	Cash Drawing	Auxiliary Members	Ten recruiters entered into a cash drawing and selected by the National President	Name Julia A McBee Margaret Bigler Shirley Jackowski Shirley Schreiner Lueille Ellenwood Virginia Stein Wanda Lalleker-Coyle Charlotte Vitale Patricia Horvath Adeleine H Mitchell	City Lexington Massillon Newaygo Sisseton Round Mountain Carol Springs Blue Springs Milwaukee Kings Park Glasgow	Department Arizona Arizona Arizona Arizona Nevada California Massachusetts South Carolina New York Pennsylvania Minnesota Mississippi Mississippi Iowa South Dakota Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Pennsylvania
Silver Brigade	President's Choice	Senior Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members	Awarded to S.A. PAL or SAL member who recruits 25 or more new Senior members by the first Wednesday in July	Name Falk, Kathy Falk, Kathy Falk, Kathy Falk, Kathy Szabonyi, Kathy Lockhart-breeding, Hazel Lockhart-breeding, Hazel Olea, Christine Rice, Jacqueline Mills, Alberta Davis, Mary Ann Lendis, Suzanne LeTexter, Bev Martin, Lorene Martin, Lorene Dutton, Anita Ann Anderson, Edis Jordan, Linda Jordan, Linda Graham, Vicki Ash, Loretta Hall, Patricia Brennan, Denise Beeler, Debra Whitlock, Elayne	City Apache Junction Apache Junction Apache Junction Vail Las Vegas Las Vegas Newhall Ponssdale Little River Albany Duncan East Grand Forks Jackson Jackson Calfax Vermillion Shirley Shirley Ft. Wayne Greensale Crawfordsville Merillville Mitchell Newburg	Department Arizona Arizona Arizona Arizona Nevada California Massachusetts South Carolina New York Pennsylvania Minnesota Mississippi Mississippi Iowa South Dakota Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Indiana Pennsylvania

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
Unit Development	\$500	Departments	Awarded to three Departments who have chartered the most units by January 31, 2009	<p>Tomczak, Wendy Doutt, Nancy Skapira, Janet Steele, Ruth Michael, Maryann Shultz, Glenn McBee, Julia Gimpel, Toni Tatum, Monra Tatum, Monra Ranner, Janet Maueriello, Karen Graves, Joan Breedden, Irene Putnam, Gregory Easley, Char Hand, Marie Jedrey, Marilyn Koker, Dan Koker, Dan</p>	<p>Shippensburg Berea Puma Sandusky Athens Zanesville Lexington Idaho Falls Gardendale Gardendale Woodbridge Bradenton Sebring Venice Venice St. Petersburg Seminole St. Petersburg Largo Largo</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Ohio Ohio Ohio Ohio Tennessee Idaho Alabama Alabama Virginia Virginia Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida Florida</p>
National President's Unit Achievement Award	Citation	Units	Awarded to Units, with ten or more Senior members, that exceeded the membership goal, retained at least 90% of previous year's membership, increased	<p>Department North Carolina Florida Texas</p>	<p>Unit Legal Name &amp; Number Gresham-Baker #66 Walter E Coyle #45 Lanidum Memorial #236 Bert Hojge #45 Charles P Rankine #195 Deer Park #319</p> <p>Total 100% Unit 42 12 34 5 7 107 55 39 6 36 2 5 16 13 7 36 104</p> <p>City Mooresville Wake Forest Williston Paldoka Henderson Deer Park</p>	

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008-2009**

**Committee: National Security**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Gene Kubby Award	Engraved Plaque	Department	Presented to the Department Chairman reporting the Most Outstanding Overall Program serving military children.	Benson Banner Unit 109 Department of North Carolina
Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT) Award	Citation Plaque	Department	Awarded to the Department having the greatest percentage of units participating in Civil Preparedness	No entry
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division, LaVeta Miller	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Kansas
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division, Barbara Corker	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of New York
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Montana Barbara Monroe, Chairman
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division, Watts Maggie	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Louisiana
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division, Shelby Hitch	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of California
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Central Division, Sue Busin	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Joliet Unit #1080, Department of Illinois

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Eastern Division, Shelby Sobolowski	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Arthur S. Moran Unit 66 Department of New York
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Unit #3, Lincoln, NE Unit Chairman name- Barbara Skillman
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Southern Division, Wanda Moore	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Benson Banner Unit 109 Department of North Carolina
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Western Division, Jane Montaney	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Art Semro Unit 28 Department of California
ROTC/JROTC Program Award	Citation	Unit Chairman	Reported the most outstanding promotion of the ROTC Program.	No entry

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Poppy**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Central Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Lauryl Hacker Age 9 Grade 3 Department of Wisconsin Unit 125
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Mackenzie Kerwin Age 9 Grade 3 Department of CT
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Kaitlyn Allen Age 8 Grade 3 Dept. of Louisiana Robert H. Burns, Unit 16
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Western Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Central Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Elsie Ostwinkle Age 11 Unit 512 Department of Iowa
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Shamon Bruce Age 10 Grade 5 Tonawanda Unit 264 Department of NY
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Elizabeth Denham Age 10 Grade 4 Department of Louisiana Robert H Burns, Unit 16

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Poppy**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Western Division in Grades 4 &5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Ashley Eggenmeyer Age 9 Grade 4 Department of Alaska
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Central Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Dakota Stanley Age 13 Grade 7 Department of Ohio
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Matthew Ryan Age 13 Grade 7 Department of New York
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 6 &7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Hunter Braumberger Age 12 Grade 6n Department of North Dakota
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Megan Altom Age 13 Unit 77 Dept of TN
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Western Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Central Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Matt Terhaar Grade 8 Age 14 Department of Minnesota Unit 164

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009****Committee: Poppy**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jessie Hurt Age 16 Grade 9 Dept. of Oklahoma
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Western Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Central Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	David Kulesa Age 16 Grade 10 Unit 118 Department of WI
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Leigh Ann Cledgett Age 17 Grade 11
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Ashton Pierce Age 15 Grade 10 Unit 77
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Western Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Central Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Emily Falke Age 18 Grade 12 Unit 551 Department of MO
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Justin Mark Johnson Age 18 Grade 12 Department of NY

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Central Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Eastern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Emily Wallos Age 18 Department of NY
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Northwestern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jordan Buechle Age 15 Grade 9 Leo Brinda Unit 90
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Southern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None Reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Western Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	None Reported
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Western Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Chace Denney Age 18 Grade 12 Department of Wyoming
Miss Poppy Ages 6-12	\$250.00 cash award/Citation	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." Submitted a Scrapbook containing photographs and clipping of how she promoted the Poppy program	Amanda Renee Landon Ralph M. Noble Unit 285 Galesburg, IL Department of Illinois Age 11 years Floann Clark, Dent, Poppy

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Poppy**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Miss Poppy Ages 13-18	\$250.00 cash award/Citation	Must be between the ages of 13-18 and a Junior Member of the American Legion Auxiliary	Narrative not to exceed 100 words on the "Memorial Poppy." Submitted a Scrapbook containing photographs and clipping of how she promoted the Poppy program	Alexus Jean Champion Chief Pontiac Unit 377 Department of Michigan Age 13 years Kimberly Champion, Dept. Poppy Chairman
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Central Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Cecil Torney Unit #1118 Department of Wisconsin Diane Weggen, Chairman
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	None reported
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Fred C. Wagner Unit 235 Department of ND Elaine Lange, Chairman
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	C.E. Delario Unit 50 Department of TX Marty Peters, Chairman
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Western Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Shasta Unit 197 Department of CA Judy Cama, Chairman

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Created the three best press releases	Eugene McManus Unit #238 Chairman Louise Schade
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Division	Created the three best press releases	American Legion Auxiliary Unit #28 Chairman Tina Washington
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Created the three best press releases	Roy Reed Unit #252 Chairman Beverly Neel
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division	Created the three best press releases	Holmes-Collins Unit #242 Chairman Cindy Taylor
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Western Division	Created the three best press releases	American Legion Auxiliary Unit #110 Chairman Mary Lou Burke
Unit Community Display Award	Citation Plaque	Unit- Central Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	American Legion Auxiliary Unit #175 Chairman Donna Nofstger
Unit Community Display Award	Citation Plaque	Unit- Eastern Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	No Entries
Unit Community Display Award	Citation Plaque	Unit- Northeastern Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	Henry M. Guttormson Unit #40 Chairman Maureen Anderson
Unit Community Display Award	Citation Plaque	Unit- Southern Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	North Fort Myers Unit #336 Chairman Mary Lou Locke

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Public Relations**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Unit Community Display Award	Citation Plaque	Unit- Western Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	No Entries
Unit New Web Site Award	Citation Plaque	Unit	Creates the new best Internet Web Site	Apache Junction Unit #27 Department of Arizona
Best Department Web Site Award	Citation Plaque	Department	Overall best Web Site	TIE: Department of Wisconsin Chairman April Kollmorgen AND Department of Louisiana Chairman Susie Legendre
Junior Public Relations Award	\$50 and citation	Junior group (department, district or unit)	Best published press or media coverage for a junior activity or project.	Dyer-Gunnell Unit #180 Chairman Janet Renner
Department Press Book Award	Engraved Plaque	Departments with less than 7,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Department of Mississippi Chairman Diane Cantrell
Ruby Ward Award	National Plaque	Departments with 7,001 to 10,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Department of New Hampshire Chairman Jackie Madison
Elizabeth Lainson Award	National Plaque and Citation	Departments with 10,001 to 25,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book.	Department of Kansas Co Chairmen Trish Ward & Cindy Ward
Betty Burdett Award	National Plaque and Citation	Departments with 25,001 to 35,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book.	Department of Wisconsin Chairman April Kollmorgen

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009****Committee: Public Relations**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Department Press Book Award	National Plaque	Departments with more than 35,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book.	Department of New York Chairman Janet Mahoney
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of Ohio Chairman Linda Close
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of New York Chairman Janet Mahoney
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of Minnesota Chairman Darlene Wondra
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	No Entries
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department on the Western Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	No Entries

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Fern Madden, Department Chairman Department of Wisconsin
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Kathryn Fernald, Department Chairman Department of New Hampshire
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Doris LaFayette, Department Chairman Department of Minnesota
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Barbara McAdams, Department Chairman Department of Tennessee
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Pilar Reyes, Department Chairman Department of California
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Central Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Vickie Wilson, Unit Chairman Unit 114, Sikeston, MO
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Elizabeth Eisenhower Unit 17, Lewes, DE
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Edie Taffner Unit 13, Buffalo, WY
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Southern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Libby Moss Unit 19, Columbia, TN
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Western Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Jean Claytor Unit 716, Los Alamitos, CA
Junior Volunteer Hours (Scholarship) Award	Citation and \$1000 Scholarship	Central Division Junior Member/ Volunteer	A Junior Volunteer Serving the Greatest Number of Volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Dana Lindley, Department of Wisconsin
Junior Volunteer Hours (Scholarship) Award	Citation and \$1000 Scholarship	Eastern Division Junior Member/ Volunteer	A Junior Volunteer Serving the Greatest Number of Volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Junior Volunteer Hours (Scholarship) Award	Citation and \$1000 Scholarship	Northwestern Division Junior Member/ Volunteer	A Junior Volunteer Serving the Greatest Number of Volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry
Junior Volunteer Hours (Scholarship) Award	Citation and \$1000 Scholarship	Southern Division Junior Member/ Volunteer	A Junior Volunteer Serving the Greatest Number of Volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Karri Richards, Department of Tennessee
Junior Volunteer Hours (Scholarship) Award	Citation and \$1000 Scholarship	Western Division Junior Member/ Volunteer	A Junior Volunteer Serving the Greatest Number of Volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Elaine Gallagher, Department of California
VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award	\$500.00	A Regularly Scheduled VAVS Volunteer	Nomination through Department Chairman or Hospital Director. Be in an established VAVS assignment	Theresa Hill, Department of Texas VAVS Volunteer @ VA North Texas Health Care System
Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award	Citation Plaque	Department in the Central Division	Department with the largest increase of RS Volunteers and volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31-2009	Judy McReynolds, Dept Chairman Department of Kansas
Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award	Citation Plaque	Department in the Eastern Division	Department with the largest increase of RS Volunteers and volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31-2009	Linda Larocque, Department Chairman Department of Vermont
Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award	Citation Plaque	Department in the Northwestern Division	Department with the largest increase of RS Volunteers and volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31-2009	Donna Gana, Department Chairman Department of Nebraska
Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award	Citation Plaque	Department in the Western Division	Department with the largest increase of RS Volunteers and volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31-2009	Diana King, Department Chairman Department of Texas
Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award	Citation Plaque	Department in the Southern Division	Department with the largest increase of RS Volunteers and volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31-2009	Pilar Reyes, Department Chairman Department of California

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Field Service Volunteer Hours (Senior)	Citation Plaque	Senior Field Service Volunteer - Central Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry
Field Service Volunteer Hours (Senior)	Citation Plaque	Senior Field Service Volunteer - Eastern Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Josephine Yakimowski - 2,632 hours Unit 106, Department of Massachusetts
Field Service Volunteer Hours (Senior)	Citation Plaque	Senior Field Service Volunteer - Northwestern Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry
Field Service Volunteer Hours (Senior)	Citation Plaque	Senior Field Service Volunteer - Southern Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Cindy K. Newton - 3,224 hours Unit 47, Department of Louisiana
Field Service Volunteer Hours (Senior)	Citation Plaque	Senior Field Service Volunteer - Western Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Aloise Harris - 7,300 hours Unit 60, Department of Arizona
Home Service Volunteer Hours Award (Senior)	Citation Plaque	A Senior Home Service Volunteer in the Central Division	Home Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry
Home Service Volunteer Hours Award (Senior)	Citation Plaque	A Senior Home Service Volunteer in the Eastern Division	Home Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry
Home Service Volunteer Hours Award (Senior)	Citation Plaque	A Senior Home Service Volunteer in the Northwestern Division	Home Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	No Entry
Home Service Volunteer Hours Award (Senior)	Citation Plaque	A Senior Home Service Volunteer in the Southern Division	Home Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2008-March 31, 2009	Cindy K. Newton - 2,450 hours Unit 47, Department of Louisiana

**AWARDS LISTING: 2008 - 2009**

**Committee: Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Home Service Volunteer Hours Award (Senior)	Citation Plaque	A Senior Home Service Volunteer in the Western Division	Home Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2007-March 31, 2008	Barbara McCullough, 1500 hours Unit 86, Department of Arizona
10,000 Hour Volunteer Award	Citation \$100 Gift Card	Senior Volunteer	A Volunteer who has accrued 10,000 hours of volunteer service at a VA facility	Margaret Mociak, Pennsylvania Eris Routon, Texas Elaine Gallagher, California Mary Feld, Minnesota
20,000 Hour Volunteer Award	Crystal Bowl \$200 Gift Card	Senior Volunteer	A Volunteer who has provided 20,000 hours of volunteer service to veterans.	No Entry
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Bronze Award	Department	Department with the third highest per capita contributions to the NVCAF from Sept. 1, 2007-June 30, 2008	Winners will be announced at the 2009 Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Silver Award	Department	Department with the third highest per capita contributions to the NVCAF from Sept. 1, 2007-June 30, 2008	Winners will be announced at the 2009 Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Gold Award	Department	Department with the third highest per capita contributions to the NVCAF from Sept. 1, 2007-June 30, 2008	Winners will be announced at the 2009 Veterans Creative Arts Festival.
Operation H.O.P.E.	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairmen	Presented to the Unit that implements the Most Outstanding Event at any VAMC or VA facility	Chantra D-Avy, Chairman Hovius-Gray Unit 112 Jackson, MS

**Appendix C**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
National Headquarters**

**Financial Statements  
September 30, 2009 and 2008  
With Supplementary Information**



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
AND  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors  
American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and  
American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. as of September 30, 2009 and 2008, and the related consolidated statements of activities and changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the management of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS and AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. as of September 30, 2009 and 2008, and the changes in its net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information as of and for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the consolidated financial statements. This information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the 2009 and 2008 consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

January 14, 2010

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,234,851	\$ 494,949
Investments	19,578,070	20,118,598
Investments - V-I-M	2,770,815	2,833,826
Prepaid expenses	300,995	55,058
Furniture and equipment, net	529,158	231,771
Other assets	<u>116,026</u>	<u>108,787</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 24,529,915</u>	<u>\$ 23,842,989</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 239,784	\$ 256,168
Accrued expenses	261,394	189,470
Accrued scholarships	86,250	74,750
Deferred revenue - Dues	2,554,829	2,099,633
Deferred revenue - V-I-M	2,828,260	2,838,922
Deferred revenue - Other	<u>43,580</u>	<u>6,015</u>
Total liabilities	<u>6,014,097</u>	<u>5,464,958</u>
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted net assets		
General fund	16,517,873	16,325,979
Other unrestricted funds	<u>1,281,562</u>	<u>1,264,218</u>
Total unrestricted net assets	17,799,435	17,590,197
Temporarily restricted net assets		
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>529,407</u>	<u>485,192</u>
Total net assets	<u>18,515,818</u>	<u>18,378,031</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 24,529,915</u>	<u>\$ 23,842,989</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 813,956	\$ 892,036
Membership dues	4,052,442	4,128,648
Advertising	353,045	378,352
Other	<u>1,103,009</u>	<u>1,081,187</u>
Total revenue, gains, and other support	<u>6,322,452</u>	<u>6,480,223</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Member services	3,912,849	4,693,132
Youth education services	796,770	952,904
Veteran and military family programs	<u>1,132,631</u>	<u>1,176,367</u>
Total program services	5,842,250	6,822,403
Management and general	335,110	676,686
Fundraising	<u>377,640</u>	<u>843,937</u>
Total expenses	<u>6,555,000</u>	<u>8,343,026</u>
Change in net assets from operations	(232,548)	(1,862,803)
<b>Investment Income (Loss), Net of Expenses</b>	<u>370,335</u>	<u>(3,457,528)</u>
Change in net assets	137,787	(5,320,331)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>18,378,031</u>	<u>23,698,362</u>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 18,515,818</u>	<u>\$ 18,378,031</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009  
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2008)

	Member Services	Youth Education Services	Veteran and Military Family Programs	Total Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	2009 Totals	2008 Totals
Salaries and wages	\$ 766,376	\$ 186,792	\$ 277,435	\$ 1,230,603	\$ 65,881	\$ 71,100	\$ 1,367,584	\$ 1,531,388
Payroll taxes and related costs	61,353	15,743	23,917	101,013	4,107	6,395	111,515	127,625
Employee benefits	108,789	26,989	43,145	178,923	19,023	10,758	208,704	285,503
Personnel and related benefits	936,518	229,524	344,497	1,510,539	89,011	88,253	1,687,803	1,944,516
General operating expenses	279,442	44,767	55,433	379,642	(5,078)	15,887	390,451	677,436
Conventions and meetings	694,828	273,305	143,731	1,111,864	62,206	3,972	1,178,042	1,587,963
Occupancy	115,524	29,405	46,928	191,857	8,402	14,703	214,962	143,238
Professional services and fees	123,554	46,800	116,302	286,656	140,147	32,458	459,261	645,478
Printing and publications	656,849	45,409	162,246	864,504	3,366	195,764	1,063,634	1,445,158
Postage and freight	567,284	34,891	147,940	750,115	8,750	20,100	778,965	1,047,749
Grants and scholarships	238,467	91,250	114,960	444,677	-0-	-0-	444,677	401,533
Other	300,383	1,419	594	302,396	28,306	6,503	337,205	449,955
Total expenses	<u>\$ 3,912,849</u>	<u>\$ 796,770</u>	<u>\$ 1,132,631</u>	<u>\$ 5,842,250</u>	<u>\$ 335,110</u>	<u>\$ 377,640</u>	<u>\$ 6,555,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,343,026</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	Member Services	Youth Education Services	Veteran and Military Family Programs	Total Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	2008 Totals
Salaries and wages	\$ 780,772	\$ 185,983	\$ 280,692	\$ 1,247,447	\$ 111,283	\$ 172,658	\$ 1,531,388
Payroll taxes and related costs	65,051	16,098	23,864	105,013	8,100	14,512	127,625
Employee benefits	121,378	28,699	41,822	191,899	62,531	31,073	285,503
Personnel and related benefits	967,201	230,780	346,378	1,544,359	181,914	218,243	1,944,516
General operating expenses	371,864	59,665	75,170	506,699	119,354	51,383	677,436
Conventions and meetings	1,042,334	282,611	137,341	1,462,286	114,411	11,266	1,587,963
Occupancy	71,619	18,621	25,783	116,023	10,026	17,189	143,238
Professional services and fees	300,363	69,105	69,229	438,697	145,774	61,007	645,478
Printing and publications	778,531	112,958	208,915	1,100,404	8,726	336,028	1,445,158
Postage and freight	623,342	96,691	189,886	909,919	12,183	125,647	1,047,749
Grants and scholarships	198,015	81,251	122,267	401,533	-0-	-0-	401,533
Other	339,863	1,222	1,398	342,483	84,298	23,174	449,955
Total expenses	\$ 4,693,132	\$ 952,904	\$ 1,176,367	\$ 6,822,403	\$ 676,686	\$ 843,937	\$ 8,343,026

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ 137,787	\$ (5,320,331)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used in operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	39,766	32,303
Loss on disposal of assets	-0-	77,349
Net realized (gain) loss on investments	13,972	(609,687)
Net realized (gain) on investments - V-I-M	(156)	(1,588)
Net unrealized loss on investments	554,002	5,400,846
Net unrealized loss on investments - V-I-M	52,442	708,188
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Prepaid expenses	(245,937)	283,857
Other assets	(7,239)	25,555
Accounts payable	(16,384)	(122,376)
Other accrued expenses	83,424	101,000
Deferred revenue - dues	455,196	174,625
Deferred revenue - V-I-M	(10,662)	(612,547)
Deferred revenue - other	37,565	5,015
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,093,776</u>	<u>142,209</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>		
Fixed assets purchased or donated	(337,153)	(227,590)
Change in investments, net	(27,446)	377,609
Change in investments - V-I-M, net	<u>10,725</u>	<u>(150,222)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(353,874)</u>	<u>(203)</u>
<b>Net Increase in Cash and Cash equivalents</b>	739,902	142,006
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>494,949</u>	<u>352,943</u>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 1,234,851</u>	<u>\$ 494,949</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Principles of Consolidation and Description of Entities

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters (the "Auxiliary") and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation"), collectively referred to as the "Organization". All significant intercompany transactions and balances have been eliminated in consolidation.

The Auxiliary is a national membership veterans' service organization with headquarters located in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Auxiliary was founded in 1919 in conjunction with the establishment of The American Legion by the United States Congress. The Auxiliary was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on November 11, 1932 under the laws of the State of Indiana. Members of the Auxiliary are women who served, or whose relatives served, in the United States Armed Forces during times of declared war and conflict. The mission of the Auxiliary is to honor, advocate for, and enhance the lives of U.S. veterans, military, and their families, and to promote patriotism, national security, and good citizenship. The Auxiliary enacts its mission through scholarship, educational, mentoring, and outreach programs, and by administering and supporting various projects that benefit veterans and military families at home and abroad.

The Foundation was incorporated on September 27, 2007 as a not-for-profit entity under the State of Indiana Not-For-Profit Incorporation Act. The Foundation was organized by the Auxiliary exclusively for the benefit of the Auxiliary and assists in fundraising and offers support in carrying out the educational, charitable, and other programs sponsored by the Auxiliary. Accordingly, as required by U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the Foundation's accounts and related disclosures are consolidated herein with those of the Auxiliary beginning with the year ended September 30, 2008.

The significant accounting policies followed by the Organization in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements are summarized below.

Basis of Presentation

The Organization utilizes the principles of fund accounting in the preparation of its consolidated financial statements. Therefore, net assets and revenues, expenses, and gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. The three fund accounts include the following:

*Unrestricted Fund*

The unrestricted net assets are net assets not subject to donor-imposed restrictions. The unrestricted fund is used to account for all contributions, revenues, and expenses used for the general operations of the Organization.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

*Temporarily Restricted Fund*

The temporarily restricted fund is used to record contributions and revenues that are received or generated that have donor restrictions that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted assets are classified as unrestricted net assets and reported as net assets released from restrictions in the consolidated statement of activities and changes in net assets.

*Permanently Restricted Fund*

Assets held inviolate and in perpetuity are held in the permanently restricted fund and include certain funds restricted for scholarships and other restricted purposes. The net income from these investments and all non-restricted contributions are available for release to the unrestricted fund.

Adoption of New Accounting Standards

Effective October 1, 2008, the Organization adopted FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* (formerly Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157). FASB ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value measurements, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. FASB ASC 820 has been applied prospectively as of the beginning of fiscal year 2009.

Additionally, the Organization adopted FASB ASC 958-205, *Not-for-Profit Entities: Presentation of Financial Statements* (formerly FASB Staff Position 117-1). FASB ASC 958-205 provides guidance on the net asset classification of donor restricted endowment funds and funds designated by the Board of Directors to function as endowments, for organizations subject to an enacted version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act ("UPMIFA").

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the consolidated financial statements and notes to the consolidated financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Principal estimates made in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements include the allocation of functional expenses and assumptions employed in the determination of pension expense.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents represent cash invested in checking and money market accounts. All liquid investments with original maturity dates of three months or less are classified as cash equivalents.

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Investments and Investment Return

The Organization's investments are valued at fair market value and have a readily determinable fair value. Investment return includes dividends, interest, and realized and unrealized gains and losses on investments carried at fair value.

Investment return that is initially restricted by donor stipulation and for which the restriction will be satisfied in the same year is first recorded as temporarily restricted and then released from restriction. Other investment return is reflected in the statements of activities as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted based upon the existence and nature of any donor or legally imposed restrictions.

Furniture and Equipment and Depreciation

Furniture, equipment, and leasehold improvements purchased and expenditures which substantially increase the useful lives of existing assets are recorded at cost. Cost of repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Furniture, equipment, and leasehold improvements are depreciated over the estimated useful lives, which range from 5 to 10 years, using the straight-line method of depreciation.

Support and Revenue Recognition

The Organization records gifts as revenue at the date it receives either cash or an unconditional promise to give from a donor. Assets received from a donor are recorded at fair value and are recorded as unrestricted revenue unless the donor includes stipulations that limit the use of the assets, in which case the revenue is recorded as either Temporarily or Permanently Restricted revenue. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted assets are reclassified as unrestricted net assets and reported as "Net assets released from restrictions" in the consolidated statement of activities and changes in net assets.

Functional Expenses

Expenses are allocated among various Programs, Management and General, and Fundraising based on management's estimates of time spent by employees, space utilization, or other rational bases.

Dues Income and Per Capita Tax

Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period. Membership dues are paid annually based on a calendar year-end.

The per capita tax on members is deemed to be earned and reported as income when received.

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Income Taxes

The Auxiliary and the Foundation are organized as not-for-profit corporations and, accordingly, are exempt from Federal and state income taxes under sections 501(c)(19) and 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, respectively. If applicable, the Organization pays income tax on unrelated business income.

Pension Plan

Prior to 2008, the Auxiliary participated in a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of The American Legion National Headquarters and certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was frozen in 2008. Contributions will continue to be made to maintain the funded status of the plan; however, employees will not accrue additional benefits. Contributions to the plan are made by the Auxiliary and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations. There were no additional contributions required for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008.

2. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

FASB ASC 820 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. FASB ASC 820 also establishes a fair value hierarchy, which requires the Organization to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The following three levels are defined by FASB ASC 820 as a means of measuring fair value:

*Level 1*

Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

*Level 2*

Observable inputs other than Level 1 prices, such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities. The Organization has no Level 2 investments at September 30, 2009.

*Level 3*

Unobservable inputs reflecting the entity's own assumptions about the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

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Assets measured at fair value at September 30, 2009 include the following:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,234,851	\$ -0-	\$ 1,234,851
Investments	18,252,782	1,325,288	19,578,070
Investments - V-I-M	<u>2,770,815</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>2,770,815</u>
	<u>\$22,258,448</u>	<u>\$ 1,325,288</u>	<u>\$ 23,583,736</u>

The following schedule summarizes the changes in assets measured using Level 3 inputs during the year ending September 30, 2009:

	Fair Value Measurement Using Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)		
	<u>Hedge Fund</u>	<u>Partnerships</u>	<u>Total</u>
Beginning Balance, 9/30/08	\$ 881,197	\$ 352,579	\$ 1,233,776
Additions	-0-	50,000	50,000
Dividends, interest and other	-0-	4,461	4,461
Realized losses	-0-	(17,410)	(17,410)
Unrealized gains	<u>54,461</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>54,461</u>
Ending Balance, 9/30/09	<u>\$ 935,658</u>	<u>\$ 389,630</u>	<u>\$ 1,325,288</u>

### 3. INVESTMENTS AND INVESTMENT RETURN

A summary of the Organization's investments and investment returns as of September 30, 2009 and 2008 and for the years then ended are as follows:

	<u>2009</u>		<u>2008</u>	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Market</u>
<b>Investments:</b>				
Money market funds	\$ 78,533	\$ 78,533	\$ 272,531	\$ 272,531
Corporate bonds and notes	-0-	-0-	258,722	260,494
Common and preferred stock	3,865,079	2,807,392	3,861,588	3,223,909
Mutual funds and other	<u>17,157,246</u>	<u>16,692,145</u>	<u>16,694,544</u>	<u>16,361,664</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 21,100,858</u>	<u>\$ 19,578,070</u>	<u>\$ 21,087,385</u>	<u>\$ 20,118,598</u>

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The following schedule summarizes the investment income (loss) and its classification in the statements of activities and changes in net assets for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008:

	<b>2009</b>				
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dividends and interest (net of expenses of \$20,090)	\$ 866,856	\$ 46,893	\$ 913,749	\$ 24,560	\$ 938,309
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	(14,940)	968	(13,972)	-0-	(13,972)
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<u>(534,109)</u>	<u>(6,044)</u>	<u>(540,153)</u>	<u>(13,849)</u>	<u>(554,002)</u>
Total investment income (loss)	<u>\$ 317,807</u>	<u>\$ 41,817</u>	<u>\$ 359,624</u>	<u>\$ 10,711</u>	<u>\$ 370,335</u>

	<b>2008</b>				
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Other Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>Temporarily Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dividends and interest (net of expenses of \$20,255)	\$ 1,234,673	\$ 55,156	\$ 1,289,829	\$ 43,802	\$ 1,333,631
Net realized gains on investments	606,552	3,135	609,687	-0-	609,687
Net unrealized losses on investments	<u>(5,322,681)</u>	<u>(78,165)</u>	<u>(5,400,846)</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>(5,400,846)</u>
Total investment income (loss)	<u>\$ (3,481,456)</u>	<u>\$ (19,874)</u>	<u>\$ (3,501,330)</u>	<u>\$ 43,802</u>	<u>\$ (3,457,528)</u>

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4. FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

The Organization's furniture and equipment for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 are as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Furniture, office equipment and information technology	\$ 672,068	\$ 334,915
Leasehold improvements	<u>38,039</u>	<u>38,039</u>
	710,107	372,954
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	<u>(180,949)</u>	<u>(141,183)</u>
	<u>\$ 529,158</u>	<u>\$ 231,771</u>

5. NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS

Net assets released from donor restrictions from the temporarily restricted fund to the unrestricted fund by incurring expenses satisfying the restricted purposes or by occurrence of other events specified by the donors are as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Purpose restrictions accomplished:		
Emergency Fund grants and related expenses	\$ 282,547	\$ 226,641
Veterans Creative Arts Festival and related expenses	<u>133,780</u>	<u>138,651</u>
	<u>\$ 416,327</u>	<u>\$ 365,292</u>

6. VERY-IMPORTANT-MEMBER (V-I-M) TRUST

In February 1981, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan to be available to any member. In November 1981, the assets of the Very-Important-Member (V-I-M) Plan were segregated into a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members will be withdrawn each year. The trust agreement provides that the Auxiliary has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion. Investment income from the V-I-M trust is recorded as a component of deferred income and is not reflected in the consolidated statement of activities and changes in net assets.

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The financial position of the V-I-M Membership trust is as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 60,417	\$ 5,096
Investments	2,770,815	2,833,826
Other	<u>(2,972)</u>	<u>-0-</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 2,828,260</u>	 <u>\$ 2,838,922</u>
 <b>Liabilities:</b>		
Deferred income - V-I-M	<u>\$ 2,828,260</u>	<u>\$ 2,838,922</u>

The cost and market value of investments in the V-I-M Membership trust as of September 30, 2009 and 2008 are as follows:

	2009		2008	
	Cost	Market	Cost	Market
<b>Investments:</b>				
Money market funds	\$ 103,966	\$ 103,966	\$ 165,273	\$ 165,273
U.S. Government obligations	-0-	-0-	99,844	100,156
Mutual funds and other	<u>3,168,293</u>	<u>2,666,849</u>	<u>3,017,711</u>	<u>2,568,397</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 3,272,259</u>	<u>\$ 2,770,815</u>	<u>\$ 3,282,828</u>	<u>\$ 2,833,826</u>

The following schedule summarizes the V-I-M Membership trust investment income (loss) for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Dividends and interest (net of expenses)	\$ 143,263	\$ 231,169
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	156	1,588
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<u>(52,442)</u>	<u>(708,188)</u>
Total investment income	<u>\$ 90,977</u>	<u>\$ (475,431)</u>

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7. PENSION PLAN

Prior to 2008, the Auxiliary participated in a defined benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees. The plan was frozen on June 30, 2008. Participating employees will continue to vest in the plan; however, benefit payments will be based on the years of service and salary level as of June 30, 2008. The Auxiliary's funding policy is to make the minimum annual contribution that is required by applicable regulations, plus such amounts as the Auxiliary may determine to be appropriate from time to time.

In 2008, the plan used a June 30 measurement date. For 2009, and in all future years, the measurement date will be September 30. Significant balances, costs, and assumptions are:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Projected benefit obligation	\$ (2,267,418)	\$ (2,215,682)
Fair value of plan assets	<u>2,277,627</u>	<u>2,465,926</u>
Funded status	<u>10,209</u>	<u>250,244</u>
Accumulated benefit obligation	<u>\$ 2,677,418</u>	<u>\$ 2,215,682</u>

Amounts recognized in the consolidated financial statements are as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
(Accrued) Prepaid benefit cost	\$ (4,179)	\$ (44,989)
Benefit costs	(40,810)	76,782
Employer contributions	-0-	-0-
Benefits paid	119,923	114,891

Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations are as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Weighted-average assumptions:		
Discount rate	6.11%	6.17%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	5.00%

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Weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit costs:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Weighted-average assumptions:		
Discount rate	5.21%	6.11%
Expected return on plan assets	7.00%	7.00%
Rate of compensation increase	N/A	3.00%

The Auxiliary has estimated the long-term rate on plan assets based primarily on historical returns, adjusted for changes in target portfolio allocations, and recent changes in long-term interest rates based on publicly available information.

The following benefit payments, which reflect expected future service, as appropriate, are expected to be paid as of September 30:

2010	\$ 124,145
2011	124,985
2012	133,007
2013	136,714
2014	143,763
2014-2018	<u>790,048</u>
	<u>\$ 1,452,662</u>

Plan assets are held by a bank-administered trust fund, which invests the plan assets in accordance with provisions of the plan agreement. The plan agreements permit investment in equity and debt securities based on certain target allocation percentages.

Asset allocation is primarily based on a strategy to provide stable earnings while still permitting the plans to recognize potentially higher returns through a limited investment in equity securities. The target asset allocation percentages for 2009 and 2008 were as follows:

Equity securities	35 - 45%
Debt securities	55 - 65%

Plan assets are re-balanced quarterly. At September 30, 2009 and 2008, plan assets by category were as follows:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Equity securities	26%	30%
Debt securities	72%	68%
Other	2%	2%

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8. PROFIT SHARING PLAN

The Auxiliary established a 401(k) Profit Sharing Plan subsequent to the freezing of the pension plan in 2008 (Note 7). The plan covers all eligible employees meeting certain age and term-of-employment provisions. Contributions are made by the Auxiliary at the discretion of the National Finance and National Executive Committees. Participants become fully vested in employer contributions after five (5) years of service. The Auxiliary contributed \$27,916 and \$12,329 in 2009 and 2008, respectively.

9. OPERATING LEASES

During 2008, the Auxiliary entered into a long-term lease for its National Headquarters' office. The lease agreement calls for monthly lease payments ranging from \$17,428 to \$20,042 through January 2019. Previously, the Auxiliary subleased the National Headquarters' office from The American Legion, Department of Indiana. In lieu of rental payments, the Auxiliary paid a portion of the cost of maintenance and insurance on the building occupied. Total lease expense for the National Headquarters' Office was \$209,130 and \$137,898 in 2009 and 2008, respectively.

The Auxiliary also leases certain office equipment under terms in excess of one year. This lease requires minimum monthly lease payments of \$3,330 expiring at April 2012. Lease expense for this lease and other short-term cancelable leases was \$62,519 and \$45,446 for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, respectively.

Future minimum lease payments under the terms of all noncancelable operating leases at September 30, 2009 are as follows:

<u>Year Ending</u> <u>September 30,</u>	
2010	\$ 251,414
2011	254,899
2012	238,405
2013	221,910
2014	225,396
Thereafter	<u>1,016,604</u>
	<u>\$ 2,208,628</u>

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10. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Auxiliary and The American Legion National Headquarters (the "Legion") are related parties that are not financially interrelated organizations. The Legion is a national veterans' organization created by an Act of Congress to provide various programs to support veterans, their families, and children and youth. Many of the Auxiliary's programs mirror and/or supplement the efforts of the Legion in supporting these groups. Accordingly, there are shared resources between the two organizations.

The Auxiliary contributes annually to the Legion's programs and affiliates, such as Citizens Flag Alliance, Children & Youth Fund, Child Welfare Foundation, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Fund. In 2000, the Auxiliary sold most of its inventory to the Legion. As the inventory items are sold, the Legion pays the Auxiliary a 6% commission on the sale. The Auxiliary also purchases membership processing services from Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc. ("HPC"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Legion.

Activity between the Auxiliary and the Legion for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008 are summarized below:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Disbursements to Legion:</b>		
Access to computer network and IT support	\$ 77,385	\$ 93,153
Membership processing	131,278	142,205
National convention	31,847	61,641
Legal services	7,500	7,500
National emblem sales	14,499	16,205
Other	13,857	25,266
Contributions to the Legion and its affiliates	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
	<u>\$ 316,366</u>	<u>\$ 385,970</u>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
National emblem sales	\$ 54,834	\$ 51,762
Other	495	1,150
	<u>\$ 55,329</u>	<u>\$ 52,912</u>

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11. NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Composition of Endowment Net Assets

The Auxiliary created the National President’s Scholarship Endowment Fund (the “Endowment”) in 2008 to provide funding for scholarships awarded by the Auxiliary. The endowment consists of quasi endowment funds set aside by the National Executive Committee (NEC) and donor-designated funds. In 2008, the NEC designated \$280,810 of unrestricted net assets as a component of the endowment. The NEC-designated and donor-designated portions of the endowment are tracked separately for the purpose of recording investment income.

Endowment net assets at September 30, 2009 include the following:

	NEC <u>Designated</u>	Donor <u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Historic gift value	\$ 280,810	\$ 479,742	\$ 760,552
Accumulated earnings	<u>-0-</u>	<u>43,802</u>	<u>43,802</u>
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	<u>280,810</u>	<u>523,544</u>	<u>804,354</u>
Additions to endowment	34,888	42,665	77,553
Interest and dividends	13,235	24,560	37,795
Unrealized gains (losses)	<u>(7,790)</u>	<u>(13,849)</u>	<u>(21,639)</u>
Change in endowment net assets	<u>40,333</u>	<u>53,376</u>	<u>93,709</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 321,143</u>	<u>\$ 576,920</u>	<u>\$ 898,063</u>
Historic gift value	\$ 315,698	\$ 522,407	\$ 838,105
Accumulated earnings (losses)	<u>5,445</u>	<u>54,513</u>	<u>59,958</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 321,143</u>	<u>\$ 576,920</u>	<u>\$ 898,063</u>

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Endowment net assets at September 30, 2008 include the following:

	NEC <u>Designated</u>	Donor <u>Designated</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment net assets, beginning of year	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Additions to endowment	280,810	479,742	760,552
Unrealized gains (losses)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>43,802</u>	<u>43,802</u>
Change in endowment net assets	<u>280,810</u>	<u>523,544</u>	<u>804,354</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 280,810</u>	<u>\$ 523,544</u>	<u>\$ 804,354</u>
Historic gift value	\$ 280,810	\$ 479,742	\$ 760,552
Accumulated earnings (losses)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>43,802</u>	<u>43,802</u>
Endowment net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 280,810</u>	<u>\$ 523,544</u>	<u>\$ 804,354</u>

Governing Board's Interpretation of Relevant Law

The Auxiliary has interpreted the state law of Indiana's House Bill No. 1505, *Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act*, to not require the maintenance of purchasing power. The law does require the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the date of the gift of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Organization classifies as permanently restricted net assets: (a) the original value of gifts donated to the permanent endowment; (b) the original value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment; and (c) accumulations to the permanent endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund. The remaining portion of donor-restricted endowment funds is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Organization.

Endowment Draws

No endowment draws were made during the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008. All scholarships were funded with operating net assets. The Auxiliary is developing policies for future endowment draws in order to fund the scholarships.

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**Investment Policy for the Endowment**

Purpose

The primary goal of the Endowment's investment policy is to safeguard the assets of the Endowment, while at the same time gaining a return on the investments held through prudent placement in income and growth oriented vehicles.

Investment Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to invest funds in a method defined as an income and capital appreciation model of investing. This model is based on an investment horizon of greater than five years. Within this model, the parameters of the asset allocation should be as follows:

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Equity	20%	38%	60%
Fixed Income	25%	45%	75%
Cash and Equivalents	0%	2%	55%
Other Securities	0%	15%	25%

Investment Plan

The plan is to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and their advisors at least semi-annually at a time set by the Finance Committee.

12. CONCENTRATIONS

The Organization maintains cash in bank deposit accounts which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Organization has not experienced any losses in such accounts. The Organization believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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ANALYSIS OF DEFERRED INCOME: V-I-M  
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Increases</b>		
Membership dues	\$ 259,870	\$ 201,871
Investment income	<u>90,977</u>	<u>(475,431)</u>
	<u>350,847</u>	<u>(273,560)</u>
<b>Decreases</b>		
Distributions to departments	314,549	293,780
Administrative expense	<u>46,960</u>	<u>45,207</u>
	<u>361,509</u>	<u>338,987</u>
<b>Net Increase</b>	(10,662)	(612,547)
<b>Deferred Income, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>2,838,922</u>	<u>3,451,469</u>
<b>Deferred Income, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 2,828,260</u>	<u>\$ 2,838,922</u>

See Independent Auditors' report on page 1.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

**ASSETS**

	<u>Auxiliary</u>	<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Eliminations</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,227,851	\$ 7,000	\$ -0-	\$ 1,234,851
Investments	19,578,070	-0-	-0-	19,578,070
Investments - V-I-M	2,770,815	-0-	-0-	2,770,815
Prepaid expenses	300,995	-0-	-0-	300,995
Furniture and equipment, net	529,158	-0-	-0-	529,158
Other assets	<u>116,026</u>	<u>12,111</u>	<u>(12,111)</u>	<u>116,026</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 24,522,915</u>	<u>\$ 19,111</u>	<u>\$ (12,111)</u>	<u>\$ 24,529,915</u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				
Accounts payable	\$ 239,784	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 239,784
Accrued expenses	261,394	-0-	-0-	261,394
Accrued scholarships	86,250	-0-	-0-	86,250
Deferred revenue - Dues	2,554,829	-0-	-0-	2,554,829
Deferred revenue - V-I-M	2,828,260	-0-	-0-	2,828,260
Deferred revenue - Other	<u>43,580</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>43,580</u>
Total liabilities	<u>6,014,097</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>6,014,097</u>
<b>Net Assets:</b>				
Unrestricted net assets				
General fund	16,517,873	12,111	(12,111)	16,517,873
Other unrestricted funds	<u>1,281,562</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>1,281,562</u>
Total unrestricted net assets	17,799,435	12,111	(12,111)	17,799,435
Temporarily restricted net assets				
Temporarily restricted net assets	186,976	-0-	-0-	186,976
Permanently restricted net assets				
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>522,407</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>529,407</u>
Total net assets	<u>18,508,818</u>	<u>19,111</u>	<u>(12,111)</u>	<u>18,515,818</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 24,522,915</u>	<u>\$ 19,111</u>	<u>\$ (12,111)</u>	<u>\$ 24,529,915</u>

See Independent Auditors' report on page 1.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

	General Operating Fund		Other Unrestricted Funds		Auxiliary		Temporarily Restricted Funds		Permanently Restricted Funds		Foundation		Total
			Total Unrestricted		Total Unrestricted		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	
<b>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support:</b>													
Contributions	\$ 416,842	\$ 62,949	\$ 479,791	\$ 289,950	\$ 42,665	\$ 812,406	\$ 7,000	\$ 29,562	\$ (28,012)	\$	\$ 29,562	\$ (28,012)	\$ 813,956
Membership dues	3,936,312	116,130	4,052,442	-	-	4,052,442	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,052,442
Advertising	353,045	-	353,045	-	-	353,045	-	-	-	-	-	-	353,045
Other	1,103,009	-	1,103,009	-	-	1,103,009	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,103,009
	5,809,208	179,079	5,988,287	289,950	42,665	6,320,902	22,562	7,000	29,562	(28,012)	29,562	(28,012)	6,322,452
Net assets released from restrictions	-	416,327	416,327	(416,327)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total revenue, gains, and other support	5,809,208	595,406	6,404,614	(126,377)	42,665	6,320,902	22,562	7,000	29,562	(28,012)	29,562	(28,012)	6,322,452
<b>Expenses:</b>													
Member services	3,621,269	291,580	3,912,849	-	-	3,912,849	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,912,849
Youth education services	602,616	194,154	796,770	-	-	796,770	-	-	-	-	-	-	796,770
Veteran and military family programs	676,656	455,975	1,132,631	-	-	1,132,631	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,132,631
Total program services	4,900,541	941,709	5,842,250	-	-	5,842,250	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,842,250
Management and general	335,110	-	335,110	-	-	335,110	30,416	-	30,416	(30,416)	-	-	335,110
Fundraising	377,640	-	377,640	-	-	377,640	1,634	-	1,634	(1,634)	-	-	377,640
Total expenses	5,613,291	941,709	6,555,000	-	-	6,555,000	32,050	-	32,050	(32,050)	-	-	6,555,000
Change in net assets from operations	195,917	(346,303)	(150,386)	(126,377)	42,665	(234,098)	(9,488)	7,000	(2,488)	4,038	(2,488)	4,038	(232,548)
<b>Investment Income (Losses), Net of Expenses</b>	317,807	41,817	359,624	10,711	-	370,335	-	-	-	-	-	-	370,335
Change in net assets	513,724	(304,486)	209,238	(115,666)	42,665	136,237	(9,488)	7,000	(2,488)	4,038	(2,488)	4,038	137,787
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	16,325,979	1,264,218	17,590,197	302,642	479,742	18,372,581	16,149	5,450	21,599	(16,149)	21,599	(16,149)	18,378,031
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>	(321,830)	321,830	-	-	-	-	5,450	(5,450)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	16,517,873	1,281,562	17,799,435	186,976	522,407	18,508,818	12,111	7,000	19,111	(12,111)	19,111	(12,111)	18,515,818

See Independent Auditors' report on page 1.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.

CONSOLIDATING STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	General Operating Fund	Auxiliary			Foundation			Eliminations	Total	
		Other Unrestricted Funds	Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted Funds	Permanently Restricted Funds	Auxiliary Total	Unrestricted Funds			Permanently Restricted Funds
<b>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support:</b>										
Contributions	\$ 85,895	\$ 134,280	\$ 275,361	\$ 476,945	\$ 886,586	\$ 78,065	\$ 5,450	\$ (78,065)	\$ 892,036	
Membership dues	4,009,412	119,236	-	-	4,128,648	-	-	-	4,128,648	
Advertising	378,352	-	-	-	378,352	-	-	-	378,352	
Other	1,081,187	-	-	-	1,081,187	-	-	-	1,081,187	
	5,554,846	167,621	275,361	476,945	6,474,773	78,065	5,450	(78,065)	6,480,223	
Net assets released from restrictions	-	365,292	(365,292)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total revenue, gains, and other support	5,554,846	532,913	(89,931)	476,945	6,474,773	78,065	5,450	(78,065)	6,480,223	
<b>Expenses:</b>										
Member services	4,445,884	247,248	-	-	4,693,132	-	-	-	4,693,132	
Youth/education services	767,973	184,931	-	-	952,904	-	-	-	952,904	
Veteran and military family programs	717,833	458,534	-	-	1,176,367	-	-	-	1,176,367	
Total program services	5,931,690	890,713	-	-	6,822,403	-	-	-	6,822,403	
Management and general	676,686	-	-	-	676,686	59,666	-	(59,666)	676,686	
Fundraising	843,937	-	-	-	843,937	2,250	-	(2,250)	843,937	
Total expenses	7,452,313	890,713	-	-	8,343,026	61,916	-	(61,916)	8,343,026	
Change in net assets from operations	(1,897,467)	(357,800)	(89,931)	476,945	(1,868,253)	16,149	5,450	(16,149)	(1,862,803)	
<b>Investment Income (Losses)</b>										
Net of Expenses	(3,481,456)	(19,874)	43,802	-	(3,457,528)	-	-	-	(3,457,528)	
Change in net assets	(5,378,923)	(377,674)	(46,129)	476,945	(5,325,781)	16,149	5,450	(16,149)	(5,320,331)	
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	22,357,413	829,625	511,324	-	23,698,362	-	-	-	23,698,362	
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>	(652,511)	812,267	(162,553)	2,797	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	\$ 16,325,979	\$ 1,264,218	\$ 302,642	\$ 479,742	\$ 18,372,581	\$ 16,149	\$ 5,450	\$ (16,149)	\$ 18,378,031	

See Independent Auditors' report on page 1.



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
(An affiliate of American Legion Auxiliary, Inc.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
(AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

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SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

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**Alerding & Co. L.L.C.**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors  
American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, Inc.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. (the "Foundation") as of September 30, 2009 and 2008, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets, and cash flows for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Foundation is an affiliate of American Legion Auxiliary, Inc. (the "Auxiliary"), was organized by the Auxiliary, and operates exclusively for the benefit of and to assist in carrying out the educational, charitable and other exempt purposes of the Auxiliary. As required by U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the Foundation presents its financial statements on a consolidated basis with those of the Auxiliary, which consolidated financial statements are presented in a separate document. The accompanying financial statements include only the accounts and disclosures related to the Foundation.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. as of September 30, 2009 and 2008, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

January 14, 2010

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
 FOUNDATION, INC.  
 (AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,450
Organization costs, net of amortization of \$8,075 and \$4,037 in 2009 and 2008, respectively	<u>12,111</u>	<u>16,149</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 19,111</u>	<u>\$ 21,599</u>

<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>Net Assets:</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 12,111	\$ 16,149
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>7,000</u>	<u>5,450</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 19,111</u>	<u>\$ 21,599</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.  
(AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support:</b>			
Contributions	<u>\$ 22,562</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>	<u>\$ 29,562</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Management and general			
Salaries and wages	7,103	-0-	7,103
General operating expenses	10,949	-0-	10,949
Conventions and meetings	4,191	-0-	4,191
Professional services and fees	<u>8,173</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>8,173</u>
Total management and general	30,416	-0-	30,416
Fundraising	<u>1,634</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>1,634</u>
Total expenses	<u>32,050</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>32,050</u>
Change in net assets	(9,488)	7,000	(2,488)
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	16,149	5,450	21,599
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>(5,450)</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 12,111</u>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>	<u>\$ 19,111</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.  
(AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Permanently Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support:</b>			
Contributions	<u>\$ 78,065</u>	<u>\$ 5,450</u>	<u>\$ 83,515</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Management and general			
Salaries and wages	24,170	-0-	24,170
General operating expenses	4,293	-0-	4,293
Conventions and meetings	4,116	-0-	4,116
Professional services and fees	<u>27,087</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>27,087</u>
Total management and general	59,666	-0-	59,666
Fundraising	<u>2,250</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>2,250</u>
Total expenses	<u>61,916</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>61,916</u>
Change in net assets	16,149	5,450	21,599
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 16,149</u>	<u>\$ 5,450</u>	<u>\$ 21,599</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC.  
(AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ (2,488)	\$ 21,599
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Other assets - amortization	<u>4,038</u>	<u>(16,149)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,550</u>	<u>5,450</u>
<b>Net Increase in Cash</b>	1,550	5,450
<b>Cash, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>5,450</u>	<u>-0-</u>
<b>Cash, End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 7,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,450</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
(AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Description of the Entity

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION, INC. (the "Foundation") was incorporated on September 27, 2007 as a not-for-profit entity under the State of Indiana Not-For-Profit Incorporation Act. The Foundation was organized by the American Legion Auxiliary, Inc. (the "Auxiliary"), a not-for-profit entity headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Foundation operates exclusively for the benefit of the Auxiliary and assists in fundraising and offers support in carrying out the educational, charitable, and other programs sponsored by the Auxiliary.

The significant accounting policies followed by the Foundation in the preparation of its financial statements are summarized below.

Financial Reporting

As required by U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the accounts of the Foundation are reported on a consolidated basis with those of the Auxiliary in a separate document. The accompanying financial statements include only the accounts and disclosures related to the Foundation. Related party transactions with the Auxiliary are reported in Note 2.

Basis of Presentation

The Foundation utilizes the principles of fund accounting in the preparation of its financial statements. Therefore, net assets and revenues, expenses, and gains and losses are classified based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions. The three fund accounts include the following:

*Unrestricted Fund*

The unrestricted net assets are net assets not subject to donor-imposed restrictions. The unrestricted fund is used to account for all contributions, revenues, and expenses used for the general operations of the Foundation.

*Temporarily Restricted Fund*

The temporarily restricted fund is used to record contributions and revenues that are received or generated that have donor restrictions that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, temporarily restricted assets are classified as unrestricted net assets and reported as net assets released from restrictions in the statement of activities and changes in net assets. As of and for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, the Foundation had no income, expenses, or net assets recorded in the Temporarily Restricted Fund.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION, INC.  
(AN AFFILIATE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, INC.)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2008

*Permanently Restricted Fund*

Assets held inviolate and in perpetuity are held in the permanently restricted fund and include certain funds for scholarships and other restricted purposes. The net income from these investments and all non-restricted contributions are available for release to the unrestricted fund.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Support and Revenue Recognition

The Foundation records gifts as revenue at the date it receives either cash or an unconditional promise to give from a donor. Assets received from a donor are recorded at fair value and are recorded as unrestricted revenue unless the donor includes stipulations that limit the use of the assets, in which cash the revenue is recorded as either Temporarily or Permanently Restricted revenue.

Functional Expenses

Functional expenses for Management and General and Fundraising Expenses are included in the accompanying Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets for the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008.

Income Taxes

The Foundation is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and, accordingly, is exempt from Federal and state income taxes under sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. If applicable, the Foundation pays income tax on unrelated business income.

2. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the years ended September 30, 2009 and 2008, the Foundation received contributions of \$22,562 and \$78,065 from the Auxiliary to fund certain organizational and other costs incurred by the Foundation.

