



SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

American Legion Auxiliary
Ninetieth National Convention

August 28 - September 2, 2010
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



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Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**American Legion Auxiliary
National Officers
2009-2010**

National President

Rita Navarreté, Department of New Mexico

National Vice President

Carlene Ashworth, Department of Texas

Division National Vice Presidents

Central: Norma Swanson, Department of Kansas

Eastern: Barbara Golde, Department of Rhode Island

Northwestern: Joyce Babcock, Department of Montana

Southern: Lynda Horton-Turk, Department of Texas

Western: Peggy Brown, Department of New Mexico

National Chaplain

Beverly Wolff, Department of North Dakota

National Historian

Joyce Arent, Department of Arizona

National Secretary

Mary “Dubbie” Buckler, Department of Indiana

National Treasurer

Marta Hedding, Department of Indiana

PRESENT

Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, August 28, 2010

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

Linda Boone
Linda Newsome
Syble Deshotel
Phyllis Bachman
Barbara Kranig
Virginia Hobbs
Elizabeth Stewart
Kristine West
Sherry McLaughlin
Elsie Bailey-Comer
Katherine Morris
Carol Van Kirk
JoAnn Cronin
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Desireé Stoy
Miriam Junge (Honorary)

National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama	Versie Rutherford
Alaska	Lisa Williamson
Arizona	-
Arkansas	Rose Weiss
California	LuAnn Capazzi
Colorado	Chris Harvey
Connecticut	Barbara McCarthy
Delaware	Helen Skelton

District of Columbia	Yirsell Newkirk
Florida	Kathee Coughlin
Georgia	Gloria Johnston
Hawaii	Laura Hashimoto
Idaho	Pearl Bentley
Illinois	Carollee Junge
Indiana	Shirley Firkins
Iowa	Virginia Carter
Kansas	Myrna Rogers
Kentucky	Pamela Rice
Louisiana.....	Maggie Watts
Maine	Donna Greenlaw
Maryland.....	-
Massachusetts	Mary Ellen Morissette
Michigan	Suzanne Knapp
Minnesota	Carol Barbknect
Mississippi	Nancy Sanders
Missouri	Rosemarie Hauck
Montana	Karen Susag
Nebraska	Marva Kasl
Nevada	Betty Sherwood
New Hampshire	Bonnie Knapp
New Jersey	Lynda Stadtler
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	Ree Ann Ross
Philippines	Robela Gane
Puerto Rico	Maria Montanez
Rhode Island	Cathleen Camire
South Carolina	Catherine Gibbs
South Dakota	-
Tennessee.....	Jo Bridges
Texas.....	Mickie Prendergast
Utah.....	Georgia Englebrecht
Vermont	Merle McDermott
Virginia	Patricia Upshaw
Washington	Eva Wallace
West Virginia.....	Roxie Nicholson
Wisconsin	Susan Vorwald
Wyoming	Shareen Johnson

Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 2, 2010

National Officers

National President.....	Carlene Ashworth
National Vice President	Kris Nelson
Central Division National Vice President.....	Donna Fuelling
Eastern Division National Vice President	Charlotte Hagan
Northwestern Division National Vice President.....	Lynne Wild
Southern Division National Vice President.....	Pat Knight
Western Division National Vice President	Darlene McLaughlin
National Chaplain	Vickie Thrower
National Historian.....	Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch
National Secretary	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer	Marta Hedding

Past National Presidents

Linda Boone
Linda Newsome
Syble Deshotel
Phyllis Bachman
Barbara Kranig
Virginia Hobbs
Elizabeth Stewart
Kristine West
Sherry McLaughlin
Elsie Bailey-Comer
Katherine Morris
Carol Van Kirk
JoAnn Cronin
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Desireé Stoy
Miriam Junge (Honorary)
Rita Navarreté

National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama	Donna Fluhr
Alaska	Judith Pusti
Arizona	Debbie Collins
Arkansas	Nancy “Shorty” Followell
California	Norma J. DuVall
Colorado	Luann Williams
Connecticut	-
Delaware	Beverly Buchanan
District of Columbia	-

Florida.....	Mary A. Kelly-Perkins
Georgia	Bettye D. Williams
Hawaii.....	Laura Hashimoto
Idaho	-
Illinois	Julia Moore
Indiana	Janet Barnaby
Iowa	Fran Kirk
Kansas.....	Sharon Spiker
Kentucky.....	Kathy Daudistel
Louisiana.....	Kathy Thistrup
Maine	Lois M. Hubbard
Maryland.....	Mary Lou Kline
Massachusetts	Rosemary Tower
Michigan	Judy Lynch
Minnesota	Marsha Bible
Mississippi	Angela Kilcrease
Missouri	Bonnie Kelsey
Montana	Marlyn Damson
Nebraska	Carol Ulrich
Nevada	Cinnamin Stephens
New Hampshire	-
New Jersey.....	Debbie Tomasetti
New Mexico.....	Jo Ann Rodgers
New York.....	Karyn Porempski
North Carolina	Sue Jones
North Dakota	Gigi Moore
Ohio	Martha Lee Thatcher
Oklahoma.....	Linda Deutser
Oregon	Cheryl Park
Pennsylvania.....	Barbara A. Mills
Puerto Rico	Maria Montanez
Rhode Island	Barbara Golde
South Carolina	Brenda W. Collins
South Dakota	Joan Spears
Tennessee.....	Jo Bridges
Texas.....	Barbara Kundert
Utah.....	Nina Mason
Vermont	Patricia Jones
Virginia	-
Washington	Kathy Kerr
West Virginia.....	Patricia Moore
Wisconsin	Gayle Janson
Wyoming	Linda Feezer

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Saturday, August 28, 2010

**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2010, 8:00 A.M. TO 9:36 A.M.**

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. I'm about to hit the gavel, so let's get everyone seated. Appreciate that.

The National Executive Committee meeting will now come to order. Please disable all electronic devices or place them in the silent mode. And I was reminded to do mine this morning.

Please rise and remain standing for the opening ceremonies.

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, Carol May Grout, leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Beverly.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Please join me in a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, there was a moment of silence.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer each in our own faith.

My Lord, what a morning. Thank you for bringing us together safely from across the nation. Be with us and guide us as we conduct the business of the American Legion Auxiliary. Give us open minds and the spirit that we need to energize and the sparks to rekindle the flame as we go into the future. Help us to work together as a team with the good of the organization and not for personal gain.

Bless and protect our troops around the world as they continue to protect our freedoms and the hope of bringing freedom to other parts of the world. Heavenly Father, we ask you to be with the family of Ann from Kansas. Surround them with your never-ending love. Be with all in attendance this morning and throughout the convention. In His name, Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

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.

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hail'd as the twilight's last gleaming? Whose bright stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve

the memories and the incidents of our associations during great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will 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. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened.

Greetings and welcome and good morning to everyone. It's hard to believe, but here we are in Milwaukee about to begin our 90th annual convention. We have much to celebrate this year. It's so great to see many of you again.

Before we begin our business, I want to remind you that anyone wishing to speak first is asked to make their way to the microphones in the center aisle as this is the only way that your remarks and your name can be heard for the recording by our reporter for the transcripts of this meeting.

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.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the head table. Carlene Ashworth, National Vice President, Department of Texas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Norma Swanson, Central Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Barbara Golde, Eastern Divisional Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Joyce Babcock, Northwestern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Lynda Horton-Turk, Southern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Peggy Brown, Western Divisional Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Beverly Wolff, our National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Joyce Arent, our National Historian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, our National Secretary.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Marta Hedding, our National Treasurer.

(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Chris Dickey, our convention Parliamentarian.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I would like to at this time introduce the personal pages.

Cecilia Martinez, personal page and personal aide to the National President.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Jeri Devoll, she is a member of New Mexico, but she's residing in Florida. And you were to come up forward, but you're back there. Okay.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Mary Lou Lopez.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And Darlene Allen in her first National Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: At this time, I would like the Past National Presidents to please stand, turn around, and be recognized, please.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: We will be utilizing a consent agenda to handle the basic business items this morning. These items are listed in your agenda and include three items. And there was a little bit of confusion that there were more items on that consent, but I will outline the items on the consent agenda.

The approval of the proceedings from the February 27, February 28, 2010, NEC meeting, the charter cancellation since March 2010, recognition of American Airline Snowball Express, the Department of Colorado Resolution.

You received this information on each of the items prior to the meeting with any updates on your chair today. Information about the consent agenda and how it works was circulated in advance along with the items listed on the agenda.

The Chair will entertain a motion to accept the consent agenda.

MS. HARVEY: Madam Chair, Chris Harvey, NEC, Department of Colorado. I move that we accept the consent agenda.

MS. GREENLAW: Seconded.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Would you please stand.

MS. GREENLAW: Donna Greenlaw.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There has been a motion to approve the consent agenda as distributed and as outlined. All in favor?

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The consent agenda has been approved.

The Chair now calls on Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, the Co-Chair of the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee, to present a report on the enhanced mission, vision statement.

CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam President, since the inception of our Long Range Strategic Planning team, we really have felt that the mission and vision statement as had been proposed at that particular weekend retreat had been

done rather quickly. And we always felt that it didn't really show exactly what it was that the American Legion Auxiliary stood for in its vision or what we felt should be the vision of our organization for the future.

So at one of our Long Range Strategic Planning meetings just recently, we adopted a new one at that time. It was circulated to the NEC at the awareness meeting in Washington this past year. And today I will ask for your approval after reading what we have here as a Resolution which was drafted then by the Long Range Strategic Planning team.

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary embraces a mission statement that defines the fundamental purpose of the organization, focuses the American Legion Auxiliary's thinking and action, distinguishes the American Legion Auxiliary from other organizations, clarifies that which the Auxiliary seeks to achieve and concisely communicates why the American Legion Auxiliary exists and why the American Legion Auxiliary matters, and

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary also embraces a mission statement that presents the American Legion Auxiliary with an ideal future based on the successful implementation of its mission, and

Whereas, the current mission statement presently reads, the American Legion Auxiliary serves veterans, their families, and their communities, and

Whereas, the current vision statement presently reads, the American Legion Auxiliary enriches the quality of life for those we serve and our members, and

Whereas, the present mission and vision statements do not adequately identify the organization's purpose or what the Auxiliary stands for the degree necessary for outside entities to understand who we are and why we are relevant to a patriotic citizenry,

Now, therefore be it resolved by action of the National Executive Committee meeting August 28th, 2010 that the American Legion Auxiliary adopt the following revised mission and vision statements that incorporate the fundamental tenets of the American Legion Auxiliary's enduring Preamble to its Constitution and that more fully represent the organization's importance and core value:

The mission statement: In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families both at home and abroad.

For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.

The vision statement: The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community, providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace, and security.

Madam President, I move the adoption of the proposed mission and vision statement.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is there a second?

MS. COUGHLIN: Madam President, Kathee Coughlin, Department of Florida. I second that motion.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There has been a motion to approve the

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Resolution, mission and vision statements. Any discussion?

MS. JOHNSON: Madam President, Shareen Johnson, NEC, Department of Wyoming.

The Department of Wyoming wishes to speak out against this. They feel that they are too wordy and they regret the neglect in mentioning women in the vision statement when we talk about premier service organization.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Any other discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: If not, we'll proceed. All in favor, aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, nay.

VOICE: Nay.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Resolution, subject mission and vision statement, has been approved.

CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, Jan, for all the hard work.

The Chair now calls on Virginia Hobbs known to us as Ginny, Chairman of the Audit Committee, who will address the ratification of the proposed ALA/ALAF, American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Audit Committee Charter.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President, I trust that you also want the Audit Committee's report at this time. And would you prefer that to precede the Charter?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Okay. Thank you, Madam President.

Members of the National Executive Committee and guests, it is my pleasure to bring to you the first report from your Audit Committee. While this Committee has taken a long time to reach the point of being a part of our organizational structure, we feel that you will soon see its value.

At the midyear NEC meeting, you ratified Paula Parker-Sawyers and Anne Hathaway as members of this Committee. I commend National President Rita for those selections as both women bring different strengths to the Committee and a perspective of looking at us from the outside.

This summer, the Audit Committee along with Finance Committee representative Nicole Clapp and management of the Headquarters staff and accounting team met with auditor Mike Alerding for training of the Audit Committee and development of the audit Charter.

The training was enlightening and provided instances of spirited discussion. As part of the training, the Audit Committee was affirmed in the areas of its responsibilities.

As reiterated in the audit Charter, the scope of the Audit Committee extends beyond the audit report and financial matters. The Audit Committee will provide oversight in a variety of areas and will focus largely on the potential risk to our organization.

Yes, our financial standing, internal controls, and status as a growing concern are a part of our risk, but these are not the only risks we face. We also face risks relating to our reputation and standing as a nonprofit organization.

With the adoption of the Audit Committee Charter, the Audit Committee will be

able to begin the task that lies ahead of us. The Audit Committee looks forward to providing the NEC with feedback on our organization's risk, performance, and standing as we move forward to our 100th anniversary.

As I mentioned in the Audit Committee report, the Audit Committee received training in Indianapolis from our independent auditor who is not the audit partner in conjunction with our audit of our financial standings.

We have restrictions on the number of years that an audit partner can deal with us and Mr. Alerding has not been the audit partner nor will he be an upcoming audit partner. He is a managing partner of the firm.

Proposed to you today is a Resolution to adopt the Charter for the Audit Committee, and I will read to you the Resolution.

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary National Audit Committee as established in Article 5 of the American Legion Auxiliary National Bylaws is responsible to the NEC in fulfilling its responsibilities including reliable systems of internal controls, corporate responsibility, and the quality and integrity of the Auxiliary's financial reporting, and

Whereas, it is necessary that an Audit Committee have a written Charter which serves as the Audit Committee's framework under which it functions and conduct its business, and

Whereas, the ALA National Headquarters and the ALA Foundation are independently audited and reported in the bound and published consolidated financial statements for the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation available to the public and posted annually on the American Legion Auxiliary's website, and

Whereas, the Audit Committee at its organizational meeting held in July 2010 reviewed and duly adopted its American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Audit Committee Charter,

Now, therefore be it resolved that the National Executive Committee at its meeting on August 28, 2010 ratified the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Audit Committee's Charter, and therefore be it further resolved that the Charter shall be effective immediately upon ratification.

Madam President, since the members of the NEC have received a copy of this Charter and it's four pages long, I trust that they do not want me to read it to them.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President, a friendly amendment has been proposed to the Charter. I would draw the NEC's attention to Section 2, qualification of members. In the first line, it currently reads, the Audit Committee shall comprise members who are independent of the Auxiliary, its management, and any affiliates of the Auxiliary including the Foundation.

The friendly amendment proposed is to change the wording "shall comprise members" to "shall be comprised of members." This is accepted as a friendly amendment.

And with that, I move the adoption of the Resolution and Charter.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. You have heard the reading of the Resolution and the friendly amendment to it. And is there a second to this?

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MS. JOHNSTON: Madam President, Gloria Johnston, Department of Georgia. I second that.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Any further discussion?
(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: If not, all in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, nay.
(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Resolution for the ratification of the ALA/ALAF Audit Committee Charter has been approved.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much, Ginny.

The Chair now calls on Linda Boone, Chairman of the Finance Committee, to address policy, the budget report, and the Resolution regarding the paid up for life equitable dues shares.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: You should have -- one of the items you should have probably brought with you, and I'm not sure if it was in your packet or not, is the Q3 report, the quarterly -- quarter number three report that was mailed to you from Department Headquarters that gave you a status of the budget to actual report.

So just in case you didn't, let me give you a couple of summaries just to remind you and let you know where we stand on our budget to actual so far this year.

Q3, quarterly three of FY10 ended on June 30th, so we have one more quarter of the year to go, July, August, and September. And then the year will be complete.

At the beginning of the year, you, the NEC, adopted a budget that had some -- that anticipated that we would have about a \$348,000 deficit, that we would have to go into our savings and take out \$348,000 to balance our budget.

So let me tell you where we are to date. Our anticipated income for this year, for the total year, is -- was \$6.6 million. That's what we anticipated for our income.

Our expenses we anticipated was about \$7 million. Okay? So that's where we got the \$348,000 deficit, that we were going to have more expenses.

The projection for the end of the year for September 30th is that we -- our expense -- our income, excuse me, will be 6.7. So we had had -- the budget was 6.6, so we're going to have a little bit more income and -- so that's about a 1 percent increase in income that was not in the budget.

And our expenses are going to be at 6.2 million and where we said we anticipated 7 million. So that's about a 9 percent decrease. So that's a really good thing. We're not going to have the deficit.

And I would like to thank our National President and our National Secretary for managing that on a day-to-day basis. I mean, they're the ones that have to work together and make decisions.

And the operations side of the house is the responsibility of the National Secretary, so it takes her and the entire staff to really be cautious about, you know, about spending money.

And the National President has to make decisions about are we going to do this

extra thing or are we -- maybe we can, you know, not go here and do this instead. So there's the day-to-day decisions.

And I really commend them for doing a great job this year. So I think we all ought to thank them.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Okay. So in your packets -- so that's the financial report. Does anybody have any questions about the financial report, the budget to actual?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN BOONE: All right. So then now you need to take out the -- there are several policy decisions. I think there's six. You'll need to pull those out and we're going to go over those. And, again, I'm not going to read them all to you.

Anyway, we'll start out with the protection of the National President's signature policy. Okay. And so we're going to need to vote on each one of these separately, so just be aware that you need to do that.

Okay. So the protection of the National President's signature policy and I'll just read you. This is the policy that addresses protecting the digital or facsimile, fax signature of the National President.

Does anyone have any questions about the content of the policy?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Okay. Then someone needs to move or I can.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You can move.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Okay. I move the adoption of the policy for the protection of the National President's signature as distributed.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Before we get that second, and stay standing, we've been asked by the court reporter for the persons doing the second maybe to go to the mike. But if you are on that side, please project it.

I've been advised the Parliamentarian that the second isn't as critical as that person making that move that -- the motion itself. So just project yourself instead of coming across the room here. And if you're close to here, then you can come to the microphone. Just some common sense there. Okay?

There's been a motion on the floor to adopt the policy on the protection of the National President's signature. And there's a second.

MS. GREENLAW: Donna Greenlaw. I second that.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Hearing no discussion, all in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, say nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The policy for the protection of the National President's signature is approved.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Okay. Madam President, the next one is the membership list fee policy. And this is the policy that addresses the acquisition and use of the Auxiliary membership list by vendors for the purpose of marketing their product or service to members.

Okay. I move the adoption of the membership list fee policy as distributed.

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is there a second?

MS. PRENDERGAST: Mickie Prendergast, Department of Texas. I second that.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There has been a motion and seconded to approve the policy on the membership list fee. Any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, say nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Approved.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Okay. Thank you.

The next one is the complimentary ticket and registration policy. And this policy addresses providing of complimentary tickets and registrations during various American Legion Auxiliary events.

Madam President, I move the adoption of the complimentary ticket and registration policy as distributed.

MS. BOROUGH: Sue Vorwald, Department of Wisconsin. I second that.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There has been a motion to approve the complimentary ticket and registration policy and seconded. Any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, say nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The complimentary ticket and registration policy is approved.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Okay. The next one is the endorsement policy. And this is the policy to not endorse products, services or programs or activities of any other organization or to allow products, services, programs, or activities to use the American Legion Auxiliary trademarks, name, and service marks.

Madam President, I move the adoption of the endorsement policy as distributed.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes. Is there a second?

MS. DAHL: Cyndi Dahl, Department of Oregon. I second that motion.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You've -- the motion has been seconded that the endorsement policy be approved. Any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Hearing none, all in favor of adopting the policy as presented, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The endorsement policy has been approved.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Thank you.

The next one is the licensed merchandise policy. And this outlines the American Legion Auxiliary's criteria for granting use of the American Legion Auxiliary

marks to produce licensed merchandise.

Madam President, I move the adoption of the licensed merchandise policy as distributed.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Lisa Williamson, Department of Alaska. I second it.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There's been a motion to approve the licensed merchandise policy. Any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Hearing none, all in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The licensed merchandise policy has been approved as distributed.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Thank you.

The next one is the member discount programs policy. And this is the policy to clearly define expectations of potential member discount program providers and outline the process.

And I need for you to -- at the bullet number eight, we made a word change at the Finance Committee the other day, so I wanted to -- so it says pay for all membership list fees. Finance Committee, instead of notified, we put consulted. So if you'd cross that out and put in consulted. If there is a budgetary impact.

Okay. Madam President, I move the adoption of the member discount program policy as corrected.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. I will consider that as a friendly amendment. And do I have your consensus to treat it that way?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. CAPAZZI: Madam President, LuAnn Capazzi, Department of California. I second it.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It has been moved to accept the member discount program member benefits policy with the friendly amendment. Any discussion on it?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those opposed, say nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The policy for member discount programs member benefits has been approved.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Thank you, Madam President.

Thank you all.

I want to tell you that one of the duties of the Finance Committee is to evaluate potential policies that impact and reduce our risk. And so that's where these come from. We spend a great deal of time negotiating and debating about what should be in the policy, so sometimes it takes several months of reiterations.

And we really -- the staff contributes by drafting those and fine tuning those. And it takes a great teamwork effort on both the staff side and the National Finance

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Committee. So we have some really good negotiators on the Finance Committee. So I appreciate their work.

Okay. The next thing you're going to take out is the Resolution for the paid up for life membership. And this Resolution concerns the distribution of the funds. So I'm going to read the resolved.

Resolved that the dues share amounts for National, Department, and Unit shall be set and fixed at the date of the PUFL, paid up for life, enrollment by the member, and

Therefore be it further resolved that this change shall be effective with the 2011 membership year.

And you might note that this Resolution has been our actuary. They have been consulted and they approved this and recommended endorsement of this.

Okay. Madam President, I move for the adoption of the Resolution on the equitable distribution of the paid up for life dues share to units, departments, and National Headquarters.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes, the Chair recognizes.

MS. RICE: Pam Rice, Department of Kentucky. I second it.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The motion to approve the equitable distribution of the PUFL dues shares to units, departments, and National Headquarters has been moved and seconded. Any discussion?

MS. WALLACE: Eva Wallace, Department of Washington.

I have a question as to how this will be impacting the PUFL dues that we already receive from PUFL members. Is that going to remain the same or is that going to be reduced down based on the year that they signed up to be a PUFL?

CHAIRMAN BOONE: That's a good question. So I'm going to turn it over to Marta.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And that's just where I was going to yield at. National Treasurer, would you please come forward and --

TREASURER HEDDING: It won't be reduced. If National raises dues two years from now, you'll still get \$5.00. Does that make sense? If your Department dues right now are \$15.00 and they become a PUFL member right now and you raise your dues to 20, your Department will get \$15.00. Does that --

MS. WALLACE: I was talking about the ones from the past.

TREASURER HEDDING: No, no, no. Nothing will change.

MS. WALLACE: Nothing will change for that?

TREASURER HEDDING: Right.

MS. WALLACE: That was my concern.

TREASURER HEDDING: Yeah. It will --

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Stay right there if there's any other concern just in case.

The motion has been presented. It's been seconded and there has been discussion. And I believe the question has been answered. All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Resolution has been passed.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Thank you, Madam President. That concludes our

report.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And at this time, I'd like the Finance Committee to please stand and be recognized along with Linda.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Linda Newsome, Carol Van Kirk, Jan, and we have Nicole Clapp in the back. Thank you so much for all your hard work in coming and bringing forward these policies and also the Resolution. A lot of time and effort takes place and a lot of discussion takes place. So I appreciate your work.

We will now have a report of the National Secretary who will report on the recent information from the IRS regarding the nonfilers of the 990 and removal of Section 10 from the standing rules.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

I will begin my report with something that you didn't preface, but I was asked to address a matter that has come before this body a number of times and that is regarding membership eligibility. I was asked to repeat some of the information that was shared at your meeting last night.

National -- Past National President Desireé Stoy chaired the Advisory Committee this year and presented a report to the National President on the matter of membership eligibility.

And you will all recall that there have been resolutions and amendments presented in the past in one way or another to address extending membership eligibility to either the spouses of female members of The American Legion or to the spouses of the members of the Sons.

And I just wanted to report what Past National President Desireé Stoy reported to President Rita Navarreté and then that was followed up with a meeting that I joined Vice President Carlene Ashworth. We had a meeting with The American Legion on this matter. And I would just like to summarize that for you.

And that is that The American Legion was established by an act of Congress. Congress established the Veteran Service Organizations. Congress established The American Legion. The American Legion has a Charter and the requirements of the Congressional legislation is that 75 percent of the members of the authorized Veteran Service Organization, The American Legion must be members of that target population which would be combat veterans. Twenty-five percent may be members who support the mission and purpose of that.

The American Legion established the Sons of The American Legion and they are right now just about at the 75 percent/25 percent ratio. So the good news in there is that the Sons have been wonderful at generating membership. And we -- and The American Legion and The American Legion Family is now at 75 percent members who are combat veterans and 25 percent who are not.

If that balance were to change, The American Legion would be in danger of losing its status as a Veteran Service Organization because that is federal law.

Another thing that's important to know is that The American Legion established the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion owns the trademark and emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary's Constitution &

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Bylaws may not be in conflict with The American Legion.

There is a great deal of interest in those two populations being addressed in the future to become members of the family of The American Legion. It is not possible to do that now because it would require changing the Constitution & Bylaws of both organizations and doing so would impact the 75 percent/25 percent ratio. And The American Legion has said we cannot support that. We cannot change our Constitution & Bylaws to extend membership eligibility at this time.

So what they are going to do is present or develop or draft legislation for Congress to amend that 75 percent/25 percent ratio. And at the time that they do that, they have asked that the American Legion Auxiliary support them in lobbying Congress or advocating to Congress that we do that. The American Legion lobbies. The American Legion Auxiliary advocates. Need to be very careful about my terminology here. But they do want our support when that comes about.

And then I will also say that what I just said is easier said than done. There will be a lot of work to coming up with a legislative proposal that can make its way through Congress.

But I just felt because so many people have asked about that that it, Madam President, based on the discussion last night and even though it was not in our printed remarks this morning, I thought it would be important to share that with you. I get all the fun things.

The next thing that I have been asked to address is, and I have -- this message has come out at least three times from National Headquarters. It's an important enough subject matter and it is actually the driver behind much of the business that takes place today at this gathering of the NEC, meeting of the NEC, and that is the new IRS Form 990.

And you've heard it mentioned, many of you have heard it mentioned as the revolutionary 990 and indeed it is. Information has been sent to departments that we have some units who are in danger of the IRS removing their tax exempt status.

This is really important and it's really important to understand that the National organization, National Headquarters can inform departments and encourage departments to work with their units to help get things resolved. The National organization cannot resolve them for the units because we are 9,500 separate legal entities bound together by a common mission.

But the 9,500 separate legal entities are not run by the National organization. Therefore, it's just imperative that if you're in a Department, and Department Secretaries have had this information, that you work with those units who may be on this list. It may be a simple matter that there's an error in the IRS records. Heaven forbid that would ever happen. We know it does.

We know that the IRS still has on its records some units that have been dissolved. But we also know that the IRS has on its records some units that are still in existence which have not filed a 990 for the past three years. The IRS with the adoption, the establishment of the revolutionary 990, I will continue to use that term, is, as they say, cracking down. And they will begin revoking -- they have revoked some and they begin revoking. They extended the deadline to October 15th.

So I'm not going to read through the information that has been sent. We've sent it in one form or another three different times. I will refer a couple of times while I'm

here at the microphone to Past National President Ginny Hobbs who Chairs the Audit Committee this is big business now for nonprofits. It is really big business. It is important legal business to look at what the IRS now expects of nonprofits.

I think we've shared with you in the past that if you would take the combined budgets of all the nonprofits in the United States, exclude the churches and take those remaining nonprofits, their combined budgets, annual budgets would be equivalent to the seventh largest world economy.

This is the equivalent of the seventh largest world economy and Congress and the IRS has noticed that that's tax revenue not coming in because we are tax exempt organizations. And it's very important to understand that they're very serious about the whole legal and tax landscape for organizations.

So I wanted to remind you again that from a practical standpoint and an immediate standpoint, this is really important.

And I applaud -- I'm looking around the audience and some of you have called and e-mailed and commented and I appreciate how much everybody in this audience is doing to try to help those units who are not in compliance right now because they failed to file 990s.

It's -- as the saying goes, it's not like it used to be in the past. It's not just throwing a few numbers on a sheet of paper and submitting it to the IRS. It's a very detailed document.

And so with that, Madam President, is there any question on that?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Then I will go into the third item that I have been asked to address. And what I just discussed really is inherently important as background information regarding the Resolution to delete Section 10 from the standing rules.

Again, I'm going to be -- repeat a few things on purpose. The 990, the new revolutionary 990, the new report form that has to be submitted to the IRS is very lengthy now.

And as Past National President Ginny Hobbs Chairing the Audit Committee, the Charter, the work that went into just develop the Charter to outline the scope of work for this Committee, you can see there's a lot of work went in just to deciding what we need to do to be assessing the risk of the organization. And risk is now a very serious thing.

Everyone who serves on the NEC, every National Officer is potentially liable, personally liable for the actions or inactions of the nonprofit organization. And the IRS is getting serious about that.

The American Legion Auxiliary prepared its 990 and did the deep dive into what was expected and what we had to submit. And our 990 is, you know, a thick document. It's no longer a four or five page document. It is a thick document of the requirements and the information that has to be submitted.

One of the things that the new 990 requires is that there be a report on any of the subsidiary organizations, and a discussion that has been ongoing for a time that preceded me about information regarding the organization called the Eight and Forty and how that relates now to information that has to be reported.

So my understanding for the last three to four years, there has been interaction regarding information that was expected of a subsidiary to the parent organization.

I will also state I think it's very important to understand that when the Eight and

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Forty was established over 80 years ago, the word subsidiary did not have the same legal and tax connotation that it has today. That's extremely important for everyone to understand. Subsidiary was more of a colloquial term. When the Eight and Forty was established, when the ALA was established, I don't think anybody in this room remembers, but we've heard that there was no income tax. We've heard that there was no IRS with the expectations that we have today. All of that came after things that happened in the establishment of the American Legion Auxiliary and its subsidiaries.

The American Legion Auxiliary today has a section in the standing rules on subsidiaries. One of the subsidiaries was -- is about a Music Committee that has not existed for years. Another subsidiary listed is the Past Presidents Parley which several years ago by action of the National Executive Committee became a program of the organization and, therefore, the only organization in existence as a subsidiary is the Eight and Forty.

I want to explain as best I can because I understand the love, the respect, the emotionalism attached to this issue, so, Madam President, I'm just going to speak directly and plainly, thank you, because this is not an emotional decision, this is not a personal decision, this is not a judgmental decision, the information leading to the establishment of this Resolution is a legal necessity in today's legal landscape.

In your convention program, we addressed it and we addressed it with the Eight and Forty prior to the -- shared with them the information that was going to be printed that the Eight and Forty is a separately incorporated, not-for-profit organization whose membership, its partners have also been members of the Auxiliary for over 80 years.

The Eight and Forty as they report to the IRS is a separate 501(c)(3) organization. They raise money for causes such as child welfare and other youth and health-related programs.

With the advent of the new IRS reporting requirements and other legal considerations, that -- this is where I'm going to be repetitive because it's important -- that did not exist when the organization was incorporated in 1926.

Our understanding is the Eight and Forty consulted with counsel in 2010 because we raised several questions and we presented to them a need for information in order to complete the American Legion Auxiliary's 990, information that is required that we have and that we did not have and that this has never happened in the past. There has never been a reporting and an incorporation of the Eight and Forty's operations and financial records into the Auxiliary's report and IRS Form 990.

So we've never done this in the past. It's never been an issue in the past. It is a big issue today from the standpoint of legal liability. So the Eight and Forty, they consulted with an attorney. Their attorney consulted with our attorney. I was present at that meeting where the discussion about this all took place. It was a very amicable discussion about what the legal requirements are.

And the legal requirements are that a subsidiary organization must report and its financial and important legal information and governance information must be reported by the parent organization. The parent organization would be the American Legion Auxiliary and we had none of that information and had requested it.

The Eight and Forty met and they voted after consultation to separate its legal relationship with the American Legion Auxiliary. And this is similar to actions taken by the male counterpart Forty and Eight in ending its legal relationship with The American

Legion in 1960.

There is a change in legal status of the organizations that does not change the Eight and Forty's mission. It does not change the long-standing fondness and respect that the American Legion Auxiliary has for this organization. We just need to adopt to changing legal landscapes.

The Resolution before you, I want to be real clear about what the proposal does and what it does not do. That information was circulated in advance. I am going to highlight some of it again because I just think it's important.

There is a section in the standing rules on subsidiaries. I've refreshed your memory about that, that there's only one subsidiary still in existence and, yet, that section of the standing rule references three subsidiaries.

The Resolution is simply to remove the Section 10 from the standing rules that would end the classification of the Eight and Forty as a subsidiary of the American Legion Auxiliary. I've mentioned it's a business decision and I am going to go over what it means and what it doesn't mean.

What it means -- what has happened is that the Eight and Forty currently classified as an ALA subsidiary has acted to sever its classification as a subsidiary and directed the American Legion Auxiliary to take the appropriate actions for that to take effect.

So this Resolution is in response to information conveyed by the Eight and Forty stating that they have voted to end their relationship, their classification, their legal -- as a legal subsidiary. They want to continue as a separate legal organization.

With the advent again of the new IRS reporting requirements and other legal considerations again reminding you that did not exist when these organizations were incorporated, they've taken an action that was similar to what the Forty and Eight took back in 1960.

This decision allows the Eight and Forty to remain a separate legal corporation acting as it currently does with its current name, with its current program, and with the continued good will between the two organizations.

It does require the Eight and Forty to create a new logo. Their logo cannot contain the emblem of the American Legion Auxiliary. And it does require that the Eight and Forty not advertise themselves as a subsidiary of the American Legion Auxiliary.

It does not dissolve the Eight and Forty. It does not prohibit members from belonging, American Legion Auxiliary members from belonging to the Eight and Forty. It does not prohibit the Eight and Forty from continuing to raise money for its many child welfare and health-related projects. It does not require the Eight and Forty to end its collaborative relationship with the ALA. It does not prohibit Past Chapeaus and Department and Past officers in good standing with the Eight and Forty from wearing their Past Officer pins.

The Eight and Forty can still exist, do all that it is currently doing, and have ALA members as its members. It simply cannot continue to use the emblem.

The change in legal status of the organization does not change the Eight and Forty's mission and it will not change the long-standing fondness and respect that exists between the two organizations.

I have been asked what happens if we pass this Resolution and in the future, the Eight and Forty would like to again become a subsidiary organization. The Constitution

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& Bylaws of the American Legion Auxiliary still allow for there to be subsidiary organizations.

If the Eight and Forty in the future wishes to comply with the requirements, the legal and financial requirements of a subsidiary organization -- and, ladies, this is corporate law, this isn't just unique to the American Legion Auxiliary. You take any organization you know, a profit or not-for-profit organization, if it has a subsidiary, they all have to follow the same rules.

If any organization wishes to become in the future a member -- excuse me -- wishes to become a subsidiary organization for the American Legion Auxiliary, they may indeed propose to do so. It would require that certain legal and financial conditions be agreed upon.

I hope, understanding that this is a heart string issue for many people, I hope that I have helped you to separate that this is a business and a legal decision in the best interest of you who hold and bear personal financial responsibility for the actions of this organization and that actions can be taken accordingly.

And, Madam President, with that, I will end my remarks about these things.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

VOICE: Good job.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much for the information.

And I would like -- the Chair would like to recognize and entertain a motion.

MS. HAUCK: Madam President, Rosemarie Hauck, Department of Missouri. I move that Section 10 of the standing rules of the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution & Bylaws and standing rules be removed.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is there a second?

MS. WALLACE: Eva Wallace, Washington. I second it.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There's been a motion to delete Section 10 from the standing rules subsidiaries. Any discussion?

MS. CAPAZZI: Madam President, LuAnn Capazzi, Department of California.

It is the opinion of many of Eight and Forty partners that the process taken by Eight and Forty for a special meeting was not done according to their Bylaws. Therefore, I move that the decision to remove Section 10 of the American Legion Auxiliary's standing rules be postponed until after La Marche Nationale.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Would you please return to the mike, please. In your request to postpone, you need to identify a time line. Would you please present the information of the intent.

MS. WALLACE: I did. After La Marche Nationale. It doesn't give them a date. Okay. After August 2010, the August 2010 meeting.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Let's hear her.

MS. WALLACE: September. I'm sorry. After the September La Marche Nationale 2010. Yes? This Marche.

VOICE: September.

MS. WALLACE: Okay. After September 5th, is that what you're asking for?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: We would consider postponing it to the post NEC meeting. And the next NEC meeting will be at the Awareness time and that would

not be appropriate in time line because to postpone, you need to do it within that quarter period following the action of the motion.

Do you want -- if there's another comment.

MS. MORISSETTE: I'm going to get killed for this, but I'm known for that. Mary Ellen Morissette, NEC from Massachusetts. I'm also the National Puvaire (phonetic) member for Departmentele De Massachusetts, Salon number 35.

And sitting in that position, I received this Resolution as the NEC and I called the National Secetaire and spoke to her for the Eight and Forty because I was concerned about the action of the NEC body before our La Marche.

I was in Denver. I was part of the vote on the floor at Chapeau days. We have had much discussion as partners. And it has been told to me directly from Marge Sheridan that the action in Denver under Article 5 of the Constitution & Bylaws of the Eight and Forty was a legal decision.

I did read Article 5. We did have the quorum required for the Executive Committee to take the action that it did in Denver regretfully.

But with the outline and the letter that was presented, we could not continue as a subsidiary the partners felt. And that was a vote on the floor in Denver.

When the attorney took and went through our incorporation papers, I was further told that subsidiary was never in incorporation papers for the Eight and Forty. We did Charter as a separate organization with membership eligibility being the American Legion Auxiliary members.

And this is just as a point of information because I know this is a very dear and very hard decision on the floor. And I know standing here isn't the best thing for me politically, but -- because I now have to go face the Eight and Forty partners on their floor too. But as a point of information, I just don't see how the NEC can delay the action since we've already done it on the floor in Denver and I have been told that was a legal action.

And that is just as a point of information, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. And just one minute, please.

MS. MORISSETTE: I further state that I'm not representing the National organization because I'd like to in the future.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. There is a second microphone there or come forward as long as you identify and speak loudly, clearly.

Thank you so much for your comment and your input.

MS. PRENDERGAST: Mickie Prendergast, Department of Texas NEC and also a Past Department Chapeau.

And everything that -- I've already forgotten your name.

MS. MORISSETTE: Mary Ellen.

MS. PRENDERGAST: Mary Ellen said is correct. And from what I understand, after the Chapeaus days in Colorado, they sent something out to all the departments. Our Department received it. We have already taken action on it. Everyone understood what to do and we've agreed. And I see no reason to delay it either.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

MS. PRENDERGAST: And it's -- pardon me. It's very important to me too.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

MS. MORISSETTE: You have a lot of courage, don't you?

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much.
The Chair recognizes Diane.

MS. DELASHMIT: Madam President, Diane Delashmit, Department of California.

Our concern is in the Bylaws. I do have the Eight and Forty Bylaws with me and it is Article 5. What it says here under Section 3, it says time and place of meeting, La Puvaire Nationale shall meet at the place of La Marche Nationale prior to La Marche Nationale and immediately following that and at such other times as Le Chapeau Nationale determine. Le Chapeau Nationale shall call a special meeting of La Puvaire Nationale upon the written request of not less than 25 partners.

This was a special meeting that they conducted. The letter that you wrote -- and by the way, I do wish to say that I agree wholeheartedly that compliance is required and should have been all along. Your letter was written on April the 15th. Their meeting was April 22nd, seven days to the day that the letter was written.

I do not see that they have 25 partners that would have written a letter requesting a special meeting within a week when most of the partners were totally unaware of any of this going on.

So, therefore, that's our position is that the meeting was not legal inasmuch as most of the partners had no idea that this was going on. And 25 partners, we'd like to know what 25 partners wrote letters and who was actually there to vote.

Yes, I do believe they had a quorum. We have no disagreement there that, yes, according to the Bylaws, they had a quorum. But we do not think that the meeting was legal.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you for providing that information.
Carol.

MS. VAN KIRK: Madam President, I am also an Eight and Forty partner. I agree it was not appropriately handled. However, my favorite words are, "It's not my problem." And I think that's where we are here. The Eight and Forty has made the decision and we are simply following the direction that we need to make in order to fulfill our responsibility to the American Legion Auxiliary.

So I feel it's very important that this action take place. Let the Eight and Forty resolve their issues within their organization. And if they come in agreement and come in compliance, then certainly conversation can take place to reinstate them. That would be my opinion.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes. One more comment.

MS. SUSAG: Karen Susag, Department of Montana.

I was also at that meeting in Denver and the letter -- everything that every -- the ladies before me said is true except in that letter, we had to make a decision by June 1st. And that was -- we were gathered there and, you know, time line and stuff. That is why they called that Executive meeting is because our time line that the Auxiliary gave the Eight and Forty was by June 1st. And there was no way that we could have --

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Complied.

MS. SUSAG: -- complied by June 1st without having that meeting there in Denver. Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I call the NEC from California. If you would like to -- there, I see you back there. You're right there. If you want to move or request that

the item be postponed to the Post-NEC, otherwise, your request is out of order.

Thank you.

MS. MORISSETTE: I do away with my request.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. You've heard the motion to approve the Resolution, delete Section 10 from the standing rules subsidiaries and you've heard the discussion. All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, say nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Resolution to delete Section 10 from the standing rules subsidiaries is approved.

The next item on the agenda under new business is the Resolution to ratify the decision to delay the 2011 dues renewal notice. Information about the need for this Resolution has been circulated to all of you and to the departments in your Resolution package as well as the separate e-mail explaining the unforeseen circumstances that required the decision.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Madam President, Carlene Ashworth. I move adoption of the Resolution to ratify the decision to delay the 2011 dues notice, dues renewal notice.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Madam President, Lisa Williamson, Department of Alaska. I second.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The motion to adopt the Resolution, confirm the National President's authorization to delay the 2011 dues renewal notices. Any discussion?

MS. DAHL: Madam President, Cyndi Dahl, Department of Oregon.

As of yesterday, the Department of Oregon still had not received our first dues notices mailing and that's past the August 15th deadline.

My next question is, why would it take another whole year to get the glitches out of the system to where it would be delivered on the 15th of August?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. We're going to have some information clarified. The question does not address what the Resolution is. Is that a point of information that you're providing?

MS. DAHL: I do not understand also why it would take another year to comply with the August 15th mailing deadline.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Just a little bit of sidebar right here, so we want to make sure we get your question answered. Okay?

Go ahead.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Do you want me --

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Go ahead.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, I think there may be -- the problem with where I'm sitting, by the way, is I can't see anybody over here. So I don't know who was speaking, so I apologize not giving you eye contact. Okay? I'm sorry.

There may be some confusion. The Resolution is to ratify an Executive decision that had to be made because we knew we could not make the August 15th deadline. The dues renewal notices are in the works and probably -- what is today?

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VOICE: The 28th.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Is it Saturday?

VOICE: By Monday.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: By Monday, they're going to be in the mail, Monday or Tuesday. Is there confusion that we're trying to delay it a year? No. No. That would be a really lengthy delay. No. No. Let's be real clear. No. We are talking about an approximate two-week delay.

MS. DAHL: Okay.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Does that clarify?

MS. DAHL: Thank you.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thanks. Okay.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, because there's where we were going. There's where we were going and I -- any other discussion or questions for clarification?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Therefore, the motion to approve the Resolution to confirm the National President's authorization to delay the 2011 dues renewal notice. All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed, say nay.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much.

I've also asked the National Secretary to provide some updates per my request. And so, Dobbie, would you please come up and give us the brief updates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

I'm going to ask what time do we absolutely need to be adjourned?

VOICES: Nine-thirty.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: How much time?

VOICE: Nine-thirty, 15 minutes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We're good. All right.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You take all the time.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, I would never do that.

I'm just going to -- I want to thank you all for allowing me to come up to the microphone again still being alive. I appreciate that.

These are in no particular order. One, when we were last convened, you adopted a Resolution to engage into an or enter into an agreement with Black Horse Productions to produce a documentary. I just want you to know that that has been done.

And over the course of the next year, they will be working on that. So if you happen to be somewhere and there's a camera in your face, ask if they're with Black Horse Productions. Otherwise, ask if they're with 60 Minutes.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Black Horse Productions did complete their documentary for The American Legion and I understand that's going to be available out actually for purchase here at this convention. So for those of you who are interested, I will -- and if I'm wrong -- I had understood it was going to be available for purchase here at convention, so it is. I'm seeing heads nodding in affirmation. Okay. Good.

So I would encourage you to look at that. I have previewed that and it is a historical documentary. It's not Hollywood flash and dance. It's a documentary. I mean, it's a historical review of the organization. So, anyway, they're going to be doing the same thing for the American Legion Auxiliary.

A reminder that we also have four focus sessions on Monday afternoon looking -- and they're all directed at the future of the organization and it's -- the intent of these focus sessions is to listen to our grass-roots members about what your concerns are.

And they're going to be facilitated, so it's not going to be -- they're not going to be conversations that one or two or three people will engage in and everyone else will sit there and listen. It's going to be conducted in a round robin fashion. So everybody attending a focus session has an opportunity on that particular subject matter to say what's on their mind, what their concern is, what their recommendation is.

And they are not full and that breaks our hearts. So if you're interested, I encourage you to stop by and see if there's still space available and to participate in one of those focus sessions. They were all designed to hear from you, not for you to hear from National. I'm starting to learn how -- what National means to some people.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That's why the magazine has "It's All Good," a new section.

Also, the divisional caucuses do start at 1 p.m. today. Just some people apparently had some confusion about that.

Today there has been a request. Would the candidates for National Historian and Chaplain meet with Vice President Carlene Ashworth and VA&R Chair Kris Nelson who I eyeballed -- there she is -- in the front lobby of the Hyatt Regency at 12:45. Thank you. So 12:45, the candidates meet with Carlene Ashworth and Kris Nelson in the front lobby of the Hyatt.

Ride 2 Recovery, those of you who have read the magazine -- have any of you been reading the magazine? Thanks. Okay. There -- hopefully you're aware of this wonderful program called Ride 2 Recovery. They are doing a -- completing their five-day bike ride here at the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. And they're going to be arriving on Wells Street at 4:30 in front of the Convention Center which Wells Street is one of the streets outside the Convention Center.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That direction. That direction. I have two people telling me this way and two telling me that way, so if you headed that way, you're bound to see where the crowd is. Okay. Is it this way or this way? This way. Okay. I'm being told -- oh, we have a Ride 2 Recovery rider in the back. No? Oh, supporter, supporter volunteer, who's telling us it's this way. Okay.

Anyway, it's a wonderful program and would encourage you to be out there and cheer them on as they ride in to Milwaukee. They've completed a five-day bike ride to raise money for people who benefit from rehabilitative therapy using some of the cycling equipment. It's a really remarkable program.

Again, I said these are in no particular order. The Department of Arizona -- and where's Barb? Okay. Barb is standing up at the back. Department of Arizona has some tickets for sale. They have two States Dinner tickets for sale. They have two Woman of the Year luncheon tickets for sale. And they have two Arizona party tickets for sale. So

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two people aren't here and are making their tickets available for anyone who wants those.

Okay. Do you all have your 90th anniversary commemorative convention programs?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Did you like them?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And do you all have the correct page 26 added in?

VOICES: Yes.

MS. GREENLAW: I wanted to add --

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Please identify yourself.

MS. GREENLAW: I really wanted to comment on this. I was telling Rita and I wanted to address --

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We have someone from the floor trying to speak and I can hardly hear her, so --

MS. GREENLAW: Sorry.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, Kris.

MS. GREENLAW: Thank you.

I was mentioning -- Donna Greenlaw from the state of Maine.

I was telling Rita I was so impressed with these books this year. They're beautiful. They're easy to hold in your hands. I don't know about anybody else how they felt instead of carrying those big, bulky ones, but I love the size. I've got fat hands, but they're little.

And it just held really well. And I don't know who did them, but kudos, kudos, kudos. I don't know how anybody else felt.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

It was a group of a team, but Kenya Ostermeier and Miriam Junge -- Kenya, are you in the room? If not, Miriam, would you please stand because --

VOICE: Right here.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. And Kenya, they worked as a team to get the information of the decade. So thank you.

MS. COMER: Madam President --

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: State your name. Oh, yes, yes.

MS. COMER: Elsie Bailey-Comer.

(Applause.)

MS. COMER: I just wanted to mention that I heard several Legionnaires comment on the magazine also.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Because it was in their packets also.

MS. COMER: Evidently it was in their packet this year for the first time.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes.

MS. COMER: And they remarked on how beautiful it was.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yeah. Thank you so much.

MS. COMER: Impressive.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, thank you, everyone.

As I shared with a few people last night, it was a labor of love. We wanted this to be a special convention program. We at your National Headquarters, we understand that our customers, our members, we serve the membership and we did this as a labor of love and I mentioned last night with no overtime being paid. We did this as a labor of love.

And I also want to recognize Tabitha Rhoda in the back of the room. Wave your -- rock star Tabitha.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We really did put a lot of extra long hours in this and it was a fun project to do. And we're so delighted that you appreciate it. And the size was based on feedback that we had gotten that the previous size of the programs were big and awkward to carry around, so we -- all of that was because we listened.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So thank you very much.

Okay. Now, a limited supply of them are going to be available on a first come, first serve basis after convention for \$7. That will include the convention program, the packaging and the shipping and the postage and all. So for \$7, that's cost.

Whenever you do a print project like this, they print a few extras. We have a few extras. And so we'd like to make those available on a first come, first serve for those who may not be here you think would like to have a commemorative program to keep.

All right. Divisional caucuses, there's been a request that you please do not adjourn until the candidates have made their way to your caucus to visit. It would be a nice courtesy we would ask to be extended.

Also, in the pre-convention meetings, there have been two changes in the National President's representatives. The Constitution & Bylaws pre-convention meeting will now be represented by Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan. Did I say that wrong, Constitution & Bylaws? No? Yes? Oh, okay. I take these head nods real serious up here. Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Past National President, will be at the Constitution & Bylaws pre-convention meeting. And National Finance Chair designee, Desireé Stoy, will be at the Finance pre-con meeting.

And I would also -- if you are a 2010-2011 National Committee appointee, please, please, please do stop by the National Headquarters office which is --

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- to the left outside this room and up the escalator. If you take the escalator going that way up, you'll go right into it. It will be at the top of the stairs.

Please do go there sometime between today and Wednesday to verify your red book contact information. We really want to be accurate about that. It's one of those things that inevitably it gets published and there's a mistake in it. And we're trying our best to make sure that doesn't happen. So your help would be appreciated.

Also, a final reminder, and I believe this is my last announcement, Madam President, that -- a reminder that the Home Front Kids Canteen has been cancelled.

VOICES: Aw.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: You want to do it together?

VOICES: Aw.

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SECRETARY BUCKLER: Due to a lack of pre-registration by military families. And we don't think it reflects at all on the Kids Canteen Project. What we learned is that there is a similar event being held and we think there was a confusion in two events being held and that impacted registration for this.

The Junior members are going to complete their service project. They are going to continue to put together the backpacks and they are going to be given to military families. So the outcome of the project will still happen. It just won't be as it was originally planned.

And, Madam President, that concludes in record time my remarks.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And this isn't in the script, but, Jan, would you please stand and stay standing.

You know, the focus groups that are going to take place on Monday afternoon are so crucial. And I know that we have a lot of activities going on, but you also have, I believe, the four individuals in the room who are going to be facilitating those.

And then we also wanted to recognize Joyce Endres and I don't know if she's in the room. Joyce, please stand up. She is our focus group lead facilitator who's been working with Jan many hours both virtual and phone calls to get this established.

But would the other focus facilitators please stand. Okay. We have Sue Britton from the Department of New York. We have Shelley Riggs from the Department of Ohio. And we have Flora Jean Craig from the Department of North Carolina. And Terry Lochner is our Department Secretary from the Department of New York. So I do want to make it on record of your work and also just recognize you.

Let's give them a round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Please stand with me as our National Chaplain offers the Benediction.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer each in our own faith.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the clarity, peace, and direction that you have given us. Be with us as we meet our friends in The American Legion Family. Let us keep in mind that we are sisters and brothers working together for a common cause.

Help us to 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. All this we pray in His name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I would like to add the tribute to our American soldier. It's a message that was given to me when I was in Indianapolis by an Indianapolis Unit member, Dorothy Stevens.

In our United States, we enjoy the freedoms of speech, education, and opportunities to choose our own destiny as an American citizen. Some men and women chose to protect our great nation. Without hesitation, you stepped up in plain saying I will fight for my country, willing to give so that we may live in freedom. You're willing to sacrifice your life for the cause while leaving behind your family and friends in spite of all of this. You do this standing tall and proud as an American soldier.

Lord, I pray for you to protect them from the terrorists. I pray that you will

bring them home to their parents, their wives, their husbands, and children. I pray every day for your American soldiers for without you, our hope would be gone. I truly feel your pain and your love for our country. I would not have my freedom today if it was not for you, the brave men and women of our forces.

Some people call you heroes. Others call you brave. And some call you soldiers or a shield. But I call you the angel sent from God. To our veterans past, present, and future, the brave men and women who fought bravely and some who lost their lives to protect America, I stand here before you as a proud American to welcome you home with open arms and to say thank you for keeping America free, our nation under God. May God bless America and the men and women of our Armed Forces.

And I do appreciate you standing for this because it truly fits our mission, our vision, and a tribute to the American soldier.

VOICE: Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I want to thank you. And please be seated. I just want to thank you for your support and I want to thank the governing board of this great organization for handling the business of the organization as we move forward and we transition to a new year.

And, Carlene, the table is set.

This meeting of the National Executive Committee is now adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 9:36 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

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PROCEEDINGS
MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2010, 8:15 A.M. TO 12:07 P.M.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Welcome. I'm glad you are here to help celebrate the American Legion Auxiliary's 90th anniversary. But how did we get here? (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: No, no, no. How did we get to Milwaukee? How did we get here? How did the American Legion Auxiliary get to be the largest women's patriotic organization in the world? How did we come to celebrate our 90th anniversary of Service Not Self? Let's take a look.

(Whereupon, a video was played.)

VOICE: Decades of making a difference. Not so far and counting. It's truly a fascinating story. Looking back, the clothes, the hair styles, the cars we drove may look different, but there is one thing that has never changed. It's within the hearts of millions of women who have belonged the American Legion Auxiliary since our founding.

The legacy of our 90 year bond is our commitment to helping active-duty military, veterans, their families, and our nation through unwavering service. Let's take a look.

The roaring '20s brought us talking movies and Charles Lindbergh's first solo flight across the Atlantic. During this decade, the women of the American Legion Auxiliary were also taking off.

Established in 1920, the first ALA National Convention was held in Kansas City, Missouri. As our convention was brought to a close, delegates elected Mrs. White Hoper (phonetic) of Ohio as the Auxiliary's first National President.

(Applause.)

VOICE: She wasted no time setting the groundwork for a national hospital system for veterans. Her leadership was relentless and she met the challenge with an eye to the future. She told delegates at the second National Convention in New Orleans:

"The hope I have is that this past year may be but a stepping stone over which a great edifice may be built, that our membership may grow to the million mark, that our achievements may be so great in future years that our small beginning may become a part of the misty past. I leave with you my earnest prayer to carry on."

VOICE: And carry on they did. The Poppy Program became a national program in 1924. And in 1925, the National Headquarters was moved to the War Memorial Plaza in Indianapolis.

(Applause.)

VOICE: In the 1930s, the roar of the '20s was silenced by the beginning of the Great Depression. Though the stock market collapsed, the Auxiliary grew stronger.

In 1935, a national radio program, the American Legion Auxiliary on the air began. Junior membership was established in 1934 and the Girls State Program launched in 1937.

The '40s will forever be remembered for World War II and women played an important role. As the war raged on, the Auxiliary fought for veterans and their families. In 1944, the Auxiliary's program for the rehabilitation of disabled veterans was created and in 1947, the first Girls Nation was held in Washington, D.C.

The delayed dreams of the warriors were followed by the boom years of the

1950s. The greatest generation settled into the new suburbs and gave rise to baby boomers. The need for our help increased as 6.8 million active-duty men and women served our nation during the Korean War years.

The turbulent '60s tested America's character as the Vietnam War divided the nation. A young President John F. Kennedy urged us to ask what you can do for your country and you did. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established in 1969, the same year that man first walked on the moon.

In the '70s, the Vietnam War ended and the Cavalcade of Memories began at National Headquarters to preserve our history.

The 1980s saw women advance like never before and the Auxiliary advanced, too, with its first awareness assembly held in Washington, D.C.

The 1990s and 2000s were all about expansion, but the horror of terrorism expanded too. Attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon shook the nation just days after our convention in San Antonio. Yet those events also brought out the best in many Americans, inspiring a new rise in patriotism and service.

And the Auxiliary was there donating money and time to various 9/11 relief efforts and we were there for the troops of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom with a Scholarship Endowment Fund for children of our country's warriors.

Also in 2001, the Auxiliary became a host sponsor of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival helping veterans heal through art and music. And the need continues.

As our nation recovers from an economic stumble and increased military action in Afghanistan and in other dangerous places across the world, the American Legion Auxiliary is more relevant than ever. We're involved with programs like Ride 2 Recovery and formed our own foundation that now must grow to help ensure our financial future.

And we're embracing technology with increased digital communication from websites to social networking, e-newsletters and emerging virtual units. But technology is only a means to our mission of helping others. Service Not Self, it's more than a slogan. It's part of our story. It's who we are and it's the reason we've made a difference for 90 years.

(Whereupon, the video was concluded.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Ninety years of Service Not Self. What a better way to celebrate the 90 than with an atmosphere of song and fiesta.

Let's kick off this convention with a band and our happy hearts. Pretend you're on vacation in the dead of winter, perhaps even at a beach in the sand.

We have with us and thinking of the Jimmy Buffett of Milwaukee --
(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARETTE: -- Michael Drake and the No Tan Lines Band.

MR. DRAKE: Here we go. Here we go. Got to have those hands. Got to have those hands. Welcome, ladies. Good to see you here. Welcome to Milwaukee. We love you. Get up off your seats. Come on. Here we go. Come on now. We can do this. All right now. We love you. Here we go. You ready? Here we go. Ladies of the convention, here we go. You can dance. Here we go. You're 90. You're 90 years

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strong. Here we go. All right. Here we go. Everybody spin around a little bit. Spin around on your feet. You can do this. Just a little bit. You got it. Ready? Here we go. Ready?

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

MR. DRAKE: All right. We're going to keep rolling. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: You know what's something? You know what you do to me, folks? This is what you do to me. Sing along. Here we go. Here we go. Here we go. Ready? Here we go.

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

MR. DRAKE: Here we go. Here we go. We're going to keep rolling here. Thank you so much. This is just too much fun. You having fun today, folks?

VOICES: Yes.

MR. DRAKE: I want -- if you're here, raise your hand. If you're not here, raise your hand. I'm loving here. Boy, I tell you. This is a great place. I can do all my original music just for you. Here we go. Sing along. Smile. Here we go. Now listen carefully.

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: Rita, this isn't in the script, but you're a sweetheart. You know that?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

MR. DRAKE: And some of these folks don't know this, but I do speak a little Spanish.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Oh, buenos.

MR. DRAKE: Just a little bit of Spanish.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. I'll test you.

MR. DRAKE: I appreciate it. Test me. Oh, no.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

MR. DRAKE: Thank you, Rita.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much.

MR. DRAKE: Thank you, Rita.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Another round of applause for Paul Drake and the No Tan Lines Band.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You may be seated.

Ladies and gentlemen, members and guests, it is my honor and pleasure to introduce to you the attending Past National Presidents of the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Your 1987-88 National President from the Department of Wisconsin, Pearl Behrend.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of Oregon, 1992-93 National President, Linda Boone.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your 1994-95 National President from the Department of Maryland, Linda Newsome.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of Louisiana, your 1995-96 National President, Syble Deshotel.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your 1996-97 National President from the Department of New York, Phyllis Bachman.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of Wisconsin, your 1997-98 National President, Barbara Kranig.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your 1998-1999 National President from the Department of Kentucky, Virginia Hobbs.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of North Carolina, your 1999-2000 National President, Elizabeth Stewart.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your 2000-2001 National President from the Department of New Hampshire, Kristine West.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of Iowa, your 2001-2002 National President, Sherry McLaughlin.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your 2002-2003 National President from the Department of New Jersey, listen, Elsie Bailey-Comer.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From Department of Texas, your 2003-2004 National President, Katherine Morris.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of Nebraska, your 2005-2006 National President, Carol Van Kirk.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your 2006-2007 National President from the Department of Missouri, "Missoura," JoAnn Cronin.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: From the Department of Wisconsin, your 2007-2008 National President, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Named an honorary Past National President at last year's convention from the Department of Ohio, Miriam Junge.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And also from the Department of Ohio, your 2008-2009 National President, Desirée, Desi Stoy.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Michael --

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MR. DRAKE: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Miguel, you know the Auxiliary is truly about loving and living. Could you please give us another music piece, por favor.

MR. DRAKE: Si. (Speaking Spanish.)

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: (Speaking Spanish.) Lovin' and livin'. (Speaking Spanish.) I am not worthy. I am not worthy. We love you. We love you. Now, you're going to sing along with me on this one again, right? Now you know the words. Spread out a little bit. You know this song now. Here we go.

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

THE ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, from the Department of Wisconsin, The American Legion Oconomowac Band.

MR. DRAKE: Here they go. Give it to them, folks. Oh, what a treat this is. Come on. Sing along. Here we go. Sing along. Here we go. Here we go. Get those hands going. Big finish. Here we go.

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

MR. DRAKE: We made it. Oh, what a band, huh?

(Applause.)

VOICES: Yeah.

MR. DRAKE: We're going to go on the road together starting tonight. We'll travel the country. Don't you think so we should do that?

VOICES: Yeah.

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: I'm ready. I don't know all their names, but their names aren't as important as what they do. And it's important what you do. Okay? Give it up.

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: All right. Thank you.

Thank you, Rita.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: Beautiful.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Let's give them all a round of applause.

(Applause.)

MR. DRAKE: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

THE ANNOUNCER: Ladies and gentlemen, from the Department of Wisconsin, please enjoy the music of The American Legion Oconomowac Band representing Edwin L. Jones Post 91 --

MR. DRAKE: Thank you.

THE ANNOUNCER: -- as we reset the stage for our convention.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, music played.)

THE ANNOUNCER: Please welcome the Convention Chairman for the American Legion Auxiliary's 90th convention, Diana Sirovina.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Good morning, delegates, guests, and welcome to Milwaukee for this very special 90th annual convention of the American Legion

Auxiliary.

It is my honor this morning to present to you the 2009-2010 National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

National Treasurer, Marta Hedding of Indiana.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: National Secretary, Mary “Dubbie” Buckler of Indiana.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: National Historian, Joyce Arent of Arizona.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: National Chaplain, Beverly Wolff of North Dakota.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Central Division National Vice President, Norma Swanson of Kansas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Eastern Division National Vice President, Barbara Golde of Rhode Island.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Northwestern Division National Vice President, Joyce Babcock of Montana.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Southern Division National Vice President, Lynda Horton-Turk of Texas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Western Division National Vice President, Peggy Brown of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: And our National Vice President, Carlene Ashworth of Texas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Please rise as the National Colors are presented by the National President’s pages. Afterwards, please remain standing for the introduction of our National President.

(Whereupon, the National Colors are presented.)

VOICES: Ooh.

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: This morning, it is my very special privilege to introduce to you a wonderful lady from the state of New Mexico, a great person who has indeed exemplified for all of us this past year how to believe.

Her actions, her stories, her passions help in reconnecting with our heritage to strengthen our future. She is fueled by her devotion of Service Not Self and our mission to serve veterans, their families, and their communities. Because of this, we are privileged today to show our thanks and honor her for her outstanding leadership.

Please join me in welcoming the leader of the world’s largest women’s patriotic service organization, our National President, Rita Navarreté.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

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Thank you, Diana.

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Madam President, I present you this gavel so you can officially open the 90th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The 90th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will now come to order. Let us begin this meeting with a prayer. Beverly Wolff, our National Chaplain, will lead us.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer, each in our own faith.

Lord God, thank you for an awesome morning. Thank you that the fire of the spirit brings new life to our bodies and souls. Be with President Rita and all in attendance at this 90th National American Legion Auxiliary Convention.

Guide each of us in thought, word, and deed as the business of the day is conducted. Give us good times with our Legion Family members. Help us remember why we have together. Give us knowledge, strength, and whatever we need to fulfill the needs of the Auxiliary.

Bless those serving in the Armed Forces and those who have served for God and country, having a compassionate heart. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Please remain standing as Krisann Owens, the Chairman of the National Americanism Committee, leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance. And then remain standing for the National Anthem sung by India Archer, the Honorary Junior Western Divisional Vice President from New Mexico.

Krisann, would you please come forward.

VOICES: 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.

VICE PRESIDENT ARCHER: Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hail'd as the twilight's last gleaming? Whose bright stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: As we prepare for the start of business, our National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Carol May Grout, Department of Massachusetts, will lead us in reciting our Preamble.

VOICES: For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purpose: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during 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 NAVARRETÉ: You may be seated.

The time has come. I, too, welcome you to the 90th National Convention. We have much to celebrate, but also much work to do. So let's get started.

At this time, I would like the introduction of convention appointees.

Ann Rehbein, Chairman of Pages, the Department of Iowa.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: So they can see you, lady.

Personal pages of the National President, Cecilia, known to you as CC Martinez, my aide and National President's page.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Mary Lou Lopez, National President's page also.

(Applause.)

National Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Jeri Devoll, National President's page.

(Applause.)

Guests Committee, dear friend from the Department of Missouri.

(Applause.)

Guests Committee, the Department of Minnesota.

(Applause.)

Guests Committee, Department of Louisiana, and a mentor.

(Applause.)

Convention Parliamentarian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Let's give them a round of applause again.

(Applause.)

Gayle Janson, Wisconsin Department President.

PRESIDENT JANSON: Madam President Rita, National Officers, delegates, alternates, and guests, welcome to Milwaukee and the great state of Wisconsin. I'm sure some of you were with us 10 years ago when we last hosted a National Convention. Welcome back.

I'm also sure that some of you have never been here before. I would also like to welcome you and to see if I can clear up some misconceptions you might have. We don't all drink beer --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT JANSON: -- eat brats and worship the Green Bay Packers.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT JANSON: Some people don't even like beer and brats. And I also heard rumors that some people live in Wisconsin and don't even follow football or

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know who Brett Favre is.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT JANSON: There are even some living within our border who prefer another NFL team.

VOICES: Ooh.

PRESIDENT JANSON: Just no accounting for taste.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT JANSON: Since I'm a Vikings fan, some of my friends are getting a laugh out of that last line.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JANSON: What we all agree on is we want you to have nothing but good experiences while you are in our state. Whatever your needs, we are ready and willing to help. Just ask us.

Madam President Rita, I know you'll have an interesting and productive convention. We're all looking forward to the next few days.

Thank you for allowing me to address your convention.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It's my pleasure.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Greetings now from Diana Sirovina, the National Convention Chairman, for the purpose of introduction of the Convention Committee.

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Good morning and welcome to Milwaukee. This week as members of the American Legion Auxiliary, we have an exciting opportunity to celebrate 90 years of Service Not Self, and hear what our members throughout this great organization have done for our veterans, our children, and our communities.

But when our lively convention sessions are over, we hope you will all take some time and explore some of the many things that make Milwaukee a great place to visit.

A multitude of exciting attractions await every visitor, from a world-renowned zoo to many museums, mansions, breweries, gardens, and parks. There is something for every age and interest to experience.

Within walking distance of this Convention Center, you can find restaurants to satisfy any food craving you might have. Just a few blocks from this Convention Center is our famed River Walk that offers outdoor cafes and even a few brew pubs.

We are so pleased to have all of you here in Milwaukee and we want to remind you that our Convention Committee is here to assist you in any way we can to make your visit to Milwaukee a pleasant one.

Our office is located in Room 201C right here in the Convention Center. We also have greeters wearing red, white, and blue ribbons stationed around various areas of the facility and local pages here on the convention floor to answer any questions whenever we can.

Madam President Rita, I would personally like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National Convention Chairman. It has truly been an honor and a rare privilege for me.

And, Madam President, we want to congratulate you on an outstanding year and -- as President of this great organization and wish you a successful and very memorable convention.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: I now have the privilege of introducing our Convention Committee. First I would like to present three wonderful ladies who each in their own very special way has been a source of knowledge and inspiration for me.

Our honorary Chairmen, Wisconsin's three Past National Presidents, Pearl Behrend, Barbara Kranig, and Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

(Applause.)

VOICES: Ooh.

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: There goes Pearl.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: There are a large number of amazing ladies that you've seen around the Convention Center and at the Hyatt this weekend who worked as our greeters and pages that are not up here on stage with us today. But I do want to acknowledge them for participating in this convention and for all their help.

I would now like to introduce to you a very special group of ladies. When I asked them to be part of this Convention Committee, each and every one accepted the challenge without hesitation. These wonderful, creative, energetic, dedicated women have made this great adventure one I know I will never forget.

First our Vice Chairman, April Kollmorgen.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Our Chairman of Local Pages, Sue Hembrook (phonetic).

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Our Vice Chairman of Local Pages, Ann Renish (phonetic).

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Mail room Chairman, Laura Calto (phonetic).

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Mail room Vice Chairman, Diane Wegan (phonetic).

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Our Flowers Chairman, Beverly Tutas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: And our Flowers Vice Chairman, Rose Heinz (phonetic).

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Madam President, thank you for allowing us to be your Convention Committee. We really had a wonderful time doing this.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Here they are, ladies, and we made a change this year. I felt that you ought to see who these ladies are the first day while they're fresh and eager to do their duty rather than the last day, right?

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SIROVINA: Thank you.

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The next individual who will bring us greetings this morning has been a dear friend and partner, Janet Christiansen, Le Chapeau National of Eight and Forty from the Department of Minnesota?

VOICE: Illinois.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yeah. I had Illinois here and the script said Minnesota. So Department of Illinois.

(Applause.)

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL CHRISTIANSEN: Good morning, everybody.

VOICES: Good morning.

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL CHRISTIANSEN: National President Rita, National Past Presidents, all the officers and the members and the guests, it gives me great pleasure to be here this morning, especially here in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which I've never been here before. But the traffic is something else.

(Laughter.)

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL CHRISTIANSEN: National President Rita, you've really got your convention going. I just loved seeing you doing all this twisting and jumping up here.

And I bet there's not a one of you that are asleep right now.

It is great, like I said, to be here. And my theme is angels among us are in our special children and we all work for our special children, as you know. And so I had all my partners to be angels and I expect all of you to be angels because an angel on our shoulder is a good thing to have.

Madam President, it has been such a great honor working with you this year. We have passed paths a few times. And on behalf of the National partners of the Eight and Forty, I present you this token of our gift to you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL CHRISTIANSEN: And I know you will have a wonderful convention and you're a great lady.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL CHRISTIANSEN: And thank you for inviting me.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. God bless.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I will be addressing La Marche on Friday morning and so I'll reserve my greetings for them. Thank you.

LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL CHRISTIANSEN: That's okay. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The next greetings are no stranger to us and to me. Desireé Stoy, immediate Past National President from the Department of Ohio. Never losing hope.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Good morning.

Madam President, on behalf of the Past National Presidents, let me begin by saying congratulations. Congratulations upon completing a year of service as no other and the many years of service you have given our organization.

Please know that we have benefitted from your leadership and we look forward to an enlightening, exciting, and fruitful convention.

Allow us, me in particular, to say how glad we are that you are presiding.

(Laughter.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Now, as to tradition and custom, all of the Past National Presidents and perhaps a candidate or two anticipate the conclusion of your administration in just a few days. And as with tradition and custom, the Past National Presidents will welcome you into our esteemed group.

However, in the next couple of days, in your spare time, you might wish to prepare yourself for this transition. To assist you, some of us have taken the time and effort to put together a small but effective list --

(Laughter.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- of things to help you make your transition. Rest assured you do not need to commit it to memory. We'll remind you.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: That's what we're for.

(Laughter.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Anyway, in closing, Madam President, if I might ask all the Past National Presidents present to please stand. On behalf of all of us, we wish you the best and extend a warm welcome to join us at the conclusion of your term in office.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, Desi.

Our first order of business is the adoption of the reports organizing the convention. The Credentials report will be presented by Credentials Chairman, Penny Maklary from the Department of Arizona, a very dear friend and mentor to the Divisional Vice Presidents this year.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MAKLARY: Madam National President, the Credentials Committee met on Saturday, August 28th, 2010. The following is our report:

Alabama, 10;
Alaska, eight;
Arizona, 16;
Arkansas, nine;
California, 24;
Colorado, 10;
Connecticut, nine;
Delaware, nine;
District of Columbia, nine;
Florida, 32;
Georgia, 13;
Hawaii, six;
Idaho, eight;
Illinois, 32;
Indiana, 44;
Iowa, 28;

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Kansas, 19;
Kentucky, 12;
Louisiana, 13;
Maine, 12;
Maryland, 24;
Massachusetts, 11;
Michigan, 27;
Minnesota, 37;
Mississippi, nine;
Missouri, 19;
Montana, 10;
Nebraska, 24;
Nevada, seven;
New Hampshire, 13;
New Jersey, 14;
New Mexico, 11;
New York, 38;
North Carolina, 12;
North Dakota, 16;
Ohio, 40;
Oklahoma, 10;
Oregon, 12;
Pennsylvania, 49;
Philippines, six;
Puerto Rico, seven;
Rhode Island, eight;
South Carolina, nine;
South Dakota, 16;
Tennessee, 10;
Texas, 25;
Utah, nine;
Vermont, 12;
Virginia, 13;
Washington, 12;
West Virginia, 12;
Wisconsin, 27;
Wyoming, nine.

Total delegates, 878. Half majority, 440. Two-thirds majority, 585.

Madam President, on behalf of the Credentials Committee, I move that the roll of delegates hereby submitted be the official voting attendants of this convention.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the adoption of the Credentials Committee report as presented. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the motion to adopt the Credentials Committee report as presented. All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The affirmative has it and the Credentials report is adopted as presented.

Thank you, Penny.

CHAIRMAN MAKLARY: Madam President, they just gave me -- there was a digit that was inverted. District of Columbia actually has six. The total is right, but it's not a nine. It's a six.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Thank you.

Did everyone get that?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: No? Penny.

CHAIRMAN MAKLARY: The District of Columbia actually has six votes, not nine votes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And the total is correct.

The Rules Chairman, Pam Jackson from the Department of Ohio, will read the proposed rules for this convention. If you would like to follow along, the rules are all printed on page 118 of your convention program.

CHAIRMAN JACKSON: Thank you.

Thank you, Madam President.

The pre-convention meeting of the Rules Committee was held Saturday, August 28th, 2010, 10 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. Roll of the departments was taken and a quorum present.

The proposed 2010 National Convention Rules printed on page 118 of the National Convention Program were read, discussed, and adopted as corrected.

The proposed convention rules are as follows, and I will note the one correction when I read:

One, all meetings of this convention shall be called to order at the designated time or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present;

Two, the Chair may deviate from the printed program when necessary or expedient;

Three, the Credentials Committee shall report at such times as directed by the Chair;

Four, 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 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;

Five, since it is deemed advisable for security purposes that all persons in the National Convention hall be identified, admission to 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;

Six, only authorized photographers shall be permitted on stage during the

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convention sessions;

Seven, 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;

Eight, only voting members of the convention may make motions and address the assembly. To address the assembly, the voting members shall rise, one, go to a microphone, two, address the Chair, three, wait to be recognized by the Chair, and, four, give her name and Department;

Nine, and this is where the correction will be made, 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. Please delete the word "motion" after second. The completed motion form should then be 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;

Ten, debate on any question shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker. No person shall speak on the same question more than twice without the consent of the convention;

Eleven, 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 National Constitution, Article 6, Section 5;

Twelve, 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 Chairmen of three Department delegations or as provided for in the election rules;

Thirteen, there shall be no public presentation of gifts to individuals from the American Legion Auxiliary except by prearrangement with the National President;

Fourteen, nomination of candidates for Division National Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 28, 2010;

Fifteen, nomination of candidates for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Tuesday, August 31, 2010;

Sixteen, nominations of National Officers shall be made from the floor;

Seventeen, nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate except the National President candidate. She will be allowed four minutes. There shall be no seconding speeches;

Eighteen, after nominating speeches for National Officers on Tuesday, August 31, 2010, 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 is 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;

Nineteen, election of National Officers shall be held on Wednesday, September 1, 2010;

Twenty, 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;

Twenty-one, these rules may be amended during the convention by a two-thirds vote.

Madam President, by direction of the Rules Committee, I move that the 2010 National Convention Rules be adopted as corrected and read.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2010 as corrected. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2010. All those in favor?

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Please stand because we need two-thirds vote. All those in favor, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

Those opposed.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Stay standing if you want to oppose. Thank you. There is two-thirds in the affirmative. Motion is carried that the rules of the 2010 National Convention have been adopted as corrected.

Thank you so much.

Thank you, Pam.

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

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, a printed copy of the program has been provided to each convention delegate.

Did you like it?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That’s not in the script.

Each delegate should have received a new insert for page 26.

Did you all get that?

VOICES: No.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: If you did not get a correct page 26, please check with the person in your delegation that was responsible for registration and getting the information to you because we did -- unfortunately, one of those things that happen and it was on the page for the National Secretaries. So you do have a correct page 26.

And just as a personal privilege, I would like to commend Kenya Ostermeier and Miriam Junge who volunteered their time along with several people on the National staff. This was a labor of love. And we do hope that you enjoy this convention program and we would appreciate your feedback about it.

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Does that mean you like it?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you.

The only change for this morning’s session is the greetings from The American

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Legion's Convention Corporation National Adjutant and Commander is now just after the Girls State report and the Poppy report.

For tomorrow, Tuesday, a special presentation on the Corporation for National Community Service by Bob Reeg will follow the Past Presidents Parley report.

Also, the Taiwan and Korean guests will be here Tuesday morning after the legislative report.

The Foundation report will move from Tuesday to Wednesday after the Finance report.

And, lastly, we will start at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Madam President, those are all the corrections of which I am aware to the program at this time.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the program with the changes named.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Madam President, Carlene Ashworth. I move that we adopt the changes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the motion to adopt the program with the changes noted. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the motion to adopt the program with the changes noted. All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Those opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The ayes have it and the Convention Program is adopted.

By adoption of these reports, the 90th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is officially organized for conducting our business. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: As many of you know, working with the Veterans Affairs hospitals is dear to my heart and to many of your hearts. I, too, am very active in volunteering at the medical center with Jerry Murphy in Albuquerque.

So it is with great honor that I introduce Laura Balun, the Director of the Voluntary Service at the Veterans Affairs' office in Washington, D.C.

Laura, will you please join us.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR BALUN: I just want to say on behalf of VA Voluntary Service thank you so much for all your volunteer work. I know we have a lot of volunteers out in the audience.

And, Rita, I know Sonya cannot wait for you to come back and volunteer at the Albuquerque VA Medical Center. I know she is just waiting for that day.

So I just want to say thank you so much for everything that you do, your time, talents that you provide to veterans and their families and for the donations that you contribute to the VA. So thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Just a small memento that I would like for you that reflects what we're all about, Service Not Self.

DIRECTOR BALUN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It is this National President's pleasure to recognize the Sons of The American Legion, National Commander, Mr. Mark Arneson. Mark has been a member of the Sons of The American Legion for 20 years as an honor to his father, a Korean War veteran. He has served the Sons of The American Legion starting in 1991.

And as an alternate National Executive Committee man and working his way graduating from the 2008 National American Legion College, Mark was the first Sons of The American Legion member to attend that college.

Today, Mark and his high school sweetheart are strong supporters of the American Legion Auxiliary and show it by the virtue of their three daughters who are all Junior Auxiliary members.

We congratulate the Sons of The American Legion for achieving over a hundred percent in their member efforts.

Please welcome to our stage the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, a resident of Tucker, Georgia, Mark Arneson and my adopted son.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: Good morning, you all.

VOICES: Good morning.

COMMANDER ARNESON: How you all doing? You all doing all right?

VOICES: Yes.

COMMANDER ARNESON: All right. Excellent, excellent. The Sons just concluded a fabulous year. Operation Proud Son was closed out and we said mission accomplished. Another all-time high in membership 26 straight years.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: Excellent. And how appropriate to follow Laura Balun. One of the focuses of Operation Proud Son was VAVS and we were able to double our representation around the VA facilities around this country this year. Phenomenal, excellent.

The last point, we set a goal of 500,00 for CWF. And my guys to be honest, they looked at me like I had three heads when I told them that. They said we can't do that, said no way. Well, we not only did 500,000, we did \$540,00 this year for CWF.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: Excellent, excellent year.

I had something occur just last month that drove home the importance of American Legion Family. I know you all have heard National Commander Clarence Hill talk to us and tell us we need to get involved with Facebook and Twitter and all that good stuff. And I didn't quite listen to him, but my wife did.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: And as we traveled around this year, we made many, many friends. And if you don't have Cappy as a friend, request her. I don't know how many she's got now, but quite a number.

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But where it became important, see, my father had a massive heart attack and open heart surgery. And when he died on us twice on that Friday night, she got on Facebook and started going and furiously sending out messages to folks. And I know we had them as far away as Louise Blankenship from Alaska, Peggy Brown in New Mexico, Doreen Gallagher from New Jersey, and ladies all across this country, including my ladies from Georgia, absolutely.

But it was that power of prayer that I believe why my dad is still here. And I thank you all for that and I thank my Legion Family.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: And when you have a Legion Family, you got to have a mama, right? Absolutely. And as I told you all last year, I still have my mama on this earth, but she's suffering from Alzheimer's. So many times we stop by and she's not exactly certain who we are. But this year, I had a National mama.

So we went on the road and we traveled around. And I get to the location and I find out Rita was there. I was like, yes, my mama's here.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: And I think that's very important. There's a thing we have back in Georgia called attachment moms and it just reinforces that Legion Family focus that we have. It's just an honorary position. There's nothing involved with it other than being designated attachment mom. And I'm sure there's some moms here in the delegations that have held that title and they hold it quite proudly.

So I brought that to the National level and made her my National mom. And she has done us proud and you all have had a fabulous year.

I know last year when I came before you, I said happy 90th birthday. So now you all are approaching that 100-year mark. We're just -- as time flies, as that little girl keeps growing up, I know time is flying and she's going to be in high school before we know it. So I know we're going to be celebrating 100 years of American Legion Auxiliary and what a day that's going to be.

Do you ever stop to think about why we've had all this success?

At Operations Proud Son, we had a business focus. And I'm sure you all have seen this in your local towns where you go by storefronts and three years ago, they had a big business there. And this time you drive by and it's an empty window, nothing there. They didn't have the right thing.

The Auxiliary has the right stuff, but I think there's another element to it. And I think when you stop and think about how you all started off this morning with your Preamble and said for God and country, for God and country, you all were brilliant when you all wrote you all's Preamble. Excellent. That's the road map to our success right there.

One of the neat things you get to do is as National President and National Commander is go to the Lincoln Pilgrimage in February in Springfield, Illinois, and give tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

When I was preparing my remarks, I decided, well, this guy, he said a lot of neat stuff. He probably got some good quotes I can use and, you know, plagiarism, that's a good thing, right?

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: But I came across a quote that the writers of you

all's Preamble must have read as well and said that's it, that's the ticket because back during the Civil War, someone asked Abraham Lincoln is God with us, is God going to help us win this war. Lincoln's response was my concern is not that God is on our side. My greatest concern is that we are on God's side for God is always right. For God is always right. Absolutely.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: On the way over here, I had a very interesting experience. A gentleman had seen my under God pin and I would hand them out. I believe I found them somewhere in New York last year traveling around as leading candidate and purchased some from them.

And he was running around trying to -- where do I buy these things. It was he saw them on people. He was like where do I get one, how do I get it and said, well, you got to see Mark to get those. And so what he's going to do today, he's going to go over to emblem sales and emblem said we can put those in our catalogue so everybody can have an under God pin. Beautiful, beautiful stuff.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: This year, the Sons, we had a terrific first family. I know I'm biased. But I'd like to introduce my wife, Cappy.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: And our beautiful daughter, Reagan, who is wearing a poppy dress and poppy shoes.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: We talk about returning back to normal once we get done with this, but we don't -- we really don't know what normal is.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: Cappy and I are high school sweethearts, but separated by 20 years. So when she came back into the picture, I was already on the campaign trail. So we're going to get back to that standard normal, I guess, hopefully here about September, whatever that is.

But all these successes the Sons have had, we're going to -- we -- they said we set the bar higher this year. And I'll agree with them. We did, but we didn't set a record. We just made a stepping stone to the next achievement.

And the man that's going to take us to that next level, National Commander David Dew from Texas.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ARNESON: Thank you for a fabulous year, Rita. I certainly enjoyed it and I couldn't have had a better President serve with me. Thank you and God bless.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: As any good mama, mommy, we have shared some mementos, but one of the special ones that I wanted to capture for us, and I know Mark has a business desk back home, was on August 27, 2009, when I had the opportunity to address the Legion. There was a photo that was presented to me and we just had it reprinted. And it is the three leaders. And I wanted you to have that as a remembrance of that. Okay?

COMMANDER ARNESON: Thank you. That's beautiful.

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(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And to -- and this is something else -- to keep that hand busy writing.

COMMANDER ARNESON: There we go.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And, Cappy, a small token, a small token of how we have believed that everything is possible with God. And something very traditional to me that you might say I guess I picked up from mom was a special handkerchief. And what I would like to say is a handkerchief is truly a timely accessory. And I'd like you to have that. Okay?

MRS. ARNESON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

Job well done. Let's give him a --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Congratulations, Dave. I want to just spend a few seconds giving you the proper recognition, please.

COMMANDER DEW: Thank you, ma'am.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: God bless you. Would you like to say something? You can.

COMMANDER DEW: Howdy.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

COMMANDER DEW: Will that work?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. Thank you.

COMMANDER DEW: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Sure.

COMMANDER DEW: It's precious. See you all later.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Each year at convention, we have an opportunity to hear from our National Chairmen about the work our organization is doing and many programs and functions. It's my pleasure to now begin these reports.

A flag for your pocket, so you can always carry a little piece of home. We are praying for you. Thank you for defending our country and our freedom. I join thousands of members who have given a pocket flag to our military troops. This little flag continues to touch the lives of so many. We will never forget them. Here to further report accomplishments of the Americanism Committee is Krisann Owens from the Department of Oregon.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Madam National President, the word patriot is not often used in today's society, but that is how I would describe the members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Their dedication to God and country is evident in communities across this great nation spreading the spirit of Americanism.

Our members commit themselves to preserve, protect Old Glory and teach others respect for the flag of this great nation from flag disposal ceremonies to flag folding demonstrations to passing out flags at schools and parades. The members of the world's largest women's patriotic organization lived up to that designation.

Support for our children is always a highlight of the Americanism Program. This year, 55 students from across the United States attended the Americanism Youth Conference held at Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

The Americanism Youth Conference is a program designed to focus on the discussion of current issues facing the United States from a historical and global perspective on Constitutional law and government.

The students are challenged to articulate their views and their perceptions about Constitutional rights and responsibilities as citizens while interacting and working collaboratively with their peers on various projects.

The students enjoyed many activities in the classroom which included a visit from living history presenters, Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

A tour of the Valley Forge area and historic landmarks was a highlight to their stay. This also included a tour of George Washington's home at the encampment site.

The Girl Scout Achievement Award enjoyed a successful year with 156 entries. This award is given to the most outstanding Girl Scout who has reserved her gold award. This year's recipient is Catherine Arruda from the Department of Massachusetts.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: We had an outstanding response to the Americanism essay contest with more than 14,000 essays submitted. The winners in each class were announced at the Americanism pre-convention meeting Saturday.

The other awards given were the Junior Americanism Award went to Arlington Unit 139, Department of Virginia, Patty Pryor, Chairman.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: The Dorothy Pearl Plaque was awarded to Palmer Roberts Unit 214 from Ohio, Martha Setcock, Chairman.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: The Clara B. Smith Plaque was awarded to the Department of Wisconsin, Laura Calteaux, Chairman.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: It is truly amazing the amount of hours, money, and items we as an organization donate in one year. Total hours volunteered for Americanism programs 234,945. Total money spent on Americanism programs \$758,548.

We all know that this was accomplished by large and small units, some with many active members and some with only a few, such as Judith Basin Unit 76 from the Department of Montana. The few active members participate in many programs and have painted their community with flags.

They also devised a clever way due to their small numbers to bring the word of Veterans Day to local students. They created kits that were sent to local schools for kindergarten through second grade. The students learned about the United States flag and each received a small flag to keep.

They have started to work with Pocket Flag Program. They also distribute Blue Star Banners and participated in the Americanism essay contest.

Unit 76 President, May Rossman (phonetic), stated we try not to forget how great it is to live in the United States when we are so fortunate that we can fly the flag, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and sing the National Anthem. Too many people take this

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for granted.

Tucker A. Gregoir Unit 258 in Louisiana is another example of a hard-working unit. They distributed Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette. They had success with 85 Americanism contest participants and one member participated in the skit entitled Fourth Graders Meet the American Flag which was seen by 500 students.

The unit donated flags to churches and distributed American flags on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. They also presented Americanism plaques to eight graduating seniors at four schools.

Unit 258 Americanism Chairman, Clara Dupre, wrote in true American spirit, our members are reconnected and energized for the good of the American Legion Auxiliary.

As I read the reports from these two units, I'm reminded that Americanism is not only flying your flag and being patriotic, but it is also being a good citizen and participating in your community as these two units do.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN OWENS: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. She said there are none.

I did want to say that our Girl Scout Achievement Award recipient could not be with us, but you need to know that she will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Investing in our youth continues and our young members are eager to learn about our programs. And Senior leadership has a responsibility to be part of that educational growth in learning the ideals of our organization. They are an awesome group and I consider them our young ambassadors.

Our next report will be presented by Martha Corriher, National Junior Activities Chairman.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. You need just to speak clearly into here.

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Okay. Madam President, Webster defines Junior as lower in rank or younger in standing. In the Auxiliary world, I believe Junior means energy, creativity, vision, fun, compassion, hope, and our future.

If I listed all the words that our Juniors mean to each of us, we would be here for quite a few days. Juniors have worked the Auxiliary programs nonstop all year.

They have taken on the mission of membership within their own ranks with 363 Juniors recruiting 1,967 new members. These new members range from brand new baby sisters to best friends and older friends.

This 3-year-old recruiter doesn't see herself as a member, but tells the community she is the Auxiliary.

In their communities, Juniors have participated in various holiday parades, always proud to represent the American Legion Auxiliary. Juniors have had fun creating new ways to pay tribute to their veterans in their communities by flagging the veterans' yards on Veterans Day with thank you signs and American flags, making and delivering

greeting cards on holidays, and reading original poems to veterans.

They also prepared special dinners for their parents and other Senior members. 41,189 hours have been contributed to community service and another 59,278 hours to other Department projects.

They have conducted their own meetings with supervision by super leadership, prepared backpacks for distribution to military kids, worked on the Junior Patch Program, and they're always ready to assist Senior members with their projects.

1,536 patches were earned this year.

In the spring, Department Junior meetings were held. Under the direction of their Senior leadership, fun and exciting activities were presented to the Juniors. They participated in ice-breaker games to get to know each other, learned self-defense from qualified instructors, learned more about the Americanism Program, made their own tie dye tee shirts, and showcased their talents during Junior talent shows.

Elections and installations of new Junior Officers were held assisted by the Senior leaders and Senior Department Officers. Graduation ceremonies were also held for those advancing into Senior membership status.

All the information you have heard so far comes from the 24 departments reporting. Then it's time for the National Junior meeting which concluded yesterday, Sunday, August the 29th, 2010.

Under the leadership of honorary National Junior President Molly McLaughlin, the 27th National Junior membership meeting has been a huge success.

On Saturday, their meeting began with all the pomp and circumstance, recognition of the Junior Member of the Year, roll calls, rules, and credentials.

The Juniors had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities to benefit our deployed military and also our military kids.

The Juniors wrote thank you letters to be sent to our military. They put their creativity to work designing and decorating pillow cases to go over IV bottles at a local Children's Miracle Network hospital.

The love they put into these projects show their desire to help others in the community. They prepared 100 Operation Military Kid backpacks with stuffed animals, pencils, pads, bracelets, bouncy balls, and the list goes on. These backpacks are going to be donated to the Wisconsin Operation Military Kid local operations.

Something new was added this year to the Junior Program. We afforded the Juniors the opportunity to earn their membership patch or their National President Scholarship Patch.

The Juniors Activities Committee worked with these girls that were interested in completing these projects. Four Juniors earned their membership patch, one for level two and three for level three.

And nearly \$650 was raised for the National President's National Scholarship Fund by eight young ladies.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: And, ladies, they did this in a 20-minute span.

VOICES: Ooh.

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: And Madam President, they hit her up for some dough. A special thanks to all of you who donated funds to these Juniors to help them achieve their patch.

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To burn off some built up energy, they prepared their routines and songs for the parade. What a fun time they had singing, dancing, and showing us all how it's done. Great job, Juniors.

Sunday morning, the Juniors learned of volunteer opportunities for them at the VA Medical Centers. Ms. Denise Jasinski (phonetic), Chief of Voluntary Services for the Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center here in Milwaukee, explained who, what, where, and how to become a Junior volunteer.

On Saturday, their special guests included National President Rita Navarreté, National Commander Clarence Hill, and National SAL Commander Mark Arneson.

Sunday was another event packed day beginning with divisional caucuses, patriotic religious services, Junior luncheon, officers' reports, nominations, elections, installation, and graduation. And they even had a visit from the 2010 Girls Nation President, Carrie Bilenker of New Jersey.

VOICES: Yea.

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Now for a little background about future Senior Auxiliary leaders. President Molly McLaughlin hails from the great state of Oregon --

VOICES: Yea.

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: -- and has done an outstanding job this year promoting the American Legion Auxiliary and has made the National Creative Veterans Arts Festival her mission, raising money and awareness for the program throughout her travels.

She not only traveled in Oregon, but was invited to speak in surrounding states promoting her project and the Junior Auxiliary.

I want to congratulate her for a job well done.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: It is my pleasure to present to you Honorary Past Junior National President, Molly McLaughlin, for some remarks and a special introduction.

(Applause.)

VOICE: Love you, Molly.

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: Love you, too.

Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: I kind of slept in today. All right. Last year in Louisville, this floppy patriot hat of the National Junior President was pulled over my head. My eyes were covered and my face shielded from the stage lights and the smiles of my fellow Auxiliary members.

When I pulled this hat off, I was awed by how much trust, pride, and honor the Auxiliary has bestowed upon me. I yanked this hat off with confidence and I was ready to take on the world. Kind of getting that feeling right now.

I took a big gulp, opening my mouth, and I sputtered out the words thank you very much. This will be an honor. Meanwhile I was thinking what in the world have I gotten myself into.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: Later in my Presidential year, I found out exactly how thankful I was coming back here and realizing that I have made some bonds

and I have made ties with girls I won't ever forget.

This year, I was invited to attend the Department of Oregon's convention in Seaside, Oregon. The convention consisted of three days of meetings and a banquet. I had the wonderful opportunity to speak in front of the Department of Oregon about my special project and I'm very proud of Oregon for raising \$1,600 for my project. Good job.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: Nationally the American Legion Auxiliary has raised over 100,000 meeting our commitment for the National Creative Arts Festival.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: I also caught up with Rita. I met her again in Oregon at a banquet and that was very nice. And she inspired me and challenged all the Juniors to raise membership.

And with that, I went to my school and I tried to raise as much as I could promoting Girls State, explaining the Legion. And it was successful. I raised my -- I almost doubled -- I think actually over doubled the Girls State attendees for my schools. So --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: This is the part where it gets kind of hard to keep it together. Throughout my year, I've had my Department and National Headquarters to depend on to help me get the job done.

I would like to give my grandma, Darlene McLaughlin, my respect and appreciation as well as my grandpa, Mack McLaughlin, and my cousin, Caitlin Nicholas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: I've been grateful and lucky to have them keeping me focused this year. When my grandma and I get together, magic happens. My reports get done. My papers get delivered and my sense of purpose is back in focus. My National Junior Activities Chairman, Martha, found that out early and she took advantage.

Now my turn is done as your National Junior President and it's time to pass this hat on. I once dreaded to wear this hat mostly because it was hot, itchy, and it felt -- it left little bits of stuffing in my hair.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: But now this hat holds a part of me. This hat now belongs to the next President. May we please give a warm welcome to Ms. Sabrina Cobb from the Department of Ohio, your new National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: So as a tradition, we pass this hat down every year. I would like to give you this floppy patriotic star spangled hat.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Congratulations.

PRESIDENT COBB: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Say a few words. You need to speak right into the mike.

PRESIDENT COBB: It's overwhelming. I couldn't imagine coming into these

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things when I met my first National Junior President. And I knew right then and there that I wanted to be that girl that all the Juniors trusted and supported to get their idea out there and to get the recognition for all the stuff they do.

And we do a lot, but none of us could ever have known or have been supported to do as much as from you ladies. And I owe everything I am today to you wonderful women.

My goal for the year is basically just to make every one of you proud and to show you what we do and that we are here to support them.

I do have to give a special thanks to Ms. Molly. Molly has been an amazing President this year and all the Juniors have been inspired to do everything they can to help her.

And I do know that I have giant foot -- shoes to fill.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT COBB: I'm up for the challenge, but Molly has definitely made her mark and the Juniors have been proud to call her our Madam Junior President.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I need Molly to come forward, please.

Molly, on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, it's my pleasure as Martha and I present to you the scholarship letter and certification forms for a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And, Sabrina, as the incoming Junior Honorary President, I pin on you the honorary National Junior President button that we are using now.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: One last remark with Molly. When she found out and when I found out that we were both working on the same project, she got busy and raised that fund.

When I presented greetings to them, I had the honor of presenting her a print from one of the artists. He happens to be from New Mexico, Andy Chavis, Andrew Chavis. He was left for dead, but God has blessed him with art. And the Veterans Affairs office in D.C. sent me a print of his artwork and that has been presented to Molly.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: In closing, it has been a wonderful year for the Junior members of the Auxiliary. The Juniors have shown their dedication to this organization by doing the Auxiliary programs and reporting their accomplishments.

The Juniors have much to offer the Auxiliary and we need to keep open minds by listening to their ideas and staying in touch with changing trends.

Thank you, Madam President Rita, for allowing me to serve you and the Auxiliary membership as your Junior Activities Chairman.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: A job well done.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: No, Madam President, there are none.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Experiencing the Missouri's Girls State and also Girls Nation this year only energized me more to stay connected and to do what I can do further to promote the objectives of both programs.

Touching the lives of these young forward-thinking women who I believe will forever remember their experience either at Girls State or as a Girls Nation Senator, it makes me proud to be a member of the organization that sponsors these programs.

Also enthused about this year's activities is Girls State Chairman, Janet Jefford. Janet, please come forward.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Madam National President, this year, we are asked to reconnect and re-energize, to learn from the past, to plan for the future. So I thought it would be fun to take a brief look at what was happening at Girls State programs in years past. What I learned was that no matter how things change, they really remain the same.

Back in the late '50s, at Texas' Blue Bonnet Girls State, delegates were being taught to pay proper respect to the American flag. Today delegates in Texas and other states are still learning about patriotism and flag etiquette, about what it means to be an American.

Campaigning for office has always been a highlight of Girls State as evidenced in these 1958 pictures. Today the Nats and the Feds are still cheering for their candidates during party rallies, dressing in silly costumes, registering to vote, composing songs to inspire voters, and learning how to deliver convincing campaign speeches to influence election results.

But in the end, Girls State is about making friends that will last a lifetime. This was true in California in the '60s as it is today in Utah, in Tennessee and in Connecticut.

Thanks to the 49 Department Girls State programs, over 20,000 young women each year are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in learning the processes of our democratic government and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Again this July, 98 talented women assembled at the 4H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland to convene the 64th session of Girls Nation. These pictures from 1968 show the delegates on the steps of the Capitol and meeting servicewomen in D.C.

2010 was no different. This week still includes tours of the monuments and a visit to Capitol Hill. One of the highlights of the week is visiting Arlington Cemetery and laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This picture shows delegates from Missouri and New Jersey placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1950.

In 2010, delegates continued the tradition. They made a beautiful poppy wreath during opening ceremony and then on Sunday, four delegates were chosen to participate in the wreath laying ceremony.

The highlight of the week was our meeting with President Obama in the White House. After a private tour, the girls and the staff assembled in the east room for pictures. While waiting for the President, the girls spontaneously burst into song singing patriotic music. It was one of those goose bump moments. Just the thought of where we were and listening to those beautiful voices singing America The Beautiful brought tears to many eyes and earned a loud round of applause from the White House staff.

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I am sure that these girls in 1984 felt the same thrill of excitement when they met President Ronald Reagan.

Keeping with the theme of reconnecting to the past, this year, we had a very special guest at Girls Nation, the composer of the words and music to the Girls State song.

Back in 1947, a contest was held to find a theme song for Girls State. Haroldene Horeen (phonetic), now Shreck was a delegate at Nebraska Girls State. She wrote the song, submitted it to National, and the rest is history.

For Girls State and Girls Nation, this 90th anniversary year is a time to celebrate over six decades of providing such a unique experience to young women from across this nation.

Just add up the numbers. Over 1.2 million women are Girls State alumni and over 6,000 have had the opportunity to attend Girls Nation. If our future and the future of American lie in the young, then the American Legion Auxiliary and the dedicated Girls State and Girls Nation volunteers have cause to celebrate.

Through these programs, we have touched many lives. We have inspired past, present, and future leaders. We have taught the true value of Service Not Self.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. However, I do have a very distinguished guest that I would like to introduce.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes, you do.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Carrie Bilenker hails from Cranford, New Jersey. She was sponsored by Unit 102 in Union County to attend New Jersey Girls State.

Carrie's father spent four years active duty in the U.S. Navy and 16 years in the Navy Reserves. He retired in 2002 and returned to military service as a Major in the New York National Guard in 2009.

Carrie loves to sing, enjoys all performing arts, and is a member of her school choir. She told me her best souvenir from Girls Nation was a Library of Congress library card.

Please welcome to the podium the 2010 President of Girls Nation, Ms. Carrie Bilenker.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BILENKER: Thank you. And good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT BILENKER: Thank you for your service in your communities, to the American Legion Auxiliary, and for the time you put into Girls State and Girls Nation. I don't think I need to convince any of you how special the programs are.

They are truly more than programs in government. They teach and challenge the participants in ways that help them for life and instill both understanding and pride in the form of government that we all benefit from. They teach pride in civil action and service to others, respect for the service of the enlisted and veterans and their families.

And Girls Nation in particular reminds us of our freedom to disagree and our ability to compromise. These lessons, though important, can seem vague to my peers since they have not engaged in a debate with 98 passionate, very opinionated, motivated, and intelligent girls from across the country.

There are lessons you know but haven't necessarily learned. Some of them I had learned, but one I most definitely had not. You see, I'm not a morning person.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BILENKER: But for one week each day, I woke up at six o'clock, wrestled into a ketchup red polo, tripped and fell down the stairs, and stumbled to flag raising. I understand why I was going to flag raising while we raise the flag, but I had absolutely no appreciation for its meaning, the opportunity for reflection and gratitude or its value.

Nonetheless, I was fine after a cup of coffee. I went throughout the day and I became both inspired and truly in awe of the community I was in, tried to learn as much as possible, began talking, listening, and participating as much as possible.

During reflection of my city one night, we were told we would be doing the flag raising and that it included a chance for someone to read a passage, quote, blessing, or share a sentiment or lesson they had learned. I was surprised because I realized I had something to share.

I realized there was something important about flag raising, though I was still finding the words to express it. I surprised myself even more by beginning to articulate what I was learning in my presentation the next morning.

America is an expanding realm of possibility and it has accomplished and has continued to accomplish all that was once deemed impossible. Our nation itself, its government, a democracy by the people and for the people was once deemed impossible until, of course, it was and it is. The action of raising the flag is to recognize and appreciate and honor this.

This was only the beginning of my understanding. As the week continued and we had more experiences such as visiting the Holocaust Museum and memorials throughout D.C., other girls began to present their thoughts and revelations during flag raising and flag lowering. And these ceremonies continued to gain meaning and I began to enjoy attending them even that early in the morning.

I still did not fail to trip over my roommate's suitcase and I managed to put on my polo and set out one morning, but I learned that raising the flag was not just a patriotic ceremony, as a sentiment honoring the past, appreciating the sacrifices of countless people, taking pride in our country and appreciating the blessings, freedoms and rights that come with being a citizen of the United States, a simple act with many meanings. The value isn't in just the raised flag, but in understanding what it means to be able to raise the flag.

As you heard, my father just returned to the National Guard. He is 54 and for the longest time, I had never quite understood his gratitude and compassion for the United States military. And when he returned to service, I couldn't quite understand why. I knew what he wanted to give, I knew what he wanted to do, but I only knew that it was something that was important to him.

After Girls Nation, I did understand and I am so very proud of him for his patriotism and commitment and his service and the example he sets for me. To take pride in our country is to appreciate all it gives to us and so many within it, particularly those who serve or have served in the military or in public office and their families give to it, to take pride in my opportunity to meet 98 girls wholly different from myself in every possible way, from all ethnicities, religions, cultures and states, our ability to question and disagree with another, to compromise and to build a nation, to experience America at its best.

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Ninety-eight different girls inevitably leave Girls Nation with different experiences. But from my discussions with my friends, there are many ways to learn the same lesson. As we left our week at the Nation, at Girls Nation, we walked away with pride in what America has accomplished and grateful for what we can accomplish in it. We left thinking forward forever, backwards never, within ourselves our futures lie.

I would now like to finally thank Janet Jefford for all she has done for me, for the Girls Nation Program, for making it an extremely memorable experience, for the staff who worked there with her, some of whom I know are here and who I have met, who I know worked just as hard, to New Jersey American Legion Auxiliary for the Girls State Program which got me to Girls Nation and for their endless encouragement and support and, of course, Rita Navarreté who spent time with us at Girls Nation and who clearly gives both her heart and soul to working with this organization.

Thank you so much for this honor and thank you for my experience at Girls Nation.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: So well deserved. So well deserved. And we have touched their lives as every Girls State and Girls Nation Senator has touched our lives.

I have the honor to present to you the Scholarship for Girls Nation in the amount of \$2,000.

PRESIDENT BILENKER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I also have a small memento for you to take home with you that you will never forget our service model for 90 years, Service Not Self.

And something very special as I've talked and carried a pocket flag and to hear that Carrie's dad has joined the National Guard and may get one of those deployments, may you save this flag and give it to your dad so that he carries it in his pocket knowing that there are many, many American Legion Auxiliary family members praying with you for his return. It's very special.

PRESIDENT BILENKER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: All right. Now I have a few surprises. Let's see. First I want to present Carrie and Madam President here with a Girls Nation memory book.

I want to thank, first of all, I want to thank Alicia Jones from New Mexico, Trish Ward from Kansas, and Tabitha Rhoda from our National staff for putting together this beautiful memory book that I hope will always remind you of your experience. And it's just filled with scrap booking pictures.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: That's for you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: And for you.

All right. Everybody know what comes in these little turquoise bags.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: My son does.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: I have for each of you a Tiffany bracelet with Girls State charms and I hope you'll again wear it and keep it and have a great memory of Girls Nation.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BILENKER: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: All right. And, Carrie, we have one more thing, but I'm going to let Madam President present this to you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know, we all back home as we were at Girls State and we all have a portion in our programs that say we will cover the eligibility to become a member in this great organization.

Well, we do the same thing at Girls Nation. And what an honor it is for me to announce and to present that we have one year's paid membership not only for Carrie but also for her dad, Arthur, that the National President has made sure that they get these.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BILENKER: Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: And I have one more. Madam President, with your permission, I would like to call Maggie Watts from Louisiana, this year's Girls State Committee Vice Chairman, for a special presentation.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You may.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Thank you.

VICE CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you.

Madam National President, on behalf of the directors and Chairmen across this nation, the Girls State, Girls Nation Senators, and your Girls Nation staff, I would like to present you with another remembrance of Girls Nation. And they want to see it.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes. This is just gorgeous. It's got every pin of every state on it. And it's been autographed.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. Thank you so much.

You know, that room is just growing back home. It's a new room.

Thank you.

And, you know, being a former Girls Stater from Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1963, I know what the program has done to impact my life.

Are there any recommendations or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: No, there are not, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Our memorial flower never to be forgotten as we serve and meet our veterans' needs. Seeing the poppy fields in Kosovo truly touched my heart.

Diana Spencer, National Poppy Chairman, please come and share your report with us.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SPENCER: Thank you.

Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

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CHAIRMAN SPENCER: Madam National President, it's been an exciting year as the American Legion Auxiliary celebrates its 90th year of service of our disabled veterans and their families through our Poppy Program.

I want to thank the 33 departments that sent in their reports.

The Poppy Program was promoted in many ways this year, increasing efforts in the Poppy Program as present in the Legion Family Plan of Action.

Units in California, Illinois, Indiana, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Wisconsin, and many other departments used the media to get the word out to the public about the Poppy Program.

They increase awareness of the poppy and increase donations by contacting local officials and media personalities, getting them to agree to wear the poppy, making poppy proclamations, or doing promotion about the poppy and the Poppy Day.

In the Department of Texas, Unit 50 Chairman sent a letter about the Poppy Program along with our veteran made poppy to Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa Live. As Regis and Kelly read the letter from this unit, they put the poppy flower on national television.

In their May issue, the Ladies Home Journal did a media spotlight to support, salute soldiers for the Memorial Day.

Many other units did special projects to honor the poppy.

In the Department of Michigan, a unit reported a Poppy Museum was started by the American Legion Auxiliary Past President and Poppy Chairman, Margo Forrester from Northeastern Unit 459.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SPENCER: She researched this history of the American Legion Auxiliary poppy flower and poppy flowers from other countries and wars. Some interesting things that she found are look who's wearing a poppy featuring photographs of Angelina Jolie wearing a British poppy with Brad Pitt and Judy Garland in the Wizard of Oz in 1939 in a field of poppies.

There are some very important people who also need to be mentioned. The Department of West Virginia's Chairman reported that they had a very special veteran poppy maker who has made all their poppies for them and their Department for the past five years. From his residency at the West Virginia Veterans Home, Mr. Norbert Rhea has supplied them with 35,000 poppies each year.

In the Department of Kentucky, Hardin Unit 113 has several women veterans including ones from World War II, Korea, and Army Reserve retirees who make our handmade poppies for distribution in the community.

The Department of Tennessee Miss Poppy participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies for whom the bell tolls at the State Veterans Cemeteries. As 375 veterans' names were read, Miss Poppy placed a wreath at the podium and recited In Finders Fields.

In the Department of California, a unit raised donations by having a poppy luau, poppy fish fry, poppy fashion show, salute to veterans, raising over \$5,700 to -- that covered the poppies that they ordered.

Department Chairmen reported that units in their Department promoted the poppy corsage contest, the poppy poster contest, and the Miss Poppy contest programs.

The Poppy Program has been reconnected and re-energized this year with all of our departments reaching out to make every day is poppy day.

The Poppy Program is the oldest and most widely recognized Auxiliary program in and out of this country. It continues to honor the sacrifices of our disabled veterans, servicemen and servicewomen in keeping our land free for you and me.

Thank you, Madam President. This concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Do you have special guests?

CHAIRMAN SPENCER: Yes, I do.

Madam President, I have two special guests here with us today. First I would like to introduce Little Miss Poppy 2009-2010, Emma Ellerbrock from Kerner Slusser Unit 63, from the Department of Ohio.

VOICES: Yea.

(Applause.)

MISS ELLERBROCK: Thank you for giving me the honor of attending your National Convention. I had a wonderful time and met very nice people as Ohio's Kerner Slusser Unit 63's Miss Poppy.

The poppy shop open house let me see how poppies are made by the veterans. It was a lot of work, but the rewards were worth the time. I was very happy to be chosen as Ohio's Miss Poppy and extremely honored to be chosen as the National Miss Poppy.

I would also like to thank my mom for all the hard work that she put in to helping me with my scrapbook and for taking me to all of the various meetings to promote the Auxiliary's Poppy Program.

Most of all, I wanted to thank the veterans for their service to our nation and you for your hard work serving the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Emma, we are so proud of you. And I present to you a little memento, a T-shirt there. You can open it if you'd like. And it's probably going to be a good nightshirt, but she's going to grow into it.

And Miss Poppy ages 6 through 12, Emma Ellerbrock, Kerner Slusser Unit 63, Department of Ohio, for the best scrapbook and narrative on the memorial poppy signed by National Chairman, Diane Spencer, and National President, Rita Navarreté. I present to you this certificate.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SPENCER: Madam National President, I have another guest here. I would now like to introduce to you Miss Poppy 2009-2010, Alyssa Reynolds from Leander J. Kinchen Unit 47, from the Department of Louisiana.

(Applause.)

MISS REYNOLDS: Hello. I would like to thank my Department and Ms. Cindy Newton for putting together my book and sending it in. I would also like to thank my Aunt Ruth Newtfall (phonetic) for bringing me to all these meetings and conventions and getting me started in the American Legions.

I would like to say what a great honor and privilege it is to be crowned National Miss Poppy. Sorry. I'm chewing gum.

(Laughter.)

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MS. REYNOLDS: And thank you.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: On behalf of -- yes, let's -- and this is the age group 13 through 18.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Here is a small memento, poppy T-shirt. And you also get the certificate that is for the best scrapbook and narrative on the memorial poppy, Alyssa Reynolds, Leander J. Kinchen Unit 47, Department of Louisiana, signed this day National Chairman, Diane Spencer, and National President, Rita Navarreté.

Okay. Thank you for all your hard work.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any recommendations or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN SPENCER: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

Educating our youth continues to have strong support of the American Legion Auxiliary as members believe a good education is important for a child's success in life. Here for the Education Committee presentation is Mary Davis.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Madam National President Rita, time after time, the girls ask Wanda who came to school each day in the same faded blue outfit how many dresses did you say you had hanging in your closet. And time after time, Wanda replied a hundred. The girls didn't know Wanda's dresses were pictures she had drawn.

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes is only one of a multitude of stories which teach moral values, morals and values to children and adults alike who read or listen to stories.

In this, our 90th year, American Legion units have continued to bring to classrooms across our country hands-on help as part of our Education Program. Literacy, scholarships, veteran awareness, and support of American Legion Education programs is what the Education Program is all about.

This year, over 200,000 hours have been reported by volunteering unit members who have participated in classroom reading programs for both children and adults.

And remember little Wanda? She may have been one of the recipients of our Give Ten Program as units gave almost \$110,000 worth of merchandise to classrooms in support of those not able to afford proper supplies to help in their learning process.

As Department of Florida Education Chairman Sherry Wingard reported --

VOICES: Yea.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: -- the Give Ten Program gave units the necessary introduction which allowed them to expand their volunteer programs at the schools. One program which was as educational as inspirational to the students was Veterans in the Classroom.

Catherine Elliott, Florida's Pinellas Park Unit 104 Education Chairman, invited medically retired Lance Corporal Michael Delancey to share with the children his journey to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Just the first sight of Lance Corporal Delancey presented quite an educational picture. When he arrived, he was wearing his dress blues adorned with a Purple Heart.

This by itself was inspirational, but that he was in a wheelchair paralyzed by a sniper's bullet just days before his scheduled return home set the climate for his interaction with the students.

Lance Corporal Delancey talked to the children on their level as they asked him questions many based on the war videos they had played. For students, it was a chance to meet a real-life soldier, learn about his experiences, uniform, and family. And for him, it was therapy and escape from pain and depression and a way to feel normal.

Jackie Robinson Unit 252, Los Angeles, California --

VOICES: Woo.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: -- found a creative way to financially support scholarships and give educational materials to children and have fun at the same time. The Education Scholarship fund raiser dance provided an opportunity to collect books which were later donated to a children's center, raised money for unit scholarships, and provided a great time for those in attendance.

As this year ends and another begins, there is still work to be done. Our work to help teachers and schools achieve a quality education for children should never end.

As Carol Tomlinson, a U.S. educator, stated, plan to be better tomorrow than today, but don't plan to be finished.

This ends my platform remarks, Madam President Rita.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: There isn't -- what did you say?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Any resolutions?

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: No resolutions.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

Thank you, Mary.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Providing care and protection for our nation's children continues every day, especially those of our military. As Chairman of the Children & Youth Committee, Peggy Thomas will report on their activities.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Madam National President, what a wonderful year this has been for the Children & Youth Program. You asked that we reconnect and energize and our units have done just that.

The 34 departments that did report had an unbelievable year of fantastic work with our children. Total amount given to assist our children was \$3,521,952.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Total children served through direct aid and special programs is 455,112. These numbers cover many areas, including Operation Military Kids.

Reporting units donated clothing, gifts for holidays, school supplies, and food packs. Some children would not have had food to eat over the weekend if units did not prepare food packs for them. In many cases, it is the children of one or more deployed parent.

What better way to show your appreciation for the youth in your community that has performed an act of valor than to honor him or her with the Youth Hero Award.

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A unit in Nebraska honored 47 elementary and middle school students that bravely helped to evacuate a school bus that was hit by a pickup at an intersection and overturned. The school bus driver and the pickup driver were both thrown from their vehicles sustaining serious injuries. Fortunately these young people had no life-threatening injuries.

To further complicate matters, the pickup caught on fire. These children maintained their composure throughout the ordeal.

Units in New Mexico worked together to help homeless children. In Albuquerque alone, it is reported that 5,000 children are homeless and the numbers are growing. These children were helped with clothing and school supplies. Monetary donations were given to shelters serving as homes and for homeless and handicapped youth.

In Minnesota, units banded together to donate books and holiday gifts to a juvenile detention facility for teenagers called Minnesota Home School. They also raised money for the Forgotten Children's Fund which works with the Human Service Department to provide items such as class rings, prom attire, graduation pictures, and such for orphans, foster children, or kids from families in crisis. These are things that most children take for granted in typical families.

In Wisconsin, units went all out to work every phase of the program.

In the Philippines, one unit took the children to the veterans hospital to entertain the patients.

These are just a few of the wonderful and a bit unusual things carried out by our units. A unit does not have to be large to do great things, but small things can certainly make a difference in each life that it touches.

In the words of Marion Wright Edelman, if we don't stand up for our children, then we don't stand for much.

Madam President, this concludes my remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: No, Madam Present.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It is time on the agenda for The American Legion Family greetings. I now would like to present to you the National Adjutant of The American Legion, a member of Post 137 in Richmond, Virginia.

He was a U.S. Navy sonar man and journalist during the Vietnam War. He joined the National Headquarters staff in 1979 and has served as Executive Director of The Legion in downtown Indianapolis since 1995, only assuming the role as National Adjutant last October.

And we are so glad to have him with us today.

And please welcome to the podium Dan Wheeler, a very good friend of the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

ADJUTANT WHEELER: Nice. Good morning. How are you?

VOICES: Good morning.

ADJUTANT WHEELER: I've got these strings hanging on me and Stephanie

asked me if I needed a pair of scissors, but actually they're taking the place of the remarks I prepared.

I got these remarks and they're pretty good, but as I was leaving to come up here, I noticed on Mary Rooney's desk there was an Auxiliary sewing kit. It's got ten needles in it, already threaded, each one of them with an individual strand of thread.

I said, you know, that's really what I should be talking about is the sewing kit because it occurred to me we each, the Sons, The Legion, the Auxiliary, we each have our own programs. A lot of the programs we have are the same.

And a lot of times, we're working on those programs just among our own members when we really have an opportunity to work on those programs with members of the Sons and members of The Legion, members of the Auxiliary, everything we do. There's nothing that any of us do that is not something that the others are interested in.

So when we're out there just using the strength of our own organization like this one strand of thread, wow, it's easy for it to go bad. It's easy for us not to get the strength out of it that we need. But when we take all three organizations and we work together, not so easy anymore. We got lots of strength.

That's what Rita has been trying to encourage and that's what Mrs. Ashworth is encouraging. That's what our National Commander is encouraging, the National Commander of the Sons is encouraging. We got lots of things that we can do together. We got lots of things that we are doing together. And we got lots of things that we should be doing together everywhere from the National level right down to the posts and the unit.

(Applause.)

ADJUTANT WHEELER: We're not going to find those things that we should be doing together if we don't keep in the forefront of our mind where is the rest of our strength, where can we get help from this, who is willing to volunteer to help on this particular program.

And I think if we make our focus how can we include everybody, then the Auxiliary is going to hit their million members, The Legion is going to go back to its three million members, and the Sons is going to hit its 500,000.

So that's my message to you today. We're ready and willing to work with you. We're just one thread, but we're combined with you, we're combined with the Sons. Nobody can beat us and America is better for it.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: We have a pen and pencil set for you to continue doing all the good work and crossing those t's and dotting those i's.

ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you so very much.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

ADJUTANT WHEELER: Did Dubbie get anything for me?

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I thought it was Dubbie.

ADJUTANT WHEELER: Oh, Mary, Mary.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I thought it was Dubbie. Yeah.

ADJUTANT WHEELER: Aw. That's all right. That's better.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

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ADJUTANT WHEELER: That's what you gave me last year.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Because you're so special and priceless, the gift that I give you is priceless.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

ADJUTANT WHEELER: She is so full.

(Laughter.)

ADJUTANT WHEELER: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, Dan.

Our next guest reminds us of the pride and the purpose we should all have about The American Legion.

Head of the nation's largest Veteran Service Organization and lifetime member of Atlanta Beach, Florida Post 316, he served 19 years on sea duty, including three years commanding the Naval Communication Station in the United Kingdom for three years and guided Missile Frigate USS McAlnary (phonetic) for two years.

He was in combat during Operation Desert Storm and a retired Captain in 1996. He earned two Master's Degrees, one from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California and the other from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

It is such a pleasure to present to you the National Commander of The American Legion, Clarence Hill.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

COMMANDER HILL: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

COMMANDER HILL: I'm not sure where the Adjutant got his speech, but he forgot to take one when he left my desk.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER HILL: First of all, I'd like to introduce my aide, Larry White, but I don't have a clue where he's standing. He's traveled -- oh, there he is right here in the middle.

Thank you, Larry.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: Get the second most important person introduced first. Next I'd like to introduce a person who forced me into The American Legion by giving the options there, either join The American Legion or be deceased --

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER HILL: -- who has been with me since 1974 which was before my first promotion. So it was because of her that the Navy ever promoted me at all for all six of them and has been with me for everything that I've done with The American Legion and has done most of it up through the area level in Florida before I ever did. And that's my wife, Liz.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: I'd like to thank you all for what you do. I believe that the Auxiliary is the most important contributing arm to the family of four. It's you all

that are out there carrying the load when it comes to visits to the VA, when it comes to writing to Congress and supporting lobbying efforts and when it comes to being out there in the community and being visible.

It's generally the Auxiliary that you see first, so I thank you all for the tremendous job that you do, the tremendous support that you give to our veterans and to our communities and to our Children & Youth. Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: I also thank you for electing Rita. She's been absolutely tremendous, huge, and a very eloquent spokesperson for you. I've been with her many times and sometimes I wondered if she would ever quit talking, but --

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER HILL: -- she was right on point, right on target, great message. And that one word believe is tremendous. And I believe that you all picked the right person.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: You know, on The Legion side, we had a tremendous year in membership. It was a growth year, which hasn't happened in a long time, almost 54,000 more than we had last year. And I -- thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: I firmly believe that those social networks, blogs, e-mail blasts, those things are the future. It doesn't mean we get away from mentoring. It doesn't mean we get away from face to face and setting up our tables in malls and everywhere else that we do things. But those people that are on social networks do more than just socialize. When they see things that are happening, they participate.

We raised \$150,000 in three weeks for Combat Outpost Keating last October. The Pepsi Challenge for Operation Comfort Warriors in February finished first and got us \$250,000 for Comfort Warriors.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: And we currently have a fund going for Al Snyder who lost a son in Iraq in 2006. And his son's funeral was picketed by the Westboro Baptist Church. He sued them. He won in court almost \$11 million.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: It was all downhill from there. The judge reduced it to five million and the Appeals Court overturned it. And so not only did he end up losing, but they told him he had to pay that church \$16,500.

So he is appealing it to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear it. It will happen at the fall session. We are, as The American Legion, are filing a friend of the court in support of him like we did for the Mojave Desert Cross case.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: And we have an Al Snyder defense fund that was all done through social networks and blogs that has about \$20,000 to help him take his case to the Supreme Court.

The most significant number when it comes to what I feel is the potential and the power that's out there on those social networks, last year at the end of the 2009 membership year, we had 37,000 new members that were in those membership eligibility

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categories after Vietnam. And this year, we're nearly 68,000. And I believe that the social networks have a big part in that.

And I'm going to cross 3,900 for all my good friends on Facebook. How many of them are here?

(Whereupon, there was a show of hands.)

COMMANDER HILL: All right. Look at that. I have to apologize. I haven't turned my computer on for two days. They seem to be keeping me a little busy here. So there's a whole lot of people saying I sent you a notification. And geez, I haven't turned my computer on. So my food reporting is down too.

But I'm going to be somewhere over 1,800 for the tweets that I sent. That was how I kept Facebook up to date primarily. The tweets would go to Twitter, Facebook, and the website.

The website will continue, the clarencehill.legion.org will continue after my term is complete. The organization will archive it and then has allowed me to purchase it. And I've got an individual in my post that will help me maintain it. So the site will have all the travel log, the pictures that Larry has taken. Everything that's there now will still be there. There will obviously be this pre-convention report, a convention report, and then I'm going to summarize the year and then maintain it from there. But I believe that that's the wave of the future.

When you all as an Auxiliary unit put out information on a social network that says we're doing this today and we're going to do this whatever and we invite you all to come participate and you get some of your members to copy and paste that and put their picture on it, you're now reaching networks instead of individuals.

So when I copy and paste somebody, I reach 3,900 people and you may reach 50, you may reach a thousand. Whatever your network is, there are veterans out there that read that and, like I said, when they see something worthwhile, they participate. And a lot of them have made contact through their social networks and have ended up joining the organizations.

And so I just hope that you'll continue this long after Clarence Hill is gone because I believe it's going to help all of us grow and The American Legion is going to be able to get back to that three million we used to have and you're not seeing caps like once every 500 Legionnaires that say three million on it. There's going to be a lot of them out there.

So, once again, I thank you all for what you did, for the tremendous year that we've had, and I wish you a successful convention and every success in the future because the more success you have, the more opportunity the rest of have to be successful. So thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

COMMANDER HILL: I've got a gift here somewhere. I have this heavy gift here to give to Rita.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Take this personal privilege. Look at these pretty colors.

COMMANDER HILL: I hand picked those colors, by the way.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER HILL: No two pieces of paper are the same color.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Oh, coach. Everyone knows that. Wow. And it's purple.

COMMANDER HILL: Purple. See, you all may think that Rita's favorite color was purple, but I'm a graduate of Martins Ferry High School and we were the Martins -- there we go. Hi.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: And we were the Martins Ferry Purple Riders. That was my color.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

COMMANDER HILL: I should say we are the Martins Ferry Purple Riders, not were. They're still there.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Over and above. Over and above. A pendant, a beautiful pendant. Look at this. It will always be cherished. And I will bring greetings to you with my special gifts for you.

COMMANDER HILL: Isn't there something else?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is there something else?

VOICE: Purse.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I did the purse.

COMMANDER HILL: Oh, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yeah. There's the purse that matches. Now all Tony Richard needs to do is get that money in there.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And this I did want to present on this convention floor, August 27th, a day we will all remember. It's when we were installed and given the responsibility to do what is in our heart and passion, the love for the greatest organizations there are. And this is a photo of the three of the leaders and I wanted you to have that.

COMMANDER HILL: All right.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay.

COMMANDER HILL: Thank you.

VOICE: It's very nice.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HILL: This is for Tony.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Oh.

COMMANDER HILL: We also have something for Tony if -- once he fills your purse with money, you can give this to him.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. And this is just a card for you to take home and read when you have some quiet time perhaps.

And, Liz, you know, when you travel with The Legion Family, they truly have been family members that I'll never forget, who took care of me.

I injured my knee just before I went to the Far East and, Liz, you were right

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there guiding Clarence to just wait for Rita or get that step stool or just made sure that I had somewhere to sit while everyone was waiting. And those moments will never, never be forgotten because it came from your heart. And so this is just a special memento for you. And, again, I want to share with you the times of laughter, the times of tears. A handkerchief is truly a timeless accessory.

MRS. HILL: Thank you very much. Thank you for everything you have done.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

COMMANDER HILL: Thank you. Are we dismissed now?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are you dismissed now? One more hug he wants.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER HILL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know, and if you'll stay right here, Larry --

COMMANDER HILL: Larry is down there.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Larry is down there. Okay.

Larry, please stand right here at these steps. Personal privilege of this National President if you'll bear with me.

You know, Larry was not only the aide to the Commander, but wherever our paths crossed, Larry was sure to be there to include photos of us together, the Commander.

And, Larry, I do want to thank you so much for always being a part of the family, you and Sandy as we traveled. There's also a special note for you to read and also that handkerchief for you to have. And this is something that's included for you and Sandy to take back with you. And may we always be friends, may we always be family because those moments will be treasured forever.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Now at the end of the year, I find out he's a hugger.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And, you know, Larry and Sandy's -- Sandy, I know if you're out there, please stand. Where are you standing?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know, their son is also a fire -- fireman and our son, Steven, who is not with us this convention, is a fireman. And so we've exchanged tee shirts.

So, Sandy, we have your T-shirt. Hopefully Joseph brought it over this morning.

What a wonderful family they are.

We must always remember to celebrate every day for the difference we are making in the lives of individuals in our communities.

Community Service Chairman, Denise Delaney-Wrolen, please present your report.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN: Madam National President, community

service is the services volunteered by individuals or an organization to benefit a community or its institutions.

As we celebrated this, the 90th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary, our members have done just that as they reached out across this great nation to reconnect and energize the citizens in the communities in which they live.

Their main objective was to reach out and support our nation's heroes and their families. What a small price to pay to give back to those who have sacrificed so much so that we may continue to live in a free nation.

The Chairman of the Department of Virginia stated that while totaling the figures from the annual reports, she was humbled to realize that she belongs to an organization of members who take so much of their time and money and spend it on others.

She said that they welcomed home troops, but that it didn't stop at the ceremonies. Many soldiers and their families were helped financially by units while others were helped in finding jobs, housing, and counseling.

Members also involved the community in activities involving troop support, bring to the forefront of the community awareness many of the needs of our military personnel and their families.

This has become an important facet of modern life since so many of our soldiers are Reservists or members of the National Guard and, therefore, do not have the support of fellow military personnel that would be found on a military base.

One member from Madison, New Jersey volunteered with Homes for Our Troops, providing severely injured veterans with homes equipped for their needs. She states this is the ultimate reward for me in volunteering. Once I met Sergeant Maynard, it was not a project, it became a mission and a life-changing experience. A home was built because of not only my contributions and others but for what we did collectively as a community together. This soldier is unique and I am proud to have assisted in this build. It is so little compared to what he has endured and sacrificed as well as his family.

A unit in Ohio chose a very special project to join with their Legion Family this year, K-9s for Combat Veterans, a nonprofit organization that provides fully-trained assistant dogs at no cost to qualified veterans. They raised \$15,000 and volunteered over 3,000 hours from start to finish.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN: During the Martin Luther King day of service, make it a day on, not a day off, units partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service to work on service projects and activities to be connected to the life and teachings of Dr. King to build a beloved community.

The Department Chairman and two other members from the Department of Wisconsin --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN: -- volunteered at the job fair at the VA medical center for 28 employers and over 500 veterans. They were asked to provide 80 cookies and nine large bags of snacks and to serve the employers and veterans during the three hour event. They received a letter of appreciation for their efforts from the Milwaukee County Veteran Service Office.

Unit members volunteered to beautify their communities by removing trash and

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planting flowers and shrubs, worked at local food banks, cleaned neighborhoods and parks, repaired homes for senior citizens, and built ramps for disabled individuals.

A unit in Velva, North Dakota sponsored the summer blood drive and provided refreshments to donors.

Another member of Lenox, Iowa works with the Red Cross to contact names on the donor list and continues to call until she reaches each person. She says calling is a huge and important task. She does it four times a year.

The Department of Florida provided ideas via their newsletter informing members certificates would be given to units participating in this year's event. A 5K walk/run was held in January in Florida. The event was named after one of their past Department Presidents and held near the VA. The money collected was then sent to the VA hospital.

The Department of Oklahoma stated there was an interesting factor about the reports that showed an increased awareness of the needs of the food banks, homeless shelters, nursing homes, senior citizen homes, and our veterans' homes, that it is a sign of the times and the economy. Community improvement was also high on the list. Providing volunteering in your own community is certainly important.

For about 35 years, one unit in Ohio has sponsored a six week babysitting course. Auxiliary members organize and prepare all necessary paperwork, grade the homework and tests, make arrangements for guest speakers, and hosted a graduation night for the new babysitters.

Guest speakers this year included a police officer, sheriff deputy, and a firefighter to speak on safety, a nurse to discuss first aid, and mothers who brought in their babies to show proper baby care. A total of 59 new babysitters graduated this year.

In closing, I would like to quote Susan Butan (phonetic). We could go on and on, but we really never count all our hours because we do it for the purpose that we care and love first our veterans, second our children, and the third our families and friends.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DELANEY-WROLEN: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It is my pleasure to introduce to you the 2010 Convention Corporation President visiting us today, Mr. Wayne Jenson.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JENSON: Is everybody happy?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT JENSON: That's what we want to make you feel. Greetings from the Department of Wisconsin American Legion Family. And when I say The American Legion Family, that's exactly what we mean in Wisconsin.

I know that there's some old school people where that's nothing but lip service. In the Department of Wisconsin, those old-timers that can't get over the Auxiliary being the Auxiliary and The Legion being The Legion, in Wisconsin I refer to them as the black sheep of the family.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT JENSON: Just to give you an example, here in Wisconsin, the memorial service traditionally at National Convention had ushers from The Legion. We asked the ladies of the Auxiliary to perform that duty and they did so very admirably.

Another example is my wife, Donna, is a member of Unit 415 and she is the driver for the National Adjutant.

Also on the Auxiliary side, Madam President is being escorted wherever she has to go by members of The American Legion. We don't give lip service to The American Legion Family. We are The American Legion Family.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT JENSON: And that American Legion Family brings you greetings and hopes that you have a wonderful, super convention.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary celebrating 90 years of Service Not Self, I would like to present to you our anniversary coin for our veterans, Service Not Self, with the three little emblems on the back to reflect that.

PRESIDENT JENSON: Thank you very much, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

PRESIDENT JENSON: I appreciate it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It is now my pleasure to introduce Past National President Katherine Morris, Chairman of the Liaison to the National Welfare Foundation, to present her report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: We hear some footsteps, so just be patient.

Would you like to stand up and stretch a little bit. Let's do that. Don't leave. Just stand up and stretch.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: We needed a stretch.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: I was waiting for my guests.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay. I'll be out of your way.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: They're here. They're here. I've had to make some changes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: A very important reason. She was waiting for her guests and there were some changes.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: They're here now.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: So they're here now she tells me.

Okay.

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, it is indeed an honor to highlight the accomplishments of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation and extend our sincere thank you to the officers and members of that foundation for making it such a successful year.

The main concern of the Foundation is to raise funds and provide awareness through donations to continue their mission to provide grants which make a difference in the lives of many children.

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Thanks to the generosity of The American Legion Family contributions which provide youth serving organizations with the means to education families and communities about the need of these special children.

I am pleased to report for the 2009 contribution year that donations totaling \$771,499.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: And, once again, the Sons of The American Legion led in contributions with a whopping \$540,000.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: And I just received that figure so that is why you do not see the correct figure on the monitor.

They set a goal for \$500,000 and they exceeded it by \$40,000. Wow, what a great group of men.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: The American Legion was second with contributions of \$131,433 and the American Legion Auxiliary placed third with contributions of \$118,945 --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: -- which is a little over last year's total. Nineteen grants totaling \$636,869 were awarded to fund projects that improve the quality of life of these children. Five of those grants were sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The grants were approved during the Child Welfare Foundation's annual board of directors meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana on October the 11th, 2009.

The Foundation needs continuing support from all of our American Legion Family, so please continue your efforts in the support of grants for our youth.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks. And with your permission, I would like to introduce two special guests with us today for the purpose of presenting The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awards.

We do have a change in the guests. First guest is Bob Caudell. Bob is the Board Executive Director -- Secretary, excuse me, and Bob Turner is the Board Treasurer and they are here to present the awards.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: Madam President, National Officers, Past National Officers, delegates to this convention and certainly to those beautiful ladies from the state of Georgia --

VOICES: Woo.

SECRETARY CAUDELL: -- and especially to my beautiful wife, Betty -- I know you're out there somewhere -- I'm pleased to recognize your efforts during this past year in support of the Child Welfare Foundation.

Our President Dennis Bolin (phonetic) could not be with us this morning because he's involved in another meeting that he's chairing and he had to be there.

But with your help, the Foundation has reached a ten year high receiving over \$771,000 in donations. And the American Legion Auxiliary has donated over \$118,000 to that total.

President Navarreté, it is my pleasure to recognize these efforts this morning by announcing the winners of several of our awards.

It's my pleasure to introduce the recipient of the U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award given to the top Department based on combined donations is the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: Because this is a very special award, I'm going to read. This says the U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award 2009-2010 presented to The Legion Family of the Department of Ohio in recognition of outstanding support for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. We thank you. Across the bottom, it says no person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been recorded for what he gave, a quote by Calvin Coolidge. Congratulations, Ohio.

(Applause.)

VOICE: In Ohio, the Child Welfare Foundation is truly a family affair. I'm very proud to accept this award for the Department of Ohio. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

SECRETARY CAUDELL: The recipient of the Garland Murphy Award given to the most active Department is the Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: This award says the Garland D. Murphy, Jr. Award presented by The American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida for the program year 2009-2010. Thank you and congratulations, Florida.

VOICE: Thank you so very much.

On behalf of our 233 units, I really thank the Department of Florida for all of their donations and their hard effort for us to bring this award home again.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: And the recipient of the Meritorious Achievement Award given to the Department with the highest increase in per capita given is the Department of Washington.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: This award says there's a wonderful mythical law of nature that three things we crave most in life, happiness, freedom, and peace of mind, are always attained by giving them to someone else. Achieving the highest increase in per capita given for 2009-2010, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Washington. Congratulations.

VOICE: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

VOICE: I want to say thank you to everyone, not just our Auxiliary, but our Legion, our SAL, and our writers in the Department of Washington because we do work together as a family. And it was my theme this year, Family Tree of Service, and without every one of us working, we couldn't have done this.

Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: And, Madam President, I have one last -- I'm sorry. The recipient of the Excellence Award -- I was almost about to leave one out here -- this award is given to the Department with the highest per capita given for excellence, the Department of Wyoming.

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(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: This Excellence Award says you will find as you look back on your life that the moments that stand out are the moments when you've done things for others. That was a quote by Henry Drummond. Achieving the highest in per capita given for 2009-2010, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming.

(Applause.)

VOICE: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so very much. The Department of Wyoming is a true Legion Family and we work to support our Foundation projects. We will continue doing that. We're small but mighty and we will continue filling those piggy banks.

SECRETARY CAUDELL: Thank you.

VOICE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: Now, Madam President, I have one last very special award that I think all of you ladies are going to appreciate. President Navarreté, would you join me.

We'd like to recognize your leadership this morning by presenting you with a Spirit of Excellence Award. This is a --

(Applause.)

SECRETARY CAUDELL: This is the Child Welfare Foundation's logo. It's gold with a diamond in the middle of it.

Thank you so much for what you've done for us.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You're welcome

SECRETARY CAUDELL: We love you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

And it's because of you and your donations that I get to accept this as National President.

SECRETARY CAUDELL: Thank you so much, ladies. Have a great convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: To serve our veterans, their families, and communities in improving the quality of their lives, listening to the stories at the National Creative Arts Festival, at Ride 2 Recovery events, at Landstuhl Hospital, and many VA Medical Centers gave me opportunities to carry the message of support and letting each know we appreciate their service.

Our work in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation will be presented further by Kris Nelson, National VA&R Chairman.

Kris.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Madam President Rita, Madam National President Rita, because of the generosity of our members in both time and treasure, the goals of the VA&R Committee were successful. Hundreds of members embraced their project offering in kind services to our program.

The six national rides found members cheering on the sidelines, offering

refreshments at rest stops, providing meals, and working fund raisers.

Members embraced the Dollars Making a Difference Campaign, participated in Cycle Fests throughout the country, and volunteered both time and treasure to the Spinning Nation Campaign.

Those who participated in these events reported that their lives were forever changed watching the endurance and determination of our nation's wounded warriors as they fought to complete these rides with perseverance, joy, and dignity.

One again, the Auxiliary cosponsored the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, donating \$100,000 to this event. All veterans invited to participate in the National Finale are selected winners of year-long National Fine Arts talent competitions in which thousands of veterans enter from VA medical facilities across our country. Hundreds of Auxiliary members volunteered at all levels of the competition.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Several were able to spend the entire week at the festival. Volunteers reported that working closely with these veterans and watching their determination and endurance as they competed strengthened their resolve to continue to host fund raising activities allowing the Auxiliaries to continue to cosponsor this national event.

On a personal note, my husband, Terry, and I were honored to represent the Auxiliary at the West Point graduation ceremonies. Since 1952, the Auxiliary presents an award to a commanding officer of the Second Regiment. This year, the award was a pewter tray awarded to Cadet Andrew Ferrara of Torrance, California.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Cadet Ferrara is the third child who -- in this family who graduated from West Point. He shared with us that one sibling was a casualty of the Iraq War. Cadet Ferrara was honored to receive the Auxiliary award and is a member of The American Legion.

The final graduation parade left us in awe and proud of our American soldiers.

Departments reported recruiting volunteers resulting in an increase of 346 VAVS volunteers, 437 field service volunteers, and 451 home service volunteers.

Assisting with this effort were the National Headquarters' VISTA volunteers who hosted a VAVS task force and developed recruiting methods new to the Auxiliary including I Participate and Disney Day of Volunteering campaigns.

Additionally these volunteers have assisted numerous programs and developed tool kits to assist our members with membership, recruiting, and retention, as well as real-life examples to fulfill our program mission.

Several of the ALA Service Corps VISTA Project field sites have implemented activities to support indigent veterans.

For example, the Florida field site executed a 5K race in Orlando in connection with Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service raising funds for the VA Domiciliary Program in Orlando.

In California, the site organized a tour of San Francisco VAMC for public officials and community leaders to introduce them to the services of the VAMC and associated volunteer opportunities.

The Michigan site organized the sewing assembly and distribution of personal hygiene care kits for homeless veterans at its MLK observance.

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The Arkansas site raised funds for the purchase of vans to transport needy veterans from the rural part of the state to VA Medical Centers and recruited volunteer drivers to meet transportation assistance requests.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: The New Mexico site prepared a community research guide to direct military servicemembers, veterans, and their families to public and private sources of assistance.

The New York site was redesigned and revitalized the Department's Warrior Family Assistance Program.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: They managed the promotion of the fund's screen applications and administrative support and coordinated the disbursal of nearly \$20,000 in financial aid between September and April.

The Ohio site developed networking opportunities for Junior alumni and E units.

In Oregon, a Military Family Assistance Fund to provide cash assistance to military families experiencing economic hardship was established.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: As of this writing, the Wisconsin site organized 12 job fairs assisting 2,030 veterans resulting in 129 hired and 294 interviews scheduled.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Recently the National Headquarters' VISTA team sorted and distributed thank you cards to veterans at VA Medical Centers and homeless shelters in the Indianapolis area. These cards were sent to our members who participated in the fund raising campaign.

This Chairman received reports from 45 departments and dozens of units.

Choosing one report to highlight today was very challenging.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Palmer Robert's Unit 214 of Willoughby, Ohio was active throughout the year helping homeless veterans at a veterans' resource center. The unit Chairman reported that they would make a difference in veterans' lives so that one day they will be out of the shelter and leading a productive life.

The year began with a dessert party including presentation of 14 bags of clothing and shoes. The shelter's director told of the need for underwear, socks, and sweatshirts. And the unit answered that call by posting notices on two bulletin boards and two newspapers seeking cash donations. All 55 residents were presented with underwear, socks, sweatshirts, and gloves. The director cried when the unit showed up with packages to place under the Christmas tree.

The next request from the director was nonperishable food. Back at the post, signs went up, notices were sent to local newspapers, newsletters were mailed to members, and county and district members were sent requests for help.

Then the bad news arrived. Rita Ciafani (phonetic), the director, had been killed by a resident who was being asked to leave the facility for not obeying the rules. The unit thought about canceling the food drive but knew that Rita would want them to help these veterans heal from their tragic loss.

In April, boxes of food were delivered to the residents who were happy to see the Auxiliary members. The food drive value was \$3,500. The unit reports that they will

not quit on their homeless veterans until they are all gone from the facility and into a place of their own. They're busy planning a cookout for the summer.

This is just one of the hundreds of stories I received.

Our members reported that they served 927,273 veterans, donated \$3,413,824 and volunteered 195,749 hours.

Give yourselves a hand, ladies.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: President Rita, this concludes my remarks.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN NELSON: No, there is not.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none. Thank you.

And I may ask for a personal privilege right here, state that Peggy Thomas and also Carlene Ashworth were on those challenge rides for Ride 2 Recovery in Texas and in Virginia. So thank you.

And I know you're out there, Peggy, so we want to give them a round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And as National president, I also did the Ride 2 Recovery Challenge for two days in California and two days -- two days, three days in Florida also.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: To serve our veterans will be continued. The American Legion Auxiliary proudly cosponsors annually the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Our annual contribution of 100,000 was exceeded this year by 16,000 as of July 30th and we expect another 10,000.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Along with monetary donations are the countless hours of volunteering at the local and national festival which allows us to assist veterans receiving treatment in VA hospitals. Through the years, we have also gained a great respect for men and women of the Department of Veterans Affairs and VA hospitals who treat these patients and make the Fine Arts and Performing Arts programs possible.

Here today to say a few words to us about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is Liz Mackey, director of the program.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR MACKEY: Thank you, Madam President.

It's truly an honor to be here, everyone, 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 Medford, Minnesota.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR MACKEY: I have to say that every year. I am 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 by 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

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summer spots clinic, and the National Disabled Veterans winter sports clinic.

I know that many of you are familiar with these six national events and 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 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival. 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.

Earlier this month, I sent out an e-mail message to VA staff who assist veterans from their facility with entering the Creative Arts competition. I asked for feedback on the involvement and support to their local Creative Arts Program by their local American Legion Auxiliary. And the responses received were very, very complimentary and uplifting.

Statements such as this from a therapist in Augusta, Georgia: The American Legion Post 192 from Augusta, Georgia provides refreshments and judges for the local Creative Arts Festival competition. This year, a talent showcase and art show was presented for all patients, staff, and guests. And the ALA National President was in attendance.

And this from a therapist in Cheyenne, Wyoming: In Cheyenne, the ALA is instrumental in making the local Creative Arts Festival a big success. The ladies from the Auxiliary assist with setup and a fabulous reception for the artists. They also paid for the ribbons supplied to the winners. And this year, the American Legion Auxiliary hosted the three day show at The Legion post as the auditorium at our medical center became too small for the exhibit. As a result, there was a large turnout from the community. The Wyoming American Legion Auxiliaries rock.

These are just two examples of the many, many responses received by VA staff acknowledging the support by the ALA members in their area. And I'll be giving my report to Madam President Rita after this convention. We so appreciate all of the monetary and voluntary contributions.

Thank you to 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 Rita Navarreté.

We are also looking forward to working with incoming President Carlene Ashworth who has been a friend of the Creative Arts Festival for several years. Carlene has attended several Creative Arts Festivals and she and Dubbie Buckler attended a site visit to Tomah and La Crosse, Wisconsin, in June to learn more about the artwork and the judging process during the final days of national competition as well as how the performance acts are selected for the festival stage show.

Our hope is that the veterans who participate in the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival come away with a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of strong motivation to explore other areas 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 2010, 3,625 veterans from 124 VA Medical Centers, state veterans homes, and VA outpatient clinics nationwide entered their local Creative Arts competition. They entered categories within the arts, creative writing, dance, drama, and music divisions. They displayed their artwork entries at their local VA medical facilities and received recognition from their communities for their creative talents. They submitted digital images of their artwork and videotapes of their music, dance, writing, and dramatic talents into the national level of competition.

And now 120 of the medal winning veterans of the arts, creative writing, dance, drama, and music competitions will gather in La Crosse, Wisconsin, only about three and a half hours from here, during the week of October 18th to the 25th to participate in the festival experience.

The veterans will participate in rehearsal and therapeutic visual and performing arts workshops that the festival host site coordinator, Jean Calhoun, and her team from the Tomah Medical Center have planned. It's a chance to show the festival to La Crosse and the surrounding community that the use of arts as therapy and 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 visual artwork from the National level of competition. The stage show and art exhibit will occur on Sunday, October 24th at the Veturbo University Fine Arts Center in La Crosse. It will be wonderful to see many of you there.

We're also pleased that again this year, an edited hour-long version featuring highlights from last year's festival stage show and art exhibit will be presented on public television around the country around the time of Veterans Day, November 11th. This is the fifth year that the show will be on television and we so appreciate the successful efforts of the American Legion Auxiliary members for their part in making this happen.

I did want to say, too, that the MC for this year's stage show performance in La Crosse, Wisconsin is none other than Michael Peterson.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR MACKEY: That's exciting.

Before I leave the podium this morning, I just want to thank all of you again for your past, present, and continuing support of the National Veterans Creative Arts Program. Thank you for serving as the cosponsor for this festival and we look forward to seeing many of you in October at the events in La Crosse. Thank you again.

(Applause.)

DIRECTOR MACKEY: Thank you, Rita.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Liz, as a friend of the American Legion Auxiliary through the many, many years, a small memento for you. And then also I would like to present to you our anniversary coin serving 90 years of service under the model Service Not Self, and it's got the emblems of The Legion Family on here.

DIRECTOR MACKEY: That means a lot to me. Thank you so much, Rita.

(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I wanted to add for the record that there were no resolutions or recommendations from liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation.

The Chair asks that the National Secretary read the announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

In no particular order, North Dakota has one states dinner ticket for sale. North Dakota, holler out so people know approximately where you are. That was lame.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. North Dakota, holler out so people know where you are.

VOICES: Right here.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: All right. Also, for those who were in your pre-convention meetings yesterday, typed copies of the pre-convention Committee meeting minutes are to be turned in today. There's a drop box in the National Headquarters office which is Room 201A and B here in the Convention Center. So if you were the scribe, we need those minutes turned in.

Another item to bring to your attention, if you've gone through the exhibit hall, there is a -- right outside the checkout, it's not inside the emblem sales area, but right outside the checkout area, there's a Norman Rockwell moment booth. And I hope you go and look because a picture of President Rita Navarreté and incoming President Carlene Ashworth are on display.

It's a pretty neat thing and the neat thing is for -- here at convention, they have a special half off deal. For \$89, you can have a single picture, family picture, pet picture. And the proceeds from this will be donated back to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Now, if you don't have the picture with you, then you can make arrangements with them to have the picture sent to them and they will walk you through what that process is, but that's a pretty neat deal that they have just on the spur of the moment decided they would do for us. So I do hope you go and look at that picture.

And if you are a 2010-2011 National Committee appointee, please go to the National Headquarters office between today and Wednesday to verify your Red Book contact information form. And we're going to probably remind you about this one more time. The Red Book is one of those things that it always manages to be obsolete just as soon as it's finished, but we try. So please go and verify your information. Appreciate that very much.

And some of you have asked. We will have a very limited supply of the 2010 Convention Guide that will be sold, available for sale on a first come, first serve basis. They are at National Headquarters. They will be made available to you for the actual price of packaging and postage and the individual product cost. And that would be \$7.00. So they can be ordered through your -- through National Headquarters to the attention of the Communications Department.

And I will, Madam President, as a -- just a slight note of personal pride, if you may, this convention book, as you can imagine, there's a cost to produce this. And this year for what we believe is the first time in the history of the organization, we did sell enough sponsorships, get enough in-kind donation and enough advertising revenue to defray 98 percent of the printing cost of the program.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And now, Madam President, we would like to take

a little commercial break that you can't change the dial. You have to listen to the commercial.

And I'm going to ask to be joined by Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

As you'll remember, I hope you'll notice in your program, there are some focus groups at -- those of you who were at awareness assembly, President Navarreté said that she really wanted to establish some sort of a task force to listen to grassroots members about how we can make our -- do a better job of being more effective at delivering the mission.

In the meantime, the Strategic Planning Committee, and I'm so delighted to serve as a Co-Chair with Jan, we're talking about what can we do to get more member input regarding the future of the organization. So the two ideas became married and that opportunity is here at convention.

And with that, I'm going to ask Jan to explain the focus session and extend an invitation to you.

CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam President, investing in our organization, this focus group called upon our members to invest time, knowledge, and talent to support their local units.

We know we need to grow and member to member on the local level that allows us to grow the organization. We need to find ways to involve our members in the core mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and our reasons for organizing the 90 years that we did 90 years ago.

This moves us directly to member engagement. We sign them up and then even in a year or two, we lose them because we don't get them involved and engaged by providing a warm, welcoming atmosphere for meeting when all ideas are welcome and new members are made to feel a part of something bigger than themselves. They need a compelling reason to spend time together.

Once we have the members, we can involve them in our unit activities and programs to work to promote the American Legion Auxiliary to the general public so they know what we are and what we do. This is our Mission Outreach Program focus. We can make membership meaningful for our members and enrich their lives with service to others and we have programs for everyone to enjoy.

All of these things support our basic structure from the ground up. Does this work well for us? How do we connect our units to our departments and then to our national organization? Is this a positive environment or does it merit change? How do we at the unit level fix it in the overall relationship to the national organization? That would be involved with what we're calling the governance piece of this activity.

We do need your input, your suggestions, and your helpful hints to accomplish our objectives for these focus group sessions. We invite you to drop by this afternoon and join us. We promise we will listen. The schedule is in your program. Please join us.

Be assured that this is a listening session, not a preaching and teaching session. It will be a round robin format and you will have an opportunity to be heard. I assure you that both Flora Jean and I will not talk too much. We will listen.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: We heard Flora Jean laughing. You will gain instructions when you come. We do intend to give you that much information.

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The information will be gathered. The overall facilitator, Joyce Andres, from Wisconsin who does this for a living and I will work this. We will get back to you with the results so that you know.

We want to tell you, however, that you may have some great ideas and they may never be able to be looked at because there's going to be, I hope, many, many opportunities for us to continue our strategic planning process.

Those things that the long-range strategic planning team will look at our fall meeting in November, we will probably come up with two or three new initiatives for the strategic planning teams to move forward on. And they would be brought to the NEC meeting at awareness to be then approved to move forward.

But we certainly encourage you to participate with us. We do truly want to hear you. The National President has asked us to do this. And we want to listen to our members to know what it is that you consider something we need to be looking at for the future of the organization.

And hopefully one of the things we're going to do at the post NEC meeting, we have also a member initiative for the strategic planning teams moving forward. And we hope to give you some information from that, too, as they continue to meet.

So we welcome you. We hope you'll attend with us because we promise you'll have a good time. And we will listen to you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I want to take this time to not only thank Jan but to all the focus facilitators that are going to be working this afternoon.

And, Sue Britton, you're out there from the Department of New York, Terry Lochner also from the Department of New York, and Shelley Riggs who's out there from the Department of Ohio.

And, Flora Jean, I know I heard you, but I can't see you.

Flora Jean Craig is from the Department of North Carolina and, of course, Ms. Andres who's going to be the lead facilitator.

A lot of work has gone into this and so I do appreciate you considering attending one of those sessions.

Thank you so much, Jan.

And thank you, Dubbie, also for helping with the project.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I believe we have one more very critical announcement.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

I just want to echo one reminder that on these focus groups, these focus sessions, listening sessions, those who have been in leadership roles or are in national leadership roles are going to be in a separate group. And that really is by design because we really want to hear from our grass-roots members and we do hope that you participate and listened carefully to what Jan had to say.

I believe this is the final announcement, Madam President. A reminder that installation rehearsal immediately follows the close of this meeting and is in this room.

Madam President, I do believe that for the moment that's all the announcements I have.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

Thank you to all our National Chairmen who presented this morning, to all The American Legion Family who were our guests, and the additional partners of our organizations presenting their programs.

And isn't this great? This concludes the opening session of the Convention of 2010. Thank you for participating.

(Whereupon, at 12:07 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

PROCEEDINGS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2010, 8:15 A.M. TO 10:36 A.M.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Buenos dias.

VOICES: Buenos dias.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The 90th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will come to order.

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Will our National Chaplain, Beverly Wolff, please come forward to lead us in our invocation.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Let us bow our heads and hearts in prayer.

Good morning heavenly Father, thank you for bringing us together again. Prepare us for the day ahead. Be with us as we conduct the business of this session. Guide our hearts and minds as we work together for you and the good of the Auxiliary.

Dear God, we will give to others as you give to us, we will bless as we are blessed, knowing whatever we give now we will have forever.

We pray for our troops, protect them, give them hope and faith and surround them with your never ending love, for God and country we have compassionate hearts. In his name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Please be seated.

The next business this morning is the nomination of National Officers for the 2010-2011 administrative year. Representatives making the nominations as well as the candidates are to be seated on the stage.

Dubbie Buckler, National Secretary, will read the rules governing the nominations.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

Rule number 14, nomination of candidates for Division National Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 28th, 2010.

Rule 15, nomination of candidates for the Office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Tuesday, August 31st, 2010.

Rule number 16, nomination of National Officers shall be made from the floor.

Rule number 17, nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate, except the National President candidates. National President candidates will be allowed four minutes, and there will be no seconding speeches.

After nominating speeches for the National Officers on Tuesday, August 31st, 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 NAVARRETÉ: Nominations are now in order for the Office of

National President. The National Secretary will call the Departments with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, the Department of Texas has an announced candidate for the us office of National President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Texas for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. KUNDERT: Madam president, Barbara Kundert, Department of the Texas. Will the Chair recognize the Delegate from Texas for the purpose of nomination?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Texas for the purpose of making a nomination.

VOICE: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

VOICE: Madam National President Rita, Officers, Delegates, alternates, and guests of this 90th Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, it is with great pride and pleasure that I present to you on behalf of the Department of Texas, Carlene Ashworth, the endorsed candidate from the Department of Texas for the Office of National President 2010-2011.

Carlene's eligibility for the Auxiliary is through her late husband, Ray Hall. Carlene also has eligibility through her deceased husband, Richard Ashworth; her father, Harold Morgan; son, Kerry Hall; and granddaughter Katie Hall.

Carlene is a charter member of Unit 525 in Pasadena, Texas. She has held every office and chaired probably every committee within that year for over the past 44 years.

Carlene has mentored numerous members of 521, as well as others over the State of Texas.

She works on the Unit, District, Department, and National levels bringing a great knowledge of the American Legion Auxiliary and our many programs to the table.

She has always done an outstanding job at whatever position at whatever level she has served. She is very passionate in her endeavors to help all veterans and their families.

Carlene is a perfect example of our motto, Service Not Self, and lives daily for God and country.

Carlene is a charter member of Lakewood Church in Houston serving as a prayer partner and a facilitator in the women's ministry.

Carlene's professional life has been in the accounting financial field. She recently retired from Dooley Tackaberry as an accounts receivable administrator.

Carlene has also been a Mary Kay consultant since the mid '60s. And yes, I guess the secret is out, now we know why Carlene is totally wrinkle free.

(Laughter.)

VOICE: Carlene has a very large clientele of Mary Kay customers.

Carlene has one brother and three sisters, the mother of two sons, Stewart and Kerry, granddaughter of four, Katie, Emily, Sierra, and Caleb, and these grandchildren are the true joy in Carlene's heart.

Carlene's family are all members of The American Legion Family and have supported her throughout the many years in her Auxiliary endeavors.

Carlene has all the attributes of a leader. Enthusiasm, dedication, commitment, integrity, and knowledge. Carlene will lead this organization with enthusiasm, a positive

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attitude, her steadfast belief in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Carlene will meet the challenges ahead with dedication and total commitment. She will guard the integrity and the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

She realizes with this fast changing world, especially the continually expanding technology, that the American Legion Auxiliary must stay abreast of these changes to keep moving this organization forward.

Here are a few words from a very dear friend many of you know, Mary Leighty. She could not be here with us today. Mary says, "My friend Carlene loves the American Legion Auxiliary possibly more than anyone I have ever known. Her mission in life has been, and will continue to be, how she can serve our veterans. Being a born leader she will dedicate her best efforts in the coming year to leading the Auxiliary to record heights both in membership and in its programs."

Madam President, Delegates, and guests of this convention, on behalf of the Department of Texas I am proud, honored, and totally confident in nominating Carlene Ashworth for the Office of National President of the American Legion Auxiliary for the term 2010-2011.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Carlene Ashworth is nominated, are there any further nominations for the Office of National President?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Hearing none nominations for National President are closed.

Nominations are in order for the Office of Vice President. The National Secretary will call the Departments with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That's all right, I know this.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, the Department of Minnesota has an announced candidate.

MS. BIBLE: Madam President, Marsha Bible, Department of Minnesota. I hereby request permission for the Delegate from the Department of Minnesota to approach the podium for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Minnesota for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. SWENSON: Good morning, Madam President Rita.

Hello, I'm Sarah Swenson from Unit 255 in Brainerd, Minnesota, and I'm proud to place a nomination on behalf of the Department of Minnesota, my mom, Kris Nelson, for the position of National Vice President.

As far back as I can remember my mom always used the quote from Winston Churchill, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." My brother Troy and I always rolled our eyes at her and thought, Whatever, Mom.

(Laughter.)

MS. SWENSON: But as I look back over the years, that quote really does ring true.

Our family has always been a family that spent time together volunteering, and the organization that got the majority of our time was The American Legion Family.

When Troy and I were in grade school, we earned our allowance by helping my parents set tables up on Saturday mornings at the Legion.

Every year on Veterans Day my mom would bring me with her to the nursing homes and visit the veteran and give them thank-you cards. Those nursing home visits helped me learn to interact with the elderly and played a huge role in picking my role as an audiologist.

In whatever capacity my parents were volunteering, we did it as a family.

In 1987 my mom was the president -- the unit president and her project with the post commander was to start a community Halloween party. This party gave all the children in the community a fun place to trick or treat. For 15 years our friends and family volunteered to host this party where over 800 children attended annually.

In 1995 the Unit presented my mom with an honorary life membership for her dedication to the children in our local community.

In 1992 my mom served as the Sixth District President in her joint project with the commander, was paying for a shelter at the Legionville School Patrol Camp. This lakeside shelter is still in use for classes, meetings, and receptions.

Mom and I were very active in the Junior Auxiliary and I remember challenging her that I would succeed in being the Department Junior President before she was Department Senior President. That challenge I did win.

(Laughter.)

MS. SWENSON: A new generation of our family is now active in the Junior Auxiliary. My niece, Myah, worked with Grandma Kris this past year earning five of our Junior patches.

In 2001 my mom served as Department President for Minnesota and her tagline was, "Young and old serving together." She did a great job with United and The American Legion Family and getting people of all ages to work together.

Her project that year was to solicit funds for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and for the Minnesota Legion Family Hospital Association.

As a family many of our vacations were planned around District, Department, and National conventions. Some of those National conventions also served as vacation spots for myself; Hawaii had to be my favorite.

(Laughter.)

MS. SWENSON: One of my favorite volunteer memories was being able to attend Girls Nation with my mom when she served as the National chairman. What an honor it was to be a part of that great program. It's a week that she and I will never forget.

Not only do my parents volunteer with The American Legion Family, they also give their time to project Haiti, the local United Way, Kids Vote, the city of Brainerd Memorial Committee, and St. Andrews Catholic Church.

Our family is so proud of my mother and have loved watching her work with the American Legion Auxiliary. So I want to leave her with a quote for follow over the next few years. "Do not follow where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

I am very proud to place the nomination for the National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, my mother, Kris Nelson.

(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Kris Nelson is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Vice President?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Hearing none, nominations for National Vice President are closed.

Nominations are now in order for the Office of National Chaplain. The National Secretary will call the Departments with the announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, the Department of Alabama has an announced candidate.

MS. HARRISON: Madam President, Mary Harrison, Department of Alabama.

We have a candidate for National Chaplain, Vickie Thrower for 2010-2011.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Alabama for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. HARRISON: Please recognize the Delegate on stage for the purpose of the nomination.

VOICE: Words cannot express the honor that has been bestowed upon me to nominate our candidate from Alabama. She truly represents The American Legion Family.

Her father served as Department Commander, her mother served as Department President, her brother was Alabama's Second Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander. Her oldest son served as Alabama Youngest Detachment Commander at the age of 16. Her younger son is now serving as Detachment Chaplain.

This is her 28th National convention. Our candidate has served and chaired numerous Unit, District, and Department committees. She has served on several National committees as well. She has held every office in the Unit, District, and Department level serving as Department President in 1997-98. She is a member of Buford D. Byrom Unit 176 Huntsville.

She is a member of Sweet Home Baptist Church where she has served as Sunday schoolteacher and a teacher for preschool through second grade.

She is employed by Larry Blumberg Hospitality as a city director of hotels.

It is with great pleasure that the Department of Alabama nominates for the Office of National Chaplain 2010-2011, Vickie Rutherford Thrower.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Vickie Thrower is nominated. Are there any further nominations no the Office of Chaplain?

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Yes, Madam President, the Department of Nebraska has an announced candidate.

MS. ULRICH: Madam secretary, Carol Ulrich, Department of Nebraska.

Would the Chair please recognize the Delegate from Department of Nebraska for the purpose of nomination for the Office of National Chaplain 2010-2011?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Nebraska for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. VAN KIRK: Madam President, Officers, Delegates, alternates, and guests.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Nebraska have unanimously endorsed Donna Gana as our candidate for the Office of National Chaplain to serve during the 2010-2011 administrative year.

Donna is eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the

service of her late husband Gerald in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict.

She has been a life member of Unit 105, Department of Nebraska for 45 years.

Our candidate has chaired most committees on Unit, County, and District level.

Donna was a Girls State Senior Counselor for six years, and Girls State Store Chairman for the past eight years.

Her Department chairmanships include Cavalcade of Memories, National Security, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Advisory, Past Presidents Parley, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Poppy, and Membership.

Donna served as Department Historian and was Chaplain for three years prior to becoming Department Vice President.

In 2001-2002 Donna was elected to the high Office of Department President.

On a National level she has served on the Poppy, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Legislative and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committees.

Donna served as National Executive Committeewoman on the 2002-2003 year.

Her many accomplishments include receiving the Department Unit Northwest Division and National Poppy Award in 1995-96.

Donna received the Northwest Division VA&R Volunteer Recruitment and Service Award for 2008-2009.

She presented honor award medallions in 2009 to honor 47 students from the North School for their courage following their involvement in a truck/bus accident.

She's been actively involved in Lancaster Salon 92 and Departmental 8 and 40 for many years progressing to Department Chapeau in 2004-2005 and Puvaire in 2005-2006.

Donna has five children, 11 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

She is an active member of First Reformed Church, volunteers in her community, church, and school.

Donna continues to chair the Soldiers Ministry to fill and send boxes overseas to the service men and women.

I am deeply honored to represent the members of the Department of Nebraska in nominating Donna Gana for the Office of National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Donna Gana is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Chaplain?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: 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, the Department of Ohio has an announced candidate.

MS. THATCHER: Madam President, Martha Lee Thatcher, Delegate from the Department of Ohio.

I ask that the Chair recognize the Ohio Delegate seated on stage for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Ohio for the purpose of making the nomination.

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MS. JUNGE: Madam National President, Officers, Delegates, and alternates, and guests, it's with confidence in her ability and her devotion to the American Legion Auxiliary that I, on behalf of the Department of Ohio, nominate Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch for the Office of National Historian for the 2010-2011 administrative year.

Gwenda is an 18-year member of Freedom Unit 183 of Pemberville, Ohio, a Past District President, Past Department President in 2003-2004, and represented Ohio on the National Executive Committee the following year.

Her National appointments include Center Division Americanism Chairman, Center Division Junior Activities Chairman, the National Membership Committee, and three years as a member of the National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee.

While serving as Department Historian, Gwenda not only brought back to Ohio the Central Division Historian Award, but also the National Historian Award.

Gwenda believes we can write a history year after year, but it takes some changes to really make history.

Gwenda's wonderful family consists of husband, Richard, who is currently serving as the National Executive Committeeman for the Department of Ohio, two married sons, and six amazing grandchildren who frequently travel with her, and all are members of the American Legion Auxiliary. American Legion Family I should have said.

Gwenda recently retired from the nursing profession and now enjoys traveling with husband Richard, and together they operate a concession stand fondly referred to as Mr. Melon, because they specialize in frozen fruit drinks and other fruit products.

The members of Ohio are confident that Gwen's knowledge, leadership, and dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary make her an excellent candidate for the Office of National Historian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Historian?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Hearing none nominations for National Historian are closed.

With these nominations and the nominations made during the division caucuses on Saturday, August 28th, 2010, nominations for the 2010-2011 National Officers are completed.

Rule 18 of the convention provides that the nominees for the Office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, 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 Texas please introduce the candidate for National President.

VOICE: It is certainly my pleasure and pride that I introduce and present to you Carlene Ashworth, candidate for president 2010-2011.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Pat, for that beautiful

nomination.

I pledge to all of you that I will continue to serve you and the American Legion Auxiliary just as I have for the past 45 years.

I am a grassroots member just as you all are, and when I go home this next week I'm going to be attending my Unit meeting.

I understand about many of your concerns about our membership and our programs and working our programs out in the communities, and I can promise you that I will work by your side, as together we will continue to make this organization better and letter every year.

Thank you for your support.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Will the representative from Minnesota present the candidate for National Vice President.

MS. SWENSON: On behalf of the Department of Minnesota, I'm proud to place a nomination for the position of National Vice President, my mom, Kris Nelson.

(Applause.)

MS. NELSON: Thank you.

I'd like to thank Sarah for writing my endorsement and taking the week off work to be here. She promised she wasn't going to make me cry, well that didn't work.

I'd also like to thank my husband, Terry, and both of our children, Troy and Sarah, and their families for their continual support and encouragement.

A special thanks to the Department of Minnesota and my Unit 255.

I ask for your support in electing me your Vice President. I pledge if elected I will embrace the mission of the Auxiliary and the value of Service Not Self. Mark Twain once stated, "Synergy is the bonus that is achieved when things work together harmoniously."

I pledge to each of you that if elected I will embrace the synergy of all of you as we harmoniously serve under the leadership of Carlene Ashworth through The Power of One.

Thank you very much for your consideration. God bless each of you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Will the representative from Alabama present the candidate for National Chaplain.

VOICE: It is with great pleasure, honor, and love that I present from the Department of Alabama our candidate for National Chaplain, Vickie Rutherford Thrower.

(Applause.)

MS. RUTHERFORD THROWER: Good morning, Madam National President, National Officers, Past National President, Delegates, alternates, and guests.

It is an honor to be a candidate as your National Chaplain. I'm very happy to have been nominated by my Department the great State of Alabama.

I would be very proud to serve as your inspirational leader for our National organization.

By now many of you have read my credentials and heard my nomination, and I hope that you will consider me when you cast your vote today.

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My dedication and love for the American Legion Auxiliary, God, and country speaks for itself, and if it is God's will then thine be done.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Will the representative from Nebraska present the candidate for National Chaplain.

MS. VAN KIRK: I'm very pleased to present to you Nebraska's candidate for National Chaplain and my good friend. I better tell you it's Donna Gana.

(Laughter.)

MS. GANA: Thank you, Carol for that great nomination for the National Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I stand before you with great humility asking your consideration for me when you vote tomorrow. I feel God has something special in mind because he's been beside me in some crucial times in the last year.

Psalms 136:1 tells us, "Oh, give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His mercy endures forever."

I've been honored to be able to do several other things that weren't mentioned. The Creative Arts Festival is a wonderful thing to go to, and I spent a week with President Rita several years back, and I was able to do a spearhead with the gift shop at one of our places where they did not have anyone, and so it's just been great to be with the Auxiliary.

I promise to do my best, and just thank everybody for being here, and may God bless.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Will the representative from Ohio present the candidate for National Historian.

MS. JUNGE: It's a special privilege for me to present Ohio's candidate for National Historian, my good friend Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch.

(Applause.)

MS. SCHROEDER-ZULCH: Madam National President Rita, Delegates, alternates, guests, and The American Legion Family, first of all my sincere thanks to the Department of Ohio for your support in my endeavor to become National Historian for 2010-2011, and also my sincere thanks and gratitude to Past Honorary National President and a dear friend, Miriam Junge for my nomination speech.

If I am elected I will certainly do my best to write an accurate and interesting history for this 2010-2011 year while compiling the many events associated with history, But I cannot do this alone, it will take all of you to make history happen.

History is change and change is history, and as we preserve the memories and the history of this organization we also continue to be one, The American Legion Family.

May God bless each and every one of you and may God bless America. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: This concludes the nomination for the 2010-2011 National Officers.

Once again, I want to recognize Chris Dickey, the National Convention Parliamentarian and introduce Barbara Kranig, the American Legion Auxiliary's

Parliamentarian.

Thank you both for all your dedication and hard work to prepare all of us for this convention.

To start today's reports is Elsie Bailey-Comer, Past Presidents Parley Chairman.

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN BAILEY-COMER: Good morning Madam President.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BAILEY-COMER: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Madam National President, it is with pride that I report the many splendid activities generated by Past Presidents of the American Legion Auxiliary across the nation.

Not only was a lot of work performed that enhanced our organization, but our dedicated members also supplied thousands of dollars in scholarships to our kids, the future leaders of our country.

I ask each of you attending this 90th Convention to read the report as printed in the annual book of reports and to share that information with all members in your home Departments.

One goal of this program was to honor special Unit members who have gone above and beyond our expectations for the betterment of our organization but who have not served in office higher than Unit President.

In the Auxiliary we know that the way great things are accomplished is by one person at a time completing one task at a time, so every year it is our privilege to honor some of our amazing members who are doing exactly that. We call them our Unit Member of the Year and recognize them for their dedication and commitment to the Auxiliary's mission.

This year for the first time we will share a PowerPoint presentation at the Woman of the Year luncheon following each of these stellar members. It is our way of saying thank you to them and inspiring you.

And so even more people can learn about these members making a difference, their stories are featured in the new National Headquarters website. You want to be sure to check that out.

Another segment of this program is to honor our military service personal for their service to America and their many sacrifices in an effort to maintain our freedom.

Here to present our honorees is Phyllis Bachman, member of the National Past Presidents Parley Committee and Past National President. Phyllis.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Thank you, Elsie.

Three women are being recognized with the American Legion Auxiliary's salute to active duty service women this morning, and it is a pleasure to make the following introductions.

The U.S. Army recipient came from a long line of patriots dating back to a great grandfather who served as a spy for General George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

Mauhee Wells-Edmonson first entered the field of nursing, but midway through her career she was drawn to offer these skills in service to the military and country.

She took pride in the care and attention that she offered sick and wounded

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soldiers, and before long her high standards earned her the promotion to the rank of lieutenant. She then began teaching thousands of army medical personnel.

Mauhee later served as nursing supervisor in a general hospital, training officer in a combat support hospital, and medical team evaluator for training and exercise divisions.

She was also instrumental in rewriting the Department of Defense Medical Policy.

Now a grandmother herself she still serves. Mauhee states, quote, "Some people in the Army said they needed a seasoned nurse to stay and teach new nurses. They said they needed someone who could help wounded warriors. They said they needed me." End quote.

Please welcome a woman who has demonstrated pride and patriotism and pride and service, Colonel Mauhee Wells-Edmonson, U.S.A. Medic, Fort Knox.

(Applause.)

COLONEL WELLS-EDMONSON: Good morning everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

COLONEL WELLS-EDMONSON: It is truly an honor to be here. No matter where I go in the world I never forget where I came from, I think that's so very, very true. My father was in World War II and he was in the Korean war and he instilled in us at an early age we owe what we earn in life or what comes or way in life we owe back to our country.

Harden Post 113 in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, is my grassroots Department of Kentucky.

(Applause.)

COLONEL WELLS-EDMONSON: And many, many, fine, fine individuals across the nation.

Two things in life I think I remember that will take me farther than where I have been or no matter where I go where I have already been. I will share a story with you.

In my last assignment I was a chief nurse for the Army Reserve worldwide, and every opportunity I got I visited wounded warriors. I had already survived the attack on the pentagon on 9/11, so God had a plan for me that was just not my day to die, because I worked in corridor 2 and the plane hit in corridor 3.

And so one of the Marines when I visited the burn unit down in Texas, I got down on my knees and I always looked them eye to eye and I never squeezed their hand any tighter because they needed to squeeze mine so I would not hurt them, and this young man was all wrapped up, and I said, "Marine, can you tell me what happened to you? Is there anything I can do for you?" And he said, "Well, ma'am, I was driving this tank load and it was full of gas," and he said, "The next thing I know we blew up and that's the last thing I remember till I ended up here." And he was burned rather severely, and I'm sure his life would never be the same. But I said, "Is there anything we can do for you? Are they taking good care of you?" And he said, "Ma'am, my commandant is going to come and give me a Purple Heart tomorrow. Do you think I could get a haircut?"

(Laughter.)

COLONEL WELLS-EDMONSON: If I had it in my power to take those wrappings off of his head I most certainly would have. I've seen that he got a haircut.

But I thank the National Women's Auxiliary, all of the Departments, and all of

the sections that make this up for this great honor, and it's my privilege to serve our great nation.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary family I'd like to present to you a pocket flag, and it reflects a prayer that is truly, truly from the heart and souls of the many individuals who have folded these flags.

This particular one is folded by members of my Unit back home. May you carry it as you defend our country.

Also celebrating 90 years of service, service not self, is our anniversary coin and I'd like you to have that also.

COLONEL WELLS-EDMONSON: Thank you so have much.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. We'll see you just a bit later.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Our special presentation this morning bears the American Legion Auxiliary emblem at the top and it states, "Salute to an active-duty servicewoman, or woman veteran, thank you. Petty Chief Officer, Michelle-Ann Christi Hastings, U.S. Navy for your honorable -- oh, the wrong one.

COLONEL WELLS-EDMONSON: I'm fond of the Navy as well.

(Laughter.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: The Navy keeps us afloat, right?

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Salute to active-duty servicewoman, thank you, Colonel Mauhee Edmonson, U.S. Army –

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: -- for your honorable military service in the war on terrorism on behalf of a grateful nation, presented August 31st, 2010, by the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: The U.S. Navy recipient of the American Legion Auxiliary's salute to active-duty servicewomen entered the military service after attending community college for three semesters.

Michelle-Ann Christi Hastings, a longtime volunteer and mentor with the United Way and area youth saw the Navy as an opportunity to continue that service in a new capacity.

Michelle-Ann broke the glass ceiling in this branch of the service, becoming the first female to graduate electronic technician Sea School with the amphibious air traffic control technician NEC, and later became the first woman to be qualified combat systems officer of the watch while assigned to the U.S. (indiscernible) LHD, the most junior sailor to achieve this qualification.

Many additional qualifications, promotions, responsibilities, and decorations followed, including junior sailor of the year, but when asked of what she is most proud she replies, quote, "It would have been the sailors that I lead and mentored. It would be the teenage boys and girls that I have turned into men and women. Today's sailors." And she adds, "I didn't set out to change the world, but I have changed the world through my sailors. It is my proudest moment to see them succeed." End quote.

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I regret that Officer Michelle-Ann is unable to join us this morning, but her salute and honors will be forwarded through her Unit.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Our final recipient this morning is a proud member of the U.S. Air Force.

Heather Alexander never considered herself a trendsetter or a trailblazer, but looking back over her 18 years in the military to date, she takes personal pride in her contributions.

In 1992 when she first went on active-duty, women were just beginning to fly fighter aircraft. Heather was at a prime location to support this effort. She served as a tester and test subject for much of the life support equipment that these women would be using. Heather found that working as a test subject on the centrifuge, where she was routinely exposed to the effects of nine times the force of gravity, particularly gratifying. And during one study was the first woman to complete 12 Gs, or 12 times the force of gravity for 15 seconds.

Heather also served as an instructor and takes personal satisfaction in the belief that at least one or two pilots are alive today as a result of the lessons that she and fellow instructors presented.

For the past several years, her duties have involved safety and service on flight accidents investigations boards, an assignment she finds both challenging and rewarding.

Counting herself among the ranks of her fellow Air Force patriots is Heather's greatest source of pride, and she feels that there is no better reward than being stopped in the community and thanked for her service.

Please show an American Legion Auxiliary welcome to Lieutenant Colonel Heather Alexander, Air Force Central Command Shaw Air Force Base.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: Thank you. This is a very distinct honor for me.

I heard the welcome you gave the Army, and I'm sorry, you got to be better than this, this is the Air Force we're talking about here.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: Thank you. Thank you very much.

There are a couple people I would very much like to thank. Much like all of you I come from very, very small town America, and this is a very distinct honor to the post. I'm a member of the Auxiliary and a member of the Legion, so for our post back home this is a very distinct honor for us. Thank you very, very much.

In particular Char Rigley (phonetic) who can't be here today, she's from Penn Yan, New York, and I believe Nancy Kurk in the audience today, she's from New York. And Nancy, I'm pretty sure that we're just going to say a year or two ago maybe when I was in your Brownie Scout troop I don't think either of us thought we'd be here today.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: I would also like to thank all of you who are so actively involved in Girls State. I had the opportunity to participate in that from New York and it was an eye opener, very much.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: Again, little girl from small town Middlesex, New York, went wow, there's a lot of really smart people out there I better step up my A game, and you instill a lot of confidence by what you do.

And on behalf of some amazing women that I'm here representing, this is not in any way a direct reflection of my career, it's a reflection on the career of the amazing women in all the services, but in particular three women, Jen, Jackie, and Jennifer, and then there was me, we shared a tent for six months together deployed. And I'll tell you, if four women in those tight quarters can get along for that long without killing each other, we've got some hope for this country.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: Darn right. And on behalf of my best friend who's starting her six-month tour, she's deployed right now, and she sends her thank-you for what you do for all of us. For all the active-duty men and women what you do on a daily basis is greatly appreciated whether we get the opportunity to say thank you or not.

And finally I would like to say thank you to my parents, Bert and Donna Alexander, my mother is actually here today, an Auxiliary member, so I am thrilled that she can join us today.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: And my dad, let's just say my dad says he'd really like to be here, but being in a room with this many powerful, dedicated women he thought maybe he'd stay home and mow the lawn, it's a little too scary.

(Laughter.)

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: So again, thank you for what you do on our behalf, it does not go unrecognized, it does not go unnoticed. And this is a very distinct honor for me and I thank you. Thank you very, very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I would like to present to you a pocket flag for you to carry with you wherever you travel and continue to protect the freedom that we so enjoy.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER: That will be going to Afghanistan in October, ma'am.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And may you return with that pocket flag. And also –

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And also the anniversary coin, we're celebrating 90 years of service, our motto, Service Not Self, reflects The American Legion Family, and we'd also like for you to have this special coin.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Salute to active-duty servicewomen, thank you Lieutenant Colonel Heather Alexander, United States Air Force, for your honorable military service on the war of terrorism on behalf of a grateful nation, presented August 31st, 2010 by the American Legion Auxiliary. It gives me pride to present this.

(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any Resolutions or recommendations? Oh, you have something else? That's okay, go ahead. You go right ahead.

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Okay, thank you. I just wanted to congratulate the following units for their participation in this part of the program. Harden Unit 113 Department of Kentucky, we thank you so much.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Clifford A. Hackney Unit 149 Department of Idaho. I don't know where you are. I can hear you, thank you. And Johnson Costello Unit 355 Department of New York.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Great job in making these nominations. Madam National President, this includes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any recommendations or resolutions?

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: We have no resolutions, but we do have a recommendation.

The Past Presidents Parley is not considered a reporting program; it is, however, an activity rather than a program, so it does not require reporting.

A formal accounting of the number of veterans assisted, the monies spent to assist those veterans, and the money distributed through scholarships is not known because annual reports are not required.

Since we report this information to The American Legion and to the government and it is vital to our existence as a veterans volunteer service organization it is recommended that annual reports containing facts pertaining to these topics be required.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is there any objection to this recommendation?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The recommendation will be taken under consideration hearing that there are no objections.

COMMITTEEMEMBER BACHMAN: Thank you Madam President, this concludes my report.

Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Educate, motivate, mentor, guide, teach, and form all encompass what a leader does to develop and prepare members for maintaining healthy growth and success at all levels.

Sharon Conatser, National Leadership Chairman, will now present the National Leadership program report.

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Madam National President, reconnect and energize was embraced by 1,655 units in 37 Departments, officer training was shared in 930 units, and 2,752 units taught members about our programs. At least three mini courses were held, and 189 units throughout the year.

A leader must have a we can do it attitude optimism. In order to encourage our Unit members, veteran, our eligibility served with a can do attitude and pride and so should we.

In the Department of California they were quick out of the box at National convention and helped three Department workshops. In Bakersfield there were 100 plus

attendees with over 20 first timers who were like sponges. In Rio Linda they had 77 attendees and 31 first timers, and in Orange County they had over 100 attendees and about 20 first timers.

They covered a lot of area in the state in just about one month and the information was flowing. They were definitely pushing communication from the top down and from the bottom up, as well as encourages more youths of the internet.

When they heard how much you could save in postage alone and get information immediately instead of waiting a week or so for bulk mailing of news letters or a few days for snail mail notices, they seemed to perk up. Their juniors held a leadership workshop on November the 1st.

The Department of Wisconsin presented seven workshops throughout the state. These workshops were attended by Auxiliary members, juniors, Legion members, and Sons of the American Legion members; The American Legion Family working together.

The Chairman took on the monumental task of revising the leadership book to include internet information and a PowerPoint presentation.

Realizing that all Unit members are not able to attend a workshop she created a topic of the month so that all units receive some information on a continuing basis.

The Department of Mississippi developed a Bee sheet. This is a quick to do list for 2009-2010 Auxiliary programs. They listed each program, and under each program they had two activities that can be done by the units to promote our programs.

They also developed a try this sheet that provided two ideas for each program of activities for the units to try during the year.

These are just a few of the success stories shared in the reports I received. Hats off to our members that continue to help cultivate leaders of our organization.

Several of our Departments put together leadership materials entitled A, B, C. Auxiliary Basic Concepts. Our Unit members need to understand the basics to become better leaders. We hope that in your Department you are sharing and contributing to the success of new leaders in trying new ideas to promote our organization. This is called change, and everyone needs to buy in and be part of it in order for our organization to grow.

I hope that each of you will attend or give a leadership course in your Department, we all learn from each other. Will you contribute in your Department? Reconnecting through leadership is vital to our success. Be part of the success in your Unit and reconnect with your members to build a bridge to the future of our organization.

And I know that you've all heard this before but I think we can always use a reminder, the six most important words, "I admit I made a mistake." The five most important words, "You did a good job." The four most important words, "What is your opinion?" The three most important words, "If you please" Two most important words, "Thank you." And the one most important word, "We." And the least important word is, "I." And that is my author unknown. There's a lot of good stuff by him.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Success requires the vision to see, the faith to believe, and the courage to do.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

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CHAIRMAN CONATSER: No, Madam President, there are not.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Now we turn attention to a report on a major initiative of the American Legion Auxiliary that began last year.

The American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project. Through this project the Auxiliary has strengthened our capacity at all levels of the organization to provide voluntary service to veterans, to military servicemembers and their families in need.

The project receives support from the federal corporation for National and community service with funds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

You may recall that we launched the Call to Service Corps VISTA Project at last year's convention.

Let's take a moment to look back at that celebration.

(Video played.)

PRESIDENT STOY: Today the American Legion Auxiliary is pleased to official launch a bold new undertaking, the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project.

VOICE: 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.

VOICE: 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. My hearty and heart felt 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.

VOICE: I am an AmeriCorps member.

VOICES: I am an AmeriCorps member.

VOICE: And I will get things done.

VOICES: And I will get things done.

(Video Ends.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Get things done indeed.

I have asked Bob Reeg and others to speak about this projects accomplishments.

Bob is the American Legion Auxiliary's Director of Government Relations and the Call to Service Corps Project Director in Washington, D.C. Bob.

(Applause.)

MR. REEG: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. REEG: We have to adjust. Let's see, let me get my clutter in order here.

Thank you, Madam President, and good morning ladies and gentlemen, there's a few gentlemen I hope. It's indeed a pleasure to be able to report to our convention Delegates and guests that the first year of the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA Project has been one with many successes.

Nineteen passionate and talented Americans responded to the Auxiliary's Call to Service just over a year ago today. Most of them ended their service yesterday.

They were attracted to the project by its mission to serve veterans in the

military. They brought with them a range of academic and professional experiences that enhanced our own strengths. They possessed a desire to make their mark on the Auxiliary for the long term.

Six of our VISTA members were veterans, another 12 were relatives of veterans or military servicemembers, and 6 were Legion family members.

To give you a sense of the individuals who served the Auxiliary this year as Call to Service Corps members, President Rita invited Mike Rohan to address convention.

Mike is a 32-year member of the Legion and he is our AmeriCorps VISTA member serving the Auxiliary Department of Wisconsin. Mike, come on out.

(Applause.)

MR. ROHAN: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. ROHAN: I was motivated to enlist as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer because the Auxiliary's project would be serving veterans, military servicemembers and their families in or near poverty.

Like some of you I understood absolute poverty. You see growing up with seven brothers and one sister in a small two bedroom house in Kentucky didn't make us the poorest people in town, but we understood our place. You know my dad can make a 10 cent can of evaporated milk, a lot of water, and a 29 cent bag of puffed rice feed eight kids breakfast before school. Even today I enjoy a plain ole Ketchup sandwich.

My first pair of new shoes came from the United States Army at age 17. The Army is also where I realized that people ate three meals a day, every day.

During my year of VISTA service I have completed three major projects in the name of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Recruitment of additional volunteers into the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service was one of the hardest assignments; however, through the hard work of the Wisconsin VA and our Chairman and Auxiliary members throughout the state Wisconsin reported 11 new regularly scheduled volunteers and 43 new occasionally volunteers.

(Applause.)

MR. ROHAN: I wish to personally thank all of you in the audience today who volunteer through VAVS. You have given a gift to our wounded soldiers and sick veterans that can never be repaid.

As a retired disabled Army officer I know all too well the value of that smiling face as you wait for an appointment or surgery.

I also work for the Guard and Reserve units in our state during mobilizations and demobilizations. With the help of our National American Legion staff the Wisconsin Auxiliary and Legion produced a video reunion briefing for family members of our returning soldiers. Something that started out as a modest request was soon realized as a lifeline for a military family, as weather played a role in your soldier's return and consequent difficulty in gathering their families for a single location for the reunion briefing.

And finally veteran job fairs. We have scheduled 20 events from Superior to right here in Milwaukee. So far we have completed 12 job fairs with 8 still to come. To date we have served over 2,000 veterans with more than 130 veterans receiving job offers and another 300 with future interviews with outstanding companies like Oshkosh Truck and AT&T.

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I'd like to share with you one of the stories from our job fairs.

A young veteran came to the food service area with his wife and asked for a hot dog. He then turned and gave it to his wife who looked to be eight or nine months pregnant. He said the staff out front said only veterans could get served food and he wanted to make sure that she got something to eat. I explained that we serve everyone, and gave him a hot dog of course, and then I asked if he had any prospects for jobs and he said, "Yes, as a matter of fact I think I got a job."

His wife was standing next to him and the look on her face was remarkable. That great news was going to give her the best night sleep she had in those last nine months. That great night sleep came from the American Legion Auxiliary.

Madam President, as you know there are 18 other VISTA volunteers who join me in service to veterans and their families through the Auxiliary's Call to Service Corps VISTA Project, they too have done remarkable things. You can be proud of each and every one of them as they have lived the Auxiliary's motto, Service Not Self.

Thank you for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I will treasure it forever.
Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: When I was making my Department visit to Wisconsin I had the opportunity to witness Mike in action and also hear of his remarks, and so on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary and on behalf of this National President may I give you a small memento of our Service Not Self in our 90th anniversary.

Thank you.

MR. ROHAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Bless you.

MR. ROHAN: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

MR. REEG: We also wish to recognize today the enhanced partnership that the Call to Service Corps Project has generated between National headquarters and our Departments.

To represent the perspective of Departments that participated in the project as field sites, President Rita invited Katie Wainwright, Secretary of the Auxiliary Department of Ohio, to address you this morning.

Katie, please join us.

(Applause.)

MS. WAINWRIGHT: Thank you, Madam President.

When Ohio learned of the opportunity to participant in the Call to Service VISTA Project we jumped at the possibility. Not only to gain additional human resources for the Department, but also to be on the cutting edge of what promised to be a new source of outreach and productivity to our Department and the Auxiliary as a whole.

Nick Linkenhoker came to the Department as a recent graduate of the Ohio State University. He was looking for an opportunity to give back to his community. Having some knowledge of his local American Legion and its involvement in his Boy Scout troop growing up, he was tickled to learn that not only would this organization provide opportunities to work and volunteer for veterans, he would also be working with an organization made solely of women.

Nick would also be one of two men working with almost 50,000 women across is State of Ohio.

Nick was greatly involved with the research and development of the Department's Military Family Assistance Program which will award grants to servicemembers and their families finding themselves in financial hardship.

Our program is modeled after the Department of New York, their VISTA member and Nick traded information along the way. We have a fund raising goal of \$10,000 for the upcoming year.

Nick was instrumental in creating, developing, and maintaining the Department's website. Our website has increased communication flow by 50 percent to current members and initiated correspondence with over 100 new members statewide. Daily we are contacted through our website about programs and how ladies across the state can become involved and sign up for membership.

In fact, Nick's computer skills saved our Department money because he also possessed some advanced computer knowledge preventing us from racking up IT charges. This I personally will miss.

Nick initiated and groomed a working relationship with the National Guard and Reserve Family Readiness Groups across Ohio. This was an untapped resource for our Auxiliary unit seeking to connect with military families and their communities. Currently we have Auxiliary representation attending FRG meetings across the state due to Nick's efforts.

I view the VISTA volunteer's role as that of the future operations chairman.

While in our headquarters Nick devoted time to research possibilities and design outreach initiatives and service projects that normally get bypassed due to higher priorities or administrative needs. The activities Nick undertook this year will set the foundation on which Ohio will continue to build long after his service has ended.

I am confident the other Departments participating in the VISTA Project this year feel much of the same way.

I was pleased to hear that the Auxiliary has an opportunity to continue the Call to Service VISTA Project in the upcoming year as it enhances our capacity and positions us to thrive in the 21st Century.

I encourage your Departments to consider participating in the Call to Service Corps in the upcoming year. I believe your Department will find it very advantageous as did Ohio.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Also on behalf of the National organization and the National President I present to you a memento of your Service Not Self celebrating 90 years.

MS. WAINWRIGHT: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. REEG: I must be the tallest person in the room.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I'm the shortest.

MR. REEG: Yeah, right. We're a good team that way.

So let's now review accomplishments of the American Legion Auxiliary call to

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Service Corps VISTA Project. It's a body of work by our core members that collectively generated new capacity, new programs and services, and new collaborations for the Auxiliary.

Beginning with capacity building one enduring legacy of the project will be that the Auxiliary now has the capacity to recruit prospective volunteers from inquires to our website and other National volunteer opportunity portals and then place them into voluntary service to veterans in the military community.

Call to Service Corps members designed this volunteer placement system in its entirety. Over 250 individuals, most of whom were members of the general public, not Auxiliary members, have been connected into a veteran volunteer opportunity using this new system, and that was when the system was just in a testing phase.

Various participating field sites utilized their Call to Service Corps members to develop or upgrade their web presence.

Members in Florida, New York, Ohio, and Oregon developed or improved their websites or established social media presence through Facebook and Twitter. These communication enhancements allow the Departments to reach new audiences and encourage volunteering.

National Headquarters now has a strategic fundraising plan due to a Call to Service Corps member leading a team effort that included our leadership and executive and management staff.

Call to Service Corps members in Arkansas, California, Florida, New York, Oregon, and Wisconsin raised funds or collected in-kind donations for their organizations and their causes. For example, Florida's Call to Service corps member organized a 5K raise to raise funds for a VA Domiciliary, and New York's call to Service Corps member significantly enhanced operation of their Warrior Assistance Fund which dispersed over \$46,000 to needy servicemembers and their families in the previous year.

And that transitions nicely to the area of new programs and services. Through the Call to Service Corps VISTA project the Auxiliary completed the build out of the Gateway to Services, an online listing of resources and services for veterans, service members, and their families. This brought to fruition one of the planks in the Auxiliary's strategic plan.

And Call the Service Corps members in New Mexico and Ohio built companion gateways listing state specific resources.

We can also give entire credit to our Call to Service corps for developing a new Auxiliary Children & Youth program called ALA KIDDS. Standing for Kids In Danger of Depression and Suicide, ALA KIDDS seeks to raise community awareness of the mental and emotional health challenges facing military children. The project also encourages the development of recreational programs for military families to built resilience and promote family strength.

Michigan, New York, and our Oregon Departments tested the ALA KIDDS program in 1010, the Michigan VISTA member organized 200 school children in Lansing to develop customized picture books to encourage military children and their schools to feel better and more positive.

The New York VISTA member organized the military family fun day in the Big Apple complete with a tour of the warship, the Intrepid, and an authentic Chinese lunch prepared by the Auxiliary's Kim Lau unit.

A significant enhancement to our collective ability to deliver programs and services will come about later this year when over 30 Auxiliary support tools developed by corps members will be posted on the Auxiliary's relaunched website with titles ranging from Auxiliary volunteer recruitment guide to how to plan a homeless veteran stand down to how to volunteer with VA voluntary service. These tools respond to an expressed request from Departments and units for additional material to help them carry out the annual plan of action.

The project also generated enhanced collaboration with other national groups with missions and purposes related to our own and with state and local chapters with whom our Departments and units could connect. For example, Oregon's Call to Service Corps member conducted her Department with the state chapter of Operation Home Front to mobilize college student volunteers for a care package drive for overseas troops.

In Arkansas, California, and New Mexico VISTA members put in place collaborations with the state branches of Operation Military Kids.

New York's Call to Service Corps member recruited volunteer behavioral health professionals to join Give An Hour, a program to provide volunteer mental health services to military families.

Finally the Call to Service Corps VISTA project has allowed the Auxiliary to be recognized as a thought leader on the national volunteer service stage. And as an example we were pleased to have presented two sessions on volunteering for veterans at the National Conference on Volunteers and Service. The workshops offered the Auxiliary significant exposure to over 5,000 volunteer management leaders and professionals from across the country and across all service disciplines.

As you can see your Call to Service Corps members accomplished a great deal in a last year. We owe them a debt of gratitude for raising the quantity and quality of the who's, how's, and with what's that the American Legion Auxiliary now has on hand to meet its mission.

Your Call to Service Corps members have made the Auxiliary more effective, more modern, and more visible.

I'm sure that the Auxiliary will bear the fruits of the labor of our inaugural Call to Service Corps members for some time to come.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: If that isn't impressive.

I'm quite satisfied with the first year of Call to Service Corps VISTA Project and I hope you feel the same.

This project -- yes, please do that. It's very well deserved by the team.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: This project has equipped us more than ever to be an organization for Service Not Self.

As Bob alluded to earlier, this project would not have been successful were it not for the participation of 11 American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Departments that courageously stepped forward in this joint venture with the National headquarters.

I now invite National Vice President Carlene and representatives from the participating Auxiliary Departments to come to the stage so that we may commend the inaugural field sites and the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps VISTA

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Project.

California and Department representatives will enter from the backstage.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Arkansas.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Connecticut.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Michigan.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of New York.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Oregon.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Department of Washington.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We also commend the American Legion

Department of California for its participation in the project.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: If you have those clappers those would be good.

Carlene, please stay with me as I make announcements of two developments that impact the Auxiliary's upcoming year.

First I'm pleased to announce that earlier this year the Corporation for National Community Service invited the Auxiliary to submit an application to continue to Call to Service Corps VISTA Project. We will be submitting an application in early September.

Earlier this month we extended a invitation to the Auxiliary Departments to consider joining the projects second year should it be approved.

We continue to welcome the expressions of interest in participating from Departments.

Also I am pleased to awe announce that the American Legion Auxiliary has received an award from the corporation to become an AmeriCorps National sponsoring organization.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: AmeriCorps National is the sister program to the AmeriCorps VISTA. With the AmeriCorps National award we are organizing the Call to Service Corps Consortium.

We are acquiring two AmeriCorps national members for the Auxiliary and 13 additional members for assignment to other veteran military and fraternal organizations.

Inaugural members of the Consortium and our National Fraternal Congress of America, the National Military Family Association, Operation Home Front, and Ride 2

Recovery. This -- yes.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: This project launches in October 2010. In the spirit of Service Not Self, the Auxiliary is pleased to have been able to bring these organizations into a relationship with the AmeriCorps National program.

And I know Carlene will be eager to report the outcomes from the Consortium at the convention of 2011.

With that this segment of this presentation is completed, but I need Bob to stay up front with me.

I've heard various individuals come up, and I think you've heard that I'm a story teller, and so I know a few words that are not on the script.

You need to know that when I went up to D.C. the week of November and it was Veterans Day and that also happens to be Tony Richards and I anniversary, 42 years, so guess who I spent my anniversary with?

(Applause.)

MR. REEG: And I got a great tie.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And will you tell them what color that tie was?

Is.

MR. REEG: Lavender.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I also got a set of coasters that say what word?

VOICES: Believe.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: That's right. But what I wanted to as just a small, small expression of truly being part of the family that is for God and country that stands for old glory, the red, white, and blue, and so I know that this is another addition--

MR. REEG: Purple wrapping.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Open it. I want you to open it.

MR. REEG: Oh, okay. That's a great bag too. All right.

(Applause.)

MR. REEG: You may see it at lunchtime.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: He says we may see it at lunchtime.

MR. REEG: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Love you.

MR. REEG: Love you too. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I might say when I asked him that week that I was in D.C. to set me up with appointments from other national organizations he did everything, and everything was filled to my expectations and exceeded more.

I would also like to say a special thank you to each of the Departments who participated in our VISTA Project and to again Bob who played a major role in organizing our VISTA members.

I also have a certificate for you too, Bob.

(Laughter.)

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know, he just ran out, but he has a certificate also.

In the spirit of good citizenship we have a responsibility to help keep this nation safe. The American Legion Auxiliary takes pride in our efforts to promote national security.

The current war continues to guide the organization in the importance of being prepared for any natural disaster or act of terrorism. Are we prepared?

Diane Duscheck, National Security Chairman, will now present her report.

CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK: Madam National President, let's talk a minute about planning parties, just for a minute. Do you use Craigslist in order to help you plan parties sponsored by your Unit? We all know that planning an event takes much more time and energy than actually hosting the event.

All the units in the 16th District in the Department of Florida banded together to plan an Easter party for the children of deployed servicemembers. Unit Presidents were contacted to bring Easter baskets and cookies or snacks, but entertainment was needed too, so the District National Security Chairman placed an add, where else, on Craigslist, asking for volunteer clowns. The response was overwhelming. She ended up with nine clowns, a magician, two face painters, a balloon twister, and a professional photographer.

Through the generosity of units 115 Easter baskets arrived filled with cookies and snacks, soccer balls, footballs, and basketballs, toys, stuffed animals, and Barbie dolls. Forty-three children and their families were entertained for the day. Each child left the party with an Easter basket, a backpack, a bag of goodies, and smiles. The clean up the party was just as rewarding because toys and treats that were left over were donated to All Children's Hospital in St. Vincent DePaul.

Besides taking care of military families here at home the American Legion Auxiliary has supported troops when they deploy and return from active duty.

Banner Unit 109 in North Carolina attended a welcome home party in April. A main function of the Auxiliary was to entertain the kids while families were waiting impatiently for their loved ones to arrive by plane.

The Auxiliary set up their activity table and then meandered through the crowd rounding up some kids. The youngsters put on patriot hats, got tattooed, and made welcome home posters. Once the activities got started the kids just kept on coming. Auxiliary members entertained for almost four hours.

When the plane finally landed the soldiers disembarked and Auxiliary members quietly faded into the background and allowed families some private time for reunions.

Another component of National Security was emergency preparedness, and that preparedness began at home and in our communities.

From one side of the United States to the other members are faced with a variety of disasters. Forest fires, floods and blizzards, earthquakes, tornados and hurricanes, and manmade disasters.

In Florida two units hosted Hurricane Charlie parties complete with food and music and a discussion of the devastation Hurricane Charlie caused to their islands and how to prepare for the next hurricane.

Fire safety and prevention was a perfect topic to go along with 4th of July fire works. Speakers from the Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, emergency medical services, and fire and sheriffs Departments encouraged preparedness for a variety

of needs.

Participates of a mini CERT sessions in New Mexico received space blankets so they could prepare their cars for emergency winter travel.

Wisconsin Junior members incorporated emergency preparedness and fire safety into their spring Department meeting.

And Arizona school children received ready kits from the Ready Kids Program. Several post homes in Arizona are even listed as temporary emergency shelters.

The National Security Program took you anywhere you wanted to go this year. From caring for servicemembers and their families to preparing for natural and manmade disasters, from Craigslist to CERT, to tattoos and hurricane parties.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Does that helmet look familiar to many of you? Diane, thank you for taking the time and completing the CERT training in your community.

Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK: Yes, Madam President, there's one Resolution.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Our National Convention Resolutions Chairman Barbara Kranig will please step forward.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Thank you Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I have been directed that this is the time that I must leave the stage to bring greetings to the American Legion, I ask that the Vice President, Carlene Ashworth, please take the Chair.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam National President, Resolution number one was submitted by the National Security Committee.

The subject is discontinuance of the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness Plaque, and it reads as follows.

“Whereas, the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness CERT Plaque is awarded to the Department having the greatest percentage of Unit participating in civil preparedness;

And whereas, CERTs, Community Emergency Response Team is concerned with emergency management;

And whereas, no Department applied for the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness for the 2008-2009-2010 Auxiliary year.

Now therefore be it resolved by the American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 27 through September 2, 2010, that the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness CERT Plaque be discontinued upon the adoption of this Resolution.”

The National Security Pre-convention Committee recommends that this Resolution not be adopted.

Madam National President, as directed by the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of this Resolution.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of the Resolution that the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness Plaque be discontinued and that this change become effective with the 2010-2011 Auxiliary year.

The Committee recommendation is that the Resolution not be adopted. Is there any discussion?

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(Whereupon, there was no response.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question?

All those in favor of proposed resolution number one please stand. Thank you.

All those opposed please stand. Thank you. Please be seated.

The resolution is not adopted.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you a grassroots veteran advocate? I am, and this is what we've been doing for decades, a new title to catch the ear of so many who believe in laws that benefit our veterans. Our voices do make a difference.

Vickie Koutz, Legislative Chairman, will now present her Legislative Program report to share how we used our voices this year.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: Madam National Vice President Carlene.

Auxiliary members across the nation responded to the call to write letters, send e-mails, and make phone calls to their legislatures this year joining together as a Legion family to promote The American Legion's priorities on veterans issues.

Several chairman shared with members and their Department the legislative names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses and were asked to contact them. Legislative rallies and meetings, town hall meetings, and meet the candidates nights were hosts by several units. Over 20,000 different pieces of communication were sent to the White House, U.S. senators and representatives, and state and local officials with 10,708 replies, a slightly more than 50 percent response rate.

Units stepped up to promote subscribing to *The Dispatch*. One Unit reported giving every senior member a subscription.

After units read and discussed the articles in their meetings they were then placed on bulletin boards in post homes and some were donated to local libraries, schools, and doctor's offices.

With more women joining the military in today's world and women veterans issues being more visible, units stepped up to the plate by sending care packages to those deployed and those on the home front were honored for their service to our country.

Several of the women showed their appreciation by speaking at various events held in post homes. Many were given complimentary membership to their Auxiliary, and in some states the female veterans were political leaders in their own communities.

Units stayed in touch with the military families in their areas and reminded them to get their absentee ballots in early to make sure their votes were counted. Members provided transportation to and from the polls for these families and even offered baby sitting services to guarantee they got out to vote.

One hundred and sixteen unit activities were submitted to the congressional record.

It was truly an amazing year celebrating our 90th anniversary. Helping our veterans is first and foremost for all of us, and our members proved that by being true advocates for veterans issues. All their hard work and dedication paid off as they reconnected with their heritage and strengthened the future for our members.

Madam National Vice President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any Resolutions or

recommendations?

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: No.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

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.

Here with us here today is Mr. Hans Song, director of overseas liaison Department representing the Veterans Affairs commission of the Republic of China. Welcome.

He's not back there so we're going to move on.

Okay. The Constitution & Bylaws are governing documents that should be known by all members at all levels of the organization.

Coral May Grout, National Constitution & Bylaws chairman will give her report.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Madam National Vice President, as the American Legion Auxiliary turned 90 years of age this year the National Constitution & Bylaws Committee moved to encourage units and Departments to understand and use their governing documents at all levels of our organization.

Thirty-seven Departments accepted the challenge and submitted their governance documents to the National Office. This was a whopping 270 percent increase over 2009.

The Department of Mississippi undertook a comprehensive Constitution & Bylaws project this year. They began by first updating their Department governance documents which were last revised in 2001.

Then two ad hoc committees began working on specific items included in governance documents, namely the duties of the Department First and Second Vice Presidents, and another to examine the district caucus procedures in order to make the process more equitable for small and large units.

All 89 units were encouraged to review their own governance documents.

The Committee used area conferences, the Department President's Bee sheet, and Try This informational tools to get the word out. Great job Mississippi.

The Department of North Carolina was active as well. They have a Constitution & Bylaws Committee who oversees and assists units in updating their governance documents every two or three years.

Members of this hard working team participated in a fall conference information fair and passed out materials to help units in their updating. Monetary prizes were awarded to a Division President and a District President for having the most units submit their updated documents to the Department.

Finally the Department of Michigan had a very busy year. A total of 75 units and 4 districts submitted their documents to the Department Chairman for approval.

Our three-member Committee responded to numerous inquires from 18 different Departments this year. Before responding to an inquiry each of the members of our Committee reviewed the question and prepared a response which was then sent back to the questioner.

Several Departments field tested the Constitution & Bylaws PowerPoint presentation which was developed this year, comments were most positive.

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And special thanks to our convention parliamentarian for reviewing the program and suggesting changes to strengthen it.

National headquarters staff is now adding the finishing touches to make it attractive. Departments and units will then have access to it.

Chairmen in Departments, Districts, and units used a variety of tools to encourage participation in Constitution & Bylaws this year. Some of the tools were games, regular bulletins, information posted on websites, presentations at meetings, conferences, and sampling of various documents.

Our Committee's mission for this year was to inform and educate the members of the American Legion Auxiliary on the importance of properly written, reviewed, and updated governance documents.

From the 12 Departments reporting approximately 45 percent of our units participated in this program. Knowledge of how we operate makes the organization run more smoothly.

I encourage each and every one of you to return to your Departments and units and spend some time revamping your governance documents. You'll see a world of difference and be better prepared to face the 90 years forthcoming with great success.

Madam National Vice President this concludes my remarks.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any proposed amendments?

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Yes, madam National Vice President there are three amendments.

It is the responsibility of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to bring all proposed amendments to the floor for 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 the adoption of all amendments so they can be brought to the 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 such technical and editorial changes as may be necessary to assure the accuracy and readability of our governing documents.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: 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?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those in favor say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion is adopted.

Coral, please continue.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Madam Vice President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1, submitted by the Department of Montana. This is amendment number one in your packet.

This proposed amendment strikes the word “wives,” and inserts the word “spouses.”

If amended the section will read, “section 1, membership in the American Legion auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of members of the American Legion and to the mothers, spouses, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of all men and women who were in the armed forces of the United States during any of the following periods, which you already have listed, and other conditions of service, and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-convention Committee recommends that the amendment not be adopted.

On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number one.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of amendment number one to amend the National Constitution, Article 3, Eligibility, Section 1 by striking the word “wives,” and inserting the word, “spouses.”

If this amendment is adopted it will be subject to the approval of the American Legion before it can go into effect.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-convention Committee recommends that the amendment not be adopted.

Is there discussion?

MS. DAMSON: National Vice President, Department of Montana President.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DAMSON: We wish to rescind that motion.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm sorry?

MS. DAMSON: We wish to rescind that amendment.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Is there any objection to them withdrawing their Resolution?

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay, if there is no objection the Resolution has been withdrawn.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Coral, please continue.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Madam National Vice President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committees, Sections 4 and 10 submitted by the Special Committee on Human Resources. This is amendment number two in your packet.

This proposed amendment adds a new Administrative Standing Committee on human resources and national compensation in Section 4 and also adds a new Section 10, providing the composition and the duties of this Committee. The remaining sections shall be renumbered.

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If amended the Sections will read, Article 5, Section 4, 'There shall be the following Administrative Committees, Audit, Human Resources, and National compensation.'

Article 5, Section 10, "The Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall be composed of five members. The National Vice President, a member of the National Finance Committee, and three members having human resource experience appointed by the National President and subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee.

Of the three members first appointed one shall serve a three-year term, one shall serve a two-year term, and one shall serve a one-year term.

One member shall be appointed each year to serve a three-year term.

The National Vice President shall be the Chairman of said Committee.

If necessary, the Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall meet face to face once annually primarily conducting its business via e-mail and conference calls.

The Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall perform annual human resources audit at National headquarters and serve as consultants to the National staff.

The Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall be responsible for fostering the ongoing dedication of American Legion Auxiliary employees providing an independent review of human resource practices, employee compensation, and serving as an ongoing resource to assure the American Legion Auxiliary is known in the Indianapolis, Indiana area as the employer of choice."

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 two.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of amendment number two to amend the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committees, by adding a new Administrative Standing Committee on human resources and national compensation in Section 4, and also by adding a new Section 10, providing the composition and the duties of this Committee. The remaining sections shall be renumbered.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted.

Is there discussion?

The Chairman recognizes the Delegate at two.

MS. BOONE: Thank you, Madam President. Linda Boone, Department of Oregon, Past National President.

I'm opposed to this amendment.

On staff we have a human resource director that has been performing her responsibilities. We have a National Secretary that has the skills and abilities to manage the HR process and ensure the organization is not incurring risk.

We have no incidents of legal action by staff, and our National Secretary has done a thorough review this past year of matching job descriptions and responsibilities with each staff member.

We also have an Audit Committee who is charged with evaluating risks and could take over these duties that were recommended by the HR Committee.

Additionally, our general counsel has advised against this Committee and has told the National Finance Committee on more than one occasion this would be dangerous and put the volunteers at risk of legal action.

The American Legion does not have an HR Committee since those responsibilities are administrative.

Unless the general counsel has changed his opinion then why would we ignore this legal advice?

The American Legion does have a Compensation Committee that only recommends on salaries of officers of the corporation, not staff.

I would not be opposed to this type of Committee.

Thank you, Madam President.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone number one. I can't see the number; there's a head in front of it. Sorry.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: It is number one, thank you Madam President. Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from the Department of Wisconsin.

I speak in favor of the Resolution.

I don't feel that this is a Committee that would be necessarily harmful to the organization. It would be a resource to the National Secretary like the Finance Committee is presently a resource to the national finance/accounting area.

We could use experienced volunteers instead of sometimes using the expensive consultants when we look for salary surveys and/or job descriptions writing, that sort of thing. Sometimes it's been a \$15-20,000 cost for doing those.

This Committee is not to do the administrative work of the organization, but rather to be serving as a resource.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone --

MS. BLALOCK: Ann Blalock, Department of Alabama.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We can't -- I can't hear you real well up here, I don't know if the rest of you can or not. Can you --

MS. BLALOCK: Alabama Delegate, Ann Blalock.

I speak against this Resolution because I feel that we have a competent staff in National Headquarters that can handle this day-to-day operation for human resources. Therefore I speak against it.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone number two.

MS. BRIERE: Robin Briere, Department of Florida.

I remember this coming on the floor last year at convention and there's a little confusion in our delegation, because I'm not sure if this is related to the new IRS regulation that's requiring that an independent group oversee the compensation of employees other than officers and maybe the Finance Committee.

We're not opposed to the Human Resource Committee.

I think speaking on behalf of Department Secretaries, and I think I can do that with confidence, we're looking to see some stability in our National office. We're looking to see some employees longevity so they can learn their job to be able to help us.

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And the only thing that I would ask is if you develop this Committee that you consider putting a Department Secretary on that Committee in an advisory capacity so you can get a truer picture of the performance coming out of the National office, but I don't think the appointees that you're looking at putting on there really see how the National organization is interacting with your Departments. Because right now it's very difficult for us.

And I think having that Committee might be a very beneficial thing, but I'm not sure that the components that you want to make up that Committee is going to truly get the most benefit out of it.

So we're not really opposed to it as long as it can improve the quality of employee and get them to stay longer than six months.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizing the Delegate at that mike.

MS. CLAPP: Department of Iowa, Nichole Clapp.

I'm in favor of this amendment.

Looking at the business practices for an organization it is a way also to assess looking at tools that our National service organization can have at their disposal.

Our National staff work extremely hard, and if there's a way that we can help their load and have a committee that can be comprised of individuals that know how to run human resource areas and help our human resource department at National, hopefully maybe we would be able to address some of the concerns from the Delegate who just spoke prior to myself.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. JUNGE: Miriam Junge, a Past National Secretary, Honorary Past National President from the Department of Ohio.

Madam Vice President, I strongly oppose this amendment.

This amendment is intrusive and takes over the executive's responsibility. The National Secretary is the executive director who provides the continuity between administrations, has responsibility for the day-to-day operations of National Headquarters, and who better than she to evaluate the staff's performance, determine their compensation, and make recommendations for change?

Our organization would be better served if we took our counsel general's advice when he said that having an HR Committee was a liability for the volunteers.

Again, this is why The American Legion does not, nor will they ever have a volunteer-led HR Committee.

We search for and then hire the top candidates for the various staff positions, and then instead of allowing them to fill that role, we the volunteers think our role is to manage the day-to-day operations and it is not. Our role is to set the policy that the staff then implements.

If we hire the correct staff with the skills for the job, then we've done the right thing, then we need to get out of their way and let them manage the operation, and we in turn evaluate their performance.

(Applause.)

MS. JUNGE: As volunteers we have a big responsibility to carry out the programs that support our mission. We do this well because we're on the front line every day in our communities.

Likewise our staff manage the daily operations that support us.

We need to let each side of the organization do their job and work together to support our mission.

I love this organization and I have served many, many years as a volunteer and as your National Secretary, and today I'm asking that we resolve this issue once and for all by defeating this amendment.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizing the Delegate at this mike.

MS. PORTER: Madam president, Terry Porter from Colorado.

I too am in opposition to this amendment.

The intent, it can be really achieved in so many other ways. If we need the assistance and by some volunteers all anybody has to do is pick up the phone and contact them. If there are issues that need to be resolved, we have an NEC that those issues can be taken to and force the hand to have certain things happen.

The language that is presented in this amendment is verbose, it is suggesting attitudes, it is really poorly written, and it really defeats the purpose of being streamlined and being effective as an organization.

I strongly urge the Delegates to defeat this amendment.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognize thing Delegate at microphone two.

MS. DELASHMIT: Diane DeLashmit from the Department of California.

My concern is who the members would be appointed. We have members in 53 Departments, and would not the laws of Indiana be the ones that we need to be concerned with? If we have members from all over the United States are they going to be aware of the laws that are -- for Indiana and the salary ranges and that type of information? I'm not sure how effective that would be. That's my concern.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at the microphone on this side.

MS. DAHL: Cyndi Dahl Department of Oregon, NECwoman.

I am opposed to this amendment. It gives a lot of power to this committee who is appointed by a president. It will change every year. And the continuity of the committee would not be stable.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. STOY: Desi Stoy, Delegate from the Department of Ohio and Past National President.

I stand in support of this amendment to our Constitution to accomplish an HR Committee.

Previous National Presidents -- it's my recollection that this was a

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recommendation from our auditor and that's how we started the process rolling to establish a permanent committee.

So I stand in favor of the Resolution. It is not about the day-to-day management; it's about oversight and having the volunteer perspective at the table to reduce risk and liability.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at this microphone.

MS. KURK: Nancy Kurk, Department President, Department of New York.

I call for the vote.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: I second that.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. It takes a two-thirds vote to end the discussion. All those in favor of ending the discussion please stand.

Opposed -- you may be seated. Opposed please stand.

The discussion has ended. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of amendment number two to amend the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committees, by adding a new Administrative Standing Committee on human resources and National compensation in Section 4, and also by adding a new Section 10 providing the composition and the duties of this Committee. The remaining sections shall be renumbered.

Those in favor please stand. You may be seated. Those opposed please stand. Thank you, please be seated.

The affirmative has it and the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committee has not been -- has been defeated.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Coral, please continue.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Madam National Vice President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents the following proposed amendment to amend the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committees, Section 8, submitted by the National Finance Committee. This is amendment number three in your packet.

This proposed amendment strikes the requirement that the quarterly meetings be held in conjunction with National Auxiliary events and makes a grammatical correction.

If amended the section will read, "Article 5, Section 8, 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 the ratification of the National Executive Committee.

One member shall be appointed each year to serve a five-year term. No appointee having served two or more terms of the Committee shall be eligible for reappointment.

Persons already appointed who have exceeded the limit shall complete their present term.

Five-year terms must be separated by at least two years off the Committee.

The National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be members of said Committee with voice, but without vote.

The Finance Committee shall meet quarterly 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 financial 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 shall provide oversight of the expenditure of funds in the budget and report to the National Executive Committee.

The National Vice President, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children & Youth chairman are invited guests for the purpose of learning and to gain experience.”

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-convention Committee recommends the amendment be adopted.

On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee I move the adoption of amendment number three.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of amendment number three to amend the National Bylaws, Article 5, Committees, Section 8 to require that the meetings be held quarterly and to strike the requirement that they be held in conjunction with National Auxiliary events and to make a grammatical correction.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted.

Is there discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of amendment number three to amend the National bylaws, Article 5, Committees, Section 8 to require meetings be held quarterly and by striking the requirement that the quarterly meetings be held in conjunction with National Auxiliary events and making a grammatical correction.

Those in favor please stand. Thank you, please be seated.

Those opposed please stand.

Thank you.

The National Bylaws, Article 5 Committee, Section 8 is amended.

Thank you, Coral.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Thank you, Madam National Vice President.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Would the National Secretary please read the announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Hello, I have it upon strong opinion from our National Vice President that upon conclusion of these announcements this may be a first for concluding a morning business session.

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(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: But sit back for a while because I have three pages of announcements.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I don't know if you all heard that, but they sang the announcement song up here from Girls State.

Okay. The Department of Illinois has one Delegate attending her 49th National American Legion Auxiliary Convention.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Ramona Hendrick, please stand.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay, she's back there, I see her waving now. Just a quick question. Can anybody top that?

VOICES: Florida can.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Then please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Holler out your name. Sixty-four years. This is her 64th National Convention.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And your name, ma'am? Olga Terrell.

VOICE: We have one better.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Oh, my gosh the challenge is on. This is her 73rd?

VOICE: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Oh, she's been a member for 73 years, okay. Okay.

Well, I just think a round of applause for all of those who have been coming to this National Convention for so many years.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We have a lot of people wanting to have quick meetings, so the 2010-2011 National Security Committee will meet immediately after the luncheon at table 10.

The 2009-2010 Americanism Committee will meet immediately following this session with Krisann Owens under the Oregon sign there in the middle. Oregon make some noise.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. The 2010-2011 Membership Committee will meet with Krisann Owens following this session under the Oregon sign. Would Oregon again try to make some noise?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. The 2010-2011 Public Relations Committee will meet with Coral May Grout at the rear of the convention hall immediately following the luncheon.

2010-2011 Poppy Committee will meet immediately following the luncheon outside the ballroom on the bus loading side. Your Girl Scout talents will be put to a test here.

The 2010-2011 Legislative Committee will meet immediately following the luncheon in the back of that room with Kathy Dungan.

Virginia Nelsen asks that all Past National Historians please meet following the luncheon at the back of the room.

Peggy Thomas has asked that all 2010-2011 VA&R Committeemembers please meet after the Woman of the Year luncheon at the back of that room.

Going to be a lot of little meetings going on the back room after the luncheon.

The Ohio delegation announces that your corsages have arrived today. Please see someone about picking them up from the Ohio -- from the Idaho -- I'm sorry, Idaho delegation. Idaho make some noise.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. If you want a corsage and you think you need one from the Idaho delegation where would they find you? Holler out, make some noise.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: All right. Okay. Oh, they just keep rolling in. All right.

The 2010-2011 Junior Activities Committee will meet today immediately following the Woman of the Year luncheon at the back of the room. And this is from Lisa Williamson.

You could have a lot of fun and go to a different meeting.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: The Election Committee is asked to meet with Convention Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey, here on stage following the close of this session. So immediately upon adjournment of this session the members of that Committee are Virginia Nelsen from the Department of Nebraska, Norma DuVall, Department of California, Nancy Followell, Department of Arkansas, Mary Kelly-Perkins, Department of Florida, Mary Henry, Department of Louisiana, and alternate JoAnn Rodgers from the Department of New Mexico.

Those are all the quick meetings that I have coming up.

Did anybody have any that slipped up here and I didn't get? Okay.

Now we move on to tickets for sale.

The Department of Ohio has one States Dinner ticket and one Woman of the Year luncheon ticket for sale. Would the Department of Ohio make some noise so they know where to find you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Right. Okay. Arizona has one Woman of the Year luncheon ticket. Arizona, where are you?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Kansas has one Woman of the Year luncheon ticket available. Kansas, where are you?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Sales may go to those with the most aggressive sales force.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Finally, Madam Vice Chairman, I've been asked to announce that the doors over here by the columns lead to a fire exit stairwell. If you take that you'll be blocked in. So we advise you strongly please do not go out those doors.

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Madam Vice Chair that concludes my announcements.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This meeting will now adjourn and reconvene tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. in Hall C.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 10:36 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was recessed.)

PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2010, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:09 P.M.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: 90th American Legion Auxiliary National convention. To begin this session here's your National President, Rita Navarreté.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Buenos dias.

VOICES: Buenos dias.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The 90th National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will now come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: At this time I want to ask the National Chaplain, Beverly Wolff, to come forward and give the invocation.

(Ringing of the bell.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Let us bow our heads and heart in prayer each in our own faith.

Through your words of encouragement dear God we become ourselves. Thank you for looking far enough in us to see strength and skills we didn't know are there. You are able dear Lord to do far more for us than we can do for ourselves. We trust in your power, seek your wisdom, and surrender to your leading.

Teach us to speak healing words to the broken hearted, to extend a hand to a person in need, to give encouragement, and to reassure those who doubt and reinforce the believer. Move us dear God that we may see life from your point of view.

Bless and protect our troops around the world and protect this great Nation.

We ask your blessing on our members and officers here today. Help us to fulfill our duties with the purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary at heart. May the veterans always be in our hearts, may we be loyal to your and the organization.

In his name, amen.

VOICES: Amen.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You may be seated.

We will proceed with the election of National Officers. Will all the nominees please come to the platform and be seated on the stage.

Since we have more than one candidate for the office of National Chaplain, I have appointed an Election Committee. Serving on the Committee are Rosemarie Hauck, Election Judge, Ann Blalock, Election Official, Norma DuVall, Election Official, Mary Kelly-Perkins, Election Official, Virginia Nelsen, Election Official, Nancy Followell, Election Official, JoAnn Rodgers, Election Official.

If you have not already done so, will the Election Committee members please take your places at the table at this time.

Rosemarie Hauck, election judge, will read the rules governing the election.
Rosemarie.

MS. HAUCK: Thank you, Madam President.

Convention rule number 19 reads:

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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 candidate for National Office the election shall be by secret ballot.

Election rules.

Number 1, the National President shall appoint an Election Committee consisting of one election judge and six election officials.

Number 2, a ballot envelope shall be provided for each Department, placed inside each envelope shall be (a), the number of ballots to be cast by each Department, (b), one certification sheet which shall have the number of votes to be cast as certified by the Credentials Chairman.

Number 3, 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.

Number 4, 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.

Number 5, each Delegate shall be entitled to one vote. No vote may be divided into parts.

Number 6, 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 with their Department. The vote of a Past National President or National Officer not present at the convention shall be cast as an absentee ballot.

Number 7, the Chairman of the Delegation shall cast an absentee ballot for each absent Delegate. Such absentee votes shall be cast with the majority.

Number 8, the Chairman of the Delegation shall enter 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 ballots in the ballot envelope. The name of the Department shall be removed from the ballot envelope by the Chairman of Delegation.

The Chairman shall return the ballot envelope to the election official.

Number 9, 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.

Number 10. A majority of votes cast shall elect.

Number 11, the election judge shall read the report of the Election Committee.

Number 12, the National President shall declare as elected the candidates who receives the majority of votes cast.

This completes the reading of election rules, Madam President. On behalf of the Elections Committee I move that the adoption of the election rules be accepted.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the adoption of the election rules as read. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those in favor please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Those opposed please say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The election rules are adopted as read. Thank you.

On Tuesday morning you nominated Carlene Ashworth from Texas for the Office of National President. Nominations have closed.

In accordance with the rules you have adopted if there is but one candidate for the office the role call may be dispensed with and the nominee elected by voice.

All in favor of electing Carlene Ashworth from the Department of Texas as National President for 2010-2011 administrative year, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Opposed no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Chair declares Carlene Ashworth of Texas duly elected as National President for the 2010-2011 administrative year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Carlene, will you please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Kris Nelson from the Department of Minnesota is the only nominee for the Office of National Vice President.

All in favor of Kris Nelson for the Office of National Vice President, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All opposed no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Kris Nelson has been duly elected as the National Vice President for the 2010-2011 administrative year. Please stand, Kris.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: On Saturday at the division caucuses, each division nominated a candidate for Division National Vice President, and the current Division National Vice Presidents have certified to the Chair the following nominees.

Election of Central Division Vice President, Donna Fuelling of the Department of Michigan has been nominated for the Office of Central Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Donna Fuelling as Central Divisional Vice President please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And those opposed say no.

(Whereupon there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Donna Fuelling has been duly elected as Central Division National Vice President. Donna, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Election of Eastern Divisional Vice President,

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Charlotte Hagan of the Department of Maine has been nominated for the Office of Eastern Divisional Vice President.

All those in favor of Charlotte Hagan for the Eastern Division National Vice President please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Those opposed say no.

(Whereupon there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You have elected Charlotte Hagan as the Eastern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Election of Northwest Division Vice President.

Lynne Wild of the Department of Nebraska has been nominated for the Office of the Northwest Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Lynne Wild as Northwestern Division National Vice President please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Those opposed say no.

(Whereupon there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You have elected Lynne Wild as the Northwest Divisional Vice President. Lynne, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The election of the Southern Divisional Vice President. Patricia Lambert-Knight of Virginia has been nominated for the Office of Southern Divisional Vice President.

All those in favor of Patricia Lambert-Knight as the Southern Divisional National Vice President please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Opposed please say no.

(Whereupon there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Patricia Lambert-Night has been elected as the Southern Divisional Vice President. Will you please stand, Patricia.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The election of Western Divisional Vice President. Darlene McLaughlin of the Department of Oregon has been nominated for the Office of Western Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Darlene McLaughlin as the Western Division National Vice President please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Opposed say no.

(Whereupon there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Darlene McLaughlin has been elected the Western Division National Vice President. Darlene, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The election of National Historian. Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch of the Department of Ohio has been nominated for the Office of National Chaplain.

All those in favor of Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch -- National Chaplain? Fine, I introduced right, and -- as Historian, thank you for the correction. That's right, you know it happens to all of us. Thank you for understanding.

All those in favor of Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch as the National Historian please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Those opposed no.

(Whereupon there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch has been elected as the National Historian. Gwenda, would you please stand.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Time to pray.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Election of National Chaplain. On Tuesday you nominated Vickie Thrower of the Department of Alabama and Donna Gana of the Department of Nebraska for the Office of National Chaplain. Nominations are now closed. Will you please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The candidates may now return to their respective Delegations.

The National Secretary will call the roll and give the instructions for the distribution of the ballots.

(Pause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you Madam President.

The credentials reports was given on Monday morning. The Credentials Chairman has certified that there have been no changes since then.

The ballot envelopes have been prepared for each Department and the Election Committee is at the table on the floor in front of the room near the stage to distribute the ballot envelopes.

As the name of your Department is called please go to the appropriate election official to receive the ballots for your department.

Official number one is Alabama through the District of Columbia.

Official two is Florida through Kentucky.

Official three, Louisiana through Montana.

Official four, Nebraska through Ohio.

Official five, Oklahoma through Tennessee.

Official six, Texas through Wyoming, which also happens to be the end.

You will receive one envelope containing ballots for the Office of National Historian -- I will now call the Department --

VOICES: Chaplain.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- chaplain. We like to be consistent.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: If we're going to make a mistake we're going to make it together.

(Laughter.)

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SECRETARY BUCKLER: You will now receive one envelope containing ballots for the Office of National Chaplain. I will now call the Department roll. Alabama, Alaska.

VOICES: Present.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We're glad you're here, but when I call your name you need to go get your ballots. Arizona, Arkansas.

VOICES: They're not ready.

(Pause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: If you know where you are alphabetically you're going to have some clue of when your Department is going to be called.

All right, I've been asked to repeat which election official your Departments go through -- go to. And since I can't see them I'm going to have the election officials as I call your -- as I -- would you raise your hand so people can see who is one, two, three, four, five, and six?

Official number one states A through D. Are we on a program here? Okay. Would each election official raise your hand when I -- official number one A through D raise your hand. All right.

Official number two, F through K raise your hand. All right.

Official number three, L through M raise your hand. They're not paying attention? Did she raise her hand? Okay.

Official number four, N through O.

Official number five, O through T.

Official number six, T to the end.

Okay. Well the good news is there's so many of us here we're really tightly packed in here, so it's kind of a good problem.

All right. I'm going to start in again with the states just so we can have some sort of cadence going here.

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia.

Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky.

Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana.

Nebraska -- I'm pausing because it's really tight quarters over here -- Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio.

Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee.

Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: When all envelopes have been picked up there will be a recess of 15 minutes for voting. Can I have your attention, please. As soon as you have completed your voting return the ballots to the appropriate envelope and take them to the election official from whom you received them initially.

All doors to this room are now to be closed. No one may leave or enter the room during the voting. Will the pages please see that no one enters or leaves the room

through any door.

I now declare that meeting recessed for the period of 15 minutes.

(Recess.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Can I have your attention, please. Have all the ballot envelopes been returned to the election tables? If not will you please see the ballot envelopes are returned to the election tables. And it's been confirmed that they've all been turned in.

The pages may open the doors. We will now resume the program and scheduled guests.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: The American Legion Auxiliary proudly presents the President's Award for Excellence.

This exclusive honor is awarded to the best of our best. The award epitomizes Service Not Self, recognizing efforts and planning and implementation of our programs. Here to present is your National President, Rita Navarreté.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Celebrations are joyous occasions. While they can happen spontaneously they are often the result of much planning and preparation like what you see here at our National Convention.

Interestingly enough what we find in life is that enduring to the end of a particularly difficult task by working hard makes our sense of accomplishment and celebration all the more satisfying. I believe that is exactly what we are about to witness today as we present the National President's Award for Excellence, a celebration made sweeter because it required walking a path of hard work and dedication to arrive to the destination.

Now, I know there are literally thousands working our mission, because I have visited Units and Departments across the country and experienced it firsthand. Truly they all deserve to be celebrated and I hope you will take time for those celebrations in your own communities. It is so important to lift up and encourage everyone who is making a difference in our mission. So thank you to everyone who is doing the hard work.

One key factor that sets today's winners apart is that they had a goal and they took steps to reach it. They began by determining their destination which is the moment of honor, but they didn't stop there, they worked, they recorded their progress, and then they submitted the application to the National President.

So to all of the units and departments who set that goal and send in an application for the award we applaud you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And now to our winners.

As you can imagine it would literally take hours to read every detail from each submitted application, so what you will hear is a snapshot of the highlights.

I have asked Carlene Ashworth, Kris Nelson, and Peggy Thomas to assist me in the presentation as they assisted me in judging the unit applications.

Carlene, you're first.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Here we go.

The first award winner of the National President's Award for Excellence is presented to Leonard Whitehill Unit 189, Augusta, Kansas, Myrna Rogers, President. Come on down.

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(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Small but not mighty is an apt description of this vibrant unit of 37 women in mid America. Just listen to these accomplishments.

They provided 65 teddy bears for children of deployed soldiers. Sorted and distributed nearly 3,000 bags of gently used clothing for veterans. Donated a case of copy paper to the Winfield Veterans Home when they learned residents were limited to three sheets of paper per week for computer use. Collected nearly 1800 pounds of old shoes, the proceeds from which were used to help purchase needed vans and equipment for hospice rooms at the VAMC. Sent five girls to Girls State. That's right, a unit of 37 sponsored five girls. Pretty amazing.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Crocheted 24 baby blankets and donated them to the area pregnancy center, and the list goes on.

But the one activity they highlighted in their submission that captured the hearts and hands of their entire community was that of the send off event for soldiers from the Army National Guard 226th Engineer Company as they left for a year-long employment to Afghanistan.

After determining a needs list for the deploying trips, both male and female, that list was sent to local community groups, to churches for inclusion in their bulletins, and to the news media for distribution and publicity.

Unit members purchased shaving kits, folded pocket flags, donated paper Blue Star Banners for family members to post in their windows, crocheted slippers and personally donated many other items for each of the 180 troops.

But the real power of this initiative was apparent in the way they enlisted the help of so many other community members. Doctors, dentists, and optometrists donated health items. Dairy Queen owners donated cases of sugar and creamer. Wal-Mart donated \$500 toward the shipping of the care packages. And the entry fee for the local Christmas parade was items from the needs list.

The 12-hour community thank you on the Wal-Mart parking lot for the collection of comfort items for the troops was so successful, approximately 1,000 pounds worth, that a second collection day was held.

A large "We Support Our Troops" flag at the collection site was signed by community members and then shipped to Afghanistan in advance of the troops so it would be there waiting for them upon their arrival.

The day of the actual sendoff event, Mayor Kristey Williams signed a proclamation written by a member of the unit declaring it 226th Engineer Company Days.

The ministerial alliance offered a special prayer and then presented each deploying troop member with a bookmark of the prayer.

The high school drum line played as the buses carrying the deployed troops passed through town with a police escort and then onto the county line with a sheriff's escort.

Television and newspaper coverage of the event featured hundreds of local citizens lining community street waving flags and holding signs of the well wishers.

This was truly an amazing outpouring of care and support, and a perfect example of the positive energy created by one dedicated Auxiliary unit.

Ladies from Leonard Whitehill Unit 189, I am confident everyone in your community thanks you, and today I want to publicly acknowledge that we thank you for all you do to keep the American Legion Auxiliary alive and well in Augusta, Kansas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: A personal note, her son was one of the members that was deployed with that National Guard unit.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Kris Nelson, the second unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence.

MS. NELSON: The second unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is the Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233 in Logansville, Georgia, Anita Owens, president. Come on down.

(Applause.)

MS. NELSON: Any time you read the words "exceeded expectation or goals," it's worth paying attention to what happened and why. This Southern Division unit of 219 members did exactly that more than once this year. Here's the scoop.

Their unit -- their goal in their unit was to reach a minimum of 500 active duty soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan with care packages. Their outcome, they mailed 920 care packages, including 25,953 items with 1,018 hours volunteered. And I might add, that they received many letters of love and thanks from the soldiers receiving them.

Their goal, to increase from 140, the number of Christmas packages sent to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their outcome, they sent 202 boxes filled with cookies, candy, and other sweets and increased the size of the box.

Time won't allow me to share every goal and outcome, but here's a brief synopsis of some of their other highlights.

On Flag Day at the elementary school 635 students were given an American flag in exchange for a card, a letter, or a picture to be sent to our soldiers, and the local paper featured an article about the event.

Education goals were met by donating books and DVDs totaling \$4,000 to the local library collecting school supplies awarding each of the two high school students a \$1,000 scholarship and financially supporting the National President's Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship, and a summer reading program so that students could take the ACT and SAT tests that could not afford it.

They also placed memorial crosses in front of their posts on Veterans Day and Memorial Day in honor of deceased veterans. A simple yet poignant way of drawing people's attention to their sacrifice.

And as a solemn reminder of the supreme importance of our mission they presented eight Blue Star Banners and one Gold Star Banner this year along with providing emotional support and care for the families of a local man who was killed while serving in Iraq.

Attaching numbers to many of their goals allowed them to clearly identify not only what and when they met, but also how they exceeded them.

That defined score card, if you will, was a great way to generate motivation and keep the energy level high throughout the year. Way to go, ladies.

Let's illustrate the power of numbers. Throughout their submissions there were sprinkled volunteer hours and then they were totaled. For just four of their programs they

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had 2,292 hours. This is an average of nine and a half hours per member. Imagine if all 85,000 members donated nine and a half hours each year I think you get the idea.

Congratulations Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233, you make us all proud to be associated with the American Legion Auxiliary. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. OWENS: All I can say is wow, never in my expectations did we expect to do this. My ladies just work hard, and I say thank you, thank you, thank you, keep it up.

MS. NELSON: Thank you again. God bless you.

MS. OWENS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Peggy Thomas.

MS. THOMAS: The third unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is Arlington Unit 139 in Arlington, Virginia, Nancy Harting, President.

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: Let me tell you -- let me tell you this vibrant group of 303 women proved that Americanism is alive and well in Arlington. From personally flying the flag at their homes to handing out 7,400 small flags to bystanders at Honor Flights, these women are serious about spreading their love for our Nation's flag.

Flag etiquette programs were held in six schools and 1200 American flag key chains were distributed.

In collaboration with a local teacher, they produced an instructional video on World War II, Poppies, and veterans for use in the classroom.

They presented an American flag that was flown over the Pentagon to a congresswoman asking for her support for the flag amendment and veterans legislation. And pocket flags, they showed up everywhere. At Honor Flights, at R2R events, at a veterans reunion, at schools, and at patriotic holiday ceremonies.

In fact the sentence that really captured it all was this, "Wherever Arlington Unit 139 is present, a sea of flags is visible." Wow.

Being close to Washington, D.C. affords this unit with unique opportunities such as serving beverages at the White House 4th of July party for military children and presenting Christmas gifts to military children in the cancer ward at Walter Reed.

They also participated in welcoming 48 Honor Flights of nearly 7,000 World War II veterans, one of which was sponsored by Bob and Elizabeth Dole. And they supported --

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: -- and they supported deployed and local military personnel with approximately 32,000 phone cards valued at more than \$160,000.

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: Their coat drive netted 150 blankets and 517 coats for homeless veterans in the D.C. area. But their reach to veterans extended beyond their geographic boundaries as well.

Their adoption of a unit overseas meant ongoing support in the form of art supplies, comfort items, books, socks, and so forth to the tune of just over \$3,000.

They also gave generously to the Ride 2 Recovery, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Fisher House, the Pentagon Memorial Fund, and other veterans organizations.

And remember these volunteer hours mentioned in the last report? This unit recruited eight VAVS volunteers bringing their total to 23 active VA volunteers.

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: That's important to note as they support five VA Medical Centers and two state care centers for our veterans.

Providing everything from refreshments to phone cards to comfort items, the women of Unit 139 have truly made a difference in this year spending more than \$94,000 and volunteering nearly 7,000 hours.

I'm sure you agree that the work of this exceptional unit is indeed worth celebrating. Congratulations on receiving the National President's Award for Excellence, and keep up the great work.

(Applause.)

MS. LEE: I'd like to congratulate the members of Unit 139 and Nancy Harting, Americanism Chairman, and the Department of Virginia for the outstanding work you do in the community and for our veterans. Thank you so much. Great award.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And you know when I assigned Carlene and Kris and Peggy to assist I did not know that Peggy would be doing the Virginia one. So that -- there's a reason that everything happen it is way it does.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The fourth unit to receive the President's Award for Excellence is John J. Morris Unit 62, Sun City, Arizona, Mary Ann San Souci, president.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: In these days of too much to do and not enough time to do it hearing about activities that are both successful and easy truly is a special kind of win/win. Listen to some of the widely successful happenings this unit of 854 members experienced.

Their Stash for Cash fundraiser where members brought in old jewelry and exchanged for money from a major national vendor had an unexpected return on their investment when the vendor gave the unit 25 percent of the gross intake. Their exact words were, "Easiest donations ever. Awesome." And that's especially heartwarming as the funds went to support the work at the Bob Scott VA in Prescott and the veterans deployed recouping and serving locally at the Luke Air Force Base.

A group of 65 amputee veterans stationed at Balboa Navy Hospital in San Diego were in desperate need of pillows and large bath sheets. These ladies were able to raise money to provide 250 of each, which they delivered by caravan in November.

They also did a remarkable job collaborating with other organizations to reach their goal. Boy Scouts helped with the mailing of 4,000 letters to Legion Family members about Poppy Day, more about that later. And ROTC students volunteered at a Luke Air Force Base Christmas event and at a blood drive which was so successful they had to turn people away.

One of Unit 62's measurable goals was to host one major event per quarter for the families of the active-duty deployed servicemembers from Luke Air Force Base, they more than succeeded.

Their Christmas in July event raised \$1,800 for uniforms, school supplies, and backpacks for the deployed families, while Operation Kids held on a make a difference

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day provided 250 children from the base with an experience that incorporated boot camp, deployment, and debriefing just like their deployed parents.

The third quarter Christmas extravaganza was exactly that. In addition to a petting zoo, magician, crafts fair, Santa, face painting, fire trucks and firemen, each of the 44 participating families received a turkey or ham and a \$75 gift card. Held at the post, donations for the event totaled \$7,200. Can I say wow again?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Their fourth quarter activity was an all-expenses paid day to Castles n Coaster Amusement Park for 100 children. What a beautiful expression of love and care that has been demonstrated to these children whose parents are serving in harms way.

This highly active and energetic unit promoted patriotism by decorating a Christmas tree with all service and American flags, sending 21 candidates to Girls State, and hosting a Mother's Day brunch in conjunction with their Poppy program.

You have to hear this. They created a Poppy donation flier with a place for the donor's name that was displayed at their post home. Can't you just imagine a wall full of those fliers representing the donations?

Well, their hard work paid off in huge dividends. Between their brunch, flier donations, and the donations received from the letters -- the ones the Boy Scouts helped with -- they had their largest Poppy donation total in the unit's history of \$7,300.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And best of all the entire amount raised was given in support of VA&R programs, National President's Scholarship, Fisher House, Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Ride 2 Recovery, and the local VA facilities.

To bring it down to the personal level they also adopted dual member U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal Paz Jessica who is stationed in Afghanistan.

Well done, Unit 62. You are doing a remarkable job of fulfilling the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary, and we celebrate you. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. SOUCI: On behalf of Unit 62 in the State of Arizona, I am so proud and so honored to accept this award for them. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Kris Nelson.

MS. NELSON: The fifth and final unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence is Oak Orchard-Riverdale Unit 28 in Lewes, Delaware, Carol Baldwin, President. Come on down.

(Applause.)

MS. NELSON: The largest in number of our winning units with 2,153 paid members, Unit 28 holds the proud honor of the third largest post in the world. Here are some of the ways they made an impact in Lewes this year.

A lesson on flag folding in a fifth grade classroom taught students about is significance of each fold of the flag, and they folded more than 100 pocket flags that day for soldiers who are fighting if Iraq and Afghanistan.

Community Service was manifest in its finest form as they partnered with the local chicken producing plant, grocery store, businesses, and community members to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for more than 1,000 families. As you can imagine the

logistics of handling and stirring thousands of boxes of cans and food produce was enormous. They reported Auxiliary members had their garages full of food for two months prior to the event, and more than 100 volunteers helped with the actual packaging and delivering.

Perhaps the best thing of all this project identified veterans needing assistance and allowed them to stop in and meet those in need.

A first ever college and financial aid seminar was held at the post in October and involved collaboration with 12 local banks, six local colleges, the Delaware National Guard, educational services office, and the U.S. Armed Forces recruiting offices.

Leadership was front and center this year as they organized two orientations of new members meetings and held a daylong leadership workshop for all unit members in the tri-state area.

This flier was created by a Past President to publicize the many programs and activities of the unit.

Spreading the word about the importance of the Poppy to today's youth happened when they visited local Boys and Girls Club, the fifth grade classes at an elementary school, and invited the Lighthouse Christian School to the post for a field trip.

Sharing the Flanders Fields story solicited a lot of questions and resulted in hundreds of Poppy contest entries. In fact they increased their poster entries by nearly 100 percent.

Taking it to another level they gave a presentation of the significance of the Poppy to the Delaware House and the Senate and saw Resolution 44 passed in the House declaring May as Official Poppy Month in the State of Delaware.

They received a tribute for the American Legion Auxiliary 90th Anniversary from Delaware State Representative John Atkins and have an active website and Facebook page.

And their terrific relationship with the media outlets mean folks in Lewes know who they are and what they're doing. They tell me it's Millsboro, Delaware, not Lewes. Sorry about that.

And finally they volunteered many hours at the VA Hospital providing lap robes, toasty toes, comfort items, and Christmas presents.

They sent deployed military 30 boxes per month at approximately 50 pounds per box and took part in deployment and welcome home ceremonies for the 261st Signal Brigade and the 262nd Component Repair Company. Their actions speak volumes in letting these veterans know that they are supported and that the auxiliary stands ready to assist them in the future.

Clearly the veterans and families in your community are in expert hands.

Tell me one more time the name of your town, because we said it wrong, it's not Lewes.

MS. BALDWIN: Sorry. I live in Lewes, but it's Millsboro, Delaware.

MS. NELSON: So it's Millsboro, Delaware. Congratulations to your unit.
(Applause.)

MS. BALDWIN: This is probably one of the proudest moments of my life. Thank you to the ladies of Unit 28. I have always told them they are brilliant, committed, dedicated volunteers. Look what you have done. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you for helping me with those presentations, and especially to the award winners.

It is now time to ramp up the celebration meter to the next level as we acknowledge and honor the Department that is receiving the National President's Award for Excellence.

It is with utmost respect for all they have accomplished this past year, and I present this award to -- come on.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The Department of Mississippi, Angela Kilcrease, President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: 4,519 members strong, Mississippi women were greeted up to make some buzz this year, Do Bee kept them motivated as they did their Bee sheet the units could download from the Department website. It listed two tasks for each Auxiliary program that units could use as a quick reference for planning activities and noting progress. It worked. Here's some of what they did.

Americanism Bee Patriot, 4,263 flags were presented to schools and other organizations, and they folded 2,150 pocket plastic bags for Camp Shelby. They also received 301 American essay contest entries.

AEF, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Bee Generous, in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the American -- AEF they contributed just over \$5,600, that's an average of \$1.24 per member and we had asked .40 cents per member, and one unit alone, Hovius Grayson Unit 112 gave \$3,050. Imagine if our entire membership was that generous.

Children & Youth, Bee Inspiring, cash contributions for this program topped \$16,000, they directly served 1,257 children.

Community Service, Bee Active. They were involved in everything from the MLK Day of service to make a difference, welcome home and deployment activities, to donating time at domestic violence and senior citizen centers.

Their grand total for contributions was more than \$44,000 and volunteer hours topped over 17,000.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes. Education, Bee Educated. Participating in everything from Give 10 to Veterans in the Classroom to the American education Week they collected nearly \$19,000 for scholarships and other education programs.

Girls State, Bee An Example. They instituted an ad program that offset the cost of producing the sessions printed program, and including the pocket flag project for Camp Shelby in the programming for the Magnolia Girls State got units involved as they donated orders of pocket flags for the 250 Delegates to fold.

Junior Activities, Bee Youthful. Mississippi added 68 new junior members this year, and Department Chairmen used the monthly newsletter -- which you can read on their website -- to share information and ideas for the Junior Activities.

Leadership, Bee Leaders. New tools were developed this year to inform and facilitate program participation. The Bee sheet was one of them.

Membership, Bee Fruitful. This Department met all national goals to date. They recruited 311 new adult members and used weekly e-mail blasts in a new Department Facebook page to push the membership.

The Department President sent personal letters of appreciation to units who met their goals, and personal phone calls offering assistance and guidance were made to struggling units. These tactics worked.

As of May 18th they had reached more than 94 percent of their goal.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Poppy, Bee Supportive. Total contributions from their Poppy distribution exceeded \$10,000.

Public Relations, Bee Visible. Committed to celebrating our 90 anniversary they included the official logo and word mark on all PR materials and their website.

You may have noticed that I've referenced their website several times. I'm pleased to announce that their recently renovated website with even more tools, reports, and resources for members won the award for best Department website.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: VA&R, Bee Caring, and finally women of this Department expressed their care and concern for our veterans by volunteering more than 8,000 hours of service and contributing nearly \$37,000.

Ladies, for all you have done and all we know you will continue to do, please accept our heartfelt thanks on behalf of those you serve. You have certainly shown all of us what it means to be dedicated.

Congratulations on winning the 2010 National President's Award for Excellence.

(Applause.)

MS. KILCREASE: As the member of my Department would tell you, I'm never at the loss for words, but I find myself that way this morning.

I never expected this, but I knew that our ladies could do this. We made our 100 percent for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, and we're very proud of that.

(Applause.)

MS. KILCREASE: They worked extremely hard, they were fruitful, they met the challenge, and they believed in themselves, and I thank you all, and thank you, President Rita, for the confidence you placed in us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And Angela gave me a little Bee Good pin.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It is difficult to be limited by time and only able to share briefly about these amazing achievements, but there is good news, you'll be able to read the full story of our National President's Award for Excellent winners on our new website set to launch this fall and also in the next issue of the American Legion *Auxiliary* magazine, so stay tuned.

As I mentioned earlier, the first step on the path to receiving this award is the determination to submit an application, but determination alone will not make it happen. As with any journey you go nowhere without taking that first step, and to reach your desired destination you need more than good intentions. Two things will help you arrive where you want to go.

First and foremost you must be on the right path and headed in the right direction. In practical terms that means everyone involved must be committed to the

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same destination, in this case submitting that application to the National President.

Second you must continue to take steps towards your destination. It's not enough to agree that you want to go somewhere, you must have to move to that direction.

So let me encourage all of you to consider joining those units of 189, 233, 139, 62, and 28, and the Department of Mississippi on the path to excellence by planning now to submit your application for next year's National President's Award for Excellence. I am already looking forward to that celebration.

And yes, it will mean some hard work, but our mission is worth it. Wouldn't you agree?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Let's just give one last round of applause for all the recipients.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Have you all had a good time at the convention so far?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: As we all know a great deal of work goes into making an event like this happen and a great deal of work goes to keeping our National Headquarters staff working and also the individuals who help us get ready for this event.

At this time I'd like to acknowledge our National Headquarters staff who I have had the privilege to work with this past year. I want you to know that we have an amazing National staff, and what we were benefitted with this year is our VISTA volunteers who are right now off our rolls, who are managing as best they can in these tough times of budget constraints.

Would the National staff that are here please come on stage and receive the proper recognition not only by this National President, but by you, the Delegates to the convention this year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Smile and wave, right. Marta and Dubbie, you're up there too. I hope someone is taking a pic of Stephanie Holloway, because she's got a camera. Okay, come up here. And there's one rose among them. Tim, come right here.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: He's the shy one. But let me tell you, our money is in good hands as Tim serves as our comptroller in our finances.

Thank you so much for all that you have done.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I'm going to name them. You need to know that Tabitha Rhoda has been my script writer, my right hand, no MATTER what time I called her during convention she was there and picked up. Thank you, Tabitha, for keeping me on track.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Julie, thank you so much for working not only with me, but throughout the year with everyone.

Maria, what can I say. Maria is there and has that knowledge that guides all of us to what we need to get done.

And Colette on behalf of not only me, but the National Chairmen who have

worked with you and staff and many others, thank you.

Stephanie Ayers-Abisi, she's also a shy one, but she's the person who has this convention under control and tells me Rita, "You got five minutes, got three minutes, you have three seconds." Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Stephanie Holloway, thank you for being there. And you need to know that Stephanie has been very special to the staff, but Stephanie also has a loved one who has served, continues to serve, and so well thank you for being that family member.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And Joni, Joni is new. Joni is the assistant to the National Secretary. And Joni, you have just been a powerful person with your words and with your thoughts for the love truly of God and country. And I thank you for that, the short time that I've had to work with you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And you know I'd like to say, you know, Marta is our Treasurer. Marta is a Treasurer to the entire organization. So Marta, thank you so much for being there all the time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And you know when I took the position and went into the office for my first day I gave my expectations to the National Secretary, the Executive Director and said, "These are my expectations." We went down the list. Then I also said, "Now please tell me what your expectations are of me?" She said one word; she says, "Partner."

I want to be your partner as we guide, as we lead, as we advise, and I can truly tell you that we have been partners all year through the many challenges, to corrections, even today, so Dubbie, at this time I want to thank you for being my partner as we continue, and I know that the transition is going to be onto Carlene to carry on what needs to get done for us to grow. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know when you're under these lights and you've got so many scripts going and sometimes you don't hear something or sometimes you miss a note, and so thanking as I have the people to my right who remind me of those. So thank you so much.

After 90 years the American Legion Auxiliary has a rich, long history, and to help us understand this year's history a little bit better is Joyce Arent, National Historian.

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN ARENT: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

HISTORIAN ARENT: Madam National President, it has certainly been my honor to serve our organization as the National Historian for 2009-2010.

It has been a culmination of my dreams to have been elected to this position. I am indeed humbled that you had faith in me and gave me the opportunity when you elected me the historian in Louisville, Kentucky, last August.

To reconnect and energize all of our programs was the task set before us by National President Rita. She not only asked that we recharge our batteries, she also asked

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us to believe that we could achieve our goals.

Historians on all levels captured the present for the future by their efforts to record histories in their Units, Districts, Departments on both senior and Junior levels.

The results are in, and I am happy to announce that a grand total of 761 senior histories and 43 Junior histories were reported as sent it in competition on all levels.

The winner of the Junior History Plaque that was presented at the Junior Convention on Saturday was awarded to Shelbylynn Mott of the Department of Louisiana.

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN ARENT: The best overall senior history, the Toomi Trophy, was awarded to Joyce Endres, Historian, Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN ARENT: Certificates also were presented to 32 Department Historians who sent in senior histories for judging.

The importance of learning about history and recording of it was instilled in me by my grandfather who said, "If no one writes things down it will be forgotten." This is especially true when it comes to my grocery list.

(Laughter.)

HISTORIAN ARENT: I believe the most exciting part of this position was reading about the travels of our National President. Can you believe she actually piloted a Coast Guard Cutter off the shores of Maine?

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN ARENT: For me there were days of elation when President's official visit forms would come in the mail and days of frustration when I did not get the forms back. Some days I felt like a dentist pulling teeth as I hounded the Departments for information.

I wish to thank all of the Department Historians for their reports, as well as the many Department Secretaries who assisted me along the way.

The annual reports also revealed that 426 senior members and 96 Junior members participated in the Veterans History Project.

The milestones over the years were very interesting and many brought tears to my eyes as I read them. A total of 82 milestones were received, and I am sure President Rita will be filled with emotion as she reads the book that I have made for her of all the milestones that are included that will be presented to her along with her history book on completion of both books.

Certificates of participation for all members who submitted milestones were given to their Department representatives at the pre-convention meeting on Saturday to be passed along to the members who submitted them.

It was a privilege to serve during this milestone year as we celebrated 90 years of service to our veteran, our communities.

Again, I thank all of you for electing me to this position, for putting your trust in me, and making my dream come true.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

HISTORIAN ARENT: No.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none. Thank you.

For God and Country is part of our organization, and National Chaplain, Beverly Wolff, has helps us remember that throughout the year. She joins us now to present her report.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Madam National president, it has been an honor and a privilege serving as your National Chaplain, having the opportunity to work with outstanding Department Chaplains across our Nation, reconnecting and energizing our great organization for God and Country having compassionate hearts.

The sparks were flying as the chaplains energized the members of their Departments. They reviewed and educated the units on the principals of service to God and Country and studied the actual wording of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution with regards to religious expression.

The Department of New Hampshire held a just-for-Juniors Auxiliary emblem contest to somehow the spiritual significance of the emblem.

All of the units reporting assisted in memorial and funeral services, volunteering at VA hospitals, nursing homes, and medical centers, hosting homecomings and deployment gatherings.

The Department of West Virginia sent get-well cards and humorous cards to a 10-year-old girl, Danielle Barlett (phonetic) who was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Danielle will represent West Virginia as the 2010 Children's Miracle Network Champion Child.

The energy flows and sparks continue to fly as Departments continue to reconnect with Legion Family members in the communities, in states, and in the Nation.

To the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, thank you. May you also be blessed and continue to be a blessing.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

May I have permission to make a presentation?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You may.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: I would like all of the Department and Unit Chaplains at this session to please stand.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Madam President, please accept this gift from the compassionate heart of the American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains across the Nation -- Auxiliary chaplains across the nations.

I would have you open this and then I will explain.

A 90-year-old gentleman at the assisted living home where I work part-time carves different things, and I had him carve especially for Madam President the praying hands. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: And this is the first volume of several –

(Laughter.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: -- of prayers that have been sent in from departments and units across the nation.

(Applause.)

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CHAPLAIN WOLFF: And I would also like to have you accept this beautiful prayer book that was made by a Chaplain from the Department of Louisiana, Unit 258, Springfield, Louisiana, chaplain Irene Demars (phonetic).

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: And I got permission from her to give this to Madam President.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: May you always be blessed, Madam President. Thank you for an awesome year.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I must tell you that the Legion's National Chaplain whose last name is Beaver, and ours is Wolff, so I do not need to tell you what kind of conversations were held all year.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Who was running from who, right? But you know, I've always said as I've traveled and as you've listened to my stories, things happen for a reason, and somehow we get reconnected to many memories, to many moments.

When I was Department President, my unit gave me a set of praying hands, but they were bookmarks, so now these praying hands will join those other praying hands.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: It's been an awesome year serving God and Country with a Beaver and a Wolff in charge.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: When I was in Delaware, I was at a luncheon, a gentleman comes up, I see his white tag and it says, Department Chaplain, and I just felt I had to go up there and bless him. He says, "Young child, I am the Arch Bishop."

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And so he says, "But we need a prayer too and a blessing." So he gave me a cross that I truly admire.

National Chaplain, do you have any Resolutions or recommendations? She has none.

Helping to preserve our history is Kenya Ostermeier, Cavalcade of Memories Chairman. Kenya, please come forward.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER: Madam President, Thanks for the Memories. That is the title of an old music hit that was Bob Hope's theme song for many years, and we are thankful for our memories in the Auxiliary.

On our 90th anniversary, we need to celebrate three eras. Our prestigious past, our positive present, and our fantastic future.

Imagine a petite woman with vision and determination. She was not only the first ALA National President, but her many accomplishments included National President of the DAR, National Societies of New England Women, and she was Vice President of FIDAC after World War I, and during World War II was on the Women's Advisory Committee of the War Manpower Commission. She got us off to an excellent beginning.

It has been an informative year hearing from many Departments who have shared successes of their creative endeavors.

Ohio Cavalcade Chairman Pam Bates (phonetic), reports a remarkable project in which they assembled anniversary book about their Department. It includes significant dates through the years called “Moments in time.” Information about Past National Presidents and Officers, Department and District Presidents, and Honorary National Junior Officers are included.

The completed books and CDs were presented to each Ohio member.

Texas has beautiful displays dedicated to Past National Presidents, other distinguished officers, and Blue Bonnet Girls State. Texas Cavalcade Chairman Lori Oxley (phonetic), says they are fortunate to have a large room in their headquarters office in which to display memorabilia. Lori has almost completed a virtual tour which will be on their website.

Indiana Chairman Sylvia Glover (phonetic), has received many wonderful scrapbooks from units and districts as examples of creative use of smaller spaces available in post homes and Department offices. You can see examples of using wall space to display pictures, plaques, and even T-shirts. An entire area is devoted to Hoosier Girls State activities through the years.

Iowa’s Chairman, Norma Hawkins (phonetic), reports a unique frame collage with pictures of important events and distinguished National and Department officers and members.

Willie-Mae Looney (phonetic) of the Department of Alabama had a beautiful open house display prepared for their winter conference. This was an excellent opportunity for the members to enjoy their history, including a portrait of Past National President Lillian Andrews and past Department officers and Presidents. A Girls State quilt was displayed, along with President’s pins and over souvenirs.

Bessie Laudner (phonetic), Chairman and Past Department President shared pictures of some of the units in Mississippi and what they have done. Her Plan of Action had two suggestions that each unit could accomplish during the year, and you’ve heard all about them. And as you can see their efforts have created a most attractive and interesting place to visit and a great source of pride.

The Cavalcade of Memories in the new National Headquarters building is not limited to just one room; titles of programs have been placed on various walls with plaques and pictures related to that program displayed there. There is more room to display the Past National Presidents’ portraits, and pictures of early conventions and other meetings are displayed in conference rooms and other areas.

The Century Club Plaque of members, a beautiful art deco poster with Flanders Fields poetry, and a collage with a flag flown on a space shuttle mission which was presented to Girls Nation by visiting astronaut Heidi Piper.

These are some of the many treasures that grace the office and make it a place saturated with memories, dedication, and patriotism.

A big thank-you to my committee, Vice Chairmen and Past National President Syble Deshotel, members Betty Turner and Pam Rice.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any recommendations or Resolutions?

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CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER: No, there are not.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

“Don’t have the words to thank you enough for the generosity that you have shown in supporting our needs so that we can continue to look after our son means so much to myself and family.”

Formed in 1969, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund continues to meet the needs of our members, definitely members helping members. A quote that I just read from one of the recipients.

Welcome Kathy Dungan from the Department of Mississippi for more accomplishments.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: Madam President, celebrations and challenges occur by side in our lives, much like the parallel rails of a train track. One doesn’t cancel out the other and we must learn to embrace them both in the journey we call life.

2009-2010 was a year of both. We’ve celebrated the 90th anniversary American Legion Auxiliary and the 40th anniversary of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund, and our country endured numerous weather-related disasters. Wild fires, winter storms, tornados, and massive flooding devastated the lives of many. Definitely a challenge to face.

In the midst of their difficulty, our Auxiliary Emergency Fund allowed us to provide practical help to our members struggling in times of great need.

In May, an Auxiliary member was a victim of the Tennessee floods. It turned her world upside down. Her home sustained 4 feet of water from the floods and she was immediately left without shelter, food, and the everyday essentials we take for granted.

Facing this total loss of her home and its contents, her unit helped her apply for AEF assistance. Through the generous donations of our Auxiliary members, we were able to provide her with emergency funds so she could start putting her life back together.

In addition to assistance with natural disasters, your Auxiliary Emergency Fund also provided much needed help for members facing financial crisis. I would like to share an e-mail I received from Unit President Marie Hedrick (phonetic) of North Carolina.

“A young lady, 38 years old, from Unit 8 in Lexington, North Carolina was diagnosed with cancer one year ago. She ended up losing her job and she drew her unemployment until it ran out. Our unit applied to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund for this young lady. She was accepted and a check was sent to her and the bank where she made her house payment. The check made the last three payments for her, and this gave her an opportunity to remain in her home for the last days. Her next house payment was due July 1st, and she passed away on June 9th. Jenny Mullins (phonetic) left behind her a beautiful 4-year-old daughter, Josie (phonetic).”

Ms. Hedrick said, “You will never know how much this check helped this young lady. She was so upbeat when she called to say she received it. So from the very bottom of our Carolina hearts, we say thank you.”

A story like this really pulls at your heartstrings, so tragic, but thanks to your contributions we were able to provide temporary assistance to this young lady.

These are just two of many, many examples of your generosity.

This year, the AEF provided 140 grants in the amount of \$140,511, and a total of \$190,858 has been donated to the fund this year, and we continue to receive

contributions.

Thank you for your hard work in raising funds this year; you truly are making a difference in the lives of our members in need.

As witnessed by the above stories, we have the ability to change lives.

A quote from Leo Buscaglia says it best:

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. Pass the kindness on, because kindness like a boomerang always returns.”

Today you may be experiencing a time of celebration, but when you least expect it you may be that Auxiliary member facing a challenge and in need of temporary assistance.

Your generous giving to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is changing lives. Please continue to support it.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

Finance report, money, money, money.

Linda Boone, Chairman of the Finance Committee will now give her report.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: The National Finance Committee is a five-member committee with each member appointed to serve a five-year period. Here we are at a recent meeting.

Responsibilities include oversight of the general financial policies of the National Organization, preparation of the annual budget, and supervision of the expenditures under that budget in conjunction with National Headquarters with final approval and oversight done by the National Executive Committee.

We're highlighting a few of the major areas of interest in this presentation, and I encourage everyone to review the FY10 financial audit which will appear in the Awareness Assembly 2011 proceedings book.

Budget oversight consists of a monthly review of the reports of budget to actual, discussion during each quarter meeting by both the Committee and the National Headquarters staff.

One of the goals from the strategic plan is to build income diversity by having no more than 50 percent come from any one source, like dues. This spreads risk over different income streams, and for a membership organization it's more difficult to accomplish.

The staff manages expenses by monitoring fluctuation and income with a goal to remain under or at budget expense projections.

The significant aberrations are reported to the Finance Committee and actions taken if needed.

Since the U.S. economic crisis, significant decreases have been made and we highlighted a few here.

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In FY09 a total decrease in expenses of 21 percent helped offset the income losses that occurred.

In FY10, which ends September 30th, we anticipate about a 9 percent expenses-under budget.

Our annual audit gives us the opportunity to reflect on past actions and develop new strategies to improve 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.

When donors contribute to a nonprofit organization, they expect the majority of their dollar to be spent on the mission of the programs of the organization. These benchmarks are what educated donors and state and federal government regulatory agencies use to determine the effectiveness of a nonprofit.

The National Organization has been surpassing these benchmarks for many years; however, most Departments are either not measuring or not meeting these benchmarks and need to develop action plans to measure and reach.

To insure internal control, the Finance Committee reviewed and recommended these policies for NEC adoption.

The Organization has the obligation to report on financial issues to a variety of audiences.

Planning for the future needs of the Organization is a critical responsibility of every Financial Committee.

The FY10 budget that was adopted at the beginning of this year had a \$350,000 deficit, meaning we were anticipating taking \$350,000 from savings in order to pay for the operations and the programs in this year. Each future years' budgets will need an increased saving withdrawal due to our continued decline in membership. Not enough revenue coming in to cover the operations and programs. We will continue to reduce our savings until we run out in 2021 when we move into our 100th year.

Reducing expenses is a natural reaction when reduced income is anticipated. Those reductions are occurring in our operations led by our National Secretary and staff. Our future leadership is evaluating how to modify programs and activities to reduce expenses on the volunteer side.

We are a membership organization. The operations of a membership organization are supported by membership dues, fees, and assessments. The American Legion Auxiliary continues a 16-year decline in dues revenue.

For 15 years through FY07, investment income, not dues income, allowed National Headquarters to provide a number of services, products, and events to Departments, units, and members at no charge, and others at a nominal charge less than actual cost.

Due to the natural economic crisis in 2008, the Auxiliary's investment income reduced our savings by several million dollars. No longer can the Auxiliary rely on investment income to offset the decline in dues income. A National dues increase is needed, or severe cuts will need to be implemented in order to allow the Organization to survive.

Once a dues increase is adopted, it does not take effect immediately, but two years later. This makes taking action so important. Delegates need to prepare their Departments for an anticipated dues increase proposal at our 2011 convention.

Each of us has enjoyed this efficient and informative National convention and would be disappointed if this annual event was significantly downsized along with other National events.

Departments and units can only exist as a part of a National Organization and that has a National Headquarters to support them.

We either invest in the National Organization or we rapidly wither and are out of business.

The American Legion Auxiliary is a valuable part of communities nationwide, and without us the veterans and their families will not receive the support that they need.

Madam President, that concludes the platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Yes. Madam President, we have a recommendation.

Madam President, by direction of the preconvention Finance Committee I move the adoption of the following recommendation:

Resolved, that the national American Legion Auxiliary explore the establishment of a payment plan option for members to use to purchase a Paid Up For Life membership. Implementation, if feasible, would be in the 2013 membership year at the latest.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the recommendation that the National American Legion Auxiliary explore the establishment of a payment plan option for members to use a purchase a PUFL, Paid Up For Life membership. Implementation, if feasible, would be by 2013 membership year at the latest.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the recommendation that the National American Legion Auxiliary explore the establishment of a payment plan option for the members to use to purchase a Paid Up For Life membership. Implementation, if feasible, would be by the 2013 membership year at latest.

All those in favor say aye?

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those opposed say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The recommendation is adopted.

Thank you, Linda, so much.

CHAIRMAN BOONE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Growing membership is a goal of everyone in this room.

Chairman of the National Membership Committee, Nancy Brown-Park, will come forward, please, and present her report.

(Clapping to Music.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Madam National President, Rita, that was really spontaneous.

The membership train pulled out of the station about a year ago. Departments

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created their own membership theme, jumped on board, and the train headed for 100 percent goal.

Texas focused on Happy Trails, and South Carolina carried out their membership drive with the Love Bugs. Wyoming hooked on its Red, White, and Blue Car, and Oregon was focused on Staying on Track. Nebraska rode the Auxiliary Express, and Mississippi was Bee All They Could Bee, while the race cars in Louisiana raced to the finish line. I'm still trying to catch my breath.

Our goal this year was to maintain 95 percent of our current membership and add 38,000 new members. Because of all your hard work, we reached the goal for new members, and we are --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: -- and we are close to retaining 95 percent of our current membership.

So, Madam President, this year three departments reached that 100 percent goal. So the first place is the Department of the Philippines.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: And the second place is the Department of Mississippi.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: And in third place, The Aloha State, the Department of Hawaii.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: So okay, let's give them a great big round of applause, they worked really, really hard.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Units and members found great ways to recruit, reconnect, energize, and engage new and current members.

Silver Brigade Recipient, Kendall Madsen, from the Golden State of California, Newport Beach Unit 291, set a goal to recruit 300 new members, and she did just that.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Unit 291 has 1,310 members and 23 are Juniors. Kendall is dedicated to her unit and making it a success. In fact she is the newly elected Unit President. She shared her story. They reach out to young, eligible members and encourage them to bring their friends and help out with different activities.

Newport unit is located on the water and attracts a lot of potential new volunteers. Most days of the week she rides her bike to the post, excited about the opportunity to meet new people and tell them all about the amazing programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. She invites them to come to a unit meeting or activity and to bring their friends. Once they see what the unit does from raising money for Girls State, supports families at Camp Pendleton, line dancing lessons, and taco night, just to name a few of the things, they're hooked.

She loves having an opportunity to talk about the American Legion Auxiliary and all it does for our veterans.

Her dad and brother both served in the military, and knowing we have men and women still serving and older veterans who need our help, driving and finding new members is what she does.

Argonne Unit 61 in Sutton, Nebraska, found working our programs and inviting the community to participate is a great way to engage inactive members and recruit new ones.

Past National President Carol Van Kirk shared their story with me.

It all started back in April when this Chairman received an urgent request for care packages for 13,000 Marines at a location where nothing was available. At the same time, Argonne unit was looking for a list of items because they wanted a project to engage their members. So via technology, the e-mails were sent back and forth and on April 20th they held a planning meeting that kicked off Treasures for Troops.

They reported all six of their young, inactive members attended and were willing to participate with great contributing ideas.

The plans included kicking off Treasures for Troops on Armed Forces Day, May 15th, and finishing up on Flag Day on June 14th.

They made colorful collection boxes, contacted the Boys and Girl Scouts for handwritten letters, they covered all their bases by assigning everyone to tasks such as looking for free advertising contacts, making community signs, writing newspaper articles, and making posters, and even someone to fill out the custom forms and address labels.

The local grocery store included a flier in each customer's bag about the event and where donations both in-kind and cash could be made. They were off and running.

On June 14th as they celebrated the American Legion Auxiliary's 90 birthday, they packed up boxes, deployed families shared their stories, and all celebrated together by singing God Bless America.

They found at least 20 potential new members and reported it was a really good day. In fact, Carol signed up three new members and renewed one just as a result of the Treasures for Troops project. This propelled them to meet unit goals at an all time high in membership.

Argonne Unit exemplifies how reaching out to the community, working our programs, and engaging inactive members will increase your membership and make your unit strong. Once you reconnect you energize.

The VISTA volunteers this year made a big difference for the membership program. They developed training tools for units and Departments to use for recruitment, retention, and engagement. Tools were introduced during the 2010 membership meeting, they are exciting and filled with information on recruiting and public relations and how to engage to retain members. If you haven't seen them, ask your Membership Chairman for a copy.

It's been an exciting membership year, Madam President. Thank you to everyone who went the extra mile to reconnect and energize new members.

Madam president, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Nancy, are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: No, Madam President, there are none.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

Foundation Board Vice President Carol Van Kirk will present the Foundation record now.

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(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT VAN KIRK: As the appointed Director of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, it is my pleasure to provide to you an update of this year's American Legion Auxiliary Foundation activities.

Your Foundation Board of Directors has exercised strict adherence to budgetary parameters, recognizing the importance of increasing donations to the Foundation and decreasing costs.

To achieve this goal, the Foundation Board has learned to think smart and created opportunities allowing us to bring the message of the Foundation to the American Legion Auxiliary membership.

Through the generosity of its Board members, a comprehensive public relations and marketing program has been developed, introducing and highlighting the purpose of the Foundation and its role to build a long-term savings plan through a mission endowment fund, provide additional resources to support the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary through individual and group support, encourage corporate sponsorships, and promote partnership funding opportunities at the unit, Department, and National level.

This year, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation made presentations to the NEC. Informational handouts, a tri-fold brochure, and a DVD are now available for distribution. A table-top display has been created to invite conversation and generate interest in the Foundation.

In addition, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Ambassador Program was launched. This creative concept allows unit members to become ambassadors for the Foundation. Currently there are 27 ambassadors nationwide who share information about the Foundation.

The goal of the ambassador program is to increase community awareness by sharing the Foundation message. Ambassador materials are provided at no cost to the member.

The Foundation Board initiated its first on-the-road board meeting hosted by the Department of Colorado. This initiative allowed us to cut the cost of the board meeting by 60 percent, and gave us the opportunity to meet directly with unit members, talk about the Foundation purpose and role, provide clear, concise, and accurate information, enlist member support, introduce the Ambassador Program, and conduct a board meeting with unit members as invited guests.

Unit members were given the opportunity to sit in on discussions and express their ideas, concerns, and ask questions. Hosting opportunities are available to any interested Departments.

From a business perspective, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation has strategically positioned itself to meet IRS criteria to maintain its 501(c)(3) public charity status, reviewed and ratifies its bylaws, policies, and procedures, and built a solid and effective infrastructure.

Our goal this year has been to put a face for the Foundation, build acceptance and trust, and recruit a host of ambassadors to carry our message.

We are now able to focus all the Foundation's efforts on the acquisition of funds to support the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Working together, we can provide for generations to come a bright and

prosperous future for our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much. Spreading the word and increasing the American Legion Auxiliary presence in all communities is very important.

Please welcome the Southern Division Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, Gloria Johnston, to present the public relations report.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON: Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

You know, it's been a full year full of change and excitement. Through the use of social networking, multimedia, and word of mouth, units and Departments have promoted and educated our members and communities about the American Legion Auxiliary. It is when people stop asking about the Public Relations Committee and start asking about our programs that this Committee has succeeded.

This year, public relations went to new levels to do just that. The Department of Alaska promoted Facebook, Twitter, and MySpace to connect its members. California promoted both printed and electronic media while Florida promoted and publicized its participation in the Ride 2 Recovery. Louisiana stressed the importance of personal contact with members. Maine provided media kits and the contact information for every newspaper and TV station in the state to its Chairmen. Michigan held a public relations instruction session at its fall conference distributing valuable materials for the units to use. New Hampshire members donated gift subscriptions of *Auxiliary* magazine to be placed in doctors' and dentists' offices, veteran centers and nursing homes. Ohio distributed its Department digest to each of its 459 units on a monthly basis through the post and e-mail. Vermont used radio and television to help the ones left at home, reminding everyone that our active-duty soldiers are not the only ones who serve. The Poppy program was highlighted in *Ladies' Home Journal* this year.

On a broader scale, the National *Auxiliary* magazine has evolved into the more useful tool to inform our members, engage our supporters, and intrigue prospective members. The change in name was simply a reconnection with our heritage and will continue to strengthen our identity by enhancing our publications we capture who and why we are.

It is important to remember that we are part of a brand family. The American Legion Family. The American Legion brand is more than or emblems and our slogans; it's our look and feel, it evokes our reputation earned by the quality of service we provide.

Other partnerships grew this year too. You can see our logo linked closely to Ride 2 Recovery and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. These participants' partnerships show our mission in action, increase thing public's knowledge of our importance in the community and all we do for our veterans.

The new ALAMIS now plays an important part in getting information to our members which keeps our brand and imagine evolving with real-time information that can be relayed to our members and partners with ease, allowing us to send accurate and timely communications about what is happening in the Auxiliary.

Departments and units have already begun using the new system to organize and send bulletins and spread the word about upcoming events.

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In the near future, the public will be able to easily understand who we are, what we do, and how we serve with the launch of the new American Legion Auxiliary website. The goal of this site is to allow current and prospective members to gain knowledge of the Auxiliary with a click of a button. We need members and resources to fulfill our mission to promote patriotism, mentor youth, and advocate for veterans. It requires constant messaging and good publications to position the ALA to be part of a thriving brand family around for 100th anniversary of service to our veterans, their families, and communities here and around the world.

This past year was really all about reconnecting with our heritage of purpose and service to strengthen our future. We should all be proud of our part in sharing The American Legion story to others.

Thank you, Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And thank you, Gloria, for accepting the assignment when I was notified that the Chairman and the Vice Chairman would not be here. Thank you so much for conducting the business.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON: Thank you for your leadership this year. We appreciate it.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON: No, there are none.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: A surprise. It is with great honor to have the next guest with us.

When Nancy Pelosi made history in 2007 becoming the first woman to serve as Speaker of the House, she said, "Let us be the Congress that never forgets our commitment to our veterans, always honoring them as the heroes they are."

The work of the House of the Representatives under the leadership has lived up to that promise passing advanced appropriations to insure timely and predictable funding for the VA, insuring the largest increase in veterans funding in history, providing benefits for those suffering from the exposure to Agent Orange, and restoring the promise of a full four-year college education for 2 million veterans through the new GI Bill.

The Christian Science Monitor recently hailed Nancy Pelosi, and I quote, "The most powerful woman in American politics."

At every opportunity, she has used that power on behalf of those who have worn our Nation's uniform and their families.

Ladies and gentlemen, a great friend to America's veterans and military families, the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: Rita -- President Rita Navarreté for kind -- thank you for your kind introduction, for your wonderful leadership, for your decades of service to the American Legion Auxiliary, the largest women's service

organization in the world.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: I'd like to acknowledge incoming President Carlene Ashworth. The theme of your term, The Power of One, is demonstrated by Auxiliary members every day in 9,500 communities across the country.

And thank you to your Executive Director, Dobbie Buckler, for her leadership in serving veterans, their families, and their communities.

That has been the work of the entire Auxiliary for 90 years.

I came here today to thank you for the millions of dollars in volunteer hours you devote each year as members of the Auxiliary.

I was struck when I saw your beautiful program earlier this morning by the fact that this is your 90th anniversary; 92 for the American Legion, 90 for the Auxiliary, you got right on it; it didn't take long.

But I wanted to make mention of the fact that this year -- this past week, August 26th -- was the 90th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in our country.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: So you were right there. Those women, those women. Imagine the imagination and the courage of the women who came together 90 years ago to say we're going to have an Auxiliary. Not that long after the establishment of the American Legion.

You all stand on strong shoulders and others will stand on yours. I'm here to acknowledge that.

I just spoke to The American Legion and talked about my personal story for just a few minutes and then of course the policy, and what I told them, and as I look around this room I know it probably holds true, that none of you were born when I, as a little child, observed in my neighborhood VJ Day, Victory in Japan Day, called VJ Day. All of a sudden all of the neighbors were -- this is an Italian American neighborhood in Baltimore, Maryland -- all the neighbors were in the streets, people were -- I had never as a little child like 4 years old or so, never seen people laughing and crying, sometimes it was the same person, but others laughing and crying on the same occasion. It was that remarkable relief and pride of our service people. Relief that the war was over, pride in those who had made the victory possible.

As elected officials, our first responsibility is to keep the people safe. If that isn't there, if the people aren't safe nothing else really matters. You can't count on doing anything.

So I thank you, the Auxiliary of the American Legion -- women's Auxiliary of the American Legion for your support of the American Legion for the work that you do together to convey priorities to policy makers, to respect and honor the courage and patriotism of our troops, to make sure they have what they need on the battle field. And as they say in the military, "We will leave no soldier behind on the battle field." And we say, "And when they come home we will leave no veteran behind."

Rita talked about some of the accomplishments of which I'm very proud and the change that has happened in the past few years in terms of our funding and our policy for our veterans. I just wanted to share with you how we establish those priorities.

When I became a leader -- not yet the Speaker -- but leader, I said we must plant a flag for our veterans. Let's just plant this flag on the biggest hill, that's what they do

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for us.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: Now let us fight for their priorities. Not just talk about it or feel sad when someone comes into our office for case work, and oh, we'll help you facilitate it through the process, but it takes a long time, but to change the policy to make a difference in their lives, to improve the quality of their lives, and in doing so honor their sacrifice.

So we started a series of meetings with The American Legion and other Veteran Service Organizations, and on a regular basis we come together and we talk about what the -- because the list is a long one of needs, as you probably know, so what are the priorities, what is the prospect for discuss as we establish those priorities? And some of those -- one year the first year it was concurrent receipt, the Veterans Disability Tax we called it, and we have moved on that. The next year it was survivor benefits, we have not been as successful yet, but we are fighting the fight and trying to get that job done. But that was other Veteran Service Organizations a priority.

Now there was the GI Bill of Rights historically going back to around the time that VJ Day, a little bit before, veterans from World War I, knowing that they were not treated with the respect they deserved when they came home, and you know, they marched on Washington and that, but they also urged Congress, and the American Legion was in the lead, they urged the passage of the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. It's made a big difference in America. It educated our people and enabled them to become homeowners and to make their contribution to America in another way. It's very important.

We were told by The American Legion and other VSOs that that wasn't adequate to the task anymore and we needed a 9/11 -- it was called a 9/11 GI Bill of Rights which had GI Bill which was for the Afghan and -- largely the Afghan and Iraqi -- and this was a very important piece of legislation, and we were proud to pass it. You should take pride in your role in making that happen.

And part of it was big rallies we had with young people who had served or just had returned from their service in the military, their sign said, "Honor our veterans, send them to college." And that's exactly what we did. Over 300,000 people -- young people have -- young to me is almost anybody -- but it doesn't have to be that young -- have gone to college, over several hundred thousands.

What's important about it it's different in two respects. It is transferable to other family members should the person who serve not take advantage of it, and this is very different and I was surprised to learn that this was a challenge, if you died in combat the privilege went away until we passed the bill that said the families of those who served and made that sacrifice would -- it makes sense, right?

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: I mean why wouldn't we do that? And so it really is a big bill that we passed this year, omnibus bill working with The American Legion, offered education counseling and mental health services and respite care to families of veterans, enhanced health services for 1.8 million women veterans, including care for newborns for the first time in history.

You know, 2 million kids have had a parent serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, and 1 million of their children have seen their parent go onto more than one deployment. So

we have this responsibility to these families.

You can never make up for lost birthdays, anniversaries, events in the lives of children, but we can do what we can to make life easier for them, and that means when they come home that their parent will have a job.

That's why I'm pleased in our office that we have our Wounded Warriors initiative to hire wounded warriors. But not just the wounded -- apparently wounded -- there are other challenges, PTSD as you know and -- so we want all veterans to have opportunities, that's why we've initiated something called "The Make It In America," saying manufacture it in America, make our country strong by having our manufacturing and technological and industrial base stronger so that we can manufacture what we need for our troops. It's a national security issue to do so and it creates jobs for our returning vets.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: The list goes on. Rita mentioned some expanded health benefits for veterans and healthcare access in rural areas, prohibited co-payments for veterans who are catastrophically disabled, it builds on other accomplishments we had and insuring advanced appropriations, passing the largest increase in veteran health funding in history, making investments to help deliver care where veterans live, and more than quadrupling their travel reimbursement. As I travel through the country, veterans would say it's too expensive for me to go, the reimbursement doesn't matter. We multiplied it by four. Billions of dollars of investment --

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: Thank you. Billions of dollars of investment in the Recovery Act specifically for veterans, jobs, tax cuts, and quality of life improvements for our troops and veterans and recollects to reduce the claims backlog, which I consider to be almost immoral.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: We just provided \$13 billion in disability compensation from those who are suffering from the after effects of Agent Orange. And restoring the promise again of the full four-year scholarship for our veterans.

With the Auxiliary as our partner, we will continue our efforts. You're right there with it. You have planted the pole, we have joined you in that. And when we plant that flag we must honor it. We must honor it. We must honor what it stands for.

I'm from Baltimore, so that's where the National Anthem was written, and every time I hear it -- and everybody says it's hard to sing or this or that -- no, it's a beautiful song, it was written in Baltimore -- but the sentence that I love is when they say "that our flag was still there." Our flag was still there.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: That's usually followed by a big foop (phonetic). Well our flag planted for the veterans is still there until we get our work done, until we don't have homeless vets, jobless vets, backlogs for vets, and the rest of it.

It's our responsibility, our veterans, our men and women in uniform as they serve and when they come home are responsibility for us being the home of the brave and the land of the free. They help us all honor our constitutional oath to protect and defend

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the constitution of the United States. Take some pride in these accomplishments that we have done to honor what you have already been in the forefront on.

I had a report that was dismaying to me, given to me by the Blue Star Families, it said that they believed among their folks that 95 percent of the American people do not understand or appreciate the sacrifices made by servicemembers and their families. Does that take your breath away? Does it take your breath away?

In fact it is a real -- and that's a scientific poll -- that that's what the families think; we have to change that. We have to change that.

So let's make that a project that we can work on together to make sure just as it was when I was a little girl and saw VJ Day and four of my brothers were in the military, my nephew in the military, you know, we all had that experience when we were growing up, and we have to make sure that everyone in our country knows that no good can happen to them in their lives unless we are free, and we cannot be free without the patriotism, the courage, and the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and their families.

So thank you for giving me to at some point in time to come say thank you to you.

Congratulations on your meeting. God bless American Legion. God bless our men and women in uniform. God bless Americans. Thank you all very much.

Oh, I'm getting something here.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, the service organization I'm just so touched by your presence here too.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Powerful woman. Powerful women.

I have the opportunity to present our 90th anniversary coin to you. It exemplifies for God and Country and truly the red, white, and blue that we have promoted all year, and I'd like to present that to you as memento with the emblems of our Legion Family.

Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PELOSI: Thank you, Rita, I will display with this great pride in the Speaker's Office and invite all of you to visit so that you can see it there. You have a friend in the Speaker's Office.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: You may all enjoy a five-minute stretch, not a five-minute run our leave. Thank you.

(Recess.)

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I know with all the excitement I need to get your attention, please.

You need to know that we were given a special coin of the Speaker of the House, and she said on the reverse is her office under the dome, and this is her house for us to visit.

So I love history, and Kenya has been asked to do something special for the

Cavalcade, and so this is going to be part of that.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Would the judge of the Election Committee take that back. Just go back one. We have page 10, the National Secretary's report.

I'm pleased to now present to you our National Secretary, Dubbie Buckler, for her report.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, I don't quite know how I follow that.

VOICE: Indiana can do it.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Indiana can do it?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So I guess I'll just lead in my saying --

VOICE: It's a really big job.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- it's a really big job. Thank you, I love you.

Over the history of this organization, the organization has been very fortunate to have been visited by Presidents, Vice Presidents, Speakers of the House from both sides of the aisle, and I think as a segue into the remarks about the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, it would behoove us to all remember that none of us can stand up here and speak freely and be in a position to be of differing opinions were it not for all of those who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could do that. So to our veterans who have given us free speech.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And Madam President, may I also say thank you for that surprise recognize of some of our National staff who were here. I was back there frantically going that's not in the script, where is it, where are we? I appreciate that so much. Your National Headquarters staff loves the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Now, I've been around for a year and a half and I'm often asked, how it's going? Well, I thought I'd spend a few moments talking about that.

Challenging, some long-standing challenges and some new ones. And in general I'd like to talk about the nonprofit landscape. When we talk about the revolutionary 990, it really is a revolution. We are in a very different nonprofit landscape than when this organization was founded. There is increased public and regulatory scrutiny; there's decreased revenue. *Philanthropy Journal* reports that nonprofits are stretched to the breaking point. We're not alone. Membership organizations have been declining since the 1960s.

As a side, the American Legion Auxiliary peaked its membership in the decade following World War II. It spiked again after Desert Storm, and like many other membership organizations has been declining since those days.

There's a great book out called *Bowling Alone*, and the researcher who wrote that book reports that there's a downturn in American's desire to join groups, attend meetings, and fewer and fewer busy women will participate in organizations with a lot of committee structures.

Back to that revolutionary 990, that's the annual report that nonprofits have to deliver to the IRS, and it's out there for everyone in the world to view.

The ALA is not quite where it needs to be on some things, but kudos to all of

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you last year who elected -- or elected or ratified the amendment to establish the Audit Committee. They had their first organizational meeting, got a lot of training under their belt, and this will be a very good thing for the Auxiliary. And to Chairman Ginny Hobbs who I know is in the audience somewhere -- right here in front of me -- congratulations to her because she has gotten the Committee off to a great start.

We're in the middle of the changing legal and tax landscape. There are over 1 million nonprofits in the United States, that's not including churches. There's over a million nonprofits in the United States, and collectively the budgets of these 1 million nonprofits is equivalent to the seventh largest world economy.

Now who do you think might have taken notice of that? The IRS and liability lawyers. Collectively that's a lot of tax exception, which means that's a lot of non-taxes, and the IRS is very interested in how well structured, well organized, well run, and how closely nonprofit organizations are adhering to their missions. The changing landscape, a lot of scrutiny.

So how's it going for your American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters? Since coming aboard you heard the report from the Finance Chair, 2008 anybody remembers what happened then, the whole investment landscape tanked, Auxiliary lost millions of dollars, along with everybody else of our size in the country, and we actually came out a little better than a lot of organizations because of the frugality and the good leadership and direction of your National Finance Committee.

With that said, we lost several million dollars. We're not honed to the bone. We've been operating at between 25 to 30 percent staffing vacancy, and you saw the numbers about -- we've been saving the organization in budget nearly 10 percent this year on top of nearly 20 percent last year, with a dues structure that's been unchanged in over 16 years.

When I came on board I asked what are the priorities? We need to build our organizational capacity and we need to improve communications.

Regarding building organizational capacity let's first look at how we stack up compared to other large nonprofit organizations.

Your American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters has one employee for every 31,000 members. Now park that in your memory bank here. The American Legion has one employee for every 8,000 Legion members. Future Farmers of America has one employee for every 6,000 members. Kiwanis International has one employee for every 4,000 members. To say we're operating leanly compared with other large national organizations is pretty much an understatement.

So have we had any achievements in light of this landscape? Absolutely. The Corporation for National Community Service, you heard Bob Reeg yesterday give a presentation and a report of our AmeriCorps VISTA grant, VISTA I, we are applying for what we are lovingly calling VISTA II, and we just received a grant award to establish the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps Consortium where we are going to be receiving assigned AmeriCorps volunteers that we are going to be assigning to the other organizations.

If you look at that, we have received over \$1 million -- with those three things combined we will have received over \$1 million worth of people support for a direct cost of under \$8,000. That's a pretty good return on an \$8,000 investment.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Yes, applause would be a good thing at this point. That's a celebration moment.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is now the single biggest outside investor in the American Legion Auxiliary, taking the American Legion Auxiliary to a new level of national recognition, and all this occurred at a time when national grantmaking in general is down 8 percent. So that's a real success.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We rethought how we were going to do some fundraising. We changed our approach with direct mail. Since coming on board, we've now completed three targeted direct mail campaigns, and we have netted -- like real money in the bank to the American Legion Auxiliary -- over \$360,000, which is unparalleled against anything else in the history of the organization.

So thanks to all of you who when you receive --

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- if you're one of those targeted persons who gets that mailing, and if you receive it and you return something in that envelope, it's making a big difference.

That combined with the 90th anniversary appeal that was in the dues renewal notice and in the magazine, we have now netted in one year's time over a half million dollars in donations to the organizations from you. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And Quadriga, the company that is handling our direct mail program for us, they were a \$10,000 sponsor of this event.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now honing into where we are with some of the more nitty-gritty things.

As I said, the second thing that was really important was to improve our communications. Communications and technology go hand and hand and it's critical to organizational effectiveness.

When I came before you last year, I asked you a few questions about the magazine. So I'll ask you a quick question about the magazine. Do you like it?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: The convention program?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: The convention program this year has 33 percent more pages at 33 percent less cost, and because of the in-kind and other support and advertising sales just about paid for 98 percent of the printing of the program.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I'm not going to talk a lot about the Management Information System. Most of you get or indirectly get the pulse point memos that we put out periodically, and for those of you who said that when it came out, it's a really big project. It is a really big project.

Eight million records of information, and I'm just going to liken it to this, this is what I will say right now, our information was maintained by the American Legion in a very different platform, in a different format. It's like taking 800 million records written in Chinese, driving in a righthand vehicle, and moving it over into English into a vehicle

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that drives on the lefthand side of the road. A few things get lost in translation. There was a movie about that.

We're addressing it, we're moving as quickly as we can with it, and while the software package was really great and our vendor has created a great product for us, we need to address the fact that there's going to have to be some technical support and customer service support and we need the resources to do that.

What's the big picture for the Headquarters? Coming before the end of the year will be your new enhanced, interactive website.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I know I have learned since coming on board that the expectation for this far exceeds when I came on board. These two really big projects really had to work together well, and that's just an awful lot of technical planning and development.

So I appreciate your patience, I take your criticisms and your barbs and darts and arrows with -- knowing that you're sending them my way with great affection --

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- and it will be, I hope, something that you will be proud of once we do roll it out.

We're a great grassroots organization. You have volunteered 5 million hours and donated \$6 million to support veterans. You are awesome, and you are unsung.

With strategic focus, the organization can flourish. The mission is as important today as it ever was, and with a caring organizational culture, the possibilities to grow are enormous.

Madam President, that concludes my remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, Dubbie.

Would Cecilia Martinez from Otero-Garcia-Navarreté Unit 72 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, please come to podium and present the National President's Scrapbook?

MS. MARTINEZ: Good morning everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. MARTINEZ: Is it still morning?

Madam National President Rita, we, the Otero-Garcia-Navarreté Unit 72 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, proudly present you with one of many scrapbooks prepared by your Scrapbook Chairman, Matilda, and as we know her, Tilly Lopez. The scrapbook we believe will bring you fond memories of your travels throughout the country. One page is dedicated to the memory of our parents and our brother Tony.

Once your God and Country room is built, you will have plenty of room to place all your scrapbooks to enjoy.

We love you, Rita, and you are my hero, sister.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

Would now the judge of the Election Committee, Rosemarie Hauck, please come to the podium and give her report.

MS. HAUCK: Thank you, Madam National President.

The final tally sheet for the election for 2010-2011 is as follows. Number of votes cast: 872 out of a possible 878. Number of votes needed to elect: more than one-

half of the above total is 437. Vickie Thrower, 503; Donna Gana, 369.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much. Thank you, and the members of the Election Committee.

It is my pleasure to present to you the elected officers of the American Legion Auxiliary for 2010-2011 administrative year. Carlene Ashworth, National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The troops say they're supposed to be coming. Kris Nelson, National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Donna Fuelling, Central Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Charlotte Hagan, Eastern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Lynne Wild, Northwestern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Patricia Lambert-Knight, Southern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Darlene McLaughlin, Western Divisional Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Vickie Thrower, National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch, National Historian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Please join me and congratulating these members and ladies.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, ladies.

I'm pleased to introduce the members of the very hard-working Resolutions Committee, Barbara Kranig, Chairman; Diane DeLashmit, Vice Chairman; Nicole Clapp, member. Barbara will present the report.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam National President, the Resolutions Committee recommends adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved that the American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 27 through September 2, 2010, ratify the action taken by the National Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, August 28, 2010 to delete Section 10 of the American Legion Auxiliary standing rules titled Subsidiary Organizations.

And be it for the resolved that all references of the 8 and 40 in the policies and

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procedures of the previous convention actions be nullified.

Madam National President, by direction of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of Resolution number two.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The question is on the adoption of the Resolution resolved, that the American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 27th, September 2, 2010, ratify the action taken by the National Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, August the 28th, 2010, to delete Section 10 of the American Legion Auxiliary standing rules, Subsidiary Organizations.

And be it further resolved that all references to the 8 and 40 in the policies and the procedures of the previous convention actions be nullified.

I have asked the National Secretary to give some information.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

This matter was addressed by the National Executive Committee, and at that time I shared background leading up to the decision that was made by the National Executive Committee.

It's important to understand what this action means, what it does not mean, and to dispel misconceptions.

The matter was conveyed -- the matter is a rational business decision, and the directive was conveyed by the 8 and 40 to the ALA that it no longer wishes to remain a subsidiary organization. I'm going to say it no longer wishes to remain classified as a subsidiary organization.

The ALA then must take this urgently needed appropriate action to remove references to the 8 and 40 as a subsidiary. The action is in response to their direction and it's necessary to comply with new IRS requirements and federal regulations to protect both organizations from inherent liability risks and future legal and regulatory and tax liabilities.

I will share again that the term "subsidiary" has a very different legal meaning today in 2010 than it did in 1926. It is unlikely our founders ever intended the 8 and 40 to be a legal subsidiary of the ALA by today's definition.

The 8 and 40 is currently and will remain a separate legal corporation. With this action, the ALA will have no organizations or groups classified as subsidiaries.

For a little bit of history, the Past Presidents Parley was reclassified as a standing committee by the NEC in 1944, musical groups were disbanded in 1992, and the 8 and 40 has voted and communicated its decision to end its legal classification as a subsidiary organization.

It's important to understand the matter of addressing this information needed in anticipation for the 990 from the 8 and 40 by the ALA in order to comply as a subsidiary has been ongoing for over three years.

With this action here's what it means, does not mean.

One, the attorneys for both organizations spoke at length about this. I want to underscore that this was done with the advice of legal counsel, with legal counsel to both organizations and communication, and done very amicably.

The 8 and 40, currently classified as a subsidiary, has acted to sever its legal classification as a subsidiary. The ALA must act in accordance to this decision. The ALA legally cannot dispute nor reject this decision.

The decision does allow the 8 and 40 to remain a separate legal organization

operating as it currently does with its current name, with its current programs, and with continued goodwill between both organizations.

It does require the 8 and 40 to create a new logo and new branding tagline without the trademarked American Legion Auxiliary emblem and name. The 8 and 40 therefore must modify its marketing materials.

This action does not dissolve the 8 and 40. It does not prohibit American Legion Auxiliary members from belonging to the 8 and 40. It does not prohibit the 8 and 40 from raising money for its many child welfare and health-related projects. It does not require the 8 and 40 to end its collaborative relationship with the ALA. It does not prohibit past chapeaus and past officers in good standing with the 8 and 40 from wearing their past officer pins.

The 8 and 40 can still exist, do all that it is currently doing, and have ALA members as its members. It just cannot continue to use the ALA emblem.

The change in legal status of the organization does not change their mission nor the long-standing fondness and respect between the two organizations.

And to be clear and for the record, the American Legion Auxiliary bylaws still allow for organizations to petition the American Legion Auxiliary to become a subsidiary organization.

The 8 and 40 can, in the future, request to be established as a subsidiary.

It is imperative that we take this action today because of where we are today.

Thank you, madam President.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. Thank you for that information. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And I'm going to read in its entirety the resolve clause, because this Resolution was not distributed in advance or given to any of the Delegates here at convention.

Resolved that the American Legion Auxiliary and the National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 27th-September 2nd, 2010, ratify the action taken by the National Executive Committee meeting on Saturday, August the 28th, 2010, to delete Section 10 of the American Legion Auxiliary standing rules, Subsidiary Organization.

And be it further resolved that all references of the 8 and 40 and the policies and the procedures of the previous convention actions be nullified.

All those in favor of proposed Resolution number two, and I'll ask you to stand as it requires a two-thirds vote, please stand.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Okay, thank you. All those opposed please stand.

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you. And the Resolution is affirmative; the Resolution has been adopted.

Barbara will now give the record.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam National President, the pre-convention

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Resolution Committee meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Milwaukee AB Room, Hyatt Hotel by presiding Officer Barbara Kranig. There being no objections, Diane DeLashmit of California was appointed Secretary, and Rita Barylski and Katherine Whitfield (phonetic) were appointed Sergeant at Arms and Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

Mrs. Kranig welcomed all the Department representatives and visitors.

The Resolutions process was discussed. Resolutions received prior to the meeting included just one, to be routed to the National Security Committee and which was rejected by that Committee.

The Resolutions Committee met again at 8 a.m. on September 1, -- that's today, ladies, while you slept till 9 o'clock I had to be up early -- to consider a Resolution concerning subsidiary organizations which was approved by the Resolutions Committee.

Madam President, this concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee with the exception of the courtesy resolutions.

Do you need to accept that? Okay.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Your report is accepted.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Thank you.

Madam President, may we consider courtesy Resolutions one and two with one vote?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Resolution number one will be read by Vice Chairman Diane Delashmit, and Resolution number two will be read by Committeemember Nicole Clapp.

VICE CHAIRMAN DELASHMIT: Whereas, Delegates and guests have gathered in Milwaukee, a great place on a great lake to hear the accomplishments of this volunteer family of the world's largest organization of patriotic women.

And whereas, the National officers and Committee Chairman have provided direction, motivation, and leadership in developing the Auxiliary's programs and projects.

And whereas, the Past National Presidents continue to provide guidance and inspiration along the way to achieve these accomplishments.

And whereas, Auxiliary staff under the direction of National Secretary Dubbie Buckler and staff of the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Frontier Airlines Center have displayed their professionalism providing inviting and comfortable facilities and efficient schedules.

And whereas, Convention Chairman Diana Sirovina, local committees, and all members of the Department of Wisconsin have provided hospitality, assistance, and courtesies to all in attendance.

Now therefore be it resolved, we express our appreciation to each of them for their diligence and hard work by a round of applause.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEEMEMBER CLAPP: Courtesy Resolution number two.

Whereas, this convention has been privileged to hear from many distinguished guests from The American Legion led by the National Commander Clarence Hill and his staff, National Committee Chairmen, Sons of The American Legion Commander Mark Arneson, and dignitaries of the 8 and 40.

And whereas, representatives of Auxiliary programs, including Girls Nation,

Miss Poppy winners, Junior members, Department and Unit Member of the Year honorees, and recipients including Woman of the Year, the Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth, servicewomen honorees, the Call to Service Corps VISTA volunteer, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival have all expressed their appreciation to the hours bestowed and honors upon them.

Whereas, the presence of these distinguished guests has provided validation of our programs.

And now therefore be it resolved that by our applause we thank these participants for contributing to our convention in such a meaningful way.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam National President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of courtesy Resolutions one and two.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: All those in favor say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam National President, may we ask that the Vice President please assume the Chair.

Madam President, whereas, one year ago you took your oath of office, you vowed to reconnect and energize this great organization.

And whereas, you endeavored to keep us on track as we carried out the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and promoted the Love Train in support of those programs.

Whereas, you stressed diversity in our programs and our membership, even leaving the train to embrace bicycles in the Ride 2 Recovery.

And whereas, continued strides were taken to modernize our organization with the development of the Auxiliary Management Information System.

And whereas, the major highlight of your year has been the promotion and observation of this 90th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary.

And whereas, you have done all these things with grace and energy.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Delegates here assembled show their appreciation by a standing ovation and applause for a job well done.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Did you want to accept it? Did you want to accept that Resolution?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I'm sorry.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Your applause has indicated the acceptance of this Resolution. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: And that, Madam National President, concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much. Thank you.

Favorite part of the program, announcements. Before -- there's still some items. Will the National Secretary please make any announcements if we have any. There's a few.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. It is now time for --

VOICES: (Singing).

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SECRETARY BUCKLER: All right. How many of you have been following the National Headquarters page on Facebook this week?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We've been posting pictures and maybe you're in one of them. So feel free to tag yourself in the pictures and click the Like button today," because we'd love to increase our number of fans.

I have a lost and found -- I have a found item. A two-star Blue Star lapel pin -- I don't know that you can really see that -- and it was found in the Hyatt Hotel after the pre-convention meetings near Regency Room C and D. So if anyone lost their lapel pin, a Blue Star Mothers lapel pin with two stars on it, we have that up here at the podium.

Also, and this will be available later in the office or we'll have it with us tomorrow. There was one earring found. A little -- it looked like a little curved gold earring, pierced earring, and I don't have it up here on stage with me, but it'll be in the office later on.

Meetings coming up. The Committee for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund 2010-2011 please meet in the North Dakota section right after the closing of this meeting today.

The 2010-2011 Education Committee meeting please meet at the Illinois sign immediately following adjournment.

The 2010-2011 Girls State Committee please meet with Vickie Koutz under the Indiana sign immediately following the conclusion of this session.

The 2009-2010 Girls Nation staff will meet for a half an hour after this meeting in the lobby by the entrance to the restaurant of the Hilton Hotel.

Tickets. States Dinner tickets for sale or needed. The Department of Arizona has a ticket available. California needs two tickets. North Dakota has two tickets.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And Minnesota has two tickets.

So, Department of Arizona, holler out.

(Hollering.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: California needs two tickets. California?

(Hollering.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: North Dakota has two tickets.

(Hollering.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And Minnesota has two tickets.

(Hollering.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Will all of the National President's Award for Excellence recipients please meet on stage meeting following the conclusion of this session for a quick photo with our National President, Rita Navarreté.

And the American Legion Auxiliary is celebrating its 90 years of purposeful existence, and the Department of Florida has a member celebrating her 90th birthday today. Happy birthday to Olga Terrell, also known as OT.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And yesterday we recognized members for the number of years they have attended this convention. So today, Romona Hendricks who lost her coveted title has challenged who can top the number of years they have served as a member of the organization. She has been a member for 88 years.

Can anyone beat that? Romona, I think you have a title.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President, that concludes the announcements that I have at this time.

Oh, I'm sorry, I do have one more. We will be getting ready for the close of the convention and resetting the stage, so we've been told that I need to get off.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know, we are at that time set aside for the National President to give her report, and it's a video report. I would invite -- and they've been taken off stage -- to join the audience to witness with me the video report.

I've been told all of us to sit tight, they just need a couple of more minutes. And personal privilege right here, I believe my family members arrived yesterday, and where are you? My husband should be here and also -- well he's been here with me all week -- Joseph, my pages, they know that they have seats up front or they know that they can be seated so they too can be part of this viewing.

As I was visiting with Speaker of the House Pelosi, she remarked on the pin of the National President, and as I traveled across the country and visited the Departments, visited units, visited hospitals, clinics, homeless centers, transitional veteran centers, meeting with mayors, meeting with governors, we talked about the red, white, and blue, we talked of the love of country, and it wasn't a difficult decision for this National President to pick and choose the design for the National pin she co-proudly continues to wear. It was red, white, and blue with our Service Not Self. The 90th anniversary says it all.

And what I added to it, it's got my name on the back, so it's a keeper. Mom and Dad instill that so much of the love of God and country. Thank you for honoring the red, white, and blue. And it's going to take everyone of us --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: You know that 95 percent statistic that she gave us? It didn't surprise so much. Because when I started my journey it was just shocking, amazing that folks didn't know who we were, what we did, and how we served after 90 years. And whose fault was that?

VOICES: Ours.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Because we do the work that we do without expectations of a pat on the back, but it's time to come out, not only sing to the choir, but it's time to come out and sing to the communities that surround us where the work is being done at that grassroots level.

Nancy said it so very clear, Nancy Brown-Park, when we were planning membership. "Rita," she says, "I know that if we can engage them and involve them in our programs, they will want to join." And Nancy, that's what we attempted to do this year as we began our Whistle Stop Campaign.

You know this is pretty great because staff said, "Rita, there's no storytelling; we don't have time," and so, you know, again there's always a reason for everything that happens.

When I talked about how you energize and how you inspire, when I was in the Department of Louisiana, a young member came up and she said, "I was encouraged to come today and I got a sitter for my special-challenged daughter and I want you to know

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that you have inspired me today and I will return to the activities,” and she was there at the membership rally.

And I stopped and held hands and said, “May I have your name, please.” Her name was Rhonda Maria. Rhonda Maria is the name of the daughter that Tony and I lost who is an angel up in Heaven.

And I say things happen for a reason. And our first National President from New Mexico was 1969. She celebrated the 50; that was 40 years ago. Forty and 50 add up to what?

VOICES: Ninety.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: And who’s before you? The second National President from the proud Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Ready?

(Pause.)

(Video presentation begins.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Well, it’s hard to believe that we’ve come to the end of our 90th anniversary convention already, but you know for a storyteller, and as most of you know I am a storyteller, the end of a story is bittersweet.

Like anyone who loves to read or watch movies I hate to see a great story end, but then again in most stories the ending is the sweetest, the most rewarding part that makes you feel good, you stayed with it to the end. It’s where the boy gets the girl, the lost pup makes it home, and of course everyone lives happily ever after, which you know reminds me of a story, would you like to hear it?

VOICES: Yes.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: Once upon a time.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Well, it was just about a year ago to be exact.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: Okay. Once upon a year ago, a girl named Rita --

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I’m hardly a girl.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: -- embarked on an exciting adventure to a faraway land.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Well, actually I traveled to a lot of exciting places this year.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: Ms. Rita, do you want me to tell the story or not?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I’m kind of known as a story teller myself.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: So I’ve heard.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Maybe we could tell it together?

VIDEO COMENTATOR: I like that. Where should we begin?

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Well, that’s hard to stay. This story started about a year ago on a stage just like this at my installation as the 2009-2010 National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. I was escorted to the stage by a handsome prince, Tony Richard, my husband of 42 years, and I wore ruby red slippers, and when I clicked my heels together -- oh, that actually was another story -- anyway, the installing officer is my good friend and Past National President, JoAnn Cronin, a lot of my family members were there too, because family is very important to me. My two sons Joseph and Stephen were there, and my sister CeCe Martinez, served as a mistress of ceremonies. And then there were folks from the Otero-Garcia-Navarreté Post, Unit and Squadron 72, and the

Department of New Mexico, but they too love a good story. New Mexico is the land of enchantment, you know. And then there was singing.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: Ah singing, I would hope so. Every fairy tale needs a catchy song.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The songs were beautiful. Rachel Arthur of the Air Force Academy from Albuquerque, New Mexico, held my hand as she sang a very moving rendition of “When You Believe.”

And then Junior member India Archer from the Department of New Mexico enchanted us with her wonderful voice.

At my installation I introduced my theme for the year, “Reconnecting with Our Heritage to Strengthen Our Future,” because the story of the American Legion Auxiliary started 90 years ago and I wanted to showcase our heritage and history.

Historians at all levels, unit, district, department, and national were encouraged to become involved in looking back at the beginning of our great organization and share those stories within the Auxiliary and their communities.

Our marketing and communications team also got involved, introducing a “Decade of Making a Difference” series in the *Auxiliary* magazine, and wrapping it up with a recap of our 90th year history and this year’s convention guide.

Stories and connecting go hand in hand. Everyone has a story. Stories are powerful tools for connecting and inspiring.

Looking back at our past struggles can light the path of the future for the American Legion Auxiliary.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: I believe you mentioned faraway places.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Oh, yes. Some near and some very far, but all very exciting.

My first Department visit was to Wyoming where I attended the Department fall workshop and visited the hot springs in Demopolis. I also enjoyed a trip around Auxiliary land where each member wore a bandanna and blew their whistles as they approached to give their reports.

Then I went to Michigan for their fall conference in Roseville. I toured the center for homeless veterans where I helped serve breakfast to every veteran and also enjoyed a meal with them.

I particularly remember sitting with a young man that morning who shared his love of art with me, and also shared many of the art pieces that he had done. When the director came by our table, I asked him if he had seen this artwork, and he said, “No,” and I asked then why not? The young veteran responded, “He’s never asked.” This is just one more example of why it is so important to listen to our veterans when we volunteer to help. They’re not service projects; they’re people and their stories must be shared.

In South Carolina I enjoyed a wonderful visit with the Legion and Auxiliary members, and taking my first motorcycle ride with The American Legion Riders.

But what I remember most on this visit was a memorial service that took place on Sunday morning and the moving music sung by Department President Brenda Collins and her spouse. It reconnected with my heart and soul.

As a former Girls Stater from New Mexico, I was thrilled to attend Missouri Girls State. I met many of the girls and appreciated their desire to learn about citizenship

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and the love for God and country. It truly is one of our premier programs, and their enthusiasm was contagious.

VIDEO COMENTATOR: This all sounds very exciting, but in addition to faraway places, a good story needs a hero.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Well let me tell you, over the past year I have met one hero after another.

I attended the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in San Antonio. The American Legion Auxiliary was a national cosponsor of this event which celebrates the healing power of art. I enjoyed powerful dance and vocal performances, and was amazed by the breathtaking artwork that these veterans drew.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The true beauty of this event though is witnessing the ability of our veterans who have experienced so much and yet still create such objects and expressions of beauty.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Equally inspiring were the wounded warriors of Ride 2 Recovery, a cycling program which aids in the mental and physical rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

I was especially touched by Nathan Hunt, a double amputee who gave both his legs in service during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nathan rode a hand cycle more than 350 miles across the State of Florida. It was a family affair. Nathan's wife, Michelle, drove an R2R support vehicle, and their daughter served as a official family photographer.

Michelle and I truly connected and talked a great deal about the Auxiliary. Michelle told me she'd like to join but wasn't sure since she and Nate traveled so much. I didn't want Michelle to miss a single day of the Auxiliary benefits for her and her children. Both Michelle and Nathan joined the Legion and Auxiliary of my home post in Albuquerque and plan on transferring to a post and unit in Texas when things settle down for them.

Another hero in my book was the Corporation for National and Community Service who provided us with a Call to Service Corps VISTA grant. After being sworn in into service at last year's National convention, seven VISTAs were placed at the National Headquarters, and 11 VISTAs were placed in field sites helping the Auxiliary to do more work with less staff during these tough economic times.

This first time grant provided us with a motivated, energetic team from retired military to fresh out of college, but all dedicated themselves to a year of service to the project to alleviate poverty among our Nation's veterans. We are so grateful for each and every one of our VISTA volunteers.

One of my most powerful connections came in November of last year. When planning my trip to Washington, D.C. last fall I let Bob Reeg know that I wanted to meet with my peers from VFW and Gold Star Mothers.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Ruth Stonesifer, a National President of the American Gold Star Mothers, a nonprofit group of mothers who have lost sons and daughters in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Ruth's son Kris was an Army Ranger who lost his life in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan on October 19th, 2001. At just 28 years old he was one of the first two American casualties in the Global War on Terror.

Her husband, Rick, is a retired Navy captain, and her son Rick Jr. recently retired from the Army. So you can imagine that Ruth truly appreciates the mission of your organization.

Ruth mentioned to me that she was trying to find meeting locations for some of the American Gold Star Mother groups. I told her that in nearly 10,000 communities across the country there are Legion posts and Auxiliary units committed to the same mission that she holds so dear and that most of them have great meeting areas, and that I was sure many of them would open their hearts and space to her and her ladies. We made a powerful connection.

I met Jan Tittle, the VFW National Ladies Auxiliary President and we have a lot in common. VFW Auxiliary is celebrating its 95th anniversary.

I also met Wendy Hoffman, President of the Blue Star Mothers of America. Wendy is an Auxiliary member and she was in Washington to see her son who had just recently returned from Afghanistan, participate in a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

The very next day I saw Ruth and Jan again, this time at a breakfast at the Pentagon hosted by Defense Secretary Gates. Ruth and I were fortunate to be sitting at the same table. But another connection was about to take place.

As we were placed for an official photo, the staff assistant to Secretary Gates approached us. He recognized the name Stonesifer. This young man had served with Ruth's son, Kris Stonesifer, in combat and placed his coffin on the C-130 when his body was returned to the United States. Ruth's story really stayed with me.

I prayed a lot for Ruth and her family, and apparently the Lord was not through with us. He was working very hard to make it very clear that he had brought Ruth and me together for a reason.

I saw Ruth again when she attended the Auxiliary's Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C. I had no idea she had even registered. When I saw her, we embraced like long-lost friends, then Ruth asked for my help. She said, "Rita, I was hoping you might be able to introduce me to an Auxiliary member from Montana." Well wouldn't you know it -- I told you He was showing off -- the Northwest Divisional Vice President from Montana was standing right behind her. But it gets even better. Her home post is Kristophor Stonesifer Post number 124, Frenchtown, Montana, which is named after Ruth's son.

When I was growing up, my parents shared their favorite stories with me. In addition to entertaining me, every story offered a moral lesson. My experience with Ruth is no different. I will never forget that day or Ruth's story.

Ruth gave me a coin on one of our visits in memory of her son. I carry it with me every day because it helps me remember. I'll always remember her son Kris and the sacrifice he made for our freedom.

Remembering the fact that God has a plan for all of us and He puts people we need in our path, and that we all have something to gain when we work together. There are so many worthwhile organizations in this country, we need to cooperate and not compete. There are plenty of people who care and plenty of people who need our help.

Whether it's Ruth and the Gold Star Mothers, Wendy and the Blue Star Mothers, the VFW, or your local food bank, think about the extraordinary service this organization can provide if we help those who are helping others.

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I've listened and learned a lot from the stories and the encounters I've experienced in my year as National President. First that every member is important and every member from the newest to the most senior deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential for the service within the organization. The most important thing we can give a new member is the opportunity to get involved right away. After all isn't that why they joined? So make them feel welcome, make them feel appreciated, and don't forget to take time to appreciate those who have been the backbone of our units for many years. Do your best to not take any single member or one single effort for granted, because it takes all of us working together to accomplish the mission of the organization.

This year as I have traveled from Department to Department you've inspired me to remember what we're really here for. I have been made to feel so special, so welcomes, and so loved by all of you. Every single member deserves this special feeling.

Secondly our National Headquarters team is important for the organization. Over the past year I have seen firsthand the enormous amount of work they do. They get the job done with a very small staff compared to most organizations our size, and I don't think there is one person among us who isn't thrilled to see our Auxiliary magazine return to us. We've truly brought the publication back to the membership focusing on the individuals and efforts that truly make a difference in the lives of veterans every day with inspiring stories, advice from fellow Auxiliary members, and so much more. I believe our new magazine truly reflects who we are, and apparently many of you do too. Just listen to this one letter.

"Love the new look. I love the new design; it's great. I like all of the real photos. It makes all we do seem more real and appreciated. Keep up the great work."

We must connect to those in the community who are eligible and who want to join, but how do we connect and what do we need to do to retain existing members? Well, we must do a better job of telling our communities who we are, what we do, and how we make a difference. We each have a responsibility to tell our stories. If you let them know they will want to get involved.

After working with the National Leadership this past year I am certain there will be a seamless transition from my presidency to the next, and each of you in this room has the power to make that happen, and we have to, there is so much to be done.

Remember: A veteran is a veteran every day. A volunteer is a volunteer every day. Don't stop the work, because our veterans need us every day. Our communities need us every day. This organization needs us every day.

God bless you all and thank you for allowing me to serve as your National President this year. Thank you for listening to my story and for the opportunity to be part of an organization that helps rewrite the story of our veterans and their families across the Nation.

They have served us well, and through the great work of our National Officers, Chairman, and members everywhere I believe we all play an important role in helping them all to live happily ever after.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Ninety years, we truly have -- thank you. Ninety years, we truly have something to celebrate.

So with that in mind, everyone please stand up, stomp your feet, sing along, and welcome back Michael Drake and the No Tan Lines Band.

(Music.)

MICHAEL DRAKE: All right--you know how this works, ladies! Let's get it going. Celebration time. All right, we love you. We love you. This is my new best girlfriend.

(Music and Singing.)

(Applause.)

MICHAEL DRAKE: Oh yeah. Beautiful, thank you, we'll be back. We'll be back.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Is that right?

MICHAEL DRAKE: Yes, I think we'll be back. Are we going to do some more for you? Let's talk about that. I got to come back, this is way too much fun.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, ladies, you may return to the audience. You may be seated.

What a journey, all beginning with that first step, August 27th, 2009, in Louisville, Kentucky, soon to end on the day 33 years ago our second son, Stephen, was born. What a time to celebrate, not only for the Navarreté family, but for The American Legion and the Department of Texas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I am, as each of you, are part of the decades these 90 years of Service Not Self. We continue to believe that all things are possible, todo es posible, we know we could do it moving forward and never losing hope.

As we reconnected with our members I believe we energized each other, I believed we inspired each other. As I got off at the different flight schedules, I was met with my second family, whether it was one, whether it was two, whether it was three, and whether it was the entire Color Guard of the Department of Maine who greeted me, they thought a group of soldiers were coming back home, and I believe it was their Congresswomen who thought the greeting was for him.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you all so for making each one of the Divisional Vice Presidents feel as welcome. Thank you for welcoming our Vice President, Carlene, when she represented me on assignments that I could not attend.

And to the National Chairmen, what can I tell you? Your reports have been awesome, I just so enjoyed hearing your quotes, hearing your stories, and most of all cooperating this year in the leadership programs that we had set out to do.

The special attention was given to my love for music as I traveled and dance, and truly touched my heart, my soul, and my feet.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It was those simple things that made me feel so special and a part of the family.

Trick or treating in Connecticut--poor Janet didn't want to join me, but so truly was reminded of her responsibility as a National Chairman to the National President.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: For bobbing for that apple with the Juniors and a young Son of The American Legion, and I got it on the third try.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: For writing the word "believe" in the sands in

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each one of us putting a little bit of child in us as we continued writing the words where we filled one portion of that beach.

For the late nights, the early mornings, for all the good food, for the courtesies, not only by the American Legion Auxiliary, but The American Legion Family. You need to know that you -- we are well respected by The American Legion Family. Thank you for doing your work.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: When we set out this year to reconnect and energize with our members, with our veterans, and our communities you met those challenges. Reconnecting with our members, it's been reflected today and yesterday with all the accomplishments and your participation in your activities.

With our veterans you've heard that we've reconnected to the homeless, to our current military troops, to World War II veterans, to veterans of all the theaters, we have made that connection.

Stop and listen to their stories. And if you've noticed or you did not hear, the majority of the speakers today and our National Chairmen told a story, there are stories everywhere.

To our communities, you did it, we did it, and we will continue to reach out to our communities so that when we get to that 100th anniversary I tell you people with know not only who we are, what we do, and how we serve, we will be over that one million member mark.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you for giving me the honor to be your National President. Thank you for listening to my stories. And on behalf of all my officers and staff, thank you for your service.

God bless America, and God bless our military troops, for they are protecting our freedom every day of our lives. God bless you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you so much.

Before I make the final announcement for the day, I want you to know on personal privilege of this National President, JP, right to -- JP, raise your hand -- oh, back here, okay. JP has assisted the National Chairman throughout many years. You may be seated. I think the bell is down here. You may be seated. And I just want to do take this time to ask for your prayers. There was a death in the family the second day we were here, JP and his wife Jill understanding his commitment, his dedication remained here to be with us. I ask that you include JP and his family with a prayer tonight, and I have let him know that he is not alone as the American Legion Auxiliary family is at his side. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you, ladies. We are recessed.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Oh, no. Oh, no. As I mentioned it's going to be a smooth transition for Carlene. Please welcome her to the stage.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you all for the faith in me and thanks Rita to her outstanding leadership.

It's my hope to start my year running, so it's pleasure to introduce my theme, and the theme for the 2011 National American Legion Auxiliary Convention, it epitomizes the importance of each and every member as we serve those who need our help, and I encourage all of you to take advantage of the theme materials that are now valuable to you. So do you want to hear it?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I can't think of a better way to introduce my theme than this. Hit it, Michael!

MICHAEL DRAKE: Alrighty then. Get that one up there, we did it earlier, remember? Get that one up there. Here we go. The power of one. Here we go. The power of one. Here we go. You can like move in your seat if you'd like to.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Wasn't that awesome? The Power of One.

Thank you, ladies, and we'll see you tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock for the installation of the officers. Please be on time.

(Whereupon, at 1:09 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was recessed.)

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**INSTALLATION CEREMONY
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010, 8:06 A.M. TO 10:10 A.M.**

ANNOUNCER: National President Rita Navarreté.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The meeting will now come to order. Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: What a very special day and time it is for the Department of Texas and, of course, for our great organization as it once again is about ready to record history of its 91st National President being installed to the highest office of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I feel so happy and proud of everyone here to witness this once-in-a-lifetime experience for our newly elected officers.

It is now my honor to introduce the installing officer for the ceremony, Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: It's a very special privilege and it is with a great deal of pride that I welcome all of you to the installation of Carlene Ashworth from the Department of Texas as National President and the National Officers and the Department Presidents who will serve with her this year as we begin a new year of service for God and country.

Participants in this morning's program are the following:

Sergeant at Arms, Charlane Dew and Kim Palasota.

Color Bearers for the flags of the Department of Texas and Unit 521 Pasadena, Texas will be presented by Joe Ramirez, Daniel J. Rodriguez, Ben Sanz, and Mark A. Romero from the Color Guard of Harrisburg Post 472, Houston, Texas National Champions.

The soloist --

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: The soloist will be Vickie Sue Wehmeyer. The installing Chaplain is Past National President Kris West and the MC will be Patricia Wanoreck, Carlene's very dear friend.

Will the Sergeants at Arms escort the proud family of Carlene Ashworth to the platform.

Members of the audience may remain seated.

Please give a warm American Legion Auxiliary welcome to Carlene's family members.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Would you please welcome our incoming National Vice President Kris Nelson escorted by her husband, Terry.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Now I would

ask the audience to please stand as the colors of the Department of Texas and Unit 521 are presented.

(Whereupon, Colors are presented.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: You may be seated.

And now it is with great delight that I ask you to welcome the incoming National President for the year 2010-2011, Carlene Ashworth, escorted by her grandson, Caleb Hall, and her sons and daughters-in-law, Kerry and Sylvia Hall, and Stuart and Terry Greenwood.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Please remain standing for the opening prayer to be given by Past National President Kris West.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT WEST: Our dear heavenly Father, as we begin a new year in the American Legion Auxiliary, please bless the newly elected National Officers as they begin to volunteer yet another year of service to you, our country, our veterans, our youth, and communities. Give them the wisdom, knowledge, and patience to perform their duties with distinction, grace, and furnish them with your love to spread across America.

And please keep National President Carlene in your loving arms as she travels throughout our nation and beyond. Keep her safe, healthy, and shower her with your love. Give her happiness and may every day be a blessing only you, our dear Lord, can give. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Lynda Horton-Turk, Past National -- sorry -- Past Southern Division National Vice President from Texas.

MS. HORTON-TURK: Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

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

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Lynda.

We will now hear from Vickie Sue singing *The Power of One*.

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Vickie Sue.

Carlene, it is a personal privilege to share this day with you. We have shared many events over the past years, but none has more significance or exciting than today.

I can assure you that this will be a year filled with delight and much satisfaction. You will find joy in surprising places and your life will be enriched by these happenings and with newfound friends and memories to last a lifetime.

Would the newly elected officers please rise to take your oath of office.

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 yourself with the duties of your respective office.

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Always remember that the welfare and success of this organization depends upon you.

Every American Legion Auxiliary member assumes the obligation of preserving the integrity of both 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.

I, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office I am about to assume. And 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.

And now would the newly elected Department Presidents please rise.

The National President, Carlene, will come forward to give the oath of office to these Department Presidents that will be serving with her this year.

VICE PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Raise your right hand. Repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine.

I, Carlene Ashworth, promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office I'm about to assume. And 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.

You may lower your hands. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN:

Congratulations. You, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have chosen outstanding leaders and officers to lead us this year. I have charged them with a serious responsibility and I likewise charge you.

Would all members of the American Legion Auxiliary please stand and raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I solemnly promise to renew my pledge of service to the American Legion Auxiliary and to give wholehearted support to these newly elected officers.

Thank you. Please remain standing as I ask the rest of the audience to rise for a prayer by our installing Chaplain, Kris West.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT WEST: Dear heavenly Father, thank you for this beautiful and meaningful installation ceremony. We have witnessed the new officers renew their commitment to our organization, the American Legion Auxiliary, and pledged they will continue to volunteer their time and tireless efforts for God and country. May the journey ahead for us all be peaceful, smooth, and filled with abundant love from above.

Please keep National President Carlene Ashworth in your loving care as her journey begins today as our National President. Keep her strong and mindful of her commitment to you and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Happy trails, Madam President Carlene. You have our love and best wishes as you begin this very special time in your life. May God bless you, your family, and may God bless America. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Kris.

And you may be seated.

The retiring officers will now transfer their pins and ribbons of office to their successors.

Would the retiring officers please come forward and present the newly elected officers to the assembly. As the outgoing officers return to their seats, Past National President Rita Navarreté will present them with their ribbons and pins.

We will begin with the National Chaplain, Beverly Wolff.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: It gives me great honor and pleasure to introduce to you, ladies, your new National Chaplain, Vickie Thrower, from Alabama.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Thank you, Beverly.

I would just like to say thank you to my Department that nominated me for National Chaplain. I'd like to say a special thanks to Gloria, my best friend, for doing my nomination speech.

And I would like to say a special thank-you to my mom for always being there for me and to each of you for giving me your support.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN ARENT: I would like to introduce to you the new Historian for the year 2010-2011, Gwen Zulch from the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN ZULCH: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

First of all, I would like to recognize the Department of Ohio American Legion Family. I love you guys dearly.

Second of all, I would also like to recognize two mentors from the Department of Ohio, Past National President Desireé Stoy and Past Honorary President Miriam Junge.

And, Carlene, I pledge to you my support as we preserve the memories and history of this great organization. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT SWANSON: Good morning. It is my great pleasure to present the new Central Division National Vice President, Donna Fuelling of Michigan.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT FUELLING: Thank you.

I want to thank the Department of Michigan, would you please stand, for all their devotion and love for the past years.

And I'd like to introduce three very important people to me. The one person I wouldn't be here without, my husband, Russ Fuelling.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT FUELLING: My daughter, Kimberly Fuelling Frasier.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT FUELLING: And my Department Commander, John Miller.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT FUELLING: Will the Central Division please stand.

Madam President Charlene, we of the Central Division pledge to you our

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devotion and that will we work hard together on the programs that you have assigned us this year.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT GOLDE: I am proud to present to you 2010-2011 Eastern Division National Vice President from the great state of Maine, Charlotte Hagan.

VICE PRESIDENT HAGAN: Madam President, I stand before you this morning a very proud and thankful American Legion Auxiliary member. I am very thankful to the Eastern Division for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity and to the Department of Maine, my Department. Please accept my sincere appreciation for the guidance and leadership that you have given me in preparing me for the position that I have just assumed. I accept it.

And, Madam President, rest assured I will give you my best.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BABCOCK: Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you the new Northwest Division National Vice President, Ms. Lynne Wild from the Department of Nebraska.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT WILD: Madam National President Carlene, what a pleasure it is to recognize the Northwestern Division of seven states. We're small, but we're powerful and our commitment to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thanks to Nebraska for placing their confidence in me. Would all the Nebraskans please stand and remain standing. This includes my husband, Roger, and two members from my own unit, Lincoln Unit Number 3.

Thanks for being here today.

And now would those from the rest of the Northwestern Division, Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, North and South Dakota, and Wyoming please join them.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT WILD: Thank you.

Madam President, the Northwestern Division stands ready to strive for excellence as each one puts forth effort for our veterans, our Children & Youth, and our communities. Together we will have the power to achieve greatness during the 2010-11 year.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT HORTON-TURK: It gives me great pleasure to present the 2010-2011 Southern Division National Vice, Patricia Lambert Knight from the Department of Virginia.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT KNIGHT: Thank you.

I wish to thank the Department of Virginia. Would you please stand, and my husband, Kenny. And the Southern Division, would you please stand.

Madam President Carlene, you have the support of our Southern Division in your vision of the power of one. I look forward to working with you this year and thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN: Good morning. It's my great honor to present to you the 2010-2011 Western Division National Vice President from the great Department of Oregon, my friend, I forgot your name.

(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN: Darlene McLaughlin.

VICE PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: I want to thank my husband, Mack, for my eligibility to be able to belong to this great organization. Wave. Here he is out there.

Thanks to the Department of Oregon for their support and help. Will the Department of Oregon please stand.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: Thanks goes also to the Western Division for backing me in this adventure. Will the Western Division please stand. Got a lot of them. Good.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: In closing, I have a vision for the Western Division. Membership, membership, membership.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Congratulations to all of you and our very best wishes for an incredible year of service. And I sincerely hope it meets your every expectation. Good luck in all of your endeavors and safe travels.

Now I would ask the National Vice President, Kris Nelson, from the Department of Minnesota, please come forward along with National President Carlene Ashworth.

Congratulations, Kris. What a special day this is for you and for the Department of Minnesota. And now you will receive your pin and ribbon from our newly elected National President.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Oh, wow, it's real now. First I'd like to thank you all for your trust in electing me to serve as your National Vice President. A special thanks to my husband, Terry, my best friend.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: He's been with me through every step of this journey. Thanks to my family, Sarah and Kent. Stand up.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you, Sarah, for the nomination and for closing your clinic to be here this week.

Our son, Troy, and his wife, Angie, and our two grand babies will be here next year.

I'd like to especially thank my Unit 255 of Brainerd, the Department of Minnesota. Please stand.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. Thank you all.

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And remain standing while the rest of the Northwestern Division please stand and join them. Thank you all very much for your support.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

I would also like to personally thank Carol Van Kirk for giving me my first National Chairmanship, to Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan for recommending me for that Chairmanship, and to Desi Stoy for the Children & Youth appointment.

Thank you, Desi.

And I'd like to thank the leadership team that I've served with this past year, Rita Navarreté, Carlene Ashworth, and Peggy Thomas, great mentors and dear friends. Thank you all.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Synergy is the highest activity of life. It creates new untapped alternatives. It values and exploits the mental, emotional, and psychological differences between people.

I look forward to the synergy of our members throughout the country as we through the power of one strive to make a difference in the lives of our military, our veterans, and their families across this nation.

It will take all of us working together to grow this organization and to increase our membership and to increase our time and treasure to assist those members throughout the country who need us the most, our veterans.

Albert Schweitzer, a German theologian and philosopher, stated it well: I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found out how to serve.

Serving with our members of the American Legion Auxiliary and supporting our programs have brought much happiness to all of us. As we continue our service under the leadership of Carlene through The Power of One, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of many and we'll continue to take away much more than we give.

I pledge to each of you to respect the synergy of all of our members, to work with the leadership team for the good of the Auxiliary, and to serve each of you through the value of Service Not Self.

Thank you for your confidence in electing me as your National Vice President. May we have a year of successes. God bless every one of you. God bless our veterans. God bless those men and women who are every day serving our country for us and God bless America.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: We have two gavels this morning. They must have thought we really needed it.

(Laughter.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you so much, Kris.

Now I would call on Past National President Rita Navarreté to present our National President, Carlene, with her pin and ribbon.

Carlene and Rita, would you please join me at the podium.

My friend, it is indeed an honor to present you with your gavel, the symbol of authority for our organization. You come from our second largest state and inasmuch as the model for Texas is friendship, one can readily see that you with your friendly and outgoing personality are indeed a product of the Lone Star State.

Texas certainly has a great history and, Madam President, after this very special year, you, too, will have a great history as well.

We will now hear from --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It's my honor to be able to pin my pin and my sash to our newly elected President, Carlene Ashworth, for the year 2010-2011.

(Applause.)

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: It's good that some of us are tall at the same time, right?

We will now hear from our National President, Carlene, with her vision for the coming year.

Madam President, you're on.

(Applause.)

NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This is the day the Lord has made and we'll rejoice and be glad in it. Thank you for being here to join in and celebrate this glorious day with all of us.

I have so many people to thank for giving this opportunity to stand before you as your National President.

Thank you, Past National President Jan, for the beautiful installation and for giving me this opportunity to become National President and to Past National President Kris West who appointed me to my first National Chairmanship for your beautiful prayers.

I want to thank all the Past National Presidents for the opportunities that you have given me these past years and for your advice and your confidence in me.

I want to also recognize a special Past National President, who has been with me through good times and bad and without her encouragement along the way, I would probably not be standing here today, and that is my dear friend, Katherine Morris.

Thank you, Katherine and John, for all your love and support.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: A special thanks to The American Legion National award-winning Color Guard from Post 472 in Houston, Texas. I know that Richard is very happy to see that you're sharing this day with me as he loved you guys a lot.

Special thanks also to my good friends, Charlie, Charlane, "Charlie" Dew, and Kim Palasota for acting as Sergeant at Arms for the ceremony.

Many years ago, I became involved with The American Legion Family as a

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young mother when my husband was asked by coworkers to help revitalize a local American Legion post.

For the first year, the wives and family members just helped out where we could with fund raisers and other activities, not really knowing or understanding what The American Legion was all about.

By the next year, however, the Auxiliary members in the district told us it was time to charter a unit and we all joined because it was the thing to do.

My family was involved on the local level for many years with the things that we all do in our communities, helping local veterans and their families, working with the schools, scholarships, Girls State, volunteering at our local VA hospital, and many other activities.

In reflecting back over these past years, I realize that the real meaning and substance of what we do and who we are is probably difficult for many to understand unless you were also walking in these same shoes.

Consequently I do not expect everyone to understand the passion that I have for The American Legion Family and for taking care of our veterans and our active-duty military and their families. I hope after today, you will better understand.

My theme this year will be The Power of One. When these words came to me sometime last year, I was sitting in church and the subject of the pastor's sermon that day was about having a servant's heart. Something leaped in my spirit and I said that's it, this is what we are, this is who we are.

But then as I reflected on these words, the power of one, I thought this is not new, Carlene. It's a very common phrase and I tried to put it out of my mind and come up with something else. But it just kept coming back to me again and again. So, finally, I said, okay, God, you're leading me in this endeavor and if you want me to use the power of one, then that's what I will do.

I mentioned it to John Paulsel right after convention last year. John is our great visionary who does all our videos and makes us all look good.

Thanks, JP.

He seemed to be excited about it, so here we are.

Those of you who know me well know that I have been a dedicated grass-roots member of Unit 521 for 45 years. This is where my heart is and where it will always be. It all begins at the local level.

We are a nation at war and we have a job to do. It's been said that probably 95 percent of our country does not realize this. They go through their daily routine and never give it a thought, but there is five percent of our population who's very cognizant of this war and they are the warriors themselves, their families, and the veterans of our country who have been there before them.

I've heard people say I do not know of any active military families in my community. Well, I can tell you that they are out there and they need us and it is up to us to seek them out. Our local communities are where these families live and they are everywhere.

We have much work to do to make sure that the elderly veteran knows that he has a friend to turn to in need and the younger veteran and the military families need to know that we are their support, their cornerstone, and their friend. You and I can be the one person who can make a difference.

One person has the power to change another person's attitude, hopes, and dreams. Collectively the power of one member in one unit or one post with one idea in one community can be extremely powerful.

It just takes one handshake and smile to give hope to an elderly veteran in that nursing home to know that someone cares when he is all alone.

It takes just one knock on the door of a young wife with small children whose husband is deployed and the washing machine just quit working to know that she has support.

It just takes the power of one local American Legion Family to round up the community and line the streets with waving flags when your local soldiers are being deployed or coming home to let them know that we have not forgotten them.

It just takes the power of one organization such as the American Legion Auxiliary to offer scholarships to the children of those who have given their all to this country to give them hope for the future when they thought there was none or the check arriving in the mail from our National Headquarters to help a member whose home has been destroyed by fire.

It takes just one of you to go back home and revitalize that unit or post and maybe it's even the one that you belong to that is dying and get it going again. One spark can light a candle or it can start a forest fire.

I hope you will take the power of one back home with you today and use it to inspire yourself or someone else.

As we begin our 91st year of service, we will continue to focus on our mission and our programs.

President Rita reminded us last year during her installation that kicked off our 90th anniversary that in 1919, The American Legion established a Women's Auxiliary. Over 121,000 members joined that first year. And by the beginning of World War II, we were over 500,000 strong. By 1955, our member numbers had climbed to 1,001,545.

How did they do it? They didn't have the Internet or Facebook or Twitter or LinkedIn. But what they did have was the heart of a servant who wanted to help our veterans and their families. They took the power of one to heart and pulled their communities in to their post homes to make them aware of our servicemen and women, their families and their needs.

Their post home became the community center where everything was happening. They personally talked to their friends and neighbors and knocked on doors to collect their dues and followed up with their members when they missed a meeting to find out if they were okay.

When a new member joined, they welcomed them in and stayed in touch. The entire family was encouraged to join in the post activities, Fourth of July celebrations, Poppy Days and Veteran Day. And when a young servicemember returned from the war, he or she was given a welcome home celebration by the entire community instigated by the local American Legion post.

Then as the years went by, we became complacent with our prior growth, got involved in all kinds of activities that did not involve our mission and our member numbers began to decrease. We can change this by focusing on the mission with all our activities and we must work on keeping these members we have by engaging them in meaningful projects.

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I hope that your unit will adopt the Seven Touches Program to help us retain those 40,000 plus members that we are signing up each year.

A few years ago, some very innovative women realized that our organization needed new life, a new spark to keep us going, and they initiated a plan to move us forward in our programs and activities. We have made great progress these past few years with our strategic plan and you will soon see the launch of our new website.

We've just kicked off the new American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System that enables us to have full control of our own membership program.

For many years, our units have complained that we have too many programs and too many report forms. I am sure you noticed in this year's Plan of Action that we have put the programs into categories of outreach programs, those that touch our communities, such as Americanism, Children & Youth, Community Service, Education, Junior Activities, Girls State, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Poppy, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, and internal programs that are geared toward our members such as Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cavalcade of Memories, Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, Leadership, Past Presidents Parley, Public Relations, and Strategic Long-Range Planning.

If you have read the Plan of Action, you will notice that every program is focused toward our mission.

For years, we have been involving ourselves in many great programs, but they are not our programs. They are not part of the mission of our organization. Everything we do should involve in some way our veterans, our military, and their families. We have to get back to our original roots and stop spreading ourselves so thin with everyone else's programs and activities.

Remember also that the IRS Form 990 is going to want to know what you're doing that gives you the right to be a nonprofit veterans' organization. And if you're not focusing on the mission, then you will have a difficult time answering their questions.

However, I believe that if you are working the programs as outlined in the plan of action and directing all your activities toward assisting our veterans, our military, and their families, you will draw in the new members.

Involving the community in these activities will make them more aware of who we are and what we do. Become that center of activity, once again, just as those posts and units were in the early years and the members will come to you.

We have also made another page change this year which I hope you will endorse and help us to refine and that is a one page consolidated report form similar to The American Legion's consolidated report form. This new one page form replaces the individual report forms previously included with each Committee plan of action.

We also found that many of the questions and answers on those forms were not being used by anyone or for anything. This new form and the plan of action is geared toward the unit and we're hoping this will eliminate your Department Chairmen from having to rewrite the entire plan of action for her program and the report form and utilize the one already provided by the National Chairmen.

Yes, you may have to change how you've always done your reporting in your departments --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. But we hope you will adapt your reporting needs to this change and find easier and better ways to do things.

At first glance, the report form may appear complicated and something you don't want to complete, but it is perhaps the most important document your unit can complete and submit.

This information will be combined with that of other units to put into the report annually compiled by your Department and the National Organization. This information is used to report to Congress via The American Legion and to the public the many volunteer hours and monetary or in-kind support we give to our veterans, our military, our children, and our communities.

If the unit is small and has only one program, then that should be the one reported. Every blank or line does not have to be filled in. Few units can claim activity for every program.

Some of you have had questions regarding the Girls State portion of the report form. This section was added because we were hoping your Girls State Program will encompass teaching the girls about our organization.

We have found over the years that our Girls State citizens many times return home from great sessions learning about their state government and have no idea who or what the American Legion Auxiliary is. We hope you will help to educate them by focusing on our mission during some part of your session.

Many departments had great success this year by including a program during the week that did just that. At least one Department had the girls participating in the Pocket Flag Project while another got the girls involved in stuffing hero packs for military kids.

Thank you, California.

Another change this year is in our Membership Program. We have one membership goal and it is to retain current members and attracting new members by demonstrating Service Not Self.

Therefore, our objective is to maintain the 2009 membership totals at 12/31/09. All departments who maintain this objective will be recognized at next year's National Convention.

Departments that grow their membership by 1 percent over their total 2009 membership will also be recognized.

Since membership is everyone's responsibility, I hope each of you will take the time to review the Membership Plan of Action. There are many recognition awards available and we do not want you to miss out on an award that you have earned.

A new membership award this year came about during the recent membership survey responses received from members across the country. One of the biggest complaints we received was the disharmony in units. This new award is the National President's Service Not Self Award and it will be presented to units that exemplify and promote harmony in the unit, are inclusive and welcoming to all members, accept and adapt to change, and engage new and current members.

The unit will be awarded a citation, receive a special gift from me, and be recognized at next year's National Convention. And any member of The American Legion Family can nominate a unit for this award.

Yesterday we presented the National President's Award for Excellence to five outstanding units and one Department. I hope you listened closely to their achievements and noted that the unit ranges from less than 50 members to more than 1,000. There were many great entries submitted this year and it was difficult to choose the winners. The

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work these units are doing exemplifies having a servant's heart and they are following the plan of action's objectives and action steps to accomplish their goals.

We hope more and more units and departments will submit entries for this prestigious award.

We've also just completed an extremely successful year with our VISTA Project under the partnership with the Corporation for the National and Community Service.

I had the privilege of working with many of these VISTA volunteers in the Headquarters' office and meeting some of those in the Department Headquarters' offices. And I cannot say enough great things about the work they did for this organization.

These men and women have done a phenomenal job in helping us to further our cause of helping our veterans and military and their families. I encourage every Department to seriously consider asking for a VISTA volunteer to assist in your programs because the rewards far outweigh what little expense there is.

You have heard me mention several times that our focus is on our mission and our mission is all about our veterans, our active-duty men and women, and their families. Therefore, I'm asking you to continue your support of the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. We are one of the three corporate sponsors of this event and are obligated for a \$100,000 sponsorship fee.

I'm also encouraging your continued support of the Ride 2 Recovery Program. I have seen firsthand how this program, which has been endorsed by the VA as a premier rehabilitation program for our wounded warriors, has made a huge difference in the lives of our men and women who thought they had no future after suffering the loss of limbs or severe PTSD. And it is not only the soldier who suffers, but the entire family.

Our support can help repair these minds and bodies and the families. I am asking you to get involved in any and all activities that you can that helps rehabilitate our soldiers. This includes contributions to our National President's Scholarship Fund and to the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. Once we have funded the Foundation to a sustainable level, it will support many of our programs that help carry out our activities.

I pledge to each of you that I will work hard to fulfill the obligations that have been given to me. I pledge my total support to all the National Officers, National Chairmen, and Department Presidents. It is a great honor to serve with all of you this year and I look forward to nothing less than a year filled with enthusiasm and excitement.

I am very blessed today to have with me a loving and supportive family and most of them are here with me today. I would like to take this opportunity to once again introduce them to you, my son, Stuart Greenwood, and his wife, Terry.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: My son, Kerry Hall, and his wife, Sylvia, along with my favorite grandson, Caleb.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: My sister, Imogene Halsey (phonetic), and her husband, Tom.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: My sisters, Linda Knapp and Becky Lumpkin.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: My brother, Michael Morgan, and his wife, Laura.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And I am very sorry that my three granddaughters could not be with us today due to prior obligations. My oldest granddaughter, Katie, Petty Officer Third Class Katherine Hall, is in the Navy stationed at Fort Meade and works at the National Security Agency as a Russian linguist. I got a --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I got a text message from her yesterday. My next granddaughter, Sierra, just started college at Angelo State. And my youngest granddaughter, Emily, presently in New Hampshire.

Thank all of you for being with me on this special day and I know that my granddaughters are with me here today in spirit. And I wish that they could be here.

At this time, I would like to ask the Delegation from Texas to please stand. They have supported me through my candidacy throughout the years.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And I cannot thank them enough for all they have done for me. I love you all dearly and I thank you so much for being here with me today and for sharing this day with me. And if there's anything that I can do for you, always just let me know and I am here for you. But thank you all so much. I appreciate you all so very much. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please remain standing because I also want to ask the members of the Southern Division to please stand, all members of the Southern Division. I thank you so very much for your support as well and I appreciate you being here today. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I hope that many of you will join us in Austin, Texas, for my homecoming October the 14th through the 17th. We have some great things planned in the beautiful hill country of Texas and I know you will have a good time.

Information has been provided for you on the chairs, so I hope that you will please be sure and pick up one of the flyers.

It will be my extreme pleasure to serve this year with a great Legionnaire and someone who's loved and respected by everyone and that is our leading candidate for National Commander, Mr. Jimmie Foster from Oklahoma, also known as -- from Alaska, also known as Oklahoma. He's from both.

But I cannot tell you how many times I've been told you are so lucky to have Jimmie Foster as your Commander. He has chosen as his theme the acronym S.A.V.E.D., S-A-V-E-D, serving America's veterans every day.

I'm also extremely happy to be serving with my good, very good friend, the newly elected Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, from the Department of Texas, David Dew.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: David's theme is "By Their Side with Honor and Pride." And I look forward to working together as an American Legion Family as we each travel across the country encouraging you to support our programs.

Thank you all once again for your confidence and faith in me to lead this organization. One thought, one word, one smile, one attitude, one action, one idea can launch a transformation. The collective power of one Auxiliary can change the world.

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As the 91st National President of this wonderful organization, I challenge each of you to use your power as one individual to make a difference in someone's life. God bless you each and every one. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you for those wonderful words and giving us a peek into the future you see for the American Legion Auxiliary this coming year. I know that our members who are present with us today and those at home in their departments will accept the challenges you've presented and carry us forward through an outstanding year.

It's my pleasure now to introduce or actually to present the Legionnaire who was expected if elected to serve with Carlene this year. May I present Jimmie Foster of the Department of Alaska, the leading candidate for the Office of American Legion National Commander.

Please welcome Jimmie Foster.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: Thank you. Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. FOSTER: You heard a little bit about me. I'm from the largest state in the union. Sorry, you're second.

(Laughter.)

MR. FOSTER: From the Department of Alaska, the true last frontier, the land of the midnight sun.

What a great lady to serve with this year. Listening to her acceptance speech, it kind of mirrors what my outlook is on The American Legion Family. Notice I said family. I'm very oriented to The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion, and don't forget the young Junior Auxiliary also.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: If I'm elected here about high noon give or take an hour or so as the 92nd National Commander of The American Legion, I pledge I'll do everything I can to all four entities of The American Legion Family.

I like the 91 Commanders that have come before me all believed in the four pillars of The American Legion. They've been here since its inception.

The first is to provide for a strong national defense. Without that, we don't have a country.

Second is that we provide for those that after they serve their country that we have Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. My outlook on it is if you went to a war or a conflict -- you know, I want to stop and tell you about a war or conflict.

I don't know the difference in a war or a conflict. If I'm getting shot at, how is it a conflict? It's a war.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: And if we as veterans get deployed and we get injured and we return with a service-connected disability, this country owes it to us to take care of us until we die or the country goes broke.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: The third is continue to promote Americanism. We do that in great ways. Sometimes we don't even realize we're doing it. It's just an everyday

occurrence with some of us in The American Legion Family, Boys State, Girls State, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Oratorical, Junior shooting sports, the Sons of The American Legion which is an American Legion program, and the Junior Auxiliary and the list goes on and on.

Other stuff, get out to vote. There's all kind of stuff. But I ask you when you do this, don't get down in your car and drive to your post, unit, or squadron and go to the meeting or the function and come back. Call somebody. Tell them what you're doing. Toot our own horn. We don't do that enough.

Lastly, that we protect the children of our country and we do that great. Anything we can do for a child you will reap tenfold.

I'm a personal --

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: You heard Carlene say that she was lucky that I was going to be her Commander. I'm a personal touch guy. I like meeting people. I like interface face to face.

I promise you that if my BlackBerry vibrates and I'm having a conversation with you, that I will not pick up the BlackBerry. I will finish our conversation and then look at it.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: After I meet you at least once or twice, I'll probably remember your name and your spouse and if you have a pet, I'm sure I'll remember the pet's name.

(Laughter.)

MR. FOSTER: I believe in technology. I'm a techie boy. I don't have a pocket protector full of pins and screwdrivers, but I do believe in technology. If your post, unit, or squadron at your level at home is not wired for Wi-Fi, let me profess to you it will be the best \$19.95 investment you make a month. You might not be technology based, but somebody out there who's a young veteran who has a family, they are. Spend the money.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: I tell the veterans, you know, war stories are hard to come by. They give them to you every day. I did it this way in '45. I did it this way in '65. I did it this way in '85. I profess to you, ladies and gentlemen, sign up for a military installation tour called Reconnect. Go out and spend a day. Start early. You're going to end late. Go out and see what the guys and girls of the Armed Forces are doing in 2010. I think you'll be amazed at the technology and the innovative activities that happen. Sign up for Reconnect.

National Guard and Reserve troops have never been activated like they have been before. One gentleman activated seven times, the shortest tour a year and a day each. He's on active duty in my opinion. National Guard, hometowns to heroes.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: Make sure you go out and see them off and see them back. That was brought up by many, many speakers yesterday on our platform how they appreciated that and sometimes got them through a stressing situation.

Females, 15 percent of the Armed Forces is female. So we set around Legion meetings and other functions, there should be one-fifth of the audience wearing some kind of Legion hat. We need to have a complete package. They served. It's us and them as a complete force.

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(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: Thirty-two percent of the Armed Forces meets some minority status. Females are rolled up in the number, but we need to become diversified. They served with us arm and arm, side by side. We must accept them into our ranks side by side at all levels.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: Carlene talked about grassroots. That's where it starts. That's exactly where it starts. There's a post, unit, or squadron. You got to get them in, bring them in, find out what they want to do, how high do they want to go. Do they want to be the National Commander or the National President or the National Sons' Commander? Find out what they want to do, have some personal interface with them, find out. You might have the next National person standing there and not know it. Don't shut them off.

The next great idea, I don't know what it is. I'm not a rocket scientist or a Rhodes Scholar. I profess to you do not shortchange somebody. Their idea or opinion might become the next great idea. And I'm not going to lie to you. I sure hope it happens when I'm the National Commander.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: I'm well-versed in Auxiliary members. I probably sign up more Auxiliary members in our Department than anybody.

I've been married to my wife over 40 years. I have seven sisters--yes, seven.

(Laughter.)

MR. FOSTER: And I have three granddaughters and all of them are in the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: My new grandson born July 30th who if you come to the installation, you'll meet him, he's in the Sons of The American Legion too.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: I have two sons. The oldest one's on active duty. He's in the country of Djibuti. Anybody ever heard of that? You know what the capitol of Djibuti is? Djibuti.

(Laughter.)

MR. FOSTER: He can't be here. He came -- he chose -- we talked, he and his mother. We talked about it. He chose to attend the birth of his son. Do you agree?

VOICES: Yes.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: As Carlene said, my motto is the word S.A.V.E.D., real simple, S-A-V-E-D with a period after each word. It means serving Americans' veterans every day. And I live and breathe that. And by the power of one, I rolled it up in there, you being the power of one, you can serve America's veterans every day and you should.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: Last but not least, stay positive, stay focused. Negativity gets you nowhere except more negative results. You know, it ain't always been peaches and cream for Jimmie Foster, Carlene Ashworth, or David Dew. We've had ups and downs. If I was going to get depressed and get mad and be negative, I'd have been gone 30 years ago. I wouldn't be standing here in front of you. So stay positive, stay focused.

And one last thing. You know, most people, they get beat enough in life every day. I profess to you all you have to do is just say thanks. Just say thanks.

(Applause.)

MR. FOSTER: It's a great opportunity to address you. And thank you for sending me an excellence, outstanding lady to be my counterpart, Carlene Ashworth, and also from Texas Dave Dew.

You know, you heard Carlene say that I'm from Alaska. I was born and raised in Okie. You know what? That's pretty hard to take to have a Texan on each side when you're an Okie.

(Laughter.)

MR. FOSTER: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Jimmie, for joining us today.

What a wonderful team they'll make. Don't you agree?

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Interesting how things turn out. Jimmie is from the largest state and Carlene is from the second largest. Is there a message there?

(Laughter.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Now it's my pleasure to present another outstanding member from Texas, Patricia Wanoreck, Past Department President and Chairman of Carlene's Campaign Committee, to introduce the Texas guests.

Pat.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: Thank you, Jan. What a beautiful installation ceremony.

And congratulations to all the newly elected officers. The Department Presidents, I hope you all have an outstanding year.

This is certainly a red letter day for the Lone Star State as we have just installed Carlene as our National President. Carlene makes us all Texas proud for sure.

It will be my pleasure today to present some of the leaders of The American Legion Family from the state of Texas to share their thoughts and well wishes for Carlene.

Carlene is a charter member of Edward H. White II, Unit 521 in Pasadena, Texas. And here is a long-time friend and member of 521, Vaudine Wilson to share a few words.

Vaudine.

(Applause.)

MS. WILSON: Hi. I'm Vaudine Wilson from Edward H. White, II, Unit 521, Pasadena, Texas. And I bring the best wishes to Carlene from our unit.

Carlene and I are charter members of our unit, having served with the Auxiliary for 45 years. Carlene is also an honorary life member.

Carlene is an inspiration to each member in our unit, district, division, and Department. She has faith in everyone and is continually urging each to do their best,

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even the shy ones like me. She encouraged me and told me I could do it. I am grateful to her for her confidence in me.

She is a leader and very knowledgeable in all programs of the Auxiliary. She has held several offices, Chairmanship of the Committees and President of our unit several times, helping us out. She continues to this day to want to help all, especially our veterans and their families.

We have been going to conventions together for a long time, even camping out along the river in San Antonio, but she did not miss a meeting.

When she was Department Historian, I was sitting in the Texas Chair doing the pre-convention meeting and she received a plaque for the best overall Department Historian. I was so proud of her.

Carlene continues to help her unit when she is town. Even a member from another unit remarked that is something you don't see very often, a National Vice President serving fish. She is also our official potato masher.

(Laughter.)

MS. WILSON: Carlene, all of Unit 521 is proud of you and love you. We wish you the best this year. I know you will be as great a leader for National as you have been for us in the Department of Texas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: And now please welcome Department Commander, Ken Miller, and Department President, Diana King, to speak on behalf of Carlene.

And would you please go to the center mike. We moved you all front and center.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT KING: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT KING: I'll never forget the first time I met Carlene. My husband, a new member of American Legion Post 521 in Pasadena, Texas, took me along with him to a post function. Carlene was there, of course, working alongside her sisters in the Auxiliary. She signed me up into the unit that very evening. From that moment on, we became best friends.

Carlene was and continues to be my mentor. She did what every great mentor should do. She listened. She never criticized. She made suggestions. She pushed me to do my best and set an example by always doing her best. She encouraged my ideas, but she also made me justify them. She made sure that I took responsibility and she always gave me credit when it was due.

Best of all, Carlene never tried to hold me back. She was gracious enough to take me under her wing, sharing her wisdom and her time. I miss our daily interaction now, but I know that she is there for me when I need her.

Carlene, my friend, thank you for making a difference in my life. Because of you, I, too, have a passion for serving our military, our veterans, and their children. I wish you a very successful year. May God keep you safe in your travels.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Pam.

Carlene, on behalf of The American Legion Department of Texas, we

congratulate you in being elected to the highest office of The American Legion National Organization Auxiliary to lead the world's largest service organization in the world of over 800,000 members.

I first learned to know Carlene in April of 1994. At that time, I was serving as the Post Commander. Everybody wrote Post American Legion from Texas. And I remember her being invited there to The Legion and to the Auxiliary Unit to address us.

However, that's been 16 years ago and I know that she gave a very inspirational speech, but I can't remember anything that she told us.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER MILLER: But I do remember one thing. Her motto at that time was, quote, unquote, our future is unlimited, aim for the stars. And I can truly say that Carlene Ashworth has been aiming for the stars.

The last 16 years through all her service, through her unit, through her district, through her division and through her Department and also through the National Organization, all of her service is to be commended to say the least.

I am so much honored today to serve along with you, beside you from Texas. As your Department Commander from Texas, I hope that The American Legion Family from Texas will make you proud because I know that you will make us proud.

Thank you very much. God Bless you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: Representing Texas on the National level as the alternate NEC Committeeman is Jim Prendergast and the National Executive Committeewoman, Barbara Kundert.

Would you please welcome Jim and Barbara.

(Applause.)

MS. KUNDERT: Madam National President Carlene, what a wonderful ring. It is indeed my pleasure to congratulate you on behalf of the Department of Texas for your outstanding achievement in your election to the highest office our organization has to offer.

I was serving as District President when Carlene was elected Department President.

So I've been in a position to benefit from your knowledge, leadership, and mentoring for the last -- well, that was 17 years ago, but we go back further than that.

Texas is so proud of you. On behalf of the Department of Texas, we extend to you congratulations, best wishes, and love as you begin your journal as National President. May God bless you with safe travel during the coming year. Have a wonderful year and a very safe year.

(Applause.)

MR. PRENDERGAST: Good morning. On behalf of the great state, I say great state of Texas, the Department of Texas Legionnaires wish to thank all of the American Legion Auxiliary for their support in electing Carlene, our own Carlene Ashworth as the National President.

Carlene, we are proud of you and we wish you well and much success during your travels both here and abroad. May this be an experience of your lifetime that you most certainly, certainly deserve. Good luck and God bless.

(Applause.)

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CHAIRMAN WANORECK: We are so very fortunate to have the National leaders of the 2003-2004 term, our Past National Commander, John Brieden, and Past National President, Katherine Morris, with us today.

Please welcome John and Katherine.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT MORRIS: What a day. I am so proud to be here and take part in an installation for Carlene. Carlene and I go way back, 37, 38 years back. We've been dear friends. We have laughed together. We've cried together. And we have learned a lot together.

But here this morning, Carlene, I'm here to represent the Past National Presidents of Texas, of this great Lone Star State of Texas, and to wish for you a most successful year as National President.

I know if National President Helen Holcomb was here, she would, too, be wishing you for a wonderful, wonderful year this year.

And I feel that Past National President Ione Kubby is looking down on you today saying good job.

We realized your abilities and your leadership and have all the confidence in the world that you are going to make a wonderful National President and you are going to make us Texans proud. And always remember we love you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: President Carlene and let me acknowledge Vice President Kris and immediate Past President Rita, other distinguished folks on the dais and ladies and gentlemen, Carlene was born at a young age.

(Laughter.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: Do I have time for this, Pat? Pat has told me that I'm on a time schedule.

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: I've got the -- I do have the hook right here at my side.

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: I have been at Boys State for almost a quarter of a century. And there are those times where you stop and say this is a teachable moment and make sure that everybody gets that moment. Well, this is a teachable moment.

I've heard it said that it's better to be lucky than good. And I'm here to tell you that's not true. Stop and think for a second. Helen Holcomb was National President in 1994. Katherine Morris was National President in 2003. There's no way in hell Texas is going to have another National President for 15 or 20 years.

But Carlene Ashworth did her job and did it exceptionally well. And there comes that point to when you are so good that people can't ignore you. So I say it's better to be good than it is lucky.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER BRIEDEN: And Carlene has been good for a long time and she will continue so. And I know she will make all of us proud being our National President this year.

Carlene, we love you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: Somehow I got the fear of God into John Brieden

and he cut it short.

Thank you, John.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: And now we have another very special guest from the Sons of The American Legion, David Dew, the National Commander for the year 2010-2011.

Congratulations, David. Please come forward.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER DEW: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

COMMANDER DEW: Madam President, distinguished guests and members of the American Legion Auxiliary, it is my great honor to represent the Sons of The American Legion on this wonderful occasion.

And I'm so fortunate to have been friends with Carlene for several years and to have this opportunity to serve The American Legion Family is just incredible.

Just her presence and caring smile gives everyone around her the confidence that we will make a difference in the lives of our veterans and our children.

Together we have a tradition in leadership from the great state of Texas, as you all well know, to carry on. And I know if I ever mess up, she'll be there to give me a swift kick in or I should say line me back up. But I know it will never come to that.

I congratulate all of you on your selection of this wonderful lady for the high office of National President in the American Legion Auxiliary. And I'm there to hear -- I assure you that the Sons of The American Legion are here to help and support all of you.

As my slogan says by their side with honor and pride, that's what we are. We are here for you. God bless all of you and God bless America and God bless a sweet lady.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: Thank you, David.

Well, we've heard all about Carlene, but we're going to hear the real thing now as her sister and one son are going to speak on Carlene's behalf, Lynda Knapp, Kerry Hall, and Stuart Greenwood.

(Applause.)

MS. KNAPP: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. KNAPP: It's with great honor and pride that I stand here this morning to represent my family. I feel that we've all been an important part in Carlene's journey to get to this impressive part in her life.

But before I tell Carlene how wonderful we think she is and how proud we are of her, I just want to say that my sisters and I are all members of the American Legion Auxiliary and we are members because of our dad's service in World War II.

He served with the 81st Wild Cat Division from 1943 to 1945, was discharged that year. He earned two Battle stars, a Bronze Star, and a Liberation Medal and we're very proud of our dad's service.

(Applause.)

MS. KNAPP: But back in 1966, if Carlene wasn't trying to get us all to have

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Mary Kay parties, she was trying to get us to join The American Legion.

When she joined the Auxiliary Post 521 in Pasadena, Texas, no one would ever have dreamed that we'd be standing here today taking part in this ceremony, but she encouraged us to join and we did.

She told us things like come on, it will be fun. They play bingo every Saturday night.

(Laughter.)

MS. KNAPP: So she -- so we joined and we came. We participated in fund raisers, patriotic reviews, talent shows, Friday night steak dinners. My sister, Becky, was even Miss Poppy in 1969.

(Laughter.)

MS. KNAPP: And, yes, we did continue to play bingo. But we paid our dues every year and we were members. And if we didn't pay our dues, Carlene would pay them for us so we could keep the membership up.

We're members. Our children are members and our grandchildren are members. And for that, we're proud.

But Carlene took her membership to a different level. This organization that she was so committed to, committed to, any time over the last 30 years or so, if we wanted to plan a family get-together, we always had to check Carlene's schedule because she was always traveling somewhere. Was she in town, was she out of town. She was always doing something somewhere with the American Legion Auxiliary.

But she did all this not because she had to, but because she was devoted to the many causes that the Auxiliary believed in. She headed committees, served on boards, held many offices at the local and state level before going on to the National Committees. And after those years and dedication, she's achieved the highest position at the National level.

The young military families, the returning wounded warriors, and the Road to Recovery (sic) programs will have another warrior on their side this year because of Carlene's commitment to fight for their causes.

Carlene, we are proud beyond words. May you have strength and courage and wisdom to carry you through this next year. We love you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. HALL: I can't believe I'm going to talk longer than John Brieden. I thought that would never happen ever.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: Is it okay to give a shout out? Do you give shout outs at the Auxiliary Convention, because I want to give a shout out to the Department of Texas again? Without all of you, she wouldn't be here today.

Let me get some Kleenex real quick.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: Apparently I'm the loquacious brother here, the speaker. I'm not the silent one here, but I'm also probably the more emotional one. I want to say it's an absolute honor to be here on stage today to have this opportunity and take part in this on behalf of myself and my brother, Stuart, and our families and to be able to congratulate

our mother on achieving something that she's worked so hard for all of our lives.

I think it will help if you want to stand over there.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: Life is a journey and not a destination and the same can be said for our mother's commitment and dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Throughout the -- she mentioned a while ago that she's been a charter member for 45 years. I'm 45 years old. What does that tell you about us growing up in The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary?

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: For her, it's still a journey and it's one that won't end today and it won't end a year from now when she gets out of office because she'll go back to mashing those potatoes and frying that catfish and doing all those things she does on the local level.

For all of our lives, my brother and I, we've been a part of the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion as well. We have a lot of moms in the American Legion Auxiliary. Many of them are here today. A couple couldn't be here. Helen Holcomb couldn't be here unfortunately and she still owes me some allowance, so I'm a little upset about that.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: As kids, we were there for all of these programs and all these events. We were probably the only two kids in our neighborhood who were actually asked to go play in traffic.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: I thought it was really cool at the time. We were smaller, faster, and more nimble, so we got stuck out in the middle of the intersection with the little cans and the poppies raising the money for the poppy sales.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MR. HALL: Now, at the time, I didn't really have a sense of how important that was or how that money was being used, but I sure enjoyed getting to play in traffic and also getting to help count that money.

Vaudine, thank you for letting me help count that money.

My mother, my father, my stepfather, and all of their friends were all active members. And between them, they held every office available and served whenever and wherever needed always for the good of The Legion and the Auxiliary.

My mother has held office so many times in Unit 521 that if you go visit, just take a look at the wall and you'll see Carlene through the years. It's like a photo gallery of hairstyles from the 1960s to the 1990s.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: It's a history tour. She was also -- John Brieden mentioned this. She was born very young. She also was not born very rich and she didn't grow up in the lap of luxury. In fact, I know she hasn't admitted this yet, but my mother was born in a little bitty house owned by her grandmother in Possum Holler.

(Laughter.)

MR. HALL: And that's not a town. It's a Holler. It was down on the creek and that's where she was born and lived until the second grade before they moved to

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Houston. But that didn't matter to her. I'm trying not to get emotional again.

It doesn't matter where you were born or where she was born, but all that matters is that she has shown us how you can make a difference through your strong dedication to a good and just cause.

She's told me that during this coming year, one of her main focuses will continue to be all of the programs, but it will also be to support our youngest veterans, especially those who have been wounded in service to this country. And all I can say is take note and watch out because if she says it, she means it.

I've watched her make a difference when many others around her decided it's too difficult or it can't be done.

Many years ago in Pasadena, which is a very large suburb of Houston, by the way, it's not a little bitty town, the city decided they didn't have the money or the time to put on a Fourth of July parade. My mother didn't like that answer. She got the rest of the Auxiliary and The American Legion post and the unit there and they went to work.

And in 1979 or 1980, right around there, Pasadena, Texas did have a Fourth of July parade. It was a really good one, too, with lots of floats, marching bands, celebrity parade marshals. That was my favorite part because the celebrity parade marshals were my two favorite Houston Oilers, so I got to get autographs.

And all of that was because she didn't think it was too hard or too difficult or too much money to do. And that's just one of the many examples of her dedication through these past 40 plus years of service. There have been too many causes on the local level, state, and national for me to mention them all.

Here's the hard part. I just want to say to my mother on behalf of my brother and myself and our families, especially your grandchildren, that we are all so proud of you and thank you for the example you have set us. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: Carlene, would you join me here, please, and Ben, Ben Sanéz. I have a presentation.

MR. SANÉZ: Over 20 years ago, we met Richard and Carlene in Houston. We were starting the Color Guard and we were a little rough over the edges. And everywhere we went, Richard was there and Carlene encouraging us, giving us advice, and just being there with us.

And like Richard, some of our members has gone to a highest Commander, but his spirit still is with us. So at this time, I'd like to present this to Carlene and it reads like this:

Presented to Carlene Ashworth, given in memory of Richard Ashford for his support and dedication to The American Legion Post 472, Houston, Texas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WANORECK: Well, my friend, Carlene, I think all this means that you're it. You're it for the coming year and a game of tag we're going to play trying to figure out where you are, what you're doing as you crisscross this country. You might even get confused a time or two, but we'll try to keep you straight if we can.

All of us in Texas wish you a most successful year, of course. With the power of one, we hope all of the members get behind your programs and your plans and put that power of one to work. Texas is so very proud of you and we all know that you're so well prepared for this next year of leadership.

But just remember you still belong to us and we want you back. And we wish you safe travels, God speed, and certainly look forward to welcoming you home in Texas at the end of your term. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, ladies, for your -- excuse me. Wrong place.

Thank you such much, Pat, and all your wonderful folks from Texas. I'm sure you're all bursting with pride today as this wonderful lady becomes this memorable year as National President.

It's my privilege and honor to welcome Rita into the ranks of Past National Presidents and to thank her from the bottom of our hearts for this very special year of service and for everything you've accomplished.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: It was indeed an incredible year of service and one that leaves us with rich memories of that service.

Rita, if you would come forward, please. There are some very special presentations to be made at this time.

Presenting Past National President Rita with her pin and ribbon are Past National Presidents Syble Deshotel and Barbara Kranig and then presenting the stand of Colors to Rita is Linda Boone, Past National President.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT DESHOTEL: Madam National President Rita, this occasion is the last time you will be called that name. Barbara Kranig and I are proud to pin your Past National President pin on you and drape your ribbon.

You are one of us now. You have enjoyed an outstanding year. You have been a great leader for us. We will -- we wish you good health and much happiness as you return to your family and to your Department.

Will everyone rise and wish our National President bon voyage.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT BOONE: Would the pages, Rita's pages please bring the flags and Tony and -- would you join Rita.

You don't have -- the audience can remain seated and you don't have to salute.

Madam President Rita, your year of service marks the 90th anniversary of this organization and a first for the organization by having a leader with Hispanic heritage and culture.

In the future, as you walk behind your set of flags, the National Headquarters flag will remind you of your many years of service to the organization and will also have you reflecting on your special year of service and all the unique experiences and individuals you met.

Your visits to departments and international locations will provide distinctive memories. And the reflection on the times when you stood at the podium between these flags and presided as National President will be especially rewarding.

The American Legion Auxiliary in its 90 years has been tremendous -- has been a tremendous impact on communities nationwide and internationally to improve lives of veterans and their families, children, and the underprivileged. We have inspired patriotism and reminded citizens of the need to support the military.

For our members, the organization has provided an opportunity for each to

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contribute to building our communities and reap personal satisfaction and growth. America is a better place by having the American Legion Auxiliary participating.

The American flag will continue to remind you of the American Legion Auxiliary's dedication to our nation and the military services of individuals who continue to stand up for freedom and those who have served and provided Auxiliary members with the privilege of eligibility into our organization.

Thank you, Rita, for your many years of dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary and we thank you and your family for this last year which has required sharing you with the entire organization as well as our nation's men and women in uniform.

The Color Bearers may replace the flags.

Thank you, President Rita and Tony. You may be seated. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, ladies, for your most inspiring presentations.

Rita, please take your seat and your place in our history --

VOICES: Whoa.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: There's never a dull moment at an Auxiliary convention, right?

Rita, please take your seat and your place in our history as a Past National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

And now we are going to have that wonderful vocalist back again, Vickie Sue singing Love Remains.

They asked me to choose a song, Carlene, and this is one of my favorites, so I hope you enjoy it.

(Whereupon, a song is sung.)

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: There are just two announcements before Rita closes her convention.

First a reminder that the NEC meeting will commence immediately following the close of this convention in Room 102C.

Secondly, please show courtesy by remaining in your seats until the official close of the convention and the recessional of the retiring officers.

No President's pins will be available until after the official close. So if you leave early, you will not get a pin.

At this time, Madam National President Carlene, would you please return the gavel to Past National President Rita, so she can close her convention.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

I wish for you a most successful year filled with opportunities serving our veterans, their families, and communities. The power of one will make a difference as members continue to serve.

Congratulations and my sincere best wishes.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: At this time, my husband, Tony Richard, the dude, and son, Joseph, have some brief remarks they would like to make.

MR. NAVARRETÉ: I'd just like to say that I want to thank all of the ladies out

there for having taken care of my wife in her travels this year. I was kind of hoping to make a few more trips with her, but I did get to do some. And she's come back in pretty good shape, so --

(Laughter.)

MR. NAVARRETÉ: -- I guess you guys, you did well. And it's going to be great having her home again. I know she's still going to be with the Auxiliary as I am with The Legion, but it's going to be great having her home. We're waiting on her.

(Applause.)

MR. NAVARRETÉ: Wow, what a year. It just seems like yesterday that we were up here wishing you off on this journey and now we're here today closing together.

No matter where your travels took you throughout the U.S. and overseas, you always found a way to keep in touch with us by phone.

Throughout this convention, I was amazed by the amount of support that you have received from this organization and how proud they are of you and the service you have provided.

Normally it's us parents that are proud of our children. But today I am proud of you and our Legion Family.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Thank you both for your love and continued support.

Past National President, now that sounds so right and I look forward to joining such a distinguished group.

It has been a journey that I will treasure forever. This year will be recorded as a chapter of my life of service to the greatest organization one can be privileged to belong.

What milestones like serving as National President are important to remember. We must celebrate every day for the difference we are making in the lives of veterans, families, and in our communities.

I believe National President Carlene and her officers are off to a great beginning and planning a year of fulfilling our mission and strongly supporting our motto, Service Not Self.

I would ask that the retiring officers, the newly elected officers, the family, and platform guests of National President be retired along with the Colors of the Texas Delegation.

The National Chaplain, Beverly Wolff, will give the closing Benediction. Upon completion, the National President's pages will retire the Colors followed by other members of my family, my brother, Ernie, his wife, Janice, my sister-in-law, Linda, my brother-in-law, Sam, except for Tony Richard, and Joseph will escort me off the staff.

CHAPLAIN WOLFF: Let us bow our head and hearts in prayer, each in our own faith.

Heavenly Father, thank you for an awesome year serving God and country with compassionate hearts. Thank you for energizing the American Legion Auxiliary. May we continue to receive the sparks of energy to carry us into the future.

Dear God, let us remember if there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there is order

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in the nation, there will be peace in the world. God, let it be so.

May the Lord walk above you to watch over you. May the Lord walk beside you to keep you safe. May the Lord walk before you to show you the way. May the word of God direct us and always be ours this day and forever more. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Will the National President's pages please come forward to retire the Colors.

(Whereupon, the Colors are retired.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: The 90th Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, I believe, is now adjourned. Thank you all for attending. Safe travels. Until we meet again.

(Applause.)

(Ringing of the bell.)

(Whereupon, at 10:10 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

**POST-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010, 10:39 A.M. TO 11:39 A.M.**

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This National Executive Committee meeting will now come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please disable all your electronic devices or place them in the silent mode.

And I would like to ask that you please rise and remain standing for the opening ceremonies.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Vickie Thrower, 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 Chair Ann Rehbein will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem followed by Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Mary Davis leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Vickie.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Please bow your heads.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity that you've given us to be here today. We ask your guidance upon our executive meeting. We ask that you bless our new officers and our new year. May the business that we conduct be pleasing to you. We ask this in your name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

(Moment of silence.)

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

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hail'd as the twilight's last gleaming? Whose bright stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, o'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

For God and country, we associate ourselves together for the following purpose: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during 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 accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

(Ringing of the bell.)

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PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You may be seated. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened.

First I want to ask if we have any of the National Executive Committeewomen in the room that are not seated in the Delegation. We have some empty chairs up here. So if you are supposed to be up here, please come on up, come on down.

Before we begin our business, I wanted to take a few minutes to welcome you in your role as the 2010-2011 National Executive Committee.

Those present who are eligible to vote today and at the subsequent NEC meetings are the National Executive Committeemembers composed of the National Executive Committeewoman from each Department, the five Division National Vice Presidents, the National Chaplain, National Historian, National Vice President, and the National President.

Those allowed to be present at the NEC meeting with voice but no vote are the Past National Presidents and the National Treasurer and Secretary.

We welcome our visitors and remind you that you may listen to the discussion but are not permitted to participate in debate nor to vote.

I would also at this time like to impress upon the members of the NEC that you are now serving in a National role as the Board of Directors with fiduciary responsibility to the National Organization.

As a member of the NEC, you no longer have the interest of your departments as your primary focus. You are serving as National representatives of the National Organization and you must be making decisions and casting your votes according to what is in the best interest of the National Organization.

For future meetings, you will again receive information in advance and you will be expected to have read those materials in preparation for the next meeting. This is an important role and we appreciate your diligence in attending to your duties thoughtfully and responsibly on behalf of the National Organization.

Now, to get to the business at hand, the Chair asks that those of you wishing to address the meeting make your way to the microphone in the center aisle as this is the only way your remarks can be heard for recording by our professional court reporter for the transcripts of the meeting.

Also, be sure that in making any remarks you address the Chair.

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

Serving as Parliamentarian for this meeting is Chris Dickey, professional registered Parliamentarian.

Approval of the NEC meeting minutes from Saturday, August the 28th, 2010, will take place at our next NEC meeting.

For this meeting and future NEC meetings, the minutes will be approved by a Minute Approval Committee.

The Chair appoints NECs from New Mexico, Minnesota, and Mississippi as the Minutes Approval Committee responsible for approving the minutes for this year's NEC meetings.

Our next business in order is the election of a National Secretary and a National

Treasurer. One of the first responsibilities of the National President is to nominate the National Secretary and National Treasurer.

And it gives me great pleasure to nominate Mary “Dubbie” Buckler for the Office of National Secretary for the 2010-2011 administrative year.

The question is on the nomination of Mary “Dubbie” Buckler for the Office of National Secretary. All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You have elected Mary “Dubbie” Buckler your National Secretary for the 2010-2011 administrative year.

I am pleased to nominate Marta Hedding for the Office of National Treasurer for the 2010-2011 administrative year.

The question is on the nomination of Marta Hedding for the Office of National Treasurer. All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You have elected Marta Hedding your National Treasurer for the 2010-2011 administrative year.

Would the newly elected National Secretary and National Treasurer please join me at the podium for the oath of office.

Will you each raise your right hand and repeat after me using your name where I use mine.

I, Carlene Ashworth, do hereby accept the responsibilities of the Office of National Secretary, National Treasurer, and I promise to faithfully perform the duties of my office with -- to the best of my abilities with respect to the American Legion Auxiliary and allegiance to my country so help me God.

Congratulations and thank you both for your service.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Could I please now have all our National Officers stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Would all the Past National Presidents please stand and be recognized at this time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, ladies, for your continued service.

The next item of business is the approval of the standing committee appointments for the 2010-2011 administrative year. You have received a copy of the appointments list. I will, however, only read the names of the Chairmen and then ask you to approve the complete list.

And I would like to ask you before we start to go ahead right now and on page two, strike Nicole Clapp’s name at the top because she got put on the Committee two times and I think she can only serve one time at a time, so you will just take Nicole’s name off of there.

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Okay. You all should have a copy. You don't have a copy of the Committee? They had them on all the NEC chairs. Did we miss a row? Okay. We have more. We'll make sure we get more to you. We have someone. Where's Kim?

Kim, are you in this room, please? Kim, would you please?

All the ladies, please raise your hand and I'll wait to start until we make sure everybody has a copy. Somehow we missed a row there, I guess.

Okay. Are we good to go? Americanism Committee Chairman Ann M. Rehbein, Audit Committee Chairman Virginia M. Hobbs, Cavalcade of Memories Chairman Kenya Ostermier, Children & Youth Chairman Nancy Brown Park, Community Service Chairman Diane Duscheck, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Mary E. Davis, Education Chairman Sharon Conatser, Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman Tammy Ryberg, Finance Chairman Desireé Stoy. Where's my Girls State Chairman? The Chairman, okay, she's moved down. Girls State Chairman Vickie Koutz. She's the third one down on the lefthand side. It says Vickie Koutz, Girls State Committee Chairman. She's down below Linda Feezer. You find her? Okay. Junior Activities Chairman Lisa D. Williamson, Liaison with Child Welfare Foundation Chairman Katherine Morris, Leadership Chairman Melanie M. Taylor, Legislative Chairman Kathy Dungan, Membership Chairman Krisann M. Owens, National Security Chairman Janet L. Jefford, Past Presidents Parley Chairman Rita Navarreté, Poppy Chairman Martha Corriher, Public Relations Chairman Coral May Grout, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman Peggy I. Thomas.

The question is on the motion to approve the complete list of appointments to standing committees for the administrative year 2010-11 as presented.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion to approve the complete list of appointments to standing committees for the administrative year 2010-2011 has passed.

Congratulations and thank you for your service.

The next item of business is the approval of the appointment to special committees. Each of you should have received a listing of the special committee appointments for the 2010-2011 administrative year, the other packet that you were handed out, that she just gave you.

VOICE: We got one of one and part of the other. Some got one and some got the others.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do we have more in the back of the room perhaps? There should have been -- all of these chairs should have had -- yes, did have them on there. So okay. I will read these for you then.

Advisory Committee Chairman Linda Boone, National Convention Chairman Marie Goede, Distinguished Guests Chairman Kristine West, Long Range Strategic Planning Chairman, Vice Chair, Co-Chair of Long Range Strategic Planning is Jan

Pulvermacher-Ryan, and our National Secretary Mary D. Buckler, Dubbie.

Oh, okay. Scrapbook. Sorry. I didn't see the back page. Marty Peters is the National President's Scrapbook Chairman.

Yes, I will make it as special -- Special Committee of Human Resources Kris Nelson, Chairman.

Is that it? Okay.

The question is on the motion to approve the list of special committees. And is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion to approve the list of special committees and special appointments has passed.

Congratulations. Let's show our appreciation to all these newly elected and appointed leaders.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair now welcomes Carol Van Kirk from the Department of Nebraska, American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board Vice President, to present the Foundation's FY11 budget.

Carol.

VICE PRESIDENT VAN KIRK: Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, members of the National Executive Committee, and honored guests, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, established in 2007, is a separate and duly incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Over the past four years, the Foundation has built a solid infrastructure that strategically positioned itself to comply with the Internal Revenue Service September 2011 public charity deadline requirements.

The Foundation is now ready to begin active solicitation of funding sources outside of the Auxiliary with the purpose of growing the Mission Endowment Fund.

In addition, per the request of the NEC for information about the Foundation, its purposes and goals were incorporated into the 2010 Awareness Assembly Program.

As outlined in our annual report, a comprehensive, cost-effective public relations effort was launched introducing the Ambassador Program and the Foundation Host a Board Meeting Program. Both programs bring the message of the Foundation directly to departments, units, and communities. Both initiatives have received positive feedback from participants.

We would like to thank the Department of Colorado and Saldabeyello (phonetic) Post -- I don't know if I pronounced that right. If I didn't, I apologize -- number 1985, Boulder Post number 10, and Paul C. Beck Post number 23 for hosting the Foundation's May Board meeting.

In fiscal year 2011, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will focus on

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increasing the assets of the Mission Endowment Fund, a long-term savings account for support of the programs and services of the American Legion Auxiliary, develop an action plan specifically geared toward fund raising efforts comprising realistic achievement goals and a case statement, continue expansion of the Ambassador Program which today boasts 27 ambassadors, continue to go on the road with departments interested in the Foundation Host a Board Meeting Program, and actively participate in the Awareness Assembly Program and elect one new Foundation Board member to be approved by the NEC at awareness assembly 2011.

The deadline for applications is October 1st, 2010. The Foundation is responsible for establishing an Audit Committee and supports the proposed and approved American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Audit Committee charter using the recommendations of the Council General as Audit Committee operational guidelines.

Leaving the Board this year is Past National President Rita Navarreté, Foundation Board President Carol Moye. The Foundation Board of Directors would like to express our thanks to these individuals for their commitment, dedication, and diligence.

And we welcome to the Board Nancy Brown-Park, Children & Youth Committee National Chairman.

This year's budget development process was completed by the Foundation Treasurer with support from the American Legion Auxiliary Finance staff and was based on historical data from fiscal year '09 and '10 budgets.

The budget was reviewed by the Foundation President and presented to the Foundation Board of Directors for approval.

Anticipated expenses relative to legal and audit activities, personnel costs, and items directly associated with fund raising such as direct mailings have been incorporated into the fiscal year 2011 budget.

As you review the budget, and I understand you all have that -- do you have the budget for the Foundation? All right. As you review the budget, please note personnel costs have been increased by \$2,670.

Direct mail production, postage, and direct mail banking also reflect an expense increase that will be offset by the net revenue realized by this activity.

Required registration fees to continue fund raising in 40 states has increased by \$6,302. All other budget increases total \$3,771.

Revenues for the fiscal year 2011 are projected at \$94,000. The entire budget has been increased by \$10,073 or 4.99 percent in comparison to fiscal year 2010.

The Foundation Board has taken a number of proactive steps to further streamline this year's budget including the Ambassador Program, promoting community awareness of the Foundation, and, therefore, building a donor base outside of the American Legion Auxiliary in support of the Mission Endowment Fund.

The Host a Board Meeting Program allowing the Foundation Board to interact directly with unit members promotes a cost sharing concept with departments. The first meeting held in Colorado reduced travel costs by 60 percent over previous American Legion Auxiliary Foundation meetings.

The Foundation Board when meeting in Indianapolis has proposed the practicality of meeting at hotels near the airport as opposed to meeting at Department

Headquarters. Potential cost savings of \$180 per traveler or a savings of 28.8 percent over previous Indianapolis meetings could be realized. The effectiveness of this proposal will continue to be explored.

The budget for fiscal year 2011 is conservative, reasonable, and realistic. With the affirmation of the NEC, the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will conduct fiscal year 2011 business within the budgeted parameters.

I move the acceptance by the NEC of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board approved budget for fiscal year 2011.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Carol.

May we accept the Foundation's budget by consent?

VOICES: Consent.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. The Foundation budget is accepted.

VICE PRESIDENT VAN KIRK: Thank you.

I have one additional order of business for your acceptance. The Foundation Board reviewed its Bylaws this year. The Board simply updated the Bylaws with minor changes in formatting, terminology, section numbering, and consistency. There are no changes in business content or purpose.

Per the Judge Advocate's direction, I would like to move for affirmation by the NEC of the Bylaw revisions made by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: May we accept the Foundation's recommendation by consent?

VOICES: Consent.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT VAN KIRK: Thank you for your time and attention. That completes my report.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Carol.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please now welcome Finance Committee Chairman Desi Stoy to present the proposed FY11 budget of the American Legion Auxiliary.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, members of the NEC, each of you received a copy of the proposed budget along with a narrative that provided additional detail to support and explain our proposal.

We hope that you've taken the time to review these documents and feel prepared to meet your fiduciary responsibility as part of the ALA's governing board.

The entire Finance Committee is pleased to convey to you our appreciation for the positive comments that we have received in response to the advanced circulation of these documents.

This was accomplished through the collaboration of volunteers and staff. And this Chairman would like to acknowledge the efforts of all involved and thank them for their efforts.

And when I refer to volunteers, these volunteers go beyond the members of the Finance Committee for each National Chairman did their part. So this truly was a team effort. So thank you to all involved.

It is this Chairman's pleasure to invite our controller, staff member Tim Bresnahan, to come forward to assist with the next portion of our presentation. We will

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work in tandem to answer any and all of your questions.

And I also invite the National Finance Committee to chime in where necessary.

So thank you in advance, Tim.

Look--he looks prepared. Yes.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: As you know, we did invite the members of the NEC to communicate any questions that they may have in advance of this meeting in order for us to be able to efficiently and effectively address these questions or concerns during the budget presentation.

To that end, I am happy to address those questions that we believe each of you will benefit from the additional detail.

So Tim will assist with any line item questions that you may have, but I'm going to try to address those that came to us in advance.

And I know Tim was very diligent and reached out to those of you who had questions individually, but I thought perhaps the entire NEC would benefit from these particular questions.

So let's start on the revenue side. The question -- and if you are the originator of this question, I have sort of paraphrased it for this presentation. So if I have missed your intent, please let me know.

So let's start on the revenue side. Revenue activity 133 is development/fundraising and that includes direct mail, program-specific appeals, income from previous year appeals.

Now, the FY10 budget was 483,000. The FY11 budget was reduced to 264,000. And so the question was, why the reduction.

So simply, it is the consensus of the National Finance Committee that adding to the FY11 budget a Foundation direct mail campaign and a VCAF fall magazine appeal will saturate the giving market for the American Legion Auxiliary and cause donors to give less to the regular direct mail campaigns which are reflected in activity 133.

This being the consensus, the Committee believed it prudent to reduce the direct mail gross proceeds in the development and fund raising activity. Okay?

As well, activity 139, VCAF donations and investment income, the FY10 budget was 104,000, the 2011 budget 175,600.

The question is, how do you anticipate such an increase?

As I mentioned, plans for a VCAF-focused appeal in the November issue of our national magazine, this focused appeal in tandem with President Ashworth's Power of One theme is anticipated to gross \$75,000. So that's how we came to that conclusion.

Okay. On the expense side, activity 132, the FY10 budget was \$724,769, in FY11 806,529.

The question was, is this estimate high?

This includes an increase in both tech support and an increase in auditing expenses due to the 990. So roughly the tech support expenses were about 60,000 and we anticipated 21,000 due to the -- for auditing expenses due to the 990. So there's why the increase in that.

Activity 133, development and fund raising FY10 reflects 424,259, while the budgeted FY11 is 265,900.

Why the anticipated decrease? That was the question that came to us.

This decrease is proportionate, you will notice, to the FY11 income to this activity. So they are in tandem. So that is why the decrease.

So those are some of the questions that came to us. Does anyone else have any other questions?

There is one thing I want to bring to your attention. In the past, the budget has had a separate line item for companion travel. And this year's budget, we have moved that line item into the line item that includes the National President's salary because this will become taxable income. Okay?

So are there any questions on the budget?

MS. JONES: If I may.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Yes, please.

MS. JONES: Sue Jones, Department of North Carolina.

It is my understanding that Past National Presidents are asked to pay half of their States Dinner ticket each year at the States Dinner and it is deducted from their per diem. We consider the Past National Presidents our honored guests at the States Dinner. And it seems wrong to ask them to pay any part of their States Dinner.

So I would like to move that no deductions be made in the per diem for the States Dinner ticket of the Past National Presidents attending the States Dinner.

VOICE: We don't charge them.

MS. JONES: I understood that \$22.00 was -- half of the ticket was deducted from their per diem.

VOICE: For the dinner?

MS. JONES: For the dinner, correct.

VOICE: Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STOY: -- if you're waiting for a second, then I --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No.

CHAIRMAN STOY: -- will gladly enter --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No. Okay. I'm sorry. Did you make that into a motion?

MS. JONES: Yes, I did.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Motion has been made and seconded that we -- I've forgotten how you worded that exactly. Okay. The -- no deduction be made in the per diem for the States Dinner of the Past National Presidents attending the States Dinner.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Just as a matter of explanation, it's not like they're -- they're not asked to pay. They are invited guests of the National President, but then that amount is deducted from their per diem for meals. So just as a point of clarification. But the end result is the same.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there any discussion on this?

MS. STEPHENS: Cinnamin Stephens, Department of Nevada.

I'm not understanding. You're saying it washes out in the end where in my mind if I'm giving \$100 for per diem and I go to a States Dinner and you deduct \$20.00, that's not the same as --

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CHAIRMAN STOY: No. That's what I'm -- that was my point is it is the same. What she's saying is correct. They're not asked to pay for it as an invited guest. Then it's just deducted from their -- it's not like we come to them and say you must pay half of your meal ticket. That's what I was --

MS. STEPHENS: If they're deducting it from my per diem --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No.

CHAIRMAN STOY: The end result is the same. You're right.

MS. STEPHENS: -- they are taking it.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Right.

MS. STEPHENS: And I believe we're saying that not to take it.

CHAIRMAN STOY: You don't want that to happen. Correct.

MS. STEPHENS: I just want -- I was clarifying because we're talking about apples --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I think there's -- yeah. Right. You're right, Cinnamin.

MS. STEPHENS: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: There is some question about it. So in essence, you're saying that they are deducting out of their --

CHAIRMAN STOY: Right. Yeah. Yeah. I'm not saying it's a wash. I'm saying the result is the same. You're right.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: So you -- the clarification is that you do not want them to have any deduction out of their per diem for that amount of their ticket?

VOICE: Correct.

CHAIRMAN STOY: It was not the intent for the record of the Finance Committee to make them pay half. We just didn't think of that ramification. This has been our course of action over the years. So --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Any further discussion?

Yes, Karen.

MS. POREMPSKI: Can you hear me from here?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No, I don't think so. Sorry. I know it's kind of tight in those chairs.

MS. POREMPSKI: Thank you. Karen Porempski, Department of New York.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Pull it, pull it down so they can hear you.

MS. POREMPSKI: This is for tall people. There we go.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes. There you go.

MS. POREMPSKI: All right. I just had a question on the Americanism Youth Conference on --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Well, we still have a motion on the floor on the other --

MS. POREMPSKI: Oh, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yeah. We have not voted on this.

MS. POREMPSKI: I'm sorry. I thought that was --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes. Okay. Yeah. We're not -- do we need -- do we have -- need any other -- yes.

Tim, I've been asked to ask you if there is anything that would have any implications on what we have to report to the federal government in regard to this per

diem and --

CONTROLLER BRESNAHAN: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: None? Okay. Okay. So the motion has been made that no deduction be made in the per diem for the states dinner ticket of the Past National Presidents attending the state dinner. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I believe the motion has carried.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Are there any other questions?

MS. POREMPSKI: Thank you. I'm sorry to get ahead of myself there.

I had -- one of the questions I had asked was about the Americanism Youth Conference. I mean, they said that that event was going to be eliminated. It was one of the questions. Is that correct?

CHAIRMAN STOY: Yes.

MS. POREMPSKI: Karen Porempsi, Department of New York.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Okay. So as you refer to your budget narrative, it was listed on there, I believe, under expenses. The reason is spelled out. I'm trying to find it myself. Third bullet point down from the bottom, up from the bottom. Thank you.

Cost benefit analysis supported the elimination of the Americanism Youth Conference saving \$36,000. That program has been a part of our Americanism Program for several years.

In 2010, 26 students were awarded the trip. Then additional slots were filled by their alternates because we had room, because we weren't at full capacity, have not been at full capacity for several years, so a total of 52 students benefitted this last year.

In 2009, participation was by 31 states. Other slots were filled by their alternates reaching a total of 55 students. The capacity of that particular conference is 100 students.

In 2008, participation was by 28 states. Other slots were filled with their alternates reaching a total of 56.

So doing a cost benefit analysis, we thought perhaps that we could educate children at a more efficient and effective way because of the low participation.

Ten states that participated in 2009 did not participate in 2010. So those are some of the statistical information that was shared with the Finance Committee for us to make a prudent decision to eliminate that as a budget line item because of low participation.

Are there any other questions?

MS. BAILEY: Elsie Bailey.

Just for clarification, the companion travel expense money was added to the National President's salary.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Yes.

MS. BAILEY: That means that she's going to pay income tax in a higher bracket and still uses that money for companion travel?

CHAIRMAN STOY: Yes.

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MS. BAILEY: Is there IRS regulations that states this is the way it's to be done because The Legion doesn't do that? The Legion gives 1099s to -- if it's over the 600.

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson.

I looked this up with several nonprofit corporations and that's the way they told us we had to do it, that we had to -- it was taxable income. So we've all talked about it and we know that we're going to be put in a higher bracket, so we will make sure that we have the money to pay that tax at the end of the year.

MS. BAILEY: And, actually, she can take someone or not take anyone at this point.

CHAIRMAN STOY: True.

CHAIRMAN NELSON: I think that it will have to be made a requirement that we take someone on the travel.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President, Virginia Hobbs.

The IRS regulation that this is -- comes from is the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 and the IRS-proposed regs were issued in December of 1994.

For those of us who have served between 1994, '95 and the current day, we have benefitted from the Auxiliary's omission to follow this. But given the current state of affairs with the IRS 990s, et cetera, it becomes a more pressing issue for us to follow it.

And like Kris, I, too, did the research to find out exactly what -- where this was coming from.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Ginny.

CHAIRMAN STOY: This Chairman appreciates the knowledge of --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STOY: -- of my colleague from Virginia.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Rita Navarreté.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Oh, Kentucky.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Kentucky.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Sorry.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Whoa. Immediate Past President comes to the microphone and it jumps right on the floor at her. She's got a lot of power there, doesn't she?

CHAIRMAN STOY: All right.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Rita Navarreté, immediate Past National President.

For clarification and information, the additional amount for companion travel is being recommended --

VOICES: Ooh.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Just hold it in your hand.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: -- is being recommended to be added to the salary; is that correct?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Correct.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: If the foreign travel is not completed or the decision of the National President is to make one trip, the salary stays with that money -- the funds for the companion travel stay with the President's salary?

CHAIRMAN STOY: It's my understanding that it would be not expenses. Is that how you understand it, Tim?

CONTROLLER BRESNAHAN: Right.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Right. Right. And I can tell you as our controller has whispered in my ear, currently as your budget exists, it's a savings of \$3,000 to the organization doing it this way as well. He's crunched the numbers for us.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Tim is real good about that.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Your answer, Desi? They could not hear you for what you responded to Rita.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Okay. Simply if it's not used, it's not expensed to the budget. Okay?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: If it's not used, there will be no expense to the budget, so it won't be given -- it won't be paid out.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Right. Yes. Would you repeat that again, Ginny, so they can hear.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Well, relaying Tim's comment, Madam President, was that the travel will only be rolled into the National President's salary in the event that the trips are taken --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Exactly.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: -- with the companion accompanying the President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That is correct. That's correct.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: -- I have in part a comment and in part a question.

Knowing that we now report all of the compensation in various line items in the budget, we do not have a total which is presented to the NEC so they have a ballpark figure. And I understand that.

My comment going forward would be that it would be nice to have that as a memo item. And I bring that up particularly in light of the 990 because if you were to go to the Auxiliary's website, you could pull the 990 filed for fiscal year 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007.

In those 990s, you will find the individual salaries listed for the National President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Vice President. That is Schedule 15, I believe it was.

Additionally, line item 25A shows total compensation and benefits paid to officers.

Line 26 shows the salaries paid to all other employees.

Line 27 is the pension benefits paid to employees.

And line 28 is other employment benefits.

So the information, we are required to report it where it is available to our entire membership to the general public.

I personally feel that it is only appropriate if our NEC and National Officers have a ballpark figure of what we are expensing in the way of compensation.

If you will notice, I'm not saying each individual National Officer's compensation which, you know, my salary as National President was a line item. They

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said that it was a privacy issue.

But I do think that we should have memo items giving ballparks on that because, again, we're talking transparency. We're talking clarity. And this would be a big step in my mind in disclosing that type of information.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Would you consider making that a motion as a recommendation, some recommendation?

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT HOBBS: Madam President, Virginia Hobbs, Past National President.

I move to recommend that a memo item be contained in the budget going forward to provide for information on bulk salaries paid to our National Officers and the aggregate salaries paid to all other Auxiliary employees at National Headquarters.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Is there a second?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do we have a second?

Okay. I will second it.

Okay. The motion has been made -- Ginny, you're going to probably have to help me with this because I couldn't write as fast as you were talking -- to recommend a memo item be contained in the budget to disclose --

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: The bulk salaries of the National Officers.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- the bulk salaries of the National Officers. And -

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: And the aggregate compensation paid to all remaining employees at National Headquarters.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And the aggregate compensation paid to all remaining employees in the National Headquarters office.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, I would like to inquire. So my understanding of that is like when we do the narrative, if we would include it in there, that would -- I think that's a great idea. So that was my take on what you were saying.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You've heard the motion. All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion carries.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President, one more question that I would have for our Finance Chairman or it may have to go to the National -- the controller or the National Secretary.

How many employees does the Auxiliary currently have?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Twenty-four, 26, 24.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Twenty-six with the National President and the National --

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President, the reason I ask this question, we -- if we reach 50 employees, and I think Kris Nelson knows exactly where I'm going, by our involvement with VISTA, VISTA is a federal program, and, therefore, if we reach 50 employees, we are then subject to EEO reporting to the Department of Labor --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: -- by involvement with the federal government.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: And I just wanted to bring that to our attention now so we can --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Right.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: -- plan for it if we ever get that many employees.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Great. Thank you, Ginny. We appreciate your comments. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Are there any other questions, Ginny? No.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, by action of the FY11 National Finance Committee, I move for the adoption of the FY11 budget with the stipulation that this NEC has made about the per diem for the Past National Presidents.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'll second that.

Okay. Since the motion comes from a Committee, a second is not required. The question is on the approval of the proposed FY11 budget as presented.

Is there any other discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question? All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion to approve the proposed FY11 budget has passed.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, our next order of business is to -- is the adoption of the proposed reserve funds. Each year, the Finance Committee anticipates future expenses and designates funds to cover these expenses as well as any unanticipated future expenses outside the budget.

The narrative included the rationale associated with each proposed amount.

Are there any questions regarding the reserve amounts?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, by action of the National Finance Committee, I move the adoption of the proposed reserve fund allocations.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Again, since this motion comes from a Committee, no second is required.

The question is on the approval of the reserve funds budget.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question? All in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion to approve the reserve funds budget is approved.

CHAIRMAN STOY: This concludes our presentation.

With your permission, Madam President, I would ask the National Finance

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Committee members to please stand for recognition. They worked long and hard on this budget and I would like to acknowledge their efforts.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Each of these members, like I said, worked really hard to reduce costs and to explore other sources of revenue. And they will continue to do so all year long. They each add a great deal of value to the Committee. And just for the record, each of them has accepted their future assignments with very little kicking and screaming.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Thank you, Madam President. That concludes this presentation.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you, Chairman Stoy.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Thank you, NEC.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there any other business to come before this National Executive Committee meeting?

VOICE: Madam President, I have flyers for your homecoming if anyone needs one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Thank you.

Okay. Hearing none, the Chair calls on the National Secretary, Dobbie Buckler, for announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

First I would like to acknowledge the staff who have helped throughout the convention. And we have a few of them here.

Tim Bresnahan, our controller, who works long, long hours --

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- Tim gets a special -- you'll not find a more diligent, attentive, thoughtful, dedicated person than you have in your National Controller.

Thank you, Tim.

And Tabitha Rhoda who is helping with communications and has been doing scripting and this is her first time doing this and she has jumped in and done a remarkable job. And we appreciate that.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And Joni Clark, my assistant, this is her first convention. She's been on board just a few short weeks. So one of the things that we learn in this organization is with staff turnover, you lose institutional knowledge.

And I just want to compliment everyone who has helped this convention come about. I hope you have not noticed any things that backstage might have been cause for a few more of my hair color wisdom strands to appear, but we have -- it's come off very well. And I just wanted to appreciate -- show my appreciation for the staff who have helped to do that.

I also want to thank personally our Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey, and Barb Kranig as a matter of personal privilege, Madam President, because there were many nights where I would e-mail, "Are you still up?"

And I apologize for whatever this Convention Center croup is that I have just gotten.

An important announcement, Madam President, and to all present, all NECs, National Officers and National Committee Chairs, National Committeemembers are asked to complete the conflict of interest disclosure forms and the conflict -- and sign the conflict of interest policy statement and return those to the National Secretary's Office by September 30th or, Joni, this is your waving part, you can leave them with Joni Clark. They're at the back of the room. Save postage, save time. If you can fill them out now and hand them to her, that's one thing crossed off of your to-do list as a National Officer or National Chair or National Chairman.

Additional copies are available at the back of the room. And we will be distributing those forms to those who are not present.

Also, there was an earring found. Was it claimed yet?

VOICE: Not yet.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Do you have it?

VOICE: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: No. It's just a little -- it's a pierced earring, a little slim gold one that curves down this way (indicating). So if you -- anyone lost an earring, we're going to take it back to the office for the time that we're still there. I mean, you can claim it from Joni at the back of the room. We still have it.

Also, as a final item of business, Madam President, we have up here on the front flowers that are sitting in front of our new National Chaplain, correct?

VOICE: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now, this is -- you have to be practical. Those who were in the room and who are driving, raise your hands if you drove to the convention.

(Whereupon, there was a show of hands.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. The rest of you get to observe because this is a participatory event for those who drove.

Okay. The flowers will be awarded to the first person that can holler out, and you will need to stand and holler, so get nimble on your feet, the first person who can holler out the name of one of the songs sung at the ceremony this morning.

VOICES: Power of One.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Okay. Okay. Well, no. It was -- Luann was the first one to holler it out. Okay. Luann, you got some chrysanthemums.

And, Madam President, that's all the announcements that I have at this time.

Oh, and I beg your pardon. I did forget Maria Potts. I'm sorry. I'll hear from that. Maria Potts at the back of the room on National staff. She's one of our program coordinators and she knows a whole lot of stuff about things. And she's just indispensable at the National Headquarters.

And I'm sorry for failing to mention you, Maria. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Also at the back of the room as you go out, there is a gift from me for the Past National Presidents, the National Executive Committee women, and the National Chairmen who are present in the room. If the National Chairman is not here, we'll get it to her.

But stop on the way out at the table back there, I believe where Joni and Maria are sitting. Is there where -- okay. And they'll check your name off the list and I hope you enjoy it. And it's something that I think you can all probably use. So please do that.

Please now stand with me as our National Chaplain, Vickie Thrower, offers the

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Benediction.

(Ringing of the bell.)

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Dear Lord, please keep our National President Carlene safe as she travels this year. We ask your blessings upon our National President's theme, The Power of One. May it cause and ensure the growth of the American Legion Auxiliary.

We ask that you continue to look over our veterans and servicemen and women. We ask that you bless each one here and keep them safe as they travel home to their communities to do your service for God and country. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Till we meet again, let us ever 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 ever a main objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the paths of justice, freedom, and democracy.

Ladies, this concludes the first meeting of the 2010-2011 National Executive Committee. The meeting is now adjourned. Colors being in place, hand salute. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 11:39 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was concluded.)

Appendix A

**AMENDMENTS TO THE
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS,
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ADOPTED BY
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
90TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2010
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 28, 2010
RESOLUTION

Passed

SUBMITTED BY: American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado
SUBJECT: Appreciation for American Airlines Snowball Express program providing recreational support for deceased service members' families
DATE: July 13, 2010

WHEREAS, many of American's bravest young men and women have made the ultimate sacrifice while defending our freedom; and

WHEREAS, many of these soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen have left behind families who also have sacrificed and are still sacrificing for the freedoms which we enjoy; and

WHEREAS, American Airlines Veterans Initiatives, American Airlines Employees, and American Airlines strategic partners honor the sacrifices made by deceased service members and their families through sponsorship of the Snowball Express program; and

WHEREAS, the Snowball Express program provides an opportunity for surviving family members coping with the loss of a service member to share in a joyful experience at the start of the holiday season by providing flights for the deceased service member's family to a nationally recognized theme park; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 28, 2010, recognize and commend American Airlines, its strategic partners, and American Airlines Veterans Initiatives for providing the Snowball Express program and for their support of the families of deceased veterans, and, therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters convey the organization's appreciation to those responsible for the American Airlines Snowball Express program.

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Passed

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 28, 2010

RESOLUTION

SUBMITTED BY: Long Range Strategic Planning Committee
SUBJECT: Mission and Vision Statements
DATE: July 6, 2010

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) embraces a mission statement that defines the fundamental purpose of the organization, focuses the ALA's thinking and actions, distinguishes the ALA from other organizations, clarifies that which the Auxiliary seeks to achieve, and concisely communicates why the ALA exists and why the ALA matters; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary also embraces a vision statement that presents the ALA with an ideal future based on the successful implementation of its mission; and

WHEREAS, the current Mission Statement presently reads: The American Legion Auxiliary serves veterans, their families and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the current Vision Statement presently reads: The American Legion Auxiliary enriches the quality of life of those we serve and our members; and

WHEREAS, the present Mission and Vision statements do not adequately identify the organization's purpose or what the Auxiliary stands for to the degree necessary for outside entities to understand who we are and why we are relevant to a patriotic citizenry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by action of the National Executive Committee meeting August 28, 2010, that the American Legion Auxiliary adopt the following revised mission and vision statements that incorporate the fundamental tenets of the ALA's enduring Preamble to its Constitution and that more fully represent the organization's importance and core values:

Mission Statement:

In the spirit of service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 28, 2010

Passed

RESOLUTION

SUBMITTED BY: National Treasurer
SUBJECT: Equitable distribution of PUFL dues shares to Units, Departments, National Headquarters
DATE: August 2, 2010

WHEREAS, the "Paid up for Life" (PUFL) membership fees were duly adjusted by the Auxiliary's independent actuarial firm for the 2011 membership year, and then duly adopted by the NEC at its February 27-28, 2010 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the National Headquarters collects the membership dues and then returns to the Department and Unit their shares, and;

WHEREAS, the lifetime Unit dues payments for the member are set at the date of PUFL enrollment, and Department and National portions are set annually; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the dues share amounts for National, Department, and Unit shall be set and fixed at the date of the PUFL enrollment by the member, and, therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that this change shall be effective with the 2011 membership year.

RATIONALE

There exists an inconsistency in establishing the dues shares for National, Departments and Units based upon the time of a member's PUFL enrollment. Currently, the dues share rate for Units is fixed at the rate in place at the time of the PUFL enrollment, and does not adjust with subsequent Unit dues increases. However, for Departments and National, the PUFL dues rate shares adjust at their prevailing dues rates. With the current distribution structure, Departments and National over time receive a greater share of PUFL revenue as a result of dues increases that may be enacted by Departments and National. Consequently, the Units' PUFL dues share distributions remain constant irrespective of any dues increase a Unit may enact, thereby disproportionately diminishing the Units' PUFL dues share distribution over time. This policy makes the distribution of PUFL dues shares equitable for all levels of the organization.

This resolution has been reviewed by the ALA's actuarial firm that recommends the ALA fix the rates at all levels at the time one becomes a PUFL member, removing the potential for risk and payout errors since the ALA has no control over rates set by its subordinate groups. This action supports the financial integrity of the PUFL plan.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 28, 2010

RESOLUTION

Passed

SUBMITTED BY: National President in response to external decision and as advised by Counsel General
SUBJECT: Delete Section X from Standing Rules - Subsidiaries
DATE: August 9, 2010

WHEREAS, Section X of the American Legion Auxiliary's Standing Rules is subtitled "Subsidiaries Organizations" and its content refers to the Eight and Forty, to the Past Presidents Parley which was removed as a subsidiary in 1944, and to Musical Groups that no longer exist; and,

WHEREAS, due to the recent decision conveyed to the American Legion Auxiliary by the *La Boutique des Huit Chapeaux et Quarante Femmes*, a.k.a. Eight and Forty, a.k.a. the 8 & 40, to become a totally separate legal entity changes the classification of *La Boutique des Huit Chapeaux et Quarante Femmes* as a subsidiary of the American Legion Auxiliary; and,

WHEREAS, with the Eight and Forty no longer classified as a subsidiary, the American Legion Auxiliary no longer has any subsidiary organizations, rendering obsolete the existence of a section within the standing rules on subsidiary organizations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Section X of the American Legion Auxiliary Standing Rules be deleted and removed; and be effective upon adoption by the National Executive Committee meeting August 28, 2010 in Milwaukee.

RATIONALE

The 8&40 conveyed to the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) that, as a result of the new IRS federal reporting rules and legal requirements, it voted to no longer remain a subsidiary of the ALA and to become a separate organization. This decision was reached after much legal review and discussion on the part of both organizations. It is a necessary business action that reflects recent changes in legal and regulatory requirements of nonprofit organizations, and is based on extensive legal review, legal counsel, and audit advisories.

It is very important to understand what this action means, what it does not mean, and to dispel misconceptions. The matter is a rational business decision by the 8&40 to no longer be a subsidiary of the ALA due to new tax laws. The ALA, then, must take this urgently needed appropriate action to remove references to the 8&40 as a subsidiary. This action, in response to the 8&40's directive, is absolutely necessary for both organizations to comply with new IRS

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requirements and federal regulations and to protect both organizations from inherent liability risks and to mitigate both organizations from future legal, regulatory and tax liabilities.

The term “subsidiary” has a very different legal meaning today in 2010 than it did in 1926. It is unlikely our founders ever intended the 8&40 to be a legal subsidiary of the ALA by today’s definition. The term “subsidiary” had a very different colloquial meaning in the years prior to a federal income tax and Internal Revenue Service. The 8&40 is currently, and will remain, a separate legal corporation. The 8&40 has stated it does not wish to begin to comply with the legal and tax requirements now required of a legal “subsidiary”.

With this action, the ALA will have no organizations or groups classified as “subsidiaries”. The Past Presidents Parley was reclassified as a standing committee by the NEC in 1944. Musical groups were disbanded by the ALA in 1992. The 8&40 has voted and communicated its decision to the ALA to end its legal classification as a subsidiary organization.

What this action means and does not mean; what continues; what must discontinue

The 8&40, currently classified as an ALA subsidiary, has acted to sever its legal classification as a subsidiary. The ALA must act according to the decision of the 8&40. The ALA legally cannot dispute nor reject their decision.

With the advent of the new IRS reporting requirements and other legal considerations that did not exist when the organization was incorporated in 1926, the 8 & 40 consulted with counsel in 2010 and voted to separate its legal relationship with the American Legion Auxiliary, similar to actions taken by the male counterpart 40 & 8 in ending its legal relationship with The American Legion in 1960.

This decision allows the 8&40 to remain a separate legal corporation, operating as it currently does, with its current name, and with its current programs and with continued good will between the organizations.

It does require the 8&40 create a new logo and branding tag line without the trademarked American Legion Auxiliary emblem and name. The 8&40 must modify its marketing materials and cease using the ALA name in its tag lines or implied service marks.

This action does **not** dissolve the 8&40. It does **not** prohibit ALA members from belonging to the 8&40. It does **not** prohibit the 8&40 from raising money for its many child welfare and health related projects. It does **not** require the 8&40 to end its collaborative relationship with the ALA. It does **not** prohibit past chapeaux and past officers in good standing with the 8&40 from wearing their past officer pins.

The 8 & 40 can still exist, do all that it is currently doing, and have ALA members as its members. It just cannot continue to use the ALA emblem.

The change in legal status of the organization does not change the 8 & 40's mission nor the longstanding fondness and respect that the American Legion Auxiliary has for this organization, sentiments which will continue as both organizations adapt to changing legal landscapes.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 28, 2010

RESOLUTION

Passed

SUBMITTED BY: National President

SUBJECT: Confirm National President's Authorization to Delay 2011 Dues Renewal Notice

DATE: August 8, 2010

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary national organization has undertaken bringing in-house the technical management of the massive membership database and the ALA's information technology functions; and

WHEREAS, the import of eight million data records from the old system into the new system resulted in inexplicable translation errors because of the different computer languages and platforms; and

WHEREAS, the attempt to generate renewal notices to comply with an August 15 deadline resulted in the dues rates and remit-to address errors for approximately one-third of the database, requiring that National Headquarters re-enter a significant amount of data; and

WHEREAS, Departments needed sufficient time to review and verify their department's units' dues rates and update remit to addresses for each of the more than 9500 units; and

WHEREAS, following the Departments review and verification of each remit-to address, the National Headquarters was required to comply with U. S. Postal Service federal regulations mandating the National Headquarters perform a database analysis of all the ALA addresses in the new system prior to submitting the file to the printer for the renewal notice mailing; and

WHEREAS, mailing the renewal notices to meet the August 15 requirement would result in approximately one-third of the mailing being incorrect, and would in turn require a costly undertaking to redistribute corrected notices; and

WHEREAS, mailing incorrect notices would create additional problems for members, Units and Departments; and

WHEREAS, to avoid jeopardizing accuracy and risk losing the ALA's USPS non-profit mailing privileges, an immediate decision was needed based on the impossibility of meeting the August 15 requirement in order to notify the departments and the printing vendors; and

WHEREAS, the National President acts in the capacity of chief executive officer of the American Legion Auxiliary, now therefore be it;

RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 28th day of August, 2010, does hereby confirm the executive decision of the National President and ratify the delay in the mailing of the 2011 membership renewal notices.

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Passed

August 28, 2010

RESOLUTION

SUBMITTED BY: Audit Committee, Chair Virginia Hobbs
SUBJECT: ratification of ALA/ALAF Audit Committees Charter
DATE: August 13, 2010

WHEREAS, the American Legion Auxiliary National Audit Committee, as established in Article V of the American Legion Auxiliary National Bylaws, is responsible to the NEC in fulfilling its responsibilities including reliable systems of internal controls, corporate responsibility, and the quality and integrity of the Auxiliary's financial reporting; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that an audit committee have a written charter which serves as the audit committee's framework under which it functions and conducts its business, and;

WHEREAS, the ALA National Headquarters and the ALA Foundation are independently audited and reported in the bound and published Consolidated Financial Statements for the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, available to the public and posted annually on the American Legion Auxiliary's website, and;

WHEREAS, the Audit Committee at its organizational meeting held in July, 2010 reviewed and duly adopted its American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Audit Committees Charter, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Executive Committee, at its meeting on August 28, 2010, ratify the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Audit Committees Charter, and, therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the charter shall be effective immediately upon ratification.

(4-page charter follows)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION

AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

JULY 2010

I. PURPOSE

The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation ("Auxiliary" or "ALA") Audit Committees ("Audit Committee") shall be responsible for providing oversight assistance to the National Executive Committee ("NEC") in fulfilling their responsibility relative to auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes, including a reliable system of operational, financial and compliance internal controls, corporate compliance oversight functions, and the quality and integrity of the financial reports of the Auxiliary. In so doing, it is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to maintain free and open communication between the NEC, the external auditors and the senior management. The Audit Committees are independent of ALA's Finance Committee, which has its own purpose and responsibilities as authorized by the NEC and described in the ALA's Bylaws and Standing Rules and independent from the ALA Foundation.

The function of the Audit Committee is oversight. The Management of ALA is responsible for the preparation, presentation and integrity of ALA's financial statements. Management is responsible for maintaining appropriate internal accounting policies and procedures, financial reporting principles and policies and disclosure controls, and for procedures designed to ensure compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") and with applicable laws and regulations, including IRS regulations. The independent auditors are responsible for conducting an audit of ALA's financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards in the U. S. ("GAAS").

In fulfilling their responsibilities hereunder, it is recognized that members of the Audit Committee are not employees of the ALA or any of its affiliates and all of the members may not be, and may not represent themselves to be, accountants or auditors by profession or experts in the field of accounting, financial reporting or auditing. As such, it is not the duty or responsibility of the Audit Committee or its members to conduct "field work" or other types of auditing or accounting reviews or procedures or to set external auditor independence standards and, accordingly, each member of the Audit Committee shall be entitled to rely on:

- a. The integrity of those persons and organizations within and outside ALA from which it receives information;
- b. The accuracy of financial and other information provided to the Audit Committee by such persons or organizations absent actual knowledge to the contrary (which shall be promptly reported to the NEC); and
- c. Representations made by Management as to any information technology, internal audit (if applicable) and other non-audit services provided by ALA's external auditors.

II. QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

A. The Audit Committee shall be comprised of members who are independent of the Auxiliary, its Management, and any affiliates of the Auxiliary including its Foundation. Members of the Audit Committee shall be considered independent if they have no relationship that may interfere with the exercise of their independence from the Auxiliary, its Management and any of ALA's affiliates.

B. The Chair of the Audit Committee may be a member of the NEC, but is not required to be.
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- C. At least one member of the Audit Committee must have recent and relevant experience as a member of another audit committee and all members must have backgrounds in financial reporting or auditing.
- D. As stated in I. above, the Audit Committee is to be separate and distinct from the Finance Committee and from the Foundation. The Chair of the Finance Committee, the president of the Foundation, or a chair of any ALA committee may not serve as the Chair of the Audit Committee.
- E. One non-voting member of the Audit Committee shall be a voting member of the Finance Committee in order to promote cooperation, communications and coordination between the committees and their respective functions. One non-voting member of the Audit Committee shall be a voting member of the Foundation in order to promote cooperation, communications and coordination between the entities and their respective functions.

III. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In carrying out its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee procedures should remain flexible in order to best react to changing conditions and assure the NEC that the auditing, accounting and financial reporting processes and internal controls, the Corporate Responsibility Program and the financial reports of the Auxiliary are in accordance with all related requirements and are of the highest quality.

In carrying out these responsibilities, the Audit Committee will address the following key areas:

Risk Assessment

- A. Inquire of Management and the external auditor about significant financial reporting and control risks or exposures and assess the steps Management has taken to minimize such risks to the Auxiliary.

Financial Reporting Process

- B. Inquire of Management and the external auditor about financial reporting processes to address complex or highly judgmental accounting or internal control areas.
- C. Review interim financial statements periodically with Management at Audit Committee meetings.
- D. Review the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial reporting controls of the Auxiliary with the financial and accounting personnel and external auditor, and elicit any recommendations for the improvement of the system of internal controls or particular areas where new or more detailed controls or procedures are desirable. Particular emphasis should be given to the adequacy of the system of internal controls to expose payments, transactions, or procedures that might be deemed illegal or otherwise improper.

External Auditor

- E. Review and approve, at least annually, the following with Management and/or the external auditor:
 - Scope of the proposed audit for the current year and the procedures to be utilized.
 - Annual audited financial statements.

- Material off-balance sheet transactions.
 - Timely analysis of significant financial reporting issues and practices, including changes in, or adoptions of, accounting principles and disclosure practices.
 - Matters required to be communicated to the Audit Committee by Statements of Auditing Standards, including audit adjustments made and passed.
 - Accounting estimates and quality of earnings schedules prepared by Management or the external auditor.
 - Judgments about the quality and the clarity of the financial disclosures practices used or proposed to be used.
 - Management Letter and SAS 114-115 Letter and Management’s responses thereto.
 - Policy for rotation of the audit engagement partner.
 - Compliance with relevant independence standards for the external auditor.
 - Listing of all services performed by the external auditor that may impair its independence, including pre-approval thereof by the Audit Committee.
 - Compliance, if applicable, by the external auditor with the requirements of the Government Auditing Standards (“GAS”).
 - Receive and sign (by the Chair) the independent auditor’s Engagement Letter.
- F. Report the results of the annual audit to the NEC. The external auditor may be invited by the ALA National President or Audit Committee Chair to attend an NEC meeting to assist in reporting the results of the annual audit and/or to answer questions.

Corporate Responsibility Program

- G. Ensure that the Auxiliary develops and maintains an effective compliance program that promotes prevention, detection and resolution of instances of conduct that do not conform to federal and state law and the Auxiliary’s ethical and business policies.
- H. Review and approve corporate compliance policies and procedures and monitoring activities, including any reporting of matters of non-compliance.

Other

- I. Obtain the NEC’s approval of this Charter and review and reassess this Charter as conditions dictate.
- J. Provide sufficient opportunity for Management to meet with the members of the Audit Committee without the external auditors present.
- K. Provide sufficient opportunity for the external auditors to meet with members of the Audit Committee without Management present.
- L. Complete an annual self-assessment and review results with the NEC.
- M. The Audit Committee Chair shall ensure that at least annually, the Audit Committee members receive formal training in financial reporting, risk assessment or other relevant matters affecting audit committee activities.

- N. The Audit Committee should meet with ALA's Corporate Legal Counsel when appropriate to discuss any legal matters that may have a material effect on ALA's financial statements.
- O. The Audit Committee may request detailed reports or other information from Management or the external auditors related to matters affecting the financial reporting process, internal controls or other areas of special interest or concern

IV. COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

- A. Audit Committee members and the Audit Committee Chair are appointed 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.
- B. The Audit Committee will meet a minimum of three times per year. Audit Committee members must attend more than half of the meetings per year. Meetings may be held in person or by any electronic or digital media.
- C. Unless specifically excluded by the Audit Committee, each Audit Committee meeting shall be attended by ALA's Executive Director/National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Controller and others members of Management designated by the committee; by the external auditors; and by other guests requested by the Audit Committee.
- D. The Audit Committee Chair will have the responsibility for preparing the agenda, meeting materials and minutes from each meeting, and will be responsible for setting meeting dates, locations and times. Audit Committee meeting minutes will be delivered to the NEC.
- E. The Audit Committee may meet jointly with the Finance Committee annually to review and approve a draft of the annual audited financial statements.

V. FRAUD REPORTING AND HANDLING OF COMPLAINTS

- A. The Audit Committee shall have the responsibility for ensuring that Management establish procedures for:
 - a. The receipt, retention and resolution of complaints received by ALA regarding accounting, internal controls and auditing matters; and
 - b. The confidential anonymous submission of concerns by employees of ALA regarding any questionable accounting or auditing matters, potential fraud or illegal or irregular activities. The Audit Committee shall also establish procedures to ensure that no retaliation will be allowed to occur against anyone who reports any such matters in good faith, as required by Federal and Indiana law.
- B. ALA Management shall apprise the Audit Committee of any potential conflicts of interest brought to its attention. ALA Management shall also provide the Audit Committee with all Conflict of Interest Statements submitted by Members of the NEC, the Foundation and

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all ALA Committees thereof, accompanied by a listing of all members who did not complete a statement.

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All 6 ratified

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Protection of the National President's Signature - Policy

Date Approved: _____
Date Issued: _____

Approving Body: National Executive Committee
Next Review Date: January 2012

Purpose/Description

This policy addresses protecting the digital or facsimile signature of the National President.

Policy

- A. The American Legion Auxiliary Executive Director/National Secretary and the Executive Assistant to the National President shall safeguard the digital or facsimile signature of the National President and only use the National President's digital or facsimile signature at the direction of the National President.
- B. In the National President's absence, no authority is implied to acquire or dissolve assets or enter into binding contracts that obligate the organization beyond routine matters of policy or procedure.
- C. In the event the National President's signature is required for a matter beyond what has been previously directed or approved by the National President, the Executive Director/National Secretary or the Executive Assistant to the National President shall contact the National President for signing instructions. In such circumstances where the National President directs a national headquarters' staff member to utilize her digital or facsimile signature, a memorandum of the directive shall be duly retained and filed.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Membership List Fee - Policy

Date Approved: _____
Date Issued: _____

Approving Body: National Executive Committee
Next Review Date: January 2012

Purpose/Description

This policy addresses the acquisition and use of the Auxiliary Membership List by vendors for the purpose of marketing their product, service, or merchandise.

Policy

Any vendor requesting use of the Auxiliary Membership List must have a signed Licensing and Royalty Agreement with the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters must agree to grant vendor a limited license to utilize the Auxiliary Member mailing list during the term of said agreement for the purpose of marketing product, service, or merchandise to the membership. The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters will provide vendor with Membership List if and only if: the vendor has signed the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters List Protection Agreement, the List Fee has been received by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, the member list request was placed by vendor 30 days prior to the mailing date, and all marketing materials to be mailed have been approved by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.

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American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Complimentary Ticket and Registration - Policy

Date Approved: _____
Date Issued: _____

Approving Body: National Executive Committee
Next Review Date: January 2012

Policy Purpose/Description

This policy addresses providing of complimentary tickets and registrations during various American Legion Auxiliary events.

Policies

- A. Invitation lists for invited guests to receive complimentary registrations and tickets are approved by the National President. National Secretary shall submit the recommendations to the National President 90 days prior to the event. If a VIP becomes available to attend an American Legion Auxiliary national event after the list has been submitted, the National Secretary will confer with the National President for approval. The National Secretary will inform the ALA events staff accordingly.

When submitting a request for complimentary registrations and tickets, the following information must be included:

- Name of Person, Title, Contact Information
 - Reason for invitation
 - Anticipated cost and total budgeted amount
- B. Funds shall be budgeted for anticipated complimentary expenses annually based upon the average of the three previous years' expenses. Budgeted amounts will include the estimated actual meal and related costs, in lieu of the ticketed event price. Complimentary meals are not included in the revenue portions of the budget. The National President's event and meal tickets are included in the complimentary ticket budget for each event. Each complimentary ticket shall be expensed to the appropriate budget category.
- C. Participating staff shall receive complimentary tickets for events to which they are assigned. If a staff member has received a meal allowance, the designated amount for the meal provided will be deducted from the meal allowance. Staff assignments shall be made by the National Secretary.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Endorsement - Policy

Date Approved: _____
Date Issued: _____

Approving Body: National Executive Committee
Next Review Date: January 2012

Purpose/Description

Endorsement is the expressed approval or support of a product or service, typically conveyed through advertising. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines define *endorsement* as any advertising message that consumers are likely to believe reflects the opinion, belief, findings, or experience of a party other than the sponsoring advertiser.

American Legion Auxiliary Trademarks, name and Service Marks are defined as, but not limited to, all emblems, logos, symbols and artwork that are in any way manifestations of the American Legion Auxiliary organization or indicators of the organizational entity.

Term Defined:

An endorsement is an advertising and marketing term regulated by the FTC. The term is specific and not to be confused with support for ALA partnerships, agreements, or collaborations with other organizations relative to mission outreach.

Policy

It is the policy of the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, Departments, Units or members to not endorse products, services, programs or activities of any other organization or to allow products, services, programs or activities to use American Legion Auxiliary Trademarks, name and Service Marks.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Licensed Merchandise - Policy

Date Approved: _____
Date Issued: _____

Approving Body: National Executive Committee
Next Review Date: January 012

Purpose/Description

The American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters shall maintain a modern, effective, two-tier licensing system that will provide high quality products to members nationwide.

The purpose of this policy is to protect the American Legion Auxiliary national Trademarks, Service Marks, name, and intellectual property (Marks), all of which are the corporate property of the national organization, as well as to increase royalty revenue for the organization. This policy outlines the American Legion Auxiliary's criteria for granting the use of American Legion Auxiliary Marks to produce licensed merchandise. This policy also serves to define Licensed Merchandise review and execution powers.

Policies

All companies interested in producing American Legion Auxiliary Licensed Merchandise will:

- A. Submit an application to the National Headquarters staff member responsible for membership marketing stating the type of license being pursued along with the one-time, non-refundable application fee as described below.
- B. Submit a business plan to National Headquarters that includes: brief history of the company, projected royalty schedule, advertising plan, references from other organizations, explanation of customer service provided to members, description(s) of the product(s), sample(s) of the product(s), and product manufacturing information including company and location.
- C. Submit a listing of all logos of interest.
- D. Have their application and business plan reviewed by the appropriate National Headquarters staff responsible for membership marketing.
- E. Be subject to the approval of the National Secretary/Executive Director.
- F. Be expected to market to membership via American Legion Auxiliary national meetings and through sponsorship of an event or the donation of a meeting need.
- G. Purchase at least one magazine ad, at partnership rate, within six months of the executed agreement as well as one ad per year thereafter throughout the term of the agreement.
- H. Pay royalties to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- I. Sign Licensing Agreement provided by the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters and executed by National Secretary/Executive Director.
- J. Sign a List Protection Agreement.
- K. Pay for all membership lists fees.

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters Member Discount Programs (Member Benefits) - Policy

Date Approved: _____
Date Issued: _____

Approving Body: National Executive Committee
Next Review Date: January 2012

Purpose/Description

Member discount programs, also referred to as *Member Benefits*, consisting of partnerships in the form of *Royalty Agreements* with companies that wish to offer their products and services at discounted rates to American Legion Auxiliary membership.

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define expectations of potential member discount program providers, expedite the process of partnering with said companies, offer American Legion Auxiliary members qualified discount programs, and define Member Benefit/Royalty Agreement review and execution powers.

Policies

All companies interested in providing a discount program to the members of the American Legion Auxiliary will:

- A. Submit a business plan including: brief history of the company, projected royalty schedule, advertising plan, sample mailings, references from other organizations, explanation of benefit to members and explanation of customer service provided to members.
- B. Have a nationwide presence so that all members can participate in the program.
- C. Be expected to advertise to membership via American Legion Auxiliary National meetings through sponsorship of an event or donation of a meeting need.
- D. Purchase at least one magazine ad, at partnership rate, within six months of the executed agreement, as well as one ad per year thereafter until the dissolution of the agreement.
- E. Pay royalties to the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- F. Submit a royalty agreement to be reviewed by the appropriate National Headquarters staff responsible for membership marketing and executed by the National Secretary/Executive Director.
- G. Sign a List Protection Agreement.
- H. Pay for all membership lists fees. Finance Committee notified if there is a budgetary impact.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 27- September 2, 2010

Failed – Convention action; Committee recommended not to pass

RESOLUTION

SUBMITTED BY: National Security Committee, Diane Duscheck, Chairman
SUBJECT: Discontinuance of Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT) Plaque
DATE: July 19, 2010

RESOLUTION NO. _____
(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS, the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT) Plaque is awarded to the Department having the greatest percentage of Units participating in Civil Preparedness; and

WHEREAS, CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) is concerned with emergency management; and

WHEREAS, no Department applied for the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness Plaque for the 2008, 2009 or 2010 Auxiliary year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: By the American Legion Auxiliary in National Convention assembled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 27 – September 2, 2010, that the Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT) Plaque be discontinued upon the adoption of this resolution.

Routing:

Committee Chairman Name and Signature

_____ **Approved** **Rejected**
Revised

_____ **Approved** **Rejected** **Revised**

_____ **Approved** **Rejected** **Revised**

Convention Action: **Approved** _____ **Rejected** _____ **Date** _____

Amendment #1 Withdrawn

American Legion Auxiliary
National Headquarters
8945 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46260

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

SERIES: 2009-2010

FROM: Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, National Secretary/Executive Director

DATE: July 28, 2010

**RE: Proposed Amendments to the
National Constitution and Bylaws**

The following three proposed amendments to the American Legion Auxiliary's National Constitution and Bylaws will be considered at the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin
(*proposed changes appear in bolded text*):

AMENDMENT #1 – Proposal to amend Constitution regarding membership eligibility

Proposal from the Department of Montana to amend Constitution, Article III, Eligibility, Section 1; by changing "wives" to "spouses". Passed by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Montana Convention in Miles City, Montana, June 26, 2010.

The Section of the Constitution presently reads:

Article III, Section 1: Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, **wives**, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of all men and women who were in the armed forces of the United States during any of the following periods: (periods listed and other conditions of service)...and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

If the proposed amendment is passed, the Section of the Constitution will read:

Article III, Section 1: Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, **spouses**, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great granddaughters, and grandmothers of all men and women who were in the armed forces of the United States during any of the following periods: (periods listed and other conditions of service)...and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion.

RATIONAL:

While formed as a "women's" auxiliary, the word "women's" was dropped within a year. Increasingly, women are serving in the military and up to 20% of those now serving are female. How can the

Amendment #2 Not Passed

American Legion, Sons of the Legion and American Legion Auxiliary claim to be a "Legion Family" if one entire group is left out?

Auxiliary, as defined in the third edition of Webster's II new College Dictionary is: "Giving or capable of giving assistance or support." In what way are men less useful in this capacity than women? Is it not also possible that this unequal treatment, due solely to gender, could make us no longer eligible to be a non-profit?

AMENDMENT #2 - Proposal to amend Bylaws to establish a new administrative standing committee on Human Resources/Compensation

Proposal from the Special Committee on Human Resources Carlene Ashworth, Kris Nelson, and Diane Duscheck to amend National Bylaws Article V, Section 4, by adding a new administrative standing committee on human resources and national compensation; and to add a new section 10 providing for the composition and duties of this committee; and to renumber the remaining sections.

The Section of the Bylaws presently reads:

Article V, Section 4: There shall be the following Administrative Committees: Audit.

If the proposed amendment is passed, the Section of the Bylaws will read:

Article V, Section 4: There shall be the following Administrative Committees: Audit, **Human Resources /Compensation.**

- - - (correctly alpha-sort and renumber other sections)

Article V, Section 10: **The Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall be composed of five members, the National Vice-President, a member of the National Finance Committee and three members having human resource experience, appointed by the National President and subject to the ratification of the National Executive Committee. Of the three members first appointed, one shall serve a three-year term, one shall serve a two-year term and one shall serve a one-year term. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a three-year term. The National Vice President shall be the chairman of said committee. If necessary, the Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall meet face to face once annually, primarily conducting its business via E-mail and conference calls. The Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall perform an annual Human Resources audit at national headquarters and serve as consultants to the National Staff.**

The Human Resources/Compensation Committee shall be responsible for fostering the ongoing dedication of American Legion Auxiliary employees, providing an independent review of Human Resource practices, employee compensation and serving as an ongoing resource to assure the American Legion Auxiliary is known in the Indianapolis, IN area as the employer of choice.

Amendment #3 Passed

RATIONALE:

The Human Resources Special Committee is currently an ad hoc committee appointed at the discretion of the national president for one year. A standing Human Resources/Compensation national committee with multiple-year terms would be established to oversee compensation. The National Vice-President shall serve as chairman of the committee as she will have a working knowledge of National Headquarters staff and will be attending all called national meetings.

The Human Resources/Compensation Committee will research other non-profit corporations for salary and compensation benefits and make recommendations to the National Finance Committee and National Executive Committee for wages and benefits. The Human Resources/Compensation Committee will:

- 1) Annually perform a Human Resources audit, assuring all policies and procedures in the Employee Handbook are up-to-date and in adherence to State and Federal legislation.
- 2) Serve as consultants to National Staff, i.e. Human Resources Director and Executive Director, researching job descriptions and changes to the National Organizational Chart annually.
- 3) Assure that all hiring, disciplinary and firing policies are adhered to and follow both State and Federal mandates.
- 4) Develop and implement Employee Performance Review and annually review adherence to such policy.
- 5) Be the volunteer (member) voice to the National Staff, NEC and National Committees regarding staffing and benefits.
- 6) Ensure the Human Resources and Finance committees work in collaboration for the good of the organization.

AMENDMENT #3 - Proposal to amend Bylaws regarding when Finance Committee meets

Proposal from the National Finance Committee to amend Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws to remove the requirement that the quarterly meetings be held in conjunction with national Auxiliary events and to make a grammatical correction.

The Section of the Bylaws presently reads:

Article V, Section 8: 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 the ratification of the National Executive Committee. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a five-year term. No appointee having served two or more terms on the committee shall be eligible for reappointment. Persons already appointed who have exceeded the limit shall complete their present term. Five year terms must be separated by at least two years off the committee.

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 in conjunction with the Presidents and Secretaries Conference, in conjunction with the National Executive Committee Meetings, and shall meet 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 financial 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 shall provide oversight of the expenditure of funds in the budget and report to the National Executive Committee.

The National Vice President, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children and Youth Chairman are invited guests to serve as a learning experience.

If the proposed amendment is passed, the Section of the Bylaws will read:

Article V, Section 8: 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 the ratification of the National Executive Committee. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a five-year term. No appointee having served two or more terms on the committee shall be eligible for reappointment. Persons already appointed who have exceeded the limit shall complete their present term. Five year terms must be separated by at least two years off the committee.

The National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be members of said committee with voice, but without vote. **The Finance Committee shall meet quarterly** 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 financial 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 shall provide oversight of the expenditure of funds in the budget and report to the National Executive Committee.

The National Vice President, National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children and Youth Chairman are invited guests **for the purpose of learning and to gain experience.**

RATIONALE:

The work of the Finance Committee has become more complex. In addition to preparing and overseeing an annual budget, the Finance Committee's role now includes managing a sophisticated investment portfolio along with developing policies, procedures, and providing oversight to ensure compliance with growing financial, legal, and tax regulations stemming from the continued increased requirements placed on nonprofit corporations by the federal government and national professional watchdog organizations.

For cost-effectiveness, the timing of meetings needs to coincide with periodical financial reports and regulatory deadlines which do not readily adapt to the timing of the Presidents and Secretaries Conference or the Awareness Assembly. Therefore, it is proposed to remove the timing restrictions to allow the National Finance Committee meetings to be scheduled as needed, generally once per quarter of the fiscal year.

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Appendix B

Awards and Trophies

Committee: Americanism

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPT
Dorothy Pearl Plaque	Engraved Plaque	Unit	Carries out and reports the most outstanding Americanism Youth Program	Martha Setcock	OH
Clara B. Smith Plaque	Engraved Plaque	Department	Most outstanding three-point program narrative encompassing youth, adult and community	Laura Calteux	WI
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Ann Crawford	IA
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Zenna Rockwell	NY
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Beverly Neel	NE
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Kathy McLaughlin	TX
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Gloria Williams	CA
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Spencer Johnson	IL
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Zane Rice	MO
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Abigail Daniels	WV
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Kenzie Sinclair	KS
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Central Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Tyler Tripp	IL
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Faith McDowell	PA
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Maggie Brooks	NY
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Sidney Sheridan	NJ

AWARDS LISTING: 2009-2010

Committee: Americanism

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPT
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Natasha Barbosa	DE
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Eastern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Leslie Smith	DE
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Kayla Welle	MN
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Brittney Zoubek	NE
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Nick Peter Kneiff	NE
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Megan Stethman	NE
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Northwestern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Michael Kotrous	NE
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Aaron Wilson	TN
Americanism Essay Contest Awards	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Jamie Lovely	OK
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Sara Jo Housely	MS
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Seth Lowery	GA
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Southern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Emily Duesterhaus	VA
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Robbie Bartlett	WA
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Aimee Breeden	NM
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Meara Baker	WA
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Adrian Sotelo	AZ

Committee: Americanism

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	DEPT
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$100	Western Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Michael Bigley	ID
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner -Central	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Holly Pamperin	WI
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner -Eastern	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Kayla Lari	MD
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner - Northwestern	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Brittany Hannah	MN
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner- Southern	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Jacey Bales	OK
National Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Plaque, \$500	Overall Winner- Western	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Cody Hawkins	NV
Junior Americanism Award	Citation Plaque	Unit/Dept.	Awarded to a Junior for Most Outstanding Americanism Program	Patty Pryor	VA
Girl Scout Achievement Award	\$1,000	Junior or Senior HS Student; Gold Award Winner		Catherine Arruda	MA

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual- Central Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Carol A. Butterworth, Unit 58, Department of Missouri
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual - Eastern Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Joan Reinoehl, Unit 272, Department of Pennsylvania
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual - Northwestern Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	AnneMarie Eide, Unit 542, Department of Minnesota
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual - Western Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Penny Minchella, Unit 328, Department of California,
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual - Southern Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Catherine M. Gibbs, Unit 203, Department of South Carolina
Citation Plaque Recognition @ National Convention	Citation Plaque	Unit	Contributing the largest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Hovious-Grayson, Unit 112, Department of Mississippi, \$3,050 as of 06/30/2010
Citation Plaque Recognition @ National Convention	Citation Plaque	Department	Contributing the largest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Department of Minnesota, \$15,856.33 as of 06/30/2010

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
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	Luella Buske, Department of Illinois
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	Barbara Miller, Department of Pennsylvania
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	Shari Luther, Department of Nebraska
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	Marie C. Gillespie, Department of Oklahoma
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	Rose Ring, Department of Washington
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	Pam Lajewski-Pearson, Chairman, Richard M. Jopling Unit 44, Dept. of Michigan
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	Judith Frampton, Chairman, William T. Spooner Unit 17, Department of Delaware
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	Carol Mahana, Chairman, Ben Krueger Unit 49, Department of Minnesota
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	Doris Legarde, Chairman, Raceland Memorial Unit 291, Department of Louisiana
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	Cynthia Widdall, Chairman, Newport Harbor Unit 291, Department of California

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Central Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Department. Must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Department of Wisconsin Beverly J. Tutas, Chairman
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Department. Must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Department of New Hampshire Jessie Bernard, Chairman
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Department. Must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Department of Minnesota Shirley Frederick, Chairman
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Department. Must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Department of Virginia Jennifer Kelly, Chairman
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Western Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Department. Must include at least two of the designated areas of special emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Department of Idaho Carmen Metzger, Chairman
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Central Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit. Must include at least one of the designated areas of emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Huntington Unit 16 Department of West Virginia Peggy Roberson, Chairman
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Eastern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit. Must include at least one of the designated areas of emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Northwestern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit. Must include at least one of the designated areas of emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Carl Sydney Hanson Unit 255 Department of Minnesota Dolly Zitur, Chairman

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Southern Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit. Must include at least one of the designated areas of emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Hovious-Grayson Unit 112 Department of Mississippi Lorene Martin, Chairman
Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program by a Unit. Must include at least one of the designated areas of emphasis. Submit a narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form.	Glenn Morrison Unit 70 Department of Oregon Laurel Warden
Senior Volunteer of the Year	\$100	A Senior Member in the Central Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Mary Bigler-Little Stuessy-Kuensli Unit 141 Department of Wisconsin
Senior Volunteer of the Year	\$100	A Senior Member in the Eastern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Constance Vitullo Warren Unit 11 Department of Rhode Island
Senior Volunteer of the Year	\$100	A Senior Member in the Northwestern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Shirley Bergum Hoffman-Townsend Unit 74 Department of South Dakota
Senior Volunteer of the Year	\$100	A Senior Member in the Southern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Cindy Newton Leander J. Kinchen Unit 47 Department of Louisiana
Senior Volunteer of the Year	\$100	A Senior Member in the Western Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 300-500 words.	Mona Walker Washington Township Unit 837 Department of California
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$50.00 cash/certificate	A Junior Member in the Central Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 250 words.	Lauren Wibben William Schafer Unit 44 Department of Illinois

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$50.00 cash/certificate	A Junior Member in the Eastern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 250 words.	Sydney A. Hogarth Penbrook Unit 730 Department of Pennsylvania
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$50.00 cash/certificate	A Junior Member in the Northwestern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 250 words.	Jordan Eining George A. Fitzgerald Unit 65 Department of South Dakota
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$50.00 cash/certificate	A Junior Member in the Southern Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 250 words.	Terra Samuels William M. Summers Unit 217 Department of South Carolina
Junior Volunteer of the Year	\$50.00 cash/certificate	A Junior Member in the Western Division	Outstanding Volunteer Service in one or more of the areas emphasized in the Plan of Action. Narrative of 250 words.	Alexys B. Fender Doughboy Memorial Unit 138 Department of Washington

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
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	Cecil Torney Unit 118, Department of Wisconsin, Diane Weggen, Chairman
Most Outstanding Scholarship Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Scholarship Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Palmer Roberts Unit 214, Department of Ohio, Martha Setlock, Chairman
Most Outstanding Literacy Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Literacy Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Orlando Memorial Unit 19, Department of Florida, Kathy Rovin, Chairman
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	Leander J. Kitchen Unit 47, Department of Louisiana, Cindy Newton, 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 Indiana, Irma Wood, Chairman
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Eastern Division	Department of New Hampshire, Lisa Rojek, 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, Jean Horack, 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, Cindy Kolkernak, 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 California, Alzora Carter, 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	Joyce E. Endres, Dept of WI
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Eastern Division	Leila Newell, Dept of NJ
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	Suzanne Nunnelee, Dept of MN
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	Sarah Edwards, Dept of MS
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Western Division	Kathleen Medalen, Dept of Arizona
Toomey Award	National Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best overall department history	Joyce E. Endres Dept of WI
National Plaque	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Accumulated the highest overall score for their department history	no entry
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted a department history	multiple
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted a department history in the Central Division	no entry
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted a department history in the Eastern Division	no entry
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	Ashley Starek, Dept of WI
Certificate of Merit	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	Shelvilyn Mott, Dept of LA
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 entry
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 entry
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 entry

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
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 entry
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 entry
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Junior Member	Submits a department history	no entry
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Junior Member	Forwards a copy of a Veterans History using Veterans History Project Form	no entry

AWARDS LISTING: 2009-2010

Committee: Junior Activities

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Junior Member of the Year	\$100.00 Cash Award and citation	Junior Member	A Junior member in good standing, nominated by unit	Alexia Taylor-Futtscha, Holmes-Collins Unit 242, Department of Oklahoma
National Plaque	Engraved National Plaque	Unit	Best Overall Junior Activities Program	Dyer Gunnell Unit 180, Department of Virginia Janet Renner, Chm
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Central Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Unit 239, Department of Wisconsin, Virginia Kauffman, Chm
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Northeast Unit 1645, Department of New York, Sandra Slater, Chm
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Unit 269, Department of Nebraska, Kari Blecha, Chm
Unit Program of the Year	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Unit	Best overall Unit Junior Activities Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Dyer Gunnell Unit 180, Department of Virginia Janet Renner, Chm
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.	Department of Nebraska Barbara Washburn, Chm

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Most Outstanding Overall Department Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	Department	Department that submitted the best report on the overall activities and promotion of the Leadership program	Diana Sirovina, Department of Wisconsin

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Pam Ray Dept IL
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall Department program	Virginia L. Potts Dept of DE
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Cassandra Lancaster Dept of WY
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Rebecca Wheeler Dept of TN
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Esther Garcia Dept of CA
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Central Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Airene Shanley Unit 409 Dept of MI
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Bonnie L. Knapp Unit 17 Dept of NH
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Juanita Sinkie Unit 16, Dept of SD
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Southern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Anne Sayer, Unit 136 Dept of FL
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Western Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Elisabeth Beedle Unit 7 Dept of ID

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
2009 Target # 1	Cash award of \$100	Department Membership Programs	Department reaching 55% of goal by	Department Iowa North Dakota Puerto Rico Maryland Nebraska Missouri Mississippi North Carolina Minnesota Hawaii	President Fran Kirk Georgia Moore Beverly Olivieri Mary Louise Kline Carol Ulrich Bonnie Kelsey Angela Kilcrease Sue Jones Marsha Bible Ida Woolsey	Membership Chairman Janet J Tribolet Betty Malkowski Margarita Cruz-Torres Patricia A Rice Lisa D Moore Patricia A Garrett Mary Lyles Wanda Moore Chris G Ronning Laura Hashimoto
2009 Target # 2	Cash award of \$100	Department Membership Programs	Department reaching 65% of goal by November 4, 2009	Department Nebraska Wisconsin Iowa Minnesota Louisiana North Dakota Hawaii Missouri South Dakota Puerto Rico North Carolina Mississippi Maryland	President Carol Ulrich Gayle Johnson Fran Kirk Marsha Bible Kathy Thistrup Georgia Moore Ida Woolsey Bonnie Kelsey Joan Spears Beverly Olivieri Sue Jones Angela Kilcrease Mary Louise Kline	Membership Chairman Lisa D Moore Laurel DuBois Janet J Tribolet Chris G Ronning Barbara T White Betty Malkowski Laura Hashimoto Nancy L Knox Patricia Coyle Margarita Cruz-Torres Wanda Moore Mary Lyles Patricia A Rice
2010 Target #3	Cash award of \$100	Department Membership Programs	Department reaching 75% of goal by January 6, 2010	Department Iowa Wisconsin North Dakota Minnesota South Dakota	President Fran Kirk Gayle Johnson Georgia Moore Marsha Bible Joan Spears	Membership Chairman Janet J Tribolet Laurel DuBois Betty Malkowski Chris G Ronning Patricia Coyle

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
2010 Target #4	Cash award of \$100	Department Membership Programs	Department reaching 85% of goal by March 24, 2010	Nebraska Missouri Texas Hawaii North Carolina Louisiana Kansas Indiana Mississippi Maryland	Carol Ulrich Bonnie Kelsey Barbara Kundert Ida Woolsey Sue Jones Kathy Thisstrup Sharon Spiker Janet Barnaby Angela Kilcrease Mary Louise Kline	Lisa D Moore Patricia A Garrett Kimberley A Palasota Laura Hashimoto Wanda Moore Barbara T White Patricia B Ward Peggy Ann Bishop Mary Lyles Patricia A Rice
				Department District of Columbia Iowa Wisconsin Hawaii Minnesota Missouri North Dakota South Dakota Pennsylvania Nebraska Mississippi North Carolina Indiana Ohio Florida Michigan Delaware Texas Arizona Vermont Maine	President Marcia Hooper Fran Kirk Gayle Johnson Ida Woolsey Marsha Bible Bonnie Kelsey Georgia Moore Joan Spears Barbara Mills Carol Ulrich Angela Kilcrease Sue Jones Janet Barnaby Martha Lee Thatcher Mary Kelly-Perkins Judy Lynch Beverly Buchanan Barbara Kundert Debra Collins Patricia Jones Lois Hubbard	Membership Chairman N/A Janet J Tribolet Laurel DuBois Laura Hashimoto Chris G Romning Patricia A Garrett Betty Malkowski Patricia Coyle Virginia Libson Lisa D Moore Mary Lyles Wanda Moore Peggy Ann Bishop Linda Close Patricia I Devine Nancy L Knox Mary Anne Pospichal Kimberley A Palasota Jane Shoemaker Lynda Farmer Nancy True

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
				Kansas Kentucky Wyoming New York Louisiana Virginia Maryland Puerto Rico Alabama Montana	Sharon Spiker Kathy Daudistel Linda Feezer Karyn Porempski Kathy Thistrup Susan Lee Mary Louise Kline Beverly Olivieri Mary Harrison Marilyn Damson	Patricia B Ward Betty K Hammons Pamela Acosta Nancy Kurk Barbara T White Thelma A Starke Patricia A Rice Margarita Cruz-Torres Gloria J Fochtmann Sandra D Runkel
2010 Target # 5	Cash award of \$100	Department Membership Programs	Department reaching 100% of goal by August 13, 2010	Department Philippines 106.227% Mississippi 101.984% Hawaii 100.290%	President Ameurlina Santos Angela Kilcrease Ida Woolsey	Membership Chairman N/A Mary Lyles Laura Hashimoto
Meeting Every Target	Recognition	Department Presidents Department Membership Chairman	Departments that met every target date.	Department Mississippi Hawaii	President Angela Kilcrease Ida Woolsey	Membership Chairman Mary Lyles Laura Hashimoto
Unit Membership Merit Award	National President's Choice	Unit	Awarded to one unit demonstrating the best practices in "reconnecting".	Department Texas	Unit Charles D Jageler 42	City Gatesville
Presidents and Secretaries Award	Honored guests and the Presidents and Secretaries banquet	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 North Dakota Puerto Rico Mississippi Louisiana	President Fran Kirk Sue Jones Beverly Olivieri Angela Kilcrease Kathy Thistrup	Membership Chairman Janet J Tribolet Betty Malkowski Margarita Cruz-Torres Mary Lyles Barbara T White
Goal Department	100% Goal Ribbon	Department	Each Department	Department/Percentage	President	Membership Chairman

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	
Award	at National Convention	Headquarters	reaching goal on or before August 13, 2010.	Philippines 106.227% Mississippi 101.984% Hawaii 100.290%	Ameurina Santos Angela Kilcrease Ida Woolsey Percentage N/A Mary Lyles Laura Hashimoto
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 over its highest membership year.	Department No Winners	Percentage
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 No Winners	Percentage
Betty Burdett	National Trophy Plaque	Department Headquarters	Department with the greatest percentage of goal 30 days prior to the National Convention.	Department Philippines	Percentage 106.227%
Estella Hanell	Engraved Plaque	Department Headquarters	Department with the greatest numerical increase in membership 30 days prior to National Convention.	Department District of Columbia	Increase 15
All Time High	Engraved Plaque	Department Headquarters	All Departments who reach an all time high in membership received	Department No Winners	Increase

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	City	Department
Silver Brigade	President's Choice	Senior Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members	in National Hdqtrs on or before 30 days prior to National Convention. Awarded to ALA, TAL or SAL member who recruits 25 or more new Senior members by the first Wednesday in July, 2010.	Name Inez Craig Kathy Falk Sharilyn Taylor Mary Louise Donatella Margaret David JoAnn Wylie Christa Elaine Berlin A Faye Hite Dianne R Browning Norma Cooper Kendall Madsen Sharlotte Collins Theresa Jacob Carol A Vinlove Pauline Law Helen J Skelton Joan Graves Michael Clark Margaret Burke Dan Koker Virginia Cusick Marilyn Jedrey Margaret Lechner M Cher Easley Marie Hand Mildred Jo Bridges Sherrie Bower	Green Valley Apache Junction Phoenix Mesa Peeples Valley Apache Jct Apache Jct Green Valley Corona Covina Costa Mesa Ridgecrest San Jose Mira Loma Millsboro Georgetown Sebring St Petersburg Seminole Largo Fort Myers Beach St Petersburg Punta Gorda St Petersburg Seminole Ringgold Peoria	AZ AZ AZ AZ AZ AZ AZ AZ AZ CA CA CA CA CA CA DE DE FL FL FL FL FL FL FL FL FL GA IL

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
				Nancy Schwindenhammer Linda Jordon Mary Garrison Vicky Graham Debra Beeler Nancy Rankin Shirlene Armstrong Patricia Ward Rosemary L Garlitz Betty C Egerer Bev LeTexier Marta J Barnes Lorene Martin	Bartonville Shirley Brownsburg Ft Wayne Mitchell Crawfordsville Wichita Louisville Ocean City Saginaw East Grand Forks St Joseph Jackson	IL IN IN IN IN IN KS KS MD MI MN MN MO MS
Silver Brigade cont'd	President's choice	Senior Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members		Marilyn Damson Patty Polson Nancy Ellen O'Rorke Susan K Crutcher Maryanne Davis Donna Hulser Charlotte Ridley Mary Lou Belles Carol F Kelly Janis Maziar Nancy Douth Charlotte Hank Lois E Tucker Gladys Caudill DJ Matulewicz Trudy A Lashaw Carmencita S Fornolles Maureen Moore	Havse Omaha Milltown Albuquerque Albany Verona Beach Penn Yan Corning Dayton Zanesville Berea Athens Beverly Columbus Broken Arrow Dover Oilman QC Little River	MT NE NJ NM NY NY NY NY NY OH OH OH OH OH OH OK PA PI SC

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
Recruit 3	Recruiter Pin	Senior Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members	Awarded to ALA, TAL or SAL member who recruits 3 or more new Senior members by the first Wednesday in July, 2010.	Brenda Collins Linda Campbell Julia McBee Faye Johnson Crystal Dear Cathy Griffith Betty Ann Dahcke Paula Kampanos Martha Sheets Patricia Sherman Department AL AK AZ AR CA CO CT DE DC FL GE HA ID IL IN IA KS KY LA ME	Taylors Nashville Lexington Round Rock Paige Pottsboro Springfiled Annandale Rutland Waterbury Total 19 66 4 65 8 19 77 53 42 52 13 7 2	SC TN TN TX TX TX VA VA VT VT

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:	
				MD MA MI MN MS MO MT NE NV NH NJ	1 37 75 16 25 8 33 7 2
Recruit 3 cont'd	Recruiter Pin	Senior Auxiliary, Legion and SAL members	Awarded to ALA, TAL or SAL member who recruits 3 or Awarded to ALA, TAL or SAL member who recruits 3 or in July, 2010.	NM NY NC ND OH OK OR PA RI SC SD TN TX UT VT VA WA WV WI WY PR	23 38 4 26 32 18 32 9 1 20 33 64 1 24 7 17 25 55 1

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
				PI Total	3	1064

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Ione Kubby Award	Engraved Plaque	Department	Presented to the Department Chairman reporting the Most Outstanding National Security Program	Department of Florida Lois McFall, National Security Chairman
Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT) Award	Citation Plaque	Department	Awarded to the Department having the greatest percentage of units participating in Civil Preparedness	No Entries
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Central Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Ohio Mary Ann Michael National Security Chairman
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Eastern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of New Hampshire Bonnie L. Knapp National Security Chairman
Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Northwestern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Minnesota Darlene Wondra National Security Chairman
Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Southern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Florida Lois McFall, National Security Chairman
Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Western Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Arizona Vickey Zvall National Security Chairman
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Leonard Whitehill Unit #189 Department of Kansas
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Division	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	A Unit Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Backus Unit #368 Department of Minnesota

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Banner Unit #109 Department of North Carolina
Military Support Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit Chairman in the Western Division	Best overall program in support of our military with special emphasis on their quality of life.	Rago Christopher Unit #165 Department of California
ROTC/ JROTC Program Award	Certificate	Unit Chairman	Reported the most outstanding promotion of the ROTC Program.	

AWARDS LISTING: 2009-2010

Committee: Poppy

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Central Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	McKenzie Tuttle, 3th Grade, Dept. of Wisconsin
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entry
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Mariah Brakke, 3th Grade, Dept. of North Dakota
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Maliyah Moran, Unit 77 Dept. of Mississippi
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	\$25	A child in the Western Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Brayden Nelson, Dept. of Utah
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Central Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jordan Fronken, 5th Grade, Dept. 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	Maddison E. McGuinness, 4th Grade, Age 9, Department of Vermont
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Mariah Robinson, 4th Grade, Dept. of Wyoming
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Allison Hibbs, Unit 30 Dept. of Alabama
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	\$25	A child in the Western Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Brooke Hill, Dept. of Washington
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Central Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Becca Franzen, 7th Grade, Dept. of Iowa
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Kirrah Harmon, 6th Grade Age 10, Department of Delaware
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Brent Dorn, 6th Grade, Dept. of Minnesota
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jessica Golden, Unit 30, Dept. of Tennessee

AWARDS LISTING: 2009-2010

Committee: Poppy

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	\$25	A child in the Western Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Kathy Ramos, Dept. of Utah
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Central Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Heidi Phillips, 8th Grade, Dept. of Missouri
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entry
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Andrea, Morawic, 8th grade, Dept. of Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Megan Alton, Dept. of Tennessee
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	\$25	A young adult in the Western Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jasmine Egbert, Dept. of Idaho
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Central Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entry
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entry
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Daniel Medema, 10th Grade, Dept. of Nebraska
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Ashlon Pierce, Unit 77, Dept. of Tennessee
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	\$25	A young adult in the Western Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jerrie Creary, 11th Grade, Department of California
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Central Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Veronica Gabel, 12th grade, Dept. of Kansas
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Sam Bova, 12th Grade, Age 18, Department of Pennsylvania
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Michael Howe-Cobb, 12th Grade, Dept. of Montana
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entry

AWARDS LISTING: 2009-2010

Committee: Poppy

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	\$25	A young adult in the Western Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jessica Botello, Dept. of Idaho
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Central Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entry
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Eastern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Stephanie Makowsky, 9th Grade, Age 9
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Northwestern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jennifer Hayford, 10th Grade, Dept. of Nebraska
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Southern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Tela Gillespie, Dept. of Tennessee
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	\$25	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Western Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Payne Brimley, Dept. of Idaho
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	Emma Ellerbrock, Kerner Slusser Unit 63, Department of Ohio
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	Alyssa Reynolds, Leander J. Kinchen Unit 47, Department of Louisiana
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Central Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Tutty Lee, Unit 20, Dept. of Ohio
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Susan Buxton, Hudson Unit 48, Department of New Hampshire

AWARDS LISTING: 2009-2010

Committee: Poppy

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Denise Wittmier, Elita Schauer, Janice Goff, Melvin E. Bender Unit 265, Dept. of North Dakota
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Jo Raybourne, Dept. of Tennessee
Unit Poppy Award	Citation Plaque	Western Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Judy Garma, Shasta Unit 147, Dept of California

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Created the three best press releases	Palmer-Robers Unit 214 Dept of OH Martha Setlock, Ch
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Division	Created the three best press releases	Unit 23 Dept. DE Tina Washington, Ch
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Created the three best press releases	Anoka Unit 102 Dept of MN Darlene Thell, Ch
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division	Created the three best press releases	Donelson Unit 88 Dept of TN Joy Rayborn, Ch
Unit Program Emphasis Award	\$50.00	A Unit Chairman in the Western Division	Created the three best press releases	Unit 110 Dept of OR Mary Lou Burke, Ch
Unit Community Display Award	Citation	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	Elmer Peterson 333 Dept of WI Charlene Pullham, Ch
Unit Community Display Award	Citation	A Unit Chairman in the Western Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	Newport Harbor 291 Dept of CA Karen Karanickolas, Pres AND Hollywood Unit 43 Dept of CA Brooke Dammkoehler, Ch
Unit Community Display Award	Citation	A Unit Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	None Submitted
Unit Community Display Award	Citation	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	Smith-Tobey 21 Dept of ME Angela Frelk, Ch
Unit Community Display Award	Citation	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division	Most unique community display in location other than post home	Frierson-Nichols Unit 8 Dept FL

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Unit New Web Site Award	Citation	Unit	Creates the new best Internet Web Site	Robert H Burns Unit 16 Dept of LA Marie Duracher, Webmaster
Best Department Web Site Award	Citation Plaque	Department	Overall best Web Site	Dept of MS Angela Killecrease
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.	Hollywood Jr 43 Dept of CA
Department Press Book Award	Citation Plaque	Departments with less than 7,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Dept of TNNancy King, Ch
Ruby Ward Award	Citation Plaque	Departments with 7,001 to 10,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Dept of NH Paula-Carol Alger, Ch
Elizabeth Launson Award	Citation Plaque	Departments with 10,001 to 25,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book.	Department of SD, Box 117, Hurson, SD 57350 Chairman: Dawn Barber
Betty Burdett Award	Citation Plaque	Departments with 25,001 to 35,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book.	Department of WI, PO Box 140, Portage, WI 53901 Chairman: April E Kollmorgen
Department Press Book Award	National Plaque	Departments with more than 35,000 members	Best PR program portrayed in a press book.	Dept of OH Vi Grzbowski, Ch
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Dept of WI April E. Kollmorgen, Ch
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Dept of ME Georgine Butman, Ch
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Dept of MN Bonnie Wagner, Ch
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Dept of LA Cindy K Newton, Ch
Public Relations Award	Citation Plaque	A Department on the Western Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	None Submitted

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Fern Madden, Department of Wisconsin
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Debra Knickerbocker, Department of Connecticut
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Barbara Klehr, Department of Minnesota
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Linda Fercho, 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 114, Department of Missouri
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Carol Diana, Unit 72, Department of Connecticut
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Terry Case, Unit 42, Department of Wyoming
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Southern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Ann Moore, Unit 109, Department of North Carolina
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Western Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Angela Fite, Unit 328, Department of California
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	No Entry
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	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, 2009- March 31, 2010	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, 2009- March 31, 2010	No Entry
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, 2009- March 31, 2010	Jamie Mitchell, Unit 86, Department of Arizona
VAVS Volunteer of the Year Award	\$500 Donation to VA Facility of winner's choice	A Regularly Scheduled VAVS Volunteer	Nomination through Department Chairman or Hospital Director. Be in an established VAVS assignment	Miriam Stein, Charlie Norwood Medical Center, Department of Georgia
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, 2009- March 31-2010	Department of West Virginia, Mary Waybright, Chairman 21 new volunteers
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, 2009- March 31-2010	Department of New York, Sally Johnson, Chairman, 32 new volunteers

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
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 1,2009-March 31-2010	Department of Minnesota, Susan Christensen, Chairman, 1 new volunteer
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 1,2009-March 31-2010	Department of Arizona, Sharon L. Doran, Chairman, 18 new volunteers
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 1,2009-March 31-2010	Department of Florida, Diane Rousseau, Chairman, 16 new volunteers
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Linda Sue Mullen, Unit 41, Department of Iowa, 602 hours
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Josephine Yakimowski, Department of Massachusetts, 2142 hours
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Peggy Miller, Unit 42, Department of Wyoming, 600 hours

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Judy Sessums, Unit 321, Department of Florida, 710 hours
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Madeline Lee, Unit 741, Department of California, 160 hours
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Pat Paar, Unit 5, Department of Iowa, 1600 hours
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Sandra Herman, Unit 42, Department of Wyoming, 450 hours
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Teresa Al-Saraji, Unit 42, Department of Texas, 943 hours

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
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, 2009-March 31, 2010	Barbara McCullough, Unit 28, Department of Arizona, 1515 hours
10,000 Hour Volunteer Award	Citation \$100 donation to VA Facility in winners name	Senior Volunteer	A Volunteer who has accrued 10,000 hours of volunteer service at a VA facility	See Attached Sheet*
20,000 Hour Volunteer Award	Citation and \$200 Donation to VA Facility in winner's name	Senior Volunteer	A Volunteer who has provided 20,000 hours of volunteer service to veterans.	Ruth Hawk, Tennessee, 20,598 hours Esther Nimmow, Wisconsin, 20,607 Gaye Werner, Pennsylvania, 21,230 Ruth Briggs, California, 22,037 Juanita Fox, California, 22459 Alice Bukvich, Minnesota, 22548 Patricia Olaker, Ohio, 23320 Dianna Baker, Michigan, 24,987 Annie Randolph, Virginia, 25,268 Elizabeth Jones, Georgia, 28,076 Mary Sinopoli, California, 31,399 Beulah Poulsen, Georgia, 33,329 Veronica Spence, California, 36,171
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Bronze Award	Department	Department with the third highest contributions to the NYCAF from Sept. 1, 2009-July 31, 2010	
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Silver Award	Department	Department with the second highest contributions to the NYCAF from Sept. 1, 2009-July 31, 2010	

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Gold Award	Department	Department with the highest contributions to the NYCAF from Sept. 1, 2009-July 31, 2010	
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	