



## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Ninety-first National Convention**

**August 27 - September 1, 2011  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**



## **SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Ninety-first National Convention**

**August 27 - September 1, 2011  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**



**American Legion Auxiliary  
National Officers  
2010-2011**

**National President**

Carlene Ashworth, Department of Texas

**National Vice President**

Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota

**Division National Vice Presidents**

Central: Donna Fuelling, Department of Michigan

Eastern: Charlotte Hagan, Department of Maine

Northwestern: Lynne Wild, Department of Nebraska

Southern: Pat Knight, Department of Virginia

Western: Darlene McLaughlin, Department of Oregon

**National Chaplain**

Vickie Thrower, Department of Alabama

**National Historian**

Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch, Department of Ohio

**National Secretary**

Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, Department of Indiana

**National Treasurer**

Marta Hedding, Department of Indiana

# PRESENT

## Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, August 27, 2011

### 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 .....	-
National Chaplain .....	Vickie Thrower
National Historian .....	Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch
National Secretary .....	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer .....	Marta Hedding

### Past National Presidents

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

### National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama .....	-
Alaska .....	-
Arizona .....	Debbie Collins
Arkansas .....	Nancy “Shorty” Followell
California .....	Norma J. DuVall
Colorado .....	Karen Wessling
Connecticut .....	Donna D. Morin

Delaware .....	Beverly Buchanan
District of Columbia .....	-
Florida .....	Mary A. Kelly-Perkins
Georgia .....	Lola Harper
Hawaii .....	Laura Hashimoto
Idaho .....	Jean Stephan
Illinois .....	Pam Ray
Indiana .....	Janet Barnaby
Iowa .....	Fran Kirk
Kansas .....	Sharon Spiker
Kentucky .....	Kathy Daudistel
Louisiana .....	Kathy Thistrup
Maine .....	Lois M. Hubbard
Maryland .....	-
Massachusetts .....	Rosemary Tower
Michigan .....	Judy Lynch
Minnesota .....	Marsha Bible
Mississippi .....	Angela Kilcrease
Missouri .....	Bonnie Kelsey
Montana .....	Sandy Runkel
Nebraska .....	Carol Ulrich
Nevada .....	-
New Hampshire .....	Sharon A. Cook
New Jersey .....	Debbie Tomasetti
New Mexico .....	Jo Ann Rodgers
New York .....	Karyn Porempski
North Carolina .....	Sue Jones
North Dakota .....	Judy Twete
Ohio .....	Martha Lee Thatcher
Oklahoma .....	Linda Deutser
Oregon .....	Cheryl Park
Pennsylvania .....	-
Puerto Rico .....	-
Rhode Island .....	Barbara Golde
South Carolina .....	Brenda W. Collins
South Dakota .....	Joan Spears
Tennessee .....	Glenda Vilseck
Texas .....	Barbara Kundert
Utah .....	-
Vermont .....	Patricia Jones
Virginia .....	Susan Lee
Washington .....	Kathy Kerr
West Virginia .....	Patricia Moore
Wisconsin .....	Gayle Janson
Wyoming .....	Linda Feezer

**Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 1, 2011**

**National Officers**

National President .....	Kris Nelson
National Vice President .....	Peggy Thomas
Central Division National Vice President .....	Florence Briggs
Eastern Division National Vice President .....	Lorraine “Rani” Gray
Northwestern Division National Vice President .....	Linda Feezer
Southern Division National Vice President.....	Winnie Broussard
Western Division National Vice President .....	Carmen Metzger
National Chaplain .....	C. Nini Lynch
National Historian .....	Diane Harley
National Secretary .....	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer .....	Marta Hedding

**Past National Presidents**

- Linda Newsome
- Syble Deshotel
- Barbara Kranig
- Virginia Hobbs
- Elizabeth Stewart
- Kristine West
- Elsie Bailey-Comer
- Katherine Morris
- Sandi Dutton
- Carol Van Kirk
- JoAnn Cronin
- Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
- Desireé Stoy
- Miriam Junge (Honorary)
- Rita Navarreté
- Carlene Ashworth

**National Executive Committeewomen**

Alabama.....	Donna Fluhr
Alaska .....	Lynn Bash
Arizona .....	Doris Theiss
Arkansas .....	Dale Lester
California .....	Pilar S. Reyes
Colorado .....	Karen Wessling
Connecticut.....	Alcyne M. Welton
Delaware .....	Jenny Havel
District of Columbia .....	-
Florida.....	Irma Wehrli

Georgia .....	Lola Harper
Hawaii.....	Laura Hashimoto
Idaho .....	Jean Stephan
Illinois .....	Pam Ray
Indiana .....	Carolyn Cunningham
Iowa .....	Marilyn Block
Kansas.....	Trish Ward
Kentucky.....	-
Louisiana .....	Barbara White
Maine .....	Nancy True
Maryland.....	Patti Lach
Massachusetts .....	Bonnie Sladeski
Michigan.....	Jan Kintz
Minnesota .....	Darlene Wondra
Mississippi.....	Mary Lyles
Missouri.....	Patty Garrett
Montana.....	Sandy Runkel
Nebraska .....	Charleen Walters
Nevada .....	Cinnamin Stephens
New Hampshire .....	Irene A. Lewis
New Jersey.....	Linda Carroll
New Mexico .....	Jan Semrau
New York .....	Nancy Kurk
North Carolina .....	Wanda Moore
North Dakota .....	Ginny Brazil
Ohio .....	Linda Close
Oklahoma .....	Ann Willits
Oregon .....	Trudie McGriff
Pennsylvania.....	Beverly Reinhard
Puerto Rico .....	Beverly Olivieri
Rhode Island.....	Margaret Walsh
South Carolina .....	Bette McMorrow
South Dakota .....	Sue Christensen
Tennessee .....	Lynda Winkles
Texas.....	Diana King
Utah .....	Cary Fisher
Vermont.....	Elaine Mackenzie
Virginia.....	Donna Ellis
Washington.....	Jane Montaney
West Virginia.....	Sharon Glassford
Wisconsin .....	Florence Wasley
Wyoming.....	-

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### PRE-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2011

Call to Order .....	13
Invocation .....	13
Moment of Silence .....	13
Pledge of Allegiance.....	13
National Anthem .....	13
Preamble to the Constitution .....	13
Welcome, Roll Call Sign-In, Introductions .....	14
Consent Agenda.....	15
Consent Agenda Adopted .....	16
Long Range Strategic Planning Committee Report .....	17
Finance Committee Report.....	19
New Business .....	23
Announcements .....	27
Benediction .....	27
Adjournment.....	28

### NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011

Buddy Basket Program Video .....	29
Recognition of Past Presidents .....	32
Music By Bomshel .....	34
Recess .....	38
2010-2011 National Officers .....	38
Call to Order .....	39
Introductions .....	39
Credentials Report Adopted .....	44
Rules Report .....	44
Rules Report Adopted .....	45
Program Report .....	46
Program Report Changes Adopted .....	47
Greetings: Sons of The American Legion - David Dew .....	47
Miss America Teresa Scanlan .....	49
General Stanley McChrystal.....	52
National Vice President Report .....	56
National Junior Activities Report .....	58
Greetings & Introduction of 2010-2011 Honorary National Junior President .....	60
Resolution Number One .....	63
Resolution Number One Not Adopted .....	67
Americanism Report.....	67

Greetings: Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant .....	69
Jimmie L. Foster, National Commander .....	69
James E. Copher, Convention Corporation President .....	73
Girls State/Girls Nation Report .....	73
Education Report .....	78
Poppy Report .....	79
Children & Youth Report .....	83
Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation Report .....	85
National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Report .....	88
Ride 2 Recovery .....	89
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival .....	95
Announcements .....	97
Adjournment .....	100

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011**

Call to Order .....	101
Video .....	101
Rules Governing Nominations .....	102
Nomination of National Officers .....	102
Remarks from Candidates for National Offices .....	108
National Past Presidents Parley Report .....	110
Salute to Active Duty Servicewomen.....	112
National Finance Committee Report .....	116
Comments of General Tseng .....	118
Recognizing Patricia Johnson and Dr. Lynn Ashley .....	119
National Constitution & Bylaws Report.....	120
National Security Committee Report .....	140
National Legislative Committee Report .....	142
National Leadership Committee Report .....	144
Results of Amendment Vote .....	146
Notice of Amendment to the National Bylaws .....	146
Announcements .....	146
Adjournment .....	147

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011**

Call to order .....	148
Video Shown .....	148
Election of National Officers.....	150
Constitution & Bylaws Report Continued.....	154
Amendment 3 Presented.....	154
Amendment 3 Withdrawn .....	154

Article 9, Section 3 Amendment .....	155
Discussion and Debate on Article 9 Amendment.....	155
Article 9, Section 3 Affirmed .....	181
National Chaplain’s Report .....	182
Celebration of Life Presentation of Past National President McLaughlin .....	184
National Historian’s Report.....	188
Cavalcade of Memories Report .....	190
Auxiliary Emergency Fund Report .....	191
Community Service Report .....	193
Representative Nancy Pelosi .....	194
Foundation Report .....	198
National Membership Committee Report .....	200
Resolution Number Three .....	202
Resolution Number Three Adopted.....	205
Public Relations Report.....	205
National Secretary’s Report .....	207
Scrapbook Presentation .....	212
National President’s Award for Excellence .....	212
Resolution No. 2.....	221
Resolution No. 2 Adopted .....	224
Resolution No. 4.....	225
Resolution No. 4 Adopted .....	226
Courtesy Resolution No. 1 .....	226
Courtesy Resolution No. 2 .....	226
Courtesy Resolutions No. 1 and No. 2 Adopted .....	226
Motion Regarding National Vice President Visits .....	229
Courtesy Resolution No. 3 .....	229
Courtesy Resolution No. 3 Adopted.....	229
Recognition of National Staff.....	230
Announcements .....	232
National President’s Video.....	233
Announcement of 2012 National Convention Theme .....	239
National President’s Wrap Up.....	241

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

Introduction of Installing Officer .....	242
Procession of National President Elect.....	242
Procession of National Vice President Elect .....	242
Presentation of Colors .....	242
Oath of Office for Newly Elected National Officers.....	243
Oath of Office for Department Presidents.....	244
Oath for Members.....	245
Reading of “Storyteller Red” .....	245

“Thank You’s Not Enough” .....	247
2011-2012 National Chaplain.....	248
2011-2012 National Historian .....	248
2011-2012 Central Division Vice President.....	248
2011-2012 Eastern Division Vice President.....	249
2011-2012 Northwestern Division Vice President.....	249
2011-2012 Southern Division Vice President .....	249
2011-2012 Western Division Vice President .....	249
2011-2012 National Vice President.....	250
Transfer of Authority.....	251
Installation Address .....	251
Introduction of National President’s Family .....	251
Remarks by Legionnaire Fang Wong .....	256
Remarks by National Commander of Sons of The American Legion.....	258
Introductions from Department of Minnesota .....	259
Remarks and Presentations from Family.....	265
Presentation of Past National President’s Colors .....	266
Presentation of Past National President’s Pin .....	268
Presentation of Past National President’s Ribbon .....	268
Retiring of Colors .....	268
Recession of New National Officers .....	268
Closing Prayer .....	269
Retiring of Colors .....	269
Recession of Retired Officers.....	269
Adjournment of Convention.....	269

**POST-CONVENTION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

Call to Order .....	270
Instructions from President Nelson .....	271
Election of National Secretary Buckler .....	272
Election of National Treasurer Hedding.....	272
Oath of National Secretary and Treasurer .....	272
Recognition of National Officers .....	272
Recognition of Past National Presidents .....	272
Standing/Special Committee Appointments Approved.....	273
ALA FY2011-2012 Budget Presented .....	273
ALA FY 2011-2012 Budget Approved.....	279
Foundation Board’s FY 2011-2012 Budget Presented.....	279
Foundation Board’s FY 2011-2012 Budget Approved .....	280
Recognition of National Chairmen.....	280
Recognition of National Staff.....	280
Closing Prayer .....	281

Adjournment.....	281
<b>Appendix A: Amendments.....</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Appendix B: Awards .....</b>	<b>288</b>

**PRE-CONVENTION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2011**

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please take your seats, ladies. This National Executive Committee meeting will now come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please disable all electronic devices or place them in the silent mode and please rise and remain standing for the opening ceremonies.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Vickie Thrower, the National Chaplain will lead us in our invocation and a moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those serving our nation today for the protection of our freedom.

Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman 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: Thank you.

Please bow your heads, each in your own spirit.

Lord, we gather today at our pre-convention meeting to celebrate the work that we have completed this year. We rejoice and express our gratitude for the good that we have accomplished in your name. With your wisdom and guidance, we have overcome the obstacles and accomplished and defeated our frustrations. We have found joy in your work and we offer our thanks to the many blessings our American Legion Auxiliary has received. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: We'll now have a moment of silence for our fallen heroes.

(Whereupon, there was a moment of silence.)

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Amen.

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.

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Please join me.

VOICES: Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light, what so proudly we hail'd at 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.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You may be seated. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened.

Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It's hard to believe that we are now in Minneapolis, Minnesota, once again and about to begin our 91st annual Convention. And we have a lot to celebrate this year.

So it's great to see all of you again. It's great to see so many familiar faces and to be able to greet you and to welcome you here. And I know that we're going to have a good Convention and I'm just excited and looking forward to having a great day today and all the rest of the week.

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

So each of you is charged with the responsibility to document your attendance at this meeting and attendance sheets are provided for you. If you have not seen that attendance sheet, please make sure that you do see it. Please indicate on the attendance sheet in the appropriate spot that you are here and then these sheets will be collected at the end of the meeting.

It is very much my pleasure this morning to introduce to you our head table before we get started. And I am pleased and very, very honored to be able to present to you our National Vice President Kris Nelson.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Donna Fuelling, the Central Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Charlotte Hagan, the Eastern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Lynne Wild, Northwestern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Pat Knight, the Southern Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Darlene McLaughlin, our Western Division National Vice President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Vickie Thrower, our National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

Historian.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch, our National

(Applause.)

Secretary.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Mary “Dubbie” Buckler, our National

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Marta Hedding, our National Treasurer.

(Applause.)

Parliamentarian.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Chris Dickey, the Convention

(Applause.)

I have my personal pages and I would like for them to stand and be recognized.

Paula Raney is a personal page.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Laurella Oxley.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Kim Palasota.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And Vaudine Wilson.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, ladies.

(Applause.)

National Presidents please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We will be utilizing a Consent Agenda to handle the basic business items as we have in the past. And these items are listed on your agenda and include the Charter cancellation since March of 2011, the Resolution commending The American Legion Riders, the Resolution commending the Ride 2 Recovery, and The American Legion Auxiliary’s support, and the Resolution commending the White House Joining Forces Initiative.

You received this information on each of these items prior to this meeting with any updates on your chair today if there were any updates. And information about the Consent Agenda and how it works was circulated in advance along with the items on the Consent Agenda.

So please remember that in order to have your motions and all other discourse on record, you must approach the microphone and state your name.

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

MS. BIBLE: Madam President, Marsha Bible, Department of Minnesota. I move the adoption of the Consent Agenda.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. All those in favor of adopting the Consent Agenda, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed, please -- I'm sorry. Yes.

MS. DUTTON: Just as a correction, the Charters are included in that, the cancellations. The whole pots (phonetic) into Maryland is Unit 2, not Unit 1.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Okay. The one that was on the chair, if you'll correct that, please, that it's -- there was also -- is Tamara in the room? Okay. She was going to check on --

MS. SHUMATE: We're trying.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It's good what she was checking on for me, do you know?

MS. SHUMATE: We're trying.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: So do we need to proceed then with that? Are we good? Okay. Okay.

Okay. Do we need to do that again? All those in favor of adopting the Consent Agenda, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, please say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the Consent Agenda is adopted.

The Chair is happy to report that the Minutes Approval Committee met and approved the minutes of the NEC meeting, National Executive Committee meeting from March 19th through the 20th of 2011.

The Chair would also like to report that for the past two years, many volunteers have reviewed the policies and procedures manual including my Advisory Committee who has spent countless hours on this this past year.

And as a result of their hard work, the Chair is pleased to report that the polices and procedures will soon be updated in electronic format and kept updated going forward.

Many of you are familiar with the yellow policies and procedures bound manual that was last published in 1999. And as you know, it is hopelessly outdated. We are no longer going to publish it as a hardbound document.

The current policies and procedures are going to be assembled into one electronic document that will be available on line soon for you to be able to go and you won't have to search all through this book trying to find the updated information.

Once the current policies and procedures document is on our website, it will be very easy for you to access it 24 hours a day, seven days a week, whenever you want to. And you can print off the entire document if you choose to do so or only the pages that you might need.

So any revisions to the current policies and procedures may be brought forward at future meetings. Any future revisions to the policies and procedures will be posted on the website following action taken by the governing body making those changes.

Does anyone have any concerns or questions about that?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We're going to have an official burial of that book.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. We are now going to have a report of our Strategic Planning Committee. And the Chair now calls on Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Co-Chair of the Long Range Strategic Planning Committee, to give her report.

Jan.

CO-CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam President, good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CO-CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to share some exciting news about the strategic planning process.

All of the strategic planning initiative teams have completed their assignments. These include the unit and department standards team, one of the original teams developed, and the subsequent teams following the focus group meeting at the 2010 National Convention, namely membership, leadership, and the ALA character initiative.

I would like to provide some brief highlights of their work at this time.

The Leadership Initiative recommends the following:

Boot camps for potential leaders and leadership support tools available in a comprehensive booklet or brochure.

The leadership team also recommends mission outreach training to include our Junior members, the creation of a new member unit handbook starting in ALA College, continuing national education conferences, on-line video program training, streaming meetings of the National American Legion Auxiliary such as presidents and secretaries conference, National Convention, membership workshop, and the Washington, D.C. Conference known as Awareness Assembly, and providing generation gap training, mentoring programs and Legion Family involvement and many more opportunities to learn.

The membership initiative team has developed a comprehensive list of activities designed to recruit, retain, engage, and maintain members in our communities with the five top incentive recommendations:

Recruit and retain membership, mission focus, diversity, change in the generation gap, simplify programs, processes, procedures and policy, and marketing our mission outreach programs.

They recommend that we consider members as a population to serve rather than a market to sell to and specify that one way to accomplish that recommendation is a six step personal process to recruit, engage, and retain new members in the organization.

This process that gets back to all membership is local and personal contact is still the best way to achieve our membership goals.

They have defined numerous strategies to deal with a variety of concerns that have been expressed by the focus groups, specifically the issue of diversity and the generation gap, the need to simplify the organization, market strategy to deliver a high degree of understanding of our mission, vision, and membership needs, working with our mission outreach programs to have the recognition by the public for support, and then continually strengthening our ties with The American Legion Family.

They recommend promoting more units and dual memberships. As they say, it's cool to be dual.

The character initiative team reports that character encompasses the stable and distinctive qualities built into an individual's life which determine his or her responses regardless of circumstance.

They recommend providing members with structured guidance on self improvement of character traits at nationally sponsored meetings, conferences, and conventions, emphasizing to incoming leadership the character qualities that form the foundation of any successful achievement, and to annually review with staff the importance of character traits in fostering a positive relationship within the organization.

The unit and department standards team has developed minimum standards for bylaws and standing rules, number of members, unit meetings, elected officers, appointed officers, Executive Committee Chairman and Co-Chairman for events.

They have developed minimal levels of activity that units would be involved in and then choices of participation in programs to achieve those goals. To become a unit that goes beyond minimum standards, other levels of activity are offered with incentives for each level specified. They recommend recognition during Convention for members achieving goals beyond the minimum.

The team developed standards for publications, recommending templates on the National website for units to access, brochures to share with communities, press releases provided by National and available on the website, and information technology for units with internet access.

They further recommend rules of procedures for President, Secretary, and Treasurer at the department level, formation of a department budget, office procedures, and personnel policies.

They developed minimum standards for units and departments on administrative and financial issues, audits, the National records, budgets, federal IRS 990 income tax and other government regulations, fund raising, and all the acts covering the human resources elements of each, and recommended a record retention schedule.

The team suggested that an events planning checklist be developed for units to use and also suggested establishing a standard protocol for when the National President visits a department.

The information compiled on these initiatives will be given to the long range strategic planning team for their meeting in the fall to discuss and decide how to disseminate to members throughout the departments.

Our additional brochures, booklets, and so forth required to dispense the information, decisions will be made on processing all the information received that will be shared with members.

Kudos and much appreciation are extended to these teams for their exemplary work on behalf of The American Legion Auxiliary. We need to remember that these ladies are volunteers in this organization and they have lives and jobs with demands beyond the Auxiliary.

So completion of these tasks merits our support and admiration for a job well done. Thanks to everyone who has been involved. It is truly a great accomplishment. More to follow. Stay tuned. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Jan.

The Chair now calls on Desireé Stoy, better known as Desi, the Chairman of the National Finance Committee, to give her report.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN STOY: On behalf of your Finance Committee, I am pleased to share with you a brief summary of our financial activity through the third quarter of our fiscal year.

Quarter three for FY11 ended June 30th. Our fourth quarter includes July, August, and September which will complete our fiscal year.

I will, in some cases share with you our expectations for fourth quarter activity so you will have some idea for our year end.

At the beginning of the year, the NEC adopted a budget that anticipated 6.1 million in income and expenses of 6.9 million, resulting in an \$839,755 deficit, which meant that we would rely once again on savings to balance our budget.

So now for the good or not so good news. On the income side, we anticipated 6.1 million. To date, we have received 5.68 million. In large measure, the AEF and fund raising have surpassed budget. So that's the good news.

The AEF fund received a bequest of \$61,000.

VOICE: Wow.

CHAIRMAN STOY: That's exactly right. We're so fortunate.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Fourth quarter projections reflect finishing the year around 6.6 million which is eight percent over budget. So on the income side, we are going to be -- we anticipate being eight percent over budget.

Now, on the expense side, we anticipated 6.9 million as of 6/30/11. At the end of our third quarter, we have spent 4.1 million.

VOICE: Wow.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Very good.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Here again, fourth quarter projections reflect finishing the year right around 6.8 million. We do most of our spending in the fourth quarter so that -- but that also reflects two percent under budget in expenses. It does not erase a deficit budget. That is not our anticipation.

Now, the Finance Committee would like to recognize the efforts of National President Ashworth and National Secretary Buckler for their continuous efforts

to work within our financial constraints. Their combined decision making has improved and helped sustain our anticipated financial picture.

As well, Chairman and Committee members and the operations side, our staff, each have played a major role in being frugal and cautious about spending. The entire Finance Committee commends them for a job well done.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Are there any questions regarding this financial report?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: We will now proceed with the proposed policies for consideration. Each of these documents have been reviewed and adopted by the National Finance Committee as part of our role to evaluate policies that impact or reduce risk.

Each of you, the NEC members, received a copy in advance of this meeting providing an efficient environment to conduct business, meaning I will not read each policy.

It is important to note that each of these policies reflect how we are currently operating. They simply have been updated to clarify intent or to improve communication.

Policy number one, business credit card policy. This policy defines appropriate use of our business credit card.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the credit card policy, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy is adopted.

Desi, will you please present the next policy.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Policy number two is the contract approval and signature authority policy. This policy provides a clear understanding of contractual authority for operations.

Madam President, on behalf of the Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The motion is on the adoption of the contract approval and signature authority policy. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the contract approval and signature authority policy, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy is adopted.

Please present the next policy.

CHAIRMAN STOY: The third policy is the confidentiality policy. This policy provides a standard to use good judgment and discretion regarding sensitive or confidential information.

Madam President, on behalf of the National Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion is on the adoption of the confidentiality policy. Hard to say. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the confidentiality policy, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy is adopted.

Please present the next policy.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Policy number four, donations acceptance policy. This policy maintains organizational integrity and allows for a level of review of gifts and donations.

Madam President, on behalf of the National Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion is on the adoption of the donations acceptance policy. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the donations acceptance policy, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy has been adopted.

Please present the next policy.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, policy number five, employer provided equipment policy. This policy communicates expectations for both the employer and the employee regarding equipment.

Madam President, on behalf of the National Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion is on the adoption of the employer provided equipment policy. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the employer provided equipment policy, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy is adopted.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, policy number six is our purchasing policy. This policy provides standards for purchasing and reduces conflict of interest or the risk of conflict of interest.

Madam President, on behalf of the National Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion is on the adoption of the purchasing policy. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the purchasing policy, please say aye.

VOICES: Ayes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy has been adopted.

CHAIRMAN STOY: The seventh policy, the last policy, is the reserve fund policy. This policy supports sound business practice and financial communication to the governing board.

Madam President, on behalf of the National Finance Committee, I move the adoption of this proposed policy.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion is on the adoption of the reserve funds policy. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of the adoption of the reserve funds policy, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the policy has been adopted.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President, I have just a few remaining remarks to conclude my report. But since our controller, Tim Bresnahan, is in the room, I would like for this body to acknowledge his efforts and all the work he has done this year to keep us fiscally sound.

Thank you, Tim.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Stand up, Tim, so they can see you.

CHAIRMAN STOY: He has been of great benefit to the Finance Committee and all our members. Thank you.

In conclusion, this Chairman wishes to thank the NEC for their financial deliberations this year and the support that you have offered this Committee. It was hard for this Chairman and the entire Committee to come before this body with a deficit budget at the beginning of the year, \$839,755.

Please know that it is always our continued goal to make decisions in the best interest of our organization and its mission. And we appreciate your efforts to maintain the organization's financial integrity. So thank you for your deliberations.

Madam President, this concludes the Finance report.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We will now continue on with new business. And the first item under new business is the Resolution regarding changing the name of The American Legion Auxiliary Washington, D.C. Conference also known as the Awareness Assembly.

As the proposer of this Resolution, the Chair will assign this to the Resolutions Committee for it to be considered by the Convention body.

The next item under new business is the Resolution regarding number of years depicted on The American Legion Auxiliary membership card. And in order for this Resolution to come before this body, the maker of the Resolution needs to move its adoption.

Okay. It has to be either -- it has to be a voting --

VOICE: Here she is.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Oh, okay. She is here. Oh, okay. Okay.

MS. KLINE: Can you hear me?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I didn't see her.

MS. KLINE: I move for the adoption --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MS. KLINE: -- of the Resolution -- I'm sorry -- of the Resolution to amend standing rule 6, The American Legion -- that's the wrong one. To restore former system of calculating continuous years on the membership cards.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. I'm sorry. Would you repeat that for me, please.

MS. KLINE: I move for the adoption of the Resolution to restore former system of calculating continuous years on our membership cards.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The motion is on the adoption of the Resolution as read. Is there any discussion?

Kris, the Chair recognizes Kris Nelson.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, National Vice President.

I move to amend this Resolution to instead of the number of years, a member of since the year that the member joined. So mine, for example, would be a member since the year that I joined.

By passing this amendment, we would save thousands of dollars for the Auxiliary. And maybe Marta can tell us the amount that would be.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I need a second. I'm sorry. Who seconded it?

VOICE: Department of Kansas.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Department of Kansas seconded that motion -- that amendment. Sorry.

Marta, did you want to -- okay.

It's been moved and seconded to amend to say since -- member since instead of number of years, that it would say member since whatever year you joined.

TREASURER HEDDING: The system we're using was designed to be used by any membership organization. And in discussing this matter with the vendor, apparently we're their only client who inflates years to print a membership card. And it will take significant customization.

Any time you customize a system, it might impact several other areas of the system. So the estimated cost for the first year could be anywhere from 15,000 to 40,000 depending on how this customization might impact the rest of the system.

And then in future years, it will require us to pay additional update and maintenance fees because of the customization. Over a five-year period, it could be as much as \$184,000 to do that.

The member since solution requires a lot of staff time because when the Legion took over managing the Auxiliary's data in 1992, they failed to include when member join dates. So anyone who joined prior to 1992, it says they joined in 1992. We do have the years, so we can calculate what year that member joined based on those years.

Now, if they joined in 1919 and didn't pay dues for a couple years, then they're going to back to whenever they started paying dues again. So we can't capture that missing since our policy is to start at zero if you miss a year of dues.

But we can do that. It will take a lot of time, possibly a little overtime to do. But once it's done, it's done and we don't have continuing costs year after year. So

--

VOICE: It would say member since.

TREASURER HEDDING: Yes. It would say member since and the year -- the join date then. And we can calculate for all those that have joined prior to 1992. So --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Is there any other discussion?

Yes. Barbara, please.

MS. KRANIG: I have a concern about how this will be calculated. Since knowing how our membership is sometimes taken, someone might join in September and their dues are held for the following membership year. And other people might join in September and want to be a member for the current year.

So you're always going to have a little discrepancy based on whether they were paying for the current year or the subsequent year. I'm just not sure how you can resolve that issue, but I think it's something that you need to consider.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: If you're going by the date joined, then it would just be a year that they joined, so --

MS. KRANIG: That's not counted in years.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yeah.

MS. KRANIG: So it can take --

VOICE: We can't hear.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

VOICE: We can't hear.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: They need to know what you're -- yes, please.

MS. KRANIG: I think my point is it's a problem we've had with membership for many years and that is a lot of units will fix up the dues this year, but they hold it for the following membership year so that it helps them to make quotas. And we know that's been a problem in trying to get our membership in.

TREASURER HEDDING: You're right, that occurs on -- whether we were on the old system or this system, that's going to happen. But the beauty of this system is that eventually, if you allow, if departments allow, their units can enter that date. So it will be more accurate on this new system.

So -- and plus departments -- and as soon as departments get it, they can enter it where before they have to transmit it to the Legion and it could be weeks before it got entered.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And you're talking about the join year, the year --

TREASURER HEDDING: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- that they actually joined? Okay. Please state your name.

MS. STEVENS: Cinnamin Stevens, Department of Nevada.

My question is, are we going by fiscal year or physical year because there is a lot of question --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Membership year.

MS. STEVENS: -- now because that's -- is membership year from January to December?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. STEVENS: So if you pay your dues in October of 2000 -- you start October of 2011, you will be a member since 2012 even though you paid --

TREASURER HEDDING: October 2011 you pay 2012 dues, you would be a member since 2012.

MS. STEVENS: Yes, that's what I was clarifying.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. STEVENS: Just because -- even though you paid in 2011, you --  
PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It would be your 2012 dues that you would be paying for.

MS. STEVENS: I can see where that's going to -- there are people that are very, very concerned about this and they want -- if they paid in 2011, they want it to be 2011, but you're --

VOICE: (Indiscernible.)

MS. STEVENS: Well, I understand that. But I'm saying if you join an organization in September, you'd think that you've been a member. So it's 2011, 2012. Just bringing it up.

MS. VAN KIRK: Madam President, Carol Van Kirk, Department of Nebraska.

I think the way it was -- the final way that I really got it in my head was when you -- you don't have your first wedding anniversary the day you're married. You have it a year later. And I have -- say I have a granddaughter in her ninth year of membership, but she's only eight years old. So if that helps clarify anything for anyone.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question has been called for. Is there a second? It's been seconded.

All those in favor of ending debate, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Motion has carried. We will vote on the amendment. And the amendment was to amend the -- so that it would state since the year that you -- since the year of rather than how many years. Does everybody understand that?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. All those in favor of the amendment as stated, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, please say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The amendment has carried. We will now vote on the Resolution as amended and I hope I have this information written down.

Is there any further discussion on this before we vote on the motion as amended?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The motion as amended -- and I don't have a copy of the original motion, so I can't read it exactly as it was stated to begin with. If somebody has a copy of that original motion. Okay. I have it right here. Okay.

Do I need to read this in entirety or just the resolved? Okay.

Resolved by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion Auxiliary in regular meeting assembled in Minneapolis on August 27th, 2011 that the National organization take steps to restore the system of matching the continuous years shown on the 2013 and subsequent cards to show the -- since the year of member -- of members; is that correct?

To reflect the number of years since you joined after you -- actual -- okay. That's -- yeah. Actual join date, okay, actual join date after your dues are paid for the membership year shown on the card. Is everyone clear about that?

All those in favor, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion as amended has been adopted.

Is there any other new business to come before this meeting?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Dubbie, do you have any announcements that you need to make?

We will have announcements at this time.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: As many of you hopefully know, at this National Convention, we will be honored with the presence of the President of the United States. That also is -- with that wonderful honor comes some real challenges for the remainder of the schedule.

So as of this moment, the Woman of the Year Luncheon will begin at 12:30 on Tuesday due to the anticipated schedule change with the joint meeting preceding that where the President of the United States will be addressing the joint Convention body. So the latest is that the Women of the Year Luncheon will begin at 12:30.

And, Madam President, I would like two moments of personal privilege if I may.

As I was sitting here, today's date is August 27th, and my father, Army Air Corps -- World War II Army Air Corps Charles E. Hoffman, would be 99 years old today if he were alive. And that just struck me as I was writing that on each one of these Resolutions. And I'm sorry. If you wondered why I got a little emotional up here, that's why. It is about honoring their service, isn't it?

And the other point of personal privilege is to say thank you to everyone and to thank you, Madam President, for all the preparations that went into this meeting today. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Dubbie.

Before or after the adjournment of this meeting this morning, I would like to ask any representatives from the Department of Arizona to please come and meet with me up here at -- on the podium, if you would, please. The NEC and any other Arizona representatives, I would like to ask you to come up after we get finished with this meeting.

I would like to ask you at this time to please stand with me as the National Chaplain offers the benediction.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Please bow your heads.

Dear Lord, we have come to the end of our NEC meeting. We ask that you guide us through the remainder of our National Convention and that you give us the wisdom to do your will. We thank you again for your grace and mercy. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your dedication and diligence this morning and throughout the year for your good work as your National Executive Committee women who have worked hard.

And I know it's been a struggle sometimes with some of the things we dealt with this year, but I just want to tell you from my personal feelings and my heart to thank you very, very much for all the things that you have done and for the service that you've given to us this year throughout this whole year. So I just want to thank you and tell you how much I appreciate all your service.

And at that, this National Executive Committee meeting is adjourned.  
Thank you, ladies.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 8:49 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS  
MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011**

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Minneapolis for the 91st American Legion Auxiliary National Convention.

From the Department of Texas please welcome your National President, Carlene Ashworth.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Welcome to Minneapolis. I am so glad to see you all here, and we have such an exciting, motivating, and inspiring convention waiting for you, and it's my hope that you take that excitement and enthusiasm back home to your departments and units, it's a powerful thing.

And speaking of power, that brings me to the Power of One. It's not just my theme, it's the embodiment of who we are and what we do collectively. We're comprised of thousands of ones, individuals who champion our motto of Service Not Self and make a difference every day.

I'd like to share with you some exciting examples of the power of a few outstanding members and what they've done for The American Legion Auxiliary and those we serve.

Each day we'll begin our session with a glimpse into the lives of another powerful member. Let's take a look.

(Video presentation begins.)

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: On any given day, tens of thousands of homeless veterans are on the streets or in shelters. Veterans represent a disproportionate percentage of the homeless, but how can we help?

In a Virginia suburb near Washington, D.C. lives and works Unit 364 American Legion Auxiliary member Dianne Cabot. During the day you'll find Dianne at her public relations job at the Prince William County Park Authority, but you can bet she spends much of her time working on Auxiliary projects. One such project, Buddy Baskets.

MS. CABOT: The Buddy Basket project was a very tiny little seed of an idea that I first came across when I was given the Plan of Action for VA&R for The American Legion Auxiliary, and when I got thinking about it I wondered how anyone that came in off the streets and they went into a new house how they were going to afford to buy any cleaning supplies or shower curtains or towels. They wouldn't have dishes, forks or knives or spoons, let alone a light bulb.

VOICE: Dianne and my wife are members of the same unit here in Virginia, and Dianne came with my wife to tell me about this program that she had in mind. After explaining it to me I asked why we couldn't get the Legion and the Sons and the Riders and make it a legion family project.

VOICE: Dianne called and wanted to get together with some of her mentors and her friends to discuss an idea that was born out of a conversation she had with the homeless coordinator at the VA.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: And so the Buddy Basket Program was born.

VOICE: Dianne asked the units to participate in filling Buddy Baskets and bringing them to the fall conference, and she ended up with 267 Buddy Baskets to carry to D.C. to help with the homeless.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: But it didn't stop there. Dianne sought out help to grow the Buddy Basket Program.

VOICE: Dianne came to me with a need to transport the baskets from the Virginia Beach conference back up to Woodbridge and needed a place to store them afterwards, so I thought of my son.

VOICE: After hearing of the need to support this project being a sons member and we thought it was a great idea, we decided to provide a truck and our warehousing for storage of the Buddy Baskets.

VOICE: When you get a call from Dianne Cabot you know there's a veteran involved. After meeting with Dianne about her idea of the Buddy Baskets we immediately headed for the dollar store.

MS. CABOT: About two weeks before Veterans Day last November I received an email from the D.C. office of The American Legion Auxiliary asking me if I would like to participate in a move in for eight formally homeless veterans, that they were moving into housing in Washington, D.C., and naturally I jumped at the chance.

VOICE: Hello. My name is Earl Reed (phonetic), I'm a nine-year army disabled veteran. I have been homeless for five years. I just recently got hooked up with Ms. Emily Button (phonetic) and she has gotten me off the streets in a wonderful apartment, and I have been getting great, wonderful donations from The American Legion Auxiliary.

VOICE: When the veterans move into our apartments coming out of shelters, coming out of cars they have no supplies, they have nothing, and this program helps us give them all those things that they need to get set up and feel at home.

MS. CABOT: After leaving Earl's apartment on our way home I really started to think about the whole plate of all of these homeless veterans and I had lived for a couple years in New York City and had often walked by a homeless person on the street and dropped change or given them a cup of coffee or literally stepped over them because it was rush hour and I was in a hurry, but after meeting Earl it suddenly dawned on me that any one of those people could have had a purple heart in their pocket and I couldn't allow that and I certainly know The American Legion Auxiliary cannot allow that.

I think the important lesson that I learned in the entire Buddy Basket project was that something so simple, so small, could make a huge difference in somebody's life. I know it made a huge difference in my friend Earl's life, and Earl has made a huge difference in my life.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: And the program is spreading to Auxiliary departments and units across the country. Dianne truly represents the Power of One.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Ladies and gentlemen, from the Department of Virginia, please welcome Dianne Cabot.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Wasn't she a wonderful inspiration? And what's more, there are thousands more just like her in every department and in units across the country. Great leaders, great doers, and great inspirers. Without a doubt she embodies the spirit of my theme and the theme of this convention, the Power of One.

Another great inspiration is a song performed by a couple of talented gals. When I first heard it I just knew that it would be a perfect start to our convention because the words and music are so powerful, so meaningful, and what a coincidence, it's titled, The Power of One. Let's take a look.

(Music.)

One person refused to sit on the back of the bus  
She changed the right for all of us  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
Her diary found a light in the dark  
A young girl's hope touched millions of hearts  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
One grain of sand can turn the tide  
One single spark can light the night  
One simple dream  
One gentle word  
One act of love from someone  
Can start a chain reaction  
It all begins in the heart  
In the power of one  
While the others threw stones He didn't  
judge  
He moved the world with the strength of His love  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
One grain of sand can turn the tide  
One single spark can light the night  
One simple dream  
One gentle word  
One act of love from someone  
Can start a chain reaction  
It all begins in the heart  
In the power of one  
Ohhhh  
All the little things we do everyday  
The smallest step can bring on a change  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
'Cause one grain of sand can turn the tide  
One single spark can light the night  
One simple dream  
One gentle word  
One act of love from someone  
Can start a chain reaction

It all begins in the heart  
And the power of one  
The power of one  
The power of one  
The power of one  
It's the power of one

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please welcome the Past National Presidents of The American Legion Auxiliary. From the Department of Wisconsin, Pearl Behrend.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of Maryland, Linda Newsome.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of Louisiana, Syble Deshotel.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of New York, Phyllis Bachman.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Barbara Kranig from the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of Kentucky, Virginia Hobbs.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Elizabeth Stewart from the Department of North Carolina.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Kristine West from the Department of New Hampshire.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of New Jersey, Elsie Bailey-Comer.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Katherine Morris from the Department of Texas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of Maryland, Sandi Dutton.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Carol Van Kirk from the Department of Nebraska.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: JoAnn Cronin from the Department of Missouri.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of Wisconsin, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the Department of Ohio, Desireé Stoy.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Also from the Department of Ohio, Honorary Past National President, Miriam Junge.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And from the Department of New Mexico, Rita Navarreté.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Past National Presidents.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Individually your service is powerful and add them all together and it is absolutely incredible. Did you enjoy our Power of One theme video?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Fantastic. Well, that's a good thing because we have a special treat for you. The song in our video was part of the motion picture soundtrack, "Evan Almighty," and the duo who performed it is one to watch on the country music scene, and they are here to perform for you this morning.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome two great gals, they're Nashville recording artists and were nominated for top new vocal duo of the 2010 Academy of Country Music, Kristy Osmunson and Kelley Shepard, the one and only Bomshel.

(Applause.)

MS. SHEPARD: How you doing, ladies? This is awesome, this is my favorite kind of crowd. This is a lot of fun. I'm Kelley and this is Kristy, and together we are Bomshel. We're very excited to be here today and be a part of this, and thank you guys so much for having us out for coming in and waking up so early.

(Applause.)

MS. OSMUNSON: Wait, they're probably used to this.

MS. SHEPARD: I know. That's what I said. I'm like I feel like a -- I mean, I normally sleep till 8:00 or 9:00, I'm not one to sleep late, but I woke up at 5:00 this morning and I'm like I don't know how people do it.

MS. OSMUNSON: And her grandma and her mom are calling, Kelley, you're finally up at a normal hour.

MS. SHEPARD: And my mom's like, are you okay? Are you sick? Why are you texting me so early?

Well this is our brand new single, you guys. We are so happy to be here. Oh, man this is such an honor. This is the best of the best.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

Well, I don't know about you, y'all  
But I'm ready for a good time  
Well, I don't know about you, y'all  
But it's been such a long, long time  
Well, I'm about to go crazy  
I'm about to get wild  
Well, I'm about to go crazy  
And I wanna take you along for the ride  
Hallelu y'all  
Well let's cut loose y'all  
Tonight we're gonna throw down,  
Blow it out, live it up, and get loud  
Kick it with the party crowd  
Let me hear you shout  
Hallelu y'all, hallelu y'all  
Well, I don't know about you y'all  
But I'm way too stressed  
And I'm ready to turn off  
My brain and just kick back  
I wanna hit the next level  
Yeah I'm ready to rock  
Crank up the bass and the treble  
Keep it going, keep it going, keep it going, don't stop  
Hallelu y'all  
Well let's cut loose y'all  
Tonight we're gonna throw down,  
Blow it out, live it up, and get loud  
Kick it with the party crowd  
Let me hear you shout  
Hallelu y'all, hallelu y'all  
I wanna feel like I'm on top of the world  
I wanna feel like I own this town  
I wanna feel like I'm flyin', I'm flyin'  
I'm flyin' and I'm never gonna come down  
Hallelu y'all  
Well let's cut loose y'all  
Tonight we're gonna throw down,  
Blow it out, live it up, and get loud  
Kick it with the party crowd  
Let me hear you shout  
Hallelu y'all  
I want to feel like I'm on top of the world  
Let's cut it loose y'all  
I want to feel like I own this town

Tonight we're gonna throw down,  
Blow it out, live it up, and get loud  
Kick it with the party crowd  
Let me hear you shout  
Hallelu y'all, hallelu y'all

(Applause.)

MS. OSMUNSON: We got to be careful, these ladies can get crazy. I tell you what.

Well Bomshel started about six years ago, and when I moved to Nashville I realized that very quickly that it's really tough to define what a strong woman is. We're judged so much on appearances and so much on, you know, the outside and what we looked like. And you know what, to me a real bombshell is more about what you do and who you are. It has nothing to do with your age, it has nothing to do with what you look like, and I really wanted to start a band that empowered that and embodied that, so we got a whole bunch of bombshells in the room today, pretty excited about that.

(Applause.)

MS. OSMUNSON: This next song was written a few years ago. A friend of mine, Jenny, back in my hometown in State of Idaho, what's up, I got my relatives in the house. There's all five of them here. Sorry.

(Laughter.)

MS. OSMUNSON: It's a tiny state. We have two sheep and my cousins.

(Applause.)

MS. OSMUNSON: So my small hometown, Jenny was 26 years old and at a very young age was diagnosed with breast cancer and she was an amazing girl. She was an amazing mother and wife, and through the whole six years of chemo and treatment every two weeks she took care of her husband, took care of her daughter, just so inspiring.

And Kelley and I had gone home to play a benefit for a group she started called Celebrate Life, and I came home expecting all five people in the State of Idaho to show up to this celebration, and my entire hometown showed up, sold out. They brought so much love and gifts and everything to contribute for the day, and it was so inspiring to me to see how this one girl, Jenny, just this one girl, had really resurfaced the face of my community. She had inspired so many people and she started single handedly started the Celebrate Life Walk in Sandpoint, Idaho, and she touched so many people, and it just -- you know, the power of one girl is an amazing thing.

(Applause.)

MS. OSMUNSON: So Jenny really stood for what we consider a bombshell to be. She stood for something greater than us.

And she passed away, and the day that she died my mom called and I went home with Kelley and we sat at the kitchen table and we were thinking about Gracie, her little seven-year-old daughter, and you know, all the times that Jenny is not going to be there to tell her all the advice that we need from mom, you know, the rest of our life? And we wanted to hopefully write something that embodied who Jenny was.

And so this next song is dedicated to all of you ladies out there. And I know you guys have been touched by this a lot, especially this organization in the last year or so. This is Fight Like A Girl.

(Music.)

Little girl alone on the playground  
Tired of gettin' teased and gettin' pushed around  
Wishin' she was invisible to them  
She ran home cryin', why do they hate me?  
Her mama wiped her tears and said baby  
You're brave and you're beautiful  
So hold your head high  
Don't ever let them define  
The light in your eyes  
Love yourself, give 'em hell  
You can take on this world  
You just stand and be strong  
And then fight like a girl  
31, she was wheelin' and dealin'  
Kept on hittin' that same glass ceiling  
She was never gonna be one of the boys, no  
She could of gave up on her ambitions  
And spend the rest of her life just wishin'  
Instead she listened to her mama's voice sayin'  
So hold your head high  
Don't ever let them define  
The light in your eyes  
Love yourself, give 'em hell  
You can take on this world  
You just stand and be strong  
And then fight like a girl  
Oh, with style and grace  
Kick ass and take names  
10 years of climbin' that ladder  
All the money and power don't matter  
When the doctor said, the cancer spread  
She holds on tight to her husband and babies  
And said, this is just another test God gave me  
And I know just how to deal with it  
I'll hold my head high  
I'll never let this define  
The light in my eyes  
Love myself, give it hell  
I'll take on this world  
Yes, I'll stand and be strong  
No I'll never give up

I will conquer with love  
And I'll fight like a girl

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Kelley Shepard, everybody.  
Thank you so much. Wow, thank you. Thank you guys.

MS. SHEPARD: Thank you guys so much for having us here today.  
This really is such an honor to be here with all you amazing women, and we're going to  
do one more song for you guys and it's kind of the theme, as to why we're here today.

MS. OSMUNSON: You know the ladies in this room have the power  
to change the world. This is really amazing.

(Applause.)

MS. OSMUNSON: Men, don't be afraid, just be cautious. It's okay. Got  
some bad women in here. Thank you guys so much for having us.

MS. SHEPARD: This is Power Of One.

(Music.)

One person refused to sit on the back of the bus  
She changed the right for all of us  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
Her diary found a light in the dark  
A young girl's hope touched millions of hearts  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
One grain of sand can turn the tide  
One single spark can light the night  
One simple dream  
One gentle word  
One act of love from someone  
Can start a chain reaction  
It all begins in the heart  
In the power of one  
While the others threw stones He didn't  
judge  
He moved the world with the strength of His love  
Ohhhh that's the power of one  
One grain of sand can turn the tide  
One single spark can light the night  
One simple dream  
One gentle word  
One act of love from someone  
Can start a chain reaction  
It all begins in the heart  
In the power of one  
Ohhhh  
All the little things we do everyday  
The smallest step can bring on a change  
Ohhhh that's the power of one

'Cause one grain of sand can turn the tide  
One single spark can light the night  
One simple dream  
One gentle word  
One act of love from someone  
Can start a chain reaction  
It all begins in the heart  
And the power of one  
The power of one  
The power of one  
The power of one  
It's the power of one

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Aren't they great?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, ladies. Thank you.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, the 91st American Legion Auxiliary National Convention will resume in approximately ten minutes as we reset the stage and prepare for our business meeting.

(Recess.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Good morning, delegates, guests, and welcome to Minneapolis for the very special 91st Annual Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary.

It is my honor this morning to present to you the 2010-2011 National Officers of The American Legion Auxiliary.

National Treasurer, Marta Hedding of Indiana.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: National Secretary, Mary "Dubbie" Buckler of Indiana.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: National Historian, Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch of Ohio.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: National Chaplain, Vickie Thrower of Alabama.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Central Division National Vice President, Donna Fuelling of Michigan.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Eastern Division National Vice President, Charlotte Hagan of Maine.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Northwestern Division National Vice President, Lynne Wild of Nebraska.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Southern Division National Vice President, Pat Knight of Virginia.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Western Division National Vice President, Darlene McLaughlin of Oregon.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: And National Vice President, Kris Nelson of Minnesota.

(Applause.)

(Ringing of the bell.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Please rise as the national colors are presented by The American Legion, Harrisburg Post 472 Color Guard from Houston, Texas. Afterwards please remain standing for the introduction of our National President.

Color guard, please post the colors.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: This morning is my special privilege to introduce a wonderful lady from the great state of Texas. A great person who has indeed exemplified for all of us this past year the power of one. She is a tireless go getter 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 worlds largest patriotic service organization, our National President, Carlene Ashworth from the great State of Texas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Madam President, I present this gavel so you may officially open the 91st National Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Marie.

The 91st National Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary will now come to order. Let us begin the gathering with a prayer by Vickie Thrower, our National Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Please bow your heads, each in your own faith.

Heavenly Father, we come to you this day asking for your blessing and help as we gather together for the opening of our 91st National Convention.

We pray for guidance in the matters at hand and ask that you will show us how to conduct our work with the spirit of joy and enthusiasm.

Give us the desire to find ways to excel in our work for The American Legion Auxiliary.

Help us to work together and encourage each other to excellence.

Help us to remember the reason for our service, to honor our servicemen and women both past and present.

We ask that we would challenge each other to reach higher and farther to be the best that we can be today and always.

We ask this in your name, amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please remain standing as Ann Rehbein, Chairman of the National Americanism Committee leads us in the pledge of allegiance, and then remain standing for a very special performance of our national anthem song sung by American country music duo, Bomshel. Ann, please come and lead us.

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.

(Music.)

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad 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.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
For the land of the free and the home of the brave?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you ladies, it was beautiful. Thank you.

As we prepare for the start of business our National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Mary Davis of Washington, will lead us in the reciting of our preamble.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: 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.

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you everyone and welcome you to the 91st National Convention.

We have much to celebrate and many important things to accomplish so let's get started.

I would like to first start out by introducing to you our convention appointees. Preness Thomas-White is Chairman of Pages.

Ladies, if you'll please stand and be recognized or come out, I'm not sure where they all are, so I don't know if they're behind stage or behind me or where they might be, but we'll recognize them anyway.

Paula Raney, National President's Page. Kim Palasota, National President's Page. There they are. Vaudine Wilson, National President's Page, and Loretta Luarella Oxley, National President's Page.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Kristine West, Chairman of Distinguished Guest Committee, Pat Wanoreck, member of the distinguished Committee, Syble Deshotel, member of the Distinguished Committee, and Chris Dickey, Convention Parliamentarian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It is also my pleasure to invite a few special guests to the stage to bring greetings, and I would like you to ask please welcome Darlene Wondra, from the Department of Minnesota, the department president.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Darlene is somewhere. There's Darlene. Following Darlene will be Marie Goede, National Convention Chairman, and Rita Navarreté, Immediate Past National President from the Department of New Mexico. Darlene?

MS. WONDRA: Madam President Carlene, national officers, delegates, alternates, and guests, welcome to the land of 10,000 lakes, the source of the great Mississippi River and the Mall of America. Welcome to the Department of Minnesota.

Minnesota experiences all four seasons and sometimes all in one day.

(Laughter.)

MS. WONDRA: We are unique with the Legion Bill Patrol Camp and the Armed Forces Center at the airport. We are home of the Twins, the Vikings, Links, and our National Vice President, Kris.

This year we had vision and voices for veterans with the Power of One.

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

Again, welcome to the Department of Minnesota, and thank you for allowing me time on your convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And now please welcome Marie Goede, the National Convention Chairman who will introduce her committee.

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Madam President Carlene, and all members of this incredible organization on behalf of the Department of Minnesota I welcome you to the 91st Annual Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary.

We are anticipating you will not only attend the convention, but also take advantage of the numerous attractions we have here in Minnesota.

Number one being the Mall of America, but as us Minnesotans call it, MOA.

You'll also want to check out a couple of our 10,000 plus lakes, as well as several more memorable sites if your time allows you.

We hope your stay with us thus far has been most enjoyable. I know that last time you were here the weather left a little to be desired, but as you have noticed this time we have put an order in for perfect weather, but just in case those orders are not followed our skyway system is second to none, therefore if the weather is inclement you can be inside. The Minneapolis skyway system allows you to get to almost any place downtown.

If you have any questions or concerns please stop in Room 206A or one of the two visitor stations here in the convention hall. They will be more than happy to assist you, and if not we'll find someone who can.

The Minnesota Auxiliary volunteers are wearing buttons that say ambassador on them. Also the pages are a wealth of information.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Convention Committees are, and I'd like you to just please hold your applause until I've introduced all of them. The Chairman, Patty Swanson (phonetic), Vice Chairman, Sally Strauser (phonetic).

Flowers. Chairman, Dolly Zitter (phonetic), Vice Chairman, Jane Lobby (phonetic).

Mailroom Chairman, Leslie Kristopher (phonetic), Vice Chairman, Marilyn Harsey (phonetic).

The National Secretary's Driver, Jan Walker.

The National President's Driver, Annette Gray.

Packets, Chairman, Deloris Horton (phonetic), Vice Chairman, Betty Schleter (phonetic).

Pages. Chairman, Deedee Buckley (phonetic), Vice Chairman, Donna Arns (phonetic).

Barbara Clare (phonetic) is the Convention Vice Chairman, and Honorary Convention Chairman is Evelyn Star. Evelyn is unable to be here today. And I am as President Carlene said, Marie Goede, the Chairman.

These ladies, along with several committee volunteers have worked diligently to make this convention happen.

Madam president Carlene, we want to congratulate you on your outstanding year. You have shown us that many things can be done by the power of one. One member, one unit, one district, one state, one convention, one successful year.

I would like to personally thank you for the opportunity to serve as National Convention Chairman and wish for you an extremely successful and productive convention.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I now present to you Rita Navarreté, Immediate Past National President from the Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

PAST PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: I stand before you this morning to bring greetings on behalf of the Past National Presidents and to let you know your leadership continues to inspire everyone with the Power of One theme.

It allowed members to focus on that one thought, that one word, the one smile, that one attitude, that one action, and that one idea that made a difference in the service as an American Legion Auxiliary member.

The Past National Presidents accepted the challenge and became that one person who made a difference in their respective units and departments. There is no doubt that we will witness an exciting, a successful, and productive convention, Madam President, that you have planned.

We look forward to the reports from National Chairman and truly believe they will reflect many, many stories of the power of one making a difference in the lives that were touched every day in serving our veterans, their families, and communities.

May you enjoy every minute of the convention with excitement, take pride in knowing your actions throughout the year focus to insure the organization mission was carried out.

We wish for you a wonderful convention, and at the end we welcome you with a smile as you join as a Past National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Our first item of business is the adoption of the reports organizing the convention. The Credentials Report will be presented by Credentials Chairman, Angela Kilcrease, from the Department of Mississippi.

CHAIRMAN KILCREASE: Good morning. Madam National President the Credentials Committee met on Saturday, August 27th, 20011. The following is our report.

Alabama-11; Alaska-8; Arizona-16; Arkansas-9; California-24; Colorado-10; Connecticut-9; Delaware-9; District of Columbia-6; Florida-32; Georgia-13; Hawaii-6; Idaho-8; Illinois-31; Indiana-43; Iowa-26; Kansas-17; Kentucky-12; Louisiana-13; Maine-13; Maryland-24; Massachusetts-11; Michigan-27; Minnesota-38; Mississippi-9; Missouri-18; Montana-9; Nebraska-24; Nevada-7; New Hampshire-13; New Jersey-14; New Mexico-10; New York-38; North Carolina-12; North Dakota-15; Ohio-41; Oklahoma-10; Oregon-13; Pennsylvania-51; Puerto Rico-7; Rhode Island-7; South Carolina-9; South Dakota-15; Tennessee-10; Texas-24; Utah-9; Vermont-12; Virginia-14; Washington-12; West Virginia-12; Wisconsin-27; Wyoming-9.

Total delegates 867. Half majority 435. Two-thirds majority 578.

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

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of the Credentials Committee's Report as presented. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the motion to adopt the Credential Committee's Report as presented. All those in favor say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The affirmative has it and the Credentials Report is adopted as presented. Thank you, Angela.

The Rules Chairman, Nicole Clapp, will read the proposed rules for the convention. If you would like to follow along the rules are printed on page 104 of your convention program. Nicole?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: The proposed rules are as follows.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seven, the Chairman of the 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.

Number 8, only voting members of the convention may make motions and address the assembly. To address the assembly the voting member shall rise, one, go to the microphone, two, address the Chair, three, wait to be recognized by the Chair, and four, give her name and department.

Nine, all main motions, resolutions, and amendments shall be presented in writing immediately to both the Chair and the Secretary on the motion forms provided, signed with the full names of both the person making the motion and the person making the second motion. The completed motion form shall 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.

Number 10, debate on any questions shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker. No person may speak on the same question more than twice without the consent of the convention. During debate, delegates, alternates, guests are to remain seated within their own delegation or assigned seating area unless they are approaching

the microphone, completing a motion form, or exiting, entering the general session. Pages may deliver messages to the stage and to the delegations during this time.

Number 11, each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast with the majority of the delegates present from her department. This is in accordance with the National Constitution, Article 6, Section 5.

Number 12, voting shall be by voice vote except when the Chair deems it necessary to use some other method or when a roll call is requested by the chairman of three department delegations or as provided for in the election rules.

Number 13, 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 the Division National Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 27th, 2011.

Number 15, nomination of candidates for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Tuesday, August 30th, 2011.

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 or candidates, she will be allowed four minutes. There will be no seconding speeches.

Number 18, after nominating speeches for national office on Tuesday, August 30th, 2011 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 nomination to be only by name and department affiliation, and in response to the introduction the nominee for the office shall be allowed a maximum of two minutes for remarks.

Nineteen, election of national officers shall be held on Wednesday, August 31st, 2011.

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 National President, by direction of the Rules Committee I move the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2011 as just read.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2011 as just read. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of the National Convention Rules for 2011. All those in favor please stand. Thank you.

Those opposed please stand. Thank you.

There is two-thirds in the affirmative, motion is carried and the rules for the 2011 National Convention have been adopted.

Thank you, Nichole.

The National Secretary, Mary "Dubbie" Buckler will give the Program Report.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Boy I don't know who picked that music, but good morning. Do you like the convention program?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, last year was a first, so I'm happy to announce that this year is a repeat.

Last year for the first time we raised enough money in advertisement and sponsorship of the convention program to pay for the printing of the convention program, and this year we have done it again. So you're looking at something that was paid for.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, a copy of the program has been provided to each convention delegate. And let me clarify that we are working off of a special printed program printed August 16th, 2011, not the program printed in the convention booklet, because we will be honored with a visit from the President of the United States. We have the additional changes and they are the Woman of the Year Luncheon starts at 12:30. Please cross out the time of noon and insert 12:30.

The National Convention Session 2 on Tuesday will begin at 2:30. Please cross out 2 p.m. and insert 2:30.

And Madam President, these are all the changes to the convention program that I have noted at this time.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the program with the changes made.

MS. CLOSE: Madam chairman, Linda Close, Department of Ohio, so moved. I second the motion.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you making the notion, Linda, or you -- we need --

MS. CLOSE: I move that the changes -- that the rules with the changes made be approved as read.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do I need an additional person to second? Okay. Thank you, go ahead.

MS. RAIL: Madam president, Francis Rail (phonetic) Department of West Virginia, I second the motion.

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

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the motion to adopt the program with the changes noted. All these in favor please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it and the convention program is adopted. By adoption of these reports the 91st National Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary is officially organized for conducting business.

I am so happy this morning to start with a visit from my good friend, Sons of The American Legion National Commander, Mr. David Dew.

David's membership and service to the Sons of The American Legion spans more than 30 years. He is a charter and life member of Harding Blaine Squadron 321 located in Plano, Texas, and David's eligibility in the Sons of The American Legion is through his father, Hal Ray Dew, who proudly served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

The American Legion Family is a great part of David's life. His wife of 17 years, Charlie, is a member of Unit 321, a past department president of Texas, and currently serves on the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee at the national level.

They have four children and six grandchildren, all of which are members of The American Legion Family, and it is a great special honor for me to welcome to our stage the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, a resident of my home State of Texas, Mr. David Dew.

(Applause.)

MR. DEW: Wow, have a seat ladies. Good morning, American Legion Auxiliary.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. DEW: What a crowd. And special guests, distinguished guests, head diocese, and my madam president, Carlene, what a year. As we say in Texas, wow. If you bear with me just a second I'd like to take this opportunity to brag on our power of one.

We had the great honor of having another all time high in membership this year with 344,367 members.

(Applause.)

MR. DEW: These guys just are incredible.

Just to touch you just a few of the things the Sons of The American Legion do the power of one our total for Americanism and all the programs of was \$2,006,492 and 615,893 hours.

(Applause.)

MR. DEW: Children youth, you know what we do, we couldn't do it without you gals, \$809,645, 80,684 hours in support of our children youth programs.

(Applause.)

MR. DEW: With our total this year of \$392,843, which was well over a dollar a member.

And of course near and dear to my heart was the VA&R. We started out this year with 42 registered VABS reps across the nation, I'm proud to say that we doubled that at 92 VABS reps across the nation.

(Applause.)

MR. DEW: And it is our goal to have a VABS rep in every VA facility, and I know our next commander is going to make that happen.

But there was 10,011 hours with \$51,972 to the family support network from our VA&R and we're quite proud of everything that the guys do.

But I've got to thank you for electing

Ms. Carlene, as I call her, being from Texas what an honor, and if you know anything about country music you know the song of Faith Hill, I'm the Lucky One, and I was the lucky one to get to serve with Carlene. And I thank you all for electing her and giving me this opportunity and I appreciate it very much.

And just before I finish here I need to introduce, since my convention is over, our National Commander of the Sons of American Legion 2011-2012, Mr. Jimmy Roberts from Florida.

(Applause.)

MR. DEW: I wish you a fantastic convention and have a great time and look forward to visiting with all of you all week. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Before you go away, David, I have a little gift for you. Just a little small gift to tell you thank you and what a great honor it's been for us to be able to serve together this year. And many times we meet across the country and not sometimes -- and most of the time not even realizing we were both going to be in the same place at the same time, so it's been an honor and a privilege and a pleasure to be able to serve with you.

MR. DEW: Open it now?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yeah.

MR. DEW: Oh, wow, these are beautiful cuff links.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Just a little gift.

MR. DEW: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And there's a little card in there.

MR. DEW: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

MR. DEW: I love you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I love you, too. And David, if would like to come with me for a moment I'd like to give you one of my Power of One coins with my card and my pin, and wish for you this next year a great year of a power of one powerful person doing a great job.

MR. DEW: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MR. DEW: Appreciate it.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, David, for being here with us.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Our next special guest was crowned Miss America 2011 on January the 15th, 2011 at the 90th Anniversary of the Miss America Pageant.

Since her crowning, Teresa Scanlan has been traveling the country appearing on numerous national and local television programs making corporate appearances and talking about the Miss America organization's national platform, which includes military families.

Miss America 2011, Teresa Scanlan, was among those paying tribute to U.S. military veterans on Memorial Day in Washington, D.C. where she sang God Bless America during the American Veterans Center's 2011 National Memorial Day Program.

Please help me welcome Miss America 2011, Teresa Scanlan.

(Applause.)

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you all so, so much for having me here today. It really is my honor and privilege and a pleasure to be here this week with The American Legion, and it's my honor this year to be serving the military and all of the work that we do as an organization.

For those of you who don't know there is a reason there are four points on my crown and it's because they stand for four things, style, service, scholarship, and success. And the most important point I believe especially this year serving as Miss America is service, and that's what everybody here is all about of course and what my year as Miss America entails is service in so many different aspects.

You know I ended up winning the Miss America competition at 17, which is the youngest in over 78 years, and I had never expected that to happen, but much less had I expected to learn so much in just seven months now that it's been about these four things, and especially so much about service and what that really means.

See Miss America is non-profit organization not only dedicated to providing scholarships to the young women that compete, but also to providing opportunities for those women to be involved in philanthropy and to be involved in service and volunteering in their communities and in their states and in the country.

And so just over the past few months I've been able to work with so many various organizations with them through my work as we travel January to January I'm on the road every day, I'm home for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, but other than that on the road. We end up traveling about 15- to 20,000 miles a month with our various projects, and a huge part of that has been the military.

We've had a partnership with the USO and the Department of Defense for many, many years as that is a huge part of our focus serving as a national icon, but my job is such a privilege to serve in this capacity, just to be able to say thank you to not only the military, but also their families, to these people who are making sacrifices every day to give me the life that I have lived so far here in the country and that my generation is coming up in a land of freedom because of the brave people who are protecting our country.

You know the Miss America organization has been both a committed and loyal supporter of the U.S. military, the troops, their families for quite some time, and this commitment started back with an alliance with the USO in 1943 when Miss America, Jean Bartel, traveled across the country from September to December of that year selling \$2.5 million in war bonds, the most ever in history.

(Applause.)

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you. So she showed starting at that point the nation a strong and dignified stance of support for our troops, so at that point Miss America became identified with the sense of patriotism and a sense of national pride that would continue to grow throughout the decades to become a significant part of your organization today.

Well then in the 1960's the country of course became focused on the Vietnam war, and the Miss America organization took bold steps to support the troops and created the USO Miss America Troops Tour traveling overseas to Vietnam and around the world to support the U.S. armed forces, but although extremely difficult along with being heavily criticized the organization and Miss America stood proudly by its decision and to this day is a continuous supporter of our armed forces.

Miss America 1967, Jane Jayroe, along with five state title holders from that year crossed into the combat zone to perform a USO show and entertain the U.S. military, and meeting with wounded warriors in hospitals, men and women who dedicated their lives in the service to the United States became the job of Miss America and continues to be.

As this year I've had the opportunity to go both to Bethesda and Walter Reed Military Hospital several times, and now that Walter Reed is closed I will return to Bethesda several times this year as well to say thank you to our wounded military there and thank our soldiers for the freedom that we enjoy.

The Miss America Program from that point continued to remain steadfast in its devotion to the military and continued to travel with the USO show in the 1970's to entertain our troops who were fighting that ever growing unpopular war.

Miss America 1973, Terry Meeuwsen, became the first Miss America to wear the POW bracelet to show the support of the soldiers still abroad and she spent her year of service with the USO.

Well of course the new millennium came and Miss America 2000, Heather French, the daughter of a Vietnam vet, became an advocate for our homeless veterans, so she traveled across the country meeting forgotten heroes and educating the public to their plight. She spoke on Capitol Hill and was actually the first Miss America to have legislation named after her. She pledged to honor and respect our homeless veterans and use her voice for them to overcome this heart breaking battle at home with our homeless veterans.

Once again the country was tested by the tragic events of 9-1-1 and the new Miss America organization stood tall and strong for the Nation with the newly crowned Miss America 2001, Katie Harman. So just two weeks after being crowned Katie went directly to Ground Zero and began serving as our country's ambassador of hope. She became an advocate of compassion both for our rescue workers and our military.

Recently in October of 2009 the Miss America Chairman of the Board, Sam Haskell, along with seven Miss Americas also traveled abroad to Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi to distribute school supplies in Baghdad. They visited with hundreds of U.S. coalition troops and also traveled to Afghanistan to visit the wounded at Landstuhl Hospital in Germany.

So this year we're celebrating the 90th Anniversary of Miss America and we're reminded of the rich history supporting the military, and it is my privilege as the 90th Miss America to support our military and their families, that because all of this that we can do and have done in the history of our organization is so very small when compared to all that the military and their families do, and so I have to say thank you to each and every one of you for all that you do, and I am simply here as a representation of

not only young people in my generation, but citizens of the country who are so very proud of the country in which they live and the people who serve it, and I have to say thank you from everyone to each of you and your families, the sacrifices that I see every day as we meet with those in the military, that their sacrifices are so huge and it sure makes me put my life into perspective as some things that seem so very big to me that become so small and insignificant.

And sometimes I feel as though we start taking for granted the freedoms that we have in the country in which we live. You know, I grew up in western Nebraska in a small rural area and the middle of seven children and it was family and God and country were simply a way of life and instilled from an early age, yet even then we start to take that for granted, and because I felt so safe being there in Nebraska that sometimes you would start to forget all the lives that it has cost and the blood that has been shed to make this country what it is.

And I certainly pray every day that we'll never forget and never stop gazing in awe struck wonder at the flag of our country.

So I'd just like to close with an excerpt from the poem, My Name Is Old Glory.

I am the flag of the United States of America

My name is Old Glory.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings.

I stand watch in America's halls of justice.

I fly majestically over great institutes of learning.

I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world.

Look up! And see me!

I stand for peace, honor, truth, and justice.

I stand for freedom.

I am confident . . . I am proud.

I bow to no one.

I am recognized all over the world.

I am worshiped.

I am saluted.

I am respected.

I am revered. I am loved.

And I am feared.

I have been soiled, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of countries

I have helped to set free.

It does not hurt . . . for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my country,  
and when it is by those with whom I have served in battle . . . it hurts.

But I shall overcome . . . for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth

and stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space

from my vantage point on the moon.

I have been a silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hour comes

when I am torn into strips to be used for bandages  
for my wounded comrades on the field of battle.  
when I fly at half mast to honor my soldiers...  
and when I lie in the trembling arms  
of a grieving mother at the graveside of her fallen son.

I am proud.

My name is Old Glory.

Dear God . . . Long may I wave!

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Teresa. And it is a great privilege and honor for me to be able to present to you a gift membership in The American Legion Auxiliary. We are very proud of all the things you have accomplished.

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to read this. It says, gift membership presented to Teresa Scanlan, Miss America, in appreciation of your service to our military families and your desire to promote American Legion Auxiliary programs, and we're so proud to be able to do this for you.

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And I'd also like to give you one of my coins.

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: One of my coins and one of my pins, the Power of One. And thank you so much for being with us today.

MS. SCANLAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Let's give her another round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Our next guest was called one of America's greatest warriors by Secretary of Defense, Robert Gaits, and General Stanley A. McChrystal is truly a transformational leader with a remarkable record of achievement.

A retired four star general he is the former commander of the United States and International Security Assistance Forces, ISAF, Afghanistan, and the former commander of the Premier Military Counter Terrorism Force Joint Special Operations Command.

He is best known for developing and implementing the current counter insurgency strategy in Afghanistan and for creating a comprehensive counter terrorism organization that revolutionized the interagency operating culture.

Please welcome General Stanley A. McChrystal to the stage.

(Applause.)

GENERAL MCCRYSTAL: Thank you.

As a commander of troops in the field one of the things that you do as often as you can and you enjoy doing is traveling around to visit your forces, and in a place like Afghanistan in many cases they're in very small operating bases in remote locations, platoon size 20 or 30 guys partnered with their Afghan counterparts.

When you hit a special time of the year like a holiday you make a special effort to hit as many as you can. So December of 2009 one of my closest friends and my command sergeant major and I went out to visit as many places as we could on Christmas Eve and then transition into Christmas day.

As we hit base after base on Christmas Eve it got later and later into the evening and we'd land at these small locations and we'd go in and we'd spend about an hour with the element listening to them, talking to them, and doing what we could to remind them of how much we appreciated all they were, all they are.

In one location as I went through I was standing there watching as I spoke to the platoon and I saw a name tape of a fairly uncommon last name on a young private first class, and as I looked at him I immediately went back to memories of a soldier with that name who I had served with in the Rangers for many years and I remember times together on long road marches and operations watching him, Steve, who I'd grown close to.

And as I thought of him for a very split second I said, maybe it's my friend, but then I remembered in 2005 my friend had been killed in western Iraq in an organization under my command on a commando operation, and I knew that his widow, Rachel, had continued on bravely as the person we knew her to be, but as I looked at the young man I suddenly realized the connection was possible, and when I finished talking I went up to him and I asked him who his father was, and he was the son of a comrade of mine who had died while I was responsible for him.

What it reminds me is not just the tragedy of how difficult war can be, it reminds me it's really about families. At the end of the day what we see and what we are is where we came from and who we're connected to, and when I'm around an organization like this this morning I'm reminded just what kind of a family we are and it's not all blood relations, it's much wider than that.

So I'd like to thank you for what you are, what the Auxiliary does, and the difference you make to military families, those you know and even those you touch indirectly.

I was a military child. My father was a soldier, my grandfather was a soldier, all my brothers were soldiers, my wife's father was a career soldier, and all her brothers were soldiers, so we were wards of the state.

(Laughter.)

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: I was a military brat. I grew up as a military brat. That's the life I knew. And my son was a military brat and we talked often about how important it is for education and the programs that you do. My son went to three high schools, and I can tell you it didn't hurt him a bit. He got his four year degree in seven short years.

(Laughter.)

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: And of course the reality is he works for the government now so who's the joke on?

(Laughter.)

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: But we know how important it is, we know how difficult it is sometimes when you move around and you're part of an extended family and how the community must take care of you.

Today what I do is I teach, and I'm teaching leadership at Yale which I enjoy. I could have never gotten in Yale, but I'm grading their papers.

(Laughter.)

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: So I'm passionate about that as well, and it's about helping people become part of service.

We're in a different kind of position right now. Relatively speaking we have a fairly small military, and yet that military has been at war now for ten straight years. Because of that the stresses and strains on that force are different than we have seen in many times before. I'm not saying they're more or less, they're different and there are many individuals with four and five combat tours, and when I talk about that I don't mean just the servicemember, I mean the family. We have children and spouses who have seen their loved one leave for up to a year to 15 months four and five times, and it's a burden that people cannot and should not have to bear alone. They're resilient, but they need support.

And so last spring I was called by the First Lady and asked if I would become a part of a unique initiative that she and Dr. Biden had created called Joining Forces, and I immediately said yes, because Joining Forces is an initiative to garner and organize help for our servicemembers of all ages, races, and backgrounds, and their families, and it's to encourage a culture shift nationwide so that everyone thinks about our servicemembers and their families as their responsibility as part of their family and as part of their community. And I'd like to tell you just a little bit about it.

First off the Joining Forces initiative is not a PR campaign, it's a focused effort. The Board of Advisors I'm honored to be a part of includes Mrs. Shinseki whose husband is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and also was the former Chief of Staff for the Army, and Patti Shinseki is a force by herself to be reckoned with and a good friend. And then

Mr. Dick Parsons who ran Time Warner and brings unique business expertise.

We have the Center for New American Security as an entity that is leading the effort to study and to determine best practices.

And what we're trying to do is match what is truly a sea of good will with practical programs and efforts, some of which are ongoing and some of which can be focused to better help our servicemembers and their families by channeling all the resources that are available to where they will make the best difference.

Now how will it focus? Really on three major areas. It'll focus on employment, and our unemployment rate for veterans is higher than it is for the national average and that is absolutely unacceptable.

It'll focus on education. Not just servicemembers, but also their families as we talked about how important that is.

And it'll focus on wellness, all the aspects of that.

It's a vehicle to share challenge and support, and it's a recognition that our military is very different than in times past. Most of our military now have families, and so when we think of our force you can't think in terms of just young single men, that might have been the case many years ago, and it's now a family that must be thought of and employed.

I realize how important that is because every decision you make in the force is about family. We say you enlist a servicemember, but you reenlist a family, and that's absolutely the case. And when a soldier, sailor, airmen, or marine reenlist during combat when they already know the reality of the sacrifice it's a family making a joint decision of great gravity.

Now how can this Joining Forces actually help? It really can do three things.

It can assess, meaning it can look at the problem, it can determine where the friction points and where the need truly exists and how we can best address that.

It can inform, it can become a bully pulpit, it can become ways to reach out to people.

And it can coordinate, it can help us take many of the great efforts and focus them more effectively.

And that's where it comes into things like The American Legion Auxiliary. Programs like your kids program focus on unique challenges of extraordinary importance, but you also bring something that is less obvious, you bring a network, because in reality when a servicemember or their family needs help they don't need help from a single bureaucratic building or location, they need help from a network across our country, which is another word for community.

When a servicemember is employed by our Nation in our Nation's service the community must accept responsibility for that servicemember when they go, when they come back, and their family throughout.

And so programs like KIDS help us build stronger communities, and there are some examples where that already makes a difference.

In Iowa where the organization raised money to get a brother to a fallen soldier's funeral.

In Ohio where volunteers are knitting afghans for injured servicemembers in medical facilities.

In New Jersey where welcome home dinners give a touch of care to servicemembers returning.

In Louisiana, Arizona, and Virginia you've got volunteer facilities helping with practical things like car repairs that make such a difference when you think of the stress they put on a family when a servicemember is gone.

And across the country there are things like care packages that are sent to servicemembers and to families, and it's less the tangible things that are in those than the demonstration that we remember and we care.

About one percent of America has been directly impacted by this war. When I say directly, serving or a family member serving. All of us have been impacted in some way, but it's a decade of that.

Average Americans where I meet around the country they support the military, but in many cases they support the military in a very general philosophical way, but they have not met many, they don't know many servicemembers families and they ask me how they can help.

Since I've retired and traveled around I've been stunned by just how many people want to help, but how so few know the best way to connect. So organizations like The American Legion Auxiliary and the other organizations that you link with and represent can give sinew and connectivity to the care that makes America famous.

I think that when a nation is judged at the end the greatest metric of how great it is is how it takes care of each other.

So thank you for taking care of so many. Have a good morning.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: General McChrystal, I want to let you know that The American Legion Auxiliary recently passed a resolution commending First Lady Michelle Obama and the Joining Forces initiative, and this is the very thing that The American Legion Auxiliary has been doing for 91 years, so we -- this is a letter and did pass a resolution to commend the Joining Forces initiative.

And thank you so very, very much for being with us today.

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: What an honor.

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: Take care.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to give you one of my coins and my pin.

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: Thank you, ma'am.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And again, thank you for what you do and what you will continue to do and I know that it will be a success just as we continue to do all the work that we do in The American Legion Auxiliary across the country.

GENERAL MCCHRYSTAL: Thank you, my honor.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It is now my honor and pleasure and privilege to present to you our National Vice President, Kris Nelson, for her report.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Madam President Carlene, it is been an honor and a privilege to serve as your National Vice President this year. The key role of National Vice President is that of supporting the National President through the power of one serving veterans, military, and their families.

One of the most memorable experiences of the year was attending the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Our week in La Crosse, Wisconsin enabled us to support veteran participants, their families, and their support staff. We joined them at rehearsals, art workshops, and outings to Cranberry Bogs and museums. The week culminated with an annual art exhibit and stage show.

The American Legion Auxiliary helped hospitalized veterans and the VA co-sponsored this program that is life changing for veterans.

If you have never been able to attend the Sunday events make plans to do so when the festival coming to your area.

One of our Auxiliary priorities is to annually raise \$100,000 to co-sponsor the festival. On behalf of the participants thank you all for your support.

My husband, Terry, and I were honored to represent the Auxiliary at the U.S. Naval Academy graduation award ceremony. Lieutenant Dave Bratten (phonetic) served as our escort for the day joining us for lunch, the ceremony, and the reception that followed.

Midshipman Allison Kate Ransel (phonetic) was the recipient of The American Legion Auxiliary women's swimming award for being a member of the women's varsity swim team who best exemplifies the highest caliber of leadership and athletic skills.

One of the easiest jobs assigned to me this year was mentoring our three new National Chairmen. They proved that the skills they brought to us did not require much in the way of mentoring.

I share President Carlene's pride in their service and accomplishment.

We were invited to attend many events hosted by The American Legion Commander, Jimmie Foster. His membership workshop was held in July and awarded us the opportunity to work with our counterparts in The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Attending his congressional testimony educated all of us on the importance of the Legion's legislative priorities.

I was also fortunate to be able to attend both the legion fall and spring meetings and was encouraged to sit on many of the commission meetings. These were great educational opportunities for all of us.

At the February D.C. briefings The American Legion staff members all meet with us to explain in detail what their division is responsible for and share the ideas of how we can work together as an American Legion family.

While at National Headquarters in November I was able to offer the Field Service Orientation course to all of our national staff. It was heartwarming for me to hear of the volunteering and mission-related activities that our staff participates in. We should all be very proud of their dedication and passion for our Auxiliary's mission.

Now that they're all certified they are turning in their hours and will annually submit a headquarters' year end report.

As Vice President I also attended the long-range strategic planning meetings, served as a board member on the Foundation, and attend as a guest the finance meetings. Attendance at these meetings is vital to the preparation of National President.

The President and Secretary's conference gives us all an opportunity to meet the department leadership in both business and social settings to share the program objectives and best practices of accomplishing them, to motivate, educate, and learn from each other, and the banquet is something that leaves a lasting memory.

Members are encouraged to attend our annual Awareness Assembly Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. The culmination of this conference is sharing The American Legion priorities when The American Legion Family participates in the Hill Walk. My husband and I were also honored to be guests at the State Department reception.

In November I represented the Auxiliary at the Veterans Day ceremonies in Indianapolis. I spent one day prior to Veterans Day and one day after working with the national staff in preparation for next year.

Again in January we spent a week at headquarters with our annual membership planning, long-range strategic planning, and financial forecasting meetings.

We gathered in Minneapolis the last weekend in April for our membership workshop entitled Honoring Their Service, and after two jam packed days we left motivated and enthused with the promises that we will increase membership numbers by continuing to work our mission and inviting community members to join us.

The first weekend in May the National Chairman Meeting at the Indianapolis War Memorial we learned about the personality traits of each other and began building a team. The national staff, national chairman appointees worked hard to create tools for our grassroots members. We were challenged to think out of the box and the results of their efforts are amazing.

We look forward to sharing them with all of you at the mission training weekends.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your National Vice President. It has been an honor and a privilege. President Carlene's Power of One made a difference in the lives of our veterans, their families, and our members across the world.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Kris. She's been a great vice president too, I can tell you that. Thank you for all the many, many things that you have completed this year and the tasks that I have requested for you, and it's been a busy year for you I know, and I appreciate it very much.

Engaging the next generation to become members in The American Legion Auxiliary is the important purpose of the Junior Activities Program. Connecting with our Junior members and involving them in worthwhile activities that support our mission is the best way to insure the continuation of the Auxiliary.

And here to tell us more about this year's Junior Activities is National Chairman, Lisa Williamson. Lisa?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Madam President.

The power of wonderful Juniors and from spending the weekend with these Juniors the Junior Activities Committee can vouch just how wonderful they are. You'd think spending two solid days with 72 girls from ages 8 to 18 would be exhausting, I won't lie, it was, but it was exhilarating as well, their energy is contagious.

National President Ashworth asked us to focus on our military, veterans, and their families this year and the Junior Activities first objective demonstrated how the power of wonderful Juniors did just that.

Our Juniors have helped at the local VA, they have made no-sew blankets, written letters, sung Christmas carols, or just listened to our veterans share.

Juniors helped at their local veterans Christmas gift shops.

Our Juniors are involved with military deployments in various ways. They have adopted deployed soldiers and sent care packages and many have folded pocket flags.

Most Juniors help with The American Legion Family activities from serving dinners to walking in parades, from distributing poppies, to participating in ceremonies. They are always there ready to volunteer.

The 2010-2011 Honorary National Junior Officers all led by example in service to our military and veterans. They have been active participating in Operation Military Kids and the Child Welfare Foundation, as well as Honor Flight, USO, and Ride 2 Recovery.

I am certain that our organization will be in very good hands down the road.

Another Junior member that leads by example was named as National Junior member of the year, Julianna Brunnet from Brookpark Unit 610 in the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: She will receive an engraved plaque in recognition of her dedicated service, efforts, and talents. Congratulations.

Our Juniors also support and promote our Auxiliary programs. Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Girls State, Children & Youth, Poppies, Education, Americanism, and of course the Children of Warriors National President scholarship.

This scholarship was one of the Junior Activities objectives this year and most of you know that Honorary National Junior President, Sabrina Cobb, took it on as her special emphasis. Thank you, Sabrina.

The one objective that is special to my heart was empowering our Juniors by instructing us in the use of technology. You heard it before and you'll hear it again, Junior members are the future leaders of our organization.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: I agree; however, I also believe they are our current leaders when it comes to communicating electronically. Internet, e-mail, social networking sites, and texting.

To that end at the President/Secretary's conference in October we unveiled the new technology patch. This patch has a double edged sword of sorts. Our entire organization will advance as we learn technology from the girls and they in turn will learn our Auxiliary programs from us.

Three Junior members from Ohio were the first to receive the new technology patch, Shannon Barnes, Gracie Badger, and Daisy Badger, all of Dawn Gentile Unit 532.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: As well they're all second and third graders, so you can see technology is not limited to teenage girls.

The department that will be receiving an engraved plaque for the largest increase of Junior members participating in electronic social networking is the Department of South Dakota.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Beth Vanderwal, South Dakota's Junior Activities Chairman reported, I asked one of our Junior members to help me navigate the

national web site as I could not find the right link for the patch program. She took me right to the spot and taught me a few new tricks.

South Dakota Juniors helped promote unit events with Facebook and e-mail messages. How quickly news can spread when you use technology.

Many Juniors continue to remain in touch with others through Facebook and all like The American Legion Auxiliary Junior's Facebook fan page.

Our Junior meeting was fun-filled, we all learned something, there wasn't a moment of down time, and here's a photo of our new 2011-2012 National Honorary Junior Officers.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Madam President, may I ask for the privilege of introducing our next guest?

Alaska had the privilege of having all four American Legion national leaders in attendance at our department convention, so this young lady and I will always have a special connection.

It gives me the greatest of pleasures to introduce to you someone that has become like a daughter to me, Honorary National Junior President, Sabrina Cobb from the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: Good morning, ladies. Madam president Carlene, head table, distinguished guests, and ladies. You have to excuse my voice, got a little excited yesterday at the parade.

I can't tell you what an incredible opportunity this year has been for me, and it's been my privilege to serve with the National President Carlene, Commander Jim Foster, and SL Commander Dew. Thank you so much for all your support and always including me where you can.

My project for the year was the National President's Scholarship Fund to raise money for children and grandchildren of men and women serving overseas. We introduced a new patch to encourage the Juniors to raise funds and to continue this great project, which is the first patch to be delivered strictly to the Junior who earned it. I'm proud to announce it was a very successful year. Thank you for all that you wonderful ladies have done to support the Juniors this year. The effort you ladies put into the Juniors is an asset that is extremely gracious to have.

Without you our Juniors would not get the chance to learn what an incredible honor it is to help others and the pride you receive when you can tell that you have made a difference.

All across this great land our Juniors are our future, but please remember we cannot do that or be that without all of you.

We are thankful for everything that you do and for every Junior advisor that takes an extra 20 minutes out of their time to pick up a Junior that couldn't come I thank you, because it all starts with the power of one. One Junior, one advisor, one goal, and one good deed. It not only helps a veteran, but helps our Auxiliary and betters the world one step at a time.

So ladies, these girls cannot learn how to lead the Auxiliary without you, they are your students and you are their teachers, use them, mold them, and show

them they have no boundaries without you to guide them. Give them a voice to use and show them you care what they have to say.

National President Carlene, it has been an incredible opportunity to get to know you. I thank you for including me in your travels to Alaska and Michigan. And those of you that don't know, Alaska was the first time that all four national officers have gone together in the same place and it was an incredible honor and experience I will never forget, so thank you for sharing that with me.

(Applause.)

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: Another state I got to visit this year with President Carlene was Michigan, and we got to sit at a baseball game together and she shared her hot dog with me and another Junior, and I thank you sharing that, it was delicious. You have been an inspiration to me this year and I have learned more from you than you will ever know, so I thank you extremely this year.

I've had the incredible opportunity to not only travel to those departments but other departments such as New York, Michigan, Indiana, Alaska, and I shared my own with President Carlene. I was treated like more than a special guest from all of you. I had more than gracious welcomes, more than you ever imagine, and I was treated not only as a distinguished guest but as family, which I can't tell you how amazing it was to be reminded that we all are family.

No matter where my future takes me and no matter where I end up I know I have a home and a family to rely on due to the people I've met in this organization. It has been an incredible, incredible experience.

I have to thank my own department, the Department of Ohio for always believing in me. I've learned all I know from your ladies and I would not have gotten this far if it wasn't for the faith you had in me. I love you all and I hope I have made you proud.

(Applause.)

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: I have a special thanks to my mom, Pebble, and my father, Dave, who couldn't be here with me this weekend for following me around and putting up with me all these years, but most of all for always keeping me active. I am who I am today because of you and I will never be able to give you or show you how grateful I am.

Every since I was a little girl, ladies, I dreamed of standing here before you. I come from a small unit and I'm a girl from my department who is incredible. And it has been my honor to serve as your National Junior President for the year 2010-2011.

I will take you all with me no matter where I go. You're a family and you will always be in my heart. And this isn't good-bye, this is just the start of a new future for me, and it's a future with all you wonderful women to learn more. So I thank you very much for this. So thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Sabrina. Isn't she great? And you know we expect you just to move right on up now into the next level and continue your great work that you've started as a Junior member and become a really active senior member.

So I have a little personal gift I'd like to give to you. First of all I'd like to give that to you and you can do it here if you want. A travel bag. It opens up. So when she's traveling and goes to college and school she can put all of her stuff in here.

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: I think I got a pair of heels to match this.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All right.

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And there's one of my coins. I don't know if you have one or not.

But most of all I'd like to present to you this letter showing your \$2,000 scholarship from The American Legion Auxiliary to our National Junior President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And now she has a special announcement to make.

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: Thank you. At this time it is my great honor to present to you the 2011-2012 Honorary National Junior President, Brittany Watts from the Department of Louisiana.

(Applause.)

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT COBB: Brittany, you've been with me going up through the chairs through the years and it has been a great pleasure getting to know you and I know the girls will be in more than capable hands. So at this time I'd like to present to you the Honorary National Junior President's hat.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT WATTS: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT WATTS: When I attended my first convention at the age of three I had no idea that 15 years later I'd be standing here before you as your new National Junior President.

It had been an incredible journey full of learning and leading. More importantly through the years I've learned the love to The American Legion Auxiliary and it's mission to serving veterans.

This last summer while attending Girls Nation I had an experience that reaffirmed my dedication to veterans. We went to Walter Reeds Hospital for a picnic and concert. I thought okay, I can handle this, just another veterans home with old men, but I was mistaken. These guys were just a few months or years older than me. It gave me a whole new meaning to the word veteran.

Although they were injured, some missing arms and legs, they laughed and joked with us just talking about their injuries, getting well so they could go back to finish their mission. How can we not do the same for them when they risk so much for us?

I want to thank the Department of Louisiana for their support and love and my family for always taking the time and believing in me. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Congratulations. I'd like to present to you one of my coins and one of my pins, and good luck to you and I know you're going to do an awesome job this next year.

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESENT WATTS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Yes, Madam National President, we have one resolution.

Madam National President, Resolution Number One was submitted by the National Juniors Activities Committee, the Department of Alaska, and National Officers. The subject is Honorary Junior Officers and meetings. It reads as follows.

Whereas, the purpose of The American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Activity Program is to interest eligible females under the age of 18 in adult membership through positive experiences of mission-based volunteer opportunities that instill the ideals of the organization; and

Whereas, American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization and the success of the Junior Activities Program is dependent upon our leadership and mentorship of these young and teenage girls; and

Whereas, under the Auxiliary members guidance and supervision Juniors carry out Junior activities, may conduct Junior meetings, including the election of honorary officers and are encouraged to participate in Auxiliary programs and activities; and

Whereas, there are misconceptions about the role of an honorary Junior office; and

Whereas, over due time to the national membership year running from January to December and the national administration year running from National Convention to National Convention there have come to be confusing and conflicting statements and references in The American Legion Auxiliary's national governing policies and procedures regarding the age a Junior member must be to be eligible for election to an honorary Junior office and whether the date at which an honorary Junior officer becomes an adult affects her eligibility to fulfill the role of an honorary Junior officer; and,

Whereas, attendance at the National Junior Meeting held at National Convention has decreased dramatically over the past decade, attributable to the time of the National Junior Meeting conflicting can school being in session; and

Whereas, the cost of holding the National Junior Meeting each year in conjunction with the National Convention has not proven to be cost effective be per capita expenses increasing due to inclining participation and other cost factors; and

Whereas, permitting divisional Junior meetings that do not interfere with elementary and secondary school calendars thereby fostering greater participation of opportunities at less expense to the sponsoring units and departments.

Now therefore be it resolved that Honorary National Junior Officers carry courtesy titles bestowed by The American Legion Auxiliary and the position of Honorary Junior National President or any other Junior officer elected nationally or by a

national division of The American Legion Auxiliary is solely an honorary courtesy position without any formal recognition and with no official or formal duties and shall not engage in fund raising for her position or traveling as a representative of the National American Legion Auxiliary.

And be it further resolved that a Junior member who attains the age of 18 before her honorary term of office is completed is allowed to fulfill her term as an honorary officer in the Junior Auxiliary.

And be it further resolved that any Junior elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the year in which they serve.

And be it further resolved that there be no requirements to hold a National Junior Meeting and that each division may hold a divisional Junior meeting at a time and manner as determined by the senior members of the division.

And be it further resolved that Honorary Divisional Junior Presidents may be elected at National Divisional Junior Meetings to serve the ensuing year.

And be it further resolved that National Junior Meetings may be held virtually using digital or other electronic means for the purpose of electing an Honorary Junior National President or other honorary Junior member officers.

And be it resolved that a new section of the National American Legion Auxiliary standing rule be created entitled Junior Members to include the foregoing resolve clause and all rules pertaining to Junior members that remain current at the conclusion of the meeting held at this National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota 2011.

And be it further resolved that these changes are hereby adopted by The American Legion Auxiliary at its National Convention held August 28th to September 1st, 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and shall become effective for the 2011-2012 administrative year.

The Junior Activities Preconvention Committee remains neutral on this resolution.

Madam President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of this resolution as read.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of Resolution Number One as just read. The Junior Activities Preconvention Committee remains neutral on the resolution. Is there any discussion?

MS. DUTTON: Madam President, Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland. I have a grave concern about the resolve clause where it says there be no requirement to hold a National Junior Meeting. I won't read it to you because you just heard it.

But I think the National Junior Meetings have been a wonderful experience and growing opportunity for our Junior members, and I would hesitate to approve that. I don't know at that point who would decide in you have a National Junior Meeting of who wouldn't.

I do believe that the attendance was up this year and I can't imagine that the amount of money that we spend on that Junior meeting isn't worth our while when we're investing in the Juniors in our future.

(Applause.)

MS. DUTTON: Therefore, I move to amend the resolution to take out the resolved clause that says no requirement to hold a Junior meeting and the resolve clause that says held virtually.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Sandi, can we get that in writing so that I know exactly what you're wanting?

MS. DUTTON: Sure.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please.

MS. DUTTON: Can I have a piece of paper?

MS. COBB: Madam Chair?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm not sure where you are.

MS. COBB: I'm down here.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Oh, okay, I see you. Okay.

MS. COBB: I'm Pebble Cobb, delegate from Ohio.

I have two daughters, both who are Past Department Junior Presidents and have always participated since they've been a member in the National Junior Conventions. My daughter is the outgoing National Junior President.

I would say to you that anyone who has been a Junior and worked with the Juniors would strongly consider not passing this resolution. Having traveled with the girls they live in a virtual world, and I'm not saying they're not good at it and in some places it might have its place, but these girls will express to you that if they need to sleep in at 10:00 and camp out and do hotdogs over a bonfire they are willing to give up anything to maintain that socialization, make those lifelong bonds that they continue all the way up through their senior years.

And having witnessed this it's not just the meeting, it's the socialization. They grow from each other, they learn from each other, they mentor each other, but they need us and they also need what they see at National Convention.

And I would say even if they miss a day or two of school the experiences that they get here are way more of an achievement than the few days they miss.

(Applause.)

MS. COBB: Thank you.

MS. IMBURGIA: Madam President? Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Where are you?

MS. IMBURGIA: Madam President, down here.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Oh, okay. Sorry. Till they put the light on you I can't see you.

MS. IMBURGIA: Madam President, Priscilla Imburgia from the Department of New York.

As a former Junior and one of just many that I know in this room today, I only wish we had had as the time when I was a Junior a national organization that we were able to get together and meet and learn from each other what we were doing across the country.

We are so famous for saying how much we support our Juniors and our Juniors are the future of our organization.

There isn't anything in this resolution that I feel I can support, and I therefore stand in opposition of the entire resolution and would hope that we do consider them the future of our organization and give them every moment that we can of our time and finances.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. BRIERE: Madam President, mic one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. BRIERE: Robin Briere, Department of Florida.

My daughter, Jacqueline Reeves was Honorary National President Phyllis Bachman's year, and many of you may remember the opening of the National Convention was handled by the Juniors and they did a fabulous job. And I believe that both of my daughters are active senior members due to the opportunities that they had as national officers.

It instilled in them right up to the age of 18 how important it was for them to continue on. My daughter, Jackie, turned 18 during her administrative year as a national officer and the policy was very clear that as long as she remained an active Junior and did not pay her senior dues until after the National Convention and she was able to fulfill her duties as a national officer, there was no confusion about it.

So there is nothing in this that I could support to vote yes on this.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. We have a motion to amend, so we have to -- we have to vote on that first.

MS. DUTTON: Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DUTTON: Sandi Dutton, I remove my motion to amend.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The motion for amend has been withdrawn.

MS. DORAN: Madam President, I believe number two here.

Sharon Doran, Department of Arizona. I'm against this resolution here. I just had the opportunity of initiating five young women in a local unit, two of my granddaughters, and how delightful and how much me, myself, is going to be involved in their future as leaders.

Although I am a great deal for technology, I do find that when you rely solely on that you lose that personal touch, you lose that inflection of voice, what we understand, how we communicate.

What happened here just today with our two young Juniors was part of the highlight of this ceremony, and it showed what great skills that they have and what they bring to us and how we bond together from year to year to year.

You take that away you're going to lose so much. You're going to lose the respect of parents and grandparents and that continual thing. So much for virtual reality, I believe in reality.

I'm against this motion.

(Applause.)

MS. EDWARDS: Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. EDWARDS: Gloria Edwards from Pennsylvania. Could we have a vote?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of Resolution Number One please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed please say no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The negative has it and the resolution has not been adopted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The fundamental value of The American Legion Auxiliary is showing respect for our country and our Nation's flag.

Here is our National Americanism Chairman, Ann Rehbein, to tell us more about how the Auxiliary promotes patriotism and develops in others a lifelong respect for our country and her flag. Ann?

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Madam National President, I have no doubt at all that patriotism is alive and well in these United States. From the Pacific to the Atlantic there is strong evidence that the Power of One is influencing all ages. One person, one unit, one department, they have all stepped up to the plate and met the objectives of the Americanism Program.

The first objective, be a patriot through unit involvement in community events. Flag etiquette programs covered many topics, including how to care for the flag, how to fold it properly, what the folds mean, and how to properly salute it as it passes by.

Flag disposal ceremonies and flag history programs were presented in towns across the nation. Thousands of flags have been donated, parades have been marched in, and the youth have been generously supplied with bookmarkers, comic books, coloring books, CDs, and DVDs, all pertaining to the American flag.

The Department of North Carolina promoted flags across North Carolina. They asked that members take a picture of your favorite flag flying, submit a brief biography of the picture, and then honor that person or business with a flag citation.

This was documented by 78 units submitting over 200 pictures of flags being flown in all types of situations and they are turning the pictures into a small book.

A unit chairman in New Mexico wrote a regular column for two local newspapers entitled What is Americanism? The Department chairman there states, "Everyone in our state knows our units are the go to organization when it comes to teaching and displaying Americanism."

Many members reported support of the Flag Amendment. U.S. Representative Joanne Emerson of Missouri reintroduced legislation for the 112th

Congress proposing a constitutional amendment which would restore to congress to power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: House Joint Resolution 13 currently has 54 co-sponsors.

A parallel measure, Senate Joint Resolution 19 was introduced in the Senate with bipartisan support by Senators Orrin Hatch of Utah and Max Baucus of Montana, and it currently has 24 co-sponsors.

Have you ever folded a pocket flag? Well think about doing that over 66,000 times. That's how many were reportedly folded and sent to troops. That's a job well done.

Objective two was to increase awareness and participation in youth activities that support proper respect for our flag and loyalty to our country.

One way this was accomplished was through the Americanism essay contest. Over 33,000 students took the time to think and write about how they could encourage their friends to show pride in being an American.

The winners were announced at the Americanism Preconvention Meeting, the top five from each division will receive a certificate and \$50 for their efforts, and \$50 will be sent in their name to the National President's Scholarship Fund.

Objective number three was to promote Auxiliary participation in The American Legion Americanism programs.

Members participated in American Legion baseball by sponsoring teams, providing for and manning concession booths, and driving team members.

The oratorical contest was aided by members serving as escorts, tabulators, time keepers, and judges.

And the Junior shooting sports program had Auxiliary members as scorers, drivers, and coaches.

All other awards were presented in the preconvention meeting.

I want to thank the Americanism Committee for their hard work in judging essays and contest entries.

Madam President, I think you can tell from these remarks that Americanism is being taught and demonstrated every day on the streets of America.

This concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Ann.

Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Joining us today is our National Adjutant of The American Legion.

A member of Post 137 in Richmond, Virginia, he was a U.S. Navy sonarman and journalist during the Vietnam war. He joined national headquarter staff in 1979 and has served as Executive Director of the Legion in downtown Indianapolis since 1995 and became National Adjutant in 2009.

He has also become a very good friend of mine and someone that I've really grown to know a lot and enjoy being around and have enjoyed so much sharing the many times that we've sat at banquet tables next to each other, and we're very glad to have him with us today.

So please welcome to the podium Daniel Wheeler, the National Adjutant of The American Legion.

(Applause.)

MR. WHEELER: Good to see you. If you're not going to be sitting next to me anymore who am I going to give my dessert to?

(Laughter.)

MR. WHEELER: Good morning everyone, distinguished guests and national officers, it's a real privilege and pleasure to be here with the extended part of our Legion family, meaning that I've been over with the other part of The Legion Family and I'm glad to be here with you.

I know you're going to be dark tomorrow morning because of the President being in town so I imagine you've got a lot of business you have to get through, and since I already gave the best speech of my life last year I'm just going to bring you greetings and the dues for five women in my family. So to help you keep growing.

(Applause.)

MR. WHEELER: So thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We'll take those any time, right? Thank you very much, Dan.

When Commander Jimmie Foster decided to pursue a military career he joined the Marines and was stationed at Camp Pendleton in the Marine Recruit Depot in San Diego.

Upon his discharge from the Marines he returned to school for a short time, and then wanting to get back into action he enlisted in the Army ultimately retiring on August the 1st, 1994 while stationed at Fort Huachuca -- you're going to have to tell me that -- I knew how to pronounce it and now I don't -- Arizona as the Chief Legal NCO.

He returned to Alaska on the day of his day of his retirement.

While Commander Foster's military career in 28 years of American Legion experience have brought him many proud moments and accolades, some of his greatest accomplishments have occurred in his personal life, including his marriage to his lovely wife Rita, their two sons, Christopher and Michael, as well as their four fabulous grandchildren.

Commander Foster is proud to say that all have been active members of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion in their home state of Anchorage, Alaska.

Please welcome to the stage our guest and my dear friend, your American Legion National Commander, Jimmie Foster.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you ladies, and if there's some gentlemen here also the gentlemen.

National President Ashworth, ladies, gentlemen, distinguish guests, what a wonderful journey this year has been for the entire American Legion Family. I cannot tell you what a pleasure it has been traveling around the world and witnessing firsthand the compassion and willingness to serve that your President Carlene and members of the Auxiliary demonstrate every day when it comes to helping veterans, their families, and their communities. All of you have lived up to her promise of the power to prove the Power of One is not just an empty campaign slogan, but a real life philosophy that gets real-time results.

Whether it's helping the tornado stricken people of Joplin, Missouri or Missouri, depending on which side of the state you live on, or the wounded Marine at Landstuhl, or the Auxiliary is always there.

President Carlene was at my side getting drenched in torrential rains that covered us during observations ceremonies at Normandy in commemoration of D-Day. She's a true lady, but she's not afraid to get outside and get in the dirt and get dirty.

As she proved when she best me on the rifle range at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: I have been calling her “Sureshot Ashworth” ever since.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: And I don't know how much admiration is in there.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: But as tough as she is I've seen her compassion firsthand as she personally met with 31 wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They were torn and battered, those heroes that just arrived from both Iraq and Afghanistan the night before. Many of these young heroes were still separated from their families, and that's why it's important that they hear from a comforting and reassuring voice like Carlene's.

And her theme is dead on, members, we are one. We are one family which includes our Sons, the total membership count comes to about four million family members, and the Auxiliary alone helps one million members. Actually I believe that estimate is probably on the low end, and we know that you contribute more than \$6 million towards veterans programs every year. Give yourself a hand.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: You also volunteer 927,000 hours each year making many of our programs work, and you contribute more than \$3.5 million to Children & Youth every year.

The bond that The American Legion shares with the Auxiliary is not unlike the individual bonds that we share within our own blood families.

In the true life movie, *We Were Soldiers*, written by General Hal Moore, it is revealed that the most common request that a dying soldier utters on the battle field is tell my wife that I love her.

Regardless of your level of involvement either of your respective organizations you are our wives, our mothers, and our daughters, the life and the love we

share is mutual and we extend that to our veterans, who in most cases we may not have a personal relationship with, but we want to help because we know it's like they either serve in uniform or run a household while a significant member is deployed. We can relate because we have all been there.

Both National President Carlene and I have met many veterans that have said that they believe that it's tougher to send a loved one to war than to go themselves.

My motto as your National Commander this year has been the word "SAVED," S.A.V.E.D, with a period after each letter. That means in phonetic, serving America's veterans every day.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you. It has been quite obvious to me for many years that the American Legion Auxiliary has been doing just that. You have educated countless children by facilitating the veterans in the classroom program in nearly 800 schools nationwide.

Your scholarships and your volunteer hour efforts have benefitted thousands of families, which is really what serving our veterans is all at.

It is appropriate that President Ashworth was at my side serving meals to the troops at Korea's demilitarized zone or DMZ at the same time that country was being shelled by its neighbors from the north.

The power of one does not just apply to the Auxiliary, less than one percent of Americans serve in the military today, that's 1 in 100, but what a difference they really make.

When Carlene refers to her Power of One it's clear to me that she realizes the significance and impact that even the smallest unit can have on a veteran or a family or their community.

A perfect example comes to mind when six individual Auxiliary members mobilized people throughout North Carolina to welcome a busload of wounded warriors passing through from Walter Reed Army Medical Center to their way to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

When we support our troop banners to welcome center canteens and organizing patriot guard escorts those members truly earned the North Carolina President's Award of Excellence.

I am proud that my wife, Rita, belongs to your outstanding organization, as well as my beautiful seven sisters, my mother, and my three beautiful granddaughters.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: And I stand here before you today to tell you how proud that yes, we too in The American Legion recognize the awesome power of one American Legion Auxiliary member. It is a power that I have no doubt will continue for many, many years in the future.

I would like to thank you for allowing me to address you. I want to thank you for being a part of my family for now 30 years, that speech was written whenever I was campaigning, and we have five grandchildren now, so that's good, and it is a power that I hope that you'll continue.

We've had a great year as an American Legion family, you elected a good leader, and Carlene, we worked hand in hand. David Dew, the National SAL commander, his motto was By Their Side with Honor and Pride.

So we did have a complete family and I want to thank you for everything that you've bestowed up on me, Carlene and David.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you Commander. And I have to say it's been an awesome, awesome year for both of us, for all three of us, and we've had some wonderful experiences together and been able to travel many places and it's just been great.

Just a little token of my appreciation to you. I know you've traveled a lot this year and you've -- you can do the card later, there's another one in there that you might want to look at first.

COMMANDER FOSTER: Okay.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: But I understood you might need some new clothes since you've worn out all your suits, so I thought maybe I'd give you a gift card here so that you could buy you some new shirts and things.

COMMANDER FOSTER: Thank you sweetie, I love you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Love you.

And I certainly don't want to leave out my dear, dear friend, Rehta. And Rehta, hold on a minute. I would like for her to come up here too because we've shared many, many hours together, many great times together. We've cried together, laughed together, walked up hills together. We've done many, many things and it's been an awesome experience to be able to get to know Rehta really, really well.

She actually served on committees with me over the years as the National Chairman when I was coming up and she was the Department President of Alaska a few years ago, but just a little bracelet there for you that I want to have you look at, because it kind of depicts what we've been doing all year. I'll hold this for you.

And I'll just tell you what it has on it. It's a charm bracelet and it's got a passport, a State of Texas, and a camera, because Rehta always was taking pictures, so I wanted to make sure that she has something to remember our year by.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER FOSTER: And I must reciprocate. I have a gift or two in here, so if you will open it.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All right. Oh my gosh. It's a beautiful crystal cross. And most of you know that I collect crosses. Isn't that gorgeous? Oh, my goodness. It's beautiful. Thank you so much.

Okay, and this one is from you, okay. Rehta does beautiful, beautiful cross stitch. Look at that, isn't that beautiful? Oh, my goodness.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: She spends many -- all those hours sitting in airports and all those places doing these kind of things. Thank you so very, very much.

And Commander, I understand your aide is somewhere back there. Jim VanHorn (phonetic) has been serving as the commander's aide this year, and we've also

of course traveled together a lot and I just wanted to give Jim just a little token of my appreciation and thanks. So I have a little gift here for you to remember Texas by, Jim.

MR. VANHORN: It's been a pleasure traveling, with you, ma'am. Oh, boy, hat and boot salt shakers.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: He has to cook his own food so I figured he needed a salt and pepper shaker, right?

MR. VANHORN: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. What a pleasure to have been able to travel with you.

MR. VANHORN: Thank you, appreciate it. Thanks, everybody.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Let's give them all another big hand.

Stand up for the Commander. Thank you so much. What an honor, what a pleasure it's been.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It is now my pleasure to introduce you to the 2011 Convention Corporation President, Mr. Jim Copher.

(Applause.)

MR. COPHER: Madam President, officers, delegates, alternates, guests, Auxiliary members, all, it's my privilege and I am proud to welcome you to Minnesota. If there's anything we can do while you're here during this week just look one of us up. If you see a legionnaire with a gold front on its cap and I know that Marie spoke to you ladies earlier this morning, but I'll chime in with her and say welcome to Minnesota. If you need anything, we hope to see you all back here in 2018, so especially if you need anything that this convention let us know and we'll be there to do it for you.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to present to you one of my coins and one of my pins, Jim, thank you so much for being here. Thank you. Great job. Great convention. Wonderful.

The Girls State Girls Nation Program has been a marquee Auxiliary program since 1957. Units in 49 states proudly host an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship and love for God and country.

I had the privilege of attending a few Girls State events and was blown away by the patriotism and sense of civic responsibility possessed by each and every girl.

Here to tell you more about our Girls State Girls Nation program is our National Chairman, Vickie Koutz. Vickie?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: Madam National President, close your eyes and visualize over 13,000 delegates raising their voices to sing the Girls State song. This happened across the Nation these last couple of months. Can you imagine if we put them all together what a beautiful choir we would have?

Singing the Girls State song was just one of the many things we taught the delegates this year. There were flag raisings, flag retreats, pocket flags made, flag

folding ceremonies, flag disposal ceremonies, and letters written and sent to military heroes.

Departments chose a variety of guest speakers this year. Several invited their Legion family members and the Honorary Junior President.

Illinois had a country singer. South Dakota an astronaut. Texas a railroad commissioner. Alabama a climatologist. Georgia a speaker from the Domestic Violence Organization. And Virginia had the privilege of having our very own National President, Carlene.

Congratulations to Ohio and Tennessee for having a growth in numbers.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: The poppy story and Flanders Fields poems were shared.

Some of the service projects included hero pacts in Minnesota and Colorado like the ones shown here, and donations of white socks were collected and given to a veterans hospital in Arizona.

Many of us had just finished our Girls State sessions when Girls Nation came. We hit the ground running, our schedule was so full. We traveled to Arlington National Cemetery on Sunday with four of the senators having the honor of placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown.

Our ecumenical service was held in the amphitheater, and once we were finished one of the sentinels who works there came and spoke to the senators and staff.

In staying with our National President's mission, on Monday evening we hosted a picnic for the wounded warriors and their families that were staying at the Malone House on the complex of Walter Reed Hospital.

National President Carlene and National Commander Jimmie were also there with us to share in the special event.

Our music director choreographed a USO type show for the families with the senators performing and singing. There were little girls dancing and trying to imitate them. What a joy it was to see those little ones with smiles on their faces if not for just a little while to take their mind off what they usually see every day being with their parent.

Going in we had no way of knowing just how many would actually attend, but when it was all done and said we thought there may have been close to 100 warriors and their families.

Some of the wounded warriors just wanted to be left alone, and that is what we did, but a lot of them flirted with the girls, laughing and talking.

A mother of one told a staff member how much she appreciated what we had done. It was so good to see her son smiling and having fun. So different from his everyday normal routine since he had been there.

Privacy issues prevent me showing the photos of the servicemen and women and their families enjoying the picnic, but it truly was an awesome day.

The senators told us later they would have liked to have gone back again.

Over \$12,000 was collected for food and PX and Wal-Mart gift cards for this event. \$1,200 was donated by people all across the country. The Honorary Junior President from Indiana chose wounded warriors as her project this year and she presented me \$2,510 for the picnic.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: The remainder of the money collected came from all of our members from the Department of Indiana. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: A special thanks to everyone who donated to this wonderful event. I wish you all could have been there with us.

Nesse Godin, a Holocaust survivor spoke to the senators and staff about her trials and tribulations of growing up in a Soviet country and her injury journey to the United States. There weren't many dry eyes in the room by the time she finished.

The next night we traveled to the Memorials. The senators sang at the Vietnam Wall. It was beautiful, especially when a special young lady signed God Bless America, that's when my tears came.

Our next adventure was travelers to the White House to meet the President of the United States. The senators sang to the photographers and secret service and just as they finished singing the Grand Ole Flag we heard someone clapping their hands while coming down the long hall, and the President walked into the room. You could have heard a pin drop, they were so in awe.

He spoke to the girls, took a few questions and had a picture with them. He did an about face, crossed the room and shook every staff person's hand and thanked us for the wonderful work we do for our program. Then he stepped in between Carlene and me for a picture with the staff. What a great opportunity for all of us.

We went back the next day to tour the White House. The girls really enjoyed that especially when some of the secret service recognized us from the day before.

Thursday arrived with the senators meeting with their constituents on the Hill. The day went well. Several got their pictures taken with them.

Inauguration was held that afternoon. Steven Robertson, former lobbyist for the National American Legion gave the oath to the Girls Nation President and our banquet was held that night.

Friday arrived with more senate meetings, signing of the bills, the talent show, commencement, candle light, and the last night of Girls Nation.

Here today is a newly elected President of Girls Nation. From the Department of Florida please welcome Jennifer Berrian.

(Applause.)

MS. BERRIAN: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. BERRIAN: First and foremost I would like to recognize and thank the leadership of both The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary. I would like to thank Ms. Carlene Ashworth, the Auxiliary's National President, and Ms. Vickie Koutz for their leadership and everyone in The American Legion Auxiliary staff for my Girls State and Girls Nation experience.

Both Girls State and Girls Nation are phenomenal programs and I sincerely thank the Auxiliary for such an unforgettable experience.

With both Girls State and Girls Nation I feel like I could talk forever about these amazing programs that have each taught me so much about myself and our great Nation, but there are three main points regarding these programs that stand out to me.

The girls who took part in the programs, meeting President Barack Obama, and the service given to our great country each and every day by our men and women who sacrifice their lives so that we can be free.

To begin with the girls I encountered are both Girls State and Girls Nation were the absolute best.

The 300 delegates from Florida Girls State were the cream of the crop from around the great State of Florida. The week I spent with those fantastic girls was a week where lifelong friendships were made and bible lessons were learned about teamwork and just how far teamwork can go in our government.

The 98 Girls Nation senators were no different. These incredible girls were the absolute best from around our great Nation of the United States. Not only were my fellow Girls Nation senators true leaders, they were also quite talented in a number of different areas.

With their leadership, speaking skills, and their talents, they are the epitome of the phrase, a triple threat.

These ladies taught me a thing or two about teamwork and friendship, but also about humility and the true definition of a leader.

So to those 398 beautiful, multitalented future leaders of America thank you for teaching me the true Power of One.

The next highlight of my Girls Nation experience was meeting President Barack Obama. I clearly remember every detail of that day. The excitement and anticipation in the air was tangible as we all prepared to meet the President of our Nation. After passing through the security check point 98 very nervous young ladies made our way through the elaborate hallways of the White House until we reached the yellow reception room.

When President Barack Obama did walk out the reaction to his presence was instantaneous. With loud cheers, smiles, and a standing ovation we greeted our Nation's President. He spoke on issues impacting our Nation and our people. And although he was only there for 15 minutes or so those 15 minutes will be cherished by me forever.

But most importantly what made the greatest impact on me were those who have and are still serving our country so that we can be free.

At Girls State we watched videos about our troops from the first World War to the present, laid a poppy wreath on the Vietnam Memorial in Tallahassee, Florida, and said the Pledge of Allegiance every morning and every night.

At Girls Nation we arose every morning to flag raising and every night to flag lowering.

Also after learning 14 patriotic songs that I shall never forget we had the honor of performing them for the wounded warriors at the Walter Reed Army Hospital.

Looking back at this experience I am so grateful for every moment I spent at the Army Hospital. These soldiers lost legs and arms serving our country, and others, our POWs, our MIAs, and those who fell in battle have paid the ultimate price so we can enjoy our freedom in the United States.

So to the brave veterans and active troops from the bottom of my heart I thank you for your service.

My love and pride for my country has grown immensely over these past weeks and it has greatly increased in me a fierce pride for my country that I shall always cherish.

I would like to thank the Auxiliary and the Legion once again for putting together such amazing programs such as Girls and Boys Nation. It is because of you and all the amazing work you do every day that allowed me to learn so much about the country I hold so dear.

I would be remiss not to thank my parents, Pastor Toby Berrian and my mom who traveled with me, Ms. Sharon Berrian, my church family, my principal and teachers in the Leon County school system, Ms. Robin Briere, and my mentors, commissioners of District 3 for all their love and support throughout. It truly means so much to me.

And to close, thank you American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for serving the veterans and their families, for that is truly what these programs are all about.

God bless the Auxiliary, God bless the legion, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Isn't she great? Jennifer, it's my honor and pleasure to be able to present to you this scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 from The American Legion Auxiliary.

And also I have another little gift here for you that you might want to if you'd like to have me hold this for you. Of course every girl likes presents, right?

MS. BERRIAN: It's a Tiffany bracelet. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You are so welcome. Thank you again.

CHAIRMAN KOUTZ: A special thanks to all the staff who put in endless hours and many times at the last minute adjusted to all the program changes at Girls Nation, it was truly a team effort.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

Thank you. Thank you, Vickie.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I truly believe that investing money and time to educate America's youth is a vital investment in America's future. We know the

sacrifices of our veterans, and easing the burden of paying for their children's education is one way we can express our gratitude to them.

Educating our communities about the sacrifices of our military men and women is another goal of The American Legion Auxiliary, and here to tell us how we can achieve this goal is our National Education Chairman, Sharon Conatser. Sharon?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Madam National President Carlene, education certainly carried out the Power of One. One educator, one student, one administrator, one class, one step at a time, one unit member.

Our units across the Nation supported the Give 10 Program in many different ways. Ten pencils, ten pens, ten markers, ten books, the list goes on and on.

Several departments had their Juniors bring items to the Junior conference or to their Junior meeting. This is an easy way to involve your Juniors and keep them interested.

Scholarships continue to be a popular means of helping the students of America. The scholarships that we give do make a difference to the young people that receive them.

This year the national scholarship winners came from all walks of life. Seven winners are children of veterans, with one being a daughter of a veteran that spent ten months in Afghanistan in 2010, truly children of our warriors.

One is a current Ms. Poppy, two attended Girls Nation, one more Girls State only, one of our non-traditional winners served in the United States Air Force herself, and one is a member of The American Legion Auxiliary for 19 years.

We are truly answering the call to help our own members and the children of our warriors and I received this note from one.

“I was a 2005 recipient of the Spirit of Youth Scholarship from the American Legion Auxiliary. I wanted to send an update of my educational endeavors. I attended a four-year university and obtained a Bachelor's degree in 2009.

The same year I began a doctoral program in veterinary medicine at Iowa State University. I'm also working toward a Master's degree in public health at the University of Iowa.

I want to extend my gratitude for the support I received from your organization. Sincerely Chelsea Reinhardt (phonetic).”

Julia Logan from the Department of Michigan writes:

“Thank you for selecting me for the scholarship. It is a great honor and I will continue my strong academic performance in college.

I send my heart felt appreciation for helping me to finance my education and advance my career goals.”

The young people really do appreciate our help.

One scholarship program that caught my eye is from the Department of Texas. Since the inception of this program more than \$1,215,000 has been contributed towards scholarships at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston for students that pursue their doctorate degree in cancer research.

The scholarships are \$5,000 each and the total given this year was \$65,000. Way to go, Texas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Our veterans in the classroom program continues to grow each year. It is our responsibility to be sure that children know what a veteran looks like. A veteran can be a male or female, they can be short or tall, any race, any education level, and the list goes on and on. What does the veteran in your life look like?

Continue to honor their service by working in your community for the American Legion Auxiliary.

One school in Virginia used the school's intercom system and closed circuit TV system. The veterans were interviewed by 5th and 6th graders. Way to go.

The greatest generation is full of information, be sure to ask them to be part of this program and keep the true American history in front of our community.

The Literacy Program, United Through Reading Program, and American Education Week continued to be strong for our units. Thank you for all you're doing.

I have a quote, "The aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values." And that's by William Ralph Inge.

Keep your unit's values high and continue to support the youth of your community. It only takes one person giving of themselves for a unit to succeed by coming together. It will be a win/win situation as long as we help one child or one military family.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: No I do not, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you Sharon, great report.

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

On Memorial Day and Veterans Day millions of red crepe paper poppies all handmade by veterans as part of their therapeutic rehabilitation are distributed across this country in exchange for donations that go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans in our communities.

The poppy is the symbol of the sacrifices our military have made, a symbol to open people's hearts and inspire them to donate.

Martha Corriher, National Poppy Chairman, will you please come share your report?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Thank you, Madam President Carlene.

The American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program is alive and well across this country. This chairman is going to share with you what the power of what just one little crepe paper poppy has done one day at a time.

The red crepe paper poppy has appeared everywhere throughout the year in many creative ways giving the program a great exposure. Units choose the poppy for installation programs to remind us all why we do what we do and for whom we owe this privilege.

Members use their skills to assemble beautiful wreaths to place during holidays to honor our veterans again reminding the public of the sacrifices made by the veterans and how beautiful our poppies look.

The Chapel of Four Chaplains is remembered the first Sunday in February for their sacrifices and the members again honor them by adorning their halls with displays of our poppy.

Again, the power of one. One belief that it is better to help others than yourself.

To explain who we are, what we do, and share the story of the conflicts of American heroes and how they fought bravely are again made more impressive by the use of the poppies as center pieces to bring attention to our program.

Traditional uses of the poppy have continued with center pieces given to churches or used in post homes and wreaths that are used during memorial services and funerals.

Members again put their creative minds to work creating not only traditional corsages to wear but ones to encourage membership into our organization.

Members put their thinking caps on and decided to share poppies during holidays by creating poppy toting candy cane reindeers, poppy money trees to generate funds to use for their local veterans, and made poppy golf ball paper weights that were used during fundraisers and prizes during these events.

And just when you think you've seen it all a unit even created their own Ms. Poppy duck to pay tribute to all the branches of the military during a Legion family event.

I would say these ladies have stepped outside of the box with new and exciting ways to utilize the poppy.

The Power of One was used in portraying the images where the poppies began, Flanders Field. What a powerful and educational tool to share with our youth and to teach them this unforgettable story.

Using Ms. Poppy dolls to show and to teach our youth how we should treat and reverend and express our heart felt thanks to our veterans not only living, but our deceased veterans, to show the images of how we should correctly portray them during their last rights. These are powerful images that give us the drive to continual such a wonderful program.

One family is so proud to be a part of The Legion Family they decided to share their poppy story family style within their community. Needless to say they were the talk of the town and the power of this one family created much interest for the organization about the poppies where they're holding.

Departments reported having trouble finding and retaining poppy makers, while other departments reported an overwhelming number of new poppy makers to help supply the need and demand.

Well we all know that our longtime poppy makers are aging out. It is a way for us to seek those younger members of our younger veterans at your VA Medical Centers and your posts and within your community to seek these new poppy makers. Without these veterans our program will be put into jeopardy.

In closing I must share a story with you that I heard and was told during a recent Memorial Day distribution within my area.

A 4-year-old Junior member was assisting in her local day poppy distribution at a locals farmers market where she would ask most the people if they would like a poppy to help our veterans, and most people would give her a donation and comment how cute she was, so that was a driving force within their donation and they went on their way.

Then came along a couple who also heard these comments and decided to see if this little girl knew what she was doing.

So the lady asked the little girl, what are you doing? The little girl replied, I'm giving out poppies. The lady asked again, where do the poppies come from? Again the little girl answered, they come from the papas and the mamas in the VA Hospital.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: The lady was not sure what she meant when she said that so she asked the little girl to explain and this was her answer. The mamas and papas live there in the Veterans Hospital and they make these for us to distribute, it's their job. They don't get paid very much for doing it, but they say that's okay, because they enjoy it and they're thankful to be alive to make them for us to give out.

So with that answer the lady asked another question. How much do you sell them for? The little girl began to seem quite upset and answered, we don't sell them, but I'll take as much money as you'll give me.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: The lady stated that she had one more question for the little girl, and by this time the little girl was beginning to think that this lady knew nothing about anything, as most four year olds will think, so she said go ahead and ask it, it's hot out here.

The lady said, what do you do with the money you collect? With that question the little girl stood up as straight as she could, put her hands on her hip and said, we give it to the mamas and papas, our veterans, so they can live. They don't have much and I want to help them live forever. I love them, don't you?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: With the answer -- with that answer the lady had tears in her eyes and she realized that this little girl knew what she was doing, and the lady knew the answers, but she wanted to make sure that this little girl was doing it for the right reasons, and so after she gave her a larger donation that she probably wouldn't have given her she began to help the little girl distribute the poppies for the rest of the afternoon. She gave the donation and helped this little girl raise money to help the mamas and the papas within her area.

The power of one little girl that has been taught from a very early age the importance of giving to others and knowing why we do what we do and the lessons, this lesson is one that we all should adhere to.

In closing it has been a very educational year for me this year in poppies. Just answering simple questions that we think we should know the answers for, but they involve many different situations.

This Committee is grateful to the departments for sharing their accomplishments, their ideas, and their stories with us. We must remember that without this program many veterans may go without the day-to-day necessities to survive and it is our responsibility to make sure that they have everything they need. They served their time, now it's our turn to serve them in their time of need.

Madam President Carlene, it gives me great pleasure to make two very special introductions to the Auxiliary membership.

These young ladies that I'm about to introduce have worked tirelessly this past year promoting the Auxiliary's Poppy Program with dignity, dedication, and passion to the poppy story, and this is how and why they were chosen for their accomplishments.

At this time I would like to present to you and introduce to you from the great State of Delaware, Unit 28, your Little Ms. Poppy for 2010-2011, Samantha Cotten.

(Applause.)

MS. COTTEN: Thank you for this award. I will proudly be Little Ms. Poppy for 2011-2012.

I would like to thank Cindy Phillips for her guidance and support during this year. The ladies of Unit 28 and the Department of Delaware Auxiliary have been very supportive also.

I enjoy helping our veterans and I am spreading the word in our community.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Samantha, I would like to present to you this plaque that states Ms. Poppy, ages 6 to 12 presented to Samantha Cotten, Unit 28, Department of Delaware in the special representation as Ms. Poppy for that age group.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Now it is my privilege to introduce to you the Ms. Poppy hailing from the great State of Michigan, Unit 377, Alyssa Champion.

(Applause.)

MS. CHAMPION: Good morning Madam President, officers, delegates, and guests. I am Alyssa Champion and I am from the Department of Michigan.

I have been a Ms. Poppy a few times in the past. At that time I thought Ms. Poppy was only to help out at functions for Poppy Days or distributing poppies on Poppy Days, but it was much more. I learned that Poppy Days help our veterans and their families all year long, and in today's world a lot of people are struggling. If it wasn't for Poppy Days a lot of these veterans and their families would suffer.

I learned what Americanism was or is about, too. It is love of America, loyalty to institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness, and the willingness to define our country and the flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Americanism is an ideal of loyal patriotism, religious tolerance, righteous freedom, fearless courage, honest integrity, abiding faith in the commanding destiny of the United States, and a fathomless love for the principals which lead our forefathers to found this country.

It is freedom without license, religion without bigotry, charity without bias, and a desire to secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

Without this and the veterans who serve our country past and present we wouldn't be free, and you can't take freedom for granted.

I ask that you stop and think of a fellow veteran or serviceman. Thank them for helping to keep us safe and free. Shake their hand if you see them in airports or around town, I know I will, and remember Poppy Days always.

It has been a wonderful year being Ms. Poppy. I know I will continue to learn about our veterans and the service they give to this great country.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And Alyssa, I'd like to present to you this plaque that is presented to Alyssa Ann Champion, Unit 377, Department of Michigan for the best scrapbook and narrative on the memorial poppy.

Congratulations.

MS. CHAMPION: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: The Auxiliary membership wishes each of you the best as you continue your work within The American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you, Madam President Carlene, for allowing me to serve you and the Auxiliary membership as the National Poppy Chairman. May you continue to bloom in all you do for the Power of One.

Madam President, that concludes my remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: No, ma'am, there are not.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much Martha, great report. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: In the American Legion Auxiliary we do much more than just talk about the needs of children; we provide significant cash assistance and direct service as well as support legislation that affects children at the local, state, and national levels.

As Chairman of the Children & Youth Committee, Nancy Brown-Park will report on these activities.

(Children singing.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Tussing Elementary third grade class from Colonial Heights, Virginia for the amazing patriotic song.

Madam National President --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Madam National President, the goal of the Children & Youth Program is to serve children across the country, specifically those of veterans and active duty military families.

The Plan of Action asked units to focus on their mental and physical health by partnering with groups like Big Brothers and Sisters, Operation: Military Kids, and Boys and Girls Clubs, but we have a way to go to bring our major focus back to our mission. Many departments reported activities that followed the Plan of Action. I'm going to highlight two of the those departments.

The Department of California jumped into the Operation: Military Kids Hero Pack Program in a big way. The State of California coordinator for OMK was invited to be a special guest speaker during their Department Junior Conference.

The Juniors packed hero packs with school supplies, toys, gift cards, cameras, games and snacks, plus they introduced to the Juniors the new OMK Facebook initiative.

In what has become the largest annual Operation: Military Kids project the 480 attendees at California Girls State filled 300 hero packs.

OMK staff members said, "We are very grateful for the Girls State attendees generosity, kindness, and enthusiasm. I know the kids who receive these backpacks are going to feel a sense of pride and thanks that the girls are out there supporting them."

The packs filled at their Girls State Program were distributed to military youth at camps throughout the summer. California continued to work the Children & Youth Program throughout the year. Department Chairman, Anita Biggs reported, "These are tough economic times. We've seen times and we've seen a rise in suffering among many veterans and their children."

Unit members have provided temporary financial assistance totaling over \$5,000 directly to veterans' families to assist with their rent payments.

California Children & Youth Program has made a difference in the lives of many, many veterans and active duty families.

Texans were stars in the lives of children. Department Chairman Kim Palasota shared many projects and made a difference one child at a time. She said, "By now you've all heard of the Ride 2 Recovery and its efforts to help wounded warriors through cycling. It only stands to reason that cycling can also help children."

Bicycles were donated to wounded warriors, children, active duty children, and children who had lost everything in a fire. All in all 45 bikes were donated to military and community kids.

Units in Texas supported The American Legion Halloween Safety Program hosting parties and carnivals with support from local police and firemen.

This is just a small part of the Texas Children & Youth Program. They are to be congratulated on their hard work for making a difference one child at a time.

There are Youth Heroes and Good Deed recipients across the country. This year, units have given over 29 Youth Hero Awards and 291 Good Deed Awards. So today I want to share just one of those stories with you.

Washington State Patrol officers discovered an unusual site during an emergency call on November 3rd. A shoeless, teenage girl in a fancy blue dress with a four point crown perched on her head assisting a homeless woman at the edge of a busy Freeway off ramp.

Fifteen-year-old Julia Jean Brown, JJ Brown, Ms. Spokane's Outstanding Teen was on her way to perform a musical salute to veterans when a woman walking along the edge of the off ramp lost consciousness and her body tumbled right into the path of oncoming rush hour traffic.

JJ's mom swerved to avoid hitting the woman and sped her car to the closest safe location to call 911. Before the car came to a full stop, JJ leapt out of the car and dashed the 150 yards back to the woman.

Without much thought to her own safety JJ hoisted the unconscious woman out of the middle of the road, got her to the guardrail and out of the direct path of traffic and revived her.

The Spokane police officers arrived very quickly and helped get appropriate medical attention to the woman.

An hour later JJ was surprised to see the sheriff sitting in the front row as she sang at the veterans event. Although she was slightly shaken and a little choked up she began, she sang a beautiful and moved the audience with her heart felt rendition of Lee Greenwood's "I'm Proud to Be an American."

With the Power of One as their mission, members made a difference in the lives of families across America.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.  
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: No Madam President, there are not.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Nancy.

CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It is my great pleasure to introduce and present to you Past National President Katherine Morris, Chairman of the Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation to present her report. Katherine?

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: Madam National President, I am honored to have the opportunity to highlight the successful accomplishments of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, and I'd like to extend our sincere thank you to the officers and members of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation for making it such a successful year.

As most everyone knows the Child Welfare Foundation was formed to provide assistance to non-profit organizations and to educate the public about the need for the care and welfare of our Nation's children.

I am very pleased to report during this 2010-2011 contribution year donations totaled \$722,638.82.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: And I'll give you the breakdown.

The Sons of The American Legion of course led the pack by donating \$391,469.58.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: The American Legion, \$171,165.30.

Let me stop here and say, someone asked me, why are you putting the cents on there? I said, every penny counts.

And The American Legion Auxiliary, \$94,202.77.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: The Aetin (phonetic) Party, \$23,529.16.

Bequest, \$21,295.70, and United Way, \$18,504.97, and individuals, \$6,184.54.

Isn't that amazing?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: We're very proud of our successful year.

At the Child Welfare Foundation's annual Board of Directors Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana on October the 10th, 2010 a total of 21 grants were awarded totaling \$666,670 to fund projects that improved the quality of life for these children.

The American Legion Auxiliary sponsored seven of those grants.

I'd like to give a special thank you to Vice Chairman Past National President Elsie Bailey-Comer and member of our Children & Youth Chairman Nancy Park-Brown for their participation in promoting the foundation. And I thank you all members who are generous donors with their dollars and time for our Nation's children.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks, and with your permission I'd like to introduce two special guests with us today for the purpose of presenting The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Awards.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: We have with us today

Ms. Peggy Moon. She is a member of the Child Welfare Foundation Board, and the Executive Secretary to the Board is Mr. Bob Caudell, and they are here to present the awards.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: Good morning, delegates.

Madam President, as usual it's a thrill to be here. National officers and delegates and fellow Auxiliary members all. I am thrilled to be here.

I know that you were probably expecting Dennis Boland who is our president of the Child Welfare Foundation; however, he had a previous commitment, so as Vice President of the Foundation he asked me if I would step in. And there's one good thing with this ladies, is I am the only member of the Board of Directors for the National Child Welfare Foundation who happens to also be an Auxiliary member.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: And while I'm up here I might as well say hello to my friends in Minnesota.

Okay. Since 1954 the Child Welfare Foundation has awarded over \$11.3 million in grants to organizations that benefit our children. The strong support of the American Legion Auxiliary has played a major role in making these grants possible.

So President Ashworth, it's my pleasure to recognize these efforts for the donation year June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011.

The recipient of the U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award for total combined donations is the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: Ohio is missing in action.

The recipient of the Garland Murphy Award for top department in total donations is the Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: The recipient of the Meritorious Achievement Award for highest increase in per capita giving is the Department of Wyoming.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: We've asked her to stay because the recipient of the Excellence Award, the highest per capita contribution average is also the Department of Wyoming.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: And President Ashworth, I'd like to recognize your leadership with the Spirit of Excellence Award. Thank you for all you do for America's children.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Oh, how beautiful.

MS. MOON: I'm sure you'll wear that proudly, right?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes, I will. It's got diamonds in it. Diamonds are a girls best friend.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm like to give you one of my coins if I might.

MS. MOON: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: So you can have that for the year.

MS. MOON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much, Peggy. We appreciate you being here.

MS. MOON: Thank you. I do also want to let you know that yesterday during our National Convention Committee meeting of Children & Youth we had a young lady from the Junior Auxiliary, she hails from New York, Donnell (phonetic) Cobb, who made it her project this year to raise money for the Child Welfare Foundation and she presented us a check for \$1,118.

(Applause.)

MS. MOON: Boy just think if we all did that the money that we could use to benefit all the wonderful children in our United States of America.

So ladies, with your continued support the Child Welfare Foundation will continue to provide for the betterment of all of our children.

Thank you so much for all you do for America's kids.

(Applause.)

MS. MORRIS: Madam President, I have no recommendations.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN MORRIS: Or resolutions, either.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much, Katherine.

Make sure where I am here. Okay.

Auxiliary members are very passionate about providing care and comfort to our heroic U.S. servicemembers who are so highly deserving of everything that we can possibly do for them. Whatever a veteran needs, whether it's job assistance, transportation, food, clothing and more, our Auxiliary volunteers will do their best to provide whatever they need, and our work in Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation will be presented by Peggy Thomas, our National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman. Peggy?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Madam President Carlene, the greatest battle a warrior may have to fight is the one he faces when he returns home. Many suffer physical wounds, but a great majority has deep psychological wounds. One day they're on the battle field and the next day they may return home and are expected to be perfectly normal by their family and friends unaffected by their experiences.

The economy is down, jobs are hard to find, and for one or more reasons many of these veterans end up on the streets, and this committee is cognizant of all these problems and have been diligent in carrying out the programs as outlined in our Plan of Action.

The success stories are many and varied and far too many to relate to you today, but I would like to share a few of these facts.

Homeless veterans initiatives have been our number one focus. Several chairmen have reported either purchasing or renovating a building to use as a home for the homeless. Some have connected with other organizations to make this happen. In several departments it has been reported a shelter is provided for female veterans only. A growing number of homeless veterans is female and some with children. This is extremely troubling as they are very vulnerable if left on the streets.

Department of Veterans Affairs reports homelessness is down 40,000 compared to three years ago, and I feel that The American Legion Auxiliary has made a major difference in this area.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: In Virginia the Chairman of VA&R implemented her idea of furnishing Buddy Baskets to homeless veterans moving into permanent housing. These laundry size baskets are filled with useful everyday household items and this idea has caught on and spread to other departments.

When President Carlene visited Kansas she was surrounded with a garden of Buddy Baskets.

Department chairmen all across this Nation have worked to encourage new volunteers to sign up at the nearest VA Medical Center or CBOCs.

In Nebraska Jessie Kaiser (phonetic) won an award from the National Healthcare Assisted Living Convention in Long Beach, California for her outstanding

American Legion Auxiliary work. She was nominated by the Grand Island State Veterans Home, and Jessie raised \$38,000 towards purchasing a small bus to add to the fleet of buses purchased already by the home.

Departments have welcomed Ride 2 Recovery when they come to their state. One only has to meet with these wounded warriors to understand the value of this program.

I had the privilege of spending time with them again this year and can report they truly appreciate what we do for them. Many of the riders have thanked the Auxiliary repeatedly for our part in making these rides possible.

Departments at this writing that have hosted rides are California, Virginia, Texas, Florida, Colorado, and Hawaii, and there are more. The last one was in Normandy. One picture of the ride says it all.

Veterans Creative Arts Festival was a huge success again this year. The therapy for the participants is wonderful and the talent they display is unbelievable. It only takes one member to take the hand of one hero to lead him to a new beginning, and they are so, so grateful. It has been proven again and again this year what the Power of One can and has accomplished.

On a personal note, I was fortunate to be selected to present an award for a graduating cadet at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York, and that was in May. It was a beautiful affair and I wanted to share this one picture with you.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any recommendations or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I have no recommendations and no resolutions, just a better place to lay my papers.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We'll see if we can accommodate you for that, Peggy.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Peggy.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Ride 2 Recovery mission is to help make a difference in the lives of veterans by assisting in their mental and physical rehabilitation programs. The support that they extend to wounded warriors and veterans goes beyond the bikes, the technical equipment, and clinics that are provided.

Cyclists in Ride 2 Recovery become part of a family that supports each other before, during, and after the multi-day rides, and partnering with this organization goes straight to the heart of the American Legion Auxiliary mission of supporting veterans and their families.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome U.S. Marine and my good friend, John Wordin, the Executive Director of Ride 2 Recovery.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: Thank you very much Carlene for those great remarks. Appreciate everyone here at the American Legion Auxiliary for their support of the Ride 2 Recovery Program.

For those of you who don't know who it is we're going to show a quick video, if they can roll it in the back.

(Video presentation begins.)

MS. SPANO: Ride 2 Recovery is a non-profit organization that services our injured veterans. The idea is to give them an opportunity for mental and physical rehabilitation that they can continue with. So they'll come on a challenge and they'll spend a good six days maybe doing 350 or 450 miles, but then they take their bike home with them and they continue to challenge themselves and so they'll up their level of challenge till they get to the next Ride 2 Recovery challenge.

VOICE: How long have you been biking?

VOICE: A little over three years now. I got involved with it after I got out of Walter Reed.

MS. SPANO: So it's not a wine and dine, it's a way for them to find a new spot in their life.

MR. HUNT: I was rock clearance, Baghdad, Iraq. Got hit May 10th, 2008, took my legs on impact.

MS. HUNT: Before Ride Recovery came into our lives we were growing distant because we couldn't communicate. I didn't understand what he was going through, he didn't understand what I was going through, and when John invited us to Ride Recovery we reunited all over again.

VOICE: With the young folks it's amazing.

MR. LEE: During my day a majority of them would have been dead because why? Medical and science hadn't advanced that far. Today they're getting their therapy from riding the bicycles, and I think that it's wonderful.

MS. SPANO: Ride 2 Recovery gives these returning men and women the opportunity to get back into a group to get that camaraderie that they have missed since they've been injured. They've been taken away from their brothers in their own military unit so now they have a new group of people that they can keep up with. Many of them will them ride to ride. They also stay connected via the internet and the Ride 2 Recovery Facebook page. That connection stays with them and gives them that chance to keep their rehab going.

MR. WAGNER: Everyone is being told everything that you can't do. You know, you can't ride a bike and you have to have this. No, you don't, just get on a bike and ride. If I can do it with no legs and a bad back and old so can you and that's what Ride 2 Recovery is all about.

MS. SPANO: Ride 2 Recovery came to Normandy because of the number of injured veterans we have in Europe, and the significance of the battles that were fought here on French soil to our current veterans, it's the history to where they are today, and these guys are thirsting for that knowledge.

VOICE: It's by no means as glamorous as the average, but the fighting here was just as ferocious.

MS. SPANO: They have been just absorbing every stop we take. They want a rock, they want a piece of sand, they want pictures. It's phenomenal.

MR. WAGNER: We came to Normandy, showed people what was given to us.

VOICE: Thank you very much for coming here to Normandy everybody, it's very nice of you to be here, this was the first town to be liberated in Europe by you Americans.

MR. BUTLER: I'm here in St. Mary Glades, one of the areas my unit helped liberate during World War II. It's pretty amazing to be riding around in the countryside here.

MR. GUINTA: I did a tour of the cemetery and it's just these gravestones as far as the eye can see. And to think about the amount of sacrifice that all of them had to do, they did it not for themselves, they certainly didn't do it for themselves, they did it for us, they did it for the world at that time to make it a better place, and to think about that is probably one of the most touching things. I can't fathom it.

MR. LETHERE: The people of this country know the price, so I want to say thanks to all, to stay in St. Mary Glades, and I think it's too short time, so maybe you are to come back the next time.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: I understand we're ahead of schedule so Carlene asked me to try to fix that for you guys.

(Laughter.)

MR. WORDIN: About four years ago I had recently retired as a professional cyclist and as a team manager of the cycling team and I received a phone call from the VA. They had asked -- one of the physical therapists there was a cycling fan and kind of knew who I was and asked me if I'd be willing to help them create a program to help the polytrauma center there in Palo Alto with all the patients they had coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan that had been suffering from PTSD.

I had no idea what PTSD was, but I went up there and visited with the guys and did a ride with them, and about 30 seconds after that Ride 2 Recovery was born.

We did our first ride in Virginia the following May. We rode from Walter Reed Medical Center down to the Coca-Cola 600 NASCAR race in North Carolina. Is Wanda out there? Oh, there. Hi, Wanda.

Then we did the California ride, and Jim Park, the husband of Nancy Brown-Park, signed up to do the ride as a participant. About 30 seconds after that the relationship between Ride 2 Recovery and American Legion Auxiliary was born.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: Soon after that Nancy got me hooked up with Carlene, and as they say, the rest is history.

(Laughter.)

MR. WORDIN: We were coming to Texas. Carlene made sure that every town, every school, every community center, every everything along the route from the time we left San Antonio until the time we got to Arlington, Texas knew we were coming. It created a template that we still use today almost four years later.

We started with two rides the first year and serviced about 55 warriors, now four years later we do seven rides, one in France, every ride is sold out, more than 200 wounded warriors per ride.

In two weeks to celebrate and commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the 9/11 attack we will be doing a ride from the World Trade Center to Shanksville and finishing at the Pentagon Memorial.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: More than 350 participants, plus I don't know how many, 40 or 50 American Legion riders, and I know BJ is out there somewhere, and every post on the road knows we're coming. It's that template, Carlene.

The thing that makes Ride 2 Recovery special is the warriors. For those of you who had a chance to see us come in the other day or maybe see us yesterday in the parade you have all these guys.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: Some are missing arms, some are missing legs, some are missing legs and arms. We have one guy, Chuck, who I know you guys already know about who is blind and is a double amputee. We built him a special bike.

We had Patrick Ziegler, one of the victims of the Fort Hood shooting. He was here, he's partially paralyzed on his left side, we built him a special bike.

We have a Marine who suffered a diving accident right after he graduated from MP school, broke his neck, is paralyzed, quadriplegic. Through Chuck he came to us and said if Chuck can do it I can do it and we built him a bike. So he and Chuck are going to race in the Marine Corps marathon this October.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: It's amazing the guys. And every guy we get, whether it's Delvin or a quad amputee, we built him a special bike, some guys they come and they ride.

We had a soldier from Fort Jackson that spoke at the reception, and for those of you that weren't there I'm going to kind of paraphrase what he said. He came to Ride 2 Recovery for the first time in Texas this past April. He had no idea what Ride 2 Recovery was. He kind of heard about it from one of the cadre there, suggested that it might help him. He was suffering from a traumatic brain injury and PTSD and he was really ready to check out, both literally and figuratively.

One of my staff called him, heard that he -- that the unit wasn't going to pay for his travel. So one of my staff asked me, "Well, what are we going to do?" And I said, "We got to get him to the ride, that's what we do." And normally when that happens what we do is call Carlene.

(Laughter.)

MR. WORDIN: We got him to the ride. He got to the ride and he was ready to leave. He's got anxiety attack. Didn't know -- you know, didn't really feel comfortable. Then one of the other participants kind of saw him there and tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Hey, let's get you on your bike and let's get going."

He went back to his unit after the ride, got through the ride, we were actually going up the hill to Fort Hood. For those that are not from Texas, as you're riding alone the highway here in the middle of nowhere in the hot sun you're going up this hill

that seems like it takes forever. It's not super steep, it's just super long. And if you haven't ridden a bike since you were ten years old it's a bit of a challenge. He was going to get off his bike, get in the van, and call it a day, and one of the other riders came up next to him and started pushing him and said, "Hey, I only got one leg, if I got one leg and I'm not quitting. You got two perfectly good legs, you're not quitting either."

And that sort of sums up what Ride 2 Recovery is. It's not just about an individual warrior and what he's suffering through, it's the collective group and how they help each other push through the wall.

You know there's always a famous expression, every point in someone's life you come to a wall, you go over it, you go around it, you go through it, or you quit. And our guys that come and Ride 2 Recovery, these wounded warriors, man, there is no quit, ever.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: He finished the ride, he went back to his unit, the commander asked him to give a talk to the rest of the soldiers at Fort Jackson and the WTU about what his experience was like. I heard there was not a dry eye in the hall.

Next ride was the Memorial ride. Peggy Thomas had it all fired up. He brought seven more soldiers from Fort Jackson with him.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: Then we got here to the beautiful State of Minnesota. Kris Nelson knocked it out again as usual. He brought seven more soldiers.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: And that kind of spirit, they went from no Ride 2 Recovery program to 20 soldiers riding on a regular basis at their unit, and that's what we're going to try to create over the next few years is riding programs at every single military hospital, unit, wounded warrior facility, all over the world, and we couldn't do it without The American Legion Auxiliary.

You know there's a lot of military organizations that contact me and want to get involved with the Ride 2 Recovery, and we sort of have a little vetting process as to the ones we want to work with, the ones that do it for the right reasons, not just to get their name in the newspaper.

What makes The American Legion Auxiliary special is the people. What makes any military support organization special are the people. It's easy to say I support the troops, it's hard to actually do something that supports the troops.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: What you ladies do all over America is truly inspiring to me and my staff. I know whenever we have an issue and we can't seem to figure out how to handle it, we call Carlene.

(Laughter.)

MR. WORDIN: Pretty soon we're going to call Kris. And then Peggy and Nancy and everybody else. But it's amazing how much enthusiasm that you guys have when we call and how much you just go all in.

The other day we rode around lake Minnetonka, a ride they said couldn't be possible and we said, "Oh, we're going to take some of the wounded warriors around lake Minnetonka on a Saturday morning." Legion Post Excelsior came out had the

bagpipes playing for us when we arrived, all the guys thought that was one of the neatest experiences that they had seen on the ride.

It's that kind of -- I know Carlene's thing is Power of One, but it's power of one times 900,000.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: What this organization stands for and what it does, it's not just a slogan, it's not just something that is written on a piece of paper, it's about what you guys do, what you do to help my program, what you do to help all the wounded warriors beyond what we do at Ride 2 Recovery.

I know there's a whole host of things that you guys have been talking about today, and I want to say thank you for everything that you've done for us. I'm a proud member of The American Legion, Post 283 in Pacific Palisades, California.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: We have a staff person dedicated to the American Legion Auxiliary. She's sitting right here, Alison Valinzeano (phonetic).

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: Most of you know her by now. If you don't you will.

We have a whole lot of rides we want to do. I know a lot of you would like to get involved in the program. See Alison, contact us, get -- you know, we're going to go to Boston and Cincinnati and Nashville and Louisville and a whole bunch of places next year and we're going to go back to Europe and we're going to go to the Battle of the Bulge and take some guys and go show them the battle that ended essentially World War II.

(Applause.)

MR. WORDIN: It was absolutely tremendous to have R.T. Lee with us in Europe. To listen to him tell stories of what it was like to serve in World War II and the sacrifice -- like he said in the video, I mean he pretty much summed it up, a lot of these guys that we're dealing with right now they'd be dead, but not only are they not dead, they're doing things that are truly amazing. I mean, who would think a guy with no legs is going to ride 350 miles across the State of Minnesota and think that's a great experience?

I thank you for allowing me to speak. I'm humbled by the effort that you guys put into our program. I couldn't thank you enough. I hope you have a great week. And thank you very much for this time.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, John.

I want to take this opportunity also, many of the times that John was talking about when he called me that I turned around and called you and so many of you answered that call and helped to fulfill the wishes of trying to get some of those wounded warriors to the ride so that they could fulfill being able to accomplish what they wanted to accomplish, and also for the tremendous amount of time and effort, dinners, luncheons, everything that you do and all the funds you raised that help support our wounded warriors, because that is part of what we do and part of who we are. So I thank you very, very much from the bottom of my heart for answering the call whenever I called on you to help us out with that.

The American Legion Auxiliary also is a proud co-sponsor and does annually every year the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and our annual contribution of \$100,000 was exceeded this year by nearly \$21,000 as of July 31st.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Amazing. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Along with monetary donations are the countless hours of volunteering at the local and national festivals which allow us to assist veterans receiving treatment in VA hospitals, and through the years we've also gained a great respect for the men and women of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the VA hospitals who treat these patients and make the fine arts and the performing arts programs possible.

And here today to say a few words about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is our good friend and Director of the program, Liz Mackey. Liz?

MS. MACKEY: Hi everyone. I enjoyed listening to John talk about the Ride 2 Recovery. How exciting.

And thank you Madam President Carlene, 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 you're in my home state. I'm a proud member of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 428 in Waite Park, Minnesota.

(Applause.)

MS. MACKEY: St. Cloud, Minnesota is my home, it's about 70 miles northwest of Minneapolis. It's nice to be so close.

I'm honored to speak to you today on behalf of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival everyone.

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 Tea Tournament, the Summer Sports Clinic, and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic.

I know that many of you are familiar with these national events and you've worked in supporting them through the years as volunteers and also through donations raised by your individual and group 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 like the Creative Arts Festival, competition and festival, and you know how art, writing, music, dance, and drama can be used to help veterans cope with physical and emotional disabilities.

Since the year 2000 you've been actively involved with us in making a strong and positive difference in the lives of veterans who participate in creative arts therapy.

Each year I ask for feedback from VA staff that assists veterans from their facilities in entering the creative arts competition. Many of the staff respond and comment on the involvement and support to their local creative arts program by their

local ALA. Their responses are so complimentary and uplifting, and I'd like to just read a couple of them to you today.

From Phoenix, Arizona, "The Phoenix ALA is part of the committee that plans and implements the local festival. They attend all meetings, give us valuable input into our planning, help us with our event with wonderful volunteers. They assist in gathering judges, and some of them are even judges. They set up the art show and they provide funds needed to run a successful event. They're awesome."

And John Paulks (phonetic), recreation therapist at the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center, "The Department of Maryland worked diligently to organize a creative arts awareness presentation in order to generate funding to support the festival. The event occurred on Saturday, April 9th at an auditorium in Beltsville, Maryland. Veterans from Maryland, D.C., Pennsylvania, and Florida were asked to perform music, dance, and dramatic presentations, as well as display their art work. It was a wonderful way to give veterans another opportunity to showcase their talents. We appreciate and thank each of the ALA members who worked on that project."

These are just two examples of the many responses received by VA staff acknowledging the support of the ALA members in their area.

Many department presidents have and are continuing to choose the creative arts program as their special project and this has brought about so much awareness and positive results. Very far reaching. And we really appreciate all of your efforts.

Thank you to the leadership team that we've had the privilege of working with over the past 11 years. Each of the former National Presidents have become great friends to us, and this year it's been our sincere privilege to be associated with Madam President Carlene.

We're really looking forward to working with incoming President Kris Nelson who's been a friend of the Creative Arts Festival for several years. Kris chose the Creative Arts Program as her special project when she served as Department President of Minnesota in 2001, and she has attended several festivals since.

Our hope is that the veterans who participate in the 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, and I think that the Ride 2 Recovery Program follows that same general idea as well.

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 2011, 3,857 veterans from 122 VA Medical Centers, State Veterans Homes, and VA Outpatient Clinics nationwide entered their local creative arts competition. That's nearly 4,000 veterans. We've come a long way. They entered categories within the art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music divisions. They displayed their artwork entries at their local VA medical facilities and received recognition from their community for their creative talents. They submitted digital images of their art work and video recordings of their performing arts work.

And now 130 of the metal winning veterans from the five division competitions will gather together in northwest Arkansas during the week of October 17th to the 24th to participate in the festival experience.

The veterans will participate in rehearsals and therapeutic visual and performing arts workshops that the festival host site coordinator, Carol Kick (phonetic) and her team from the Veterans Healthcare System of the Ozarks have planned. It's a chance to show the community that the use of the arts as therapy and the treatment of America's veterans is strong and enduring.

The festival event will culminate with a live stage show performance and a 53 piece exhibit of the first place winning artwork from the national level of competition.

The State show and art exhibit will occur on Sunday, October 23rd at the Walton Art Center in Fayetteville, and Michael Peterson will be the MC for the stage show for the second consecutive year.

(Applause.)

MS. MACKEY: We're happy about that. Wonderful supporter.

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 PBS stations throughout the country around the time of Veterans Day. This is the sixth 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.

Before I leave the podium this morning I just want to say once more how grateful we are for all your past, present, and continuing support of the National Veterans Creative Arts Program. We appreciate your role as co-sponsor for the festival and your ongoing commitment to veterans and the arts.

Thank you again for having me.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Liz. And I would like to give you one of my coins if I could, and thank you so much and I look forward to seeing you in October.

The Chair would like to ask the National Secretary to read the announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. We have a few announcements.

A reminder that the breakout training sessions will begin this afternoon at 2 p.m.

In addition to the resolutions presented tomorrow I again remind you and give notice of the amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws that will be considered at tomorrow's meeting.

Proposed Amendment Number 1, to amend the National Constitution Article 3, Section 2 to simplify membership classes to member and Junior member by removing the adjective senior for adult members.

Proposed Amendment Number 2, to amend the National Bylaws Article 9, finance, Section 3, to increase the amount of senior members national dues by \$5 with incremental increases of 50 cents every three years thereafter.

Proposed Amendment Number 3, to amend the National Constitution Article 4 to create a new provision requiring the position of the ALA National President be elected as four positions as specifying certain responsibilities of the National President during each of those four years.

In addition, this is the 91st Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary and I would like to acknowledge a long-time conventioneer, an 88-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary, a 68-year member of The American Legion, and attending her 50th National Convention, Ramona Henricks from the Department of Illinois.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I think she's being hoisted up in the air over there, it's hard to see, but I think they just did the thing where they just shoved her, you know, two rows back.

The 2011-12 Legislative Committee will meet at the back of the room upon adjournment.

The 2011-12 Girls State Committee will meet tomorrow after the Woman of the Year Luncheon at the back of the room.

The 2011-12 National Education Committee will meet Wednesday near the Massachusetts sign upon adjournment. Massachusetts make some noise.

(Shouting.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. For those of you who might not have heard that and want to know where the sign is, Massachusetts, please make some noise.

(Shouting.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. The National Community Service Committee will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, after the Women of the Year Luncheon at the back of the room and there will be a sign.

Installation rehearsal will be on stage upon adjournment for the national officers only. That really is important that you be up here if you're a national officer for that.

And we just heard from our dear friend, Liz Mackey, and Liz Mackey was talking about the wonderful things we do for the National Creative Arts Festival. I am reminded that this organization adopted that as a sponsorship under the leadership of Kris West during the 2000-2001 presidential year, so that would make this National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, Madam President, the 10th Anniversary of that sponsorship.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: One thing we can do at National Headquarters is count. It's one of those requirements.

So one thing I want to tell you about real quick is that the mailboxes are set up today. You all know what your mailboxes are, right? Departments, mailboxes here at convention. Tell me that's not a surprise to you. Okay, not a surprise. I heard somebody say it's not a surprise, I'm assuming that's the majority.

Okay. In your mailboxes today will be two Pringle cans covered with a very lovely label, So the Show Can Go On Help the American Legion Auxiliary support the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

I do want you to read the national VCAF facts that happen to look like the labels you would find on your regular Pringle can, and there are instructions that will be with this with the first instruction being to eat the Pringles inside the can.

So your National Headquarters has given you two cans of snacks. And then with someone that you trust they need to slice an opening in the can. If you do this as a group project make sure that you really have a great deal of respect for each other with sharp objects.

The labels are on the website. They're downloadable and you will also have some additional labels in your mailbox to take back. These labels were printed and are self-adhesive, and there's instructions for the trick to get them on straight. You can also just print them off in color and tape them on or you can download the PDF and send them to a local printer and have them printed as an adhesive label.

So the goal is for these to be around, used next year so that you can collect money for the 11th Veterans Creative Arts Festival that The American Legion Auxiliary will be a national sponsor for.

So thank you to the National VA&R Committee, both this year's Chair, Peggy Thomas and appointee Nancy Brown-Park for this idea.

And the best part of the announcements, have a ticket, need a ticket. Department of Washington has three tickets for the Woman of the Year Luncheon, see Jane Montaney. And that would be Department of Washington. Make some noise.

(Shouting.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. And then my final announcements are this year for those who have fellow American Legion Auxiliary members, family, friends who couldn't be here but want to follow the activities we are blogging live from National Convention. They can go to the website and they can stay up with what's happening through the live blogging sessions. Just go to [ALAFORVeterans.org](http://ALAFORVeterans.org) to keep up with all things convention.

And if you have an iPhone, an Android, or a BlackBerry with the proper application, a very simple one to download, you can also follow the Auxiliary under the more option with alerts being updated as needed. So we are keeping you technically up to speed with everything that's going on.

So Madam President, that concludes the announcements that I have at this time.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Dubbie.

The announcement that Dubbie made in regards to the installation rehearsal that's immediately following this also includes the officers for this year and those participating in that ceremony. So you are also asked to -- and you know who you are -- so you are also asked to stay for that. We promise you won't miss lunch. So just want to share that with you.

And ladies, I also want to remind you that this week we will be honored with a visit from the President of the United States, and please remember that he is our guest and regardless of your political views he must be treated with respect, and those of you who wish to attend and to participate and go to that, beware that because of his visit you will be required to pass through security just like a security point just like you are at the airport except that you can take liquids and gels permitted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: They don't have to be taken out of your bag if they're over 3 ounces. But we do ask that you leave all your weapons in your room. Please don't bring any of those things back with you.

And also want to again remind you about the workshops this afternoon.

I want to thank all of you for -- and to all especially all of our national chairmen who presented this morning and The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion for stopping by and all of our guests that we had today. We hope that you've enjoyed this opening session of the American Legion Auxiliary's National Convention, and this concludes the session, and you are now adjourned for the afternoon.

Thank you, ladies, very much, and gentlemen, very much.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 12:42 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2011**

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Before we begin I would like for everyone to please take a moment to ensure that your electronic devices have been placed in silent mode.

I thank you for that. I see lots of hands moving.

And will our National Chaplain Vickie Thrower please come forward to lead us in our invocation.

(Ringing of the bell.)

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Please bow your heads.

Lord, we have passed another day of our 91st National Convention and the Power of One. We thank you for your care and understanding. We ask that you forgive us of our faults and listen to all of our prayers. We ask that you place your guiding hand on those who are not able to be here with us and supply them with their needs and your comfort.

We ask that you may continue to guide President Carlene, our officers, our chairmen and our members. May each of us demonstrate patience, kindness, and love in how we interact with each other.

We ask this in the name of our loving Lord. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Each day we are beginning our session with a video that exemplified the Power of One at the unit level. The videos highlight outstanding leadership, yet the featured members belong to a vast resource of outstanding Auxiliary volunteers all over the country. Choosing only three was incredibly difficult.

Yesterday we saw how a simple tiny seed of an idea blossomed into a project that involved the entire American Legion Family and comforted formerly homeless veterans at the same time.

Today we travel to the Department of California and learn how enthusiasm and the personal satisfaction of service can grow membership and unit strength at the same time.

Let's take a look.

(Whereupon, a video is viewed.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Ladies and gentlemen please welcome from the Department of California, Kendall Madsen.

(Applause and cheers)

(Music)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Kendall Madsen.

All three of these videos will be available for viewing on the Auxiliary's YouTube Channel, and you will also find the link on our website, [www.ALAFORVeterans.org](http://www.ALAFORVeterans.org) or you can go directly to YouTube at [www.youtube.com/user/AmericanLegionAux](http://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanLegionAux).

I'm sure you've all got that written down right when I said it.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The next business this afternoon is the nomination of National Officers for 2011-2012 administrative year.

Representatives making the nominations as well as the candidates are now seated on our stage and Dubbie Buckler our National Secretary will read the rules governing the nomination.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you Madam President.

Nominations of candidates for Division National Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 27, 2011.

Nominations of candidates for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain and Nation Historian shall be on Tuesday, August 30, 2011.

Nomination of National officers shall be made from the floor.

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

After nominating speeches for National Officers on Tuesday, August 30, 2011, 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 by name and department affiliation.

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 ASHWORTH: Nominations are now in order for the office of National President.

The National Secretary will call the Departments with announced candidate.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President the Department of Minnesota has an announced candidate for the office of National President. The delegation chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the delegate for the purpose of the nomination.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate from Minnesota for the purpose of making a nomination.

DELEGATE WONDRA: Darlene Wondra, Department of Minnesota. Please recognize the delegate from the Department of Minnesota for the purpose of nomination.

MRS. SWENSON: Good morning National President Carlene.

Hi, Mom. If you're watching this speech, it means that I'm either at home celebrating with the new baby or patiently awaiting for the little one to arrive. And don't worry Mom you'll be the first to know when he or she is born.

My name is Sarah Swenson from Unit 255 in Brainerd, Minnesota, and I am very proud to place in nomination on behalf of the Department of Minnesota, my mom, Kris Nelson, to the position of National President.

Wow, after watching my mom work and volunteer with The American Legion Family for as many years as I can remember, I'm finally able to nominate her for the role of National President.

Last year I shared with you a quote that my mom lives by and has loved throughout her life it has passed on to our family. The quote is, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give by (unintelligible)."

We grew up hearing this quote time after time when as a family we would volunteer and help out with numerous Legion activities.

I shared last year that in 1987 Mom was our Unit President and her project with the Post Commander was to start a community Halloween party.

This party gave all of the children in the community a fun and safe 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.

Mom and I were very active with the Junior Auxiliary. While I served as District and Department Junior President, the two of us spent many hours volunteering together. Spending much of our time visiting the veterans at our local nursing homes.

In 2001 my mom served as Department President for Minnesota using the (unintelligible) line, "Young and Old Serving Together. She did a great job uniting The American Legion Family in getting people of all ages working together.

Her project that year was to raise funds for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival and for the Minnesota American Legion Hospital Association.

Throughout the years our family was fortunate to have many family vacations across America. Most of them would end in the same place where The American Legion Conventions would begin.

One of my favorite volunteer memories was having the privilege to attend Girls State while my mom served as the National Chairman.

It was an honor to be part of that great program in the 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 for (unintelligible) The United Way, Kids Vote, the City of Brainerd Memorial Committee and St. Andrews Catholic Church.

Our family is so proud of my mom. We have loved watching her work with The American Legion Auxiliary seeing the lives that she has changed and how her life has been changed by so many.

Over the past three years we have watched and listened to her making plans for her administrative year.

Over the past several months we have seen her go through many emotions, her excitement to fear, knowing her year of service will make a difference in so many lives but also scared of missing out on things going on back home.

We know she is going to miss her family and friends but with today's technology we're just a Skype away. And if you know my mom her phone is never more than an arms length away. And with the new baby I'm sure I'll be available for any late-night calls from Mom.

As a family we've decided that we'll let The American Legion Auxiliary have my mom for the year, but we're very excited to get her back next August.

Mom, I want to leave you with a quote that I hope you'll live by in this next year. "Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there's no path and leave a trail."

My family and I are very proud to place into nomination for the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, my mom, Kris Nelson.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE SCHOONOVER: I'm Joy Shirley Schoonover, Brainerd Unit 255, Department of Minnesota. I'm going to officially nominate Kris at this point.

It is my honor and privilege to nominate Kris Nelson from the Department of Minnesota for the office of The American Legion Auxiliary National President for the year 2011-2012.

(Applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Kris Nelson is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office National President?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Hearing none, nominations for National President are closed.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Nominations are in order for the office of National Vice President.

The National Secretary will call Departments with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, the Department of Virginia has an announced candidate. I'm on my tiptoes.

The Delegation Chair should ask the Chair to recognize the delegate for the purpose of the nomination.

DELEGATE ELLIS: Donna Ellis from the proud Department of Virginia. Will the Chair please recognize NEC Susan Lee for the purpose of the nominations for the office of National Vice President.

NEC LEE: Thank you. As stated, my name is Susan Lee, I'm the National Executive Committeewoman from the Department of Virginia.

Madam National President, officers and delegates, to this 91st Annual Convention, it is with great pride the Department of Virginia, the Old Dominion State, presents to you one of our most outstanding and qualified members, Peggy Thomas, for the very important office of National Vice President.

Peggy has dedicated 30 years of hard work to the American Legion Auxiliary at all levels of this organization. In addition to numerous chairmanships, Peggy has served as Unit, District and Department of Virginia president.

She is currently a member of the Department's Finance Committee.

On the National level Peggy has served on many committees and is chairman of Membership, Legislative, Poppy, Constitution & Bylaws, National Security, Leadership, Children & Youth, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

In addition she served as a National VAVS Representative for two years. Involvement with veterans has always been a priority for Peggy.

She currently serves as a VAVS Deputy at the Hunter Homes McGuire VAMC in Richmond, Virginia and has dedicated over 800 volunteer hours there.

She has served three years on the VAVS Executive Committee and the last two as its chairman.

Peggy also serves as Virginia's coordinator for Ride 2 Recovery.

Peggy is a member of Battlefield Unit 144 in Highland Springs, Virginia. Her eligibility for membership was established through her late husband, John Thomas, who served in the US Army during the Korean War. She is also eligible through her five brothers.

Peggy has one married daughter, Lisa, a cardiology nurse practitioner who recently received her doctorate from the University of Virginia. Lisa is a 19-year member of the Auxiliary.

Peggy also recently retired from her position as vice president of a large petroleum distributorship where she served not only as operations manager, and corporate secretary, but also twice as interim general manager.

Peggy is an active member of the Lutheran Church of Our Savior.

Peggy is efficient, thorough and gives 110 percent to all tasks she undertakes. She's always prepared, a recognized leader and an asset to this organization.

I am confident that Peggy, if elected, will use her skills to represent us well as National Vice President.

On behalf of the members of The American Legion Auxiliary and the Department of Virginia, I am honored to place in nomination for the high office of National Vice President for the year 2011-2012, our very own, Peggy Thomas. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Peggy Thomas is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Vice President?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: 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 Department with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, the Department of Georgia has an announced candidate. The delegation chair should ask the Chair to recognize the delegate for the purpose of the nomination.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate from Georgia for the purpose of making a nomination.

DELEGATE HARPER: Thank you, Madam President.  
Madam President, Lola Harper, Delegation Chairman, Department of

Georgia.

Please recognize Gloria Johnston, Department of Georgia for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

DELEGATE JOHNSTON: Good afternoon. I'm Gloria Johnston, past Department President of Georgia.

Madam National President, officers, delegates, alternates and guests, the Department of Georgia is proud to present Nini Lynch as a candidate for the office of National Chaplain.

She is a 33-year life member of Unit 201, Alpharetta, Georgia. She served as Unit President for two terms in 1989-1990 and 2002-2003. She's held numerous chairmanships in the Unit and was elected by her Unit eight times to the office of Unit Chaplain.

Nini served in district chairmanships and offices up to and including president for two terms, 1989-1990, 2004-2005, and she currently serves the District as Girls State Chairman and Parliamentarian

Nini was elected Department Chaplain for the year 1993-1994 and served in all of the various offices leading to election to the office of Department of Georgia President for the year 1997 and 1998.

She represented the Department of Georgia on the National Executive Committee the following year. She was appointed to serve as Southern Division Community Service Chairman for the year 1999-2000.

The June addition of the Auxiliary National Magazine outlined various department offices and chairmanships Nini has held. It outlined that Nini has lovingly served as Girls State Counselor for 19 consecutive years and this year she accepted the position as Assistant Director of Georgia Girls State.

Nini served The American Legion Department of Georgia as editor of the Georgia American Legion Press Association Newsletter winning three consecutive national awards.

Georgia's nominee, Nini Lynch, is eligible for her membership in The American Legion Auxiliary through the service of her father, D. W. Glover, in the Army during World War II, her husband, Gerald Lynch, in the Navy during the Korean War and her brother, Daniel D. Glover, in the Army during the Vietnam War.

She's been married to Gerald H. Lynch for 28 years. She recently retired as an executive assistant to the vice president and chief medical officer of Shionogi Pharma.

Nini is the mother of one daughter, a 32-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary, and a son who is deceased. She has one stepdaughter, deceased and one stepson who is FAL Member.

Gerald and Nini have two grandsons, four granddaughters, three great-grandsons and seven great-granddaughters, all proud members of The American Legion Family.

Nini has been a member of the First United Methodist Church of Alpharetta for 40 years where she has served as assistant youth director, adult Sunday School Teacher and Sunday School Superintendent.

She is also a member of the Sandy Springs Woman's Club where she serves as Education Chair and she's on the board of directors.

She is also recently achieved certified membership in the National Association of Parliamentarians.

I have spoken of the dedication and years of service that Nini has given to The American Legion Auxiliary. Her love of our organization and willingness to mentor members in the Department of Georgia is widely known.

On behalf of the Department of Georgia it is with great pride that I nominate Mrs. Gerald Nini Lynch for the office of National Chaplain for the year 2011-2012. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Nini Lynch is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Chaplain?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Hearing none, nominations for National Chaplain are closed.

Nominations are in order for the office of National Historian. The National Secretary will call the department with announced candidate.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

The Department of South Carolina has an announced candidate. The delegation Chair should ask the Chair to recognize the delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

DELEGATE MCMORROW: Madam President, Bette McMorrow, delegate chairman for the Department of South Carolina, I hereby request permission for Brenda Collins, NEC, from the Department of South Carolina to approach the podium for the purpose of the nomination.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate from South Carolina for the purpose of making a nomination.

DELEGATE COLLINS: Madam National President Carlene. My name is Brenda Collins from the Department of South Carolina.

On behalf of the Department of South Carolina I proudly present Diane Harley as a candidate for the position of National Historian.

Diane is eligible through the service of her later father who was a member of World War II. Her husband, Joe, also, who served in Korea and Vietnam eras.

Diane is a member of CQ Williams Memorial Unit 179 in Charleston, South Carolina.

She served as Department President in 2003-2004 and NEC in 2004-2005.

Her national appointments include Americanism Committee, AEF Committee, Southern Division Children & Youth Chairman, Southern Division Americanism Chairman, Vice Chairman of Leadership, Vice Chairman of AEF, and four years on the Special Human Resources Committee, serving one year as vice chairman.

Diane's immediate family consist of five children, 11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

She recently retired as a human resources manager for an international musical instrument manufacturing corporation and now enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering, especially for our veterans.

It is with great pride that the Department of South Carolina nominates Diane Harley for the position of National Historian 2011-2012. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Diane Harley is nominated.

Are there any further nominations for the office of National Historian?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Hearing none, nominations for National Historian are closed.

With these nominations and the nominations made from the Division Caucuses on Saturday, August 27, 2011, nominations for the 2011-2012 National Officers are completed.

Rule Number 18 of this convention provides that the nominees for the offices of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be introduced to the assembly.

The Auxiliary member who made the nomination will introduce the candidate by name and department affiliation only.

Each nominee will be allowed a maximum of two minutes for remarks.

Will the representative from Minnesota please introduce the candidate for National President.

DELEGATE WONDRA: Madam President, National Department of Minnesota, I present to you the candidate for the president of the American Legion Auxiliary National for the year 2011-2012, Kris Nelson.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

I'd like to thank Shirley and Sarah for their nomination. I'd like to thank my husband, Terry, (stand up Terry) for being my biggest supporter.

(Laughter and applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: I'd like to thank the great state of Minnesota for their support.

(Applause and cheers.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: And the Northwest Division for their support. If they can stand the Northwest Division?

(Northwest Division stands to be recognized.)

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you all for your support.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: I pledge to you if elected tomorrow that I will stand together with each of you, working across this nation honoring the service of our veteran, the face of our freedom.

In doing so we should grow our capacity to assist veterans, military and their families and my dream is to next year, at this convention, say thank you ladies, we are a million members strong. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Will the representative from Virginia present the candidate for National Vice President.

NEC LEE: Madam President, I'd like to present to you from the Commonwealth of Virginia, candidate for National Vice President, Peggy Thomas.

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: Thank you, Susan.

Madam President Carlene.

I want to tell you that I come from a family of seven brothers that served in the military and I am eligible through five of those seven. I joined under the eligibility of my late husband, John. And he would be so proud if he could see me, and maybe he does, standing here today before you.

If elected I can promise you and assure you that I will give 101 percent to this organization and to the support of the National President.

All of us working together can achieve great things. It only takes one person as you have heard all year to make a difference. Collectively all of us working together can move mountains. And I know that we can.

This is a wonderful organization and I truly love it. And what I do for this organization, I do it from the heart, but I do it because I love all of you, and I love our veterans and our military.

And now I want to have the Department of Virginia please rise.

(Department of Virginia stands to be recognized.)

(Applause.)

MS. THOMAS: Thank you. As a member of the Southern Division, will the Southern Division please rise.

The South shall rise again.

(Southern Division stands to be recognized.)

(Applause and laughter)

MS. THOMAS: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Will the representative from Georgia present the candidate for National Chaplain.

DELEGATE JOHNSTON: Gloria Johnston, Department of Georgia.

It is with great honor that I present to you your National candidate for Chaplain 2011-2012, Mrs. Nini Lynch.

(Applause.)

MS. LYNCH: Thank you, Gloria.

It is so exciting to be here in Minnesota, the place of my very first national convention 18 years ago, to be running for national office.

To be working side-by-side with these incredible leaders is just a dream come true.

I want to thank the delegation from Georgia. All my friends from Georgia, please stand.

(Department of Georgia stands to be recognized.)

(Applause.)

MS. LYNCH: Thank you so much for your encouragement and your support. I want to thank Suzie Madge and Tilly Davis, my dear friends, and mentors for their campaign activities on my behalf. Its incredible what they did. And I promise you that I will give my dead level best to be an encouraging and an inspirational spiritual leader for this, not just the largest, but the greatest women's patriotic organization in the world.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Will the representative from the South Carolina present the candidate for National Historian.

DELEGATE COLLINS: I proudly present Diane Harley of South Carolina for the candidate for National Historian 2011-2012.

(Applause.)

MS. HARLEY: MS. Thank you, Brenda. Madam National President Carlene.

Ladies, I truly believe that written history is not for those of us that are living it day-to-day for us to read next year and say, oh, I remember when that happened and that was a wonderful visit from our national president, but it is a record of events for our future generations to read and see how -- read about our successes and sometimes, unfortunately, some of our not so great successes. A little bit of missteps that we may have taken.

I am blessed to live near the ocean and one of my favorite pastimes is to walk on the beach when there is not a lot of other people around, and I like to walk near the waterline and most times I see footprints in the sand of those that have gone there before me and I'm able to see when they've kind of stopped to do things a little bit differently, maybe turn to look out over the horizon or stop to pick up a special shell or something from the beach. And ladies I commit to you if elected tomorrow I will do the best to my ability to record those footprints that we are taking this next year so that those future generations following us will be able to follow in those footsteps to do the good work of our organization.

I ask you for your consideration when you cast your vote tomorrow. And I would really like to thank -- the Department of South Carolina please stand and be recognized for the trust that they have placed in me for this office of National Historian.

Thank you so much.

(Department of South Carolina stands to be recognized.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This concludes the nominations for the 2011-2012 National officers.

Rita Navarreté Past Presidents Parley Chairman will now give her report.

(Music.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: Madam National President, it is with excitement and pride that I report some of the highlights of this year's activities

accomplished by the Past Presidents Parley at all levels of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This activity generated by the Unit Member of the Year increased from last year and I am so proud to announce that 44 Departments participated and honored the special members who have proven time and again how much they care about our veterans, their families and their communities. They contribute time, money, hard work for the sake of others and they do this out of the goodness of their own hearts with no expectations of glory or recognition.

An informative pre-convention meeting was held on Saturday morning where department representatives heard stories on highlights of the works these women performed. The "Power of One" truly takes to its meaning in the work of these women.

Many departments and units further supported this activity by having some of their members attend the National Convention 2011 Women of the Year Luncheon. Today 16 unit Member of the Year awardees were recognized.

To all, let it be recorded that this national recognition is but a small way to honor the Unit Member of the Year Award.

Support of fund-raising for a nurse's scholarship was reported by 13 departments who recognize the importance of awarding scholarships to individuals who want to meet the need for quality healthcare.

Reporting Departments of California --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Georgia --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Illinois --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Kentucky --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Maine --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Minnesota --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Mississippi --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- New Mexico --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- New York --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Ohio --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Texas --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- Virginia --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- and Wisconsin --

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- raised scholarship funds totaling \$82,854.00 --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: -- and provided 93 students with scholarships. It is evident to this chairman the "Power of One" reached out to many to support the Nursing Scholarship Program.

The American Legion's Auxiliary salute to Active Duty Servicewomen allows the Organization to recognize and honor their service and offer support to their commitment to service the United States of America.

We have become a long -- we have come a long way for military women primarily limited to being nurses or clerks. Let the generations know today's women in uniform guarantee their freedom.

This afternoon five women are being recognized as true patriots who serve with pride. It is not only my honor but pleasure to announce and introduce those that are with us this afternoon.

The Department of Mississippi submitted this year's US Air Force recipient, Senior Master Sergeant Angela M. Baughman.

Angela proudly serves in the Air National Guard in Bay Springs, Mississippi with Combat Communications Squadron as an Administrative Specialist.

She began her active military service in 1988 with basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and then to her present position.

She states in her essay; as a small child I remember my father in uniform going to work and as I grew older I realized he went to work not only to provide for his family but also because of the great love and honor he had in wearing a United States Military Uniform. I knew from a young age that I wanted to follow my father's footsteps.

Please join me in welcoming Senior Master Sergeant Angela Baughman and also a very active dual member of The American Legion Family.

(Applause and music)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BAUGHMAN: Thank you, National President Ashworth for this prestigious award.

I'd like to also thank the Department of Mississippi both the Legion and Auxiliary for forwarding my package. Its truly an honor. Thank you Mississippi.

(Cheers and applause.)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BAUGHMAN: I'd like to also thank my parents who are up here on the front row. Like I said in my essay, if it weren't for my father I certainly wouldn't be in this blue uniform. So thank you for everything you've done for me.

(Applause.)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BAUGHMAN: It is truly humbling standing up here before this crowd and I'm just a little bit nervous, if you hadn't noticed.

(Laughter.)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BAUGHMAN: But it is, it is truly humbling standing up here before you and receiving this great award.

The Department of Mississippi gave me one, its hanging on the wall in my office and this award will also hang in my office.

Its for the Department of Mississippi but if you don't mind, I'll just take care of for you.

(Laughter.)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BAUGHMAN: You know its hard to imagine 23 years ago I was standing with my father as a witness and in front, then, Major Charlie Williams, with my hand raised high, swearing to uphold and defend the constitution of this great nation.

I enjoy every day putting on this uniform. Its been a great 23 years and hopefully in nine more I continue to do it and then go home and continue to help my Department on the Legion side and Auxiliary side. Thank you again for this great award.

(Applause and music.)

(Whereupon President Ashworth reads the inscription of the award to the recipient.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: A salute to Active Duty Servicewoman presented to Senior Master Sergeant Angela M. Bachman, Air Force, Air National Guard for honorable military service and the war on terrorism on behalf of the a grateful nation. Presented August 30, 2011.

Angela, congratulations to you.

(Applause and music.)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT BAUGHMAN: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: The Department of Minnesota presented their nominee, Major Christina Kretchman, who represents this year's US Army salute award.

Christina is unable to be with us today due to a duty assignment. I want to share some information about Major Kretchman.

She saw the Army as a means to a topnotch education and a way to flight school at no cost. She knew very little about the military with most of her knowledge coming from her high school civics teacher whose daughter was deployed to Desert Storm and he, himself, a veteran.

Upon deciding on entering the Military Academy she still remembers her dad telling her that there was a possibility that she would have to go to war. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in Aviation from the US Military Academy in 1999. Her assignments continued with success with the 25th Infantry Division in Wheeler Army Airfield in Hawaii then deployed from the Aviation Brigade to Kandahar, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Five. Then with assignments at Camp Humphreys in Korea completing extended education and obtaining her master's degree in International Political Economy of Resources in 2009, she was once again deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XI and served as the Deputy Public Affairs Officer for Regional Command East and Combined Joint Task Force 101 in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Madam President, we will ensure that Major Kretchman receives her award.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: We are excited that the Coast Guard is among the service branches being recognized this afternoon.

This year's recipient from the Department of Washington is Seaman Jessica Star Dean.

Jessica could not be with us this afternoon due to her new training assignment at the Coast Guard Training Center at Yorktown, Virginia.

Upon completion she will be Petty Officer in the position of Marine Science Technician.

She is from Rochester, New York and obtained her bachelor's degree in New York — that's okay —

(Cheers and applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: — her bachelor's degree in Geography from the State University of New York in Geneseo. She enlisted in the Coast Guard in April 2009.

I will read in part some of Seaman Deans' essay thoughts.

"Today women are in every rank and position of authority. The decision for me to join the military was an ongoing battle I had with myself throughout college. I knew when I met my recruiter the Coast Guard was the branch for me.

I chose the Coast Guard because of the mission of the Coast Guard was to protect home base. I chose enlisted versus officer because I wanted to know who I was presiding over as an officer. Being a woman in today's Coast Guard is the same as being a male in the Coast Guard.

I am thankful and proud to serve my country in the United States Coast Guard as a member of the Coast Guard's Station Cape Disappointment."

I spoke with Seaman Dean and she wants all members to know, especially the Legion Post who contacted her station commander and then made the connection with The American Legion Auxiliary who submitted the nomination.

She is truly very appreciative.

Again, Madam President we will ensure that she receives her award.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: The Department of Ohio —

(Cheers and applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: — recognize the service of this year's US Marine recipient, Lance Corporal Ashley Miller.

Being stationed at Cape Lejeune, North Carolina has great meaning to the Miller family. Ashley's parents are former marines and the base is Ashley's birthplace.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: Raised in a small rural farming community in Southeastern Ohio, she graduated from the Waterford High School in 2008, received a two-year degree from Washington County Career Center and joined the Marine Corps in 2009.

During boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina she received the Company's Highest Shooter Award and was promoted to Private First Class.

Parents Kenny and Debbie and Ashley are members of The American Legion Post 389.

(Cheers and applause)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: Lance Corporal Ashley Miller appreciates many women that fought to give her the option to be able to serve her country.

In her essay she partly states:

“Women have played a vital role in the armed forces since before the second World War. Young women became stronger women and looked up to the women that helped train them in boot camp. There are a lot of women who started their doctor or nursing careers in the armed forces.

In my opinion without women the armed forces would not be the same and a lot of the equality rights for women in the workplace would not happen. I appreciate the many women that fought to give me the option to be able serve my country.”

I present to you Lance Corporal Ashley Miller.

(Cheers, applause and music.)

LANCE CORPORAL MILLER: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I'm very honored to be here and to be selected as one of the 2010-2011 Active Duty Servicewomen.

I'm a lance corporal in the Marine Corps. I've been in for a little over two years. I went to boot camp in Parris Island, South Carolina.

I really don't know what to say, but I went -- I've been through a lot of training and I'm currently stationed in Camp Lejeune where I will stay for the next two years.

And I would like to thank my parents. They're in the front row, right there (indicating), for everything.

(Applause.)

LANCE CORPORAL MILLER: And I would also like to thank the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary and the Post 389 for sending my package in.

(Applause.)

LANCE CORPORAL MILLER: And a big thanks to Mike and Ann Smith for everything they've done for me.

Thank you so much.

(Applause,

(Cheers, applause and music.)

(Whereupon, President Ashworth reads the inscription of the award to the recipient.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Salute to Active Duty Servicewoman, presented to Lance Corporal Ashley Miller, Marine Corps for Honorable Military Service and the War on Terrorism on Behalf of a Grateful Nation. Presented August 30, 2011.

Congratulations.

(Applause and music.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: The Department of New York submitted this year's US Navy recipient, Lieutenant Lisa Aldous.

Lieutenant Aldus is unable to be with us due to her duty assignment. I will share the following information.

She graduated from the US Naval Academy in May 2004 and accepted a commission in the US Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer. She served two deployments in support of the global war on terrorism, has a master's degree in Leadership Education and Development, and received it in May of 2008, and presently serves as a 17th Company Officer at the US Naval Academy.

She will return to sea duty at the end of 2011 when she assumes the duties as Chief Engineer onboard USS John Paul Jones.

She has been an American Legion Auxiliary member since 1985 in Unit 1392, Indian Lake, New York.

She firmly believes women bring a unique perspective to the armed forces. She states, in part, they often approach problems differently which is essential to brainstorming and planning.

Madam President, again, we will ensure that Lieutenant Aldous received her award.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: A final note is that all five service branches are represented in this year's awards and that each American Legion Auxiliary Division is represented. A job well done.

Madam National President this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: There are none.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The National Finance Committee in addition to the developing the annual budget oversees the financial policy of the organization and makes recommendations to the National Executive Committee for action to ensure the organization is meeting nonprofit benchmarks and government mandates.

Desireé Stoy, National Chairman for the Finance Committee will now give her report.

(Music and applause)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Thank you, Madam President.

I stand before you to report on the efforts of your five-member National Finance Committee.

A committee charged with the preparation of the annual budget. Supervision of expenditures under that budget. Financial policy oversight and communication with the Board.

National President Carlene's theme the "Power of One" made complete sense to the FY11 Finance Committee as we recognized right away the "Power of One" strategically placed zero.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: Alas, achieving that strategically placed zero is not so easy.

We began the year with the approval of the FY11 Budget anticipating a deficit of over \$800,000. Meaning we were anticipating taking over \$800,000 from savings in order to pay for operations and programs. Because of effective oversight and increase in advertising revenue and an increase in direct mail solicitation revenue, projections are that we will reduce our dependence on savings to approximately \$217,000.

That's the good news.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN STOY: So what is the single factor or the biggest single factor that impacts our finances?

Membership. Our current membership is the lowest since 1945, the end of World War II.

Since September 2001 we have nearly 120,000 fewer members. One hundred twenty thousand fewer members equates to \$600,000 each year.

Our annual rate of decline is now over two percent.

We are a membership organization. The operations of a membership organization are supported by membership dues, fees and assessments.

As part of our strategic plan our goal is to build income diversity, where no more than 50 percent comes from any one source, like dues. This spreads risks over different income streams. It is a healthy but ambitious goal and hard for membership organizations to achieve.

Now reducing expenses is a natural reaction when reduced income is anticipated. Since FY09 we have cut and cut and still we have deficit budgets. In 2010, alone, operating costs were \$9.30 per Senior member.

The time has come for a different approach. Planning for the future needs of the organization is a critical responsibility of every finance committee. Your FY11 Committee met for two and a half days to build towards economic recovery. We reviewed 17 years of financial and membership data. We explored different avenues to access what level of increase was necessary right, now and build in a small figure to help sustain us.

Future phases of this economic recovery plan will include continued efforts to control expenses, exploring additional member benefits that appeal to our members, increasing development efforts and revenue sharing opportunities for Departments.

That's right. The plan is for every level of the organization to benefit. The bottom line is, its time to invest in our organization. It is time to curtail our dependence on savings and investment income. It is time for a dues increase.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN STOY: No, Madam President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: 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. And here with us today is General Tseng and Mr.

Hans Song, Director of Overseas Liaison Department, representing the Veterans Affairs Commission of the Republic of China.

Please help me give an American Legion Auxiliary welcome to General Tseng and Mr. Hans Song.

(Applause and music)

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: Good afternoon, Madam President Carlene Ashworth. Dear ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, again.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: The Minister, my boss, feels very greatly honored to have this very rare opportunity after he assumed the position as the Minister of Veterans Affairs in Taiwan, the Republic of China.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: The Minister would like to take this opportunity to express his utmost gratitude and respect for your efforts in serving the veterans and their dependants.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: Last December, Madam President Ashworth joined by National Commander Jimmy Foster made a visit to our country, Taiwan, the Republic of China and we hope they still have a very good impression about us, up until now.

(Laughter.)

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the founding of my country, the Republic of China in Taiwan, and therefore there will be a series of celebration of activities starting from October 8 through 14. And these will include a lot of programs showing the achievements that were acquired in the past years.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: By the time we have scheduled and we have received a lot of response from veterans friends from all over the world. And at that time and we hope -- we hope before that time, we will see representatives from this great organization the American Legion Auxiliary showing up in our celebrations, too.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: We have learned and we are informed that everything -- the founding of The American Legion Auxiliary you have been putting every little bit of your efforts in serving veterans in helping the security and stability by serving your veterans and their dependants. We feel proud and we respect you.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: All the volunteer activities that you initiated as well as the fund-raising activities that you have done, those are and will still be the role models that we will learn and hopefully that in the future when you visit Taiwan we can learn more from you.

GENERAL TSENG: Foreign language spoken.

(Whereupon, Mr. Song translates General Tseng's remarks.)

MR. SONG: In closing, thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you and we wish you a very successful convention, and we wish every one of you good health and happiness.

Thank you very much and just one little line.

Thank you and we hope that you learned some Chinese from the

Minister.

(Laughter, applause and music.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: In a sincere display of the "Power of One" I'd like to ask two very special women to join me on stage.

First is Patricia Johnson, a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Patricia was told by her local Legion Post that she could not become a member of the American Legion Auxiliary because she is a veteran.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: She was also told that her post does not support Girls State because it is a girls program.

(Whereupon, sounds of sadness.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Ms. Johnson will soon be transferring to a unique new post which is an all women veteran post that wants to support all veterans, not just men.

(Cheers and applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And news flash, the Post now has two male members, they call them "Tokens."

(Cheers, applause and laughter)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: With Ms. Johnson is World War II veteran, Dr. Lynn Ashley.

Dr. Ashley, also a Legionnaire, has been involved with helping write a resolution for combat pay, for current and recent women veterans returning from conflict areas who are not eligible for certain benefits even though they served in the same areas as men.

Ms. Johnson and Dr. Ashley, first let me say, thank you for your service and commitment to The American Legion and today's veterans.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to also welcome you to the American Legion Auxiliary with these gift memberships so that today's veteran active duty service members and their families can benefit from your dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary's mission.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And I'll just read that they both say:

“Gift Membership presented to Patricia Johnson and Dr. Lynn Ashley, in appreciation of your service to our nation and your desire to promote American Legion Auxiliary programs.”

Thank you both so very, very much.

(Applause and music.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please join me in thanking these two women veterans for their service and welcoming them to the worlds largest women’s patriotic service organization.

(Applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Before we begin the Constitution & Bylaws Report, I would like to remind everyone that if want to make a motion or an amendment, it needs to be on a motion form per standing Rule Number 9.

Motion forms are located at stage left. Your left, my right.

The debate will 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. And the Chair reminds you that we do have a timer here to fairly enforce this rule.

The rules also state that during debate delegates, alternates, and guests are to remain seated within their own delegation or assigned seating area unless they approaching the microphone, completing a motion form, or exiting and entering the general session.

Are there any questions on any of these rules?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Constitution & Bylaws are governing documents that should be known by all members at all levels of the Organization.

Mary Davis, National Constitution & Bylaws Chairman will present her report.

(Music and applause)

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Madam National President Carlene.

Imagine a meeting with no structure or rules in place, chaos and pandemonium would surely follow.

As Henry M. Robert, author of Roberts Rules once wrote, where there is no law that every man does what is right in his own eyes, there is the least of real liberty.

The Constitution & Bylaws are the basis for government, the guidelines to order and order is an essential element in a productive organization. Adjuring to the provisions of an updated constitution bylaws and standing rules has provided the structure and order Departments and Units need to enable them to move forward with the work of the Auxiliary.

At times our members may require a little encouragement to read or to follow their governing document.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: If members aren’t familiar with their own bylaws, questions frequently come up, such as. How many members constitute a Unit in good standing? Can the count include Junior members? Must the Unit work a specific

number of programs in order to retain their charter? Or something as simple as, how many members constitute a quorum?

Many Department chairmen reported answering questions like these. The chairmen devoted much of their time to interpreting and explaining our governing documents in addition to answering questions our Department chairmen served in other ways.

New York Chairman, Mary William and New Jersey Chairman, Sue Griffith reported that they began their year with very successful Constitution & Bylaws presentations at their Department sponsored leadership training, proving that it only takes the “Power of One”, Department chairman to teach many of our members the importance of updating and following their governing documents.

In Pennsylvania, Chairman Vera Mae Schultz, after encouraging Units to pay closer attention to their governing documents wrote. And if they follow them they should have smooth sailing and great Units.

Sometimes our Unit members do not always recognize the importance of keeping their governing documents updated. Even if there are no changes, bylaws should be reviewed periodically with all members to ensure that everyone is familiar with the basic rules of order.

In Texas, Chairman Betty Roller encouraged each Unit to review or revise as appropriate, approve and send their updated documents to the Department of endorsement. She made it fun for the members by creating a competition to see which Unit would get their Department’s in first with the winner of each Division receiving a trophy.

Department of Colorado Chairman, Donna Thompson motivates members through a letter campaign. She sends one of three letters to each Unit. The letter states, we have your updated bylaws; please update your bylaws on file; or we do not have a copy of your bylaws on file at Department; and if there is no response from a Unit, another letter is sent asking; if you need help writing or updating your bylaws please contact me as soon as possible.

Throughout recent history good clear governing documents have served as a cornerstone for productive civil meetings where all members understand and follow the rules.

As Alexander Hamilton wrote in 1788, the constitution ought to be the standard of construction for the laws and that wherever there is evident opposition the laws ought to give place to the constitution.

Mr. Hamilton’s remarks are applicable today as they were then. In organizations that have heeded his words and acted in accordance with their constitutions and other governing documents, have proven to be the most productive and the most successful.

Madam President, thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak on this exciting and important topic.

This completes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any proposed amendments?

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Yes, there are.

I really meant, yes. Sorry.

Yes, Madam President, there are three amendments.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: It is the responsibility of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to bring all proposed amendments to the floor for deliberation apart from the endorsement status by the Pre-Convention Committee, therefore regardless of the Pre-Convention Committee's recommendation on the adoption of an amendments, I will, on behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee move for the adoption of all amendments.

Before moving on 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-reference and to make such technical and editorial changes as may be necessary to assure the accuracy and readability of our governing documents.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It is moved that the Constitution & Bylaws Committee be authorized to correct article and sections 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.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Ready.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those in favor say, aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed say, no.

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The affirmative has it and the motion has been adopted.

Mary, please continue.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Madam President the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents Amendment I.

Proposed Amendment Number 1 – A proposal from the National Membership Committee to amend The American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Article III, Section 2, to simplify the descriptions of the Auxiliary membership classes to Membership and Junior Membership, removing the adjective “Senior” for adult members. If amended the section will read:

Article III Eligibility, Section 2: There shall be two classes of membership, Members and Junior members.

(a) Members are defined as that group over the age of 18 years; however, a wife under the age of 18 years who is eligible under Section 1 of this Article shall be classified as a Member.

(b) Juniors are defined as that group under the age of 18 years, whose activities shall be supervised by Members. Juniors do not have voting rights and are not eligible to hold office or travel on behalf of the organization. Upon reaching the age of

18, Juniors will automatically maintain Member status with full privileges of membership.

(c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

The Committee also presents three consequential amendments to the bylaws if the previously read amendment to the Constitution is adopted, the bylaws shall be amended to strike the word “senior” in Article VIII, Section 2, and Article IX, Section 3, also Article IX, Section 1 of the bylaws shall be amended to read “... derived from annual membership dues of members and Junior members...”

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 1.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of Amendment Number 1 to amend the National Constitution, Article III, Section 2, to simplify the descriptions of the Auxiliary Membership classes to Member and Junior Member, removing the adjective “senior” for adult members.

This amendment also includes three consequential amendments to the Bylaws.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment not be adopted.

Is there a discussion?

DELEGATE CRAIG: Madam President, microphone four, Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE CRAIG: I am adamantly opposed to the changing of this. I don't think our folks are happy to change something that's been very effective for us for 91 years with our Senior members and our Junior members. And I don't think young folks who are seniors in high school and seniors in college feel threatened by the terminology, senior. I think we should continue to keep our Junior and Senior membership.

(Applause.)

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam President, microphone two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam President, I speak in opposition to this resolution. I've been a Juniors Chairman. My granddaughter was a Junior since birth and she was very proud to be a Junior and very elated when she became a Senior member last year.

I spoke with several Juniors, how they felt about it and they felt that they would be remiss for not being allowed to be a senior member. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE JONES: Helen Jones, delegate from Piqua, Ohio, Post 184.

I speak for this amendment and I've never heard of the amendment. This is the first time I've heard of it, but as far as I'm concerned because you're a Senior member does not mean you've graduated high school. It is a term. A Junior member is someone under the age of 18. Anyone over the age of 18 is an adult. They don't have to be termed "Senior".

I'm 58 years old now, I just passed my birthday. And I'm here to tell you I don't need to hear senior any more than I have to.

(Laughter.)

DELEGATE JONES: I'm an adult. As far as I am concerned I am a member of the Auxiliary. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two. I'm sorry.

DELEGATE DORAN: Yes. Sharon Doran, from the Department of Arizona.

I can appreciate her remarks, however I want to tell you I'm 67, and I've worked very hard to be a senior.

(Laughter.)

DELEGATE DORAN: I also see some cost effectiveness by not changing all of our forms, all of our applications, and everything else.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE DORAN: So on behalf of trying to save the great American Legion Auxiliary from any more expenditures that we don't need, I'm proud to be a Senior member and let's save some money.

(Cheers and applause)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm not sure which one was first, but the Chair recognizes the delegate at the microphone one.

DELEGATE KERR: Katherine Kerr, Department of Washington.

I am opposed to this amendment. I have talked to several Juniors in obtaining the title and that's what they consider it, a title. A privilege to become a Senior member of The American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE RIGGS: Shelley Riggs, Department of Ohio.

I call for the vote, please.

(Cheers and applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Adoption of this amendment requires a two-thirds vote.

The motion has been made to end the discussion.

Those in favor signify by saying, aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it. The discussion has ended.

Those in favor of Amendment Number 1, please stand.

(Whereupon, members stand to be counted.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed please stand.

(Whereupon, members opposed stand to be counted.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Please be seated.

The negative has it, and the National Constitution, Article III, Section 2, is not amended.

(Applause and cheers)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Mary, please continue.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Madam National President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents Amendment Number 2.

A proposal from the National Finance Committee to amend the National Bylaws, Article IX, Finance, Section 3; to increase the amount of Senior members' national dues by \$5.00 with an incremental increase of 50 cents (50¢) every three years thereafter.

If amended the section will read:

Article IX, Section 3: The National per capita dues shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per annum for Junior members, and ten dollars (\$10.00) per annum for Senior members, effective in the 2013 membership year, with an automatic fifty cent (50¢) increase in Senior members National per capita dues every three years thereafter, and shall include a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary National Magazine for Senior members.

Each Department shall remit the National per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least once a month.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted with the following amendment:

Strike the words "with an automatic 50 cent (50¢) increase in Senior members National per capita dues every three years thereafter."

On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of Amendment 2, with the proposed amendment to strike the words "with an automatic 50 cent (50¢) increase in Senior members National per capita dues every three years thereafter."

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The amendment to the proposed Amendment Number 2 will be considered first.

The question is on amending Amendment Number 2, by striking the words "with an automatic 50 cent (50¢) increase in Senior members National per capita dues every three years thereafter."

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the amendment be adopted with the amendment.

Is there discussion on the amendment to strike the words “with an automatic 50 cent (50¢) increase in Senior members National per capita dues every three years thereafter.”

DELEGATE PORTER: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE PORTER: Terry Porter, Department of Colorado.

I strongly support the amendment that has been proposed to strike the words in this proposed amendment.

The section about the automatic increase is something that we should all be opposed to.

To allow the automatic increase would be irresponsible because we would all lose our control of our dues. There would be increases whether we needed it or not.

So I encourage all members to vote for this amendment to strike the incremental increase. A vote for this amendment removes the incremental increase, then you can do whatever you want with the amount of dues.

Do not give up your right to control your dues. Vote for this amendment.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE STOY: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE STOY: Desireé Stoy, Delegate from Ohio, a member of the National Finance Committee.

I rise to speak in opposition to the amendment to the amendment.

Since we have hit convention this year the National Finance Committee has heard that the fifty cents (50¢) incremental increase will not pass, that its dead, and that our members don't like it. And as we heard the previous speaker that it infringes on members rights, that is not the feel of the National Finance Committee.

In fact we sort of feel like those frogs that fell in that hole this morning that Rudy shared with us this morning.

We feel its important for you to know that your Finance Committee is committed to their fiscal responsibility to our organization. We know that we need more than a dues increase. We need economic recovery. Recovery that would provide assistance to every level of our organization in the future.

An incremental increase aids with sustainability and reduces the need for continually fracturing our organization over dues increases.

We ask you to give this concept a try. To help us. To help our organization recover.

I humbly ask you to keep the fifty cents (50¢) incremental increase as part of this amendment.

DELEGATE IMBURGIA: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE IMBURGIA: -- Priscilla Imburgia, Department of New York.

Could I have clarification was that change for \$3.00 and to eliminate the fifty cents (50¢) or it just on the fifty cents (50¢)?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This is on the amendment only.

Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those in favor of the amendment to strike the words, "with an automatic fifty cents (50¢) increase in Senior members National per capita dues every three years thereafter," please say, aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Those opposed please say, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The amendment to the amendment is not adopted.

The question now is on proposed amendment number two -- I'm sorry, is adopted. Is adopted. I corrected myself, don't get upset.

The question is now on proposed Amendment 2 as amended.

Okay. I need to remind you that only delegates may speak regarding motions. Alternates and guests may not speak during debate.

Okay. Which of these scripts am I supposed to be going by now, I am totally confused? Okay. I want to make sure I'm on the right page here.

The amendment to the amendment is not -- it is adopted and the question is now on proposed Amendment Number 2 as originally amended -- as amended.

The amount of Senior dues -- Seniors members National dues be increased by \$5.00.

Is there discussion?

DELEGATE NEWMAN: Madam President, Rosey Newman, Department of Indiana.

I move to amend Article IX, Section III, by deleting the word "\$10.00" and inserting the word "\$7.50."

Okay I move to amend it by removing a \$5.00 raise, and inserting a \$2.50 raise.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a delegate at microphone one?

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Are you looking for a second? I'm not going to second that.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No, I'm not looking for one, I'm asking if there is one.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: There is no second, so the --

DELEGATE DUTTON: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- there is no second, so it has failed.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Somebody yelled second over here (indicating).

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

DELEGATE DUTTON: Microphone one, Sandi Dutton, seconded the motion.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The question is on the amendment to strike the amount of \$5.00 to \$2.50.

Is there any discussion?

Okay. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE VAN KIRK: Madam President, Carol Van Kirk, Department of Nebraska. I am one of the five members of the National Finance Committee that has recommended the \$5.00 increase.

There is no one, I guarantee you, in this room that needs to be convinced more, that we need a \$5.00 dues increase that I needed to be convinced when we walked into that room and spent two and a half days in Washington, DC evaluating 17 years of our organization's history.

It was a very difficult job. We checked -- checked and rechecked our figures. We had long lengthy deliberations, and I can tell you that when we left the room, I was totally convinced that we had to request a \$5.00 increase.

So I stand in support of this resolution. Thank you.

(Applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Okay. Remember we're talking about the \$2.50 amendment.

DELEGATE BARYLSKI: Madam President, microphone one, Rita Barylski from the Department of Connecticut.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Rita.

DELEGATE BARYLSKI: I am opposed to the amendment of changing the \$5.00 to \$2.50. As far as I'm concerned you deserve \$10.00.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE BARYLSKI: Before you say -- wait a minute. We are always asking for resources, free materials, assistance within our Departments and we usually get it, and I know if you're anything like me you work more than 40 hours a week. But in order to receive all of these resources, the free materials and service that we need in order to sustain our organization, I know that there are many Departments that receive and keep probably more than \$5.00 per member within their Departments and with the lowering of the membership the increase in the cost of living, that we really do need to raise -- keep the \$5.00 raise per member.

We're supposed to be in the business of recruiting members to our organization to volunteer for veterans and for the military. And in order to do that as a big business we certainly need that \$5.00 increase.

So I am opposed to the amendment.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. I need to clarify Carol Van Kirk. Carol would you clarify that you are opposed to the amendment of changing it from \$2.50 to \$5.00 or what? Where are you? I'm sorry.

DELEGATE VAN KIRK: Totally opposed to changing it to \$2.50.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. I needed to clarify what -- okay.

DELEGATE VAN KIRK: (Unintelligible).

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone --

DELEGATE OLSON: Bonnie Olson, delegate from Michigan.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Bonnie.

DELEGATE OLSON: I think we all appreciate the fact that the

National Organization needs some kind of increase, but I would encourage the membership to support the \$2.50 rather than the \$5.00, simply because the country is in a state of recovery and the Auxiliary is also in a state of recovery, and I think that rather than passing the \$5.00 increase, which is actually a 100 percent increase from what we're paying now. I think we should have a recovery increase of \$2.50, and ask for another increase at a later date.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE RIGGS: Shelley Riggs, Department of Ohio. I call for the vote on the amendment, please.

VOICES: No, no. No, no.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question has been called for, is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It takes a two-thirds vote for this to pass.

We will take a standing vote on this.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam President are we closing on the vote or are we voting on the amendment?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: To close the vote on the \$2.50 amendment. Closing the debate.

All those in favor of closing the debate please rise.

(Whereupon, members rise to be counted.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those opposed to closing the debate please rise.

(Whereupon, members rise to be counted.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. It has failed. It takes twice as many of you to stand up as it -- the first and the second.

So the debate is back open again for the discussion on the \$2.50.

DELEGATE THOMAS: Madam President -- Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I would like -- I would like to ask the National Vice President to take the Chair, please.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE THOMAS: Peggy Thomas from the Department of Virginia.

I stand in opposition of the amendment to change from \$5.00 to \$2.50 because we badly need \$5.00. We're a membership driven organization and we have to rely on the membership dues.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE ASHWORTH: Madam President, Carlene Ashworth, delegate from Texas.

You just heard a few minutes ago from the Finance Committee that we have lost over 120,000 members in the last many years, so the dues had no bearing on us losing all those members. What we paid in dues for these last few years has had no bearing on that, so that makes no difference whether where our dues — what our dues amount is.

You also heard this morning from several of our veterans, wives, Army wives, the men and women who serve our country, the things that we have done for them that we can do as the largest women's service patriotic organization in this world. If we don't take care of those people, who is going to? They depend on us. They count on us.

We are the most well-known all over the world for taking care of our veterans and their families. If we cannot continue to do that because we don't have the funds to do so, who is going to take care of those men and women who have no legs, no arms, no eyes, no faces and anything else that we can do to support them?!

(Applause and cheers.)

DELEGATE ASHWORTH: I have been all over this country talking to them, seeing them for the last year, and this organization is well respected and we need to make sure that they get taken care of and the only way we can do that is if we continue to support them, and the only way we can support them is by increasing our dues.

I am totally opposed to this \$2.50.

(Applause and cheers.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE ALBERS: Yes. I'm Bobbi Albers from the state of Nebraska and I'm holding four offices right now in my little southeast community area. I also have a daughter serving overseas.

I am a single mom. I will lose lots of Units if it goes to \$5.00.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE ALBERS: One, I can do this with the help of all you guys, and I can help you and I'd love to do it, but I can also do it on my own without paying the money that I don't have to pay, because when it comes to feeding my kids or paying for this, I'm going to put food on the table for my kids.

And my daughter joined the military because this is all we've done since the day we've been born. And this is not about the \$5.00, its about cutting cuts where they need to be cut, and not hurting the people that are barely helping us now. We are not going to get no new or young members to join when it comes to raising membership. Period. If you want the young ones, you ain't going to get them if they've got kids.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone number three.

DELEGATE CASSIDY: Madam President. Irene Cassidy (phonetic), Department of New York.

I've been a member since I was a Junior. Over fifty years. I have lived through many dues increases on a Unit, Department and National level. I understand the need and necessity of this on a National level. I also can see where it will have an impact on the Unit. But I do believe we need to do the \$5.00 increase, but I also believe that as members and as a member-driven organization we need to hold the National staff, and the office and everyone who spends money, we need to hold their feet to the fire to make sure that they're tightening their belts when we're tightening ours. It's the only way this is going to work.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE CASSIDY: And -- I have one more thing. And you can't come back to us in two years and say we need an additional increase, because we as Units and Departments are struggling ourselves. And I support the \$5.00 increase, but I want to know that National and the staff and the officers will support us in the future on this. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE NAVARRETÉ: Rita Navarreté, delegate from Department of New Mexico.

You know ladies, delegates, friends, family, believers, believe our mission. Listen to our mission. We've got to do the right thing for the right purpose. A \$5.00 increase will just help us get there. I just heard from one referenced staff, they're our support. They have allowed me as just being your past immediate national president, going up the chairs, being national vice president, the services that I needed to know to be able to preform.

As I traveled last year I heard your voices. I was seeing your involvement in your communities and your Units with you Posts. We all -- I'm a grassroots member, we all are struggling through this. Two years ago all National Executive Committee Women had to carry a message home and say we are considering a dues increase. Some came back with it and some didn't. In our Department I'm so proud that we increased our dues and we were ready for it. We have two years now of money that's been invested and gaining interest because we made that decision.

So we are ready for that \$5.00 increase of dues.

Ladies let's listen to our hearts. Lets do the right thing. We want to be proud. We want to known. As I traveled last year it was amazing how many folks did not know who we were, what we did and how we served.

So through the staff who supports the programs that we develop, that we go out to you, we're able to be recognized at the national level in all our programs and endeavors.

So please let's do the right thing.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE WELTON: Yes. Alycne Welton, Department of Connecticut, delegate.

I have a passion. My passion is a bag of M&M'S®, \$5.00. I have pledged to give up this bag next year because of a greater passion, The American Legion Auxiliary and its mission.

(Applause and cheers.)

DELEGATE WELTON: Support the \$5.00 increase.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE NEWMAN: Yes. Rosey Newman. I know it sounds great, we need the money. I need money, too. But I'll tell you what, you keep talking membership, you raise it \$5.00, you're going to lose membership. You raise it \$2.50 you're going to lose membership.

If we tighten our belts like the government is trying to do, we may not need so much money.

We moved our office without permission from the delegation and that cost us money. We opened our office in Washington, DC, that cost us money and again without permission.

Ladies we can do a lot of cutting back. I mean, I don't want to lose members. I love this organization. But in the past four or five years all it is is give me give me give me and we're getting less from the national office.

So I hope we pass the \$2.50 raise and then National will have to work in ways to cut it and to make extra money. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE WARD: Trish Ward, delegate from Kansas, I call for the question.

(Cheers and applause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Hearing no second, the amendment has failed.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: I second the motion.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Okay.

It has been moved to call the debate. We need a two-thirds vote on that. All those who are in favor of ending the debate please stand.

(Whereupon, delegates stand to be counted.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

Opposed please stand.

(Whereupon, delegates stand to be counted.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Debate has ended.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: I'm going to take a one minute recess.

(Pause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: All those in favor of striking \$5.00 and inserting \$2.50, please stand.

We need the lights on, please.

All those in favor of striking -- of the amendment of striking \$5.00 and inserting \$2.50, please stand.

(Whereupon, delegates stand to be counted.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

Those opposed please stand.

(Whereupon, delegates stand to be counted.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The amendment has failed.

(Applause and cheers)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: We are back to the original amendment as amended.

The amount of the Senior member National dues be increased by \$5.00; is there any discussion?

DELEGATE BEHREND: Microphone one. Madam President --

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate on microphone one.

DELEGATE BEHREND: Madam President, Pearl Behrend the Department of Wisconsin.

Ladies and gentlemen, I have sat through all of this. I'm sure that each and every one of you feel the same as I do. I want this to be in the public eye the prestige organization that we truly are. And I can guarantee each and every one of you in this audience, that after 17 years we need that \$5.00 increase.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE BEHREND: And to try and go halfway at this point, I just don't know what to say or how to say it, because I love this organization. We are the biggest. We are the best, bar none. And I think its time that we stand up to the standards that we have started with. And you know I can't help but go back and relate to the fact that when the reason we were formed to serve the veterans and their families in our communities. And you know what ladies, they're the ones who gave us the freedom in this organization to be here and made something of ourselves. And when they went into service they didn't say I can only give half of my body. They gave their all.

(Cheers and applause)

DELEGATE BEHREND: And its about time that we realize this. This is our organization and its only what we will make of it. And if we want to plead poverty not participate in all the services that we do, --

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Time. I'm sorry.

The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE JUNGE: Madam President, Miriam Junge, Ohio and I favor this dues increase because how can anyone put a dollar value on a membership that all the money in the world cannot buy.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE JUNGE: There are some things in this life that you can't put a dollar value on, and membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is one of those categories.

Down through the years members of this great organization have experienced hard times just as many of us are experiencing today, but in spite of all their adversities they found a way to meet those challenges because they knew there in the hospital lies men and women and those serving in the military were counting on them. And we can do no less.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE IMBURGIA: Madam President, Priscilla Imburgia, Department of New York.

For those of you that know me and many of you do, I am always known as a very fiscal conservative. I am very cautious about how money is spent and probably one of the most critical ones of making it known when I am displeased with how money is spent, just the same I stand in support of this \$5.00 increase.

Just yesterday we said that we wanted to support our Juniors. That we wanted them to continue to come. We agreed that investing in them as part of our future was important. We can't continue all of our programs in doing the things that we feel are of the utmost for this country and for our veterans without this \$5.00 now.

Rather than coming back in two years for more, I strongly urge all of us in this room to do so, both for the \$5.00 and for those of your friends that are home and members in your Unit that will struggle in paying the addition \$5.00, I pledge and hope you will pledge too to help find the fund raisers and the ways to help them maintain their membership.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Lisa Williamson, Department of Alaska, National Junior Activities Chairman.

I take offense that someone doesn't think we've tightened our purse strings. I know from this year that we were operating on bare bunt bones. I stand in support of this amendment for the \$5.00 increase.

Just yesterday we defeated an amendment to change the possibility of changing the format for the National Junior Meeting. To continue on this line we have to have the increase. And I hope we -- all of you will support this or we won't have an organization for our Junior members to become Senior members of.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE DORAN: Sharon Doran, Delegate from Arizona.

Yesterday I spoke on the Junior thing, and it was defeated, so we have our Juniors.

I could do no less now that to stand up and say, yes, we want that Junior program to remain, therefore I am in total support of the \$5.00 increase. I also would like to say this, yes, I've -- been rolling about in my head for years, where can National cut down any more. Okay. And I've worked in the position of management and

tried to find ways to cut and cut and cut and I managed to do it. But if I went without a raise for 17 years I would have been a little miffed.

So I think that we do have to support our National staff and hope that they have the same dedication that each of us members do.

I, too, raised three children all by myself, but I have never ever felt that that money was too much to give. My brother served in the service. My daughter is a Warrant Officer in the Army Reserve and I will tell you that the money that I see spent and we all can spend our money they way we want, but I know darn well we can all afford \$5.00 a year and I think by golly we ought to do it.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE CLAPP: Madam Chair, Nicole Clapp, delegate from Iowa, Member of the National Finance Committee.

I would ask that every delegate and every guest and alternate in the room think back 17 years ago.

It was 1995. Do you remember who our National President was?

I hear a lot of different names, there's only one, Linda Newsome who went through the dues increase at that time and is serving now on our Finance Committee.

I would ask you to think back what \$5.00 could be you 17 years ago. That bag of M&M'S® that she was referring to didn't cost \$5.00 back then. Today your \$5.00 has just a value of \$2.05.

So you can see over the years with our expenses, how we — I appreciate your recognition that we have been cutting. Cutting to quick. Cutting to the bone.

I was asked to join the Finance Committee as a member in a corporate structure in an organization to know how to manage finances.

So please think back to where things were to where things are today. And I would appreciate your support of the \$5.00 dues increase. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE WARD: Trish Ward, delegate from Kansas.

Over the past couple of years we've had the opportunity to witness our Finance Committee come to us along with our outside financial counsel, Mike Alerding and his team, and speak to us about the financial situation of our organization. And they brought a lot of charts and graphs and statistics and scary numbers and scary facts to try and give us a snapshot of what our organization might look like in the future from a financial standpoint.

In fact I was a guest at a National Finance Committee Meeting a couple of years back as a foundation secretary where I heard Mike tell the team it's time to put your big girl pants on. Well I was like, whoa dude. I wouldn't exactly say it that way with a bunch of past National Presidents sitting in the room, but whatever. I was like freaking out. I was like I need to get out of here.

But what Mike was really saying was that we have some hard decisions that we have to make. This is a wonderful organization, but its also a business. And when your business is costing you more to run than the revenue you're bringing in, there's a problem.

As stockholders in this organization we have a responsibility to help fix that problem, and this is our opportunity to do that.

So I would encourage all the delegates here to set personal issues aside, come together in 2011. Let's make the hard decision. Let's do what Mike has asked us to do. Let's put on our big girl pants, make the tough decision, let's vote this \$5.00 increase through, and then for goodness sakes ladies let's move on.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE NOBLE: Debra Noble, Department of New Jersey.

As an accountant I am not opposed to a dues increase. I'm open to an amount. What I do object to basically is when our National President said without it National cannot continue the programs of the Auxiliary at the level we have always done. I am a 39-plus-year member of this organization as a matter of fact 46 years, I lost my count there.

Madam National Vice President as far as I know it is always the Units who are supporting the programs.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE NOBLE: The Units send in the donations, the Unit members work to get those donations.

Please don't forget we lose Unit members -- I would never quite over \$5.00, I would never quite over \$500.00. Okay. But I know I have members who will. Without those members I'm not going to be able to raise as much money to make my donations to my county, to my Department, to the National Organization. It is the Unit who does everything that the Auxiliary has to do. National we empower you to represent us, but it is still the Units who supports the programs of The American Legion Auxiliary and we are going to lose members over this amount.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE STEPHENS: Cinnamin Stephens, from the Department of Nevada.

Me personally I'm not opposed to \$5.00, I can afford that, but my concern is as our report said that we lost 120 thousand members, if we double it now instead of \$5.00 its going to be \$10.00 to National where we lose 240 thousand. A number was also give to me that nine percent of our Juniors are not going to Seniors. If we increase the dues to \$10.00, are we not going to have as many Juniors as well. And that's where I feel my concern is, is retention.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE MULKEY: Beverly Mulkey, Department of Arkansas.

We discussed this in-depth after I learned of it at our membership conference and we are opposed to the increase.

The idea is not whether we love the organization, we're here. Our members are out working and are beating bushes for membership. I've been membership chairman last year and will again this year. We are doing everything we can to find members and all I'm hearing is now, we're going to lose a lot of members because so many of ours pay duplicate family members and everybody else. Its not just an individual, its several members at one time and they're not going to be able to afford to stay.

Now is that going to bite your nose to spite your face? That's -- I don't want to lose membership. We've got to grow.

So that's -- please, I do not support the \$5.00 increase.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE KING: Diana King, Department of Texas. I call for the question.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'll second that.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: It has moved and seconded.

All those in favor of ending debate, please stand.

(Whereupon, delegates stand to be counted.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

All those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, delegates stand to be counted.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The motion is carried and debate is ended.

I'm now going to take one minute recess.

(Pause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The vote will be taken by ballot.

To assist this process the Chair appoints the following members to a Tellers Committee from the Central Division, if you're in the room please stand. Pat Kransa (phonetic), Department of Illinois.

Sandy Deacon, Department of Iowa.

Are you both available? Please come forward if you are.

From the Eastern Division, Ann Fournier, the Department of Massachusetts and Debra Noval (phonetic), the Department of New Jersey.

From the Northwestern Division, Joann Sieck, S-I-E-C-K, the Department of Nebraska, and Sandra Peterman (phonetic), the Department of North Dakota.

From the Southern Division, Ruth Procter (phonetic), from the Department of Florida and Marie Bolin-Hendrick (phonetic), the Department of North Carolina.

If these people would all please come forward.

From the Western Division, Kendall Madsen, the Department of California and Jeri Stevens (phonetic) the Department of Idaho.

We need to count that there's ten of you up there.

You do not need to be a delegate to serve as a Teller. We -- you were purposely not asked to serve as you -- were a Teller if you were a delegate. These are non-delegates.

Can someone tell me if there are 10 members over there?

DELEGATE DALTON: Madam Vice President, Carol Dalton (phonetic) from the Department of Idaho. Jeri Stevens (phonetic) is not in the room. She's a dual member, so I'm sure she's with the Legion.

So you might want to get Emma Peoples (phonetic).

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Emma Peoples from Washington. Is she in the room? Okay. Emma Peoples from Washington.

So do we now have ten?

DELEGATE DALTON: Madam Vice President, Ann Fournier from the Department of Massachusetts, is also not in the room.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Is Barbara Trepanier from the Department of Vermont, in the room?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Is there an alternate in the room from the Eastern Division that will serve as a Teller?

Okay. We're going to use the Division Vice President from that Division to serve as a Teller. And the Southern Division Vice President will serve in the place of Ruth Procter.

We should now have 10 people.

Each Department will receive an envelope containing the exact number of ballots for your delegation strength.

At this time the Chair requests that each Department send a Page or representative to the Teller table to pick up your envelope. The tables are arranged by Division. Pages and representatives are not to distribute the ballots to the delegation members until the Chair gives further direction.

Did you hear that? You are not to distribute it until you get further direction.

DELEGATE DUTTON: Madam President, microphone one, Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland.

Can we have some light so we can see what we're doing?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: They're vapor lights I'm told, so they can only raise them -- they're trying, but I guess they're vapor lights.

Can the lights please be raised as high as possible?

(Pause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Will all the delegates, except the Pages should be seated in your chairs.

All of the delegates according to our rules, everyone is to be seated in their chairs except for the Pages that we gave permission to come up here.

Thank you very much.

Those of you who are not Pages please be seated.

Has every Department picked up their envelope?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Okay. Please listen carefully for instructions.

(1) Each envelope contains the exact number of ballots for each Department's delegate strength.

(2) When instructed, one ballot will be distributed to each delegate. For absent delegates the ballots will remain untouched in the envelope.

(3) The ballot has three options, yes, no and abstain.

(4) Each delegate should circle one option.

(5) Once the voter has selected their choice, please fold the ballot once.

(6) Each voter needs to place their own ballot in the Department's envelope.

(7) The Tellers will count the blank ballots of the absent voters with the majority of the delegation present from that Department. The Tellers will know the number of absent voters by the number of untouched ballots within the envelope.

Are there any questions regarding the ballot procedure?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Remember, the question is on the adoption of the amendment to increase in Senior members dues by \$5.00.

UNIDENTIFIED DELEGATE: Madam Vice President, I thought if one of the delegates is not there then the majority of the votes --

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The Tellers will -- the Tellers will count the majority of the votes. According to our Rule Number 12 it is up to the Chair and this is how our -- how we were instructed to vote, and that is the Chair's prerogative according to the parliamentary procedure.

Please circle on your ballots either, yes, no or abstain.

We'll now take -- I don't think it should take more than three minutes to distribute the ballots to the delegates that are here involved.

(Pause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Kathy Dungan and Melanie Taylor have voted, could you please to the platform to be ready to give your reports while we count the ballots. Janet Jefford, Kathy Dungan, Melanie Taylor.

Have all the ballots been -- ladies have all the ballots been delivered to the Tellers?

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: I can't hear you. Have all the --

VOICES: No.

(Pause)

DELEGATE STEPHENS: Madam Vice President, microphone one. Cinnamin Stephens from the Department of Nevada.

going to -- Are you -- are we going to be hearing the votes by state or are you just

VOICES: No.

DELEGATE STEPHENS: -- going to give --

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: No, it's a two-thirds. It's a two-thirds vote that it will take.

DELEGATE STEPHENS: Okay.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Okay. Are all the ballots --

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Ladies you're just supposed to be following the directions, placing your vote in the envelope and bring it to the Teller. We've gone past our three minutes, so we'll give you another minute to complete your vote.

Everyone is to be seated, please. There should be no discussion.

Discussion has ended. All delegates should be seated. They should be voting according to the instruction so that we can continue. Thank you very much.

(Pause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Are there any other Departments who have still not brought their ballots to the Tellers?

(Whereupon, no verbal response heard.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: I didn't hear anything, so I'm assuming that everyone has brought their ballot to the Tellers.

Okay. By providing for the needs of our military family around the home front -- oh, I'm sorry.

I'm sorry. The Tellers will exit to count the votes and will be supervised by our National Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey.

While the ballots are being counted we will move on to reports. When the Tellers return we will ready the Tellers' report with the results of the vote.

Okay. Thank you.

By providing for the needs of our military families on the home-front, we hope to ease the minds of our deployed service members so they don't worry about their loved ones back home and can focus on the monumental task of protecting our country.

Here to tell us about the importance of the American Legion Auxiliary's National Security Program, is National Chairman Janet Jefford.

(Applause and music)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Madam National President, today I'd like to share three stories illustrating the "Power of One." One idea, one Unit, and one county each showing that our members are working hard to support our military and their families.

The first idea was conceived by the Clarence L. Tinker Midwest City, Unit 170 in Tara, Oklahoma.

(Cheers)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: During Naval and Army Readiness Days unit members took pictures of service men and women and their families and created 3X3

pocket size photo albums called, Soon (phonetic) Albums, for families attending the event.

These albums fit neatly a pocket of a military uniform and can easily be worn into battle. They recorded that many service men and women were brought to tears when they realized they would have a photo album to carry overseas with them.

According to National Security Chairman Gwenell Knight, it was a moving experience for all involved, and it is the reason why members of 170 volunteer to attend these events over and over.

One unit, the Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233 from Logansville, Georgia, incorporated all aspects of the National Security Program into their year of service. But their main focus was bringing support and comfort to our military.

A program, Soldiers Connection, was formed by two unit members for the purpose of sending packages overseas.

To raise money the Unit ran raffles, sponsored golf tournaments, held a garage sale, hosted a spaghetti dinner and worked at the Logansville Harvest Festival.

Unit members reached out to community organizations, churches and business asking for their support.

Kraft Foods donated pallets of crackers, Fig Newtons, chips and peanuts.

Over the past year they have shipped 1024 packages with an estimated value of \$29,792.00 --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: -- at a shipping cost of \$12,691.00. And they do deserve that applause.

Although the Unit received coverage in articles and pictures published in local newspapers their most important recognition and reward came from the troops themselves. Specialist Abram Mullen (phonetic) sent a thank you letter. "I am stationed in Camp Tichee (phonetic) in Iraq with a group from Florida and Ohio. We just received our packages and I just wanted to say how much we appreciate it. Every time we get a package it makes our day. Just wanted to say thank you and send a couple of pictures of our group."

Another came from Lieutenant James Moore (phonetic) thanking the ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary for his holiday package. He ended the letter with "rest well, because we are always here."

One county in Western New York demonstrated the "Power of One."

It all started with Erie County Commander Ray Caso (phonetic) and Auxiliary President Ann Nagilio (phonetic) when they conceived the idea of donations for deployed service member families. The entire Legion family joined together.

South Buffalo Unit 721's National Security Chairman Kathie Renner was named secretary and PR chairman for the event. She took the bull by the horns and her Unit followed. Working with the two armoires in the area, Kathie secured permission to use them as storage and distribution centers.

Members distributed flyers and collection boxes all over Western New York reaching out to the community for financial help they collected gift certificates and items for (unintelligible) baskets for a Chinese auction. Knowing the importance of PR,

Kathie contacted newspapers, radio stations and used social media websites such as Facebook to spread the word. In all the auction of 146 items raised \$4,300.00.

On one trip to the armory Unit members were amazed to find three pallets of Gerber baby food, two of Oneida dinnerware, 108 boxes Oneida silverware along with two pallets of canned food.

Next came the daunting task of sorting bags upon bags of clothes, food and other items including 26 boxes of toys and stuffed animals donated by a local Dollar Store.

Luckily the armory provided the needed space and Unit 721, the manpower or should I say woman-power.

In total the Erie County Legion Family members assisted in distributing \$56 thousand worth of items to 548 military families.

(Applause and cheers)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Now I'd like to share a personal story.

Last April while vacationing in Florida I met a young man and his family. He shared that he was navigator and stationed at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. He told me had been in the desert twice and was scheduled to return in October. In the course of our conversation he shared that his family and friends thought he was crazy when he enlisted in the Air Force.

He had a very lucrative job on Wall Street and was doing quite well.

So me being me, I asked him outright, why did you join. He looked me in the eye and without hesitating said, "I did it for the flag."

I wish I could tell you how many times I've thought of that answer. "I did it for the flag."

Most of us here today have never had the privilege of serving our country in uniform, but we, too, honor our flag by continuing to serve those who serve.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you, Janet. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: No there are not.

(Laughter)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: As advocates of our veterans auxiliary members are encouraged to contact their elected officials to implore them to keep the needs and sacrifices of our military and their families front and center as they go about their legislative work. Here now is National Legislative Committee Chairman Kathy Dungan to give her report.

(Applause and music)

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: Madam National President, members worked on several legislative objectives this year, and working as the "Power of One," we had a very successful year.

Auxiliary members advocating for our veterans, active military and their families spoke with one voice using email, letter writing, phone calls, faxes and personal contact our members reported 140 thousand contacts made to elected officials. That is an awesome number.

Many Auxiliary members attended the Awareness Assembly in Washington in March and had a personal visit with their congressman.

I am happy to report that 41 Departments submitted a Legislative Report.

The number of members who contacted their elected officials this year was 10,904.

U.S. Congressmen were contacted regarding the budget crisis, the Dream Act, the Flag Protection Amendment, and the Care Act of 2010. All issues affecting our veterans.

Much effort was made to obtain cosponsors to support the Flag Protection Amendment. The joint call to action supporting these issues received great response.

The American Legion's Legislative Action Center helped the Auxiliary improve communication about important issues.

Departments reported at 523 members enrolled in the Legislative Action Center.

Deb Badeer, Department Legislative Chairman from Nebraska reported success promoting their legislative program which included the entire Legion family. Their Auxiliary joined forces to support and enhance The American Legion Day by listening, learning, and lobbying for legislative concerns.

Their Juniors held their first Unicameral Adventure meaning one legislative body which is consistent with President Carlene's "Power of One," theme.

Their adventure began with a visit with their state auditor who discussed the importance of honesty and integrity. They observed senators in debate. Learned how a bill becomes a law. And toured the state capital.

Members utilized many ways to stay informed of legislative issues.

Members subscribed to the Legion's magazine, The Dispatch.

Departments and Units websites promoted legislative issues and materials such as the Auxiliary's legislative advocacy guide.

Meet the Candidate Night and legislative dinners were held. Get out to vote campaigns were held. And members worked at the polls. They were kept informed by the Legion's Legislative Division which provided weekly updates on current bills and the legislative focus of the week.

Another objective was the reestablishment of Auxiliary's National Legislative Council.

Departments were requested to identify an Auxiliary member or members with a professional or personal relationship with each member of their US Congressional delegation and request that individual to serve as the Auxiliary's representative on legislative issues.

As you can see this was definitely a year of grassroots members getting involved regarding important issues affecting our veterans.

Madam President this concludes my platform remarks. Thank you.  
(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. Kathy do you have any recommendations or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: No, I do not.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

The Auxiliary offers a variety of opportunities for members to serve in leadership rolls. From chairing a short-term community service project at a Unit level, to running for a national office. The Leadership Program prepares future leaders and helps develop their skills so that everyone can step into a leadership role with confidence.

Here with her report is National Chairman Melanie Taylor.

(Applause and music.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam National President, American Legion Auxiliary members all across this country shared your theme the “Power of One,” to educate, train, and mentor women of all ages, Junior and Senior members to assume leadership rolls within the Auxiliary and to carry on its mission.

Leadership is about the commitment we make to our Unit, District, Council, Area and Department.

Leadership reports were submitted by 2,507 Units and 42 Departments.

Officer training was taught in 615 Units and 126 Units reported new leadership activities.

It was also reported that 255 members participated in The American Legion Auxiliary Senior Correspondence Course offered on the National Website and Junior members took advantage of the Junior Correspondence Course as well.

The Department of California held their leadership workshops in September in northern and southern California with 295 members in attendance.

One hundred twenty-five members attended for the first time and they certified 76 new leadership instructors.

The Department Leadership Chairman put together over 200 leadership workshop booklets and 100 workshop CDs that were given at no charge to the Units in attendance.

The Department of Wisconsin Leadership Chairman formulated her Plan of Action to reconnect members to the basics of being an Auxiliary member and educate and motivate members to be leaders of their future.

She also provided ongoing training throughout the year.

Nine workshops were held throughout the state and PowerPoint presentations were used at all workshops.

A game called “The Auxiliary by the Cups” was used to demonstrate the structure of The American Legion Auxiliary and showed that everyone is a Unit member.

They also asked — used the skit entitled, “As the Table Turns”, featuring two members on the telephone discussing their meeting the night before. The new members serving as presiding officers fumbling her way through her meeting thinking she knew everything, while the other quieter and more experienced member refuted all the stranger things the new officer did.

The Department of Texas Leadership Committee continued with the publication of the ABCs of Unit Management and Texas Tradition Leadership Guide and made available updated pages to the prior year offering.

Units continued to look for and express the desire for leadership. By providing the ABCs the Auxiliary Basis Concept, the members were better able to understand the basis in becoming better leaders.

Units conducted their own mini-training workshops with seasoned members being instrumental in sharing their knowledge.

The Unit Handbook and the Unit Constitution & Bylaws were distributed.

The Department of New York held a total of 173 training sessions that included Unit, County, and the Department workshops. They also reported 71 members completed the Senior leader correspondence course.

Their Department website is widely used for the distribution of information and updated materials sent from the National Chairman.

This resource tool allows for immediate distribution to their members.

They have also created a library section on their website that provides numerous ways of obtaining critical information.

Many members across the country participated in leadership activities this year. You should all be proud of what you have learned and continue to share this knowledge.

As members of The American Legion Auxiliary it is amazing to realize just how much we have accomplished. I hope that each and every one of you will share this knowledge and support your Department.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you, Melanie. Do you have any recommendations or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: No, Madam President, we do not.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: I'm out of things to do, so we're going to take a five minute break while we wait for the Tellers to come up with their report.

So we'll have a five minute break.

(Pause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: We're going to ask that you don't leave your -- you can stand up and talk or whatever you want to do, but we're just asking that you don't leave the convention hall. Thank you.

(Music)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: One minute. We don't have results yet, but we've had some people come up here and they're wondering what happened to the Third Amendment.

I think that you all agree me that we can wait and do that tomorrow.

(Cheers and applause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Okay. Thank you.

So Mary will finish her Constitution & Bylaws Report tomorrow. The Tellers have just informed us that they should be done with five to ten minutes.

(Pause)

(Music)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The election results are 530 in the affirmative and 320 against. It did not pass.

(Cheers and applause)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: We are now excused until tomorrow morning.

Thank you and have a good evening.

DELEGATE STOY: Madam President.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Excuse me. Excuse me, the Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone number two.

Can we get some lights on, I can't see.

DELEGATE STOY: Desireé Stoy, Delegate from Ohio.

I would like to give notice of the following amendment to the National Bylaws regarding Senior membership National dues.

Amend Article IX, Finance, Section III, by striking \$5.00 and creating a blank. The blank would be filled with an amount as decided by a majority vote of the convention body.

VOICES: No.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: You're heard the -- you've heard the -- that's just notice. The Finance Committee will come before you tomorrow.

Thank you. You're excused until tomorrow. Have fun at the Commander's Banquet those of you who are going.

Oh, oh, I'm in trouble. I'm -- announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. I promise I will do these fast. Okay. As my late mother would say, listen up so we can all move on.

Lost and found. For all who have lost something or found an item please contact the convention center's security. There are house phones located all throughout the convention center. All you have to do is pick up the receiver, security will be on the other line. They will meet you if they have an item that you've lost or they will come to where you are to pick up an item you have found.

Tomorrow morning you may bring toiletry items from your hotel rooms to benefit the Minnesota VA Center. There will be collection boxes outside these -- at the registration area, the big red, white and blue registration areas as you walk in. You all know where I'm talking about? Okay. There will be collection boxes out there. The Department of Minnesota will take care of delivering those to the Veterans Administration facilities here in Minnesota. But again, don't bring them into the convention hall but bring them to those at registration, the red, white and blue registration outside if you want to donate toiletry items from your hotel room to benefit the Minnesota VA Center.

Committee Meetings. The 2011-2012 Western Division Membership Team will meet tomorrow at the back of the room upon adjournment.

The 2011-2012 AEF Committee will meet tomorrow afternoon at the back of the room upon adjournment.

The Membership Team will meet by the Idaho sign.

State dinner tickets for sale. This is where you get release some steam and make some noise.

The following Departments have State Dinner Tickets.

Department of Georgia has one. Department of Georgia makes some noise.

(Cheers and laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We know it's late. Department of Georgia has one ticket and here are you?

(Cheers)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Department of Louisiana has one ticket. Where are you?

(Cheers)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Department of Indiana has one ticket. Where are you?

(Cheers)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Department of Ohio has two tickets. Where are you?

(Cheers)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Department of Missouri has one ticket. And where are you?

(Cheers)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: There are a lot of tickets in the middle of the room here.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: All right. Final announcement. Those going to the Commander's Banquet tonight it is in Hall A, at 6:30 p.m.

And we reconvene at the regular time in your schedule tomorrow morning. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: We stand adjourned.

(Music)

(Whereupon, at 5:20 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

**NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011**

VOICE: American Legion National Convention, please welcome your National President, Carlene Ashworth.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. The 91st National Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary will come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Welcome, everybody, to today's session and please remember to silence all of your electronic devices. And I thank you very much for that.

And at this time, I'd like to ask our National Chaplain, Vickie Thrower, to come forward and give the invocation.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Please bow your heads. Heavenly Father, we are celebrating our final days of this 91st National Convention. We thank you for the Power of One, our National President Carlene, our National officers, National Chairmen, our special guests, our speakers, and our members. We thank you for all of our accomplishments and our American Legion family.

May the matters discussed this week serve as a catalyst to move our American Legion Auxiliary forward and cause us to advance and see growth in all areas. We thank you for your guidance this week.

We ask that you protect our servicemen and women and their families, guide our world leaders, be with our American Legion family and help us to grow our organization that we will glorify your name in all that we do. We pray this in the spirit of our Lord. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Again -- excuse me.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Again today we're beginning our session with a video that exemplifies the Power of One at the unit level. We could have picked many others, but unfortunately we only had time to feature three.

Monday we witnessed how one little idea grew into a fantastic project that helps formerly homeless veterans.

Yesterday we saw the positive effect of one person and the chain reaction of increased service, membership, and involvement through and about enthusiasm.

Today we are going to witness how one involved volunteer not only gets other members involved, but her entire community. Let's take a look.

(Whereupon, a video is shown.)

MS. KUNDERT: It's springtime in Texas. The blue bonnets are in bloom and the Ride 2 Recovery's Texas challenge participants are just a few hours away from the town of Cleburne.

Back in Cleburne, meet Marty Peters, Auxiliary member and owner of NAP Tax Service. It's her busiest season, two weeks before the April 15th tax deadline, but like thousands of Auxiliary members, she is never too busy to serve this mission.

MS. PETERS: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50 is excited to have R2R here again and today as part of their visit, we have a rally with the students at the Cleburne High School.

(Applause.)

MR. ROSS: Ride 2 Recovery is such a great program for us. Whenever they come to the school, I know as a history teacher, I get the opportunity to speak with my students a lot about how veterans have gone before us and how they've opened up and paved the ways for us to have freedoms that we would not have without them.

MS. KUNDERT: But the stop at the high school is only part one of the event. An evening of food and entertainment awaits the riders at the new Cleburne Conference Center.

It's a huge undertaking, but Marty knows how to involve others to get the job done. It's the Power of One multiplied into the power of many.

VOICE: She inspires the community to come together for the events and for our veterans. She's dedicated. She goes to the school. She gets everyone in the community involved. She follows-up to make sure it is done and everything is on target.

MS. KUNDERT: It's a theme echoed by many.

MR. ROSS: When she does something, she gives it her all or she won't take on that job. One way or the other, she gets the job done.

VOICE: She involves the police department, the fire department, of course, the whole community, the mayor, the congressmen in this area. She's just been outstanding.

President Carlene's theme, the Power of One, is truly inspiring to all of us. But what's amazing to see is when we take the Power of One and one more and one more and all of the volunteers and all of the members come together to make an event amazing like the one with our R2R here today.

VOICE: All it takes is the Power of One and in this community of Cleburne, Marty Peters was that one.

VOICE: She has worked very hard as countless others have on the R2R project and it went great.

MS. PETERS: So another event is over and after spending months and months talking to people, working to -- working with people, talking to them on the phone and it all comes together. And then in a flash, it's over.

But what you have left, of course, are memories. What you have left is the hope that you made a difference in somebody's life. You hope that perhaps an Auxiliary member that hasn't been involved before will be inspired to get involved because it does -- I mean, it does so much for you. It just gives you such a great sense of satisfaction and the hope that maybe you made a little bit of a difference.

MS. KUNDERT: It's safe to say that Marty has indeed made a little bit of a difference and it's all due to a desire to serve and the Power of One.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Delegates, members, and guests, from the Department of Texas, please welcome Marty Peters.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All three of these videos will be available for viewing on the Auxiliary's You Tube channel and you'll find the link on our website, [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) or go directly to You Tube and [www.youtube.com/user/americanlegionauxiliary](http://www.youtube.com/user/americanlegionauxiliary).

We will proceed with the election of National Officers. Will the nominees all come to the platform, and I believe they're all here, and be seated on the stage. Are we all present? Great.

Dubbie Buckler, our National Secretary, will read the Convention Standing Rule governing the election.

Dubbie.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Good morning, Madam President, and thank you.

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

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: On Tuesday morning, you nominated Kris Nelson of Minnesota for the office of National President. In accordance with the rules you have adopted, if there is but one candidate for an office, the roll call may be dispensed with and the nominee elected by voice.

All in favor of electing Kris Nelson as National President for 2011-2012 administrative year, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair declares Kris Nelson of Minnesota duly elected as the National President for 2011-2012 administrative year. Kris, will you please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Peggy Thomas of Virginia is the only nominee for the office of National Vice President.

All in favor of Peggy Thomas for the office of National Vice President, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Peggy Thomas has been duly elected as National Vice President for the 2011-2012 administrative year.

Please stand, Peggy.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: 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:

Florence Briggs of Indiana has been nominated for the -- excuse me -- for the office of Central Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Florence Briggs as Central Division National Vice President, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Florence Briggs has been duly elected as the Central Division National Vice President.

Florence, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Lorraine Rani Gray of Vermont has been nominated for the office of Eastern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Lorraine Rani Gray for Eastern Division National Vice President, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You have elected Lorraine Rani Gray as Eastern Division National Vice President.

Rani, will you please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: She really is standing.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Linda Feezer of Wyoming has been nominated for the office of Northwestern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Linda Feezer for Western Division National Vice President, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You have elected Linda Feezer as the Northwestern Division National Vice President.

Linda, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Winnie Broussard of Louisiana has been nominated for the office of Southern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Winnie Broussard as the Southern Division National Vice President, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Winnie Broussard has been elected the Southern Division National Vice President.

Please stand, Winnie.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Carmen Metzger of Idaho has been nominated for the office of Western Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Carmen Metzger as the Western Division National Vice President, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Carmen Metzger has been elected the Western Division National Vice President.

Carmen, please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Diane Harley of South Carolina has been nominated for the office of National Historian.

All those in favor of Diane Harley as the National Historian, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Diane Harley has been elected National Historian.

Diane, will you please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: C. Nini Lynch of Georgia has been nominated for the office of National Chaplain.

All those in favor of Nini Lynch as the National Chaplain, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Nini Lynch has been elected the National Chaplain.

Nini, would you please stand.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you your 2011-2012 American Legion Auxiliary National officers.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, ladies. Thank you. You may retire from the stage, yes.

MS. MONTANEY: Madam President Carlene.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. MONTANEY: Microphone two. I rise to point a personal privilege.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Microphone two.

MS. MONTANEY: Jane Montaney, Department of Washington.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. MONTANEY: During yesterday's -- first of all, I'd like to state that in no way, shape, or form do I intend this to be a lobbying effort to vote for or against a raise of any kind. But I do feel that during yesterday's debate on the issue of the raise for membership, there were some comments made and I was not able to make a statement that I feel is very, very important.

Despite the outcome of the vote on the raise and despite any future debate, I strongly feel that I need to make the point that our National officers and staff are volunteers also, not just at the National level, but also at the Unit level. So they are very aware of the effects on the Unit level.

From what I've observed over the years, these ladies are very loyal to the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. They truly believe in service, not self. It's not just words to them.

If you were to take the salary of any one of our National staff, I'm pretty sure you could divide it by the number of hours they worked and you would probably find they work well below the minimum wage.

We're very lucky to have skilled, knowledgeable people who believe in the purpose of The American Legion Auxiliary strong enough to be willing to pass up better paying jobs and sometimes with a lot less headaches to work for our organization.

Our National officers are ladies that work their regular jobs and then work for the American Legion Auxiliary. And sure, a lot of us do that, but probably not to the extent they do because they're working not just on the National level but on the Unit level and their Department level. And they have line items that are reimbursed for expenses, but you don't really think that 100 percent of them are reimbursed. I'll bet you it's not even 50 percent.

So I truly believe that before we go on with this day that our National staff and officers deserve a show of support and appreciation, a vote of confidence from us.

Thank you, ladies, for all you do.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Jane, for your comment.

MS. SCHOONOVER: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. SCHOONOVER: Shirley Schoonover, Department of Minnesota.

The Department of Minnesota heard some very disturbing news and I would like to clarify this.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MS. SCHOONOVER: It has been rumored that the videotape of Kris Nelson's nominating speech was made at the expense of National. And let me tell you that is not true. The video was made in Sarah Nelson's home at her own expense. It was simply played yesterday on the National equipment.

Thank you for this time.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Shirley.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I also would like to address a couple of things that were widely circulated yesterday that are not accurate that need to be explained, one of those being our -- the subject of the moving of the National Headquarters offices.

In 2007, at the National Executive Committee meeting on August 25th, 2007, it was voted to adopt the National Finance Committee's recommendation to do that and that Resolution passed unanimously.

Also, on August the 25th, 2005, the National Executive Committee adopted the budget that reopened the Washington, D.C. office with full discussion and that budget was also adopted unanimously.

So I just wanted to clarify those two issues.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: At this time, we are going to continue on with our Constitution & Bylaws. We still have another amendment, number three, that needs to be brought before the body.

So Mary Davis will continue with her report.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Thank you.

Madam National President, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee presents Amendment 3, a proposal from the Department of Arizona to add a new section to the National Constitution to change the governance structure to elect four National President positions with duties described and to change corresponding sections in governing documents.

Madam National President, because of the opinion from The American Legion National Judge Advocate declaring this amendment contrary to Indiana nonprofit state statutes, I will not read this amendment.

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 3.

MS. BLAKE: Madam President, microphone two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Microphone two, the Chair recognizes the Delegate.

MS. BLAKE: Judy Blake, Department of Arizona.

At this time, the Department of Arizona respectfully requests that this Resolution be withdrawn.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there any objection to withdrawing Amendment Number 3?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Hearing none, Amendment Number 3 is withdrawn.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

CHAIRMAN STOY: Microphone three, Desi Stoy from the Department of Ohio.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from microphone three.

CHAIRMAN STOY: I move to amend Article 9, Finance Section 3 by striking \$5.00 and creating a blank.

VOICE: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. There has been an amendment to Article 9, Finance Section 3 by striking \$5.00 and creating a blank and there has been a second.

Is there any discussion?

VOICE: Wait.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Since it's created a blank --

VOICE: Madam National President. Oh, I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- it has -- it leaves it open for you to create an amount.

MS. KLUM: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. KLUM: Two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone two. Okay.

MS. KLUM: Diane Klum from the Department of West Virginia.

As a point of information, I'm not a Parliamentarian, so a parliamentary inquiry or a point of information. Would you please explain a fill-in blank amendment.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The -- you can make as many suggestions as you want as the amount. We will take them from high to low and then we will have debate and determine which amount needs to be voted on.

The first one to get a majority vote will be the amount that we will vote on.

MS. KLUM: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We will then consider it an amendment to the Bylaws which will take a two-thirds vote. So is that --

MS. KLUM: Madam president.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Diane.

MS. KLUM: Further clarification. For a blank, do you first vote on having a blank amendment? Second of all, once you fill that vote, it's a majority vote and does that -- once the blank is filled in, do you vote on the amendment as filled in with a two-thirds vote?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you want to come up and explain this?

Is there any objection to the -- to our National Parliamentarian explaining what's going on here?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: The motion of the amendment that was made by Desi Stoy was to have a blank. That allows the Convention body to offer suggestions. You can have suggestions anywhere from less than \$5.00 because you considered \$5.00. You can not consider \$2.50 because you voted that down yesterday. So anywhere from a penny to 4.99 but not including \$2.50 can be offered as suggestions.

Once we get all the suggestions, we will consider them from the highest one to the lowest one. You can debate each one and the first one that receives a majority vote is then placed into the blank.

So then the motion would read to amend the Bylaws by whatever figure you decide it to be. And then we will debate that. And that takes a two-thirds vote to amend your Bylaws.

MS. DORAN: Madam National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DORAN: Microphone one. Microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone one.

MS. DORAN: Yes. Okay. Sharon Doran, Delegate, Department of Arizona.

I ask that we fill in that blank or move, whichever it is, \$4.00 for membership dues. I -- may I -- do I address that now or wait? What --

Sharon. PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We have to get more suggestions first,

MS. DORAN: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate from microphone three.

MS. HALL: Thank you, Madam President. Lois Hall, Department of Kentucky.

Madam President, fellow officers, fellow delegates, I believe that yesterday we heard that we had received donations from non-members in the amount of several thousands of dollars.

I believe that instead of a dues increase, we need to change our attitude and get more members, new recruits, younger recruits. We're getting older, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: At this time, we can only take debate on suggestions for the amounts of the dues.

MS. HALL: I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay? Thank you.

VOICE: I have a point of order, please, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

VOICE: We have not voted on the Resolution. Before we even vote about the amount, we have to vote those words. It's a yes or no. Then we could consider the amount.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It's not a Resolution. It's a Bylaws amendment.

VOICE: But the wording is -- has to be approved before we vote on it.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No. We're not voting on an amount at this time.

MS. TWETE: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We're taking amount -- suggestions for amounts.

MS. TWETE: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone -- the Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. TWETE: Judy Twete, Department of North Dakota.

If we look at membership statistics and look around this room, I think we would be hard pressed to come up with one-third of the delegates here that are military family members of the Auxiliary.

Most of the women here are probably delegates because they have a veteran in their --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This is -- we can --

MS. TWETE: I would like to suggest that we vote from our heart, not our checkbook, and put an amount in this amendment that will support the National organization to carry on the programs of young -- young military members.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Judy.

MS. DUTTON: Madam President, point of order.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DUTTON: Point of order.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DUTTON: Microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MS. DUTTON: Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland.

I'm still confused. I thought we had to vote to fill in the blank and we never voted to -- on her motion. I'm just confused. If you could explain it to us. We don't have to vote on the motion? No, we didn't. We never voted on the motion.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We don't vote on the motion until we can fill the blank.

MS. DUTTON: Madam President, do we vote to fill the -- to fill the blank? I'm very --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's why we're getting suggestions now of how much and then we will vote.

MS. DUTTON: We never voted to do that.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We don't have all of the suggestions yet for filling in the blank.

MS. DUTTON: Madam President, we didn't vote on the motion to fill in the blank before -- to actually -- to have this motion.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Our Parliamentarian has ruled that that is not proper. We have to fill in the blank before we can vote on the motion. We need suggestions from you. This is strictly just suggestions from you as an amount. Then we will fill in the blank and vote on whatever the suggestions are.

MS. KERR: Madam president, point of order, microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from microphone four.

MS. KERR: Nancy Kerr, Department of New York.

I'm sorry, but I beg to differ with the Parliamentarian. Desi made the motion to create the blank. Creating the blank is a change. Therefore, we must vote on the change before we can fill in anything.

VOICE: That's right.

MS. KERR: As it stands now, it still says \$5.00.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion -- what she stated was that she wanted to amend Article 9, Finance Section 3 by striking \$5.00 and creating a blank.

MS. KERR: Yes, ma'am.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And we needed to vote on that.

MS. KERR: Yes, we do. We need to vote on that.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: So it is a motion to amend a blank amount of a -- an amount in the Bylaws and you have to fill in the blank before we can vote on the amendment.

MS. WARD: Madam President

MS. KERR: Madam President, point of order, please.

VOICE: Let me finish.

MS. KERR: Microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm going to recognize the Delegate at microphone three first.

VOICE: Okay.

MS. WARD: Trish Ward, Delegate from Kansas.

I would like to recommend a dues increase for the blank of \$4.95.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. It has been suggested \$4.00. It has been suggested \$4.95.

MS. KERR: Point of order at microphone one, please.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone one.

MS. KERR: Katherine Kerr, Delegate, State -- Department of Washington.

Do we not have to approve the fact that the amount of \$5.00 being changed to a blank to begin with? Just creating that blank has to be approved?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The \$5.00 was voted down.

MS. KERR: Right. So we need to create --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's right.

MS. KERR: We need to vote to create that blank line and we have not done that yet.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The way the motion was presented that we are -- we are asking for suggestions to fill in the blank.

MS. KERR: No. Desi's -- Desi's motion that she read was to amend, asked to amend, remove the amount of \$5.00 and create a blank line. We have not approved that yet. We have not voted on her amendment.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Parliamentarian has been asked to speak again. Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: There are times when it is proper to have a motion and you would say I move to create a blank. If you are discussing something and

all -- people have lots of different ideas, and then you can say I move to create a blank. And then you vote on whether or not you want to do that.

But the way this motion --

MS. KERR: Correct.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: But the way this motion was presented is a motion to amend the Bylaws by striking the current amount and then creating a blank which then allows you, the Convention body, to make the decision what goes in there.

So you might be thinking that, yes, at times, there is a motion to create a blank, but not the way that this was done.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. ALVAREZ: Yes. Bobbi Alvarez, Department of Nebraska.

And I make a motion for a dollar raise. You heard me spoke yesterday about the \$5.00. I'm from a small town. I heard a lot of people talk.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This is -- no -- you can only give an amount.

MS. ALVAREZ: A dollar amount.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

MS. BUTLER: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. BUTLER: Judy Butler, Department of Indiana.

I suggest that we have a \$3.00 membership.

(Applause.)

MS. BEHREND: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm not sure where you are.

MS. BEHREND: Microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

MS. BEHREND: Pearl Behrend, Wisconsin.

Madam President, I don't think there's anyone in this room that doesn't appreciate a bargain. May I suggest \$4.99.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. We've had \$4.99, \$4.95, \$4.00, \$3.00, and \$1.00.

Are there any more suggestions?

MS. MAHONEY: Microphone one, please, ma'am.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone one.

MS. MAHONEY: Jean Mahoney, Department of Florida.

This is my 53rd National Convention. And I want everybody to know that every time that National has asked for a raise, we have had a discussion for at least two hours per.

Now, I think a compromise between National and the delegates would be \$3.00 as was suggested.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's already been suggested, Jean.

Thank you.

MS. MAHONEY: I suggest that the \$3.00 would be a compromise for all of us.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, Jean.

MS. MAHONEY: And it's time we compromise.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Jean, there's no discussion on this. It's only a suggestion and that's already been suggested. Thank you.

VOICE: Microphone four. Microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

VOICE: I move that \$3.50 be inserted.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: \$3.50 has been --

MS. SHANNON: Microphone two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Since she made it, she said she moved. She said moved. Okay. It was a suggestion.

Okay. Microphone two.

MS. SHANNON: Candi Shannon, Department of West Virginia. Mine is actually a question.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MS. SHANNON: You -- we're throwing around numbers from, say, a penny to \$5.00. Right now it says \$5.00 in there. So should we not --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We voted that down yesterday.

MS. SHANNON: It doesn't say an increase. The thing was changing it from \$5.00 to \$10.00. I know you're talking about the increase. But what I'm saying Article 9, Section 3 just states the total amount of the dues --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Right.

MS. SHANNON: -- which presently is \$5.00. So should our suggestions not be 50, six, whatever, is my question?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Yes, you are correct. Thank you.

VOICE: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Excuse me.

Is there any objection on these suggestions that have been made that you just add the \$5.00 that's already there to that? You're okay with that or you're not okay with it?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Thank you.

Madam President, microphone three.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

MS. CASADI: Maryann Casadi (phonetic), Department of New York. We go in the whole \$4.50. I say we put in \$4.50 in the blank.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Oh, so you're -- so it would be \$9.50 all together then in the blank?

MS. CASADI: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. So the Department of New York suggests \$4.50.

Are there any other suggestions?

VOICE: Microphone four.

VOICE: Microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone four

VOICE: Madam President, a point of inquiry. How are we -- what's the process for zeroing in and how many -- are we looking at 500 possibilities of -- by the penny or what will be the process that will be used to determine after we've considered and tossed out as many numbers as we can think of between \$5.00 and \$10.00?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: How do we go about determining which amount we're going to -- okay.

VOICE: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Okay. An answer to the question from the Delegate at microphone four, once we have all the suggestions, we will start out with the highest amount. We will take a vote and -- have a discussion and take a vote. And it will either pass or not pass and we will go down the line until we've eliminated those -- the amounts.

VOICE: Mathematically speaking, because I am a math teacher --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Right.

VOICE: -- my question would be if this body could by a majority determine a number. It still would take a two-thirds vote. So just because we have a majority to agree on a number may or may not make this pass by two-thirds.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's correct.

VOICE: This is a clarification. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That is correct. Thank you.

VOICE: Madam President, microphone two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

And then remember, ladies, this is only suggestions for amounts.

VOICE: Madam President, I move to close debate.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Close suggestions.

VOICE: Microphone one, please.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please. Clarify that again that you -- to close the suggestions --

VOICE: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- close the debate on suggestions.

VOICE: -- I move to close the suggestions and debate.

VOICE: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. And it has been seconded. Thank you.

VOICE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Okay. It has been moved and seconded that we close suggestions. It does take a two-thirds vote. All of those in favor, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it. Debate is closed on the suggestions.

(Applause.)

VOICE: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

VOICE: -- point of order. You can't close the debate. You can close --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We're closing suggestions. That's what we clarified.

VOICE: -- the suggestions and then we have to close the debate.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Exactly.

VOICE: And you've just stated it.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm sorry.

VOICE: Could we please have a clarification which --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It should -- it should have been stated that we are closing the suggestions, not the debate, closing the -- the motion was made to close the suggestions on the amount. It was seconded.

Do you want me to take the vote again on that?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Okay. We will now decide on an amount. Okay. There were seven suggestions for amounts. Okay. The amounts suggested were \$9.99, \$9.95, \$9.50, \$9.00, \$8.50, \$8.00, and \$6.00. We will start with the \$9.99.

Is there any discussion on the amount of \$9.99?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No discussion. Okay. No discussion on --

MS. JEFFORD: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. JEFFORD: -- microphone two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. JEFFORD: Janet Jefford, Department of Connecticut.

I have to say I was really disappointed yesterday when the vote failed to increase the dues by \$5.00 to \$10.00. So I rise this morning to urge the Delegation here to vote in favor of a \$4.99 increase. I think we've heard all the reasons why that needs to happen.

Also, another point I'd like to make. I've heard many people say that people should have a voice. In this Convention, they want a voice. So ask them please not to ask to close the debate until most of the people have been heard.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam President, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from the Department of Wisconsin.

There's some confusion in our Department and I suspect it's probably true of others that when you vote for 4.99 or 4.99 is the amount that comes up on the final ballot and that loses by a two-thirds vote, we do not go down to 4.75 and then to 4.50 and whatever.

So just wanted to be sure that we clarify that, too, so the delegates understand that when it goes to the actual two-thirds vote that that is the end of it then.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is that correct? They don't get to vote on another amount if the 9.99 fails?

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: I'm not talking about the suggestions for the amount. Once the amount gets put on the ballot, it requires a two-thirds vote.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's correct.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: That ends everything. It -- we aren't going to do 4.99 two-thirds and then that loses and then you go to 4.75 or whatever else was the next number. Are you following my question?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I thought if the 4.99 fails, we go -- we don't go to the next amount. It just is over with. That's what they're saying. If the 9.99 fails -- if the 9.99 fails, we do go to the next amount.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: But only on the suggestion.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: On the suggestion, the suggested amount that I just read to you, we would go down to the next amount.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Correct. But I'm saying when it's the final amount that's agreed by the majority of the delegates present and it gets put on the -- in that blank and that either has a yea or nay vote --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. I understand.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- either up or down, it's over with. People in my Delegation did not understand it. I wanted to be sure it was clarified to the Delegation.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That is correct.

MS. PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: When the amount gets put in and it gets voted on, it has to be approved.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, National Vice President.

I speak in favor of this Resolution. Yesterday it was stated that the units are the ones who do the work. And that's true. I'm a grass-roots member. I work for the American Legion Auxiliary every day. But without a National organization, we won't have units to do the work.

So we need to reinvest in ourselves so that we can continue to offer the programs that serve our veterans, our families, and our military.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

MS. KURK: Nancy Kurk, Department of New York.

Madam President, we would call for a caucus so we may be sure that our delegates all understand the procedure that we're following, a short caucus, five minutes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Should I? She didn't make it in a motion. She just said I call for.

Ladies, do you want to have a five-minute caucus?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I think we should continue on. It wasn't a motion, so we will continue on.

The Chair calls on the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. ALVAREZ: Madam President, Bobbi Alvarez, Nebraska.

And I do agree. I mean, I understand what National does, but some of these bigger cities also need to understand some of the smaller towns of 360 people can't afford this. We are dropping like flies down there. And we have veterans in our state and without the few people we have, we don't have anybody to take care of them.

And to say we don't do fund raisers, we got to drive an hour and a half to the closest Walmart. We don't have the big stuff and the big communities to help us. And all they have is us. And it's great to have the big cities where you got everything right here, but we don't have that.

And to say we don't care about our veterans, I'm 38 years in Auxiliary. My daughter is in the military and I am dedicated to this. But I'm not dedicated to -- I think Nationals need to buckle down a little bit. I think the salaries, to put a cap on the salaries for so many years.

(Applause.)

MS. ALVAREZ: I mean, it's everybody, but it's our veterans that are suffering. Our money, my money out of my own pocket goes to paying stuff for veterans in my community and in my state. And if I'm going to lose members, who is going to help take care of these veterans in my state?

That's all it comes down to. We all got to buckle down. We're all buckling down and so does National. I mean, I would like to see -- we've got our expenses, but we don't have anything that shows what expenses go to exactly what at National.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's in the budget that's approved by the National Executive Committee.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

MS. DAVEY: Thank you, Madam President. Cecile Davey, Department of New York.

This is my first National Convention and right now I'm just a little confused as I think some of my other people are also.

In respect that the suggestions have been in \$2.50, \$3.00, \$4.50, \$4.99, and that's what we're supposed to be voting on first. But then I heard where you've taken

the \$5.00 and added, say, \$4.50 to make it 9.50, that we're going to be voting on that suggestion. That to me becomes confusing.

If we could have somebody explain to me maybe and to others that may not understand that. The first vote is going to be on the suggestion of either 2.50, 3.00, 4.50, whatever.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The first vote is on the -- the first amount is \$9.99 which includes the \$5.00 that is already in the Constitution & Bylaws.

MS. DAVEY: But aren't we going to be voting twice, first on the suggestion or when we vote, that's it?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We vote to fill the amount, the blank first

--

MS. DAVEY: Okay.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- which is -- the \$5.00 is already there.

We strike the \$5.00, the \$5.00 that we voted on yesterday, but there's \$5.00 already there. Okay? So that makes -- the \$4.99 plus the \$5.00 that's already there makes the 9.99.

MS. DAVEY: Understood. But that will be the final vote. So what I'm -- what I'm asking is if the suggestion is, say, when you bring up \$2.00, that blank is going to be filled in by \$2.00 or the blank is going to be filled in by \$7.00?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: \$7.00.

MS. DAVEY: But that's the second vote.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No. It's already --

MS. DAVEY: No? That's what I'm -- that's why I'm saying I'm confused.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DAVEY: That's one of the reasons why New York wanted a caucus. So --

MS. KERR: Microphone four.

MS. DAVEY: -- that's all.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

MS. KERR: Madam President, Nancy Kerr from the Department of New York.

I move that we caucus for five minutes to explain this whole procedure to our Delegation so they can vote with the knowledge they need.

Thank you.

VOICE: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Motion has been made and seconded that we caucus for five minutes for the purpose of getting with your Delegation for clarification.

All those -- is there any discussion on that?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I believe the nos have it.

MS. KIRK: Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We will continue. The discussion is still on the \$9.99.

MS. KIRK: Madam President, microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

MS. KIRK: Thank you, Madam President. Fran Kirk, Department of Iowa.

I would like to say I heard a lot of discussion. I'm quite in favor of this amount.

VOICE: Four ninety-nine?

MS. KIRK: The main reason the amount, the 4.99 or the 9.99, the reason being that I heard discussion on or I heard people talk on they couldn't get younger members. I have had new members sign up that cannot believe that our dues are \$15.00 per year because --

(Applause.)

MS. KIRK: -- they asked me is that per month. And I say, no, that is per year. And they're just amazed. They think that is way too low.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. MCCLUNG: Dianne McClung from the Department of West Virginia.

Just for clarification, because I've heard a lot of people talk about what we're talking about about voting on the specified amounts, that it -- and we will vote until we receive a majority vote on the amount to go in the blank. And then we will re-vote on the amendment for two-thirds, correct?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That is correct. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

Thank you, Madam President. Lorraine Bouschett (phonetic), Department of Rhode Island.

I am speaking against the \$4.99 for the sole reason that yesterday it was a three to two vote that defeated the \$5.00 increase. That means that \$4.99 is going to be fairly close to the same ratio if we vote again. So I'm speaking against 4.99.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

MS. CRAIG: Madam President, Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

I, too, am opposed to a 4.99. That almost is an insult to those of who -- and to everyone who voted yesterday against the \$5.00. And to come back now with the 4.99 is an insult.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three. Microphone three.

(Laughter.)

MS. VAN KIRK: Oh, I'm sorry. I apologize.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's okay.

MS. VAN KIRK: Carol Van Kirk, Department of Nebraska.

This is my final year and my final Convention as a member of the Finance Committee. And I just would like to take a few minutes to explain that believe me, in the last three years, this has been a very difficult job. We have made every effort to make cuts including staff, maintaining salaries.

And while I understand -- it was a close vote yesterday. I understand people's reluctance for the amount. But I really feel that we need to work within our communities and give these young people something to want to join. And I signed up 29 members since April in a town of 1,450.

(Applause.)

MS. VAN KIRK: And most of those are young women. So they will join, but we have to give them a reason to join. And I don't think they'll be reluctant to pay the dollar amount. So I hope when you're considering this that you think it through very carefully.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

SECRETARY BRIAR: Madam President, microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes. The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

SECRETARY BRIERE: Robin Briere, Department of Florida.

As a Department Secretary, I'm opposed to 4.99. I think an odd amount is a nightmare both for the departments and for National. I am not opposed to a dues increase. I think our National organization is long overdue an increase.

In my seven years as Department Secretary, I have seen a decline in the services they're able to provide us and the difficulties they've had in retaining good staff because of what they're able to pay them.

And I don't think there's anyone in this room who is still working that would be willing to cut their salary in half and I think that's ridiculous to even make that suggestion. They work very hard whether it be for this organization or not.

But I think we need to consider an increase that is going to pass because to take the risk of them ending up without an increase is unacceptable.

And I do ask that you allow the departments to caucus before we go for the two-thirds vote because the Department of Florida came with a mandate to vote for the increase as long as there were no incremental raises.

And when you went to the ballot, I know that our delegates did not all vote for the increases they were asked to. So I do -- you know, I can see where a caucus prior to the ballot vote where we make sure our delegates are properly voting would be in order.

So I am in favor of an increase. I just think the 4.99 -- as Flora Jean Craig said, if 5.00 didn't go through, I doubt 4.99 would. So let's not shoot ourselves in the foot twice.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate from microphone two.

MS. OAKLIN: Tamara Oaklin (phonetic), Department of Minnesota.

You're hearing a lot of things and people talking about their Unit members cannot afford the increase and such. At no time did it say as a Unit, you cannot go and do fund raisers and help those Unit members that cannot afford those Unit dues.

(Applause.)

MS. OAKLIN: You have to work with your members. And if that means you do a fund raiser and put money towards their membership so they can make up that additional amount, go for it. But we obviously need this increase. We couldn't pass \$5.00. We need to get as close to that as possible and that's 4.99.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

MS. PRENDERGAST: Mickey Prendergast, Delegate from Department of Texas.

I call for the vote.

VOICES: Yeah.

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Motion has been made and seconded that we vote on the amount of \$9.99 and to -- yeah -- to end the debate.

All those in favor, say aye. It takes two-thirds vote, ladies. All those -- we're voting on ending the debate for 9.99. That's what we're voting on, to end the debate on 9.99.

All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The mo -- the debate has ended. Okay.

What you're voting on right now is whether or not you want -- what we will be voting on is whether or not you want to put the \$9.99 in the blank. You're striking \$5.00 and you're putting \$9.99 -- you're putting \$4.99 for a total of \$9.99. Does everyone understand this?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. All those in favor of the 9.99, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The 9.99 has failed. We will go to the 9.95.

VOICES: No.

VOICE: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there any discussion?

VOICE: -- microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

VOICE: Madam president, I also am not opposed to a dues increase. I think that we -- most of the members in here understand that that is needed. Again, as a math teacher, I would say that in the Finance report yesterday, it talked about a deficit this year of over \$837,000.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Correct.

VOICE: One dollar and a quarter per member would have covered that. So we could -- with about a buck, buck fifty, we should be able to maintain where we're at. Listen to me, please.

So my point is there are a lot of departments that also came to this Convention with a mandate that they could not approve anything over \$3.00. So for us to be looking at all these little pieces now, I think that there -- most people in this auditorium came to Convention understanding we would approve a dues increase and probably had about a \$3.00 figure in their heads which would meet the expected deficit. It would maintain us for a few years, probably limited services and we understand that.

So looking at those things greater than that amount knowing that many came to this Convention with limitations placed on them by their departments.

I would also say that my own Department has a permanent membership program and we're struggling to maintain that and doubling our dues is going to cut the life of that permanent membership in half. And so it is at the Department we also feel the squeeze.

So my encouragement would be for this group to vote down anything until we get to three and then encourage everyone to vote for three and let's move on.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

MS. ROSENBERG: Madam President, I'm Rene Rosenberg from Department of Washington.

I'm against any number that we give up for today if it doesn't end in zeroes. I can't see where I'm going to go up to a new member and say please sign up with a price tag of XX and 99 cents or 95 cents or 50 cents.

Let's keep it with zeroes at the end, ladies. Let's just discuss whether it's 4.00, 3.00, 2.00 or 1.00.

(Applause.)

MS. ROSENBERG: And I call the question pretty soon or I suggest that we call questions fairly soon instead of debating a lot.

Thank you.

VOICE: But that's not Unit dues. That doesn't have anything to do with --

MS. ROSENBERG: But that's Units' dues. That doesn't have anything to do with this amount that we're voting on. Your Units' dues can end in zeroes.

(Laughter.)

VOICE: Yeah.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

MS. HOWELL: Jenny Howell, Department of Delaware.

First of all, I'd like to commend National and their budget cuts. I read all the documents that have been sent to me. This is my first National Convention and I hope it's not my last, but I'm still thinking about that.

(Laughter.)

MS. HOWELL: But I manage a \$50 million budget for the Department of Corrections of Delaware and I got my pay cut two years ago. And I have struggled ever since. And not once have I ever considered not paying my dues to this organization.

(Applause.)

MS. HOWELL: Not once. Whether it's 4.95, \$3.00, as they told us yesterday, it was \$3.00 -- \$9.30 per member and, yes, our units are the ones that made this organization strong.

But I don't sit at my computer and print my membership cards. I don't sit at my computer and print a National magazine. I don't sit at my desk in the prison and plan a convention or a leadership conference. My office in a prison is bigger than our National President's office as you guys heard me say at the President and Secretary Conference.

These ladies work hard and they're the ones that give us the support and they deserve what they get and probably a lot more. But our units do deserve the services that they give us and that we provide.

So we need to remember every one of us sitting here and every Unit at home that our veterans are what matter. And I know if I can pull \$5.00 out of my pocket with the sheriff knocking on my door for foreclosure, there is no one else here that can't do it too.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

MS. ZETTERBURG: Yes. Ellen Zetterburg (phonetic) from the Department of Utah.

I have been to several conventions. I am here today to speak for the first time on this increase and I think that we should keep it even at \$3.00. I think \$3.00 is something everybody can meet. I like that price and I call for the vote.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It takes two-thirds vote, ladies. We are voting on the amount of \$9.95 -- I'm sorry -- to end the debate on the 9.95.

Is there any other discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of ending the debate on the amount of \$9.95, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it. The debate has ended on 9.95.

We moved to the next amount of \$9.00 and 50 -- I'm sorry. Okay. We have to vote on the majority vote of the 9.95.

The amount has been stated as \$9.95. All those in favor of \$9.95 be inserted in the blank, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The 9.95 has failed. We will now move to \$9.50.

MS. GROUT: Madam President --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm sorry.

MS. GROUT: -- number one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes, microphone one.

MS. GROUT: Yes. Good morning, ladies, my name is Coral May Grout. I'm from the Department of Massachusetts.

I have belonged to The American Legion Auxiliary for 58 years. My mother who's here has belonged for 75. We don't hesitate to pay our dues. We come from a very small town in Massachusetts, but we have 205 members. Last year, we raised our dues \$9.00 to \$20.00. We went from 205 members to 216.

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: So we did not lose members and 60 percent of our membership is under the age of 30. They are excited to belong to the Auxiliary. And they look at me and they say, oh, you belong to Rotary, you pay 150 bucks a year. This is cheap.

An increase of this amount is if you smoke half a pack of cigarettes over a year.

(Applause.)

MS. GROUT: It is one less trip to McDonald's in a year. And in response to cutting at the National level, if we continue to cut further -- you voted the other day to continue the Junior National meeting. Ladies, that costs money. We have dropped the Americanism Youth Conference because we couldn't afford it. We have dropped the \$1,000 Girls Scholarship because we couldn't afford it.

I understand that the Western Division National Vice President can't go to Hawaii or Alaska anymore. Guess why? We can't afford it. And an increase in membership will help us to continue to offer those programs that we still have, but also the fact that if you look at many of your National Chairmen, last year, my budget as a National Chairman was \$75.00. So we really have cut a lot.

Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, National Vice President.

For those of you who don't know, my background is in human resources, so I'd like to discuss the high salary of our office staff.

When I -- when I was asked to sit in on the Finance Committee meetings, I was shocked to hear and it still stands today that we haven't looked at the salary ranges for our office staff for over seven years. I don't know of any organization or any company that doesn't revisit the salary ranges of staff for seven years.

We've had a large turnaround of our younger members that have come right out of college and have brought skills to our organization and they have left because they have been offered double what their salary is.

So what we've become is a breeding ground for people to get experience and leave our organization. There's a high cost when employees are turned around.

I'm not saying that we're going to get this dues increase and double the staff, but I'm saying that you don't go seven years without looking at salary ranges.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam president, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from the Department of Wisconsin.

When I was a Junior in high school, I had the great opportunity to attend our Girls State Program. And later when I happened to marry a Korean war veteran and was eligible for membership in this awesome organization and two ladies stood in my kitchen, I said like sign me up.

And I think there are many people in this organization that have profited from those programs as well. I also pay my dues to remember my deceased husband's service in Korea and to honor all veterans. I think we have to recognize that we pay a small price for the freedoms that we enjoy.

But I will also say that this organization is part of the very fabric of this nation and if we no longer exist, who is going to care for those people, the wounded warriors, the military, and the veterans because if we do not get a dues increase, we will not exist and that is a simple truth.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

MS. EADES: Thank you, Madam President. Beverly Eades (phonetic) from the Department of Alaska.

I live on an island in Alaska. We're a small area. The women there in our fine organization, we all work together. We help anyone that needs any help in any area such as the addition in any membership cost that may come up.

I'm in favor of giving the finest women's organization, all of us who support our veterans as Alaska also has more veterans per capita than any other state in the nation, we back this raise. Please, everyone, consider the \$4.50 and give it to ourselves. It's all about us.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

VOICE: Yes. We keep talking to young people that are willing to pay more money. What percentage of our members are on Social Security? A lot. And yesterday it was said if we do not get this raise from National, our veterans without sight, our veterans without legs, they're going to suffer from it.

I'm sorry. I've been a VA rep for many years and I have not once received money from the National organization. I receive it from the Unit members. The units have raffles. They give it to us. The units pay mandatory fees in Indiana to the district for the VA hospital and then we get it from -- the reps get it from the district. We pay Department mandatory fees and the Department passes the money to us. Nothing comes from National.

If National does not get this raise, our veterans will still be taken care of. But if we give too big of a raise in National, you're taking money away from those people you say is not going to benefit without the raise. I'm sorry. That is true. When you give us the money, let us know.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE IMBURGIA: Madam President, Priscilla Imburgia, Department of New York.

I look at this from a business perspective. I know that there are many in this room that are in business such as I. In times -- in good times and you have plentiful money, sometimes we carry it too far and we don't make a decision soon enough to cut back. Perhaps that happened in our organization and that happened by having a couple of crashes in the market.

Irregardless, that's what's behind us. We have to look forward. We have to make a correction. We have to enable ourselves to go forward, be the organization that we want to be. In order to do that, we have to raise our dues.

But having said that, I would also say then, ladies, if you're not happy with how your money has been spent in the past, pass this raise and then hold the finance in our entire organization, their feet to the fire as to how they spend the money in the future.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE WAINWRIGHT: Katie Wainwright from the Department of Ohio.

As a former servicemember, I'm somewhat embarrassed sitting in the room today. I know that if there were other -- I'm actually glad that the servicemen and

women that we honored yesterday are not in the room because I would be a little embarrassed that we are having a discussion for two hours and some part of yesterday.

And I understand that everyone needs the right to voice their opinion and that is the democracy at work. However, I know all of you or everyone in that room yesterday if given the opportunity would have reached in your pocket and pulled out \$5.00 in support of those men and women sitting in that room.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE WAINWRIGHT: So I guess I end with saying if we want to continue to be this premier women's veteran service organization and not an internet-based organization or not a completely volunteer where we have no staff to enable us to go out and do our job, our mission every day because that's what the staff does, they enable us to go out and spend our hours and our time and give us the direction and the guidance to do that, if we want to not have those things, then definitely vote against this.

But if you want to honor your servicemembers and that's what we all say we're here for, then that \$5.00 or \$4.50 that we're at right now is something you probably have in your pocket right now and could pull out and give to a servicemember.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four.

DELEGATE MARTINEZ: Cecilia Martinez from the Department of New Mexico.

I'm from a small Unit, 200 members or less. But in our Unit, we have what we call seasoned members and we pay their dues. We have fund raisers to pay their dues and there's -- we don't ask them to return the money. We accept their thanks, their acknowledgment of gratitude, but we do not make them pay their dues because they have earned the right to belong to The American Legion Auxiliary. And we raised our Unit dues way back and we are ready for an increase in dues.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE MARSH: Madam President Jody Marsh, Department of Oregon.

I ask that with any future votes, we do that by standing as opposed to yelling so that there's an actual distinction there or we can see.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE GIARDINA: Beverly Giardina (phonetic) from the Department of Minnesota.

I've heard a lot of scuttlebutt around when we're not in session about the National office cutting staff and they spend too much money for this, that, or the other thing.

If every member who has one of those ideas would check with somebody who knows the answer to the question and ask and find out the truth, there wouldn't be so much discussion about things that are actually not true.

I sat in on the Finance Committee meeting the other day and learned a lot of things that I was not aware of. I wasn't concerned about them, but I learned a lot of things that I didn't know. And just by asking questions, you can find the truth and then we wouldn't have these discussions about things that don't amount to anything.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE KING: Madam President, Diana King, Department -- Department of Texas.

I move that we cease discussion on the 9.50.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Motion has been made and seconded that the discussion on the \$9.50 be ceased.

Is there any discussion? Sorry. Not debatable. Sorry. All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The ayes have it. The debate has ended on the 9.50. We will now vote on the 9.50.

All those in favor of the dues being \$9.50, which includes the \$5.00 that's already there, I hope you all understand that, so it's \$9.00 plus for the 4.50 makes - - I mean, \$5.00 plus the 4.50 makes 9.50, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. You may be seated.

All those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please be seated. Thank you.

It has been defeated.

VOICE: Division. Division.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. We did take a standing vote. That's all it's -- that's required. If you feel that it's not correct, we will -- you can make a motion for a different vote, a counting vote.

The next amount to be considered is \$9.00.

DELEGATE DORAN: Madam President, microphone number one. Microphone number one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone number one.

DELEGATE DORAN: Sharon Dorn, Delegate from Arizona.

I want you to know first of all that I have Advil or Tylenol for you after this session.

(Laughter.)

DELEGATE DORAN: I hope you --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm sorry.

DELEGATE DORAN: I have Advil or Tylenol for you after this session.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you, Sharon. I appreciate that.

DELEGATE DORAN: I want you to know that yesterday I actually voted for the \$5.00 increase. Won't accept the 4.99 because it's ridiculous. I voted for the 4.50.

But in hearing it, I understand that people came with their minds made up that they would not do more than \$3.00. Then I heard that National will not accept less than 5.00. Now, 4.00 seems like a mighty good compromise to me for some reason.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE DORAN: And I will also tell you this, that if you don't open up your minds, you will never be successful.

I also want to say that any other organization that I know of, their dues range from anywhere from 30 to 100 to \$150. What we pay is a small price because we have the most important people in the world that we're protecting and serving. That is our active military, our military reserves, our veterans who take care of our country.

And I want to tell you something. I've lived on less than nothing all my life except for the last few years when I've been really, really fortunate to have worked for a wonderful corporation and to have a good husband and managed to pay things off.

I've been where all of you are and I'm getting closer to it because now I am retired on Social Security. But if I cannot afford to give this increase to keep this organization alive, then I can't afford all the little luxuries that I have that every once in a while is a Diet Coke, a bottle of water for 3.50, and whatever or to go to Starbucks which I don't because they're outrageous.

But you guys need to invest in your future. If you don't invest in this corporation here in our group, who out there is going to want to invest in us? People like Target, the grant people, they're not going to want to invest in us because we don't care enough to invest in ourselves.

(Applause.)

MS. DORAN: Let's stand up and do the compromise and get the \$4.00 passed.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

VOICE: Madam President, I concur with the remarks that were just made. That sounds like a wonderful compromise, the \$4.00.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE MONTANEY: Madam President, Jane Montaney, Department of Washington.

I've heard a lot of positive comments today about the need for the raise. And in the essence of time, ditto.

Now, I've also heard comments about holding the feet to the fire. If you want to do that, then pay attention to your budget, talk to your NEC, have them read things over. They are not spending money that we, the body, have not approved.

And so the comments about holding their feet to the fire, I think, is insulting to our officers and our National. And I think we should vote for the \$4.00 and get it done.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate --

DELEGATE BACHMAN: Microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone four. Thank you.

DELEGATE BACHMAN: Phyllis Bachman, Department of New York.

I was in favor of the \$5.00 increment. I voted for it. I promoted it in my Department. But I listened to people speaking. I heard Past National President Jan Pulvermacher from Wisconsin confirming that once the vote is taken on the -- after we put a figure in, if the vote is taken, we need two-thirds. If we put a high number in, we have a chance of it going down and that will be the end of it.

I also heard Terry Porter from Colorado stating that a lot of departments came here already programmed, already told not to support anything over 3.00. So if we put a high number in and it goes down, we have nothing. If we accept 3.00, at least we'll have something.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE KELLY-PERKINS: Mary Kelly-Perkins, the Department of Florida.

I voted in favor of the \$5.00 increase. And to the member who stood up and said about Social Security, ladies, let me tell you. I took a big hit. I lost my husband last year. I lost his Social Security which is \$1,200 a month and I'm on my own. And if I can pay the 4.00, 5.00 or \$10.00 increase, you can pay it. And I also pay other dues for my family. So I am definitely in favor of the \$4.00 increase.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE CLOSE: Madam Chairman, Linda Close, Department of Ohio.

First of all, ladies, I would like to say that I know all of us love our veterans. And I know for a fact that all of us spend money that we probably wouldn't need to.

I want you to know that I am a widow. I come from a small town, a small Unit, but also I belong to the VFW Auxiliary which I pay \$5.00 for that membership per year. I belong to the AMVETS Auxiliary which I pay \$8.00 more to belong to that per year, for each year, than I do for The American Legion Auxiliary.

But it's the American Legion Auxiliary that has programs that pop my heart. And it's The American Legion Auxiliary that I believe in more than any other patriotic organization. And so I am begging you, ladies, to please be willing to give just a little bit more.

We've given up the 50 cents every three years increase. We voted down the \$5.00 which the Finance Committee, we worked -- they worked for quite some time to come up with that figure. This \$4.00 amount is an even amount of money which many of you said you wanted.

So I am really trying to listen to everyone, but I please beg that we give a little bit more and settle on the \$4.00, please.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE STUCK: Hi. Michele Stuck (phonetic) from South

Dakota.

First of all, I come from a town of 70 people and I am a member that's paid up for life. But if this goes through, I'm happy to give you a check for \$100 to cover my neck 25 years with this increase.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

DELEGATE FARRAR: Midge Farrar, Department of California.

I move the discussion stop.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Motion has been made and seconded for the debate to stop on the amount of \$9.00.

All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This is for the debate. All opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The affirmative has it. The debate has ended. The amount of \$9.00 is now for vote.

All those in favor of dues in the amount of \$9.00, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please be seated.

All those in favor of the dues amount of \$9.00 -- opposed to the amount of \$9.00, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Please be seated.

Okay. We're going to do this one more time to make sure. All those in favor of the amount of dues being \$9.00, please stand and please stand only one time.

(Laughter.)

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Please be seated.

All those opposed, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Please be seated.

The \$9.00 has been approved.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We now go to the discussion to the amendment to amend the Bylaws in the amount of \$9.00. You're striking \$5.00 and you're inserting --

VOICE: Madam president.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- \$9.00. The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

VOICE: I hope this is permissible to ask this question at this time. If I understand correctly, there were some departments that were mandated for \$3.00. They've been here if I -- if we went to a caucus, could the departments not make the decision to go for a higher amount based on what they've heard here without -- that would not be putting them against their Department. Am I verbalizing that correctly?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: If your governing documents state that you can be mandated for a certain amount, then you would need to have to have -- you'd have to follow your mandate.

If your governing documents do not state that you are mandated to -- for a certain amount, you can -- you're free to vote however you wish.

VOICE: So, in other words, they could -- if they're not mandated, they could caucus at this time before this final vote to make a decision?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: They don't have to caucus. If they are -- if they're -- each individual can vote their own conscious, their own amount unless their Bylaws state they are mandated to follow the mandate of their Department.

VOICE: Okay.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is that understood? Do you understand what I'm saying?

VOICE: I was hoping that the caucus -- the Delegation here could negate what --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Only if their departments mandate -- only if their departments' Constitution & Bylaws state they are mandated to follow that.

VOICE: Okay.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: If their Constitution & Bylaws does not state they are mandated to follow what's been directed to them, they are free to vote however they would desire.

VOICE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone two.

CHAIRMAN HOBBS: Madam President, Virginia Hobbs, Department of Kentucky.

Madam President, I speak in favor of the \$4.00 increase not from an emotional standpoint but from one as the Audit Chairman and having been involved in the review of our independent audit, our 990, and reviewing the statistics of how we are presented to the public.

When we look at our financial statements and we see continuing losses and the extreme dependence that we have on membership dues, these are unhealthy situations. We need not only to increase the dues that we pay to this organization that we all say we love. We need to demonstrate that not by just paying an increased dues but also by digging into our pockets and supporting our programs at the Unit level, at the Department level, and the National level.

We cannot expect to go out and solicit grants, endowments, or other means of contributing from the public unless we are willing to pony up and put the money where our mouth is.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE KNICKERBOCKER: Deborah Knickerbocker, Department of Connecticut.

I am also in favor of the increase. I live on a fixed income. I pay several senior dues. I pay three or four Junior dues and I would pay double that because I am an Auxiliary member.

It broke my heart when we could not have the Youth Conference anymore. The reports of what the children learn there is fantastic. And now I have heard that there's a possibility we could lose Girls Nation and other programs.

Please vote for this increase, ladies.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

DELEGATE KNICKERBOCKER: Help our organization.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE RIGGS: Shelley Riggs, Department of Ohio.

I call to end the discussion and call for the vote.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The question is on the ending of the discussion. It takes a two-thirds vote.

All those in favor of ending the discussion, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed, no.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Discussion has ended.

DELEGATE WHITE: Madam President, Barbara White from the Department of Louisiana. Point of question.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes, Barb.

DELEGATE WHITE: It being a Constitutional change, should the vote be unanimous instead of a two-third vote.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No. We gave notice yesterday that this would come about, so the -- it takes two-thirds. The notice was given.

VOICE: Madam President, since we had a ballot vote yesterday, will we have a ballot vote today?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's what we're discussing. We'll let you know in a minute.

VOICE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: We're taking a one-minute recess here to decide exactly how we want to handle this. Thank you.

(Whereupon, there was a brief recess taken.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The vote is on the amount of the \$9.00. So we are amending Article 9, Finance Section 3 by striking \$5.00 and inserting the amount of \$9.00 -- \$4.00 and -- it's actually -- it's a \$4.00 increase, but the amount -- total amount would be \$9.00. That's what we're voting on.

All those in favor of this amount, please stand.

VOICE: Madam President, I move for a ballot vote as we had yesterday.

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You -- the Chair calls that out of order. You were not recognized. The Chair has mandated that we will stand at the vote.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. You may be seated.

Those opposed to the amount of \$9.00, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The motion has been -- is affirmed and the amount is \$9.00.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Madam President, microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: One moment, please.

DELEGATE DUTTON: The Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE DUTTON: Sandi Dutton, Department of Maryland.

I'm not a parliamentary person and most of you know that, but I would like to know how you determined that that was two-thirds and I would like to know if --

and, Madam Parliamentarian, is there a way that we can ask for a vote count? We would like to know exactly what the vote was.

(Applause.)

DELEGATE DUTTON: I guess I'm challenging that you saw two-thirds.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Because almost everybody in the room was standing. That's why I said that.

DELEGATE DUTTON: That's not true.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It takes a -- it takes a motion in order to be able to do that.

DELEGATE DUTTON: I move that we do a roll call vote to -- on the last motion that was -- amendment that was voted on.

VOICES: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It takes a majority vote. The motion is to do a roll call vote. It has been seconded.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: All those in favor of doing a roll call vote, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Remember it takes a majority. Please be seated.

All those opposed to a roll call vote, please stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complies with request.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The majority is that it will not be a roll call vote.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The vote will stand.

DELEGATE CASADI: Madam President, Maryann Casadi from the Department of New York.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'm sorry. I can't see where you are.

DELEGATE CASADI: Microphone three.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Microphone three, the Chair recognizes the Delegate at microphone three.

DELEGATE CASADI: I just have to say I tip my hat to you. You've done a wonderful job under some very difficult circumstances.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much.

MS. CASADI: Very proud.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, ladies.

For God and country is a very important part of our organization and our National Chaplain, Vickie Thrower, has helped us remember that throughout the year. She joins us now to present her report.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: The Power of One was an excellent theme this year for our Department Chaplains across this nation and they took full advantage of the Power of One by sharing prayers one by one to make a difference in the lives of others.

Departments reported participating in Memorial Day services, Veterans Day services, laying wreaths at our National cemeteries, draping charters for our Gold Star and Unit members.

Units, districts, departments made prayer books to present their Presidents. Units sent grace cards, memorial cards, get well cards, sympathy cards to -- caring cards to troops, shut-ins, veterans, and their families.

Our four Chaplains' donations this year were \$5,472.44. Memorial Day donations totaled \$28,109.37. The Department of New Hampshire sent 5,503 cards to Legion family members and troops. Shari Hebert (phonetic) was the Department Chaplain, Rhode Island or New Hampshire actually. Sorry.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Department of Ohio sent 221 pages of prayers for the National President's prayer book.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Michelle Sandridge (phonetic) was the Department Chaplain.

Reports were received from 23 Department Chaplains. Those were Alabama, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Maryland, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Our reporting departments reported 912 deceased members and sadly seven of those were our Junior members.

Fifty-two thousand one hundred and four volunteer hours were given to aid 16,692 members and families with memorial activities.

Unit members across our nation held prayer book contests at Department conventions and one by one, units placed flags in schools, businesses, and at local cemeteries to honor our nation's veterans.

On special holidays, countless hours were spent honoring our veterans by placing flags on their graves to recognize them for their service to our country.

Our Chaplains reported participating in the Chaplains Conference, MIA ceremonies, Legion birthday activities, visiting at funeral homes, hospitals, the sick and shut-ins, feeding troops, hosting healing fields, fields of honor, flag raising ceremonies, and disposal ceremonies, 9/11 ceremonies, and the National cemetery dedication ceremonies.

Memorial donations were made to the Cavalcade of Memories, our Auxiliary Foundation, the Auxiliary emergency fund, Spirit of Youth, Child Welfare Foundation, Chaplain for Chaplains, Fisher House Foundation, Wounded Warrior Fund, educating children of warriors, Ride to Recovery, Special Olympics, American Heart Association, Alzheimer's Association, Cerebral Palsy Association, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, hospice groups all over our nation, various churches, local police, fire, rescue departments, and many others.

My goal this year was to instill the words for God and country in the hearts of others by publicizing what we do as American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion family members. We have accomplished that goal this year as our Chaplains have worked in the Memorial Program.

I've enjoyed communicating with each Department Chaplain and being able to obtain prayers for our National President's prayer book.

We had a Chaplains' Facebook group page which helped us communicate with each other and those who needed prayer, our Chaplains from across the nation e-mail, sent prayer requests, and sent notes.

As of the reports that I received this year, I had 472 prayers for our National President's prayer book.

Madam President Carlene, it was a pleasure serving with you on behalf of the departments across this nation and with your permission, I'd like to present to you your prayer book that reflects your theme, the Power of One.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any Resolutions or recommendations?

CHAPLAIN THROWER: There are none, Madam President. However, I do have an announcement.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you Past National President Elsie Baily-Comer for the Celebration of Life presentation for Sherry McLaughlin, Past National President.

Elsie.

(Applause.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: Thank you.

On November 3rd, 2010, our special friend, Past National President, Sherry McLaughlin from Vinton, Iowa left this world that she loved so much to become God's little angel. There is no doubt in my mind that this true American, Sherry McLaughlin, is right here guiding, loving, and strengthening us in spirit.

She fought a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer and through her strength and beliefs, she held on to life until her job was done.

Even as death drew near, Sherry's positive outlook was evident as she requested that everyone wear vivid colors during her funeral services.

During her inaugural address in San Antonio, Texas, Sherry announced that her theme as 2001/2002 National President was There's Magic in America's Dreams. She said through hard work, a little magic, and many dreams, our organization can grow and achieve great things for America.

This theme matched Sherry's personality. She was strong, intelligent, optimistic, caring, and above all patriotic. Sherry was a classy lady and one of the bravest women I have ever known.

In her career days, Sherry managed her father's pharmacy. After she married her husband, Art, she became an Iowa farm wife. She and Art had a daughter, Wendy, two sons, Greg and Scott, nine grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Sherry and Art took pride in helping their three children show their calves at the county fair.

Sherry's positive outlook on life affected her children so much that her son, Greg, called her Miss Mary Sunshine.

Art and Sherry taught their children that life wasn't always fair and that they needed to just deal with it and go on. This wonderful family became mine as they adopted me as their Aunt Elsie.

Very active in her community, Sherry volunteered in local schools and at the Iowa Veterans Home, was a court appointed special advocate on adult literacy tutor and was recognized as a Governor's Volunteer of the Year.

In 2003, Sherry was honored by her community when they named her Woman of the Year. Her family invited me to attend the services. Her friends, Dale and Donna Sutton picked me up from the airport and kept me in hiding for a day. When Sherry was on stage giving her acceptance speech, she spotted me in the audience and she stopped talking. She laughed out loud in disbelief. I'll never forget the delight in her face.

When her personal life was all in order, Sherry got involved with The American Legion Auxiliary as a member of Emil H. Dutler (phonetic) Unit 177 in Mount Auburn.

After stints as Unit, County, and District President, she served as Department President in 1985, '86. During that year, she held the first Junior Auxiliary camp as her special project and then served as camp director for twelve years.

When she was Department Junior Activities Chairman, she conducted their first Department Junior Convention. Sherry was a counselor at Iowa Girls State for many years including just a few months before she passed.

She was extremely proud of the fact that her daughter, Wendy Riggle, was director of Iowa Girls State for 16 years. Sherry's granddaughter, Kristin, was a Girls State citizen and then a Junior counselor which meant there were three generations of McLaughlins volunteering for the program.

A city at Girls State was renamed in honor of Sherry. I could hear the excitement and pride in Sherry's voice when she called to tell me that there was now a McLaughlin City.

Sherry was a very brave lady. At our National Convention, she and Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan were stuck in an elevator for a period of time. Jan walked down 17 flights of stairs in high heels for safety and Sherry hopped on another elevator without any fear.

When I was National President, I invited Sherry to come to the far east with me since she could not go the year before due to her husband's illness. While there, we rode across the bay in Okinawa on an emergency helicopter. I sat in the middle seat and held on to Commander Ron Connolly's arm so tight that when he got off, he had to shake his arm to get the blood flowing.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: Sherry sat straight and tall all by herself in a seat in the middle of the plane between both open doors. She enjoyed every second and when the plane landed, she simply hopped right off.

Sherry and I became good friends while serving as National Chairmen in the years prior to becoming National President. At one point as we entered a meeting room, Past National President Helen Holcomb said here comes Frick and Frack.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: I turned and said to Sherry I'm Frack and you're Frick. She agreed and we all laughed. And Sherry and I were then known as Frick and Frack.

I taught Sherry how to play a card game called Concentration. I beat her in the beginning, but when the game sank in, Sherry became a pro.

During my first visit to Sherry in Vinton, I ate her food, I drank her drink, I took her money because I won every game. Once she learned the secrets of the game, the tables turned. Her talent of being shrewd came to light and I just couldn't win. She became a card shark who taught me what it was to lose big time.

In October 2006 at the President and Secretaries Conference, I won 20 games and she won 10 and here's the proof.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: Sherry also taught me a few Midwest terms. One term I remember vividly was barn burner. She looked at her cards, laughed like crazy, and said, wow, do I have a barn burner. I said what's a barn burner. I soon learned it meant that she had all the aces and kings.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: National Chairmen, officers, and Past National Presidents usually entertain at the Presidents and Secretaries Conference. Actually, in most instances, we made fools of ourselves and they call it fun.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: During one performance, Sherry played the part of a lady in need of a fashion designer. I called her a lady of the night and accused her of acting so real that she must have had lots of experience.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: She sure didn't look like a pharmacy retail manager to me.

When the 2003 National Convention adjourned, Sherry and I and Eleanor, her friend, rented a car and traveled from St. Louis to Branson, Missouri for a week's R&R.

During the day, we went from one show to another and when day was done, we played cards in the condo. One night, the telephone rang and a voice told us we left the lights on in the car. We were puzzled as to who knew that was our car.

Sherry and Eleanor went out to turn off the lights. When they returned, they were laughing hysterically. A young couple that we saw -- never saw had been watching us all week and referred to us as the Golden Girls.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: Sherry was Dorothy, Eleanor was Sophia, and I was Blanche. We were missing Betty White.

Sherry and I also had serious times together to remember. When she was National President, she invited me to go with her to the Department of France Convention. Diane Hanchek (phonetic) was Department President and they were trying to revitalize the Department. Their Adjutant, Bill West, graciously typed their Constitution

& Bylaws. Diane asked our help in finalizing the document. Although Bill did a super job, much of it was geared to that of The American Legion, so we did a lot of editing.

In recent years, Carol Van Kirk joined us as we formed a trio who vacationed, shopped, laughed, and cried together.

I served as National Vice President to Sherry at the end of her year. I asked her if she had any advice for me. She said, oh, yes, my friend. One thing for sure, I'm so used to the automatic faucets and flushers in the airports that I find myself walking out of the bathroom at home without turning off the water or flushing.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: So be careful. Everything in life is not automatic.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: One thing that Sherry wanted to do but couldn't squeeze it in was to take me to visit her son, Greg, and daughter-in-law, Jody, in their cabin on the banks of the Mississippi River. She wanted me to feel the peace and tranquility and see the beauty of the Mississippi River that she loved.

One thing that I never got to do was to wallpaper her bathroom with score sheets.

(Laughter.)

MS. BAILEY-COMER: After the last National Convention, we talked and we both knew that it would be her last Convention. Actually, it was her last outing anywhere. But that's okay because it's where she would have wanted to be.

I know that Sherry and I will meet again one day. I don't know when, but I'm sure we'll meet again and hand in hand we'll continue to contribute to the magic in America's dreams.

I love you, Sherry.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Sherry's daughter, Wendy Riggle.

(Applause.)

MS. RIGGLE: My, you've had a busy morning, so I won't keep you long.

Thank you very much, Elsie.

I sent Elsie a book last week of pictures of her and mom and I said isn't it amazing that a woman in Iowa and a woman in New Jersey can become the best of friends just by belonging to a great organization.

As Elsie said, one of mom's last outings was the Convention in Milwaukee last year and it just was fitting for her. When I think of my mom, I think of the Auxiliary.

And I am my mother's daughter. We are not very emotional. But when I attend Auxiliary meetings or Conventions, that's when I really think about my mom. I think of her every hour, every minute, every day, but when I come here, it just gets to me because the Auxiliary is my mom.

Thank you very much, the Auxiliary. You gave my mom a lot and I'm glad she could give you a little bit back. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: After 91 years, The American Legion Auxiliary has a rich, long history. And to help us understand this year's history a little better is Gwenda Schroeder-Zulch, our Historian.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH: Good morning, Madam National President Carlene. The Power of One has been displayed in the history of this great organization.

And it has been a pleasure and a journey to serve as the National Historian for this past year, a dream, a journey, a delight to write the history, and I am indeed grateful to have been given the opportunity to make history.

History is change and change is history. And the writings reflect many events that have taken place from installation of officers, dinners, National President's visits, fund raisers, the units, districts, and departments on the Senior and Junior levels reflect history in the making.

As I read the 34 Department histories I received, I noticed a trend, a trend in writing and reporting as the Power of One, one person, one Unit, one Department made history.

And, yet, another reflecting moment was the total of 733 Senior histories written and 32 Junior histories written. What a feeling of gratitude as we preserve the memories.

Judging the Senior histories was both rewarding and challenging. Telling the story of your Department was indeed characterized in all of the writings, but one Department stood out and shined. The winner of the Toomey Award trophy for the best Senior history was awarded to B.K. Hill, the Department of Virginia.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH: Certifies were also presented to 34 department historians who sent in senior histories for judging.

We need to continue to preserve the memories of this great organization, and by picking up a pen and putting the words on paper makes history.

I tend to make list of things to do and end up not only doing the things, but doing them in order.

As I read the travels of National President Carlene I wonder how well she likes airports, changing of planes, weather, and the food.

In Arizona a proclamation was presented for Carlene Ashworth Day by the mayor of Peoria.

In Georgia she traveled to the grave site of Moina Michael, the Poppy Lady.

President Carlene played bingo at veterans homes, toured the disciplinary barracks in Levin Worth, Kansas, and in Maine she toured the bath iron work shipyard. A business year for a very business lady.

I am sure that President Carlene never went hungry as I could hear her remarks, are we eating again?

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH: Putting a form in use and making sure all the departments fill it out and send it back to me reminds me of trying to get my grandchildren to brush their teeth, and we all know how that is.

Congratulations to all of the department historians who put up with my constant e-mails this year as the department officers -- as well as the department officers who answered my frantic e-mails, phone calls, and letters.

Three hundred and sixty-five senior members and 90 Junior members participated in the Veterans History Project, and the Department of Wisconsin participated in the Where Is She Now Program.

Congratulations to Nellie D. Baker, Department of Wisconsin for her research on Grace Mack, an army nurse. This essay was heartwarming and a tear jerker to read.

In closing I wish to quote to you a famous historian, H.G. Wells, "Human history is in essence a history of ideas."

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve this great organization and an extra special thanks to my department, the Department of Ohio, for allowing me to serve as your National Historian.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH: No, ma'am, there are not.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

MS. STEVENS: Point of order, please.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. STEVENS: Microphone one.

THE COURT: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

DELEGATE STEVENS: Cinnamin Stevens, Department of Nevada. I do apologize for this but I have a question about when we amended the Constitution, in our Constitution & Bylaws it says that each delegate has a vote and any absent vote goes to a majority of that department, and by doing a standing two-thirds vote the delegations did not get their full voting strength.

If you do a roll call vote or secret ballot they do get their full voting strength; however, standing does not give us our full voting strength.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Convention rules state that voting shall be by voice vote except when the Chair deems it necessary to use some other method or when a roll call is requested by the chairman of three department delegations or as provided for in the Election Rules.

The Auxiliary's 91st anniversary year has been a especially time for members to look back and reconnect with our organization's rich past. Preserving, displaying, and sharing our history traditions and milestones was the purpose behind the establishment of the Cavalcade of Memories in 1972 at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Please welcome National Chairman Kenya Ostermeier with the Cavalcade of Memories report.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OSTERMEIER: Madam National President Carlene, your theme the Power of One was used by Florida's Cavalcade Chairman, Tina Kirchoff (phonetic) as she urged members to document one memory, to interview one member, or to write a biographical story on one member who has made a difference in her unit and community.

She has executed a vibrant program for Florida's Cavalcade of Memories.

At fall conference she demonstrated ideas with a program board. Their chairman, Betty Booth, and helpers, Birdie Pay (phonetic) and Ann Larker (phonetic) of Winter Haven Unit 8 created a beautiful display at their local library. They also have a great picture of their marching band from the 1930s.

Tina used GEMS, Getting, Energized, With Memories for Success. Her winners received a tiara with different gems on each one.

Betty booth, Chairman of Unit 8 was the grand prize winner. Marti Yappel (phonetic) and Susan Croft (phonetic) both won top awards.

Wisconsin Chairman, Vernie Bear (phonetic) worked on cleaning and reorganizing items on display in their curio cabinets. New name tags were created for each past department president of which Wisconsin has five. McCalley (phonetic), Smith, Barron (phonetic), Cranich (phonetic), and Pulvermacher-Ryan.

Texas Cavalcade Chairman, Lori Oxley, has added three prestigious portraits to their cavalcade. National President Carlene Ashworth, Past Southern Division Vice President, Linda Horton-Turk, and Department President, Dianna King.

Arlene Sasser (phonetic) from Missouri reports that the department has three lovely curio cabinets with mementos and photos depicting Missouri's memorable moments in history. They are proud of their two Past National Presidents, June Stolte and Joanne Cronin, whose portraits are displayed at their headquarters' office. They also have a wall showing all their Missouri Past Department Presidents. They have done an excellent job of collecting and displaying their theme pins.

A traditional American Legion Auxiliary light fixture from 1952 is another look into the past.

Their map of the U.S. has a unique Girls State pin for each state.

Past National President's Cronin served as National Girls State Chairman and Girls Nation Director in 1993.

Chairman Laura Flapoli (phonetic) has shared pictures of some cavalcade areas in the Department of New Jersey's headquarters.

In the entrance are portraits of Clara Olephant (phonetic) and Elsie Bailey-Comer, Past National Presidents.

They donated a beautiful curio cabinet which houses items from most of their past department presidents. Portraits of those presidents are lined up on one of the walls.

A tribute to Gold Star Mothers is completed with a flag in memorabilia.

Newspaper articles about New Jersey's first Girls Nation President in 1971, Debbie Smith, are framed and displayed.

They are researching articles for their second Girls Nation President, Carrie Bilenker.

Juanita Lochner reports that the Department of New York has sent out a call for any of their members who have one a national or divisional plaque or award to turn it in to their headquarters where it can be displayed rather than sitting in a closet. Great idea.

Connie Sordall (phonetic) and Marti Vantell (phonetic) of Arizona report that many of their units are working jointly with historians.

Many other departments report creative displays, digitizing documents, and honoring their members military and veterans.

A new donation at National Headquarters is a huge bronze sculpture of an eagle donated by the Department of Nebraska in honor of Past National President, Carol Van Kirk. It is attributed to sculpture Jay Monyez (phonetic) and is displayed in the area near the National President and National Secretary's offices.

At National Headquarters the acrylic case for the Hobart (phonetic) dress has been delivered this very week and we're awaiting installation. I'm constructing a form to fit inside the dress at the advise of Gabbie Kenex (phonetic), the textile conservator at the Indiana State Museum. It is made of all acid free materials and should help to extend the life of the dress.

I would like to thank the members of the Cavalcade Committee, Vice Chairman, Past National President, Phyllis Bachman, New York, member, Janet Barnaby, Indiana, and member, Peggy Miller, Wyoming.

To quote Mohandas Gandhi, "Remember that a small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."

Thank you Madam President, for the privilege of serving on this committee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations? Thank you. Great job.

When a sudden financial crisis befalls an eligible Auxiliary member the Auxiliary Emergency Fund may be able to provide temporary emergency assistance when no other source of help is available.

Here with her report is our Auxiliary Emergency Fund National Chairman, Tammy Ryberg.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RYBERG: Madam National President Carlene, to promote and educate the awareness of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund it is vital to the members that are in need of financial assistance.

Hello ladies, what a year we have had for the AEF. Mother nature, wow, did she ever produce the devastation and destruction to our whole country. How? Blizzards, power outages, flooding, ice storms, fires, tornados. Times like these make us

realize how lucky and grateful that there is the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Program to rely on.

Well, it did just take the power of one to start the ball rolling in Leeds, Alabama. After the 27 tornados within two days that twisted through this area to leave behind hardly anything standing the Unit 107 President, Sheila Passmore (phonetic), looked around and she knew help was needed. She called the department office, she was sent applications, she handed out around ten of the applications to help these ladies, and she filled one out herself. At least five were sent into the National and they were very excited that at least four were accepted. One did not qualify because she did not belong enough years.

Well, when Sheila received her check she felt sorry for the member that did not receive anything so she gave half of her check to this lady.

Yes, Sheila could have used the whole check because the power was done for 13 days, she lost everything in the fridges, her deep freezes, trees were down, windows were broken out, and so much more. Sheila is one inspiration for everyone.

As two days before the tornados hit Leeds a couple of tornados touched down in a town 30 miles away and it wiped the whole town out. Well, when Sheila woke up the next morning she knew she had to do something so she went to the local Legion club, she raised \$400, she went out and she bought supplies like diapers, water, toilet paper, paper towels, all the necessities you know you're going to have to do. Well, she did this on her own. Little did she know that the very next day she was going to be in the same boat.

Sheila Passmore made a difference in a lot of lives with all the other applications she sent out to Auxiliary members the goodness has not stopped.

Sheila did tell us that at times like these filling up a long form and going through all the hoops is daunting, so in response the AEF case manager, Jerry Muchtler, she put together an expedient application for disaster victims seeking temporary shelter assistance form. This form was send to all the departments.

Well, I told you that mother nature reeked havoc on a lot of areas, so with this short version it will help quicken a response, because no matter what the disaster is the two main things is shelter and food.

Well, we Legion Auxiliary members are a tough bunch and we are very resilient, we will get through anything. As with all the destruction on the east coast from hurricane Irene our work is never done.

Here's a quote from an unknown author. "When we awaken the sleeping lion of potential within we allow it to spring forth in our lives with a mighty joyful roar."

So remember always that you and I are potential lions, so go forth and roar.

Madam President, that concludes my remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN RYBERG: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Whether it is hosting a stand down to bring vital health and support services to homeless veterans or coordinating a send off or welcome home event for a deployed military unit Auxiliary members are continuously at work in their communities demonstrating the compassion and heart that we have for those who serve our country and give so much.

Here with the Community Service Report is our National Chairman, Diane Duscheck.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK: Madam National President, Auxiliary members have used the Power of One to engage The American Legion Family and communities in community service activities that serve veterans, active duty military and their families.

As today's veterans return state side there are a number of them who stay for only a few days or months in a VA facility and then they move to an apartment. We've all had the experience starting housekeeping and we're quite aware of the laundry list of items that are convenient to have. Detergents and cleaners, sponge and mop, paper towels and garbage bags, and the list goes on.

Bill Dowling (phonetic) Unit Number 12 of Chadron, Nebraska held a trucking for vets day to collect items veterans would need to begin housekeeping. They used public relations to spread word to the community about their collection day. The local newspaper, radio stations, and the local radio website, along with e-mails, phone calls, and word of mouth were used to inform the community.

Unit members arranged for three pickup trucks to be available at a Legion post on the day of the collection. An overwhelming number of community members of all ages descended on the post home bringing with them pots and pans, dishes and silverware, sheets, blankets, and towels, and so many other items the veterans could use to begin housekeeping. All three pick ups were filled.

Then Auxiliary members began the job of inventorying, sorting, and replacing items so they could be delivered to Hot Springs VA. Both the VA and the veterans who are about to set up housekeeping were excited about the contributions.

Homeless veterans in the Department of New Hampshire was not forgotten. Members didn't stop with having fund raisers and food drives, they also donated furniture, appliances, and personal items to transitional units for veterans and their families.

Thanksgiving and Christmas became special occasions with the distribution of restaurant gift certificates.

The department president's especially project in Wisconsin centered on homeless female veterans. The easy part of the project was asking units for donations and the response was overwhelming. The challenge was how to find the homeless women in need of aid.

The chairman established a working relationship with veteran service officers telling them of the assistance the Auxiliary was able to render, and the first requests began arriving.

As a result of their new programs rooms in homeless women veterans shelters have been furnished, a washer and dryer were provided for a shelter, and female

veterans who are trying to reenter civilian life have had help securing apartments so they no longer need to live in their cars.

The American Legion Family and communities have rallied to show their support to veterans deploying and to those returning home. Attending deployments and reserve centers, giving aid to families of deployed, and welcoming troops home is one way to say thank you for your service.

In a multitude of small projects Auxiliary members have made huge differences in the lives of veterans, military, and their families. The power of one member, one unit, or one department has helped thousands of veterans.

Madam National President, this concludes by platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

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

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much.

It is a 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 for gets our commitment to our veterans, always honoring them as the heroes they are."

Ladies and gentlemen, a great friend to America's veterans and military families, please welcome Representative Nancy Pelosi.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: Good morning everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: Thank you so much President Carlene Ashworth for the invitation to be here once again. This has become a regular thing now for us and thank you also for your great leadership of The American Legion Auxiliary, the largest women service organization in the world.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: I want to acknowledge the great work of your executive director of the Auxiliary, Dubbie Buckler, for her unending commitment to serving veterans, their families, and their communities. Thank you, Dubbie.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: I was listening to President Ashworth's comments backstage talking about the Power of One, the theme of Carlene Ashworth's presidency and has been played out in the unified effort of all Auxiliary members.

I come here to bring greetings to you and thanks from the Congress of the United States, to thank the Auxiliary for finding shelter and assistance for our homeless veterans by the Power of One, to support Operation Mend treating wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan, to work with your partners in The American Legion to strengthen the economic security of military families who share in the sacrifice of a loved one serving abroad.

Your incoming President from Minnesota I understand, Kris Nelson, her mantra is Honor Their Service, and that will extend and strengthen this work.

Congratulations, Kris, on the anticipated -- or has it happened already? This morning. Congratulations.

Now this is because everyone has a veteran in his life or her life, and you are committing to serving them and their fellow veterans as well as they have served us.

To honor the service of all of our men and women in uniform The American Legion Auxiliary has kept its focus on supporting military families, lifting up their communities, and working toward a future of health security and prosperity for every veteran, and for that we are all in your debt.

In the last year Auxiliary members demonstrating what it truly means to honor their service serving more than 100,000 homeless veterans. It's no sad that we have 100,000 homeless veterans to serve, but thank you for making them a priority.

Donating more than \$3 million to aid military children, volunteering for more than 800,000 hours of time at VA hospitals, how important that is, organizing community service days, and compiling emergency funds for military families.

These accomplishments that you have and these contributions you have made are well aware to you, I just want to acknowledge them and thank you for them.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: Last time we met we talked about a number of issues and I sort of wanted to report back.

I think many of you know, because some of you have participated in some of our meetings, that on a regular basis in the Congress, every other month or every quarter we have a meeting of our veteran service organizations. There are many veteran service organizations, and included among them are the Gold Star Moms, the Blue Star Families, women who have served in the military, and the rest, and they give us their priorities, you give us your priorities, and that's where we go from there to establish what our legislative priorities will be and how we can succeed with what you have determined to be the priorities. Because as you know, the list of concerns that we have with dealing with our veterans is a long one.

Our President yesterday reviewed some of those disability claims, of course joblessness which I will address in a moment, the health of our veterans, waiting lists, the list gone on and on.

But some of the concerns like concurrent receipt, which was one of our top priorities, we call it the disability veterans -- the Veterans Disability Tax, the survivor benefit issues that relate to how the budget is done, forward funding for the budget so we're never caught in the budget debate, but there's real assurance that the veterans needs will be met. These and many things.

In fact Chet Edwards was honored by The American Legion this week for his leadership on those issues as chairman of the appropriate committee, but we would never have had the success we had with those initiatives had they not been your priorities which you bring to us and we respect.

The GI Bill for example was greatly improved by your intellectual contributions. The idea was say thanks to our veterans, send them to college, and okay, so we were advancing this new GI Bill. Then it was determined that maybe some of the returning vets didn't want to go to college or couldn't go to college but we wanted to

transfer it to another family member, so we made that change. We took some heat from that because people thought it might have an impact on recruitment or retention and the rest, but we're very proud of that.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: The additional change, because you called this to our attention and we should have really known it, the additional change was the Sergeant John David Fry legislation, we talked about it last year where if a person dies in service the benefit before was lost and now because of that legislation and because of your activism it now can be passed onto another member of the family. Very important as you can imagine.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: So those are some of the things that have come out of our conversations. And I only go back to last year as a temporal marker to talk about some of the things we've done since then, and/or so I know I'll hear from you about how it's working or not.

The last time I visited with you I shared with you with great sadness actually the dismay I had upon learning that the Blue Star Family showed us a report in one of our meetings -- that was one of our meets that was really just largely spouses -- showed us that 92 percent of military families did not think that Americans understood or truly appreciated the sacrifice made by service members and their families. Blue Star Families survey of military families said that 92 percent of those families, I repeat, do not understand or appreciate the sacrifice of military families. That is really stunning. That is really stunning. In some ways shameful.

Thanks to your leadership and what you are doing reaching out and what you are teaching us how to do reaching out and great work of First Lady Michelle Obama and Joe Biden working with military families, we're trying to raise the awareness in the minds of the American people of the sacrifices made by military families.

So thank you so much for what you have done in that regard.

Today to honor service we must address an unfortunate and intolerable truth, you know it very well, too many servicemembers bear the burden of our security only to face the burden of economic hardship when they come home.

To meet this challenge, and I know that you participated in the President's speech idea, he rolled out a comprehensive agenda to expand the opportunities for America's veterans and help them transition to civilian life, tax credits, to hire unemployed, vets and wounded warriors, challenging the private sector to do their part to hire and train veterans, increasing contracting opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses so they can grow higher and stimulate the economy.

One of the issues that was of primary significance in our most recent veterans meeting about a month or so ago was this issue of contracting. We talk a great deal about creating jobs for our returning veterans, but what we want them to do is to have ownership. There are veterans set aside for veterans preferences in the law, they're for women too, but we do not believe they are fully being honored. Maybe they are, let's see. But if so we want more. Because the government of the United States can set an example for the rest of the country by having its vast array of agencies and contractors,

those in a position to grant contracts, to give that work to businesses owned by America's returning veterans.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: So this is a very high priority for veteran service organizations, you told me it is your priority, and so we have legislation to that end. It is something that Congressman Sanford Bishop of Georgia, he's now has the job that Chet Edwards used to have, it will strengthen training initiatives and encourage businesses and contractors to hire veterans.

Yes, we want hired. Yes, we want the federal government to serve as an example in that regard, but I think our big breakthrough is going to come as the veteran service organizations have told us when not only are people given jobs, but they're given contracts, that they have equity, that they have ownership, that they become job creators. We know they are leaders. We know they will succeed.

So between now and the next time we meet let's see how much progress we can make on that. You have my assurance that it is a high priority for my office.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: We have another initiative called Make It In America to create jobs and strengthening our manufacturing base, including measures to put -- specifically to put veterans to work in good paying jobs and good paying energy jobs as well. We have Tim Walch, who addressed the conference this morning has a bill that will cut red tape and offer tax credits to employers to hire veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and that cutting red tape will be useful when we get those contracts from the federal government as well.

We believe that the more we can make it in America, manufacture it in America the more the American people can make it in America for their family.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: It's absolutely essential to our national security that we stop the erosion of our manufacturing base.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: It's absolutely essential that we be self-reliant and not depend on other countries to provide us with the tools of protection that will help us protect America.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: So when Congressman Bishop put forth his bill it was inspired by the actions of a Captain Brian Stan, the Hiring Heroes Act is what his bill is called. It reflects a recent story of Marine Captain Brian Stan. He won a silver star for heroism in protecting his unit and saving lives under enemy fire in Iraq, yet some of his brothers in arms were lost on the battlefield and would never see their native soil again, their families, or their loved ones again.

When back in the United States Captain Stan decided to honor his fallen friends by starting Hire Heroes. Hire heroes to help returning vets reenter the work force and find jobs. His reason to taking action was simple, I lost friends who will never have the same opportunities I have. I live every day for them he said.

That's what The American Legion Auxiliary is about, living every day for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and cost guardsmen, using the power of one to support those who wear the uniform, honoring the service and caring for them, and caring for our military families.

I know that you are probably aware, I'm certain you are, that in weeks ahead Congress will gather around a table, 12 people will be representing the Democrats and Republicans House and Senate to make budget determinations, that's very important that we reduce our deficit, we know that. But I'm here to tell you that at that table the values of our veterans and their families will be present and will be significant.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: I'm here to tell you that that table will not shortchange our veterans and their needs.

(Applause.)

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: We always talk about the pledge. In the military the pledge is never to leave a soldier behind on the battlefield. Our pledge and when they came home we will leave no veteran behind.

That is who you are, that is who we are. Thank you American Legion Auxiliary for your patriotism, for your leadership, and for your service. God bless you all, God bless The American Legion Auxiliary, God bless our great country, America.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be here. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you Representative Pelosi for being with us today, it was a great honor. I'd like to give you one of my pins and my coin that's got the Power of One theme on it, and thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE PELOSI: Thank you so much. It's a great honor to be here. Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board Secretary, Trish Ward, will now present the Foundation report.

(Applause.)

BOARD SECRETARY WARD: Madam National President Carlene, as fund-raising partner to The American Legion Auxiliary your foundation has had a banner year fulfilling our mission to serve as an effective and viable fiscal resource in support of the Auxiliary's mission and vision.

Our milestone year included two star power public services announcements donated to the Foundation. The first featuring Wheel of Fortune television star, Pat Sajak, was donated and produced by Sony Pictures. A 30 second and 60 second spot at the ALA and its foundation were created and subsequently distributed to 300 markets in the U.S. where Wheel of Fortune television show airs.

Let's take a look at the 30 second version.

(Video.)

PAT SAJAK: Hi, I'm pat Sajak. For over 25 years here on wheel we've been giving Americans a chance at a fortune, but the real fortune in this country is our freedom brought to you by our veterans. Join me in helping The American Legion Auxiliary provide comfort, care, and scholarship for military families and veterans by

sending a generous donation today to The American Legion Auxiliary foundation, Post Office Box 80011, Indianapolis, 46280, or go to [ALAFoundation.org](http://ALAFoundation.org).

(Applause.)

BOARD SECRETARY WARD: Country music singer Michael Peterson, a friend of The Legion Family also recorded and donated a PSA that was distributed to 300 additional media markets. Let's take a look.

(video.)

MICHAEL PETERSON: Hi, this is Michael Peterson. I'm sitting here in the beautiful sound kitchen recording studios in Franklin, Tennessee. Did you know that for over 90 years The American Legion Auxiliary has provided comfort, care, and scholarships for our military veterans and their families. There continues to be a great need for scholarships for the children of our military veterans as well as outreach for our wartime veterans and their families. Please join me in making a generous donation to The American Legion Auxiliary foundation.

(Applause.)

BOARD SECRETARY WARD: The Pat Sajak videos and Michael Peterson videos are in 600 media markets and on the homepage of the ALA's new website, [ALAforveterans.org](http://ALAforveterans.org).

These PSAs greatly enhance the visibility of the ALA and the Foundation and we look for a continued positive response as they continue to air this year.

As we enter year four board members will transition our focus to a broader array of fund-raising options while keeping our watchful eye on fiscal accountability.

In just four years the Foundation's assets have grown by over 400 percent thanks greatly to some generous donations. We now need stronger support from our very own members.

Vice President, Kris Nelson, also a member of the Foundation Board, is making the Foundation her fund raising priority and we appreciate that.

The Foundation's first national direct mail appeal was initiated in 2010 and yielded over 40,000 new donors made up of members and non-member alike. The poppy bag targeted direct mail promotion resulted in a \$75,000 net donation for the Foundation, which enabled achievement of the IRS public support task for public charities. As a 501C3 non-profit public benefit corporation your Foundation provides a way for individuals and corporations to support the Auxiliary's charitable and educational outreach programs through endowed gifts, grants, and scholarships.

This year we welcomed our first honorary director, Joseph Sharp, who is The American Legion Director of Economics in its D.C. office.

In support of this action the Foundation Board continues to actively seek individuals who will serve in an honorary capacity and will help attract new avenues of funding and donations.

As we look forward to new opportunities The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation remains focused on seeking and securing new sources of funding to insure the long-range financial well being of our organization.

In these challenging times we serve to remain consistent in message, responsible in action, and committed to ultimately enhancing the quality of life for future generations of veterans and their families.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

BOARD SECRETARY WARD: Madam National President, I do not.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

As the Nation's largest women's patriotic service organization the strength and influence of the Auxiliary is derived from its members. The membership program works to ensure the future growth and prosperity of the organization by developing strategies to retain current members, recruit new ones, and engage members in our mission related activities.

Here with her report is National Membership Committee Chairman, Krisann Owens.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Madam National President, the Membership Committee strived to develop the Power of One in each of our members by promoting service, not self, and creating a harmonious environment in every unit so that our members can enjoy their time spent volunteering with The American Legion Auxiliary.

Through the weekly mailings ideas and stories were passed to our departments in hopes that they would inspire and motivate units and members to participate in post and unit activities, as well as becoming active within their local communities.

It was discovered that the venues for membership recruitment and retention came in all sorts of sizes from state fairs to car shows, farmer's markets, and early bird dinners. We truly did not miss an opportunity to reach our members as well as potential members.

There are many departments that strive to achieve the membership milestones and numeric objectives. As you can see there were many that did respond to the challenge and congratulations to all of you.

We had one department that achieved the 100 percent milestone, and that was the Department of Rhode Island.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Unfortunately we had no department reach 101 percent.

The Departments of North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee were awarded the Unit Development Award as they each chartered six new units this membership year.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Members took the heart of our goal to renew and recruit new members. Throughout the year 596 members recruited three new senior members for which they received the recruit three pin. And 54 members recruited 25 or

more new senior members qualifying them for the Silver Brigade Award. One very devoted member recruited over 300 members.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: A true example of the Power of One.

Members also took to heart our motto of Service Not Self with several units submitting for the first every Service Not Self Award. Those units shared how they demonstrated Service Not Self, by promoting harmony in the unit, accepting and adapting to change, being inclusive and welcoming to all members while maintaining their 2009 membership.

Units proved that practicing Service Not Self, they were able to attract new members and engage current members to deliver the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary.

The Department of California should be proud of Cecil M. Anderson Unit 589 of Salinas, California as they exemplified the meaning of Service Not Self, in every aspect of their desire to complete the mission of The American Legion Auxiliary.

At the start of this membership year Unit 589 had 42 members, through dedication to missions and a warm welcoming attitude, the Service Not Self attitude they nearly doubled their member to 83 as of April of this year.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: According to Unit President, Molly Smith, when new members join they are given a packet of information on the Auxiliary. I asked them, what are you interesting in doing and what gifts do you bring to the Auxiliary? We ask each member what it is they want to do when it comes to the programs.

Identifying volunteer opportunities that members find interesting has proven to be very successful in a way to engage members in delivers the mission of the American Auxiliary.

For example, new and long-time members have raised funds and donated items to several American Legion Auxiliary programs along with several other organizations.

One organization that has benefitted from this unit's Service Not Self is the Veteran Transition Center, a homeless center for veterans and their families. Molly reports they were in dire need of help in all areas. We have been able to donate 54 towel sets, 11 bed in a bag sets, 11 pillows, 11 blankets, and \$500 worth of food.

This active unit proves that the focus on mission and attention to detail will attract and retain members to better serve their veterans and our communities.

We also would like to highlight the great works of the following units. Lansing Memorial Unit 411 in Lansing, Kansas, Linda Caudell (phonetic) President. Members of Unit 411 selflessly make a difference by giving their time and treasures to continually support their local troops whether by cheering on deployed and/or welcoming returning soldiers at the Kansas City Airport, sending relief packages to deployed units, or attending the funerals of local soldiers. And because they work closely and harmoniously with their post and squadron many couples and families participate in Legion family activities which has enhanced the unit's membership.

Oregon Unit 61 in Sutton, Nebraska, Carol J. Charman (phonetic) President. The Oregon unit is another great example of how the unit's mission outreach

and Service Not Self attitude attracts and engages members. Their Treasures For Our Troops Project attracted new members who were so enthusiastic about the unit's involvement in the project that two of the young members on the committee offered to serve as co-chairman to reorganization their Junior unit.

Unit 61 demonstrated how a focus on mission and providing meaningful opportunities for members to participate in mission delivery is a win-win for our troops and for the unit.

Madam President, your inspiration of the Power of One propelled our members to know that they can and do make a difference one member at a time.

As we look into the future we can be assured that our members are dedicated, passionate, thoughtful people who put service above self every day within their units, communities, and especially with their dedication to our servicemembers, their families, and our Nation's veterans.

At this time the top five departments for The American Legion Auxiliary. Number one, Rhode Island with 125.25 percent.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Number two, Pennsylvania with 98.23 percent.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Number three, Arizona with 96 percent.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Number four, Florida with 95.22 percent.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: And rounding out the top five, North Carolina with 95.17 percent.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN OWENS: Yes, Madam President.

PAST PRESIDENT: Whereas, the first renewal notice currently must be mailed by August 15th, which made sense because membership could not be processed until after August 1st; and,

Whereas, the most effective membership activity is having unit members contact other unit members and ask them to renew; and,

Whereas additional time following department conventions and unit summer breaks allows units to take responsibility of membership by encouraging renewals and provides time to input them before notices are send; and,

Whereas a delay date will allow more time for units to transmit dues to departments to be entered into the system, reduce the number of dues notices to be mailed, and thus save substantial money and time for the organization at all levels; and,

Whereas a delay date will allow department and National staff more time to transfer members from units that had charters canceled at the National Convention NEC Meeting thus providing accurate information on renewal notices.

Therefore it be resolved that by The American Legion Auxiliary and National Convention assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 29th through September 1st, 2011 that the first renewal notice be mailed between September 1st and September 15th;

And be it further resolved that this resolution will become effective with the 2012/2013 administrative year.

The Membership Pre-Convention Committee recommends the resolution be adopted.

Madam President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of Resolution Number Three as just read.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of Resolution Number Three as just read. The Resolutions Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the resolution be adopted. Is there any discussion?

MS. CRAIG: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

MS. CRAIG: Flora Jean Craig (phonetic) from the Department of North Carolina.

I think it is important that we adopt this resolution. We've talked for two days now about finances. If we delay this dues notice from going out for 30 days it gives us more opportunities to get the 2012 renewals into the new membership system, and for everyone that goes in we save the National organization money.

So while we've asked National to cut, cut, cut now it's time for us to say we can support you by doing the work of our units doing the membership instead of depending on the National dues notice to do the membership work for us.

And it is time -- there were 120,000 members that you talked about for ten years, if I tell you that in the last three and a half years we've lost 109,000 members, then we need to get out and say to these unit members we want you to renew your dues instead of us sitting here waiting for the national dues notices to come out. We have to reconnect with our unit members. It is important for us to save the National organization money. It's even more important for us to connect with our unit members, and one way we can do this is the dues notice and give us extra time to go get our own membership.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone number one.

MS. RUSTY-VAUGH: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Meredith Rusty-Vaugh (phonetic) from the Department of Maryland.

I understand what Flora Jean is saying; however, those of us who have been membership chairmen and who have gone out and made that face-to-face contact and continue to do so with incremental positive results know that we still run into, I'll pay it when I get my dues notice and not until. And the problem with that is that it has a chilling affect on our department and unit finances. Until that dues money comes in we don't have money to operate.

So if you delay it a month that's another month that we have to wait when we have heavy expenses in the months of August and September. I'm opposed to this change.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four again.

MS. CRAIG: If we always do what we've always done we'll always get what we've always got and if nothing changes nothing changes.

Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

MS. WALTON: Yes, Madam President, Elsie Walton, Department of Connecticut delegate.

That too is a problem in our department where they wait for that notice. I would just as soon see that notice go out the window totally and go grassroots and work with the units our self. Save the whole expense of that membership notice. Just get rid of it. Let us go back to where we were making face-to-face notices and I think we'll do a lot better, because they do wait for that notice, so if it's never coming they will pay us and not wait for that notice.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

MS. BRIER: Robin Brier, Department of Florida, Secretary/Treasurer.

I support the change in backing the National notice a month.

Department of Florida as with many other departments when it's time to edit the dues amounts and the where to mail the dues notices to falls right when we're getting ready for department conventions and Girls State and lots of errors get made and consequently changes don't get made because it's such -- we're under such pressure to get it done.

That extra month gives both departments and the National staff an opportunity to make sure that the amounts and the addresses are correct so when the dues notices go out we're not wasting our money by having them incorrect.

I completely support waiting a month in sending out the dues notices. I agree that many members won't pay till they get it, but I don't think waiting a month is going to hurt us financially and I think it will make what we're mailing out more accurate, which is very important.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone three.

MS. VATH: Madam President, Cheryl Vath (phonetic) from the department of Nebraska. I call for the vote.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Is there a second.

VOICES: Yes, second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The vote has been called for. Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Two-thirds vote to close the debate.

Reminder.

All those in favor of closing the debate say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Opposed no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The debate is closed. Are you now ready for the question for voting?

All those in favor of Resolution Number Three please stand. Two-thirds? Thank you, please be seated.

All those opposed to the resolution please stand.

The resolution has passed and has been adopted.

Any other resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN OWENS: No, Madam President, we do not. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: You're done.

In The American Legion Auxiliary we take the motto of Service Not Self pretty seriously, and for the past nine decades even using the word dedication isn't strong enough to describe some of the members in our great organization who have a deep commitment to our mission.

At this time I'd like to recognize Ramona Hendricks, a member from the Department of Illinois who is here today attending her 50th National Convention, 50th National Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: What an accomplishment and genuine display of the Power of One. Ramona, please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you for your service to The American Legion Auxiliary.

An organized communication network is very critical in order for the public to become aware of The American Legion Auxiliary's timeless mission and our many programs.

The public relation's program works collaboratively at all levels to positively promote and advance the objectives and programs of our organization.

Public Relations National Chairman, Coral May Grout, will now present her report.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Themes, catchy phrases, fun activities, and yes, unusual attire are all part of the Auxiliary Public Relations Programs.

Capturing the attention of our members as well as the general public is what public relations is all about.

Our committee received reports from all 52 departments this year.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: For 100 percent reporting. Thank you.

Let's focus on how some of our units and departments spread the word about The American Legion Auxiliary.

Most departments distributed news letters or bulletins on a monthly basis. Several departments provided public relations tool kits. These departments included Maine, Illinois, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's tool kit was available on disc. It included a calendar of important events, public relations resources, and sample press releases. There was one entire section of imagines that members of The American Legion Family could copy onto their own press releases. Finally the kit included a press release basics section and sample news letters.

Units used a variety of tools to enhance public relations within their own units. Ehrig McTurk, Unit 127 of Gladbrook, Iowa, prepared proclamation which was presented to incoming infant unit members. The proclamation included the members under whom the new member was eligible for membership, her date of birth, weight, and length, plus the unit paid for the Junior member's first year of membership. What a novel way to increase membership and encourage continuity.

In Oregon the Burns Times Herald published the essays of each of the four winners for the Americanism essay contest. The contest was sponsored by Harney County Unit number 63.

Aurora Unit 110 used a variety of public relations tools to inform the public of their activities. These included advertisements, articles, letters to the editor, a news letter, posters, information included in local newspaper community sections, and online information.

Our departments and units devoted more effort to using the internet and its resources this year.

Several departments, including Mississippi, distributed e-bulletins. Mississippi and other used Facebook and twitter. The department placed many invitations to their activities on Facebook. It's so easy to respond immediately to an invitation in this way. No procrastinating. You just click yes, no, or maybe for your attendance. Want to add a comment? Just type it and enter. The event chairman quickly has a count upon which to base her plans.

Our Auxiliary has many no cost, low cost suggestions that units and departments employed this year.

Letters to the editor are printed 99 percent of the time. Press releases and speeches that are camera ready for the press. Facebook pages and so much more.

Don't forget that every member of every unit is a member of the public relations team, so wear you hat and pin to events, hand out business cards whenever you have a chance. There are companies that will give you cards for free, or you can make your own on your computer.

Finally add your name to the ALA e-news and check out your department's and National's web pages.

Madam President Carlene, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do you have any residence do you agrees or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN GROUT: We have none.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I am pleased to now present to you our National Secretary, Dubbie Buckler, for her report.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

This is my third National Convention since being with the headquarters of The American Legion Auxiliary. Been with the Auxiliary now as your National Executive Director National Secretary for about two and a half years.

At your National Headquarters -- thank you for the one fan in the room.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: At your National Headquarters we have operated the last two years with at a 20 percent vacancy, we have cut expenses nearly 20 percent in 2009, cut expenses another 15 percent in 2010, and we are on track to be under budget again this year for the completion of 2011.

We have received stellar external audits on your National finances, magazine, and even the HR employee handbook and benefits packages that we have to have audited. Everything that is required to have an external look as gotten an A.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Your National Headquarter staff are also volunteers for this organization. Back in November of 2010 your National Vice President, Kris Nelson, trained all of the National Headquarter staff to be field service representatives. In the last nine months we have donated about \$4,000 in goods and comfort items to our homeless shelter in Indianapolis for veterans which we have adopted as our National Headquarters' project.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We have volunteered collectively 100 hours in field service, and 100 percent of your 28 National Headquarter staff donate to this organization.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Other good news, at a time when national grant making is down your ALA as a dues membership organization, while it is not considered for most corporate or foundation grants because we are a membership organization and donors will not support the operations of membership organizations, we still have achieved an unprecedented accomplishment with the Corporation for National Community Service Grant the ALA Call to Service Corps Consortium. We are now in a three-year funding rotation cycle.

This year The American Legion Auxiliary as the primary project for The American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps Consortium has been awarded 15 AmeriCorps volunteers and 40 vista volunteers to help your National Headquarters, several departments, and through the consortium several military veterans and other non-profit organizations to enhance all of our collective ability to serve veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

To date the Corporation for National Community Service has awarded over \$1 million in human resources to The American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And as a result of that national organizations such as Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Blue Star Families, National Military Family Association, Operation Home Front, Ride 2 Recovery, Student Veterans of America, and many others now know and benefit from The American Legion Auxiliary being the largest and most visible woman's patriotic veteran service organization in the world.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, I'm pleased to report on some things that we have not done.

We have not been in the news for the wrong reasons.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We have not overspent the budget. We have not had a bad audit. And we have not embarrassed the organization.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: You've heard me talk many times and I'm not going to go into it now so don't groan, but the 990, the Revolutionary IRS Form 990 has taken an inordinate amount of time. It is revolutionary and I just want to stand here and applaud the departments, and particularly the department secretaries who have been the emissaries back and forth for a number of communications regarding getting our organization up to speed on the new 990. So hats off to the departments and to the department secretaries.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We've done some neat things to enhance the imagine and raise awareness and provide information both internally and externally about The American Legion Auxiliary.

We have reshaped the magazine. It is now for the first time ever on the Audit Bureau of Circulation, this is another audit that we have done, external audit, we are now on the list of the most improved -- of the top 10 most improved -- or top 25 -- excuse me, being a little aggressive -- their top 25 most improved readership magazines.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We have expanded our e-news, we have branded our National organization, our brochures, publications, website, everything to have a uniform look and feel so that at a glance you can tell this is something that has to do with The American Legion Auxiliary.

And yes, before I leave this organization or die we are going to have a American Legion Auxiliary family brochure which will obtain applications for all three of The American Legion Auxiliary family organization.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Some things are a lot harder than you would think.

Your National Headquarters is proud of the two celebrity public service announcements that you just saw that we achieved. The Pat Sajak Wheel of Fortune

public service announcement, the Michael Peterson, the donated value of both of those exceeds \$30,000 for this organization.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And the ALA membership promotional video that is also on our website has been provided to each department and in a way that could be customized or tailored at the end for each department and can be used for many years to come.

These and much more is on your new AmericanlegionAuxiliaryforveterans.org website.

Queue the screen. And because some of the questions and comments that have been addressed to me since I've been here I want to take just a moment and let's take a tour and become better acquainted with it, because we know by some of the questions not all of you realize all the information that's there.

So if you're looking up on the screen ALAforveterans.org. What is it? It's a comprehensive website. It gives members and the media and the general public an enhanced gateway to The American Legion Auxiliary. Hopefully you all familiar with the home page.

What are the benefits of the new website? It's easy access to the information. We have made this intuitive. If you think you might find something there try it, because we tried to make it a lot -- design it in a logical way to find what you were looking for. We've tried to make it clear and easy to use with easy navigation and searching.

There's a little button up at the top right. If you want the text size to increase, if you want what you're looking at to be larger you can push a button and you can make everything you're looking at larger.

We have an enhanced search functionality. There's a search box up there. This is just a little difficult because -- there's -- there's a search box up there. Just type in what you're looking for and it'll bring up things that you can -- that remotely relate to what you're looking for.

So what are some of the features? There is a website beginners guide complete with photos and examples on how to use the website, and if you've not used it because you're afraid, you just go to that navigation tool and it'll tell you everything you need to know about how to use your website.

One of the most popular features of the website we are discovering, and we had hoped this would be the case internally, is our member resources tab.

If you look at the website it's designed overall like you're looking at tabbed file folders, and up at the very, very top you also can find a button for donating, joining, news, events, and the gateway to services, resources that anybody might need that wants to do something to help veterans, or a veteran who might want something -- want information about a resource available, and that continues to grow.

We add new content to the website at least weekly and sometimes like leading up before convention several times a day.

It's very easy to use. All the forms that you want that we have now as fillable forms are on there. The Plan of Action is on there. The membership tracking forms are on there. You can look at that list down. We've got a lot of things there. And I

want to point that out because we get a lot of questions, well, I can't find this. Well, this -- I never had that information. As the commercial goes, it's all there for you. It's right there on the website and we encourage you to look at that and find the information that we are trying to make as openly available as possible.

And the form that's listed up there is the tracking form. So we've made that really a very simple thing to use. One of the things we do annually is report the impact, the National impact of The American Legion Auxiliary. We report that to the public and we especially have to report it to Congress. So here's an easy form for you to keep track of that so we can have more reports next year with 100 percent reporting, because we've made it easy to track those key information numbers that we need for the impact report.

We have department pages with an interactive map so that you can find the location of your Auxiliary department by state, and a quick snapshot of your department's leadership and contact information.

We have under what we do mission outreach pages. You want to know more about Girls State, Girls Nation you can go right there. There's detail about all of our programs and there's on each page we have tried to incorporate as many photos featuring members and participants in action. It's The American Legion Auxiliary's website, that's everyone in this room.

We have an online video gallery. You saw the two PSAs. The membership video is always right there on the home page. You just go down to the bottom of the screen, our video gallery is there. And one that we have not mentioned is our -- we did a 90th Anniversary video and that's on there as well.

So if you've not seen the PSAs or the membership video you just need to go to the website and it's all right there.

Something that I've learned that a lot of you don't realize you can do is that we have incorporated e-news letters and social media sites to connect with current members. If you're on a page looking at information that you -- this is really important, I really want to send this to so and so, from that page you can e-mail it to someone, you can post it on someone's Facebook page.

So you see that box down there with those symbols on it, the share button, you can click the Facebook link, you can click the e-mail link, and right there you can directly send that information to somebody that you want to send it to through any of those means, and a lot of people don't realize you can do that. So it's really easy to share information on the website with other people.

The last couple of years of the Auxiliary magazine are going to be kept on the website. So if you missed an issue or someone didn't receive it and you want to share something or there's a particular story that you wish somebody would read the magazine is on the website, and when you click on the magazine there's a button up at the top that lets you flip the pages, and you can also enlarge the type of the magazine while you're just within that.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Did I say that you could enlarge the type on the magazine if you want to read it on a website? We understand.

There are several new marketing resources, and again, we're learning that a lot of you aren't realizing just how many marketing resources we now have.

There are downloadable posters, and the screen that's being shown up there that's a blown up sample of one of the posters, and there's about ten posters now up there. All the talk about what we do.

So if you're looking for something to increase awareness, you want to put a poster in a grocery store, you want to put it, you know, on a billboard or a bulletin board somewhere, someone said they wanted to print one of them off and put them on the backside of a bathroom door stall, bathroom stall door. Did that come out right? Any way, if you're in the bathroom they put it on the back of the door so that you have a captive audience for sure to read it, you can do that. But pay attention to what you've got in terms of marketing resources. We've got a lot on there for you.

And the collection can for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival. How many of you have eaten your Pringles? How many of you have picked up your Pringles? Okay.

We also have a label that can be down loaded for Poppy Days, so there's a poppy label that you can put on a Pringle can.

We've had a request to create a label for an ice cream bucket. Aaron? We got another task.

So we will be enhancing those marketing tools.

And it's all about you and we have many online photo galleries featuring members at meetings, events, and conventions, and we're going to show different ones up there. So if you want to see who's active in The American Legion Auxiliary go to the photo gallery.

And has anybody been following the blog?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: For the three of you who follow the blog thank you very much. For the rest of you that was a great way to share what's going on at convention with other people.

Now what's the result of this change? The old website was stagnant, we could make no changes to it without spending a great deal of your money. We have now hired someone on staff, we've redesigned the website, we have new contracts, new arrangements, we now manage our website and we can update it as often as we need to. These numbers are already outdated because we've now more than doubled the number of people looking at the website every month. We're almost at the quadruple level now for website viewing.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And the last thing, how many of you noticed the Junior shirts that had the quick response code on the back of it?

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And how many of you noticed that the convention signage around here has this little square on that? And how many think we were just trying to mess with your eyes? We're not messing with your eyes.

If you have a smart phone, and for those who have dumb phones I really am really, really sorry, but if you have smart phones, and those who have smart

phones know what kinds I'm talking about, the Androids, the BlackBerrys, the iPhones. There's a simple application you can download and you literally can just aim at that QR code and your convention signs will take you to the American Legion Auxiliary's National website so that at a glance somebody can find out information, well what is that? Just click on that and it takes you right there.

The Juniors, if you clicked on their little quick response code it took you to the Juniors page of the website.

So we've made it easy. And the reason we did that on the back of their shirts because for the parade as they're walking down through the parade route and we know there were people along the parade route goes, well, who are these people walking down the street, what's this all about? When the Juniors went by if they had a smart phone and saw this on the back of their shirts they could literally standing at the curb aim it at the back of a girl's shirt and it takes you right there.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So Madam President, we're trying to do some cool things to raise the awareness of The American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

Would Marty Peters from the Department of Texas please come to the podium and present the National President's Scrapbook.

MS. PETERS: Madam President, I'd like to thank you for this appointment, it has and continues to be a great deal of fun, and this is your first book.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN PETERS: And then each of pages has One Nation Under God, the Lone Star State of course, and one world so that her theme follows throughout.

Thank you again for this appointment, I look forward to finishing it.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much, Marty, and I look forward to seeing the finished product.

It's now time for a really, really enjoyable part and one of the most exciting parts of the convention I think. Well, I think before that -- yes, and that is the presentation of the National President's Award for Excellence.

VIDEO COMMENTATOR: The American Legion Auxiliary is proud to present the National President's Award for Excellence.

This exclusive honor is awarded to the best of our best. The award epitomizing Service Not Self by recognizing effort in planning and implementation of our programs.

Here to present is your National President, Carlene Ashworth.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I think you will agree that today's recipients have each gone above and beyond the call of duty transforming the words of our mission statement into powerful actions of mission delivery.

Through intense planning and precise implementation what began as a simple goal turned into some of the most amazing, innovative, and powerful examples of American Legion Auxiliary programs in action.

Before we get to today's winners I would like to recognize all of the units and departments working the Auxiliary's mission and programs every day. The hard work that you all do day in and day out, oftentimes without much deserved recognition or thanks, is what keeps our organization alive and able to carry out its mission and I applaud you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Here today to help present a snapshot of the award highlights are Kris Nelson. Please welcome National Vice President, Kris Nelson. Kris.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you, Madam President. How exciting.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the first winner of the National President's Award for Excellence is presented to Lloyd E. Hutcheson Unit 113 in Meridian, Idaho. Joanne Starkey (phonetic), President.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Unit 113's objective was to plan, coordinate, and implement a clothing drive for homeless veterans in the Boise area in hopes of increasing public awareness within their community.

On December 4th at 10 a.m. the clothing drive was under way and boy did they collect a ton of clothing. Well actually to be precise, they collected one and a half tons of clothing.

Unit 113 promoted its project and got the community involved by contacting local newspapers to advertise the clothing drive for homeless veterans. Local newspapers also ran full-length stories describing the clothing drive's progress and what items were still needed. Working with local banks and municipal buildings to serve as drop off centers. Eleven banks participated, along with two city halls and a library.

The community was so responsive that oftentimes clothing and supplies had to be picked up twice a week.

And finally the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State delegates sponsored by the unit contacted the organizers of a high school debate competition and arranged for donation information to be distributed to the participants and attendees.

As if collecting one and a half tons of clothing was not impressive enough outcome for this veterans and affairs rehabilitation project it also helped to create a job for homeless veterans as Unit 113 was in need of an extra pair of hands to help sort the donations and man the store at the VAMC.

The increased community awareness of the homeless veteran population, in fact a local honor society member heard about the drive and made her official project and donated several bags of clothing.

Finally in addition to the one and a half tons of clothing donated to the Boise VAMC clothing and personal hygiene items were also donated to the local homeless shelter, which has an entire floor reserved just for veterans.

I know I speak for everyone in this room when I say your accomplishment truly embodies Service Not Self and for that we thank you.

Lloyd E. Hutcheson, unit 113 Meridian, Idaho, Joanne Starkey, President. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

MS. STARKEY: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Now here to present a snapshot of the next award is our own Peggy Thomas.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The second unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence is Camarillo Unit 741 in Camarillo, California, Madeline Lee, President.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Where is she?

To even be considered for the National President's Award for Excellence a unit must demonstrate service activities within at least three Auxiliary programs.

Well, the motto for the women of Unit 741 must be go big or go home, because they demonstrated service activities in not three, not five, but eight different Auxiliary programs.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: They passed out poppies and programs to approximately 400 attendees at the Amoral (phonetic) Day Ceremony and later provided lunch for 150 community members.

Participated in the Pocket Flag Program by folding 300 flags and then distributing them to reserve troops as they were deployed to Afghanistan.

One of their members folded an additional 900 flags to be put in the boxes for troops overseas.

Selected Veterans Day as an Auxiliary day of service and provided refreshments and conversation to the 50 veterans who attended Camarillo Veterans Day Program. Later that day they partnered with Legionnaires and delivered 32 goody baskets to the new veterans home and visited a local convalescent home where they presented a short program of thanks and certificates of appreciation.

The women of Unit 741 also partnered with a local non-profit organization called For The Troops to send care packages to active duty servicemembers stationed overseas. Not only were they able to collect \$1,500 worth of magazines, CDs, DVDs, snacks and more, they also presented for the troops with a check for \$300 to assist with the cost of shipping the care packages overseas.

Worked on the plans committee and collected \$1,000 of clothing and toiletries and \$750 in cash donations for their annual Ventura County stand down.

During the stand down unit members distributed toiletries and clothing, provided haircuts, and prepared and served dinner logging a total of 106 volunteers and serving more than 150 veterans.

Participated in the Give 10 to Education Program. Collected more than \$2,000 worth of school supplies and delivered them to two schools with a high population of military kids.

Finally Unit 741 worked with its post family to provide toy and food vouchers for military families at naval base Ventura County. They planned a fashion show and asked attendees to pay the admission fee of an unwrapped toy. In doing this they were able to collect almost \$2,000 of toys. Is she here yet?

Camarillo Unit 741 in Camarillo, California, Madeline Lee, President, I present to you the National President's Award for Excellence. Thank you for all that you do in the spirit of Service Not Self.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: And now I present the award.

(Applause.)

MS. LEE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much. Thank you.

MS. LEE: This goes to all the members of 741 who worked so hard for this award.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. And now National Children & Youth Chairman, Nancy Brown-Park will present the next award. Nancy.

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Oh, I'm so excited. This is the best part. And the nominees for best actress in a leading role are...

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Oh, no I'm sorry, I'm just kidding.

Today I have the privilege of announcing the third unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence, and the award goes to Gaines T. Evans Unit 44 in Elephant Butte, New Mexico, Liz Foster, President.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN THOMAS: When 30 percent of a community's population belongs to the local Auxiliary unit you must know they're going to do some amazing service projects. Listen to a few of these things Unit 44 has accomplished.

They've logged 834,000 volunteer hours, drove 35,000 volunteer miles, made 466 pocket flags, and mailed 650 care packages to troops overseas, and those figures are just from this past year.

By partnering with local fishing guides, Sierra Del Rio Golf Course, and the staff at Fort Bliss they were able to provide much needed rest and relaxation for wounded warrior soldiers.

For example, because of Unit 44's combined effort to rejuvenate the warrior transition battalion at Fort Bliss, 100 wounded soldiers have enjoyed fishes trips complete with a local guide and sack lunches all provided by Unit 44.

Doctors at Fort Bliss who helped the wounded soldiers cope with the mental and physical challenges they now face say that these fishes trips are treasured experiences for each soldier.

They sponsored a golf tournament which provided 20 wounded soldiers a day of friendly competition and great company. Most of these soldiers were battalion leaders and were able to bring their entire battalions, 200 men total to join in the day's festivities.

Their efforts to support our veterans have led to an accumulation of more than 7,000 hours of volunteer service and countless smiles for veterans at Fort Bliss.

When it comes to care packages for our troops these women weren't messing around. In the last year alone they shipped more than 650 care packages

containing snacks, items made by local veterans, and toys for children living where the soldiers were stations.

All in all in the past year Unit 44 gave around \$17,000 of care package items.

Not only have members of Gaines T. Evans Unit 44 shown a spotlight on the tragedy of homeless veterans, rejuvenated the Warrior Transition Program at Fort Bliss, and mailed more than 650 care packages to our troops overseas, they also understand the importance of effective internal and external communications to promote a positive image of the Auxiliary.

For an example Unit 44 President, Liz Foster, not only reads every issue of *ALA eNews* and takes the time to subscribe new members, she goes through the entire news letter and makes notes and informative comments about the copy before mailing it off to all unit members who do not have internet.

The unit also purchased Auxiliary magazine gift certificates for local hair salons and medical buildings.

One of their members works for the local hospital and said you will always find a current issue of the ALA's magazine in our waiting room.

Unit 44 never misses an opportunity to get some local press by running something in its towns two weekly newspapers. Often it's a story and pictures about the unit's projects, and sometimes it features pieces introducing the community to its newest member. I know Madam President Carlene thought this was a fantastic idea.

To the women of Unit 44 you are a shining example of what wonderful things can be accomplished through preparation, dedication, and service to others.

Once again let's thank Gaines T. Evans Unit 44 in Elephant Butte, New Mexico, for being such amazing representatives of this great organization.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And now National Vice President Kris Nelson will present the next award. Kris.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: The fourth unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence is Ehrig McTurk Unit 127 in Gladbrook, Iowa, Jeanne Paustian, president.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Once again this larger than life unit from the small Midwestern town of Gladbrook, Iowa, managed to exceed its annual membership goal amazingly during a time when the county population was down, the local high school was closed due to consolidation, and more and more store fronts on Main Street were placing out-of-business signs in their front windows.

Here are some of the projects that Unit 127 used to keep its current members engaged while appealing to new members.

During the annual corn carnival the local World War II veterans were honored as grand marshals. The women of Unit 127 served dinner to veterans and gave each a poppy corsage on their cap designating their honor.

Next it was on to the parade where the veterans were greeted with waves, salutes, and standing ovations. What a wonderful evening.

The unit also created service project work groups in order to keep all of its members engaged in mission related service projects throughout the year. Each work group has 15 members and a rotating co-chair. Because this service project is always going on this system always insures that every member will be able to work on a project at her own convenience. What a great idea. This is something every unit can do.

Unit 127 members have a great passion for Children & Youth. Just this year they gave sewing lessons to the unit's youngest members so they could learn and help the Iowa Veterans Home with its rug making project.

They invited a World War II veteran to speak during an eighth grade history class who served as a medic during the landing on the Beaches of Normandy. Needless to say his stories made a huge impact on the students.

They held a Labor Day event at the local nursing home as a service project for its Junior members. During this event the residents shared what it was like to live and work during wartimes.

One resident spoke to the Juniors at working in a factory that produced goods for soldiers overseas. Another resident spoke of food shortages and wartime rationings. All participants agreed that this was both a stimulating mind exercise for residents and a priceless lesson for their Juniors.

This unit also takes pride in spreading the American Legion Auxiliary mission throughout the community. In the last year they gathered evergreen for more than 300 memorial wreaths to place on veterans graves in five cemeteries, helped to place small American flags at grave sides, and assisted The American Legion with all Memorial Day programs, including a dinner served to more than 175 citizens who came to pay tribute to the veterans.

Raised and donated more than \$2,500 to the Marshal Town Guard so they could access Skype and communicate with soldiers stationed in remote areas of Afghanistan.

In your submission for this award you wrote, "We might be a small town, but we are very proud of who we are, what we do, and the organization we represent, and all that we've achieved this year."

I agree with you 100 percent. Ehrig McTurk Unit 127 in Gladbrook, Iowa, you have shown us the power of one unit and we are all very proud of you.

(Applause.)

MS. PAUSTIAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

And now I get the opportunity to present the next award. And for the final unit level recipient of the 2011 National President's Award for Excellence, the award goes to Duran Y. Gallegos Unit 69 in Alameda, New Mexico, Theresa Montoya, President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This year this unit set out to inspire, recognize, and perpetuate responsible citizenship. They planned to achieve these feats through education and acts of patriotism in order to raise awareness and increase appreciation of the price paid for our fundamental freedoms.

Their objective was to be a patriot through involvement in community events, offer military support, and promote the Auxiliary's values through education and acts of service.

Well, I would say they more than met their objective. Do you not agree? Just listen to some of the amazing things that Unit 69 did this past year.

Certificates of appreciation were given to businesses in the community that chose to fly the American flag, awarded two Auxiliary Good Deed Awards, one to a local child who started a project to collect school supplies and the other to a set of twins both with cystic fibrosis who donated their hair to Locks of Love for children with cancer.

Worked with the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center to assist with stand downs.

Donated household items and ran a year-round winter coat drive for veterans living at the center.

Attended a nationalization ceremony for newly recognized American citizens where they recited the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time and congratulated the new citizens who received a bookmark imprinted with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Now all of the amazing projects I just mentioned were enough to make Unit 69 a strong contender in the running for this year's National President's Award for Excellence, but it was one project in particular that really caught my eye.

In Unit 69's submission members explained that there are more than 16,000 women veterans living in New Mexico, and unfortunately some of them live on the streets of Albuquerque. The members of Unit 69 knew that these veterans needed safe, gender specific transitional housing where they, along with their children, could receive food, shelter, clothing, education, one-on-one case management, employment assistance, life skills coaching, and access to holistic health care beyond traditional VA services.

So Unit 69 went out in search of a facility and founded the YWCA Transitional Living Center for homeless women veterans and their dependent children, the first transitional housing of its kind in the country.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: From the beginning Unit 69 has been volunteering with and donating to this amazing organization.

Members of 69 not only deliver items listed on the resident's wish list they also named the center as one of their official ongoing community service programs.

Their next big project will be to begin the Adopt a Family Program insuring that the center's veterans and children will receive a blessed Christmas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It is my pleasure today to celebrate you and all this unit has accomplished over the past year. Department of New Mexico two awards, I think that's commendable, that two of the units in this department under the leadership of their department president here has accomplished this year. And Duran Y. Gallegos Unit 69 in Alameda, New Mexico you are an amazing unit.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: To all of the units that made it up on stage and to all of you who work our mission every day again I say a big thank you and ask that you please take some time to celebrate all that you have achieved this year.

And now it is time to finish this celebration with a bang.

MS. DALTON: Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

DALTON: I'm at microphone four.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DALTON: I'm Carol Dalton from the Department of Idaho.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DALTON: And I apologize for this, I was going to do this during resolutions and we kind of went past that so I have something I would like to say that I think is important for this convention.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Can it wait until I finish these awards, Carol?

MS. DALTON: I'm sorry, I thought you were done with the awards.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: No, ma'am.

MS. DALTON: I apologize.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I will start over. And now it is time to finish this celebration with a bang and announce the department recipient of the 2011 year. Are you ready?

VOICES: Yeah.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Who do you think it is?

The 2011 department recipient of the National President's award for Excellence is the Department of Kansas, Trish Ward, president.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This department really took the Power of One theme to heart and developed its own department methods. The power of one member, the power of one unit, the power of one united Kansas. I love it. She's shaking up here.

This message served to inspire, encourage, and ignite a revolution of action among the more than 17,000 members in this Department of Kansas.

Kansas embraced the spirit of Service Not Self with enthusiasm, commitment, and the goal to increase the visibility of our organization through active participation, mission driven service projects, and passionate displays of purpose.

They began with developing Power of One banners to create a consistent theme across all department programs.

For example, Americanism became the power of one patriot.

Children & Youth, the power of one friend.

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, the power of one advocate.

Legislative, the power of one letter.

Department President Trish believes that it was her chairman's willingness to embrace a cohesive theme that set the stage for a year of excellence in Kansas, and what a year it was. Just listen to some of Kansas' amazing projects.

First project show your colors for our Kansas veterans. President Trish tie-dyed red, white, and blue shirts to use as a VA&R fundraiser. Each shirt unique in presentation and style offered members and friends the opportunity to get involved in helping support the program. The project earned more than \$3,000 and funds were split evenly between three VA facilities.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Project Buddy Baskets. Following the Department of Virginia's lead Kansas began creating Buddy Baskets for homeless veterans transitioning into new living facilities. Because of its wonderful members Kansas was able to give 100 Buddy Baskets.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: At a value of more than \$4,300.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Project giving it up for gift shop. November in Kansas means gift shop and this department remains committed to insuring our veterans and their families have a wonderful holiday season complete with all the trimmings and festivities. This is their premier volunteer service event. With participation from more than 250 units and donations totaling \$50,000.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Project golf classic tournament. The purpose was to put the Auxiliary in the public eye and to highlight the needs of veterans in Kansas. The tournament was such a success that it has far exceeded their expectations by earning nearly \$11,000.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Project socks for soldiers. Determined to develop a project that achieved the national objectives for Junior activities, Honorary Junior President Halley McMurphy and the Junior Committee developed socks for soldiers, and after several months of collecting they had a grand total of 1,482 pairs of socks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And a little more than \$2,000 in cash donations. Wow.

Members of the Department of Kansas, you have had an amazing year. Your efforts have shown us the magic that can happen when a group of dedicated women are bonded together by the power of one mission.

The Department of Kansas, I am thankful for all of your efforts and for being passionate, active, and engaged members of The American Legion Auxiliary. You have much to celebrate.

Will the Department of Kansas members please stand?

(Applause.)

MS. WARD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Here, a beautiful award for excellence.

Let's give them all a big hand again, all of our winners.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: 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 a full story on all our National President's Award for Excellence winners on our new website and in a future issue of the *Auxiliary* magazine. Congratulations.

MS. WARD: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you.

So let me encourage all of you to consider joining these units and the Department of Kansas on the path to excellence by planning now to submit your application for next year's awards. I'm already looking forward to the celebration, and let's give all of our National President's Award for Excellence recipients one more round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I am now very pleased to introduce the members of the very hard-working Resolutions Committee. JoAnn Cronin, Chairman, Anita Biggs, Vice Chairman, and Lynda Horton-Turk as a member.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CRONIN: Madam President, there are two resolutions plus the courtesy resolutions.

Madam National President, Resolutions Two was submitted by the Long-Range Strategic Planning Committee. The subject is amend Standing Rule Section II, Number 6 to define the Pre-Convention Committees and to require the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting to be held opening and a time that does not conflict with any others to allow all delegates to ask clarifying questions, which reads as follows.

Whereas, delegates to The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention must be fully informed about all proposed amendments to the National organization's governing documents in order to cast knowledgeable votes; and,

Whereas, under the current structure whereby the various Pre-Convention Committee meetings are held separately and simultaneously, all delegates do not have the opportunity to hear the explanations and discussions on all proposed amendments to the National organization's governing documents at the Pre-Convention meetings; and,

Whereas, delegates must fully be knowledgeable of proposed changes to adequately inform their department members of the proposed changes; and,

Whereas, opening the explanation of all proposed amendments to the National organization's governing documents to all convention delegates promotes governance transparency and fosters better and more objective understanding of proposals to come before the convention body among all delegates.

Now therefore be it resolved, that Standing Rule Section II, Number 6, pertaining to the Convention Committees be amended to define Pre-Convention Committees and to require the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention meeting to be held openly and at a time not in conflict with any other Pre-Convention Committee meeting to allow all delegates to ask clarifying questions. Standing Rule Section II, Number 6, to read as follows:

There shall be the following named Convention Committees.

The general duties of the committees shall be to consider matters assigned to such committees, to consider matters specifically referring to them by the Convention, and to conduct other business as described in this section.

a) There shall be the following special Convention Committees:

The Committee on Credentials. The purpose of the Committee on Credentials is to receive and verify the credentials of the departments and to handle all matters pertaining to the contestation of delegates.

Number 2. Committee on Rules. The purpose of the Committee on Rules is to formulate the rules under which the Convention shall operate.

Number 3. Committee on Resolutions. The purpose of the Committee on Resolutions is to receive resolutions and refer them to the proper Pre-Convention Committees and to formulate such Convention resolutions not within the jurisdiction of the other established Pre-Convention Committees as listed in this section.

The committee shall meet in advance of the other Pre-Convention meetings to allow ample time to properly assign the resolutions to the other Pre-Convention meetings prior to their convening.

This committee has no authority to take any action on resolutions other than to refer it to the appropriate Pre-Convention Committee unless there is a written opinion from General Counsel that a resolution is illegal and can cause the organization, its officers, its National Executive Committee members, appointees, and other members to become liable.

In such an event, the Committee on Resolutions shall report said action to the Convention body.

At the Pre-Convention meeting on Resolutions, not within jurisdiction of any Pre-Convention Committee, shall be presented for explanation by a member of the Committee of Resolutions.

Upon conclusion of discussion of each resolution the committee may vote to either (a) recommend that a resolution be adopted; (b) recommend to the Convention body that a proposed resolution not be adopted; or (c) make no recommendation to the Convention body regarding a proposed resolution.

Each member of the Committee on Resolutions and one representative from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the Convention body.

The Committee on Resolutions shall report on all resolutions to the Convention body.

b.) Any other special convention committee as deemed appropriate by the National President.

c.) Pre-Convention Committees shall exist for the National Chaplain and National Historian, and for the following standing committees:

Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cavalcade of Memories, Children & Youth, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws (see additional sections on the Constitution & Bylaws), Education, Finance, Girls State, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation, Membership, National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, Public Relations, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

The Pre-Convention Committees for the National Chaplain and National Historian shall be comprised of the National officer the members assigned by each department.

These Pre-Convention Committees that correlate to the standing committees shall be comprised of members of the correlating standing committee plus one member assigned by each department.

The purpose of these Pre-Convention Committee meetings is to consider and make recommendations upon subject matters assigned, to receive reports from their corresponding committees, to review accomplishments and best practices of the year, to recognize committee members, departments, units or others for exemplary achievements, to insure a smooth transition to the incoming standing committee, and to offer recommendations regarding goals and pertaining to other matters to foster advancement and fulfillment of the Auxiliary's mission, and to make a recommendation on each proposal assigned to it by the Resolutions Committee.

Upon consideration of open discussion regarding each proposal the committee may vote to either (a) recommend that a proposal be adopted; (b) recommend to the Convention body that a proposal not be adopted; or (c) make no recommendation to the Convention body regarding the proposal.

All Pre-Convention Committee meetings shall be open to all delegates. Only those delegates assigned to the Pre-Convention Committee shall have notice and vote, unless authorized by a majority vote of the Pre-Convention Committee, in which case voice only may be granted.

Each proposal shall be presented for explanation by a member of the Pre-Convention Committee.

Upon conclusion of open discussion of each proposal the committee may vote either (a) recommend to the Convention body that a proposed resolution be adopted; (b) recommend to the Convention body that a proposed resolution not be adopted; or (c) make no recommendation to the Convention body regarding a proposed resolution.

Each member of a Pre-Convention Committee and one representative assigned from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the Convention body.

d.) The purpose of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution & Bylaws is to receive and consider all proposed amendments to the governing documents that are to be presented to the Convention body, and to verify that amendments adopted by the Convention are correctly incorporated into the governing documents.

The purpose of the Pre-Convention meeting on Constitution & Bylaws is to clarify the meaning. The Pre-Convention Committee meeting on Constitution & Bylaws shall be open to all national convention delegates and shall be held at a time that does not conflict with the meetings of all other Pre-Convention Committees.

Each proposed amendment shall be presented for explanation by a member of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution & Bylaws. Any delegate may ask a clarifying question. Such questions from non-members of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution & Bylaws shall be limited to clarifying the intent or the purpose of the proposal.

There shall be no debate on the merit of the proposal based on clarifying questions from non-members of the committee.

Upon conclusion of open discussion regarding clarification of each proposed amendment, the committee may discuss the merits of the proposal and may vote to (a) either to the Convention body that a proposed amendment be adopted; (b) recommend to the Convention body that a proposed amendment not be adopted; or (c) make no recommendations to the Convention body regarding a proposed amendment.

Each member of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution & Bylaws and one representative assigned from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the Convention Board.

And be it further resolved, that these proposed changes to the Standing Rules, Section II, Number 6 be enacted at the National Convention's General Sessions held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 30th to the 31st, 2011 and take effect in the 2011-2012 administrative year.

The Resolutions Pre-Convention Committee recommends that Resolution Number Two be adopted.

Madam President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of Resolution Two as read.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: To put that in a nutshell it's just opening the meeting up to everybody to be able to come in and hear what's going on.

(Applause.)

VOICE: Madam President? Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Wait; let me finish reading my part and then I will recognize you. Okay?

VOICE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The question is on the adoption of Resolution No. 2 as just read. The Resolutions Preconvention Committee recommends that the Resolution be adopted. Is there any discussion?

VOICE: Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes? Where are you? Oh, the Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone one.

VOICE: Yes. I merely wanted to clarify something. This is not only a change opening up the Constitution & Bylaws Committee but it does affect the other preconvention committees in that the voting members are changed. It has been custom of the American Legion Auxiliary that the delegates appointed by the department to each of these meetings are the voting members. And with this new document that will also expand to include the members of the National Committee. I think it's a very logical move and I do support this.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Any other discussion? Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of Resolution No. 2 please stand. Thank you. Please be seated. Those opposed to Resolution No. 2 please stand. Thank you. The affirmative has it and the Resolution has been adopted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: JoAnn, please continue with your next resolution.

CHAIRMAN CRONIN: Madam National President, Resolution No. 4 was submitted by National Strategic Planning Committee, President of Long Range Strategic Planning Committee. The subject is amending Standing Rule 6, American Legion Auxiliary Washington D.C. Conference, which reads as follows.

Whereas, the annual convening of American Legion Auxiliary members in Washington, D.C. for its midwinter conference has in recent history been referred to as Awareness Assembly.

And whereas, there is nothing in the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution & Bylaws or governing document that mandate or otherwise officially require the annual conference in Washington, D.C. be named, designated Awareness Assembly.

And whereas, The American Legion designates its annual midwinter conference of Legion members in Washington, D.C. as The American Legion Washington, D.C. Conference; and whereas, the name Awareness Assembly is ambiguous and does not really convey the nature or purpose of the midwinter gathering of American Legion Auxiliary members in our nation's capital, and does not lend itself to easy marketing or promotion to attract new advocates or broader attendance.

And whereas, the only reference to Awareness Assembly is found in Standing Rule 6, National Executive Committee No. 3, referencing need to tell that the time of the Awareness Assembly.

Now therefore be it resolved by the National Executive Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary in regular meetings assembled in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 27, 2011 that the American Legion Auxiliary's annual convening members in our nation's capital be heretofore referred to as the American Legion Auxiliary Washington, D.C. Conference, and that there be no requirements nor restrictions against the national organization holding marketing or promoting the annual Washington, D.C. Conference by any specified name; and be further resolved that Standing Rule 6, National Executive Committee No. 3 be amended to read if the National Executive Committee meeting is at the same, is at the time of the Washington, D.C. Conference, and if facilities permit, department presidents may be granted permission to attend sessions of the National Executive Committee; and that any other reference to Awareness Assembly in policy and other documents be changed to reference the American Legion Auxiliary Washington, D.C. Conference.

The Resolution Pre-Convention Committee recommends the Resolution be adopted. On behalf of the Resolutions Committee I move the adoption of Resolution No. 4.

VOICE: Second

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: This does require a two-thirds vote to adopt and the question is on the adoption of Resolution No. 4 as just read. The Resolutions Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the Resolution be adopted. Is there any discussion?

MS. WALKER: Madam President, Carol Walker, Pennsylvania. I second that.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of Resolution No. 4 please stand. Thank you, please be seated. Those opposed

please stand. Thank you. The affirmative has it and the Resolution is adopted. JoAnn, please continue with the courtesy resolutions.

VOICE: Madam National President, whereas, the delegates and guests have gathered here in Minneapolis to listen and learn as the officers and the chairman have proudly reported on the accomplishments made possible by the devoted service of the volunteers of this organization represents.

Whereas, the Past National Presidents willing assist and continue their support and interest in the programs is always an inspiration.

And whereas, the National Secretary, Mary “Dubbie” Buckler, and the National Headquarters staff in Indianapolis, the local convention committees, the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and the Minneapolis Convention Center have served most capably and efficiently.

Now therefore it be resolved that our applause we show our appreciation to each above named participant. Please stand.

(Applause.)

VOICE: Madam National President, whereas, this convention has been graced by many distinguished guests from The American Legion, led by National Commander Jimmie Foster and his staff, Sons of The American Legion, and foreign dignitaries from the Taiwan Veterans Affairs Commission.

Whereas, representatives from Girls Nation, our own Juniors, Miss Poppies, Department Unit Member of the Year honorees, the Woman of the Year recipient, the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival partners, the Iraqi War Era Veteran honorees, Miss America, General Stanley McChrystal, and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

And whereas, representatives who directly benefitted from the Auxiliary’s programs have expressed their appreciation for the many hours that were expended by our volunteers this past year.

Now therefore be it resolved that by our applause we thank these participants for contributing to our convention.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CRONIN: Madam President, may I have your permission to accept Resolution No. 1 and 2 together? Madam President, I move the adoption of Courtesy Resolution No. 1 and No. 2.

VOICE: Second.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Do I hear any objections to the acceptance of these two resolutions? Those resolutions have been adopted. Thank you so very much, and thank you capable committee.

CHAIRMAN CRONIN: Madam President, may I ask you have the Vice President assume the Chair?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes.

MS. DALTON: Madam Chairman? Carol Dalton at microphone four.

MS. NELSON: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone four.

MS. DALTON: Carol Dalton from Department of Idaho. It came to my attention this week that the national organization is discontinuing the visits of the divisional vice presidents. And I would like to move that they continue having the

division vice presidents visit the departments if they are invited to represent the national organization.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Is there a second?

VOICE: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: So we need it in writing? Okay, do you have it in writing, Carol? Okay. Page?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. There is no policy at this time that states that the national, the divisional national vice presidents visit the departments. There's nothing in our policies anywhere that states that they must visit a department. So in order for us to do anything with this we would have to first establish a policy that the division vice presidents visit the departments.

MS. MAHONEY: Madam President? Microphone one.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Microphone one?

MS. MAHONEY: Jean Mahoney.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MS. MAHONEY: Past Southern Division National Vice President.

Although it may not be in writing the division vice presidents always went to every department to pep them up, get them started following the National President's theme. And although I understand now that it's too expensive for National to pay their way, I think it should be understood if they are willing to pay their own way, and if the department is willing to house them, that they should, it should be announced that they are permitted to go.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two.

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson. I just want to explain that when we looked at the budget this was one place we could cut. We're not saying that there's not a value for these national vice presidents. But this next year our concentration is going to be on growing our membership. When I met with the national vice presidents at the membership workshop we explained that our members had asked for training. So we're putting our funds into training for our members. We ask their consideration this year to be the facilitators, the moderators at the national training, and to help us work membership through conference calls with their departments. And we told them that we would put in the budget one visit to a department, if needed, to help us with the membership. It is nothing to do with us not thinking that they shouldn't go to department. But we need to begin to grow our membership and that's where we have concentrated our dollars this year.

(Applause.)

MS. DALTON: Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes --

MS. DALTON: Carol Dalton, Department of Idaho.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- the Chair recognizes --

MS. DALTON: I'm a Past Western Division National Vice and I have some concerns about having conference calls with only the presidents of the departments

and none of the grassroots people getting the chance to meet with a national office. We have a lot of people --

(Applause.)

MS. DALTON: -- a lot of people at this convention. I've come since 1979 and I can tell you I see a lot of the same people every single year. Our grassroots people cannot afford to come to national conventions but they do take the time and try to get the money to come to their department activities.

I feel that we should have a representative from National and we don't always get the National President. I'm from Idaho. There's been many a year we did not get the National President but we did get a visit from the Divisional Vice President. And I feel it's very important.

The other thing is our division is not even going to meet for their, this big meeting you want to have, until January. And I can guarantee you that if we haven't got our membership in before January, and why would we want to hear about programs in January when we're supposed to start them in September? I feel that this is really something we still need to keep.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay. Let me explain to you that this again has to be, it has to be done as a policy. And under the Resolution Rules, No. 5, it states any resolution or recommendation involving the expenditure or appropriation of money shall be referred to the National Finance Committee before being considered. The National Finance Committee shall act upon the resolution or recommendation and mark its action on the resolution. The Finance Chairman will attest by signature -- I can continue to read that if you want me to. It doesn't pertain to this until it's actually done. But it says if the resolution, the Finance Chairman will attest by signature. If the resolution is approved it shall be sent to the assigned pre-convention committee for consideration. If the resolution is not approved it shall be returned to the three-member resolutions committee. Anything pertaining to the change of pins or other items handled by the National Emblem Sales Division falls within this rule. That's all under No. 5.

And so it has to be done as a policy. And those are the rules in regards to putting in a policy in our present method of the way we do business.

MS. MONTANEY: Madam President?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Yes?

MS. MONTANEY: Microphone two.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The Chair recognizes the delegate at microphone two. Jane?

MS. MONTANEY: Jane Montaney, Department of Washington. Point of clarification. If I understand correctly in the past the policy was that National helped financially --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: There's no policy, Jane.

MS. MONTANEY: Well, the tradition --

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Okay.

MS. MONTANEY: -- in the past has been that National has helped to finance these visits.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's correct.

MS. MONTANEY: National's actions on cutting back on your budget is not preventing our vice presidents from visiting our departments, if the department and the vice president wish to do that. Is that correct?

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: It would also have to be under the approval of the National President. She has the right to approve whether or not they visit

--

MS. MONTANEY: Right.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- a department.

MS. MONTANEY: But with the understanding there would be no financial assistance from the national organization, unless it's that one you said.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: That's correct. Unless the policy is changed.

MS. MONTANEY: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Right. So this particular item, this particular matter, cannot be considered right now because it has to be written as a policy. We will continue on with our resolutions.

VOICE: Courtesy Resolution No. 3. Whereas, one year ago you, Madam President, enthusiastically accepted the presidency of this amazing organization, you made it very clear in your installation that your theme, The Power of One, was not merely a motto but rather it was a course of action that would start your year, but what an exciting year it has been.

Whereas, under your capable leadership you searched for opportunities that could chart the future of the organization. And again in midyear Auxiliary had and appreciated the opportunity to express their ideas and concerns and to be actively involved in exploring what new actions needed to be taken.

Whereas, throughout the year you represented the organization in an honorable manner and your commitment and enthusiasm were an inspiration everywhere you traveled and to everyone privileged enough to meet you.

Therefore, be it resolved that we the delegates to this convention by a standing ovation and our applause show how much we love, admire, appreciate you, Madam President. Again, a big thank you for a job well done.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: The resolution has been adopted.

CHAIRMAN CRONIN: Madam President, I want to thank you for giving me two wonderful Auxiliary members to work with me this week. They have been an inspiration to me and a great support. And I don't know if I want to say thank you or not, but can I resign now?

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you, JoAnn, and thank you also to Anita and to Lynda for their many hours of service working on these resolutions.

Have you all had a good time at the convention so far? I know it's getting late, and I know you're all hungry, and all of that. But we're, you know, almost done. And I hope that you will bear with us as we continue on and try to finish up this afternoon so that you can go tonight and have a great time. And I promise you, you are going to have an awesome time tonight at the States Dinner.

As we all know, a great deal of work goes into making an event like this happen and a great deal of work goes in keeping our National Headquarters working during these lean times. And so at this time I'd like to acknowledge our National Headquarters staff who I have had the privilege to work with this past year. And I want you to know, and I'm not saying that just because words are written here, that we have an amazing national staff who are managing as best they can with very limited resources in these tough budget times. And it is such an honor and a privilege for me to present then to you. And first is our National Treasurer, Marta Hedding. Please stand, Marta, and take your applause. And our National Executive Director and National Secretary and my partner, Dubbie Buckler. Dubbie, please stand.

And I'm going to ask Dubbie to please introduce the amazing national staff members that are with us today ensuring that we have a wonderful convention.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. Are we ready to rock and roll on stage? Okay. Are we ready? Yes? Okay. I'd like to introduce the staff that have been here helping today, or helping this week with the National Convention. Stephanie Abisi, many of you remember her as Stephanie Ayers. She got married.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Stephanie Abisi, our Events Manager, who usually has something in her ear. And she doesn't right now.

Tim Bresnahan, Certified Public Accountant, and our National Comptroller.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And I will take a point of personal privilege to say that I've worked with a lot of national organizations and there is none better in the United States.

Nicole Chernish is one of our newest staff members, Internal Logistics and Travel Coordinator.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I hope you all are waving back there so they know who is who. Joni Clark, the Executive Assistant to the National Secretary, and also an ordained minister to keep us holy when we need to.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Colette Fike, our Program and Events Director. Stephanie Holloway, our Communications Senior Editor.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Aaron Meyer, our Communications and Marketing Manager. He's probably taking pictures somewhere.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Travis Perkins, our Website and Graphics Specialist, Mr. Website.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: They have -- okay. Maria Potts, our Program Coordinator.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Tabitha Rhoda, External Logistics Planner.  
(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Cindy Radcliff, I know she's not here right now. She was here earlier. And Accounting Coordinator. And I just want to say that she is formerly from the Philippines and she is a new United States citizen. And earlier, we were going to do it on stage but time is such that Bob, I see you in the back of the room, you'd better make it up here really fast. Run! That is not running; that is doing something else. Run up here.

Cindy was presented a flag. We were going to do it on stage here, but she had to leave, that flew over the United States Capitol the day that she was sworn in and took her oath as a new United States citizen.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And if those of you who turn in expense sheets, she's the one you love to hate because she looks over every one and makes sure they are followed completely.

Tamara Shumate, the National President's Executive Assistant, and has been all things during this convention.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And Robert Reeg, our Washington, D.C. Office Director and ALA Call to Service Corps Project Director.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Let's give them all another big hand. And Bob, would you please join me up here? Woo!

MR. REEG: Uh-oh.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I have a little gift for Bob that I have to give to him. Because you know, if many of you were here last year and knew about this, President Rita Navarreté celebrated her wedding anniversary last year with Bob taking her to dinner because she was in Washington, and so that's what they did. And she gave him a gift. She gave him a beautiful purple tie. Well I was not about to let her outdo me because Bob said, "Carlene, all you gave me was a pin."

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: So I have a gift for you --

MR. REEG: Uh-oh.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- that I would like to present to you.

MR. REEG: All right.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: He now has a blue tie.

MR. REEG: Woo!

(Applause.)

MR. REEG: Thank you very much. The collection is growing. You all need to visit Washington, D.C. to see me in my ties. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you all very, very much. And thank you, excellent staff, for the tremendous hard work that you have done all year, all the time, forever. We appreciate you. I personally appreciate you so very, very much. You have no idea. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: While we are getting ready for the close of the convention we will be resetting the stage for just a moment, few moments. And I ask the national officers at this time to leave the stage, if they don't mind. They can be dismissed. You can sit in the delegation, or wherever you might find a seat. And while you are doing that our National Secretary is going to make some announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: While we're resetting these are going to be the announcements. For those of you who went to the National Commander's Dinner last night he mentioned that as a fund raiser there is a photo taking opportunity, I believe it was \$20, that you can have a professional photograph taken of you, all in your gussied up attire. And they are going to be back tonight at the States Dinner. So if you missed that opportunity last night they are going to be back tonight.

The past Honorary Junior President Sabrina Cobb has lost her camera and her President's Button. So please contact a member of the Ohio delegation if anyone found those items.

There are going to be several meetings that will take place upon adjournment. The 2011-2012 AEF Committee will meet by the stage. The 2011-2012 Education Committee will meet near the Massachusetts sign. Massachusetts, make some noise. Okay. The 2011-2012 Southern Division Membership Team will meet at the Mississippi sign. Mississippi, make some noise? This is a tired group. The 2011-2012 National Officers VA&R Chair and Children & Youth Chair will meet in Room 208, the ALA National Headquarters Convention Office, upstairs.

And I'll just point out to keep us grounded, I don't know how many of you have walked by, we've actually had posted daily outside the temperatures. The high for Minneapolis, the high for Kandahar, Afghanistan, and the high for Baghdad, Iraq. It's been hotter there.

And the VISTA meeting will proceed as scheduled in Room 213B upon adjournment of this meeting.

Another announcement, please do not take or mark on your delegation state signs. We are a frugal organization and we reuse them every year.

Please do pick up your mail at the convention office mailboxes. Today is the last day you can do that. We will be open for one hour following the close of today's session. There's a lot of packing up that has to be done. The truck gets loaded starting tomorrow morning and the mail room will not be open tomorrow. So today is your last day to pick up mail.

And we have States Dinner tickets for sale. The Department of Maryland has two. Maryland, make some noise. And last I heard the Department of Texas still had four tickets available. Department of Texas, make some noise.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Department of Texas, make some noise. All right. Madam President, those are all the announcements that have been given to me.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Also following this session would the 2011 National President's Award for Excellence recipients please come to the stage for a few photos to be taken by the national staff? So if you won one of those beautiful awards we need you to please do that.

Okay, I'm supposed to have a script in here, they're telling me, and I don't see it. So --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: -- I guess I'll just stand up here and look at you.

Okay. All right. Okay. So now would you please join me in watching my National President's Video as it plays. And you will be able to see it on the screen, I'm assuming, someplace. And we will go from there. Thank you.

VIDEO: I've heard many folks say that the image of a blank calendar fills them with fear. These folks need a plan to comfortably make it through the day. I've heard others say a jam packed calendar fills them with dread. What if I don't get it all done? Or what if I want to do something else?

Well, looking back at my calendar for the past year, which certainly has been packed with visits and events, I don't see dates and obligations. I see a year filled with incredible experiences and satisfaction of having a shared sense of purpose.

My whole passion this year has been to get everyone in The American Legion Auxiliary focused on the same mission, our mission, which is this. 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.

It seems so basic but it says so much. We can never thank our veterans enough for the privilege of being here today, to convene and carry out our business.

I am proud to say that this year I visited every single department at least once, including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. I wish I could tell you about my visits to every state, but time permits me to share just a few of my experiences.

I visited military bases, VA hospitals, veterans homes, domicilliaries, homeless shelters, and transitional living centers. I've talked to veterans in many locations that were many different ages and who served their country in many different ways. And while each was vastly different they share a common mission, just like we do. And they all share our appreciation and respect.

Let me tell you about a young man named Joseph whom I met on my first official visit to Ohio. I met Joseph as he was walking the hallway of a veterans hospital. What made me notice him was the fact that he was wearing a University of Texas ball cap. I just had to stop and speak to him, and to tell him I, too, was from Texas.

Joseph told me he had just recently progressed from a wheelchair to crutches and had been there for a couple of months. In talking to him I found out he had no family close by so we exchanged email addresses so we could stay in touch. I wanted him to know The American Legion Auxiliary was there to support him in any way we could.

Joseph has been awarded two Purple Hearts for injuries received from an IED and a grenade in Afghanistan and although he had made a miraculous recovery thus far he was still going through a lot of pain in his back and legs. In future

conversations he told me the only thing that really helped were massages, but they were very expensive and not covered by the VA.

In my travels as National President many Auxiliary departments and units have presented me with donations to cover his much needed massages. He recently told me that only by the grace of God and the special gifts from Auxiliary members for the daily massages has he now been able to take more and more steps every day, and can once again feel his feet touching the ground.

In September I visited the Department of California where I saw an amazing commitment to growing membership. Can you believe this department has two members who each personally recruited more than 300 members in one year? And can you believe they both happen to be in the same unit in Newport Beach, Unit 291? Last year Unit President Kendall Madsen recruited 300 members and this year Melveta Mason recruited 300-plus. Talk about the power of one!

While in California I also had the privilege of participating in California's Ride 2 Recovery, where I met a young man named Ryan. Ryan is an OEF veteran and a hero in every sense of the word. He was there to support a rider named Juan Carlos. Juan Carlos is an E4 Specialist Chinook Gunner Crewman in the U.S. Army who enlisted in 2006 and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008. He was injured on October 13, 2009 when his aircraft was hit with an RPG. His lower leg was so badly injured that it required amputation below the knee. It was Ryan who pulled him from the burning aircraft, and Ryan still supporting him as he rode that day in California.

Later in the month I traveled to La Crosse, Wisconsin, where I attended the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival hosted by country music artist Michael Peterson. In La Crosse I met a veteran named Philip, a Bronze Medalist who I encountered off and on throughout the week. It wasn't until the last day of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival that I found out Philip was homeless and was going back to Tennessee to live in his truck. I have been able to keep in touch with Philip by email. When I last spoke to Philip he was interviewing for a job. He has truly blessed my life.

Both Ride 2 Recovery and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival are close to my heart, I guess because they offer the chance to bring our veterans full circle. I know many of you share my feelings of appreciation and inspiration when you see our young soldiers deploy for the first time. Many are so young, and they leave with such bright, optimistic faces, full of pride because they know they are part of a mission to serve and protect our country.

But even as they are leaving they are also eager to get back home and return safely to their loved ones. Of course, not all return. And many return wounded, some with wounds you can see, many more with wounds so deep they can't be seen. Ride to Recovery and National Veterans Creative Arts Festival offer hope and healing to both types of injuries.

As cosponsors of the Creative Arts Festival we help provide rehabilitative treatment that helps our veterans cope with both physical and mental disabilities. The song, the photography, the paintings, and the sculptures we see through the Creative Arts Festival are beautiful works in themselves. But when you actually see the artists and hear their stories, and learn that their art may have started from a dark

wound that came from serving our country in War, and that it helped heal them and give them hope, well, it's almost too much to take in.

The same goes for our support for Ride 2 Recovery. The mental and physical issues our troops face when they return home after serving our country is overwhelming. Cycling helps them in the rehabilitation of both their physical and mental injuries. To see our wounded veterans begin to heal and ride literally thousands of miles is a great inspiring experience for everyone involved.

We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude and we owe them the best possible treatment and care. Both the Creative Arts Festival and Ride 2 Recovery help provide this.

I spent Veterans Day in Washington, D.C. where I participated in ceremonies honoring our military families and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. That's also the day I met Earl Reed, a veteran who had served in the Armed Forces to protect the homefront, yet ultimately found himself homeless. I had the pleasure of working side by side with American Legion Auxiliary members moving Earl and other homeless veterans into new apartments and showering them with the lovely Buddy Baskets assembled by the Department of Virginia.

"The day of the move in, which was on Veterans Day, my father came and picked me up from the shelter and we came over and assisted with the move in. I met a lady, Carlene Ashworth, which is the, I found out later that that is the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary. I had no idea at the time. And her and I actually still stay in contact. And matter of fact I talked to her yesterday about thirty minutes on the phone. So it's really nice."

When I learned at Christmastime that Earl didn't have the money to buy gifts for his children the Department of Virginia stepped up again, providing Earl with gifts for his family and a holiday meal.

This visit really opened my eyes and helped personalize the plight of our homeless veterans. Sadly, the more I learn about them the more I know we need to do. I am so pleased that our National Headquarters staff shares this commitment. During one of my visits the conference room was filled with boxes of pillows, towels, food, and hygiene items the staff had collected in preparation for our Veterans Day event for homeless veterans in Indianapolis.

In November I accompanied The American Legion National Commander on a visit to the Far East and together we served Thanksgiving dinner to our troops in South Korea, before heading to Taiwan, Guam, and Hawaii for Pearl Harbor Day.

I ended the year with visits to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, visiting their VA hospitals and Legion posts.

2011 began as a whirlwind. It was great to meet with members of my home state of Texas early on the month, where I visited Brooke Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid in San Antonio. Brooke Army Medical Center is a major location for burn victims. The Center for the Intrepid helps recovering veterans to function and live independently, focusing on everything from walking, to swimming, and driving a car.

Then I was off to visit New Hampshire, Idaho, New York, and Kentucky. On February 6, I visited the Department of North Dakota, followed by visits to Vermont, Arizona, Georgia, and North Carolina, where I once again had the pleasure of visiting with our veterans to say thank you.

In March I attended The American Legion Auxiliary's 30th Awareness Assembly in Washington, D.C. where I was thrilled to recognize the work of Operation Mend by presenting them with the public spirit award. It was also nice to reconnect with Joshua Moreau and Robert Muscarello, two of our talented National Veterans Creative Arts Festival vocal performing artists.

March also brought visits to South Carolina, where I enjoyed visiting with veterans at Dorn VA Medical Center and recruits at Fort Jackson. I even fired my first —4 rifle with Commander Jimmy Foster. It was from this event that the commander gave me the nickname "Sureshot Ashworth."

Then I was off to New Jersey, Washington, and New Mexico. During a trip to Illinois I visited the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno. I had the honor of visiting with numerous volunteers and veterans in the Alzheimer's and Dementia wing, and was thrilled to meet with visitors making poppies. Walking through the hallways you could see photos of past residents and feel the presence of those who came before.

And in Milford, Delaware, I visited the Home of the Brave, where I saw our veterans bravely work to gain control of their broken lives. During my March visit to Arkansas I visited the Pine Mountain Veterans Home, where homeless veterans also find a safe, warm place to sleep while seeking help. The outreach of our American Legion Auxiliary members at both these homes was inspiring.

In Arkansas I also participated in a Fallen Heroes Ceremony, honoring the fallen and recognizing their surviving family members.

I returned home to Texas to attend the Ride to Recovery Texas Challenge, where I had the privilege of driving a support vehicle and meeting many of our veteran athletes. Each and every one was inspiring, especially Duane Wagner, a Vietnam Veteran, who lost both legs and continues to inspire younger veterans who suffer from similar injuries.

"I, I'm a double leg. And they say, 'Well, if he can do it so can I. But I'm going to be better at it than you are.' And that's what's neat. It's we challenge each other."

He shared a great deal with me on this trip. And despite his physical afflictions he keeps a positive outlook. He often jokes when he gets off his bike that his feet are killing him.

In April I visited the Chelsea Soldiers Home in Massachusetts before heading to the great state of Tennessee where I witnessed an incredible sight while waiting for my flight. Two families of moms with little boys were eagerly awaiting their daddies' return. When they saw their fathers coming down the jetway they ran as fast as their little legs could go and jumped all over them with their excited moms right behind them. Everyone waiting to board the plane began applauding. The man standing next to me started it, wiping tears from his eyes. These happy homecomings happen at airports and military bases all over our country, but they won't happen often enough until all our troops come home. God bless our soldiers and families.

In Maryland I participated in the naturalization ceremony for over 100 new citizens. What an honor! I also toured the Naval Academy and was a guest at the Department of Maryland's first Veterans Creative Arts Festival, where I was thrilled to catch up with many of my Creative Arts Festival friends.

While visiting the great state of West Virginia I was honored to meet the family of the late Frank Buckles, who was the last surviving veteran of World War I. Then in Maine I visited (unintelligible) Veterans Home and Togus VAMC.

I attended The American Legion Auxiliary's Learning and Listening Conference in Wisconsin with more than 80 attendees from 22 states.

In Mississippi my visit to Camp Shelby was a great delight. I assisted in presenting two boxes of yellow ribbons and popcorn supplies for their chaplain program. I even signed up five Legionnaires and one Auxiliary member while I was there.

From there I attended the beautiful state of Alaska for their department convention in Kodiak, along with National Commander Jimmie Foster, Sons of The American Legion Commander David Dew, and Honorary Junior National President Sabrina Cobb.

Also in April I visited Alabama where my heart goes out to everyone who suffered damage and loss during the devastating storms. Although we experienced power outages and damage at the hotel where I stayed, it was nothing compared to the destruction we saw all around us as we left town. I am so grateful that the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is available for members at this time. If you have been blessed enough to have missed this catastrophic weather I hope you will consider making a donation to AEF for your fellow members who could really use your help right now.

I began the month of May with a visit to Oklahoma where I toured the Alfred P. Murrah bombing site and Oklahoma Children's Home. The pride was apparent during an 89ers parade in Guthrie which has been going on for 82 years and is sponsored by The American Legion.

In May I visited Oregon where I met Mike and Lacey Bryant, a young couple who started Oregon's first privately funded, full service home for homeless veterans, Lacey's House.

I also visited veterans homes in Florida and Kansas, where I attended the department convention where Kansas delegates collected more than 100 Buddy Baskets and installed their newly elected officers.

In South Dakota Legion post riders from Rapid City, South Dakota Post 22 met me at the airport. I took my first motorcycle with an American Legion rider who took me on the 30-minute ride to my hotel. It was fun. I also attended a moving flag ceremony honoring veterans at Mt. Rushmore.

I then moved on to Connecticut and Rhode Island where I met a young man named Michael in a psych ward suffering from PTSD. He doesn't have the support of his family, but he let me know how much he appreciates having the support of The American Legion Auxiliary.

In June I had the privilege of commemorating the 67th anniversary of D-Day along with Legion National Commander Jimmy Foster. We were honored guests at a banquet in Sainte-Mère-Église, the first town liberated in the U.S.-Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. We attended a ceremony at the Airborne Museum in Sainte-

Mère-Église where nearly a dozen U.S. D-Day veterans were honored. Normandy truly is hallowed ground.

I attended a wreath laying ceremony on June 6 at the Normandy American Ceremony and it is a day I will never forget. I wish every American could visit this site at least once.

Upon my return from Europe I visited the Department of Louisiana for their department convention. I then visited the Indiana Veterans Home with American Legion Auxiliary members from the Department of Indiana. If you haven't been, you should know they have a wonderful museum and library there for the veterans with all paintings of generals from the Civil War painted by one of the residents.

Later in June I attended Virginia Girls State where I spoke with delegates and most likely encountered future Senators and Supreme Court Justices as they participated in the democratic process. I left Girls State fully energized. There is something about their enthusiasm and love of country that is contagious. I know I caught it while I was there.

I also visited Nevada Girls State on beautiful Lake Tahoe where I was thrilled to learn that one of their cities was named after me. I also had the privilege of visiting with the departments of Wyoming, Colorado, and Nebraska.

In July I visited with the departments of Utah, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Michigan. I attended Girls Nation in Washington, D.C. where I was so impressed with the ideals and eloquence of our Girls Nation Senators from around the country.

While in D.C. I enjoyed a picnic at Walter Reed Army Hospital hosted by the Girls Nation Senators to honor our wounded warriors, where again I was so humbled and grateful for the endless commitment of our men and women in uniform.

Finally I had my last official department visit with the state of Montana.

And now I'm here before you full of moving memories and gratitude for the outstanding work you have accomplished this past year in carrying out our mission. I have felt a renewed enthusiasm in our organization, both at National Headquarters and in units around the country. We are still a nation at War, and our veterans and active duty military need us now more than ever.

It has been a privilege to serve this year alongside National Commander Jimmie Foster, and Sons of The American Legion National Commander David Dew. Commander Foster's 2011 theme was **SAVED, S-A-V-E-D**, which stands for **Serving America's Veterans Everyday**. Commander Dew was by their side with honor and pride. And these were more than themes for these gentlemen, let me tell you. These are words they live by. Their dedication to our veterans and our country is inspiring and they are truly both at work every single day helping to improve life for our military and our veterans.

I have been privileged to work with outstanding leadership this year, both among membership and National Headquarters staff. The future leaders of our organization are strong and committed and our future looks very bright. I have truly gained a sense that members have refocused and rededicated themselves to our mission with their efforts and outreach this year. Our members are doing amazing things and I am

grateful our members have truly embraced the power of one. For each of us truly has the power to make the difference in someone else's life everyday.

The stories you have shared with me have touched my heart and touched the lives of veterans, our military, and military families across the country in so many ways. Thank you for that.

According to my calendar today is the last day I will serve you as your National President. But don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in a year as you make use of. I for one plan to spend many more days carrying out the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and showing my appreciation and respect for our nation's servicemembers.

Each day is a gift. I know I will treasure my gift of serving you for the last twelve months and sharing in a commitment to carrying out the American Legion Auxiliary mission. God bless our veterans. God bless our military and their families. God bless each of you. And always, God bless America.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you. It has been an absolutely amazing, amazing year. But this amazing year would not have been possible at all if it were not for all of you out there. And I am so proud to have been able to stand here before you and tell you that I was able to visit every single department this year, and touch the lives of some of you, and hopefully the lives of many of you and our veterans as we visited VA hospitals, military facilities, transitional living centers, veterans homes. Every place that you were able to get me to, and everything that we were able to do. And laid the wreaths at so many wonderful memorials that honored our veterans.

So I am so very proud of what we've accomplished this year and so optimistic about the future under the leadership of our incoming National President Kris Nelson. And I ask you now to please welcome her to the stage.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. Thank you. The Power of One is more than a theme. It was and continues to be a call to action. It focuses on you. Your strengths, your ability to make a difference, your power to affect the lives of those we serve.

The 2012 Convention theme will continue that concept, but with a little twist. One year from now we'll celebrate the positive changes we've made by looking at them right in the eye. The Face of Freedom will explore what we do and the importance of those we serve from their perspective. It will highlight the results of the Power of One.

Think of the Power of One as the action, and the Face of Freedom as the reaction. When we look into the faces of those we serve it becomes clear why we do what we do. And we'll celebrate those faces throughout the year, culminating at our National Convention in Indianapolis.

The Face of Freedom of course refers to the men and women who have served in our nation's military. The freedom that their sacrifices gives us. The freedom to live by in this wonderful country. But it means a lot more than that. It also means the freedom that we as Auxiliary members give back to them.

For example, the freedom from worry. When we assist the families of deployed servicemembers we give them a little freedom. When we help a homeless

veteran we give him back his freedom of dignity. And when we support programs like Ride to Recovery and the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival we are helping personal freedom by healing expression and appreciation.

Sometimes when we talk about our veterans and active duty military they become a faceless entity. I think it's far more compelling, especially when we need to attract others to our mission, to see them individually, as people, as their neighbors.

With that in mind I'd like each of you to take a photo of your active duty servicemember or your veteran and mail it to, email it to National Headquarters. I'd like to start this campaign in your units by capturing a head and shoulders close up so that we can look in the eyes of our veterans. It will be a fantastic reminder that the veterans we serve are real people and not just a faceless group. And those photos will become an integral part of our 2012 Convention. Send your heroes' Face of Freedom photos to [faceoffreedom@alaforveterans.org](mailto:faceoffreedom@alaforveterans.org). [Faceoffreedom@alaforveterans.org](mailto:faceoffreedom@alaforveterans.org). When we can look into their eyes we can truly connect.

Once again, thank you for what you do. Here's Carlene to wrap up her session.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. I can't wait to see those photos and I can tell you that I'm sending mine in as soon as return back to Texas.

I hope that each of you have felt that the Power of One not only during this Convention but through your daily lives. You do have the power to make the difference, to make a positive change in the lives of others. And many of you already have and I know that the rest of you will continue to do so.

But I'd like to ask a question. What if it all depended on you to change the world? As I said, in many ways you already have. You have the passion or you wouldn't be here. But what if that isn't enough? Oh no, my days are already filled Auxiliary activities, volunteering, family obligations, and now she wants to ask more of me? Yes, I do. I want you to think of ways that we can spread that incredible feeling that we all get when we know we've helped a veteran, active duty military families, and all of these others that need our help. It is contagious.

But back to the question, what if it all depended on you to change the world? We can change the world together, and in particular the world of those we serve. It all begins with one. And why shouldn't that one be you? The Power of One.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to ask a favor of you. When you return to your daily lives keep the Power of One alive. Don't forget about it. And I have a way to help you remember. When you see the number one on a sign, on a sports jersey, on a race car, on a birthday cake, anywhere, think of the Power of One. Your power to make a difference. Because the Power of One is everywhere. Let's take a look.

VIDEO: What if it all depended on me to change the world, to change the world. What if my only responsibility was to change the world, to change the world. Let me be the one to start a revolution. Let me sing my song to the people of the world. It all begins with one, the power of one, joining the hundreds of millions of people believing in one. The power of one. Don't hang around. Stand up, or sit down, and believe we can change the world together. We can change the world together.

Oh oh, what kind of love can conquer disease and change the world, and change the world. What can I do to poverty history. And change the world? And change the world? Let me be the one to start a revolution. Let me sing my song to the people of the world. To the children of the world.

It all begins with one. The power of one. Joining the hundreds of millions of people believing in one. The power of one. Don't hang around. Stand up or sit down and believe we can change the world together. We can change the world together.

Please don't close your eyes. Please don't turn away. Let your voices rise. Put love on display. And make a difference now. I believe you and me can make a difference now. Oh. Oh. Oh. It all begins with one. The power of one. Joining the hundreds of millions of people believing in one. The power of one. Don't hang around. Stand up or sit down and believe we can change the world together. We can change the world together. We can change the world together. Oh. Oh. Oh. It all begins with one. Oh. Oh. Oh. It all begins with one. Join together. You and me can make it. You and me can make it. You and me can make it better together. You and me can make it. You and me can make it. You and me can make it together forever with one.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I'd like to ask our National Chaplain Vickie Thrower to come do the benediction.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of our time together at this 91st National Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary may we leave here inspired to spread patriotism for God and country and be of service to others. Help us be positive role models for all to follow. Lord, we thank you for the men and women of our armed forces. Protect them and their families as they protect us. Lord, provide those in need who could not be here in attendance this week, Lord, may the members have the strength to return home to their communities that were affected by the tornadoes and the recent hurricanes and continue to provide assistance and comfort to those in need. May you go with us to show us the way. May you go behind us to encourage us, beside us to befriend us, above us to watch over us, and give us peace and love until we meet again. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you all very much and we'll see you tonight at the banquet and tomorrow morning at installation. God bless each one of you. God bless all that you do. And always, God bless America. Thank you.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 1:45 p.m., the above-entitled meeting was recessed.)

**INSTALLATION CEREMONY  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

MS. ASHWORTH: Please welcome the Installing Officer, Past National President Desi Stoy.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: My name is Desi Stoy. I'm a Past National President of The American Legion Auxiliary. And I have the opportunity to be the installing officer this morning.

Good morning, and welcome to the installation of Kris Nelson, from the Department of Minnesota, as National President.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: And the national officers and department presidents who will serve with her as we begin a new year for God and country.

I have the opportunity this morning to introduce the participants in this morning's program. They are the following. Serving as Sergeant at Arms, Dee Dee Buckley and Lynn Hall from the Department of Minnesota. Color bearers, Norm and Katie Nelson, Herb and Darlene Swedin from Post and Unit 255, Department of Minnesota.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Our soloists this morning, Rick Stang and John Jordan, Gold Medal winners representing the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: The installing Chaplain, Past National President Carol Van Kirk of Nebraska.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: We will have a special reading by Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: At this time, members of the audience may remain seated as the Sergeants at Arms escort the family of National President Elect Kris Nelson to the platform.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Please welcome the National Vice President Elect, Peggy Thomas of Virginia, escorted by Past National Commander Butch Miller.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Please stand as the colors of Carl Sydney Hanson Unit 255 of Minnesota and the Department of Minnesota colors are presented.

(Presentation of Colors)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: And now it is with great delight that I ask you to welcome the 2011-2012 National President Kris Nelson, escorted by her husband Terry Nelson.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Please remain standing for the opening prayer, given by Carol Van Kirk. Carol?

CHAPLAIN VAN KIRK: Dear Father, we thank you for the blessings you have bestowed upon our retiring leaders. We join together this morning in giving thanks for their year of service as we go forward to welcome our incoming officers. May you walk by their sides with loving grace and encouragement.

We ask that you watch over our leaders at every level to help them provide the guidance that will assist this administration in fulfilling our commitment to God and Country. May this ceremony provide motivation to the attendees so they will return home with invigorated enthusiasm to continue our work for our military families, our veterans, our children, and our great Country.

Remind us that our service continues daily through our lives. In God's name we pray, Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: You may be seated. Oh, that was practice. You did very well. Please stand as the Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Maya and Ty Nelson, Kris' grandchildren.

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.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Now you may be seated.

(Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Rick Stang and John Jordan will sing "More Than A Name On A Wall" by artist Jimmy Fortune. Please enjoy.

MR. STANG AND MR. JORDAN: I saw her from a distance as she walked up to the wall. In her hand she held some flowers as her tears began to fall. She took out pen and paper as to trace her memories. She looked up to heaven and the words she said were these. She said, "Lord, my boy was special and he meant so much to me. And oh, I'd love to see him just one more time you see. All I have are the memories and the moments to recall. So Lord, could you tell him he's more than a name on a wall?" She said, "He really missed the family and being home on Christmas Day. And he died for God and Country in a place so far away. I remember just a little boy playing war since he was three. But Lord, this time I know he's not coming home to me." She said, "Lord, my boy was special and he meant so much to me. And oh, I'd love to see him but I know it just can't be. So I thank you for my memories and the moments to recall. So Lord, could you tell him he's more than a name on a wall? So Lord, could you tell him he's more than a name on a wall?"

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: At this time will the newly elected national officers please rise to take your oath of office?

The members of The American Legion Auxiliary have entrusted you with great responsibility. You've been elected to provide guidance in the activities of our organization. You will familiarize yourselves with the duties of your respective offices. Always remember that the welfare and success of the organization depends upon you.

Every American Legion Auxiliary member assumes the obligation of preserving the integrity of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, contributing to the aims and purposes of our organization. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine.

I, Desireé Stoy --

VOICES: I (various names) --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- promise to perform

faithfully --

VOICES: -- promise to perform faithfully --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- all the duties of the office --

VOICES: -- all the duties of the office --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- I am about to assume.

VOICES: -- I am about to assume.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: And I further pledge --

VOICES: And I further pledge --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- that I am not a member of --

VOICES: -- that I am not a member of --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- and do not subscribe to --

VOICES: -- and do not subscribe to --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- the principles of any group

VOICES: -- the principles of any group --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- opposed to our form of

government.

VOICES: -- opposed to our form of government.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: You may lower your hands.

And now will the newly elected department presidents please rise? National President Kris, will you step forward and give the oath of office to these department presidents that will be serving with you this year?

PRESIDENT NELSON: Please raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine. I, Kris Nelson --

VOICES: I (various names) --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- promise to perform faithfully --

VOICES: -- promise to perform faithfully --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- all of the duties of the office --

VOICES: -- all of the duties of the office --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- I am about to assume.

VOICES: -- I am about to assume.

PRESIDENT NELSON: And I further pledge --

VOICES: And I further pledge --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- that I am not a member of --

VOICES: -- that I am not a member of --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- and do not subscribe to --

VOICES: -- and do not subscribe to --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- the principles of any group --

VOICES: -- the principles of any group --

PRESIDENT NELSON: -- opposed to our form of government.

VOICES: -- opposed to our form of government.

PRESIDENT NELSON: You may lower your hands. Congratulations.  
(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: You, the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, have chosen outstanding officers to lead us this year. I have charged them with a serious responsibility and I likewise charge you. All members of the American Legion Auxiliary, please stand and raise your right hand, repeating after me.

I solemnly promise --

VOICES: I solemnly promise --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- to renew my pledge of service --

VOICES: -- to renew my pledge of service --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- to the American Legion Auxiliary.

VOICES: -- to the American Legion Auxiliary.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: And to give wholehearted support --

VOICES: And to give wholehearted support --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- to these newly elected officers.

VOICES: -- to these newly elected officers.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: I'll ask the entire audience to stand as the Installing Chaplain, Past National President Carol Van Kirk, will offer a prayer.

CHAPLAIN VAN KIRK: Almighty God, as we begin a new year in the American Legion Auxiliary we ask that you guide our newly elected national officers to represent our organization with distinction, love, faith, and devotion. May they spread their wisdom and knowledge to provide leadership that reflects the greatness of our organization. Place thy loving arms around Madam President Kris and protect her so she may remain safe and well during her travels. We thank thee for thy many mercies. Save, preserve, and bless the people of this great land, grant peace to the world, protect our armed forces, fill our hearts with joy and gladness always both now and forevermore, Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: You may be seated. It's a pleasure to welcome Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan for a special reading. Jan?

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: By special request of our National President, "Storyteller Red."

You could smell the unmistakable odor of a bathless body mixed with Jim Beam when you came within a few feet of him. His appearance was that of a street bum, straggly beard and uncombed hair, with ragged clothes to match. He was called "Storyteller Red," a title that grew on him from the unbelievable story he would tell.

Passers by who offered him change would be caught off guard when he would say, “Mister, for a drink and a couple of dollars more I’ll tell you a story.” He would stick out his unwashed hand to shake and say, “You can call me Red.”

My friends and I were here for just a few days before they shipped us out so we figured, why not? What could it hurt to listen to this crazy vagrant and help the homeless in the process? We winked at each other, bought him a drink, and stuck a few dollars in his can, then pulled up some sidewalk as we made ready to listen to the old man.

The old man started by saying, “Young people were avoiding the War, dodging the draft, but I took it as an honor to serve my country. So I went down and signed up.” He drank a little of the whiskey from his cup and continued. “I kissed my mom and dad goodbye and headed off, willing to serve where I was needed. You see, I love this Country even though she’s got her faults.”

“It wasn’t long before I moved up a bit in rank and was given a handful of soldiers with orders to infiltrate a location behind enemy lines. It would be dangerous, so I allowed any of my men who wished, without prejudice, to stay behind. There were twelve of us total. Four decided to stay behind as the other eight of us made our way in the direction from which we would not know if we would return.”

“We made it to our target, took out the lookout and a couple more. We were able to successfully sabotage their communication lines and luckily came upon some highly sensitive papers. I stuffed them in my jacket.” He paused and opened his coat and pointed. “Right in here. It was about then that we were spotted. That’s when all hell broke loose. Mister, just one more drink?”

He had sure picked a good place to stop, so we poured him another cup. He went on to say, “Boys, the bullets were flying. Me and Jones were leading the way when we found our little group surrounded. We began fighting tooth and nail. Wilson was the first to get shot. Got him square in the chest, and died instantly. I grabbed for his body and dragged it with me. Then a mortar exploded and injured two other guys, making them unable to walk. In the dark it was hard to see and the noise was unbelievable.”

“We were shooting at anyone that looked like an enemy and somehow managed to drag everyone back to our base of operations. I hadn’t realized it, but something warm was running down my face. It was then that I blacked out. How about another one, friend?”

He drank a little and finished up. “I woke up in a military hospital. They all told me that I was lucky to be alive. Yep, seems I had caught a bullet in the head.” He stopped and showed us what looked like a scar, then said, “They tell me I still have the lead lodged in there to this day.” It was then the old man paused, hung his head. His shoulders shook a little. He pulled a dirty cloth from his jacket and wiped his eyes as he said, “I lost two of my men that night, two good men. I was thankful we could fly their bodies home to their widows. Amazingly, all of us had either been shot or wounded badly but we survived, thank God.”

He continues, “Oh yeah, they gave us the medals and treated us real nice. But I always felt responsible for letting my buddies die.” Teary eyed he said, “I just can’t talk anymore.”

What a great story! I took \$100 and placed it in Red's hand. Walking away I chuckled and said to my friends, "That old man can tell some big ones. No wonder they call him the Storyteller!" We laughed and walked away. A few days and we would be headed for our own special assignments.

About a year later while in preparation for patriotic celebrations I was in the barrack and happened to catch a story on the evening news. It was one of those special events in which they wish to recognize heroic acts of those who had been in service. Once story caught my attention, as they told about two soldiers and how through their heroic efforts had turned a part of the War around through one valiant trip behind enemy lines. It seems they were called the Valiant Eight. And they had been led by Captain Frederick Samuel Jackson.

The report stated that the two men had been killed and six others had been wounded, but miraculously no soldier had been left behind. Captain Jackson, who had led the mission, had taken a bullet to the head. It was a miracle he survived. Not only did he live, but the rest of their squad owed their lives to the Captain's actions taken that night on what was nicknamed, "Miracle Hill."

"What's more interesting about this man, the reporter continues, is our research has shown he has been signing his veterans pay over to the widows of the two fallen soldiers every month for the last twelve years. He also sends an additional money order of varying amounts to the Veterans Charity Relief Organization with the simple signature, A Grateful Soldier. We would love to have him here today to show a special honor but his whereabouts are unknown. If you were to see him please let him know that there are many people who wish to thank him personally for his sacrifice for his country. By the way, he sometimes goes by the name Red."

I couldn't help but sob like a baby as I bowed my head and prayed. "Dear God, forgive me for taking so lightly the sacrifices made. Thank you for the brave men and women who have given all, and willingly answered when their Country called. And God, forgive me for misjudging my fellow man. And thank you for the privilege to serve my country. Amen."

As I wiped my tears I couldn't help but shake my head. "Lord, thank you also for what I gained through Storyteller Red. Freedom isn't free. It costs blood." Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Thank you, Jan. At this time the retiring national officers will transfer the pins and ribbons of office to their successors. As they do so, please enjoy the talents once again of Rick Stang and John Jordan singing "Thank You Is Not Enough" by artists Robert J. Hamilton and Haskell Dixon. The retiring officers will now come forward.

MR. STANG AND MR. JORDAN: With worried tears we cried at night for you were far away. And all the prayers we held so tight hoping you were safe. But you had heard our country's call to fight on distant shores. Thank you's not enough, we owe you so much more.

Thank you's not enough. It can't say how we feel or wrap itself around you and make the hurtin' heal. We live a life of freedom from all that you gave up. Veterans of America, thank you's not enough.

My dad joined the Army and fought on foreign lands. My brother tried to be like him and died in Vietnam. As a child I wondered why we had to fight at all. But I learned freedom had its price and sometimes soldiers fall.

Thank you's not enough. It can't say how we feel or wrap itself around you and make the hurtin' heal. We live a life of freedom from all that you gave up. Veterans of America, thank you's not enough.

Sometimes it's hard to put it to words. It means more when it's shown. The time has come to give you all a hero's welcome home. Thank you's not enough. It can't say how we feel or wrap itself around you and make the hurtin' heal. We live a life of freedom from all that you gave up. Veterans of America, thank you's not enough. Veterans of America, thank you's not enough.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: The retiring officers will now come forward and present the newly elected and installed 2011-2012 national officers. As the outgoing officers return to their seats, Past National President Carlene Ashworth will present them with their ribbons and pins. We will begin with the National Chaplain, who will introduce our new Chaplain.

PAST NATIONAL CHAPLAIN THROWER: It is my pleasure to introduce Nini Lynch from the Department of Georgia as your new 2011-2012 National Chaplain.

(Applause.)

CHAPLAIN LYNCH: Thank you, Vickie. Thank you so much. I'd like to recognize my Department of Georgia and the Southern Division. And in Georgia I'm known as the Frog Lady. And so I want you to remember this year when you think about The American Legion Auxiliary, our veterans, our active military, and our families. FROG, fully rely on God. Thank you so much.

PAST NATIONAL HISTORIAN SCHROEDER-ZULCH: It is with pride and pleasure I introduce to you your 2011-2012 National Historian from the Department of South Carolina, Diane Harley.

(Applause.)

HISTORIAN HARLEY: Thank you. Thank you, delegates, and thank you South Carolina. I am honored and humbled by the trust that you have placed in me. Let's all go forward this year and work hard and make lots of footprints for those who follow after us. Thank you once again.

PAST CENTRAL DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT FUELLING: It is with great pride that I introduce to you the 2011-2012 Central Division National Vice President Florence Briggs.

(Applause.)

DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT BRIGGS: Thank you, Donna. I want to thank the Department of Indiana for their support. If they would please rise if they are here? And the Central Division, too, please rise. Thank you so much and I'm looking forward to serving you.

PAST EASTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT HAGAN: Madam National President, delegates, and guests at this convention, I present to you the 2011-2012 Eastern Division National Vice President Lorraine "Rani" Gray.

(Applause.)

EASTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT GRAY: Good morning.

Would the Vermont delegation please stand? Thank you for your love and your support over the years. I hope I will make you proud. Would the Eastern Division please stand? Thank you for your friendship and believing in me. I look forward to working with you in our goal to continue to be number one. I know that together we can. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NORTHWESTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT WILD: It's my pleasure to present the Northwestern Division National Vice President for 2011-2012 from the great state of Wyoming, Linda Feezer.

(Applause.)

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT FEEZER: Thank you. Thank you, delegates. And thank you so much, Lynne, for that wonderful introduction. I would like to thank my immediate family within the room today and also those of them who are looking down on me. I would ask the Wyoming delegation, or actually the whole family, The American Legion Family of Wyoming to stand please? Thank you for all your love and support through the years. And I will continue to serve you as best I can. And now I would ask the rest of the Northwest delegation to stand?

(Applause.)

NORTHWESTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT FEEZER: Thank you very much, Northwest Delegation, for all your support. I look forward to seeing all of you in the coming year. Thank you.

PAST SOUTHERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT LAMBERT-KNIGHT: I proudly present to you Winnie Broussard from the Department of Louisiana for your Southern Division National Vice President for the year 2011-2012. Winnie?

SOUTHERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT BROUSSARD: Thank you.

(Applause.)

SOUTHERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT BROUSSARD: Thank you, Pat. Would the Louisiana delegation please stand, and also the Southern Division? I want to say thank you again for placing your support and confidence in me. And I'm hoping that we can continue working together for the good of the American Legion Auxiliary and this great organization. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST WESTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN: I present to you from the great state of Idaho the next Western Division National Vice President, Carmen Metzger.

(Applause.)

WESTERN DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT METZER: Thank you, Darlene. Would the Department of Idaho please stand? I would like to thank the Department of Idaho for their confidence they have placed in me. And would the Western Division please stand? I also want to thank them for their support and I will, I pledge my support to the Western Division. And we will strive to be number one so that we can say the west is the best. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: I now ask National Vice President Peggy Thomas from the Department of Virginia to please come forward along with National President Kris. Congratulations to you, Peggy. You will now receive your pin and ribbon.

PRESIDENT NELSON: It is an honor and a privilege for me to place this ribbon and pin on my great friend Peggy Thomas.

VICE PRESIDENT THOMAS: It goes the other way.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Okay. Oops!

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT NELSON: I place over your heart the pin of National Vice President. I hope that it gives you as much pleasure and love as it gave me when I wore it.

VICE PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kris.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Well, that's not clasped.

VICE PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Madam President Kris, national officers, members, and guests. I thank all of you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your National Vice President and to be able to serve the finest and most noble organization in the world.

I pledge to our newly elected President Kris, and to all of you, that I will do everything in my power to serve the American Legion Auxiliary to the very best of my ability. This is our time in history and we too have a dream. Our dream is by practicing Service Not Self. That we will increase our membership and thereby expand our service to the veteran, the military, and their families. One or two people cannot fulfill this mission alone. It will take all of you and all of your help to do this. We are counting on you, you, and you.

You can rest assured that President Kris will continue to build on the foundation that her predecessors have begun. Though she has a dream for the future she will not forget the past and the traditions that have made this organization great. Kris has a great love of family, God, and County, which cannot be surpassed. President Kris, it's an honor to stand by your side and to give you my support throughout the coming year.

I also plan to work closely with Nancy Brown Park so that she will be kept abreast of what is going on in the role of National Vice President so she will be prepared to follow me next year.

My family could not make it to Minnesota. They are back in Virginia. But my Legion family is here. And I want to thank my good friend Butch Miller, the Past National Commander, and the entire Department of Virginia of The American Legion Family, all of you, for the love and support that you have given me. And would all the members from the Department of Virginia please stand?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. I love you all. And the ones that have to leave, please go. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Thank you, Peggy. I would ask Kris to please approach the podium, as well as Carlene, to make the official transfer of authority. Carlene will present Kris her pin and ribbon and the gavel.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Kris, I know that you're going to do an awesome, awesome job this coming year. And I know that you're going to carry forward our Power of One through your Faces of Freedom as we continue on, to continue to support our veterans, their families, and our military. And I'm so very, very proud to be able to stand beside you and hand you this gavel so that you can carry on our tradition of our American Legion family. Thanks.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I'd like to thank you all for being here. It is a great honor to serve as your National President. I truly appreciate your friendship and confidence.

First I would like to extend my thanks to my family, who you will meet following my installation address.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Terry is my closest friend and confidant and has been my cheerleader for the last twenty-seven years.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Our children, Troy, his wife Angie; Sarah and her husband Kent; and our grandchildren, Maya, Ty. Sydney was not able to be here today. She's in Brainerd. But Sarah is, she has her baby this morning.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: The Auxiliary has been a part of their entire lives. And I appreciate their support and will dearly miss them when I travel this year.

I would be remiss if I didn't also thank a few of my mentors. Please stand, the Past National Presidents. I thank you for your advice and your support, all the years coming up to this. Thank you all very much.

And to Carol Van Kirk for giving me my first national chairmanship. Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan for mentoring me every step of the way. And for Desi Stoy for giving me the Children & Youth appointment, thank you.

Special thanks to Rita Navarreté and to Carlene Ashworth for your mentorship and friendship. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: I couldn't have done this without my close friends Peggy Thomas, Dubbie Buckler, Marta Hedding, Nancy Brown-Park, and Janet Jefford. Thank you for the hours spent planning for this year, for your support, and friendship. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: And will the Department of Minnesota please stand?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: These -- thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: I can't thank you enough for your support of both your time, your talent, and your treasure as I sought this office. Thank you all so very much.

I pledge to all of you that I will serve with the best of my ability this year as I serve members across this nation supporting our veterans, our military, and their families. Thank you all. You are the best.

I look forward to working very closely this year with American Legion Commander Fang Wong. Fang and Barbara?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: And Sons of the Legion Commander Jim Roberts.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: We will serve our veterans and in turn increase our membership and awareness. Special thanks to my close friends. I met these gentlemen 10 years ago at the Minnesota Veterans Creative Arts Festival, our gold medal winners Rick Stang and John Jordan. Please stand and thank them for their service.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. When planning for this year two things became very crystal clear to me. Our membership is decreasing annually and The American Legion Auxiliary is not recognized throughout the country and the vast population of Americans don't know who we are.

The American Legion Auxiliary members have been serving communities across this nation for 91 years. We do the work but what we don't do well enough is tell people what we do. We don't share our story. For that reason the pin I chose this year is the Auxiliary emblem with the words surrounding it, "In the spirit of God and Country we serve veterans, military, and their families." Wear your pin when you serve veterans and military and families in your communities. When asked what is the American Legion Auxiliary repeat the words, "In the spirit of God and Country we serve veterans, military, and their families." I am very proud to belong to an organization that serves under God. Serving American heroes, our veterans, whose sacrifices allow us to live in a free country.

My background is in human resources. And one of the great trainers that we use is Stephen Covey. So of course when I needed to create goals for this year I dug out my books and researched Covey's four disciplines of execution. Covey states that organizations who have only one or two goals, which he calls WIGs, Wildly Important Goals, will succeed. The more goals the less the success rate.

We will work this year with two goals, one external and one internal. Our external goal is through mission delivery the American Legion Auxiliary will become so appealing to people who care about veterans that our membership will increase. We can only increase our membership and volunteer capacity if community members know who we are and what we do. Asking community members to join you in service projects that will give them hands on experience will let them see and feel how our service projects make life a little bit easier for our veterans, military, and their families. If we are positive and make it a fun experience, community members will ask us how they can join. And we will become so appealing that our membership will increase.

We need to refocus on how we do things. We need to create opportunities for the younger generation that are meaningful and that they are able to fit into their schedules. Statistics show that with the fast pace of today's life and numerous things that demand our attention many women do not have the time or interest to attend meetings. The younger generation wants to have hands on, one-day projects that can leave them with a feeling of accomplishment. If we want to grow our membership it is up to us to look at the way we are doing things. To become diverse and inclusive we must encourage and support new ideas of mission delivery project and opportunities that women of all ages can participate in.

But on the other hand units have told us we have too many programs and they don't have the members our resources to support all of them. We are trying something new this year. We have grouped like programs together and we're calling them pods. The Plan of Action includes how to sheets that will assist members to meet the program objectives either by an individual program or by a pod. Additionally, the National Chairmen will be mentoring units in each division to assist them with each of the five pod projects that are suggested in the Plan of Action. The Chairmen will then create monthly bulletins, sharing with all of you what is working and what needs to be tweaked.

The National Chairmen were diligent in the expectation that they create tools that will assist units with meeting the objectives of each program. These how to sheets were written with a small unit in mind and can be accomplished easily. They encourage collaboration with other nonprofits throughout communities and engage in community members who share the passion of serving veterans and their families.

If we are passionate about what we do, inclusive about who we invite to share our activities, and successful in setting goals that are mission related, we can't help but to grow our membership and become an organization that is easily recognized. My challenge to each of you is to communicate with your members and to get the information to them.

Our membership theme this year is Honor Their Service. These are the four veterans in my life. We are members of the American Legion Auxiliary because of the veteran in our life. Everything we do is in honor of their service.

Our country is at war. The need to support our veterans and military and their families is great. We do great things. Our membership should be increasing annually and that is not happening. If we honor the service of our veterans and share our stories we will increase our membership.

There is a great membership video on the Auxiliary website to use in your communities when sharing what the American Legion Auxiliary is and what we do. Throughout the year we will continue to explore public relation opportunities to help you spread the word about the Auxiliary and make the ask for community members to join you in support.

We are all eligible for membership because of a veteran in our life, familiar faces to each of us. With that in mind I have chosen the Face of Freedom as our 2012 convention theme, where we're focus on veterans, active duty servicemen and women, and their families. When you look into the eyes of those we serve it becomes

clear why we do what we do. And we'll celebrate those faces throughout the year, culminating at our National Convention in Indianapolis.

We would like every one of you to email a JPEG picture of your veteran in uniform to the Auxiliary Communications Staff. Send them to [FaceOfFreedom@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:FaceOfFreedom@ALAforVeterans.org). We also would like you throughout the year to email us pictures of your members working on mission related activities. These pictures will be used throughout the year to promote the American Legion Auxiliary.

Our members have been asking for training. This year there will be five national training weekends. The training will be based on our programs and how grassroots members can accomplish our objectives. They will be interactive and those attending will leave with a wealth of information. Please encourage both your members and prospective members to attend one of these trainings.

Historically, the National President selects a President's Project. This year my project is the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. Donations to the Foundation are permanently endowed gifts. If each one of our members donated only \$15 our Foundation would be able to fund our programs to perpetuity. When creating your annual budgets please consider a donation to the Foundation and please consider encouraging your members to use the Foundation for donations, memorials, and estate planning.

Our internal WIG is The American Legion Auxiliary will become an employer of choice. This goal can be easily accomplished. It is an internal goal and I challenge each of you to assist me in reaching this goal. Yes, those we employ work for us, are paid to provide customer service and the operations necessary to assist in the implementation of our programs. But few people realize the number of inquiries that both our national and department staff members receive daily. The workload on both the department and national level increases annually as we change and implement our programs. Statistics show that money and benefits are not a motivator to the majority of employees. Rather, motivation comes from pride in work, the feeling of being appreciated, pride in knowing that the work being done makes a difference to our members and our recipients, veterans, military, and their families.

The American Legion Auxiliary is a volunteer organization where volunteers govern the organization and staff members manage the organization. It takes volunteers and staff working together to successfully accomplish our goals.

So how can you help the American Legion Auxiliary become an employer of choice? Simply by taking the time to say thank you, by remembering that our staff at all levels of our organization are vital members of our team, by taking the time to listen to their ideas and concerns. Our staff members are also volunteers. They believe in our mission and are passionate about veterans. The national staff are all field service certified and all of them want to work as a part of our team. They would like to have their voices heard, share their vision, and be part of an organization that has a rich heritage of Service Not Self.

Working together as a team we can accomplish great things. Treating each other with civility and with respect can only result in positive growth.

In conclusion we have two WIGs this year. Through mission delivery, the American Legion Auxiliary will become so appealing to people that care about

veterans that our membership will increase. And the American Legion Auxiliary will become an employer of choice. As we work together to accomplish these two goals we will honor the service of the veteran who gave us our eligibility. As we volunteer throughout communities across America and share our concerns for veterans, military, and their families, we cannot help but succeed in both membership growth and making the American Legion Auxiliary the easily recognized go to organization for veterans.

Thank you all for your faith in me. I pledge to every one of you that I will do my very best to meet the obligation that you have charge me with, to serve side by side with our membership as we look into the face of freedom and honor the service, and through mission delivery become so appealing to people who care about our veterans that our membership will increase.

God bless each of you. God bless our troops. God bless our veterans. And God bless America.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I'd like to ask my husband Terry to come up so I can pin, he can be the first one I pin on his hat. (Laughter)

PRESIDENT NELSON: I'd like him to be the first one to have my pin. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Terry is going to now introduce our family.

MR. NELSON: That's not the way the program says --

(Laughter)

MR. NELSON: -- but anyways. It is my pleasure to introduce my family and Kris' family. It's been a long time, a long year, a long 28 years getting to the position that she is in. And so our family is 100 percent behind her. And at this time I'd like to introduce our son Troy.

(Applause.)

MR. NELSON: Daughter-in-law Angie, Maya, and Ty.

(Applause.)

MR. NELSON: And then we have Kris' mom and dad from Waite Park, Minnesota, Darlene and Art Tarnowski.

(Applause.)

MR. NELSON: Art was a veteran of three wars, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

(Applause.)

MR. NELSON: Then I have my brother Norm and his wife Katie, and my sister Darlene and her husband Herb. And our daughter couldn't make it today. As most of you know she's in the hospital right now hopefully having a baby, so. And her husband Kent, and Sarah's stepdaughter Sydney. And I'm sure you'll be seeing them sometime this year. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MR. NELSON: They say it takes a village. We have been fortunate to have that village with some very close friends for almost 40 years now. We have raised our families together, traveled together, laughed and cried together. And they all came

yesterday to share today with us. If you would please stand, Judy and Kim Adams? And we'd like to wish Judy a Happy 60th Birthday today.

(Applause.)

(Laughter)

MR. NELSON: Rory and Jan Festrom. Tom and Lois Johnson. And Jerry and Cheryl O'Reilly, but Jerry always goes to the bathroom so he's not here yet, so,

(Laughter)

MR. NELSON: We always have to take care of one individual, so that's it. Thank you for all your joining us today and we really appreciate your love, friendship, and support.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Well, Kris, please know that we look forward to a year of growth and the opportunity to raise the awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary across the nation under your leadership. So congratulations to you. And now it's a genuine honor to present the Legionnaire who is expected if he is elected today --

(Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: -- to serve with Kris Nelson this year. Please welcome Fang Wong from the Department of New York.

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: Thank you, thank you. Please be seated for now.

Distinguished guests on the dais, my Legion family, this is certainly a very special day. When I first stepped on the stage earlier this morning I didn't know what to expect. I was just told that you got to be there at 8:00. Well, I've been following orders for the last 28 months, "Yes, sir, I'll be there." Then I got a chance to look at the program, find my name, and I said, "Good sign, bad sign." First the good sign. It says remarks. Well, that's great because the last department I visited, they made a mistake. They put down address. They did get my full address, including the 9th District zip code.

(Laughter)

MR. WONG: But here it says remarks so you're not going to get my address. The mistake I believe Madam Chairman already corrected, it said National Commander. Not yet. Not yet. But since we're in the mode of getting up, sitting down, I want to ask you two questions. For those of you in the audience that's going to vote for me in a couple of hours, please stand,

(Laughter)

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: All right, I have a few there. Okay, please sit down. For those of you that would like to vote for me but are not eligible to vote for me, please stand.

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: Okay, that's better. All right. Now you guys sit down. For those of you that didn't stand either the first time or the second time, that's okay. I just hope that you don't have another candidate in mind, okay?

(Laughter)

MR. WONG: Wow, this is really a great day. I don't know how you handle it, Kris. You're so calm. I'm trying to be calm but in two hours you're going to find out that's not the case.

Madam Junior, we call you Junior now, right? Junior Past President Carlene? What a great year. Thank you for your service. I first met your Junior Past President I guess it was about eight years ago in West Point U.S. Military Academy. And we got off real well. And I'm glad I did because I didn't realize until this year our commanding force, I kept on reminding her, that I, good shot, sharpshooter. So I'm glad that we didn't make any mistake and that you would take aim at me. But congratulations for a great year.

I met Kris I guess on and off on a few occasions. We so far haven't had any arguments. It's great to know that, you know, The American Legion is a family made up of three parts. The Sons of The American Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Legion. And I'm very glad that two-thirds of the family has already got elected. I just hope that the other one-third will follow suit. So I'm counting on you all.

But the other thing, as I recall my career in The American Legion, well the first ten or so years not that great because I was always away from the family and everything. It caused some kind of problem. Now as I travel to the different departments I'm sure you have heard my story. But from the moment that I got my wife to join the Auxiliary things worked out fine, great.

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: So you're already in the Auxiliary. I don't see any problem between the two of us. You've got a good start. And the other sign that we're going to have a great year is not too long ago we kind of, I guess we were both in Indianapolis. One afternoon we didn't have anything else to do and we sat down, we had a long discussion. I hope you remember that, and I hope you remember that. I'd like to tell you in that particular meeting all we could see is our National Adjutant and your National Secretary going back and forth at each other. And then Kris and myself we're just sitting on the side and smiling at each other. Now see? That's a good sign of a great family. Let somebody else do the fighting and then we'll just sit there and watch and be happy.

(Laughter)

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: So keep up the great work. I don't know why you're so happy. I know I'm excited because you have given me a great lady to work with for the next year.

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: And you also, no you didn't vote for Jim. So you can't take credit for Jim. Jim is from the Sons of Legion. But I truly believe that we will make it work. We will form a hardworking team, we will work together, and we will talk over things together. And hopefully at the end of the year we will make the family proud. And that's the important thing. We are a family.

(Applause.)

MR. WONG: So Kris, until I get elected I could only wish you best of luck. But if I get elected I hope you will wish me the best of luck.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. And I'd like you to be the first person to get my coin.

MR. WONG: Is this a challenge coin?

PRESIDENT NELSON: Yeah.

(Laughter)

MR. WONG: You know, I'm not allowed to give out anything until I get elected. So you get an IOU.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Right.

(Laughter)

MR. WONG: Thank you very much. Well obviously I've got something else I need to take care of. So thank you again for the opportunity to come and be part of this event. I really appreciate it. And hopefully you will come to the other side late to witness another event. Until then, good luck, God bless you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: We certainly appreciate a fine Legionnaire addressing our body this morning and bringing his lovely wife with him as well. So thank you so much. Let's acknowledge the leading candidate and his wife, right? Thank you. Yes.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: We're so happy that they could join us this morning. Now it's also my honor to ask the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Jim Roberts from the Department of Florida, to address this body.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ROBERTS: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

COMMANDER ROBERTS: How do you follow the leading candidate? It's indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning as the Sons of The American Legion National Commander, and to represent the over 344,000 of the organization in congratulating you, Kris, on being President of the National American Legion Auxiliary.

I'm a little nervous if you haven't quite got it. But I'll tell you that the pin that we just received and the pin that you see on the front of your brochure, "In the spirit of God and County we serve veterans, military, and their families." How true is that of this great American Legion family?

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ROBERTS: I have to take a point of personal privilege, if you don't mind? My father passed away about a week before the national convention and I dedicated a distinguished guest badge to my father. And I'd like to have that here while I speak because we serve our veterans, and my dad gave me the eligibility to be a member of the Sons of The American Legion 34 years ago. And it's because of his service and my grandfather's service that give me the ability to be here today, but it's also because of our veterans and this great country. Those that are in the audience, those

that are on the dais, and those that are still serving throughout the world. Thank you very much for your service. I appreciate it.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ROBERTS: When I first had the opportunity to meet Kris it was a Facebook meeting, actually. And she introduced herself, I introduced myself, and we were very anxious to have an opportunity to meet each other personally and face to face. And I really had that opportunity during the membership workshop in Indianapolis where we had an opportunity to meet with the leaders that were coming up this year. And looking at the program that she had designed for this year, for you all's year in 2011 and 2012. And without really having that good, face to face meeting, it was great to see that the message, albeit different, was the same. Our leading candidate for National Commander, Fang, again his message, albeit different, was the same. So I know that as an American Legion Family this year we are going to have an outstanding year and we are going to work together. Why? Because we work together so well as a family.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER ROBERTS: I don't want to take up a whole lot of time, I know we have a lot of business to take care of today. But I just wanted to thank you all very much from the bottom of my heart for your support. I would be remiss if I did not recognize my Florida American Legion Family, are you in the room?

VOICES: Yes!

(Laughter)

COMMANDER ROBERTS: These are the young ladies and men that are in the audience that helped raise me, and I truly appreciate everything that you all have done over 34 years to support me, my family, and the campaign to become National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. And my moms back home, as I so much call them, know what I am about to say. And I've learned this over the years at, I give credit for The American Legion in 1932 in Portland, Oregon to have the foresight to create the program the Sons of The American Legion. However, if it wasn't for our moms, the American Legion Auxiliary, there would be no Sons of The American Legion. Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: I'd like to give you one of my coins, also.

COMMANDER ROBERTS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NELSON: And I look forward to working with you.

COMMANDER ROBERTS: Thank you. I appreciate it. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Thank you, Jim, for addressing our installation. And now I'm pleased to present the nervous Marie Goede from the Department of Minnesota for special introductions.

MS. GOEDE: Thank you. Thank you, Desi. Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. GOEDE: The members of Minnesota welcome you to our National President from Minnesota, Kris' installation.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: And at this time Shirley Schoonover from Kris' unit, 255 in Brainerd, will bring greetings on behalf of the unit.

MS. SCHOONOVER: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. SCHOONOVER: Madam President, Madam National President Kris, I like that sound. On behalf of the Brainerd Unit 255, Department of Minnesota, congratulations. I'm going to reminisce a bit if you don't mind, Kris? At the 1987 Department of Minnesota Convention at Moorehead, Minnesota National President Evelyn Starr from Minnesota spoke to the assembly. At the close of Evelyn's presentation Kris leaned over and said to me, "Someday I would like to be National President." Who would have thought, huh? Really. It was through much hard work and dedication, Kris followed her dream. Kris has been a very good leader in our unit. Without Kris I probably would have not stayed active with the American Legion Auxiliary. So I can thank her for that.

We are very proud of you, Kris. And we wish the best for the coming year. I have a proclamation I will share with you from the Mayors of the Cities of Brainerd and Baxter. Kris lives in the City of Baxter and Kris and I are both members of the Brainerd unit. So both Mayors got in on this. The proclamation reads, "To the 93rd National Convention, on behalf of the Cities of Brainerd and Baxter, and the Brainerd Lakes area, we are extremely proud of Kris Nelson becoming the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. While neither of us can be present for the induction we, as the Mayors of Brainerd and Baxter, wanted to express how proud we are of Kris in attaining this prestigious position in the Auxiliary, as well as all the other Auxiliary involvement that she has been a part of over the past years. In recognition of these accomplishments we are declaring that it be Kris Nelson Day in our cities on September 1, 2011." And it's signed by James E. Wallin, Mayor of the City of Brainerd, and Darrel Olson, Mayor of the City of Baxter. Kris, I present this proclamation to you.

(Applause.)

MS. SCHOONOVER: Congratulations. And my personal congratulations to my friend and colleague Kris.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you, Shirley.

MS. SCHOONOVER: You're welcome.

MS. GOEDE: And now the program says remarks from Bill and Marie Goede. Ooh, you don't have to worry, Kris.

Kris, I want to thank you for asking me to be your MC from Minnesota, and Bill wishes he could be here on this very special day for you. But as you and he had previously talked, as Chairman of the Naval Affairs Commission he needed to be giving his own report at the Legion delegation this morning. But I'm going to prepare you, you can be rest assured, he does plan to speak at your installation.

No, yeah, Homecoming. You got that right, Kris. See my mentor? There she is. And as your Department Commander in the year 2001-2002, because Kris always has to say to Bill whenever they want to know the year that you were serving she'll say, "Bill, what was that year again?" She just tends to forget.

We want to congratulate you on your accomplishments within the Auxiliary. You have worked very hard and have put in several, several, several volunteer

hours to achieve this high office. We enjoy yours and Terry's friendship and the fun times we have had together. We hope we will see you at Gulf Shores, where Bill and I will be wintering this year as well as you and Terry have had for the past few years. That is if by chance you get to visit Terry down there. Otherwise we'll take care of Terry.

(Laughter)

MS. GOEDE: We are very proud of you and wish you the best. And may you have a very successful year as our National American Legion Auxiliary President. We want to especially wish you safe travels as the leader of the largest women's patriotic organization.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: Chuck Kruger, who is our Department Commander from Minnesota, is also unable to be here as he too is giving his report at the Legion delegation. But Linda Thompson, our Department President from Minnesota, is here.

(Applause.)

MS. THOMPSON: National President Kris, American Legion Family, platform and distinguished guests, family, friends, and guests all, I bring greetings, congratulations, and well wishes from all of the members of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary. National President Kris, today your dream has become a reality. Most of us know that National President Kris always has an inspirational quote to share. I would be remiss if I did not share one today.

When thinking about a quote that would describe President Kris there was one that seemed to fit perfectly. It is a quote that my generation remembers well. President John F. Kennedy said during his inaugural address, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

This year I believe that National President Kris will challenge each of us to ask not what our veterans can do for us, ask what we can do for our veterans. Service Not Self has long been a way of life for National President Kris. It is not simply a slogan.

National President Kris, your journey has begun. Travel in good health. Travel in safe. Travel knowing that the Minnesota Auxiliary American Legion Auxiliary members wholeheartedly believe in and support you. We look forward to your return once again when we will work side by side for our veterans and their families.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: And now Gary Semmel, Minnesota's Department SAL Commander.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER SEMMEL: Good morning all.

VOICES: Good morning.

COMMANDER SEMMEL: It's my pleasure to be here to celebrate Kris' installation on behalf of the detachment in Minnesota. And we go back quite a ways. When Kris was serving as Department President my son-in-law Dennis was serving as Detachment Commander. And I'd like to say at that point it's a good thing Kris didn't have a very healthy appetite at that time.

We look forward to serving with Kris. We look forward to helping her in every way we can. For the Sons of The American Legion, as well as the Auxiliary,

we're here because of a veteran. We need to thank that veteran and work to keep all the veterans in our hearts and our prayers and to do whatever we can for them. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: And now a very good friend of Kris', Ray Dezurick, Minnesota's National Executive Committeeman of The American Legion.

(Applause.)

MR. DEZURICK: Good morning, American Legion Family.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. DEZURICK: Minnesota is proud to congratulate Kris Nelson on her rise to the top of the world's largest women's patriotic organization. We in Minnesota's 6th District have watched Kris' progression through the years and it was obvious that her intelligence, her charisma, her character, her drive, her synergy would propel her to the top. In fact if I didn't know better I'd say that Kris was the one who put S-Y-N in synergy. But I know better.

To the American Legion Auxiliary, Kris Nelson is Minnesota's gift for the coming year. You are getting a wife, a daughter, sister, a mom, a grandmother, a leader, but most of all a great friend. Kris, congratulations. We are asking that God rain his blessings upon you during your year of leadership.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: Kris served as Department Membership Chairman alongside Ray and what a year. So we weren't quite sure what Ray was going to say. So we said, "One minute, Ray."

(Laughter)

MS. GOEDE: And now Darlene Wondra, Minnesota's National Executive Committeewoman of the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause.)

MS. WONDRA: Madam President Kris Nelson, what a wonderful ring. It is indeed my pleasure to congratulate you on behalf of the Department of Minnesota for your outstanding achievement on your election to the highest office of our American Legion Auxiliary.

I have been in a position to benefit from your knowledge, leadership, and mentoring as I was one of your ten District Daughters. And on behalf of your ten District Daughters I congratulate you and send you our best wishes.

Minnesota is very proud. So on behalf of the Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary we extend to you congratulations, best wishes, and love as you begin your journey as National President. May God bless you with safe travels during this coming year, and have a wonderful year, and a safe year. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: Our next speaker is Dan Ludwig, Minnesota's Past National Commander of The American Legion.

(Applause.)

MR. LUDWIG: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. LUDWIG: I know this is the last day of the convention, but first let me say welcome to Minnesota.

(Applause.)

MR. LUDWIG: Hopefully you've felt at home among us. Hopefully you've had a good time. I can assure you we're glad that you're all here.

And now to you, Madam President, you know Kris has served Unit 255 in Brainerd with distinction. She has served her 6th District with class and distinction. And she has served the Department of Minnesota with class and distinction. And now Kris, I want you to know that your Minnesota Legion family with hearts full of pride and love, we send you to serve the nation. We send you to serve the nation with your heart full of faith and courage and vision, and we ask that God bless you. We ask that God grace you and bless you and your family now and always. Congratulations, Kris. We send you with our love.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: And with Dan this morning is his lovely wife Mary.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: Evelyn Starr, Minnesota's Past National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, from the Auxiliary year 1986-87, is not able to be with us this morning. But her granddaughter Victoria, whom we have heard many, many good things about over the years from Evelyn, is here to bring you Evelyn's greetings.

MS. STARR: Good morning. My name is Victoria Starr and I am here to speak on behalf of my grandmother. I'm here with my dad, Jim, and my mom, Lisa. Like she said, unfortunately my grandmother couldn't be here. She's a little under the weather but we promised to get her a video tape and watch with her later.

I wanted to start off by saying that next to her children and her grandchildren, the time my grandmother spent as President of the Auxiliary is one of her proudest accomplishments. When I was a little girl I would go spend the weekend with Grandma. And we would count the silos all the way to Cambridge. And in between batches of cookies and Walt Disney movies she would show me photo albums from her presidency.

Of course, being the little girl that I was I asked question after question about the places she went and the people she met. I would ask why I couldn't be the President, and how could I get a shiny silver pin like that? And she would gently remind me, as grandmothers do, that I was in fact already a member of the Auxiliary. In fact thinking back she probably enrolled me before I could walk.

Little did I know that 23 years later I'd be standing up here wearing that same shiny silver pin for good luck. And with that said it is clear to anyone who knows Evelyn Starr, aka Grandma, that she holds this organization very dear to her heart. And she's confident that President Nelson does as well.

I would like you to consider my words and her words as one and the same. We would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to Kris Nelson. Her time in office begins on the culmination of many years of service and hard work. I asked my grandmother if there was anything specifically she'd like me to pass on and I will read her words so as to relay them accurately.

"To Kris, I have watched you grow in the organization for many years and I have enjoyed it thoroughly. True to your nature, you have always given your very best and I know you will continue to do so. Remember to always be true to who you are

and act for the Auxiliary as you would for yourself -- from your heart. This morning is your morning and today is your day. Take in all of the positive thoughts coming your way and embrace them. But please, enjoy every second and most importantly remember to have fun. Because like all good things the next year will fly by, too. Sincerely, Evelyn.”

(Applause.)

MS. STARR: I want to thank the American Legion Auxiliary for allowing me to speak on my grandmother’s behalf. I am so very proud that she asked me to represent her. And I want to say that she in particular is so honored that you thought about her during this exciting time. Congratulations, President Nelson. Minnesota is proud to call you our own.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: Thank you, Victoria. Representing the State of Minnesota, the Honorable Chief Justice Lorie Gildea of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Chief Justice Gildea graduated with distinction from the University of Minnesota Morris with a bachelor of arts degree, and from Georgetown University Law Center magna cum laude with a Juris Doctor degree. Chief Justice Gildea was appointed Minnesota’s 22nd Chief Justice by former Governor Tim Pawlenty on May 13, 2010. Prior to that she served as Supreme Court Associate Justice. An Auxiliary member and a former Girls Stater from Plummer, Minnesota, she has been issuing the oath of office to the constitutional officers of Girls State for several years.

When receiving her oath of office as Chief Justice from Associate Justice Alan Page, she asked staff members from the Girls State session to be her honor guard for her ceremony and Kris was one of those honor guards. What an honor; it was a very, very important day. Please welcome Minnesota’s Supreme Court Chief Justice, the Honorable Lorie Gildea.

JUDGE GILDEA: Good morning, please be seated. President Nelson, national officers, members, guests, I am so honored to be with you today. The American Legion Auxiliary has always been a part of my life and I am so proud to call myself a member. The Auxiliary in my home community of Plummer, Minnesota, gave me the honor of attending Girls State and my family and I felt so blessed to have the Auxiliary, including National President Kris Nelson, present the colors at the ceremony where I was sworn in as Minnesota’s Chief Justice. So I extend my gratitude to the American Legion Auxiliary for giving so much to me and to my family.

I also want to thank the Auxiliary for bringing your national convention to Minnesota. I hope that while you delegates were with us these past few days you had a chance to get to know us and to realize why Minnesota is such an exceptional state. We are an exceptional state because of our people, and your new National President Kris Nelson exemplifies the best of our people. President Nelson -- you can applaud; it’s okay.

(Applause.)

JUDGE GILDEA: President Nelson has lived a life of service to others. She will continue that lifetime of service, that lifetime calling during this year as the Auxiliary’s national leader. President Nelson is the perfect choice to lead the Auxiliary at this time. The Auxiliary’s mission, one of service and one of honoring and enhancing the lives of those most deserving, has perhaps never been more relevant or more necessary.

In a few short days, my friends, we will gather at various places around our country to mark the date of an unspeakable crime that surpasses understanding. Ten years have passed. Most of the tears have dried. But the vision and the commitment must remain. We cannot imagine that our enemies believed they could defeat us by knocking down a few soaring towers, or blasting a hole in a fortress by a river, for our strength is not in concrete or steel. Our strength is in each other and our shared belief in the rule of law and the dignity of the individual.

The Auxiliary knows this. You live it every day. And you must continue to push the rest of the country to live it as well. You must push us so that we will never again look unthankfully at a returning warrior or a troubled veteran.

(Applause.)

JUDGE GILDEA: Helen Keller once said that the world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves by its heroes but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker. America needs the might shoves of our heroes. But now more than ever we also need the tiny push that every honest worker can provide. Kris Nelson is just one such honest worker and she will push us. President Nelson will push us to hire a veteran, to honor the military, and to care for the families of our servicemen and women. President Nelson and the Auxiliary under her leadership will push us all forward. She will help us to move our nation along so that we can be better than we thought possible.

I congratulate President Nelson on her installation and I congratulate the Auxiliary in choosing such a remarkable woman to be our leader. And now in recognition of your installation, President Nelson, and with respect to the mayors of Baxter and Brainerd, I am proud to deliver to you this proclamation from Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton. Which reads in part, "Whereas Kris Nelson, a resident of Baxter, Minnesota, is a longtime business leader and volunteer in her community; and whereas Kris Nelson has served in numerous leadership and service roles that benefit Minnesotans; whereas, Kris Nelson is a member of the Carl Sydney Hanson Unit 255 American Legion Auxiliary of Brainerd; whereas, Kris Nelson has served in numerous local, state, and national leadership capacities for the American Legion Auxiliary; and whereas, Kris Nelson will be installed National President of the American Legion Auxiliary on September 1, 2011. Now therefore I, Mark Dayton, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim September 1, 2011 to be Kris Nelson Day in the State of Minnesota."

(Applause.)

JUDGE GILDEA: Thank you all very much.

(Applause.)

MS. GOEDE: And now, Troy, Terry, everyone, Ty, Maya, Angie will bring remarks on behalf of the family.

MR. NELSON: I'm not one to say too much, so thank you.

(Laughter)

MR. NELSON: But upon request from the new National President I did make some notes here. I want thank all of you for having the confidence in Kris, electing her to the high office of National President. This will be a great year for her. We will never forget and we look forward to all the travel and meeting all of you on the way. The kids and myself have purchased a gift for Kris, and once she opens it, for all her special

moments, it's a journal that will keep her busy everyday writing something in there for the grandkids and for all of you.

And once again, thank you for electing my wife National President.

And now my son has a few words.

MR. TROY NELSON: I just want to say congratulations, Mom; we're proud of you. And the kids have a couple gifts for you.

(Laughter)

TY NELSON: Thank you.

MR. TROY NELSON: You have to open them -- the first gift is a necklace that has Maya's and Ty's name on it and it says, "I love you to the moon and back." That's how she signs all of her postcards.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

MR. TROY NELSON: And the second gift is a book. And inside the kids wrote something because that's what Grandma always does. It says, "Dear Nana, wherever you are, our love will find you. Congratulations, Maya and Ty."

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: And then Maya made a card that says, "I love you to the moon and back, Nana. Love you, Maya."

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: This is going to be the toughest part of the year, is being away from these two. Thank you.

TY NELSON: Now we can go home?

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT NELSON: He wants to go home.

(Laughter)

MS. ANGIE NELSON: Ty and Maya have been waiting, like Kris and Terry, forever to meet their new cousin. And that's what they want to do. So that's why he said, "Mom, can we go home? Because I don't have a cousin yet." So --

(Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Well, Madam President, it's official. If Sarah has her baby today she's born on Kris Nelson Day!

(Laughter)

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: We welcome Carlene into the ranks of Past National President. We recognize her accomplishments this year and now it's time for some special presentations. So I'm pleased to call upon Past National President Katherine Morris who will preside over this segment, as Dubbie Buckler will present Carlene with her Past National President's pin. Rita Navarreté will present the ribbon of Past National President, and Pat Wanorek and Diana King will come forward with the presentation of colors.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT MORRIS: Thank you, Desi. The audience will remain seated during the presentation of the colors. Will Pat Wanorek and Diana King please bring forward the Past National President's colors?

(Presentation of Past National President's colors)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT MORRIS: Madam Retiring National President and dear friend Carlene, will you please take your rightful place between these grand and glorious colors under which you have served?

I am very honored to have been asked to present them to you. Carlene, as you stand between these two standards, which you have served so loyally, may they always hold a place of honor in your heart. These beautiful colors stood in your national office to welcome and motivate you during your year as National President. Your theme appropriately says it all, "The Power of One."

The Power of One made a difference for our veterans, for our troops, for our youth, and for our communities. This theme touched the hearts of many. And your loyalty to the American Legion Auxiliary, your love of The American Legion Family, and of your willingness and enthusiastic determination to challenge new programs which would meet the needs of the times and the needs of the membership.

You had a remarkable year, one that will live in your memory forever just as it will live in memories of those who have served this year. These colors under which you have served will always be a special part of those memories.

To your right stands the Stars and Stripes today. There is no other banner in the world as great as this Star Spangled Banner. It controls the strong and protects the weak. The white is for purity. The red for valor. And the blue is for justice. And when you put them all together they become the flag of the greatest Country in the world.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT MORRIS: To your left stands the banner of your office as National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, which shines the emblem of our organization. It stands for justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

It is with great pride that I present these colors to you. Take them home to Texas where they will have a special place of honor in your home and in your heart. With these colors you will be taking home precious memories and lasting friendships. Honor and cherish them always with God's richest blessing.

So we give you your standing colors, knowing you will care for them with deep affection and prayers as you hold fast to the memory of your year. With God's protection you will take them home to the Lone Star State. I had to get that Lone Star State in. I told them when I was reading this, I said I sound redundant but I've got to say something about the Lone Star State. And cherish them. I know your wonderful family will be delighted to have you back home.

Carlene, as Retiring National President please take your seat and your place in history as a Past National President of the greatest patriotic organization ever. Again, I want to extend my sincere thanks for a job well done.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Members, Legion Family, and guests, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present the Past National President's pin to your leader, my friend, Carlene "Sureshot Ashworth." And I will say that while the nickname may have been earned recently, in the time that I have known her and witnessed her in action she has indeed lived up to that nickname because she has held a steady focus on

this mission and any time she has seen a need she has taken a dead aim at it to make sure that it is met to advance the principles, ideals, and mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is with great pride that I have been asked to be part of this ceremony and to present her with her Past National President's pin on behalf of all of you, on behalf of everyone who admires and respects her.

Carlene, I know you will wear this pin near your heart with pride and respect. For that is how you have conducted yourself from the day I have ever met you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And may I have equal aim.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: It is quite an honor and with pride that I have been asked by a very, very good friend to present the ceremonial ribbon as just one powerful evidence of the powerful lady that you have been throughout the years, but especially this year.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT STOY: Thank you very much. There are just two announcements before President Carlene closes her convention. First, a reminder of the NEC meeting immediately following the close of this convention to be held in Room 103ABC. The second announcement is to please show courtesy by remaining in your seats until the close of this convention and the recessional of the retiring officers. National President pins will be available after the official close and all the officers have been retired.

At this time, Madam National President Kris would you please return the gavel to Carlene so she may close her convention?

PRESIDENT NELSON: Congratulations, my friend Carlene, on a wonderful year.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: And congratulations to you for a wonderful year ahead of you because I know it's going to be exciting and fun. Thank you.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you again, and thank you so very much for the wonderful memories. It's been an amazing year. And now I would like to ask the Sergeant at Arms and the Assistant Sergeant at Arms to please retire the colors of Unit 255 and the Department of Minnesota and escort the new National President, her family, and friends, the new national officers from the podium.

(Retiring of colors)

(Recession of New National Officers)

MUSIC: You place your hand on his Bible, and when you swear to tell the truth. His name is on our greatest monuments and all our money, too. And when people pledge allegiance there's doubt of where we stand. There's no separation, we're one nation under Him. In God we still trust. Here in America He's the one we turn to every time the going gets rough. He is the source of all our strength, the one who watches over us. Here in America, in God we still trust.

Now there goes among us who want to push him out and erase His name from everything this country is all about. From the schoolhouse to the courthouse, they're silencing His word. Now it's time for all believers to make our voices heard. In God we still trust. Here in America He's the one we turn to every time the going gets rough. He is the source of all our strength, the one who watches over us. Here in America in God we still trust. Here in America, here in America, here in America in God we still trust.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: I would like to ask National Chaplain Vickie Thrower to please offer our closing prayer.

CHAPLAIN THROWER: Please bow your heads. Dear Lord, thank you for President Carlene and thank you for our new officers and the leadership we've had during this 91st National Convention. Thank you for all the blessings you've given us this week. And as we go our separate ways we pray once again for those who serve our country, that they may return home safely to their families and their loved ones. Now, Lord, keep us in your grace and keep everyone as they return home safe and help them continue to do the work for God and Country, until we meet again. Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you again for a wonderful year. It's been an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to serve and I'm very humbled to have been able to be your National President during this year.

I would like to ask that you -- thank you.

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: Thank you very much. I would like to ask the audience to stay in place please until all of the people from the stage, including myself, have exited to the back of the room. Again, thank you so very, very much. And will the new, our officers please retire the colors, followed by my pages, the officers that served with me this year, and served with you this year. And then I will follow them.

(Retiring of the colors)

(Recession of Retiring Officers)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT ASHWORTH: As I close this convention followed by these officers and the 91st Annual National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will then be adjourned.

(Applause.)

(Whereupon, at 10:08 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was recessed.)

**POST-CONVENTION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011**

(Start of proceedings at 10:31 a.m.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: The National Executive Committee will now come to order. Please disable all electronic devices or place them in the silent mode. Please rise and remain standing for the opening ceremonies.

C. Nini Lynch, National Chaplain, will lead us in invocation and a moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those serving our nation today for the protection of freedom. Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Melanie Taylor will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Sharon Conatser, leading us in the preamble to the Constitution.

CHAPLAIN LYNCH: We thank you, God, that we are privileged to come together for this Executive Committee Meeting. Direct our thoughts and our deliberations, that we may exhibit fair judgment and understanding of the matters submitted and the trials of the world at war and vow us with fortitude, courage and faith. Bless those gone away from our homes into the service of our country. Be their companion in danger, their solace in pain, and at death, grant them eternal rest in the heavenly kingdom.

Continue to surround us with your loving care. God, grant that we might listen to the advice and wisdom of our past National presidents. I ask that we pay attention and that we vote our hearts. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: If you will please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: 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.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to our NEC meeting. I would like to congratulate all of you on your election to the office, and I look forward to working with everyone of you, our National officers, our National staff, our National Chairmen, and most especially, our grassroots members. We can all follow the steps of Past National Presidents who have paved the way for us, and we should have a wonderful year honoring the services of our veterans, the face of our freedom.

Before we begin our business, I want to take a few minutes to welcome the NEC and those of you who are seated here and Alabama has permission to sit over here. Are all the other chairs full? Okay. We are missing a few.

Those present who are eligible to vote today and at the subsequent NEC meetings are the NEC members composed of the National Executive Committee women from each Department, the five divisional Vice Presidents, and the National Chaplain, the National Historian, National Vice President, and National President.

Those allowed to present at the NEC meeting with voice but no vote are the Past National Presidents, the National Treasurer and the National Secretary.

We welcome our visitors and remind you that you may listen to discussion but are not permitted to participate in debate nor to vote.

I would also like at this time to impress upon the members of the National Executive Committee 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 department as your primary focus. You are serving as a National representative of a National Organization and you must be making your decision 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 and read those materials in preparation for the meetings. This is an important role and we appreciate your diligence in attending to your duties thoughtfully and responsibly on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, National Organization.

Now, to the business at hand, the Chair asks those of you wishing to address the meeting to make your way to the microphone in the center aisle as this is the only way your remarks can be heard for the professional who is recording this 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 end of the meeting.

Serving as Parliamentarian for this meeting is Chris Dickey, professional registered Parliamentarian.

For this meeting and future NEC meetings, the minutes will be approved by the Minute Approval Committee.

The Chair appoints the NECs from Texas, Virginia and Kansas as the Minutes Approval Committee responsible for approving the minutes for this year's NEC meetings. Texas, Virginia and Kansas, do you agree to that? Thank you.

Our next business in order is the election of the National Secretary and National Treasurer. One of the first responsibilities of the National President is to nominate the National Secretary and National Treasurer.

It gives me great pleasure to nominate my friend Mary "Dubbie" Buckler for the Office of National Secretary for the 2011-2012 administrative year.

The question is on the nomination of Mary "Dubbie" Buckler for the Office of National Secretary. All in favor, please say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: All right. Dubbie, you got another year.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NELSON: I am very pleased to nominate my friend Marta Hedding for the Office of National Treasurer for the 2011-2012 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 NELSON: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: You have elected Marta Hedding as your National Treasurer. Congratulations.

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, Kris Nelson, do hereby accept the responsibilities of the Office of National Secretary, National Treasurer, and I promise to faithfully perform the duties of my office to the best of my abilities with respect to the American Legion Auxiliary and allegiance to my country so help me God.

Congratulations.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Could I please have all the newly elected National officers stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Could I please have my mentors, all the Past National Presidents please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you, ladies, for your continued service, and I appreciate your willingness to serve on Committee with me this year. Thank you.

The next item of business is the approval of the Standing and Special Committee appointments for the 2011-2012 administrative year and the Foundation Board appointment. You have received a copy of this appointments list. Please take a moment to review the list.

The question is on the motion to approve the completed list of appointments to Standing and Special Committees for the administrative year 2011-2012 and Foundation Board appointments presented. Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Are you ready for the question? All in favor say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Opposed, no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: The motion to approve the complete list of appointments has passed.

Thank you and congratulations and thank you for your service.

Please now welcome Finance Chairman Nicole Clapp to present the proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget of the American Legion Auxiliary.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Good morning, everyone. First, congratulations, Kris and Peggy. We are looking forward to an exciting year under your leadership.

As the incoming Finance Chairman, I am very honored to present the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year budget for The American Legion Auxiliary for your NEC consideration on behalf of your entire Finance Committee, Desi Stoy, Finance Vice Chairman; Linda Newsome; Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan; and Carlene Ashworth.

First of all, the entire Finance Committee would like to say thank you to everyone for your support of the dues increase. Even though, keep in mind, it will not affect this year's budget that you will be approving, it makes planning for the future much brighter. So thank you.

I would also like to thank National Headquarters staff, the National Chairmen for your input and guidance and ideas to make sure that we're able to develop what we consider a comprehensive, yet realistic, budget even though we know it is a deficit bottom line. We will continue and need to continue to meet our goals, our obligations and our expectations as we serve our veterans and their families. So I appreciate your time and consideration this morning.

Tim Breshnahan, our Comptroller -- Tim is there by the computer -- spent countless hours preparing the documents that he and I will go over with you this morning. This was our first step at the new year of cost containment by emailing instead of sending out hard copies of the budget, and I know there are some in the back if individuals don't have one in front of you.

So we will go through these documents and since they were emailed, we are going to project them on the screen, as you can see, so that everyone in the room, will have a chance to look at the information.

So we will start with the narrative first. The narrative, when we did our workshop on Monday for finance, we tried to make things simple and so we are going to use this as an opportunity to keep things simple. I was taught to keep things simple, not stupid, sweetheart. So that is how we will spend our morning.

So getting to know, in this year's deficit budget, what are your key indicators. You heard this morning from National President Kris about five new Mission Training conferences, Poppies Across America Project. Poppy Chairman Krisann Owens has a wonderful idea to provide poppy seed packets to the units when you are distributing poppies to increase our community awareness across America with the poppies. So that is a component of this year's budget as well.

Continuing our sponsorship, obviously, of our \$100,000 obligation to Creative Arts Festival, and what better way than we have seen that demonstrated to us in the last couple of days by their showmanship and performances.

Microgrants. Microgrants is an idea that our VA and our Chairman Nancy Brown Park has brought forward. It is to help the local units departments to create

the VCAF workshops and help the units to be able to have a local opportunity for their veterans to serve. And so those are also a component of the budget that you can see there.

And as you look down the page you'll see, that for us the budget still has not had a great deal of significant changes, but we are maintaining our spending cuts as best we can.

And so moving into areas of program services, I will spend more time when we look at the pie chart page. This was a new approach for us this year, the personnel, as well as the foundation budgets.

And then at the bottom of the page, I think, is a key point of emphasis this morning, that Tim was able to put together for us. A graphic depiction of where we were in FY 2007 to where we are in FY 2012, so if you would scroll down further, Tim, please.

So you will see, trying to maintain a budget, we were at a \$9.9 million budget. This year we are looking at a budget of \$7.6 million. So you can see that each year we have tried extremely hard to maintain the cost controlling of the organization but still providing quality service in programming.

So then, flipping, continuing on to the back side of your handout, you have the reserve fund designations, changes for the reserves this year. The National History still maintains at 20,000, but it is time for our 10 year history book and the National Office was able to determine that if we would switch to a soft-sided book, instead of a hardbound book, we would save significant costs. So, thank you, Dubbie, for your leadership in that project.

So that money will remain the same or that reserve fund would have had to have been increased significantly.

You will look that we do have the Mission Trainings line item in there for the five Mission Trainings. One of those was already in the budget of your detail, you will see, because we had one this year as our trial.

Then looking down, you will also see for technology. There is a question asked about that that we will get to in a few moments. And then, I think one thing we are very proud of is because of investments, at the time in June, they were looking very positive. We were able to increase our scholarships by \$28,000 for this coming year, so we know you ride out investments for the long haul and so are we, so we are proud that we are able to increase our scholarships from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for the recipients.

And then you will see total reserves, \$18.1 million, and today I haven't looked at the market, so I am not quite sure where we would be, but we will continue on the roller coaster.

So initial questions that we have received we will go through as we flip to the next document which is the pie chart. We are trying to make things as graphic because I know some people are numbers, some people are visual, some people are auditory. So looking at the pie charts, you will see a comparison of where we project to end in Fiscal Year 2011, compared to what we are budgeting for this coming year.

And what we have done, if you have heard in our workshops or in our communication that we really try to look at expenses in the three areas -- administrative

fundraising, administrative management in general, and lastly, the most important, our mission delivery.

And in mission delivery you will see member services, youth education, magazine and promotions, as well as military and veterans, our families. So our key focus is, we want to maintain our percentages, we want to be at least 65 to 75 percent of our expenditures coming in mission delivery.

Fundraising, we would like that to be closer to 10 percent. We have got some work to do. And management in general is usually 5 to 10 percent, so we are right in our target area.

But we hope this graph helps depict that we are maintaining a constant emphasis on our three main areas, and that it's what outside fundraising organization or grantors look at, that you are able to support your own cause. Okay.

And then on to the detailed budget. You will see this is where you have your line items comparing the budget of 2011, where we project to end in 2011, to where we are proposing for 2012.

As you scroll down, you will see the bottom line for revenue -- keep scrolling -- is \$6.7 million, and in that you will see there is a footnote up here under 131, which talks about the grants.

You may wonder, that's quite a change from 331 to 882. That is the passthrough with the VISTA grants that I will show you on the next exhibit so you will be able to see that \$610,000.

Okay. And then scrolling down on expenses to the next page you see the expenses of \$7.6 million with a budget deficit of \$877,000 that we hope we will stay under as this year we are hoping to do better than budget, but right now that is what we are proposing, and in that you also have the footnotes regarding the grants, the in and outs, the in of the income, the out of the expense.

And then, what we did this year, we wanted to provide you a true reflection of actually the direct mail campaigns. We have no up front costs on the direct mail campaign contract with Quadriga, the poppy bags, the throws, the greeting cards. And so, for us we wanted to show you what was our net impact, and there you see that for us the net impact guarantees us \$60,000 per campaign, four campaigns a year with one of those being designated for the foundation.

Okay. We will move on to the questions that we were asked and then we will continue with the VISTA grant. Tim is going to come up and help me with the questions. We first had -- we had three departments that submitted questions ahead of time. We appreciate that.

Our first question comes from the department of Kansas. And the question surrounded technology, and the reserves of technology, the staged-out multi-year plan, what we are looking at in technology, objectives, is that number too high, what is the purpose of the dollars.

And so, you are correct, we do have a multi-year technology plan. The main component of that is for website enhancements to create a member portal that will link to our membership system. So going to the website, you then can ultimately go to the membership system. And so that is the major component.

As well as those of you at home know, your computer is outdated the minute you buy it or Best Buy wouldn't have a buy-back program. So for us, again, we always also have hardware technology upgrades that need to happen, so hopefully that answers the question from Kansas.

Department of Louisiana: "We are wondering why money was taken away from the divisional National Vice Presidents as well as what is the ALA Mission Training?"

And so I hope that all of you picked up your flyer about the Mission Trainings. The five of them, I know, they last about 36 hours. They have been discussed quite a bit in presentations, so five locations, one in each division and an opportunity for the divisional National vice presidents to lead a two-day meeting and have an opportunity to be a moderator and promote the programs, and so they will be presented by the pod structure. So that is the change in that budgeted line item. Okay, Louisiana. You're welcome.

We have a series of questions from the Department of Nebraska. The first question was, "How much money does the National Organization have in the Cayman Islands in investments that were identified on the 2009 form 990?"

Well, we do have less than 5 percent of our portfolio in alternative funds. And of that, our philosophy of investments is that we want to remain as diversified and as balanced as possible. We saw a slide yesterday about eggs all in one basket. I think that was in Trish's presentation about the Foundation. We don't want our eggs all in one basket. And so we are balanced in the international as well as the domestic market. So that hopefully answers that question.

Number two, Tim is going to focus on the form 990 on the a request of, to see individual wages and salaries. Tim.

MR. BRESHNAHAN: Can everybody hear me? Can you hear me back there?

I am just going to read the question. "On the consolidated statement of functional expenses, year ended September 30th, 2010, the form 990 report salary and wages for \$1.4 million as a nonprofit organization, members have a right to know what each employee is getting paid each month."

It is against the law to share individual compensation packages beyond what is required by the 990 which requires that we show the taxable income of National officers, and we strive to remain in compliance with wage and hour laws, and in doing so -- in answering this question, we also have conferred and confirmed with the Legion's Judge Advocate that it is against HIPPA privacy laws to make available benefits and salaries of non-officers. If we did so, it would be an invasion of privacy and we would open ourselves up to lawsuits, so that answers that question.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Our third question identified that they thought were major discrepancies between a presentation that Finance Chairman Desi Stoy presented at the LLC, as well as discrepancies compared to the membership workshop that was presented. And so, looking at presentation styles, no two people present the same information in the same way.

Finance Committee, we have reviewed the documents that were presented. The information was consistent and accurate and so it was just a difference

between Desi's style of presenting and Kris' style of presenting so it did look different on the screen, but the content was the same.

Tim is going to focus on not-for-profit organization, and what does profit sharing mean on the Consolidated Financial Report?

MR. BRESHNAHAN: Okay. The question received on that was, "How can a non-profit organization have a profit sharing as shown on page 18 of the notes of the Consolidated Financial Statement?"

Our audited Consolidated Financial Statements, it is a little confusing on terminology. For a non-profit corporation, the term "profit sharing" is referring to the retirement benefit plan that we have for our employees. That is all it is. It is not a share of profits. It is a 401K. And all non-profits are fully authorized to have 401K retirement plans for their employees.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Thank you, Tim.

On Question No. 5 were, "Why wouldn't the monthly lease of National Headquarters be a set amount instead of a range?"

Well, leases are set up in two components. The National Headquarters lease has one affixed monthly payment, and then there is a variable payment that is included in the shared maintenance costs with other tenants in the building. So that would be items that could be weather related, such as changes in heating costs, changes in fuel costs that we have all experienced, and so for us, the rent is paid on a calendar year, but as you realize, our fiscal year is not calendar year, so it may look odd on the statements, but it is a variable and a fixed component for the rent.

And lastly, there were comments regarding transparency and dealing of information and so Tim is going to finalize the comments on the last question that we had today.

MR. BRESHNAHAN: Okay. I am going to read the question. "The National Organization must be completely transparent in their dealings, including the salary and wages of all employees. By this National Convention in Minneapolis, a complete line item list of expenses and a complete line item list of income with complete honesty, show us how it is to be spent."

Okay. First, I want to give you a little visual. Our budget has approximately 900 line items. It can be reviewed at National Headquarters any time you want or you can also request that we send you one for a slight cost. I also want to point out, our organizational structure has a Finance Committee to oversee the daily finance activities and budget management with the assistance of National Chairmen, the Audit Committee to review financial activity on an annual basis in conjunction with the form 990 filing, and an external audit by our CPA firm.

Regarding external audit, we have had clean audits for the past 15 years, and our auditors just don't come in and mail it in. They review every aspect of our financial management and reports to the public, and again, we've received a clean audit for the past 15 years.

And I also wanted to point out that about a year and a half ago we instituted sending out quarterly financial statements to the NECs and PNPs in the spirit of full disclosure and transparency. And we have also -- I think last year was our first year

to do this, but it was my goal to get you, the voters of the budgets, the information to review prior to convention and we have done that the past two years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Let's give Tim a round of applause. Thank you, Tim.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Tim is now going to pull up on the screen for you our VISTA grants, and I know some of you may be new in the organization. It is obviously your role. So I just wanted to take a minute to take a look at Exhibit A and B. And even to go over the concepts of what is VISTA. Well CNCS, at the top, is the Corporation for National and Community Service, and VISTA stands for Volunteers In Service To America.

This is our third year that we have been fortunate to be working with the corporation. The first grant that you see is our operating grant. Now, this relates to those footnotes that you saw on the detailed budget, and down below you will see a GR. That is reimbursable expenses. Again, it is a passthrough for us. So you see at the bottom, if Tim scrolls to the bottom of the screen, that there is an \$11,750, looks to be expense to the Auxiliary. That expense is something that we would and do budget for because that was our staff, our own human capital. Now, we have 40 volunteers out into the departments and we have six volunteers working VISTA volunteers at National Headquarters. So it is an expense we would have had.

I hear someone say, "Awesome." Exactly. Awesome. Thank you.

And then, moving on to Exhibit B, is the VISTA grant for, it says, consortium. This is our opportunity because of our success with our initial VISTA grants, we are now a conduit to send money to other supporting organizations, and VISTA volunteers. Those would be National Military Family Association; R2R, which we're very familiar with; Blue Star Mothers; Big Brothers and Sisters; and another example would be the Operation Home Front.

And again, you will see down in the bolded area the GRs, and then this note about those expenses. Typically at 25 percent match which again would be a passthrough of expenses we were incurring to provide the programs ourselves. The only piece that we do have is the health insurance costs for two full time volunteers. Okay.

So hopefully that is a little education on VISTA and the opportunities they afford to us. So at this point in time, Madam Chairman, I would ask for approval on behalf of the Finance Committee for the 2011-2012 ALA budget.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Since the motion comes from a committee, a second is not required. The question is on the approval of the proposed FY 2012 is presented. Is there a discussion?

MS. THEISS: Good morning. Doris Theiss, Department of Arizona. I am just curious and I have a question. I apologize, also, for not sending this in.

PRESIDENT NELSON: That is okay.

MS. THEISS: On Number 125 --

PRESIDENT NELSON: Okay.

MS. THEISS: -- the expense of marketing and the "public relation," does that pertain to our costs of this coming year for the magazine or can you explain that total cost, please?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Sure. Tim, you want to pull up 125?  
That includes internal/external marketing and part of our PR campaign,

yes.

MS. THEISS: And one other here, 145, youth programs, Children & Youth. Does that entail administrative costs or could you explain that?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Sure. Absolutely. In a not-for-profit corporation such as our own, staff expenses are distributed to the related programs that they are working at the time, so yes, there would be staff allocation into that figure.

MS. THEISS: Thank you. And I think that was the last one. I had three marked off, but some other state had that question. Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. Is there any other discussion? Are you ready for the question?

The question is on the adoption of the FY 2012 budget as presented.

All in favor say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Opposed "no."

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: The motion to approve the proposed FY 2012 budget has passed. Thank you, Nicole and Tim.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: You're welcome. And Madam Chairman, may I now proceed to the Foundation Budget, please?

The Foundation, Tim will pull up that document for us. We have a very active Foundation. I think a major round of applause for meeting our public service obligation of \$75,000 this year. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: We always sleep better when we are in compliance with the IRS.

And so you will see the Foundation budget. This has been approved by the Foundation Board. It has been reviewed by National Headquarters. It has been reviewed by us, the Finance Committee, and we will recommend this budget also be approved.

And the main things that I think are important, you saw in Trish's report yesterday, reaching out, being creative, and that's what their budget entails. Looking at Michael Peterson, I met him in the hallway the other day or Pat Sajak commercials.

And so, for us, they will continue with their ambassador program. They have, I think it is 53 ambassadors in 31 states. They need more of us. We need to also help champion that. I was very proud to have on my nametag a Foundation donation this year and I carry my poppy bag with me at my meetings.

So for us, their budget is a lot simpler, maybe is the phrase. And so for them, their total revenue is budgeted hopefully for a proposal of \$63,000 and expenses. So our net of expenses, we got some work to do. We like to be in the black, but we would like to be better in the black.

Now, just keep sight of the note here. This does not include what they do have endowed in donations. So that is \$69,000 that is not reflected in their operating budget.

So at this point in time on behalf of the Finance Committee, I would ask for approval of the 2011-2012, ALA Foundation budget. Madam President.

PRESIDENT NELSON: The question is on the approval of the proposed FY2012 budget as presented. Is there any discussion? Are you ready for the question?

The question is on the adoption of the FY2012 Foundation budget as presented. All in favor say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Opposed "no."

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you. I would like you to consider donations to the National President's Project which is the Foundation this year.

Thank you, Nicole.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: And since you approved my appointments, I can now ask the National Chairmen who will be serving this year to please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT NELSON: Thank you all very much.

Is there any other business to come before this NEC meeting? Okay.

Then we will have announcements from Dubbie. Do you have any announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, I only have three announcements. Announcement number one, congratulations for presiding over your first NEC meetings and best wishes for your year as National President of this great organization.

Announcement number two, thank you to everyone in this room for your service to this organization and the different roles that you fulfill.

Announcement number three -- okay, I am going to make 3 1/2 announcements. Announcement number three, thank you to the National staff who are here. Usually they are heads down dealing with things. I would like them to stand.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. We have Joni, Tamara, and Tim and, of course, Marta and Dubbie here with you today.

And Item 3 1/2, since I won't say I have 4, is safe travels to everyone as you head back home. Thank you for your time and diligence during this convention.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Tamara. Okay. The NEC and the National Chairmen and the Past National Presidents have a gift for you that Tamara will give you as we leave.

As we close the first meeting of the 2011-2012 National Executive Committee, I leave you with these words. Let us never forget that obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance and all duties of citizenship. Let

service in the community, state and nation be ever a main objection 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 path of justice and freedom, loyalty and democracy. Please stand and we will hear a closing prayer from Nini Lynch.

CHAPLAIN LYNCH: Let us pray. Father, we come to you in gratitude for all the hard work that the chairmen, the officers and the past national leaders bring to our organization. We ask you, Lord, to keep everyone safe until we can be back together again.

God bless and keep us, be with us as we leave this place, grant us a peaceful night of rest as we prepare for our departure or for those who are leaving today. Be with us and keep us in your grace as we go our separate ways, that we will return to our home safely. And as always, we pray for our servicemen and women serving here and abroad and their families as they wait for them to return. Keep them safe.

All these things we ask in your holy name. Amen.

PRESIDENT NELSON: Ladies, this concludes our first NEC meeting for the 2011-2012 Auxiliary year. Have safe travels home. Thank you.

(Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 11:12 a.m.)

**Appendix A**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE  
NATIONAL CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS,  
RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ADOPTED BY  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
91ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2011  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**



## 2011 SUMMARY OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS AS ADOPTED

### **2011 National American Legion Auxiliary Resolutions and Amendments as Adopted**

The final proceedings of the American Legion Auxiliary Washington DC Conference National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting are posted on the national website ALAforVeterans.org.

The 2010-11 Minutes Approval Committee has completed its review and approval of the minutes of the 2010-11 NEC Meeting held prior to National Convention and they will be posted on the national website ALAforVeterans.org.

The 2011-12 Minutes Approval Committee has completed its review and approval of the minutes of the 2011-12 NEC Meeting held following National Convention and they will be posted on the national website ALAforVeterans.org.

The proceedings of the 91<sup>st</sup> American Legion Auxiliary Annual National Convention held August 27 – September 1, 2011 in Minneapolis, MN are being published and will be posted on the national website ALAforVeterans.org.

### **Resolutions adopted by 2010-2011 National Executive Committee in 2011:**

**The 2010-2011 National Executive Committee (NEC) at its mid-winter meeting held in Washington DC on March 19, 2011 adopted the following:**

- ***Providing flexibility in scheduling the Presidents and Secretaries Conference***  
that Section III of the American Legion Auxiliary Standing Rules be amended to delete the words “as soon after the National Convention as possible” and be effective upon adoption.

**The 2010-2011 National Executive Committee (NEC) at its Pre-Convention meeting held in Minneapolis, MN on August 27, 2011 adopted the following:**

- ***Commending and supporting the American Legion Riders***  
that the American Legion Auxiliary commend The American Legion Riders for its outstanding contributions to the ideals and purpose of The American Legion Family and its accomplishments as a national program of The American Legion; and, encourage its members to recognize the impact of The Legion Riders and to support Auxiliary members who are also Legion Riders and welcome and encourage their involvement as participants and leaders in Auxiliary meetings and events.
- ***Congratulating participants and commending volunteers supporting Ride 2 Recovery***  
that the American Legion Auxiliary congratulate the more than 200 injured veterans and their supporters participating in the five-day, 270-mile 2011 Ride 2 Recovery Great Lakes Challenge to support rehabilitation for injured veterans, beginning at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System facility on August 23, 2011 and ending at the American Legion Family National Convention Saturday, August 27, 2011 in Minneapolis; and, that the American

*Legion Auxiliary commend its members for their volunteer service and in-kind support at all levels provided to Ride 2 Recovery, and encourage its members to engage in community service outreach with programs such as Ride 2 Recovery that are in harmony with the Auxiliary's mission to support our veterans, servicemembers, and their families.*

- ***Commending First Lady Obama and the White House Joining Forces initiative***  
*that the American Legion Auxiliary commend First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden for their support of America's veterans and military and responds enthusiastically to the launching of the national Joining Forces initiative; that the American Legion Auxiliary pledges to continue answering the Joining Forces call to action, steadfastly and unassumingly, as the organization has for the past nine decades; and that with its heritage of service and history of action, the American Legion Auxiliary pledges that its contribution to Joining Forces will be to urge the 9,500 local units across the nation to organize service projects for military families in their communities and to publicize those service opportunities to the general public so that anyone in the community can join with our members to do what we all believe every single American can and should do in honor of our military and veterans.*
- ***Requiring the membership card to depict a member's length of time as a member***  
*that the National organization take steps to restore the system of matching the continuous years shown on the membership cards for 2013 and subsequent years to reflect the year in which a member has since belonged to the American Legion Auxiliary after her dues are paid for the membership year shown on the card by depicting the year that a member became or re-instated her membership (depicted as "Member since year joined or re-joined").*

### **Resolutions Adopted at National Convention in 2011:**

**The 2011 American Legion Auxiliary at its National Convention general sessions held August 30-31, 2011 in Minneapolis, MN, adopted the following resolutions:**

- ***Changed the name of the Washington DC Conference, dropping the name Awareness Assembly***  
*that the American Legion Auxiliary's annual convening of members in our nation's capitol be heretofore referred to as the American Legion Auxiliary Washington D.C. conference, and that that there be no requirement for nor restriction against the national organization holding, marketing or promoting the annual Washington D.C. conference by any specified name; and, that Standing Rule VI. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: #3. be amended to read: "If the National Executive Committee meets at the time of the Washington D.C. conference (emphasis added) and if facilities permit, Department Presidents may be granted permission to attend the session of the National Executive Committee.", and that any other references to Awareness Assembly in policy and other documents be changed to reference the American Legion Auxiliary Washington D.C. conference.*
- ***Extended the timeframe for mailing membership renewal notices***  
*that the date by which the National Headquarters mail renewal notices be extended to September 15 on the year before the membership year for which the dues are to be paid*

## **Amendments Adopted at National Convention in 2011:**

**The 2011 American Legion Auxiliary at its National Convention general sessions held August 30-31, 2011 in Minneapolis, MN, adopted the following amendments:**

- ***Re-wrote the Pre-Convention Section of the Standing Rules to clarify roles and to open the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Con Meeting to all delegates***

*The Standing Rule Section II, Number 6, pertaining to Convention Committees was amended to define pre-convention committees and to require the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention meeting to be held openly and at a time not in conflict with any other Pre-Convention Committee meeting to allow all delegates to ask clarifying questions;*

*The Pre-Convention Meetings section of the Standing Rules – Standing Rule Section II, Number 6 – takes effect in the 2011-2012 administrative year, and now reads as follows:*

*6. There shall be the following named Convention committees. The general duties of the committees shall be to consider matters assigned to such committees, to consider matters specifically referred to them by the Convention, and to conduct other business as described in this section.*

*a) There shall be the following special Convention committees:*

*1) Committee on Credentials: The purpose of the Committee on Credentials is to receive and verify the credentials of the Departments and to handle all matters pertaining to the contestation of delegates.*

*2) Committee on Rules: The purpose of the Committee on Rules is to formulate the rules under which the Convention shall operate.*

*3) Committee on Resolutions: The purpose of the Committee on Resolutions is to receive resolutions and refer them to the proper Pre-Convention Committees, and to formulate such Convention resolutions not within the jurisdiction of the other established Pre-Convention Committees as listed in this section. This committee shall meet in advance of the other Pre-Convention Committee meetings to allow ample time to properly assign the resolutions to the other Pre-Convention Committees prior to their convening. This committee has no authority to take any action on a resolution other than to refer it to the appropriate Pre-Convention Committee, unless there is a written opinion from Counsel General that a resolution is illegal and can cause the organization, its officers, its National Executive Committee members, appointees and other members to become liable. In such an event, the Committee on Resolutions shall report said action to the Convention body.*

*At the Pre-Convention Meeting of the Committee on Resolutions, resolutions not within the jurisdiction of any other Pre-Convention Committee shall be presented for explanation by a member of the Committee on Resolutions. Upon conclusion of discussion of each resolution, the committee may vote to either a) recommend to the convention body that a proposed resolution be adopted; b) recommend to the convention body that a proposed resolution not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the convention body regarding a proposed resolution. Each member of the Committee on Resolutions and one representative from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the convention body. The committee on Resolutions shall report on all resolutions to the Convention body.*

b.) Any other special convention committee as deemed appropriate by the National President.

c.) Pre-Convention Committees shall exist for the National Chaplains and National Historian, and for the following standing committees: Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cavalcade of Memories, Children and Youth, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws (see additional subsection on Constitution and Bylaws in this section), Education, Finance, Girls State, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation, Membership, National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, Public Relations, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

The Pre-Convention Committees for the National Chaplain and National Historian shall be comprised of the national officer plus one member assigned by each department. These Pre-Convention Committees that correlate to the standing committees shall be comprised of members of the correlating standing committee plus one member assigned by each department.

The purpose of these Pre-Convention Committee meetings is to consider and to make recommendations upon subject matters assigned, to receive reports from their corresponding committees, to review accomplishments and best practices of the year, to recognize committee members, departments, units or others for exemplary achievements, to insure a smooth transition to the incoming standing committee and to offer recommendations regarding goals and other pertinent matters to foster advancement and fulfillment of the Auxiliary's mission, and to make a recommendation on each proposal assigned to it by the Resolutions Committee. Upon conclusion of open discussion regarding each proposal, the committee may vote to either a) recommend to the convention body that a proposal be adopted; b) recommend to the convention body that a proposal not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the convention body regarding a proposal.

All Pre-Convention Committee meetings shall be open to all delegates. Only those delegates assigned to the Pre-Convention Committee shall have voice and vote, unless authorized by a majority vote of the Pre-Convention Committee, in which case voice only may be granted. Each proposal shall be presented for explanation by a member of the Pre-Convention Committee. Upon conclusion of open discussion of each proposal the committee may vote to either a) recommend to the convention body that a proposed resolution be adopted; b) recommend to the convention body that a proposed resolution not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the convention body regarding a proposed resolution. Each member of a Pre-Convention Committee and one representative assigned from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the convention body.

d.) The purpose of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws is to receive and consider all proposed amendments to the governing documents that are to be presented to the convention body, and to verify that amendments adopted by the Convention are correctly incorporated into the governing documents.

The purpose of the Pre-Convention meeting of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws is to clarify the meaning of the proposals.

The Pre-Convention Committee meeting on Constitution and Bylaws shall be open to all national convention delegates and shall be held at a time that does not conflict with the

*meetings of all other Pre-Convention Committees. Each proposed amendment shall be presented for explanation by a member of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. Any delegate may ask a clarifying question. Such questions from non-members of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws shall be limited to clarifying the intent or purpose of a proposal. There shall be no debate on the merits of the proposal based on clarifying questions from non-members of the committee. Upon conclusion of open discussion regarding clarification of each proposed amendment, the committee may discuss the merits of the proposal and may vote to either a) recommend to the convention body that a proposed amendment be adopted; b) recommend to the convention body that a proposed amendment not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the convention body regarding a proposed amendment. Each member of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and one representative assigned from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the convention body.*

- **Changed the annual amount of national senior membership dues**

*Article IX, Section 3 was amended to read: The National per capita dues shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per annum for Junior members, and nine dollars (\$9.00) per annum for Senior members, effective in the 2013 membership year, and shall include a subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary National Magazine for Senior members. Each Department shall remit the National per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least once each month.*

### **Resolutions adopted by 2011-2012 National Executive Committee in 2011:**

**The 2011-2012 National Executive Committee (NEC) at its Post-Convention meeting held in Minneapolis, MN on August 27, 2011 adopted the following:**

- **Approving the FY2012 annual national budgets and national appointments**

*The NEC adopted separate motions that approved the FY 2012 annual national budget for the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, and affirmed the national appointments of the 2011-2012 National President Kris Nelson and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation directors. These actions are annually executed via motions from the NEC, not by resolutions.*

**The 2011-2012 National Executive Committee (NEC) at its virtual meeting held November 30, 2011 adopted the following:**

- **Approved establishing an ALA Affinity Credit Card Program with USAA**

*that the American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters is authorized to enter into an agreement with USAA to establish an affinity credit card program as a member benefit that will initially be offered in the Spring of 2012.*

###

*End of 2011 Annual Summary – NEC/Convention Resolutions/Amendments*

## **Appendix B**

### **AWARDS**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>	<b>DEPT</b>
Dorothy Pearl Plaque	Engraved Plaque	Unit	Carries out and reports the most outstanding Americanism Youth Program	Marilyn Bayless	Iowa
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Barbara Benz	Ohio
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Janet Mahoney	New York
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Beverly Neel	Nebraska
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Sharon Neville	North Carolina
Department Americanism Award.	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best Overall Department program in Division	Virginia Davenport	New Mexico
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Central Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Kayla Cain	Wisconsin
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Central Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Kyla Dilger	Indiana
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Central Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Molly Munsinger	Missouri
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Central Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Tyler Niebur	Wisconsin
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Central Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Alyssa Beerup	Illinois
Americanism Essay Contest Awards:	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Eastern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Jack DeMayo	Massachusetts

Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Eastern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Jenna-Marie Turminello	Pennsylvania
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Eastern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Kayleigh Herrmann	New Jersey
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Eastern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Ellen Kim	New Jersey
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Eastern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Maria Burt	Vermont
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Northwestern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Elizabeth J. Hodges	Nebraska
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Northwestern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	John McEwen	Montana
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Northwestern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Kelsey Nekl	Nebraska
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Northwestern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Katelyn Graber	South Dakota
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Northwestern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Kara Fischbach	South Dakota
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Southern Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Reed Latimer	Alabama
Americanism Essay Contest Awards	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Southern Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Jeremiah Bretches	Texas
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Southern Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Clarie Bubeck	Virginia
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Southern Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	John Sinnott	Florida
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Southern Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Alanna Turner	Georgia
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Western Division - Class I	Write a narrative 150-250 words.	Martin Chavez	Idaho
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Western Division - Class II	Write a narrative 250-300 words.	Sydney McMinn	Idaho
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Western Division - Class III	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Zoe Frentress	Nevada

**AWARDS LISTING: 2010-2011****Committee: Americanism**

Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Western Division - Class IV	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Elizabeth Pace	Utah
Americanism Essay Contest Award	Citation Folder and \$50 Award & Honorarium	Western Division - Class V	Write a narrative 450-500 words.	Amanda Branstetter	Oregon
Junior Americanism Award	Citation Plaque	Unit/Dept.	Awarded to a Junior for Most Outstanding Americanism Program	Macy Phillips	North Carolina

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual- Central Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Rose M. Wenger, Unit 84, Department of Wisconsin
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 and Mary A. Otte, Unit 340, Department of Nebraska
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual - Western Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Midge E. Farrar, Unit 6, Department of California
Citation Plaque Recognition	Citation Plaque	Individual - Southern Division	One individual member contributing largest amount from each division	Bette L. McMorrow, Unit 186, 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, \$3,946.17 as of 06/01/2011
Citation Plaque Recognition @ National Convention	Citation Plaque	Department	Contributing the largest donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Department of Minnesota, \$13,730.56 as of 06/01/2011

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Best Overall Department Chairman Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Chairman in the Central Division	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words	Department of Iowa, Mary Jo Tillman, Chairman
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	Department of Delaware, Carole Baldwin, Chairman
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	Department of Montana, Fran Allen, Chairman
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	Department of Texas, Kim Palasota, Chairman
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	Department of California, Anita Biggs, Chairman
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	KT Crossen Unit 21, Kathy Hecht, Chairman
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	Jolene Fogery & Gail Maston, Dalton Unit 155
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	Millard Unit 374, Patricia Rahn, Chairman

<p>Outstanding Unit Chairman Award</p>	<p>Citation Plaque</p>	<p>A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division</p>	<p>Conducted best promotion of Children &amp; Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words</p>	<p>Veterans Memorial Unit #347, Chairmen Carol L. Pirone and Charlene Gero</p>
<p>Outstanding Unit Chairman Award</p>	<p>Citation Plaque</p>	<p>A Unit Chairman in the Western Division</p>	<p>Conducted best promotion of Children &amp; Youth Program. Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words</p>	<p>Lake Stevens Unit 181, Karen Morea, Chairman</p>

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Outstanding Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department Community Service Chairman in the Central Division	Most Outstanding Community Service Program 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.	Susan Selk, Department of Iowa
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.	Kathy Foor, Department of Pennsylvania
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.	Jean Horaack, Department of Minnesota
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.	Katherine Pfeil, Department of North Carolina

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.	Michelle Soares, Department of California
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.	Darius-Girenas Unit 271, Lombard, IL
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.	Liverpool Unit 188, Liverpool, NY
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.	Sam Dipaolo Unit 1985 Firestone, Firestone, CO
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	Duluth Unit 251, Duluth, GA

Outstanding Unit Award	Citation Plaque	A Unit in the Western Division	narrative of 1,000 words as well as annual report form. 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.	(no entries)
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Estelle Laub, Boxracher-Berry Unit 519, Athens, WI
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	(no entries)
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Mary Hendrickson, Unit 71, West Duluth, MN
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Darlene Money, Unit 127, Buford, GA
Senior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Carol Robbins, CA

Junior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Caitlin Rosemeyer, Cecil Tormey Unit 118, Thorp, WI
Junior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Bethany Bates, PA
Junior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Kelsey Geracts, George A. Fitzgerald Unit 65, Colton, SD
Junior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	Heather M. Pence, Unit 27, Dayton, VA
Junior Volunteer of the Year	Citation	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.	(no entries)

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Most Outstanding American Education Week Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding American Education Week Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Arlington Unit 139, Department of Virginia, Betty Dahlke, Chairman
Most Outstanding Scholarship Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Scholarship Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Alonzo Martinez Unit 187, Department of Colorado, Carmen Martinez, Chairman
Most Outstanding Literacy Program	Citation Plaque	Unit Education Chairman:	Most Outstanding Literacy Program/Narrative of no more than 1,000 words	Arlington Unit 139, Department of Virginia, Betty Dahlke, 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	Collinwood Unit 254, Department of Tennessee, Peggy Monroe, Chairman
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Central Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Central Division	Pat Kranzow, Chairman, Department of Illinois
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Eastern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Eastern Division	Kathryn Toni, Chairman, Department of New York
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Northwestern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Northwestern Division	Susie Bozella, Chairman, Department of Colorado
Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Southern Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Southern Division	Paula Kampanos, Chairman, Department of Virginia

Most Outstanding Department Education Program	Citation Plaque	Western Division Department Education Chairman	Most Outstanding Overall Department Education Program in the Western Division.	Harriet Clendenin, Chairman, Department of California
---	-----------------	---	---	--

**AWARDS LISTING: 2010-2011**

**Committee: Historian**

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Central Division	Linda Sullivan Department of Kansas
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Eastern Division	Carole Baldwin Department of Delaware
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	Marcy J Schmidt Department of North Dakota
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	B K Hill Department of Virginia
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Western Division	Karen Smith Department of Arizona
Toomey Award	National Plaque	Senior Department Historian	Submitted the best overall department history	B K Hill Department of Virginia
National Plaque	Citation Plaque	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Accumulated the highest overall score for their department history	Danielle Handke Department of Oregon
Certificate of Participation	Citation	Senior Department Historian	Submitted a department history	29 participants
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted a department history in the Central Division	none
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted a department history in the Eastern Division	none
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Northwestern Division	none
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Southern Division	none
Certificate of Merit	Citation	Honorary Junior Department Historian	Submitted the best department history in the Western Division	Danielle Handke Department of Oregon

			Division	
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Central Division	none
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Eastern Division	none
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Northwestern Division	none
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Western Division	none
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Submitted essay of why she chose to participate in Veterans History Project, limit of 250 words, Southern Division	none
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Submits a department history	Caitlin Nickless and Danielle Handke
Letter of Participation	Letter	Junior Member	Forwards a copy of a Veterans History using Veterans History Project Form	Janice Spriggs Department of California Barbara Kleher Department of Minnesota

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Department Social Networking Award (one national winner)	Engraved Plaque	Department	Largest increase of Junior Members participating in electronic social networking by June 1, 2011	Department of South Dakota
National Plaque - Best Overall Junior Activities program	Engraved Plaque	Unit Chairman	Best Overall Junior Activities Program- citing at least two action steps from each of the objectives in the Plan of Action	Arlington Unit 139 – Department of Virginia
Unit Award - Best in Division	Citation	Central Division Unit Chairman	Best Unit Junior Activities Program in Division, including one action step from each of the objectives in the Plan of Action	Schlender Polly Unit 239 – Department of Wisconsin
Unit Award - Best in Division	Citation	Eastern Division Unit Chairman	Best Unit Junior Activities Program in Division, including one action step from each of the objectives in the Plan of Action	<i>No entries</i>
Unit Award - Best in Division	Citation	Northwestern Division Unit Chairman	Best Unit Junior Activities Program in Division, including one action step from each of the objectives in the Plan of Action	Brentford Unit 242 – Department of South Dakota
Unit Award - Best in Division	Citation	Southern Division Unit Chairman	Best Unit Junior Activities Program in Division, including one action step from each of the objectives in the Plan of Action	<i>No entries</i>
Unit Award - Best in Division	Citation	Western Division Unit Chairman	Best Unit Junior Activities Program in Division, including one action step from	Beaver Unit 32 – Department of Utah

**AWARDS LISTING: 2010-2011****Committee: Junior Activities**

National Junior Member of the Year	Engraved Plaque	Junior Member in good standing for 2010-2011 who is not serving as HDJP.	each of the objectives in the Plan of Action	
			Outstanding contribution through program or project outlined in the Plan of Action -nominated via essay.	Juliana Brunnet - Brook Park Unit 610, District 13, Department of Ohio

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Most Outstanding Overall Department Leadership Program	Citation Plaque	Department	Department that submitted the best report on the overall activities and promotion of the Leadership program	Linda Fercho, Chairman Department of California  Eastern Division Linda S. Tome, Chairman James R. Hickey Unit 120 Department of New York
Best Unit Leadership Chairman	Citation in Folder	Unit Leadership Chairman - one per division	Unit Leadership Chair that submitted the best report on the overall activities and promotion of the Leadership program.	Northwestern Division Jan Reiter, Chairman Anoka Unit 102 Department of Minnesota  Southern Division Barbara McAdams Herbert Griffin Unit 19 Department of Tennessee  Western Division Nina Nelson Milwaukie Unit 180 Department of Oregon  Central Division Barbara Looney, Chairman Henry Meldrum Unit 114 Department of Missouri

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON OR GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Department Chairman Central Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Department of Iowa Cindy Meyer, Chairman
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall Department program	Department of Delaware Virginia Potts, Chairman
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Department of Nebraska Deb Bader, Chairman
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Department of Oklahoma Sherree Bertolasio, Chairman
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Department Chairman Western Division	Best overall Department program in Division	Department of California Gloria J. Williams, Chairman
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Unit Chairman Central Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Ann Crawford, Chairman David McNeil Unit 129, Department of Iowa
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Unit Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Lisa Buonomo, Chairman, Hudson Unit 48, Department of New Hampshire
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Sondra Erickson, Chairman, Woodcock-Herbst Unit 216, Department of Minnesota
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Unit Chairman Southern Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Rose A. Larsen, Chairman H.U. Wood Unit 245, Department of Texas
Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program	Citation	Unit Chairman Western Division	Best overall Unit program in Division	Carol Rissell, Chairman Santiam Unit 51, Department of Oregon

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:		
				Dept /Unit	President	Membership Chair
<b>Milestone 1 (60%)</b>	Honorary seat in the "golden circle" during the Presidents & Secretaries banquet	Dept Presidents & Secretaries of top 5 depts	Department must reach their 60% milestone (60% of their numeric objective) by October 1, 2010	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Milestone 2 (75%)</b>	National Level Recognition	Department	Department must reach 75% of numeric objective by Tuesday, February 1, 2011			
				MN	Darlene Wondra	Sandra K. Fredrickson
				IA	Marilyn Block	Ann Crawford
				WI	Florence Wasley	Joyce Endres
				NE	Charleen Walters	JoAnn R. Sieck
				SD	Sue Christensen	Patricia Coyle
				ND	Ginny Brazil	Carrie L. Heinz
				DE	Jenny Havel	Tina Washington
				LA	Barbara White	Kenya Battiste
				TN	Sue Cantrell	Peggy M. Monroe
				PA	Beverly Reinhard	Patricia S. Mannix
				NC	Wanda Moore	Sue M. Gooch

			FL	Irma Wehrli	Michelle R. Degennaro
			AZ	Doris Theiss	Sharon L. Doran
			NY	Nancy Kurk	Ann Geer
			OH	Linda Close	Viola Grzybowski
			KS	Trish Ward	
			VT	Elaine Macenzie	Candace A. Huseman
			CA	Pilar Reyes	Alzora Carter
			MO	Patricia Garrett	Claudia Goodin
			MS	Mary Lyles	Sarah Edwards
			TX	Diana King	Joan C. Swiatkowski
			CT	Ruth Morgan	Alcyne M. Welton
			NJ	Linda Carroll	Roslyn C. Belton
			OR	Trudie McGriff	Pat A. Calhoun-Floren
			KY	Barbara J. Austin	
			GA	Lola Harper	Susie Mash
			WY	Pam Acosta	Linda Lenker-Orr
			NH	Elizabeth J. Ward	Joyce B. Flanders

<b>Milestone 3 (100%)</b>	For 2011 - National Level Recognition plus special ribbon for National Convention Badge	Department - delegates to National Convention	Department must reach their numeric objective 30 days prior to National Convention (July 30, 2011)	RI	Margaret Walsh	Lorraine Boucher
<b>Numeric Objective</b>	For 2011 - National Level Recognition plus special ribbon for National Convention Badge	Department - delegates to National Convention	Department must grow membership 1% or more over numeric objective by 30 days prior to National Convention (July 30, 2011)			
<b>Part A</b>				N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Numeric Objective</b>	Eligibility to win a laptop computer (one per membership category)	Department - 1 in each membership category	Department must grow membership 1% or more over numeric objective by 30 days prior to National Convention (July 30, 2011)			
<b>Part B</b>					N/A	N/A
<b>Unit Development</b>	National President's Choice	top three departments	Top 3 departments that have chartered the highest number of new ALA units 30 days prior to national convention.			
<b>Award</b>	for 2011 - \$500 check payable to dept. to be used for membership efforts			NC	Wanda Moore	Sue M. Gooch
<b>Hobart Award</b>	framed print of Edith Hobard portrait	Department Headquarters	Department with greatest percentage increase over its	TN	Sue Cantrell	Peggy M. Monroe
					N/A	N/A

			highest membership year as of 30 days prior to national convention (July 30, 2011)		
	National President's Citation, "Service Not Self" bracelet for each member of winning unit and recognition at National Convention	Units	Units must show how practicing "Service Not Self" has helped them maintain or even grow their membership.	<b>Awarded To:</b>	
	Convention			Cecil M. Anderson Unit #0589 - California	
				Lausing Unit #0411 - Kansas	
				Argonne Unit #0061 - Nebraska	
				<b>Recognized</b>	
<b>Service Not Self Award</b>	Each Unit submitting a Service Not Self nomination form receives a "Certificate of Admiration" Signed by the National President & National Chairman	Finis Gallion Unit #30 - AR	Oak Orchard/Riverdale Unit #28 - DE	Glenn-Morrison Unit #70 - OR	
		Campbell-Edgmon Unit #93 - CA	L.E. "Tommy" Thomas Unit #375 - FL	Colchester Unit #91 - VT	
		South Bay Unit #184 - CA	Ehrig-Mc Turk Unit #127 - IA	Art Semro Unit #28 - WA	
		Downey Unit #270 - CA	Eugene M. Connor Unit #193 - MA	Trier-Puddy Unit #75	
		Rivera Unit #411 - CA	Hovious-Grayson Unit #112 - MS	Burton-Koppang Unit #81 - WI	
		Lakewood Unit #496 - CA	Gautier-Vanceleave Unit #1992 - MS	Cambria Unit #401 - WI	
		Hollydale Unit #723 - CA	Mervin J. Armstrong Unit #113 - ND	Roy Montgomery Unit #80 - WY	
		Lincoln Village Unit #833 - CA	Palmer-Roberts Unit #214 - OH	Hole-In-The-Wall Unit #90 - WY	

Silver Brigade	President's Choice	Senior Auxiliary, Legion & SAL mbrs	Awarded to ALA, TAL or SAL member who recruits 25 or more senior members by June 1, 2011	Awarded To:	
				Pam Acosta	Linda K. Latimer
				Shirlene Armstrong	Pauline Law
				Loretta A. Ash	Kathy Leedy
				Debra Beeler	Bev Letexier
				Tracy Boicourt	Georgetta R. Mancourt
				Bonnie L. Burke	Lorene Martin
				Linda Campbell	Melveta Mason
				Kristy Canfield	Patricia May
				Sue Cantrell	Michele McEwan
				Betty Carlson	Connie Melton
				Ginger Cox	Sandra Faye Mick
				Synoma Croslin	Mary Mote
				Margaret J. David	Beth Oeser
				Kathy Falk	Patty Polson
				Sandra J. Fanelli	Nancy S. Rankin

				Linda Feezer	Ann Rascio
				Sherry Fortenberry	Judy Schreiber
				Eleanor Goonan	Glenda Schultz
				Vicky Graham	Tammy Sollazzo
				Cathy Griffith	Karen Jo Still
				Melinda L. Hackney	Linda Strauser
				Carol Haines	Sherry Sullivan
				Marie Hand	Monra Tatum
				Linda Herndon	Pat Wallace
				Marilyn Jedrey	Jessamie Ware
				Darla Jones	Lynda Winkles
				Patricia W. Kane	Marlene Wournell
<b>Recruit 3</b>	Recruiter Pin	Senior Auxiliary, Legion & SAL mbrs	Awarded to ALA, TAL or SAL member who recruits 3 or more new Seniors by May 1, 2011		
<b>Awarded To:</b>					
	<b>Alabama:</b>	<b>California:</b>	Tina Washington	Virigina Tinney	
	Marie Adams	Chris Alexander	Collen S. Willis	Patricia Todero	
	Flora Campbell	Roseann Bean	<b>Florida:</b>	Diane Trazzera	

Carol Ann Newburn	Elisabeth M. Billingsley	Michael Adcock *TAL	<b>Georgia:</b>
Carole Reid	Nancy Brown-Park	Tamie Beaudoin	Deborah Blackwell
<b>Alaska:</b>	Sharlotte Collins	Debbie Bluto	Kari Breedlove
Gloria Garrett	Patti Coppes	Diane Bouck	Brenda Brown Anderson
<b>Arizona:</b>	Kim Crone	Sandra Burgess	Valerie Brown-Debro
Christa Berlin	Toni M. Domondon	Barbara Chapman-Thomas	Beatrice Carmona
Stella Bugh	Carol A. Fuqua	M. Cher Easley	Regina Chapman
Dahlia Candelaria	Judy C. Gama	Lois J. Frames	Dot Frazier
Bertha Coates	Angela Gray	Margaret M Gannon	Johnnie Gilbert
Michelle Dimock	Martha Huff	Marilynn Gauthier	Ellen Golliver
Sharon Doran	Cynthia Mayfield	Claudine Guillet-Alvarez	Lola Harper
Pepper Evans	Diane Mielak	Carol Haines	Joan Holtzclaw
Kathleen Falk	Paul Scannell * TAL	Marie Hand	Roberta Hoyt-Johnson
Esther Garcia	Kathy Scott	Margaret Hutchinson	Linda J. Isidore
Rose Heitzenrater	Ruth Skinner Poteat	Marilyn Jedrey	Dottie Jackson
Erna Lopez	Janet M. Wilson	Stanley Johnson *TAL	Joan McIntosh
Patsy Lugo	<b>Colorado:</b>	Cynthia Juzwiak	Darlene Money

Karen Mealey	Eve Gallaher	Sylvia Kempf	Paula Mowrer
Francisca Ramirez	Cheryl Hollander	Shirley Love	Judy Munn
Yolanda Rodriguez	Linda Robinson	Theresa Lucia	Anitia Owens
Debra Snider	Georgia Sweeney	Edward Lynch *TAL	Syble Russell
Anita Velasquez	Barbara Trute	Dolores Martin	Barbara A. Wade
Linda West	Sherry Zeisler	Karen Mellor	Carolyn Wall
<b>Arkansas:</b>	<b>Delaware:</b>	Mary Monds	Bernice Weaver
Gerry Boyd	June Bacon	Amie Mueller	Sandy Wittenmyer
Patronella Luedeking	Carole Baldwin	Linda Newkirk	<b>Idaho:</b>
Betty Hamilton	Sandra J. Fanelli	Jeanette Y. Orange	Bird Derrick
Dale Lester	Joan M. Fox	Elaine Rafajko	
Crystalen Schwartz	Cherie Gaidosh	Shirley Rhodey	
Sherry Sullivan	Carol K. Kandravi	Millie Sampson	
Carlotta Wagner	Pauline Law	Erna Schwabe	
Phyllis Williams	Patricia May	Donna Smith	
	Beth McGinn	Linda Strauser	
	Helen J. Skelton		

Awarded To:	
<b>Illinois:</b>	Anna Lee Haug
Susan D. Bailey	Desiree A. Hobbs
Cathy Beckowski	Lorene Kierstead
Mickey Love Bode	Dorie Manning
Rev. Roberta Buck	Julia Mohr
Barbara Carlison	Judy Plum
Donna J. Cole	Carol A. Preston
Mary Collado	Susan Reynolds
Sue Cunniff Cough	Marjorie J. Rook
Sandra Dunseth	Jenny Tracy
Paula Ford	<b>Iowa:</b>
Carla Gibson	Diane Beck
Janice A. Gruber	Joyce Luree Bender
Kristine R. Hart	Pam Clark
Jane Hensley	Jolene Denbow
Rita Hess	LaVonne M. Emkes
	Jennie Barnett
	Nancy Brotherton
	Alisa Brown
	Christy Dalton
	Mary Fenley
	Bettye Garrett
	Sterling Hanley
	Jeanne Lay
	Jane McKnight
	Joyce Parker
	Shirley Thornberry
	Patricia J. Wagner
	<b>Louisiana:</b>
	Rena Blaise
	Sandra LeBlanc
	Bettye Pennywell
	Mary Jo Hamlin
	Janice Hodges
	Pat Jemma
	Nancy M. Kettle
	Carol A. Lash
	Jeffrey Menlendyk *TAL
	Judith Meyers
	Anne M. Michell
	Karen Nietling
	Janet O'Brien
	Sharon L. Reimiche
	Diana Richardson
	Diana L. Schafer
	Susan Stanke
	Jason Swoish *TAL
	Eleen Tait

Garnet Hibberd	Margaret Hastings	Ethel Theriot	<b>Minnesota:</b>
Mary Higgins	Marcia Hoch	<b>Maine:</b>	Eunice Antonson
Alexis Howser	Marilyn Kessler	Rita Doughty	Terri Becker
Eileen F. Hurst	Shirley A. Marmann	Sandra Jackson	Gail Blaschko
Kay Ingram	Connie Ann Paul	<b>Maryland:</b>	Kathy Burkett
Patricia Kowalski	Jeanne Paustian	Kimberly Dunaway	Lou Ellen Christensen
Judy Kyska	Carol J. Petersen	<b>Massachusetts:</b>	Eloise Christianson
Nancy A. Lindeman	Irene Pitz	Lisa Cleary-Albro	Patti Jo Coleman
Donna Locher	Lois Poppe	Kelly A. Conroy	Patricia Coleman
Jennifer B. Madorsky	Janet Schmidt	Sandra Desrosiers	Marie Goede
Sandi Malik	Janet Tribolet	Marcha J. Duncan	Jean Horack
Catherine M. McCormack	<b>Kansas:</b>	Coral May Grout	Dorothy Inasley
Alice Regelli	Teresa Benson	Marilyn Murphy	Carla Kannenberg
Norma Schalk	Linda Caudle	<b>Michigan:</b>	Doris Lafayette
Nancy Schwindenhammer	Kathy Howard	Becky Adams	Bev Letexier
Marcella Seagraves	Carol Jean Jackson	Frances J. Babbage	Vicki Lundgren
Caroline M. Smith	Barbara Lewellyn	Joyce Barker	Kyla R. Mitchell-Tree

Jennifer L. Yates	Rodney J. Noble*TAL	Cynthia Breault	Betty Nathe
Barbara J. Ziegenweide	Sherrie Radcliffe	Kimberley Brewster	Marian Piecek
<b>Indiana:</b>	Janelle Sanneman	Terri Brodock	Jeannette Rabe
Virginia Baker	Cherie Thomas	Bridget Carpenter	Jeanne Ray
Jeanette Bultemeier	Lisa Valcoure	Loretta Dietrich	Donna Schade
Sue Comerford	Sandy Walton	Betty C. Egerer	Shirley Schloeder
Angela M. De Vore	Verla D. Webster	Anna Flowers	Betty Schlueter
Stephanie L. Fazio	<b>Kentucky:</b>	Cindy Gauthier	Patricia Swanson
Kim Hammons-Huffman	Joyce Baker	Carol Geise	Agnes Weimer
		Russalyn Gondek	
<b>Awarded To:</b>			
<b>Mississippi:</b>	<b>New Hampshire:</b>	<b>New York:</b>	
Janet Aime	Susan Berry	Geraldine Chapman	Lola Nixon
Rose Blanchard	Paula Carol Aljer	Sandra Coryer	Arlene Potter
Danielle Caudle	Shirley Hare	Mary Ann Davis	Rebecca S. Sharp
Chandra Davy	Joyce A. Jenkins	Margie Dunford	Lois Singleton

Mary Jane Ervin	<b>New Jersey:</b>	Judy Lanci	Diane Timmerman
Frances Evans	Roslyn Belton	Susan Lupian	<b>Oklahoma:</b>
Angela S. Kilcrease	Mabel Gladfelter	Harriet Mimick	Rhonda Ruth Akers
Lorene Martin	Janet Meyer	Patricia A. Regan	Sherree V. Bertolasio
R.V. Martin *TAL	Ann C. Rasco	Charlotte Ridley	Dorothy Fehring
Mary McDill Lucas	Jeanne Rey	Mildred Rizza	Polly Frazier
Jeff McDonald *TAL	Margaret Seymour	Paulette Schierer	Virginia C. Langley
Paula McGinnis	Cynthia Yanish	Arlene Shanno	Ruby P. Wells
Margaret Mulligan	<b>New Mexico:</b>	Carrie Storey	Rhonda M. Wilson
Shirley Piazza	Darlene Allen	<b>North Carolina:</b>	<b>Oregon:</b>
Susan M. Siekmann	Linda Amdal	Brenda N. Eason	Linda Bullock
Lucille Wilkerson	Andi Baca	Jane Epperson	Cyndi Dahl
<b>Missouri:</b>	Johanna Beal	Barbara Hunsucker	Nancy Day
Saundra Allen	Susan Crutcher	Margaret Keener	Louise Carter
Ruth Burton	Ruby Daube	Brenda Toppin	Millie Healy
Delores Fliter	Donnie Dominguez	Joyce B. Willis	Betty Holcomb
Claudia Goodin	Elizabeth Foster	<b>Ohio:</b>	Liana Smith

Dorothy Goodin	Geraldine M. Gallegos	Bertha M. Amendol	Helen Sullivan
Donna Hashman	Dalia M. Griego	Phyllis J. Beaver	Laurel Warden
Ruth Johnson	Mary Heiligenthal	K. Rosemarie Brown	Marlene Wournell
Sally Reighard	Leonor Jaramillo	Nancy Brown	<b>Pennsylvania:</b>
<b>Montana:</b>	Theresa Kaster	Julianna Brunnet	Patricia Clemens
Adeline Mitchell	Mary Lou Lopez	Terri Clifton	Betty Henry
Leona M. Somerfeld	Pat McCollum	Terri Crosswait	<b>Rhode Island:</b>
<b>Nebraska:</b>	Linda Morgan	Nancy Douth	Sara Ammand
Peggy Griffin	Rita Navarrete	Charlotte Frazier	Lorraine Boucher
Wilma Halvorsen	Tony R. Navarrete *TAL	Carmella Fugate	Judith Fardig
Jean M. Henkins	Elizabeth Nellis	Hazel Fugate-Clements	Brenda Peloquin
Zita Lomax	Linda Nenno	Ruth Hall	
John-Henry Peancy *TAL	Kathy L. Norton	Brenda Harmon	
Bernice Petersen	Marty Novak	Rhonda Holeston	
Patty Polson	Flora Sanchez	Vicki Howard	
Trudy Roche	Prospero Sanchez *TAL	Vickie Kemper	
Margaret E. Root	Frances L. Stewart	Mary Ann Michael	

Barbara Wherry	Marie Whaley	Miriam Miller	
		Deborah Monroe	
<b>Awarded To:</b>			
<b>South Carolina:</b>	Donna Daniel	Sue C. Day	Donita Winters
Carole S. Bostwick	Amy Ferrell	Crystal Dear	<b>Vermont:</b>
Eursell Bowers	Melinda Hackney	Lela Duke	Rose Bolognani
Vynelle Coggins	Mary Hammer	Louise Fallon	Bonnie Burke
Brenda Collins	Mary Ruth Harris	Deborah Fisher	Lynda Farmer
Angela Corbin	Linda Herndon	Yolanda M. Garcia	Sheryl Stowell
Elouise Coward	Brenda J. Hice	Cathy Griffith	Priscilla I. Thayer
Margaret Fitzpatrick	Roxanne Inyart	Alicia Harms	Gail Stewart
Sheila Garren	Linda Latimer	Anne Harrington	<b>Virginia:</b>
Betty Harbison	Kathy Leedy	Valarie Hinde	Kathy Dye
Shelagh Lammers	Barbara McAdams	Lois Hudack	Linda Hardwick
Jeanie Maret	Helen McKnight Cothron	Diana Keough	Debora Lisanty
Bette McMorrow	Peggy Monroe	Evelyn Klausmeyer	Amber Pettitt
Maureen Moore	Notie Moser	Racheal Kudelka	Carol Pettitt

Pamela Rapp	Elizabeth Moss	Robin Kyle	Jayne Ramirez
Linda Smiley	Sue Patterson	Bernie LaBarge	Cheryl A. Shine
Shelia Wallace	Wanda Payne	Johnnie Lott	<b>Washington:</b>
Pat Ward	Geneva A. Pettit	Gisela Marschall	Betty J. Carlson
<b>South Dakota:</b>	Beth Oeser	Linda Massey	Terry Fischer
Edis J. Anderson	Edythe Owston	Connie Melton	Patricia Rush
Jane Benzel	Barbara Roberts	Maudie Mitchell	<b>West Virginia:</b>
Cheryl Boldt	Connie Schaefer	Krystal Lee Morris	Judy Florence
Carol M. DeNeui	William T. Shadwick *TAL	Shirley Morrow	Nancy Sundstrom
Shirley McGhee	Lynda Storm	Jeannie Northcutt	Susan Wade
Edith Moe	Shelia Trent	Bernice Neumann	E. Jane White
Carol Nelson	Kathleen Tuttle	Sierra Palasota	
Eva Palmer	Pat Wallace	Pam Parry	
Shari Rossow	Marcia Watkins	Marty Peters	
Beverly Sievert	Fran Wilson	Mildred Peters	
Helen A. Simpson	Lynda Winkles	Sharon Phelps	
Marsha Timm	<b>Texas:</b>	Debbie Ralson	

Nancy J. Wallin	Karren Allen	Betty Randall	
Elsie Wohl	Loretta Allen	Juanita Rangel	
Darlene Zweep	Sam Armstrong	Julie Rhoden	
<b>Tennessee:</b>	Irene Bard	Rita Scott	
Bonnie Alderson	Barbara Bawolak	Carla Shumake	
Louise Aldridge Foster	Ashley Bishop	Fay Sigmund	
Gayle Attkisson	Nancy Bowers	Brigitte Speer	
Linda Campbell	Patricia Broussard	Brenda Straten	
Kristy Canfield	Shirley Burch	Beverly Thorsen	
Sue Cantrell	Karen Burks	Pat Wanoreck	
Laurie A. Cooke	Judy Davidson	Rachael Watson	
<b>Awarded To:</b>			
<b>Wisconsin:</b>	Lois Dunn	Connie Lindloff	Mary Rogge
Judy Alford	Cora Gavigan	Charleen Lovejoy	Linda Swangstu
Barbara Boeck	Debra Goosens	Amy Luft	Sandra Wellens
Jean M. Booth	Emma Harter	Ruth Mengsol	Danie A. Wilson
Lynn A. Cartier	Kathy Jo Huppert	Nancy Osmolak	Shirley Wilson

Linda J. Cason	Rachel A. Johnston	Mary L. Petot	Mary L. Winder
Alma M. Chwala	Pamela Klenner	Mary K. Petrie	Margaret Wozniak
Carol L. Cowen	Bonnie Knaub	Sharon Pillsbury	
Elizabeth Dougherty	Genevieve Lenser		

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	none
Dorothy Pearl Civil Preparedness (CERT) Award	Citation Plaque	Department	Awarded to the Department having the greatest percentage of units participating in Civil Preparedness	Department of Kentucky Kathy Daudistel, Chairman
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Central Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Ohio Vicky Buck, Chairman
Department National Security Program	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Eastern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of New York Debby Herrmann, Chairman
Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Northwestern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Minnesota Linda Thompson, Chairman
Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Southern Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Mississippi Angela Kilcrease, Chairman
Department Award	Citation Plaque	A Department in the Western Division	Reported the best overall National Security Program Activities	Department of Arizona Debbie Collins, 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.	Shenandoah Unit 88 Shenandoah, Iowa Marilyn Bayless, Co-chair 609 Ninthe Ave. Shenandoah, IA 51601
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.	Bassett Baxter Unit 789 Department of New York Amy McEathron, Chairman 415 West St.

				Carthage, NY 13619
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.	Bradley Buck Unit 310 Gibbon, Nebraska
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 Carolyn Tart, Chairman 62 Allen St. Angier, NC 27501
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.	Gaines T Evans Unit 44 Elephant Butte, New Mexico Marty Novak, Chairman PO Box 1562 Elephant Butte, NM 87935
ROTC/ JROTC Program Award	Certificate	Unit Chairman	Reported the most outstanding promotion of the ROTC Program.	Orlando Memorial Unit 19 2101 Lee Road Orlando, FL 32810 Peggy Cone, Chairman
ROTC/ JROTC Program Award	Certificate	Unit Chairman	Reported the most outstanding promotion of the ROTC Program.	W.B. Williamson Unit 1 1530 Ninth Street Lake Charles, LA 70601 Majorie Nelands, Chairman
ROTC/ JROTC Program Award	Certificate	Unit Chairman	Reported the most outstanding promotion of the ROTC Program.	Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233 Loganville, GA c/o 492 Hightower Ridge Road Covington, GA 30014 Barbara A. Wade, Chairman

NAME OF AWARD	TYPE OF AWARD	ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP	CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING	AWARDED TO:
Unit Member of the Year	Plaque and recognition at National Convention	One member per department	<p>Must be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Must be nominated by a member because of significant contributions she has made to her unit. Must be selected by the National Past Presidents Parley Committee.</p>	<p>Alaska, Kathy Belcher, Ninihnik #18                      Arizona, Vicky Long, Pat Tillman #117                      Arkansas, Betty A. Horton, Finis Gallion #30                      California, Sharon Brouse, Richard O. Reed #777                      Colorado, Grace Eileen Long, Leyden Chiles Wickersham #1                      Delaware, Pauline Law, Oak Orchard Riverdale #28                      Florida, Lynda Newman, Pine Island #136                      Georgia, Darlene Money, Buford #127                      Idaho, Tina Brown, Mountain Home #101                      Illinois, Edna Mae Phillips, Kelso M. Garver #650                      Indiana, Ruth Wenzler, Bonnie Saloon #28                      Iowa, Marcia Nye, Shenandoah #88                      Kansas, Terri Brittingham, Lansing Memorial #411                      Kentucky, Shirley Thornberry, Anderson #34                      Louisiana, Madline Blackwell, Tucker A. Gregoire #258                      Maine, Gloria Phillips, Smith-Tobey #21</p>

				<p>Massachusetts, Amanda          Carlson, Frank J. DeMars          #235</p> <p>Michigan, Louise Phipps,          Durkee-Seager #550</p> <p>Minnesota, Karen Ring,          Richard Howard Ferrell #46</p> <p>Mississippi, Mary June Laws,          Clement R. Bontemps #139</p> <p>Montana, Terry Kemp,          Gallatin #14</p> <p>Nebreska, Linda Anderson,          Pleasant Dale #354</p> <p>New Hampshire, Diane          Bouthot, Dupont Holmes #82</p> <p>New Jersey, Dorothy F.          Bozzone, Corporal Jedh C.          Barker Memorial #153</p> <p>New Mexico, Synthia          Buchmeiere, Milan #60</p> <p>New York, Florence Hoffiman,          Merrick #1282</p> <p>North Carolina, Linda          Langdon, Four Oaks #346</p> <p>North Dakota, Lynn          Tomlinson, Fred C. Wagner          #235</p> <p>Ohio, Madie Tillman, General          "Chappie" James #776</p> <p>Oklahoma, Lucille Phillips          Massey, Vaughan Ellis #177</p> <p>Oregon, Oletta Richardson, La          Pine #45</p> <p>Pennsylvania, Deborah J.</p>
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>Krall, Charleroi #22          South Carolina, Minnie Mitchell, Winthrop Paul #212          South Dakota, MaryJo Boner, Olsen Reid #250          Tennessee, Elizabeth Moss, Herbert Griffin #19          Texas, Christine Willeson, Harold L. Gregory Memorial #626          Utah, Wendy McDougal, Moab #54          Vermont, Karen Williams, Crippen Fellows #50          Virginia, Sherry Lemmah, General Billy Mitchell #85          Washington, Connie Soditus, Don R. Grable #48          West Virginia, Diana Perdue, Ceredo-Kenava Unit #93          Wisconsin, Linda Wieck, Lagewig-Zinkgraf #243          Wyoming, Cheryl Quick, JJ Webb #95</p>
				<p>South Carolina, Minnie Mitchell, Winthrop Paul #212          South Dakota, MaryJo Boner, Olsen Reid #250          Tennessee, Elizabeth Moss, Herbert Griffin #19          Texas, Christine Willeson, Harold L. Gregory Memorial #626          Utah, Wendy McDougal,</p>

				<p>Moab #54</p> <p>Vermont, Karen Williams, Crippen Fellows #50 Virginia, Sherry Lemmah, General Billy Mitchell #85 Washington, Connie Sodontus, Don R. Grable #48 West Virginia, Diana Perdue, Ceredo-Kenava Unit #93 Wisconsin, Linda Wieck, Lagewig-Zinkgraf #243 Wyoming, Cheryl Quick, Lance Corporal Ashley Miller; Marine Corps Senior Master Sergeant Angel M. Baughman; Air Force/Air National Guard</p>
<p>Salute to Active Duty Service Woman</p>	<p>Plaque</p>	<p>Active duty service woman from each branch of service: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard.</p>	<p>Nominated by American Legion Auxiliary Member, Completed entry form with narrative titled "Women's role in today's Armed Forces."</p>	

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Autumn McKeivier Dept. of Ohio Unit #62
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entries
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Katie Rebehl - Dept. MN
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Daya Patel - Unit 57 -Dept. of FL
Poppy Poster Contest Class I	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 2 & 3	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jaelen Cheyne - Unit 77- Dept. NM
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Michaela Williams - Dept. OH
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Shaelie McClenon - Unit 167 - Dept. of NY
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Declan Shaye Fitzgerald Osborne Dept. of SD Dept. of SD
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Hunter Moman - Unit 57- Dept. of FL
Poppy Poster Contest Class II	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 4 & 5	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Taylor Smith - Unit 127- Dept. of WA
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Central Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Katie Still - Dist. 15- Dept. of MO
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Eastern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jewel Alston - Unit 167- Dept. of NY
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Northwestern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Devyn Hughes - Dept. of MT
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Southern Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Amelia Giusti -Unit 57- Dept. FL
Poppy Poster Contest Class III	Citation	A child in the Western Division in Grades 6 & 7	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Brooke Hill - Dept. WA

Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A young adult in the Central Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Abbie Chinn - Unit 477- Dept. of IA
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entries
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Renatta Lanfeart - Dept. of SD
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Olivia Lechner - Unit 16- Dept. LA
Poppy Poster Contest Class IV	Citation	A young adult in the Western Division in Grades 8 & 9	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entries
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A young adult in the Central Division in Grades 10 -11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Tiffany Howitt - Unit 685- Dept. of OH
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grades 10 -11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Sam Hamilton - Unit 963 - Dept. of PA
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grades 10 -11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Shania Maloney - Dept. of MT
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grades 10 - 11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Helena Vigil Heras - Unit 57- Dept. of FL
Poppy Poster Contest Class V	Citation	A young adult in the Western Division in Grades 10 -11	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Jamie Reames - Unit 11 - Dept. of AZ
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A young adult in the Central Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Kellee Orzechowski - Unit 118- Dept. of WI
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A young adult in the Eastern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Troy Nelson - Unit 963 - Dept. of PA
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A young adult in the Northwestern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Mariah Lea Hayes - Dept. of MT
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A young adult in the Southern Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Emily Reinhardt - Unit 57- Dept. of FL
Poppy Poster Contest Class VI	Citation	A young adult in the Western Division in Grade 12	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Min-Ji Yi - Dept. of CA

Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Central Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Terry Evans II - Unit 377 - Dept. of MI
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Eastern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entries
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Northwestern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	Ronda Rebecca Wurtz- Dept. of SD
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Southern Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entries
Poppy Poster Contest Class VII	Citation	Student in Special Education/recommended in the Western Division	Judged by Department based on their criteria	No Entries
Miss Poppy Ages 6-12	Citation Plaque	Must be between the ages of 6-12 and a Junior Member of the American Legion Auxiliary	Narrative not to exceed 100 words on the "Memorial Poppy." Submitted a Scrapbook containing photographs and clipping of how she promoted the Poppy program	Samantha Cotten - Unit 28- Dept. of DE
Miss Poppy Ages 13-18	Citation Plaque	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 Ann Champion - Unit 377 - Dept. of MI
Unit Poppy Award	Poppy Gift	Central Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Sue Bustin - Unit 1080 - Dept. of IL
Unit Poppy Award	Poppy Gift	Eastern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative	No Entries

			not to exceed 1,000 words.	
Unit Poppy Award	Poppy Gift	Northwestern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Shaaron Barnes - Unit 118- Dept. of MN
Unit Poppy Award	Poppy Gift	Southern Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Patricia A Read - Unit 46- Dept. of VA
Unit Poppy Award	Poppy Gift	Western Division Unit Chairman	Reported the best Poppy Program written in a narrative not to exceed 1,000 words.	Ellie Buell- Unit 70- Dept. of OR

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Unit Program Emphasis Award	Chairmen's Choice	A Unit Chairman in the Central Division	Created the three best press releases	Marion B. Fletcher Unit #136, Department of Illinois; Christa M. Waller, Chairman
Unit Program Emphasis Award	Chairmen's Choice	A Unit Chairman in the Eastern Division	Created the three best press releases	Arthur S. Moran Unit #66, Department of New York; Shelby Sobolowski, Chairman
Unit Program Emphasis Award	Chairmen's Choice	A Unit Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Created the three best press releases	Wink-Sparks Unit #303, Department of Iowa; Pamela Clark, Chairman
Unit Program Emphasis Award	Chairmen's Choice	A Unit Chairman in the Southern Division	Created the three best press releases	Clarence L. Tinker Midwest City Unit #170, Department of Oklahoma; Sherrree Bertolasio, Chairman
Unit Program Emphasis Award	Chairmen's Choice	A Unit Chairman in the Western Division	Created the three best press releases	No Unit Entries received.
Unit Web Site Award	Citation	Unit	Any unit that developed a website	See attached.
Junior Public Relations Award	Chairmen's Choice	Junior group (department, district or unit)	Best published press or media coverage for a junior activity or project.	Ehrig-McTurk Unit #127 Juniors; Gladbrook, Iowa

Public Relations Award	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Central Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of Ohio; Karen Peel, Department Chairman
Public Relations Award	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Eastern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of New York; Shelly Sobolowski, Department Chairman
Public Relations Award	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Northwestern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of Minnesota; Jane Moody, Department Chairman
Public Relations Award	Citation	A Department Chairman in the Southern Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of Virginia; Sallie Rossman, Department Chairman
Public Relations Award	Citation	A Department on the Western Division	Most outstanding overall public relations program	Department of Arizona; Shannon Mead, Department Chairman
Innovative PR Activities	Citation	Unit	Units best practices that get highlighted on National website	Palmer-Roberts Unit #214, Department of Ohio, Martha Setlock, President

<b>NAME OF AWARD</b>	<b>TYPE OF AWARD</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE PERSON or GROUP</b>	<b>CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING</b>	<b>AWARDED TO:</b>
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Central Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Mary Littrell, Department of Iowa
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Barbara Coker, Department of New York
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Rhonda Larkowski, Department of Colorado
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Southern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Peggy Hearlson, Department of Florida
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Department Chairman	Citation Plaque	Department Chairman Western Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Terry Mikesell, Department of California
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Central Division	Best overall program in VA&R	K.T. Crossen Unit 21, Carol Sanborn, Chairman, Department of Ohio
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Eastern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	James R. Hickey Unit 120, Lola Marshall, Chairman, Department of New York
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Northwestern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Carl Sydney Hanson Unit 255, Dolly Zitur, Chairman, Department of Minnesota
Best Overall VA&R Program by a Unit Chairman	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairman Southern Division	Best overall program in VA&R	Banner Unit 109, Ann Moore, Chairman, 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	No Entry
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	Tami Bell, Long Beach VAMC, Department of California
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 1,2010-March 31-2011	Department of Vermont, 7 volunteers 295 Hours

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, 2010-March 31-2010	Department of Minnesota, 1 volunteer 267 hours
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, 2010-March 31-2011	Department of New Mexico
				29 Volunteers
				1229 Hours
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, 2010-March 31-2011	Department of Georgia, 1 Volunteer 44 hours
Field Service Volunteer Hours	Citation Plaque	Junior or Senior Field Service Volunteer - Central Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	Verma Walters, 697 Hours, Department of Illinois
Field Service Volunteer Hours	Citation Plaque	Junior or Senior Field Service Volunteer - Eastern Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	Patricia May, 195 Hours, Department of Delaware
Field Service Volunteer Hours	Citation Plaque	Junior or Senior Field Service Volunteer - Northwestern Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	Tamme Hobelman, 134 Hours, Department of Nebraska
Field Service Volunteer Hours	Citation Plaque	Junior or Senior Field Service Volunteer - Southern Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	Cindy Newton, 2877 Hours, Department of Louisiana Shelblynn Mott, 2866 Hours, (JUNIOR) Department of Louisiana

Field Service Volunteer Hours	Citation Plaque	Junior or Senior Field Service Volunteer - Western Division	Field Service Volunteer serving the greatest number of volunteer hours from April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	Pat Cotton and Nancy Rejonen, 5,000 hours each, Department of Oregon (each will receive individual plaque) Chanel Muro, 275 Hours (JUNIOR) Department of California
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, 2010-March 31, 2011	Mary Benson, Unit 1080, Department of Illinois, 2500 hours
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, 2010-March 31, 2011	Dorothy Dofey, Unit 25, Department of Nebraska, 1050 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	Azalee Connell, Unit 258, Department of Louisiana, 1500 hours
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, 2010-March 31, 2011	Elaine Yates, Unit 19, Department of Arizona, 1705 hours
10,000 Hour Volunteer Award	Citation \$100 donation to National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in winners name	Senior Volunteer	A Volunteer who has accrued 10,000 hours of volunteer service at a VA facility	<i>See Attached Sheet for Winners</i>
20,000 Hour Volunteer Award	Citation and \$200 Donation to National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in winner's name	Senior Volunteer	A Volunteer who has provided 20,000 hours of volunteer service to veterans.	Fran Mattheis, Department of Texas Georgette Levesque, Department of New Hampshire Dortha Parsons, Department of West Virginia Ida Harris, Department of

Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Bronze Award	Department	Department with the third highest contributions to the NVCAF from Sept. 1, 2010-July 31, 2011	West Virginia Thelma Hathaway, Department of Washington
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Silver Award	Department	Department with the second highest contributions to the NVCAF from Sept. 1, 2010-July 31, 2011	Department of Wisconsin \$7,502.50
Veterans Creative Arts Festival Award	Gold Award	Department	Department with the highest contributions to the NVCAF from Sept. 1, 2010-July 31, 2011	Department of New Jersey \$8769
Power Of One Award	Citation Plaque	Unit Chairmen	Presented to the Unit that implements the Most Outstanding Event at any VAMC or VA facility	Department of Maryland- \$16,175  Niagara Frontier Unit 1041, Department of New York, Patricia Millemac, Chairman