



SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

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

**August 23-29, 2013
Houston, Texas**

**American Legion Auxiliary
National Officers
2012-2013**

National President

Peggy Thomas, Department of Virginia

National Vice President

Nancy Brown-Park, Department of California

Division National Vice Presidents

Central: Mary Jo Berning, Department of Iowa

Eastern: Joan Reinoehl, Department of Pennsylvania

Northwestern: Doris Ann Werlinger, Department of South Dakota

Southern: Shirley Fraser, Department of Florida

Western: Barbara Rutherford, Department of Washington

National Chaplain

Rosemarie W. Hauck, Department of Missouri

National Historian

Angela Kilcrease, Department of Mississippi

National Secretary

Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, Department of Indiana

National Treasurer

Marta Hedding, Department of Indiana

PRESENT

Pre-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting Saturday, August 24, 2013

National Officers

National President	Peggy Thomas
National Vice President	Nancy Brown-Park
Central Division National Vice President	Mary Jo Berning
Eastern Division National Vice President	Joan Reinoehl
Northwestern Division National Vice President	Doris Ann Werlinger
Southern Division National Vice President.....	Shirley Fraser
Western Division National Vice President.....	Barbara Rutherford
National Chaplain	Rosemarie W. Hauck
National Historian	Angela Kilcrease
National Secretary	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer.....	Marta Hedding

Past National Presidents

Pearl M. Behrend
Linda Boone
Linda Newsome
Syble Deshotel
Phyllis Sickmond
Barbara Kranig
Virginia Hobbs
Elizabeth Stewart
Kristine West
Katherine Morris
Carol Van Kirk
JoAnn Cronin
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Desireé Stoy
Miriam Junge (Honorary)
Rita Navarreté
Carlene Ashworth
Kris Nelson

National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama.....	Brenda Smith
Alaska	Susan Diaz
Arizona	Sharon Doran
Arkansas	Wanda Honeycutt
California.....	Linda L. Fercho

Colorado	Karen M. Boehler
Connecticut	Alcyne Welton
Delaware	Beth McGinn
District of Columbia	-
Florida	Diane Rousseau
Georgia	Hilde Martin
Hawaii	Josephine Keanu
Idaho	-
Illinois	Diana Umdenstock
Indiana	Billie Bubala
Iowa	Martha Travis
Kansas	Cherie Thomas
Kentucky	Lois Hall
Louisiana	Monique Batiste
Maine	Margaret Johnson
Maryland	Yvonne Rhone
Massachusetts	Josephine Yakimowski
Michigan	Carrie Bowerman
Minnesota	Linda Thompson
Mississippi	Mary Smith-Ried
Missouri	Claudia Goodin
Montana	Karen Susag
Nebraska	Donna Hatfield
Nevada	Pat Salmen
New Hampshire	Irene A. Lewis
New Jersey	Leila Newell
New Mexico	Nancy Palladino
New York	Ann Geer
North Carolina	Sue Gooch
North Dakota	Betty Malkowski
Ohio	Vi Grzybowski
Oklahoma	-
Oregon	Jody Marsh
Pennsylvania	Barbara Miller
Puerto Rico	Beverly Olivieri
Rhode Island	Lorraine Boucher
South Carolina	Louise Winesett
South Dakota	Regina Whipple
Tennessee	-
Texas	Mary Waddell
Utah	Sharon Gansauge
Vermont	Candace Huseman
Virginia	Dianne Cabot
Washington	Jane Montaney

West Virginia.....	Dortha Parsons
Wisconsin	Joan Chwala
Wyoming.....	Joyce Menke

**Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2013**

National Officers

National President	Nancy Brown-Park
National Vice President.....	Janet Jefford
Central Division National Vice President	Donna Ray
Eastern Division National Vice President	Margaret McMahon
Northwestern Division National Vice President	Patricia “Pat” Steranka
Southern Division National Vice President.....	Angela Kilcrease
Western Division National Vice President.....	Ginger Cox
National Chaplain	Shelley Riggs
National Historian	Sharon L. Doran
National Secretary	Mary “Dubbie” Buckler
National Treasurer.....	Marta Hedding

Past National Presidents

- Pearl M. Behrend
- Linda Boone
- Linda Newsome
- Phyllis Sickmond
- Virginia Hobbs
- Kristine West
- Katherine Morris
- Carol Van Kirk
- Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
- Desireé Stoy
- Miriam Junge (Honorary)
- Rita Navarreté
- Peggy Thomas

National Executive Committeewomen

Alabama.....	Carole Reid
Alaska	Susan Diaz
Arizona	Kathleen Medalen
Arkansas	Wanda Honeycutt
California.....	Terry Mikesell
Colorado	Karen Boehler
Connecticut.....	Nancy Hansen
Delaware.....	Delores Taylor

District of Columbia	-
Florida	Peggy Hearlson
Georgia	Edna "Susie" Mash
Hawaii	Josephine Keanu
Idaho	Barbara Gehring
Illinois	Patricia Sienkiewicz
Indiana	Nancy Gunning
Iowa	Mary Lou Littrell
Kansas	Cherie Thomas
Kentucky	Jane McKnight
Louisiana	Monique Batiste
Maine	Mary Jane McLoon
Maryland	Ivy Christoffers
Massachusetts	Judith Hall
Michigan	Mary Anne Yuncker
Minnesota	Raleen Tolzmann
Mississippi	Sarah Edwards
Missouri	Laura Mosby
Montana	Dixie M. Parsons
Nebraska	Cheryl Vap
Nevada	Pat Salmen
New Hampshire	Claudia Vatcher
New Jersey	Leila Newell
New Mexico	-
New York	Sally A. Johnston
North Carolina	Mary L. Ward
North Dakota	Linda Juntunen
Ohio	Karen Peel
Oklahoma	Linda K. Erwin
Oregon	Pam Seelye
Pennsylvania	Barbara J. "BJ" Lysic
Puerto Rico	Hilda Soto
Rhode Island	Dianne Winston
South Carolina	Barbara Stoffer
South Dakota	Barbara Vetter
Tennessee	-
Texas	Marty Peters
Utah	Ellen Nathan
Vermont	Candace Huseman
Virginia	Anne Starke
Washington	Hendrika "Hanny" Elston
West Virginia	-
Wisconsin	Diana Sirovina
Wyoming	Joyce Menke

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**PRE-CONVENTION
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2013**

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This National Executive Committee meeting will now come to order.

(Ringing of the bell.)

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

Rosemarie Hauck, National Chaplain, will lead us in our invocation and moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those serving our nation today for the protection of our freedom.

Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Diane Duscheck will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, following by the Constitution & Bylaws Vice-Chairman Lynne Wild leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution. Diane?

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Let us pray. We thank you, oh God, that we are privileged to come together for this National Executive Committee meeting. We ask that your blessings may rest upon President Peggy as she leads us, and the members in attendance. Direct our thoughts and deliberations so that we may exhibit fair judgment and understanding for the matters at hand, always remembering that the American Legion Auxiliary's principal service is for our God and Country. We ask you to surround us with your loving care. This we ask in your name, Amen.

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

ALL: (Singing.) Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight o'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

ALL: For God and County, 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 of the instances of our associations during the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit through posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, ladies.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened. Greetings, and welcome. It's hard to believe that we are in Houston about to begin our 93rd National Annual Convention. And we have much to celebrate this year, and it's great to see each and every one of you again.

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 your remarks can be heard for recording by our report for the transcript of this meeting.

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

At this time I would like to introduce the following, and I ask that you hold your applause until all have been introduced. Nancy Brown-Park, National Vice President; Mary Jo Berning, Central Division National Vice President; Joan Reinoehl, Eastern Division National Vice President; Doris Ann Werlinger, Northwestern Division National Vice President; Shirley Fraser, Southern Division National Vice President; Barbara Rutherford, Western Division National Vice President; Rosemarie Hauck, National Chaplain; Angela Kilcrease, National Historian; Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, National Secretary; Marta Hedding, National Treasurer; Chris Dickey, Convention Parliamentarian; Lisa Chaplin, Personal Page; Patrick Upshaw, Personal Page; Virginia James, Personal Page; Susan Lee, Personal Page. Let's give them a big hand now.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Would all the Past National Presidents please stand and be recognized at this time? Take a bow, ladies.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We will be utilizing a consent agenda to handle the basic business items. These items are listed on your agenda and include the unit charter cancellations since February 2013; the resolution to admonish sexual assault in the military.

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

Does anyone wish to remove anything from the consent agenda?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing none, the Chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

MS. DORAN: It really is not my first rodeo. Sharon Doran, Department of Arizona. I move to approve the consent agenda.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing no, if no items are removed, there is only one motion required and that has been done. So we will move on, right? Mm-hmm. All in favor say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "No."

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing none, it is adopted. The ayes have it.

The Chair is happy to report that the Minutes Approval Committee met and approved the minutes of the NEC meeting from February 2013.

I'm also happy to report the resolutions to dissolve the Department of Hawaii's charter has been withdrawn. Let's hear it for Hawaii.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: There were two resignations and two appointments. In essence, two people only switched positions. If there is no objection we will confirm the appointment of Virginia Hobbs to the Finance Committee to complete Paula Parker-Sawyers' unexpired term, and Paula Parker-Sawyers to the Audit Committee to complete the unexpired term of Virginia Hobbs as Chairman of the Audit Committee.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing no objection, the appointment is confirmed.

For the past two years the ad hoc committee has worked in revising our Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules. The final product has been reviewed by both Chris Dickey and Counsel General Phil Onderdonk. This revision to the Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules is very important to this organization. This revision is long overdue and it is key to our status of the IRS so I ask you to take this motion seriously.

Would Chris Dickey please come to the podium to explain how we will handle the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules revision?

MS. DICKEY: Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

MS. DICKEY: How are you? Last year, you took on the task of revising a lot of the policies that you had adopted, and some were obsolete. And so we went through that. I forget exactly what the number was, but it was a huge number and we processed that all. So this Convention you are taking on a revision of your Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules. So I want to make sure that everyone understands the process for doing that. Because the process for handling a revision is very different than the process for just making regular amendments to your governing documents.

In the case of a revision, because it is handled differently it's usually the norm to adopt different convention standing rules to allow for this processing. Now first of all I want to explain the difference between, you have convention standing rules and then you have standing rules of your organization. Convention standing rules are adopted and are in effect for just one convention. And you have those printed in your program book, okay? Regular standing rules are standing rules for the organization that last until they are either amended or rescinded. So they go on, keep going on. So the rules that we are looking at changing, or are proposing a little bit differently for this year are the convention standing rules. And they are on a page of your program book, page 116. And I want to explain, most of these rules every year they are very similar. But for this year because there is a revision, there is some slightly different rules that are being proposed. So I want to point out some of the differences.

This morning in the pre-convention meeting on rules, those will be considered,

and those will be explained, and they will be acted on with a recommendation from that committee. But I want to point out some things for all of you right now so you understand how this process is going to work

The first one to understand is number 11. And it states that the revision of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules is going to be considered seriatim. Seriatim is a Latin word that means in a series. In a lot of revisions that are done you do seriatim sometimes by paragraph by paragraph, or article by article. Your Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules are I think, well we are at 40 pages, something like that. I mean, you have a lot. To consider that paragraph by paragraph would take a long time, okay? And even article by article. So we are proposing that it be done by document by document.

So that means we would first consider that Constitution, then we will consider the Bylaws, and then we will consider the Standing Rules. And let me explain to you what I mean by when we say consider. So we're first going to consider the Constitution. That means it would be open for debate and for amendment. And we will have so much time to do that. When that comes to an end then we will move to the Bylaws, and it would be open for debate and amendment. And then we will move to the Standing Rules, and it will be open for debate and amendment.

Once that is done we will open up the entire document so you can move back and forth on different things. So if perchance you wanted to make a motion to amend something and in the time frame to consider the Constitution you didn't have time to do that, you would have time when we open up the whole document.

But probably more importantly is that these three documents have a hierarchy. The Constitution is a higher ranking document than the Bylaws. The Bylaws are a higher ranking document than the Standing Rules. So once we get into, let's say we are considering only the Bylaws. And somebody makes an amendment and it passes to the Bylaws, it might have affected something in the Constitution. So we need to have a way to go back and fix something in the Constitution at a later time. So that's why we will open up the entire document at one point to do that.

And then after we have considered the entire document, we will then have a portion of time where there is only debate on the merits of adopting the resolution. And during that time it will not be in order to make amendments to that document, to any of the documents. So you would just debate on the merits of whether or not it should be done, voted in favor or against.

So that is what, also number 11 says that the reading of each document shall not be required. Okay? Everyone is going to have a copy, you have been distributed a copy, and everyone is going to be provided a copy. And so I don't think you want to have somebody read all of that to you. So that's part of what 11 is about.

Then moving to number 13, 13 is a proposed game plan of how this will be considered. I have been with different organizations and helped the process a revision. I think the longest one I've done it took the convention five days to consider it. That's a long time. I've also been with a convention that did it in about 20 minutes. Now there is no right or wrong way to do it. It depends on what are the needs of that convention. But normally in standing rules it is typical to propose a game plan. And so that's what we've done in 13. This is up to the convention to make a decision whether or not they want to

stay with that game plan. You could adopt these rules. Also these rules even say that these rules can be amended at any time during the convention by a two-thirds vote. So even though we lay out this game plan if we get into it, and you think this is not fitting your needs, you can move to amend this game plan.

And the game plan is that each document, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, will each be considered for one hour. So it would be open for debate and amendment for one hour. And we will have timers up there to take care of that. And then the entire document would be open for one hour for debate and for amendment. And then the time to debate only on the merits would be for 30 minutes. So that's the game plan. And the convention body can do whatever they want with that game plan, either right away from the very start or once we can get into it, and if they see we need more.

Now if it takes less than that time, there is no problem. It doesn't mean that you have to, you know, sit around and wait for that hour to be up or anything. If no one wants to debate, no one is going to the microphones, then we would just move on to the next portion of what we are going to consider

Are there any questions on that? Okay. Then those are the ones that we are, the rules that are being proposed to handle this revision a little bit differently. Let me explain and remind everyone the reasoning behind this revision. And I believe this special task force, or I think it was an ad hoc committee? I think that was the name on it. It was a special ad hoc Committee on Governing Documents, I think was the name. It started, I believe, two years ago. And trying to take a look at, for one thing, clarifying a lot of things in your governing documents, being consistent in some language.

But at least from my perspective more importantly is to move items that you wish to change more frequently out of your Constitution & Bylaws and move them into your Standing Rules. And the need for that stems from the IRS has a form 990. And on Schedule G of the Form 990 every year you have to check a box as to whether or not you made any amendments to your Constitution & Bylaws. They don't ask you if you made any amendments to your Standing Rules. Now every time you check that box, and it's been the custom, or of this organization, at least every year that I have worked with you, you have made amendments to your Constitution & Bylaws every year that I have worked for you and I think that's been seven years. And I think that if you look through I think the very front it tells you every year that something has been amended. And I think you probably can look back in at least the recent future, or recent past, it's been every year.

And so every year when you check that now the IRS is looking. And so that puts up little red flags. And especially because you are an organization that meets every year. I have some organizations that meet every two years, every three years, every five years. And so they don't even have an opportunity to check that box on a lot of years. But the IRS doesn't know that. And they are seeing that you are checking that box every single year. And so we are trying to move things that are more apt to be amended more often into the Standing Rules and leave the big things in the Constitution & Bylaws that don't need to be amended or are worded in such a way that will last for many, many years, that don't need the language changed.

So that is the reasoning behind this revision. And so I think you want to keep that in mind while you are considering it, or even considering any amendments to it, and all that.

We are going to be discussing this this afternoon in the pre-convention meeting on Constitution & Bylaws. There was also two conference calls that happened in the last week, week and a half. There were a handful of people really on those calls. I'm sure, how many of you in here were on those calls? Okay, a few. And I know that for some of you in time zones they were a little difficult maybe for you to be on. Maybe conflicts with your schedule, and all that. But we had some good questions. I know Dubbie has been trying to circulate any questions that came in and put the answers out. I hope you had a chance to read those.

If you have any questions about this, this is not going to be considered on the convention floor until Tuesday morning. So we have between now and Tuesday morning to please ask any questions. You'll have an opportunity this afternoon in the session. But if at any other time, I'm around, the people of the committee, anybody that's on the committee can you please raise your, or how about stand? So we can, people can see who you are.

(Applause.)

MS. DICKEY: Yeah, and they have done a lot of work. This was not an easy task. And so seek these people out. If you have a question like, well why was this, because I know some people on the call were asking like, there was this word in the original document and you changed it to this word, and what's the difference between those two words? And so those are good questions. But let's get those answered because they are a lot easier to answer before the convention business meeting happens. Because one of the things in that we're working a little bit more on parliamentary procedure, we have a little bit more different rules. And if we answer those questions outside the meeting it's easier to get those questions answered and it gives you some time to take it back to your department and make sure everybody understands what the answer to the question and why it was done.

From my point of view there wasn't really any big things that were changed except trying to move things to the Standing Rules, to get some language clarified. Get, make sure that it is language that is clear, that conforms to your state statutes, your Indiana corporation. I don't think that there was anything that this committee was trying to do to like come out with any big thing. But I know on the calls some people, you know, I really wonder, they wondered if there was a different intent behind something. If you feel that way please ask those questions but under, you know, looking at it from my point of view, I don't see that. Usually when there is a revision there is more things, huge things that happen within an organization. This was trying to move things around and clear up some language. So if you have any questions, please make sure you ask those and we get those out. And we answer them.

You know, I guess I would say that this committee has put a lot of time in. Most of their work was done a whole year ago. And I know that because they sent me, one of their first drafts, I remember where I was, I was at a convention in Virginia at the time. And I spent most of my free time from that convention working on the governing

documents they sent me. And so then it's just kind of been refined.

It has also been refined during the phone calls in the last week, week and a half. The committee listened to the comments from people on the phone calls and there have been some adjustments made.

There is a list that you will be given, I believe on Monday. On Monday? Okay. It will be on your chair, on the delegates' chairs, of some typos or corrections that have been found since you received the document. And you probably, some of you have read it, have probably noticed some things like that. And I would say every revision I've ever done with any group, we come up with things like that. It's just because you are dealing with such a lot of stuff, moving it around. And it was done in track changes, and sometimes you change different computers, and they were sending it to me, and I was on the road sometimes and trying to do it from my iPad. And it just, sometimes those things happen. So we're going to have a list of these corrections and typos.

I want everyone to read through those to make sure that they feel like, yes, those are just corrections and typos. They are not anything substantial. Because what we're, the intent is right now is to when we make a motion to adopt this, to put it on the floor for discussion and amendment, we will move those corrections and typos along with it. So we don't have to go through one by one and make a motion to correct those. That we will just move them all forward as a group to make it easy. But we're not trying to, they will all be laid out for you. You will have a copy of them. And so, but make sure you read them and if you have any questions about those, let us know.

There have also been a couple of things that came forward that are a little bit more than typos or corrections that will have to be made a motion from the floor after listening to some concerns on these calls. And I think it was not, it was probably the difference between what the committee thought their intent was and maybe me explaining the parliamentary rules behind it, and just maybe some miscommunication. But one of them is, there is a couple of things that are being moved from the Constitution & Bylaws to the Standing Rules. And along with it it says it will, even though it's in the Standing Rules, there is a provision that this would take, to amend it will take action by the convention body. Have you seen those things in there? And so they want to make it clear that it will be amended to say not only will it take a vote of the convention body but it would take a two-thirds vote of the convention body because that is what it currently takes.

The dues, the provision on dues already reads that way. What's being added to that and it would be proposed from the convention floor by this ad hoc committee, and I believe this is correct from the committee, is that the formula for figuring out how many delegates each department gets. If that is to be changed, even though it's moving, that formula is moving to the Standing Rules, it would take a two-thirds vote to change that formula.

And the composition terms and purpose of committees, all that has been moved to the Standing Rules from the Bylaws, I believe it was originally in the Bylaws. And so that would be also, to change any of that would require a two-thirds vote of the convention body even though it would be in the Standing Rules. So that is, from what I believe right now, is going to be proposed from the ad hoc committee to make changes.

Now let me talk about when we consider this on the floor and it's open to amendment, how that works. Because you have received in your packet the revision, and also you received three proposals from three different departments proposing to make some amendments to the current governing documents. And those are one from Arizona that is proposing to make some changes to adding a second Vice President and a third Vice President; and also naming the current Vice President a first Vice President. Then there is one from the Department of Minnesota to make some changes to the Finance Committee. And there is one from the Department of Virginia proposing some language change for senior members about being the age of 18.

When they made those proposals and they wrote them to amend your current governing documents, the revision has changed. And it has moved around. If those three departments would like to see their language in the revision they have to amend the revision from the floor. Now they have to adapt their original proposal because in their original proposal they might have been amending Article 3 of the Constitution, Section such and such. Well if we look at the revision, that might have been moved someplace and the language is slightly different.

So I have worked with them to make sure they know what they are doing. And so you will hear them most likely get up and try to amend the revision. Their language will be slightly different because it has to conform to the revision. But I believe everything that they are doing has the original intent of what you have already seen. Because they, everything has to be amended into the revision because once we get down and we take a vote on the revision, and if it passes, we're done. You can't come back and bring up more amendments to the revision after it is adopted, not until next year. So you are done. So if there is anything you want to see happen to that revision it has to happen then.

If perchance the revision is not adopted, then we will go directly to those three proposed amendments from those three departments, back to amending your current governing documents. Because they would still, your current governing documents would be in place. But if the revision is adopted, it immediately becomes your governing documents. And what you have today as your governing documents will no longer exist.

Does that make sense? Does anybody, and please don't say, "Well, I don't; I'm not really sure." There is no dumb question. There really isn't. I want people to understand this because it's a little bit, a lot to get your arms around. And there's a couple of people, even some staff members I have explained this to three times, or four times. And I don't mind doing that. Because it's like they think about it for a while, and then they come back and say something. And that's okay. Because I've been through this, and one of the reasons why I'm a parliamentarian is because once I sat out there in an organization and I just couldn't get my arms around some of these things. So I want to help you understand this.

So if anybody has any questions on that, because I don't want anybody to be confused once we get on the convention floor. Because things will happen fast and I want you to understand what you are going to be doing. We are going to be using voting keypads again this year, okay? And we're going to work very hard to make sure that they work correctly, okay? And so I'm going to be working with those people. But it will

make it go faster. But things will go fast. But it's better to get your questions answered now. And also, because you need to go back and talk to your departments, too, and make sure they understand some of these things.

I think, Dubbie, did you want to add something? Yes. There, there is, I went through some of the rules that are going to be, that are in here. The convention Standing Rules. There is one going to be added that's being proposed and it will be considered this morning in the pre-convention meeting on rules. And so it would be a new rule 29. And I don't have the exact language right now but I will tell you the essence of it. Or Dubbie, do you want to read it?

SECRETARY BUCKLER: The proposal will be that there will be an additional rule that amendments to the revision of the National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative for adoption. That was the intent all along. If I may say, when she said, you know, I've had to explain this to staff several times and Marta and I were over here chuckling, we might have been some of those staff she had to explain this to several times.

There is a little known rule in Roberts that says amendments to a revision only require a majority vote. Well that was never the intention. It was never the intention of the proposers of the three amendments that they could sneak something in on a majority vote that otherwise would have taken a two-thirds vote. So we're just going to say Robert, on this one we're going to require that the revision requires a two-thirds vote to amend. That's what everybody is used to. So can I see some, that everybody understands what we're doing there and agree that's a good thing? Yeah.

MS. DICKEY: Yeah. And let me explain to you why it is a good thing. Like I said, I've been through some revisions in the last three or five days. Roberts does say that to amend a revision from the floor no notice is required on any amendments and it only takes a majority. And so some people think, ah, I can take advantage of that. And they start proposing all sorts of weird things. And huge things that are really kind of wild and crazy that would really change how the organization operates and stuff like that. But sometimes on a whim that people haven't had time to think about or anything like that, maybe you might be able to get a majority. And especially if you can get somebody up there that's very persuasive in talking in front of a convention, and you can get some things past.

So it can be, you can see some huge changes. And then so you go on and on debating some of these things for a long time because people are proposing lots of different things. So keeping it at a two-thirds, which is what you are used to for amending your documents, is, especially when you are trying to really do it for the purpose of moving things to, and I think for what the purpose of what you are trying to make of this revision, is a good thing. So that is going to be an added, proposed convention Standing Rule to make that happen.

Any questions whatsoever? Okay. Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Chris. And I want to remind you that she is an advisor to Roberts Rules of Order. She is a professional, registered parliamentarian. So we thank you, Chris. Thank you very much. And I want to add that four departments

have passed, they have revised their Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules, and they passed very successfully. And I was in one department and I know for a fact that it did.

The Chair will now call on Nicole Clapp, Chairman of the National Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Good morning.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Well let's talk a little bit of finance. We're going to go through the report and then we will look at the investment policy statement for your consideration. Madam President, good morning all, and on behalf of your National Finance Committee, Finance Vice Chairman Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, committee members Desi Stoy, JoAnn Cronin, and our newest member Ginny Hobbs, we want to say thank-you and we appreciate all your support as this year progresses in the financial arena for the viability of the ALA.

So I am pleased to share this brief summary with you. You always ask how are we doing? Well, we are doing quite well this year. Year to date through the end of July we have \$8.2 million in operating revenue, and a little bit of math, we have year to date expenses of \$6.6 million. So in grammar school, eight is greater than six. So right now we are doing quite well. So thank you for all of your being fiscal and frugal, yes.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: But also in finance we always have to look to what can happen. Right now we are in the black. But does anybody know what the biggest expense is for us in the ALA on an annual basis? National Convention. So at this point in time we have the numbers that I shared with you. But yes, our biggest expense is occurring as we speak. So we will know more as we end the year. But right now we are doing quite well. And I definitely want to thank the headquarters staff. And especially in the back corner, Tim Bresnahan, the controller. He and I talk pretty much on a weekly basis, and for his dedication and his due diligence. And he's the tall, quiet, silent type. So thank you, Tim.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: With that sufficient revenue stream, from the dues increase, we have to remember, in 2011, that has allowed us to have this increased performance. Performance not only in investments. We were able to then lead to the first Department Leadership National Conference. We were able to underwrite the cost for actually three representatives to attend instead of just two, as we had initially planned. And I know very important to all of your departments was to resume the department visits by the National Division Vice Presidents. Those of you that are getting tech savvy, we were also able to roll out the new online event registration system.

So then you look at fundraising. Fundraising efforts by our direct mail campaign of Quadriga continued this year again with three campaigns for ALA and one campaign for the Foundation. Fiscal donations into those programs through July of this year totaled \$212,000. So thank you for your generosity.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: As we look at those donations an interesting fact arose. There were 243,000 gifts in 2012. That may be people that repeat. Those were the actual

donations that came in, how many times. But what raised a red flag were 23 percent more of those gifts came from nonmembers of the ALA than our actual members. So our awareness is getting out to the people who may be potential new members. But that is significant, when \$212,000 came in and 23 percent more for those came from nonmembers. So it might be the lady next door who you never thought to ask to be members.

Then as ladies in this room we all know we like to spend, shop, shop, shop, correct? How many of you have a USAA credit card? Yay! We thank you. Anybody have any idea how much money we brought in through the end of June in that program? I know I'll tell you it's got a lot of zeroes behind it. Well, there were 1,326 cards issued. Ladies, you did good. \$2,700,000 was charged in the USAA credit cards. Wow. Maybe that's a secret at home, I'm not sure, to share. Well, based on your generosity the royalty revenue that we share back to the departments is likely to increase from the 12,500 last fiscal year. We don't know what that is quite yet but we're hopeful that it will be even more coming back home. So you will hear me say on the platform this coming week, spend, spend, spend, charge, charge, charge. But remember, charge responsibly, of course. All right?

Then benefits. Benefits was something we were hearing for years in Finance and didn't have the ability until we had to do increased revenue working with Gallagher Benefit Services. For the first year the depth and breadth of the benefits that we were able to provide has been enhanced. And most importantly, they can be purchased at substantial savings.

There is a new program this year that has large discount opportunities through Abenity. It's a broker of discounts for members. They can range from technology to going on vacations to national attractions, to simple things at home of going to the movie theater, and discounts on dining. So again, use the website to find that information. And member benefits is a key point in recruitment for new members. So on behalf of the National Finance Committee again, as I said at the beginning, I'd like to thank you for your dedication, your commitment, and your general financial support for the tireless efforts of the ALA to fulfill our mission. Does anyone have any questions regarding the finance report through July 31st?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Okay. Hearing none, we'd like to proceed with the proposal for the policy for consideration. This is the investment policy statement. It is 13 pages that was in your packet. And I'd like to just hit the highlights of that for you.

Our investment firm that we work with is Valeo Financial Advisors, right there in Indianapolis. And the purpose of our investment policy is to assist the national organization in effectively supervising, monitoring, and evaluating the investments of our portfolio. The portfolio is a big word, and what that means is all of our investments pulled together.

We have five different funds. The general fund, which is similar to a savings account. We have the Helen Colby Small Fund, which people laugh on Finance Committee, my first meeting I finally said okay, Helen Colby must be a lady. And I learned very quickly that she was the initial donation for AEF, the Auxiliary Emergency

Fund. So we have that fund. We have the Spirit of Youth Fund. We have one that is very near and dear to our National Presidents, the National Presidents' Scholarship Endowment Fund. And then, you know, in ALA we use a lot of acronyms. PUFL, the Paid Up For Life Fund. So those funds. And the policy statement investment structure is reviewed to look at our thoughts, our attitudes, our expectations, how the economy and the world are changing right in front of us, and set our obligations as well as our objectives and our guidelines.

With that we have various asset classifications. I'm not going to get down into the weeds on how we invest our money but we have set targets and guidelines with that. It also allows us ongoing communication. And we've revised that structure in the last six months of working with our investors and actually now the office, as well as myself, get weekly updates emailed to us about how things are changing in the world of investments. And it also looks at our ongoing fiduciary responsibility.

I will tell you as a hospital CEO, I am very conservative. It's not my money. The ALA is not my money. So we obviously take an approach that will preserve us for into many, many years to come.

So that is the purpose of the investment policy statement. And I would ask if there are any questions regarding it at this time?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Hearing none I would ask on behalf of the Finance Committee that we move its adoption.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The motion is on the adoption of the investment policy statement. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing none all those in -- okay, are you coming to the mike? Okay.

MS. HATFIELD: Donna Hatfield, Department of Nebraska. Is this a new investment firm that the Auxiliary is working on? Or is this something that has been ongoing?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: It's ongoing. We've been with this firm for several years.

MS. HATFIELD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: We evaluated different firms and we remained in February to stay with our current firm of Valeo Investments.

MS. HATFIELD: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Donna. Any further discussion? Any questions? Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of the adoption of the investment policy statement say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those opposed say, "Nay."

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The ayes have it and the policy is adopted. Nicole, is there anything else?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: No, Madam President. That concludes my report this morning.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you for an excellent report.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Let's give her a hand. The next item under new business is the resolution regarding establishing the official ALA uniform hat. In order for this resolution to come before this body, the maker of the resolution needs to move the adoption. These resolutions were previously distributed so they will not be read unless a request is made to do so. If a request is made the maker of the resolution will need to read it.

It was the, I think the Department of Connecticut, please come to the mike and read, make the motion.

MS. WELTON: Alcyné Welton, National Executive Committeewoman from the Department of Connecticut. This is a submission of a new Auxiliary hat designed for Emblem Sales. Whereas the American Legion Auxiliary has no officially recognized hat design; and whereas the national Emblem Sales catalog has had various designs available for a unit to purchase that have the American Legion Auxiliary official emblem on them; and whereas the members of Unit #91 of Moosup, Connecticut, have tried the various designs through the years; and whereas it has been difficult to find a hat that will fit all types of heads without their being blown off or knocked off by bumping into something; and whereas it has become a focal point that the American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, and the Sons of The American Legion are trying to promote the fact that we are family; and whereas The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion both have the same hat design with different colors to separate their individual organizations; and whereas after much trial and error with different designs the members of Unit #91 after careful consideration and thought have taken the vote to propose a hat. Therefore, be it resolve that the American Legion Auxiliary at their next Department Convention in the year 2013 have, take under consideration the adoption of a uniform hat design as the American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion. And be it further resolved that after this consideration is passed that the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Connecticut bring to the next National Convention in the year 2013 this resolution for consideration at the National Convention. And be it further resolved that the hat be in the main color of navy blue, with red, white, and blue trim. And be it further resolved that the material used shall be of a weight to cover all seasons. And be it further resolved that this hat may be used for ceremonial purposes. And be it further resolved that we the members --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay, stop. Stop right there. The last three resolve clauses are not permitted --

MS. WELTON: Okay.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- under Robert's Rules.

MS. WELTON: Okay.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: They just pertain to the unit.

MS. WELTON: Okay, I'll just skip down.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: So just, you can move the adoption. Well first we

have to --

MS. WELTON: Okay --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

MS. WELTON: To the conclusion?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Just don't read --

MS. WELTON: The concluding resolution?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You can, she can, no because that pertains to department and unit.

MS. WELTON: Okay.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: So that's why I stopped you, because it does not pertain to the National Organization.

MS. WELTON: Okay. I move for the adoption of this resolution.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay, thank you. The motion is on the adoption of the resolution as read. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Approach the mike.

AUDIENCE: Just a point of clarification. This would be an item that would be an item at national Emblem so it would be up to a member to decide if they wanted to purchase? It wouldn't be mandatory? It would be --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It would have to be passed, designed, and then moved forward. But --

AUDIENCE: But the intent is to have it in the Emblem Sales? Or --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I don't know.

AUDIENCE: You don't know?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Any further discussion? Kris?

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson. I believe that The American Legion members earn the right to wear a hat by their service to our country. The Sons of The American Legion are a program of the Legion. I don't believe we should have an official hat if we didn't serve and earn the right to wear that hat.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kris.

MS. MONTANEY: Madam President, Jane Montaney, Department of Washington NEC. It states in the final resolved that the hat may be used for ceremonial purposes. So therefore if it is passed the way it is, does that not mean that we have the option of purchasing it or not?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You have the option now to purchase the ones for sale.

MS. MONTANEY: Right, we have others that are available to us. I believe that this is simply going to give us another option to purchase.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Jane.

MS. MONTANEY: But if we vote it in, though, it did say uniform, which means will that be taking others away? That's --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: First we have to get through the adoption or not. Any further discussion? Please approach the mike.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those in favor of the resolution say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "No."

(A chorus of nos.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The nos have it. The resolution is not adopted.

The resolutions do not have to be read to be moved. The National Poppy Resolution to ratify the Legion's National Poppy Resolution is the next thing and it's the Poppy rules. The maker of the motion, would they -- the Poppy Resolution. It's been, who is going to do it with the Poppy, Melanie?

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Melanie Taylor, National Poppy Chairman. Read the whole thing and then --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: No. No, just make a motion.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam President, I move for the acceptance of this resolution to the Poppy program.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. The motion on the adoption of the Poppy Resolution is read as you have been distributed. Is there any discussion?

MS. GEER: Ann Geer, Department of New York. I have a question. On this new resolution, the counsel general stated that the departments have the ability to make their own programs, design their own programs, providing they are in the parameters of that resolution. Would that mean that should a department choose to do so they can find their own manufacturer for the materials? In other words, we wanted to just get crepe paper manufactured. We would be able to do that?

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Yes.

MS. GEER: Okay. That was, thank you.

MS. MONTANEY: Madam President, troublemaker Jane Montaney from Department of Washington. We do have several people that have problems with this, in that they feel that the poppies are handmade by veterans for veterans is an extremely important point for the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy. And we feel that number one, if it does have to go commercial it should only do that after it has had the opportunity to go to the families of veterans before it goes to a commercial entity. The second point was like to have it be a uniform poppy, instead of having them made by several different departments they want it to be of the same. Otherwise you are going to have several poppies that look differently, all for the American Legion Auxiliary if we understand this correctly.

My third point, I guess, is more of a question. Because of the second Resolution on Poppies, which I understand we are not discussing, the counsel general stated that because it was in conflict with the American Legion resolution as it was passed, it was not pertinent. So I guess I'm asking exactly how we go about asking the American Legion to consider changing their plan? I was told not to use the word amend and I'm trying to figure a way of wording it. So that it would stipulate that it is offered to veterans and families of veterans before it goes to a commercial entity.

And I do understand that there is a commercial entity that is primarily veterans, and all their employees are veterans. In my personal opinion that means there's veterans making them. It's not the entity, it's the people.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Jane. I would like to clarify that. This only gives the departments flexibility to use another route. Because so many departments have problems obtaining material and people to make them. And I personally can say in many departments that I visited this year there were others than veterans sitting in the back of the meeting rooms making poppies, and I looked the other way. So it's going on anyway. So why not just make it legal? And let them. It's just an option. I agree that the program is for the veterans. And of course, that is each department's flexibility to do this.

There are many different versions out there. And Illinois has been doing theirs for years, and I have been them manufactured and they are good looking. But times change. We can't get the materials and that's what started the whole thing, but it's just my idea and my opinion.

So any other discussion? Now is the time.

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The motion is on the adoption of the resolution to revise the Poppy Program rules. Is there any discussion? Any more discussion? If not, all those in favor of the resolution say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "No."

(A chorus of nos.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted.

Under the Poppy, the Department of Wyoming has a resolution to restrict the National Poppy Program. Counsel General has ruled this invalid because it contradicts the one you just adopted.

The next one to be considered is establishing American Legion Auxiliary 5-Year Million Member Centennial Task Force. So who -- okay. Would somebody from the National Membership Committee, Susan?

MS. BRITTON: Madam President, Susan Britton, National Membership Chairman. I move the adoption of the resolution to establish a task force to develop a 5-Year American Legion Auxiliary Million Member Centennial Plan.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. The motion on the adoption of the resolution that Sue Britton just read on the Task Force, 5-Year Million Member Task Force, is there any discussion on that?

MS. HATFIELD: Donna Hatfield, Nebraska. In reading the resolved portions, I noticed that it says that we are going to approve that and approve the expenditures. I was wondering how much of the expenditures, and if there was a timeframe on that? And I did check with, ask Tim, and he may have that number for me, now. Or do you have it, Madam?

MS. BRITTON: The amount that has been included in the fiscal year 2014 budget for this is \$18,000. According to our National Controller, who is nodding his head at me, and our National Finance Chairman.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Any further discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those in favor of the resolution, please say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, “No.”

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. This is the last one? The last one that I have is establishing a joint American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Membership Eligibility Task Force. Would the maker please come to the mike?

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Madam President, Susan Britton, National Membership Chairman. I move the adoption of the resolution for the Joint Legion and Auxiliary National Study Committee on Membership Eligibility.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Susan. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. The motion is on the adoption of the resolution as read. If no discussion, then all those in favor of the resolution please say, “Aye.”

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, “No.”

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The ayes have it and it is adopted. And that is the last resolution, thank goodness.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. Is there any other new business? I guess so. Okay. Now we will call on the well-known, soft-spoken, short speaker Dubbie Buckler for any announcements that you would like to make at this time.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, I thank you for that wonderful introduction. And let me remind those, she has a script to follow, and sometimes she goes off script.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I don’t think that’s what she meant. Okay. A reminder that today the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Meeting is here in the convention center at 1:00 p.m. in Grand Ballroom C. Everybody got that? Okay. It’s in this building.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Is it, on what floor? On -- is it on this floor?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: This floor, that way? Yes. Okay, thank you. You all got that? This floor that way. That’s getting it down and simple. Okay. Also a reminder, today is Saturday. Starting Monday with the National Convention, I know, I have to remind myself what day of the week it is. We’re going to do something new this year. And I’m going to announce it again, but we’re actually going to be doing live video streaming of the National Convention. And that’s really pretty cool, we think.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So anyway, so for your friends who were not able

to make it to National Convention and want to follow what's going along, they can do it. You know, on their computer they can just watch the Convention being streamed live. I point that out now because live streaming means there is going to be video cameras. So you never know when you would be sitting there going --

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So of course you want to always smile whether you agree with the comment being made from the podium or at the microphones or not.

(Laughter.)

MS. BUCKLER: Okay. Another announcement, would all of the 2013-2014 National Office Candidates please meet at 12:50 today in the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Con Room, which is Grand Ballroom C, which we now know is on this floor and that way, for brief candidate introductions. So 10 minutes before the C & B Pre-Con begins would all of you who are running for office gather and I assume you are going to find each other in the room. Okay. Madam President, that concludes my very brief announcement.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: That was very brief for Dubbie. We really love her, we do.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: What did you just say?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We really love you. Please stand with me as the National Chaplain offers the benediction.

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, with heads bowed we bring this National Executive Committee Meeting to a close. We thank you, Lord, that you have been with us throughout this meeting and that you are with us right now and always. Inspire us as we leave this place to love and serve you, veterans, active military, and their families always. Please bless each of us as we go forth in our various meetings today, remembering our aims and purposes. This we ask in your Mighty Wonderful Name, Amen.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Rosemarie. Thank all of you for your dedication and good work. And now this meeting of the National Executive Committee is adjourned.

(Ringing of the bell.)

(Whereupon, at 9:12 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was concluded.)

NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2013

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please be seated. Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Who wants a balloon ride this morning?

VOICES: Woo.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Who is ready to soar to new heights?

VOICES: Woo.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Welcome to Houston, Texas. I am so happy to be here to celebrate your accomplishments, learn ways to grow and better to serve, meet new members and reconnect with old friends.

Angels in service. You've heard me talk about this all year long. It's been incredibly rewarding to see firsthand the wonderful work you do in service to our veterans, active military, and their families. We truly have some angels among us who know how to fly.

Over the next three days, we're going to meet a few of them via video, three out of literally tens of thousands of Auxiliary members who live by the motto Service Not Self. We're calling them everyday angels not because they're ordinary, quite the opposite. They are everyday angels because they do what they do, work in our programs, walking the walk, and talking the talk every day.

Want to take a sneak peek? Let's take a look.

(Music.)

VOICE: North in Alaska lives Barby Rice, a very special Auxiliary volunteer. She takes care of veterans who need her help every day of the year. Shopping for food or cleaning their place, driving them wherever they go, the kindness she shows to these old men, a gentle word, a warm embrace.

She's an everyday angel, the kind without wings, walking around this world just like you and me. Angel living out of love, kind of people we could use a lot more of. Just an everyday angel, everyday angel.

Saratoga County in Upstate New York where the horses run, Kathy cuts hair for homeless vets, mentors them one by one. Pay it forward is how she lives her life, helping vets whenever she can, reaching out to those who've lost their way, that's her master plan. She's an everyday angel, the kind without wings, walking around this world just like you and me. Angel, living out of love, kind of people we can use a lot more of. Just an everyday angel, everyday angel.

Roaming down the highway in San Antonio is a Texas ball of fire, energizing her unit via the Legion Riders and serving vets is her desire. She teaches Zumba at her Legion home, telling the Auxiliary's story, stepping up to help whenever she can like you and me. She does it for Old Glory.

She's an everyday angel, the kind without wings, walking around in this world just like you and me. Angel, living out of love, kind of people we could use a lot more of. Just an everyday angel, everyday angel, everyday angel, everyday angel.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: As the song said, the kind of people we could use more of. I can't wait to see the videos. How wonderful to learn about the outstanding work of our dedicated members.

Now I would like to introduce another group of dedicated women, our attending American Legion Auxiliary past national presidents demonstrating our motto service not self. Like many of us, these women have spent a lot of time doing this.

(Music.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From the Department of Wisconsin, Pearl Behrend, National President 1987-1988.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Linda Boone from the Department of Oregon,
National President 1992-1993.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Linda Newsome from the Department of Maryland,
National President 1994-1995.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From the Department of Louisiana, Syble Deshotel,
National President 1995-1996.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Phyllis Sickmond from the Department of New York,
your National President 1996-1997.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From the Department of Wisconsin, Barbara Kranig,
National President 1997-1998.

(Applause.)

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

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Your 1999-2000 National President, Elizabeth
Stewart from the Department of North Carolina.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From the Department of New Hampshire, Kristine
West, National President 2000-2001.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From the Department of Texas, your 2002-2003
National President Katherine Morris.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Carol Van Kirk from the Department of Nebraska,
National President 2005-2006.

(Applause.)

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

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Desireé Stoy, your 2008-2009 National President
from the Department of Ohio.

(Applause.)

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

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Rita Navarreté from the Department of New Mexico,
your 2009-2010 National President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From the Department of Texas, Carlene Ashworth, National President 2010-2011.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And from the Department of Minnesota, your 2011-2012 National President Kris Nelson.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Ladies and gentlemen, your Past National Presidents, let's hear it for all our Past National Presidents for the American Legion Auxiliary. Let's have a good round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, ladies.

A little while ago, we saw a sneak preview of the American Legion Auxiliary's everyday angels. We had so many great suggestions from people who nominated people, we had to feature in these -- that we wanted to feature in these videos that it made picking three very difficult.

So throughout the convention, we'll mention a few more noteworthy everyday angels.

Okay. Would you like to meet one? Well, you're just about to. Now, travel with me to Alaska to learn more about a first featured American Legion Auxiliary everyday angel.

(Video shown as follows:)

THE NARRATOR: Alaska - translated from the native language - means the great land. It's a (indiscernible) to natural resources, (indiscernible), and extraordinary people. You're about to meet one of them.

MS. RICE: I am Barby Rice and this is my home. I'm a caregiver by nature. I like to make sure people get something to eat, make sure that they get home safely, make sure they have somebody to talk to if they're sitting there being quiet and want somebody to talk to.

I think it's important to be aware of the people around you and help them as much as you can.

THE NARRATOR: Since childhood, Barby has lived those words daily.

VOICE: Barby Rice has been a real blessing for this post and its veterans for a long time.

MS. BATEMAN: She is here every night to make sure that any veteran that is here and needs a ride has a ride home.

MS. BENNETT: Barby is taking care of Mike who lost his leg. She picks him up. She brings him to the lodge. She takes him home. She does whatever needs to be done and it's just wonderful.

THE NARRATOR: Not only does she help our veterans in every way she can, she's an important part of American Legion Post 1.

MR. BELL: When you talk about everyday angels, Barby Rice is ours. She's here every day 365 days a year. If there's a day that she doesn't show up, people get worried and we start looking for her to make sure she's okay.

MS. THAMAN: Barby's assistance around our post at activities is invaluable. Without her help, persons like myself wouldn't be able to be active or contribute as much as we do.

MS. PORTER: Eight years ago, Barby and I met when I was planting flowers out in the front flowerbed. She came along. I'd never seen her before. She hopped up into the bed and she helped me. And we've been planting flowers ever since.

Barby is our post gardener, takes care of the flowers, the flowerbeds, the yards, everything that needs to be done.

VOICE: Barby will do whatever she feels needs to be done around here and she will always do whatever she's asked. Even the dirty little jobs like cleaning out the freezer, Barby jumps in and gets it done even without having to ask her.

THE NARRATOR: As Poppy Chairman, Barby's impact is significant.

MR. BENINTENDI: Barby, of course, manages one of the post's most significant volunteer activities and that's the placement of flags and poppies on the graves of the veterans in the municipal cemetery every Memorial Day. And it is always noteworthy and often newsworthy in the local media.

THE NARRATOR: When questioned about why she remains so active at the post and with helping veterans, Barby responded.

MS. RICE: When my children were young, I would do the same to my children. When my children left and went to school, I had to find something to keep me busy. I started out with older people and eventually veterans.

And I am really enjoying helping out veterans. And for all the things that they have done for us, they need to have people being there for them as they get older and need help.

VOICE: We had this one veteran that was a longtime member here and he wanted to go fishing.

MS. RICE: When he found out he had cancer, he decided he wanted to go fishing one more time and he talked me into taking him. So we jumped in the truck and drove six hours and we went fishing. And we had a very good time.

THE NARRATOR: Not long afterwards, the man everyone knew as Sarge started to slip away.

MS. RICE: When he got worse, he had to go to an assisted living home. I would go there and stay at night with him so he would have somebody to visit with when he woke up and so he wouldn't be alone.

VOICE: Because she didn't want Sarge to die alone, from the day he got there, she slept on the floor in his room. The last two weeks of his life, they finally brought a cot in for her to sleep on.

MS. RICE: And I was there when he passed away and that was the right place for me to be. I didn't want him to go away alone.

MS. WELLS: My mom is an amazing example for the world to follow of kindness and generosity. Not only is she freely giving of her time, but she's raised her children well to where we raise our children well. And that is the way to impact future generations.

My mom without a doubt will be the person at the end of the days that will hear well done, good and faithful servant.

THE NARRATOR: In every way, Barby Rice exemplifies character and service. She is an American Legion Auxiliary everyday angel.

(Music.)

VOICE: She's an everyday angel.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Ladies and gentlemen, from the Department of Alaska, Unit 1, please welcome Barby Rice.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

VOICE: She was an everyday angel, the kind without her wings, walking around in this world just like you and me. Angel, living out of love. The kind of people we could use a lot more of. Just an everyday angel, everyday angel. She was an everyday angel, the kind without her wings, walking around in this world just like you and me. Angel, living out of love.

(Applause.)

THE NARRATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, the 93rd American Legion Auxiliary National Convention will resume shortly as we reset the stage and prepare for our business meeting.

(Whereupon, there was a pause in the proceedings.)

THE NARRATOR: Welcome back to Soaring to New Heights, the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Here to begin our business is Convention Chairman from the Department of Texas, Paula Raney.

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Good morning, delegates and guests, and welcome to Houston for the very special 93rd annual convention of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Before we begin, I would like everyone to please take a moment to ensure your electronic devices have been placed on silent mode. Thank you.

It is my honor this morning to present to you the 2012-2013 National Officers of the American Legion Auxiliary.

National Treasurer, Marta Hedding of Indiana.

(Applause.)

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

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: National Historian, Angela Kilcrease of Mississippi.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: National Chaplain, Rosemarie Hauck of Missouri.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Central Division National Vice President, Mary Jo Berning of Iowa.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Eastern Division National Vice President, Joan Reinoehl of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Northwestern Division National Vice President, Doris Ann Werlinger of South Dakota.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Southern Division National Vice President, Shirley Fraser of Florida.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Western Division National Vice President, Barbara Rutherford of Washington.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: And National Vice President, Nancy Brown-Park of California.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Please rise as the National Colors are presented by the National President's Pages.

(National Colors presented.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Afterward, please remain standing for the introduction of our National President.

Pages, please post the colors.

(National Colors posted.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: This morning, it is my special privilege to introduce a wonderful lady from the great state of Virginia. If we are all angels in service, she has been our guiding light enabling us to truly soar to new heights for God and country.

She is a tireless go-getter, fueled by her devotion to this organization and a drive to fulfill our mission of serving veterans, their families, and their communities.

Please join me in welcoming the leader of the world's largest women's patriotic service organization, our National President, Peggy Thomas.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Madam President, I present this gavel so you may officially open the 93rd National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Paula.

The 93rd National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will now come to order.

Let us begin this gathering with a prayer. Rosemarie Hauck, our National Chaplain, will lead us.

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: On a more serious note, I'd ask you to bow and close your eyes as we go to God in prayer. Our blessed the Lord at all times, his praise shall continually be in (indiscernible).

Heavenly Father, we come humbly to you asking for your blessing upon this convention of the American Legion Auxiliary. God grant that there shall be no idle gesture, no mere salute to tradition, but that in all sincerity that we keep the spirit of our organization dedicated to you and country.

We thank you for all of our veterans, active servicemen and women, and The American Legion family. Thank you for those present at the 93rd National Convention.

God, we ask you to be with us and guide us as we make many important decisions that will affect all of the members of our organization. God, please help us to remember that everyone's opinions are essential in making the correct decisions. Help us to always remember our true purpose as the American Legion Auxiliary.

To God I pray that you will be with President Peggy as she presides during these sessions. Keep her calm yet strong as she stands before us.

Father, help us to love one another as you have loved us and continue to bide with us at all of our sessions is my prayer. In your most holy name, I pray and I thank you. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please remain standing as Diane Duscheck, Chairman of the National Americanism Committee, leads us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then remain standing for our National Anthem performed by awarding winning Tomaczek Bednarek. And we will begin with Diane.

Diane.

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.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: As we prepare for the start of business, our National Constitution & Bylaws Vice Chairman, Lynne Wild, will lead us in the reciting of our preamble.

Oh, first we're going to have the National Anthem.

(Laughter.)

MR. BEDNAREK: Thank you.

It is such a blessing to be with all of you. You are angels. You're truly the diamonds and the brilliance of your light upon our nation, there are no words. Rita Cosby and I are here to serve you.

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. Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Wasn't he great?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Now we'll get back on track.

As we prepare for the start of business, our National Constitution & Bylaws Vice Chairman, Lynne Wild, will lead us in the reciting of our preamble.

Lynne.

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

inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Lynne.

Thank you, everyone, and welcome to the 93rd National Convention. We have much to celebrate and many important things to accomplish, so let's get started.

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We have some very important guests with us this morning. Please join me in welcoming this year's National Convention appointees.

Wendy Riggle, Chairman of Pages.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Virginia James, National President's page.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Patricia Upshaw, National President's page.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Susan Lee, National President's page.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Lisa Chaplin, National President's page, my daughter.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Katherine Morris, Chairman of Distinguished Guests Committee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Syble Deshotel, member of Distinguished Guests Committee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Bonnie Cruz, member of Distinguished Guests Committee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And Chris Dickey, Convention Parliamentarian.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is my pleasure to invite a few special guests to the stage to bring greetings and please welcome Marty Peters, Texas Department President. Marty.

(Music.)

VOICE: The prairie sky is wide and high deep in the heart of Texas. The sage in bloom is like perfume.

PRESIDENT PETERS: Good job. You all have only been here a short while and you already know our songs.

Good morning, National President Peggy, national officers, delegates, alternates, and guests. It is a great day for the ALA. On behalf of almost 20,000 Texas ALA members, we welcome you all back to Texas. It's been about 12 years since the San

Antonio Convention, but it's still August and you may have noticed it's still hot in Texas in August.

President Peggy, your Texas angelic choir has been singing about the American Legion Auxiliary programs all year long and we have been looking forward to your return after your visit to our DEC last fall.

Texas is proud to have 15 military bases with over 110,000 active duty military. Over 1.7 million veterans call Texas their home. Within our state are over 48 VA outpatient clinics, one of only five nationwide VA women's sexual trauma recovery units, seven VA hospitals including the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center here in Houston.

I can assure you that Texas which means friendship and is our state motto is definitely veteran friendly. Many of you all may have lived in Texas during your military service of your families and we hope that you will take advantage of this visit to also visit our five state forests, 120 state parks, 15 major river systems.

Whatever you like, we have, beaches and mountains, rolling hills, and lush tropical valleys, east Texas forests, canyons, plains and basins, and everything in between.

Here in Houston, you can enjoy visiting Johnson's Space Center, home of the NASA astronauts, the Houston Zoo --

VOICE: (Indiscernible.)

PRESIDENT PETERS: A Texan.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT PETERS: -- museums, the downtown bayou place, the Galleria Mall, downtown aquarium, and within driving distance is Old Town Spring and the Kemah Boardwalk. And let's not forget Galveston just down the freeway.

It is a pleasure to extend our welcome to all of you all as we soar to new heights this week. As a little Texas saying God blessed Texas. And with this convention being here this year, we are extra blessed.

It is said that everything is big in Texas and it's true, but our ALA members have big hearts and we've been serving this year with a song in our hearts.

President Peggy, I present to you a Texas heart to convey that Texas ALA members have opened our hearts to you and to your convention.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT PETERS: I also -- Harmony which is her name also brought out a small gift from Texas for your personal project.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Two hundred dollars more for the Scholarship for the Children of Warriors.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT PETERS: Madam President, we look forward to your interesting and productive convention. We hope everybody has a great time in Houston, Texas. Thank you for allowing me to address your convention.

Y'all, welcome to Texas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Paula Raney, National Convention Chairman, you still here?

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Yes, ma'am.

(Music.)

VOICE: God bless Texas. Life has said, spread the message. God bless Texas.

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Thank you.

On behalf of the Department of Texas, we are happy to be hosting the 93rd Annual National Convention. Welcome to the great state of Texas in the city of Houston. We are so pleased you all braved the heat and the humidity that is Texas to attend this National Convention.

It is my pleasure to recognize the national -- the local Chairman and Vice Chairman of our local committees who have carried the responsibility, have done the work to make this convention possible.

Please hold your applause until all have been recognized.

First is our National Vice Chairman, Preness Thomas-White. She has been my right hand and I have her on speed dial.

Chairman of Pages is Mary Tatman and the Vice Chairman is Kathy McLaughlin.

Mail room Chairman is Lauri Oxley and the Vice Chairman is Vaudine Wilson. And they're working very hard in the mail room to make sure you all get your mail in a timely manner.

Flowers and Corsages Chairman is Maryann Paul and Vice Chairman Joan Swiatowski.

The drivers for the National President and the National Secretary are Jerry Tatman and Brenda Towers.

We have worked hard to make sure that everyone has a great time while visiting Houston and Texas. You'll know us by the bandanas that I am not wearing. If you need any assistance, just look for us. We're here to help.

Texas is the home of Friday Night Lights, J.R. Ewing, big hair, Willie Nelson, George Strait, and Lone Star Beer.

It's also the home of great college football. In Texas, in west Texas at Lubbock, the Texas Tech Red Raiders say wreck 'em. In College Station, the Texas A&M Aggies say gig 'em. In Austin at the University of Texas, we say hook 'em.

It's a big rivalry. It's a big state, but we all band together and we root for the Texas team that plays OU, Oklahoma University.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: Sorry, Oklahoma, but football is football.

President Peggy, to make your visit to Texas memorable, we would like to present to you this certificate signed by Governor Rick Perry making you an honorary Texan giving you all the rights and privileges of a Texan.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN RANEY: We hope that after the convention is over and you're home in Virginia when you see this, you will remember Texas, good times, and know that we love you.

Thank you for this appointment, and I know you will have a great convention.
(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: She has done a wonderful, wonderful job. It's a big job. Let's give her one more round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And now we will hear from Kris Nelson, immediate Past National President from the Department of Minnesota.

(Music.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NELSON: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NELSON: Madam President, it is an honor to bring greetings to you on behalf of the Past National Presidents. We would like to commend you on your year of service and wish you a most wonderful convention.

Helen Keller once said the best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.

We know that you touched the hearts of our veterans, military, and their families across the world as we soared to new heights for God and country. Your call to action to soar to new heights was embraced by our membership.

Those of us who know you best know that besides the angel that you were all year, that sometimes this halo might have fit you best.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NELSON: Our members appreciated your quick wit as well as your southern charm. We know that some day, the South may rise again.

Madam President Peggy, thank you for your dedication, a year of your life to serve our nation's heroes, our veterans, and the sacrifices made by you and your family are appreciated by every one of us.

I would like to close by sharing with you the wishes of the angels. May angels rest beside your door. May you hear their voices sing. May you feel their loving care for you. May you hear the peace bells ring. May angels always care for you and let you not trip and fall. May they bear you up on angel's wings. May they keep you standing tall. May they whisper wisdom in your ear. May they touch you when you need. May they remove from you each trace of fear. May they keep you from feeling greed. May they fill you with their presence. May they show you untold love. May they always stand beside you and make you ever bold. May they teach you what you need to know, hear about life and ever after. May they fill you with love and give you the gift of laughter.

Madam President, may you have a wonderful convention. God bless you, my dear friend.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kris...I think.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I have to say I've spent a lot of time with Kris, so she knows both sides of me. But the angel side is the true one.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Last year, we introduced electronic voting. Finally delegates were able to truly vote with their conscience and all members could clearly and easily see the voting count for each item of business.

I'm excited to say that this year, we will again be utilizing electronic voting during our National Convention. Your delegations should have already picked up your voting keypads before today's session began.

Please remember that standing rule number 16 states that voting keypads are not to be removed from the assembly hall. Each department representative is responsible for all keypads issued to their department. Departments will be charged \$100 for any missing keypads. So be sure to count them before you turn them into the Election Committee at the end of the day.

If for some reason you have a delegate missing and no alternate to take her place, votes for those keypads will be cast by the delegation.

If you choose to abstain from voting, simply do not, and I emphasize not, press any keys.

If you press the wrong number on the keypad, wait a moment and then press the correct number. The keypad will register only the last key pressed.

Let's take a minute to get familiar with our new electronic voting keypads by doing some practice votes.

Our first practice vote will tell us how many first-time convention attendees we have had -- we have today. If you are attending the ALA National Convention for the first time, please press the number one key. If you have attended the Auxiliary National Convention before, please press the number two key. Please make your selection now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results. Okay. The voting is now closed. Please show the results. Okay. Okay. Fifteen percent have voted my first time. My first -- it's the first-time attendees. And I can't read the number. Eighty-four point nine four that have attended before.

All right. Our final question will ensure that everyone is voting correctly. Now we're going to find out what you're most excited to do while attending National Convention.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Tracking me, right?

Press number one for States Dinner. What are you most excited about? Press number one for States Dinner. Press number two for the Woman of the Year Luncheon. Press number three if you are most excited to explore Houston. You can vote now. I'm watching it.

Okay. Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. Twenty point five States Dinner, 31.23 Woman of the Year, and 39.27 exploring Houston.

All right. Our final question will ensure that everyone is voting correctly.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: If you are a delegate from the Department of Virginia, please press number one on the keypad. If you are a delegate not from the Department of Virginia, please press number two. And please vote now. That's a hard one.

All right. Voting is now closed. Please show the results. Two point four nine percent is from Virginia and it looks like 97.51 is from elsewhere. So --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. It looks like we've all got it down great. You'll be using your keypad to vote later today, so please keep them with you. Remember at the end of the day, you must turn your keypad into your department representative before you leave.

Department representative, please be sure to count all your keypads before turning them in.

Our first item of business is the adoption of the report -- reports organizing the convention. The Credentials report will be presented by Credentials Chairman Marcia Wheatley from the Department of guess where, Virginia.

VOICES: Virginia.

(Music.)

CHAIRMAN WHEATLEY: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN WHEATLEY: Madam National President, the Credentials Committee met on Saturday, August 24th, 2013. The following is our report:

Alabama, 10;
Alaska, eight;
Arizona, 16;
Arkansas, eight;
California, 23;
Colorado, 10;
Connecticut, nine;
Delaware, nine;
District of Columbia, six;
Florida, 32;
Georgia, 12;
Hawaii, six;
Idaho, eight;
Illinois, 29;
Indiana, 40;
Iowa, 25;
Kansas, 16;
Kentucky, 12;
Louisiana, 12;
Maine, 11;
Maryland, 23;

Massachusetts, 11;
Michigan, 25;
Minnesota, 35;
Mississippi, 10;
Missouri, 17;
Montana, nine;
Nebraska, 22;
Nevada, seven;
New Hampshire, 13;
New Jersey, 13;
New Mexico, 10;
New York, 37;
North Carolina, 12;
North Dakota, 14;
Ohio, 38;
Oklahoma, 10;
Oregon, 11;
Pennsylvania, 51;
Puerto Rico, seven;
Rhode Island, seven;
South Carolina, nine;
South Dakota, 16;
Tennessee, 10;
Texas, 22;
Utah, eight;
Vermont, 11;
Virginia, 14;
Washington, 12;
West Virginia, 11;
Wisconsin, 26;
Wyoming, eight;
Bringing the total delegates to 831.

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 THOMAS: Okay. The question is on the adoption of the Credentials Committee report as presented.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on the motion to adopt the Credential Committee's report as presented.

All those in favor, say aye.

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Those opposed, say no.

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

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

Thank you, Marcia.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Rules Committee Chairman, Rita Navarreté, will read the proposed rules for this convention.

(Music.)

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: If you would like to follow along, the rules are printed on page 160 of your convention program. Thank you.

The Rules Committee will be adding an additional rule and when we get there, I will read it very slowly so you can write it down. The wording will also be on the big screen.

Rule number 1, all meetings of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention shall be called to order at the designated time or as soon thereafter as a quorum is present.

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

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

Rule number 4, the audience shall remain seated during the business of the convention. Doors will remain open unless noise interferes with the conducting of the business.

Delegates will be allowed to leave or enter the National Convention hall except when balloting or elections are being held or when a speaker is speaking. Delegates may leave or enter the National Convention hall without an escort.

Smoking is not permitted. All electronic communication devices shall be turned off or silenced.

Rule number 5, for security purposes, all persons in the National Convention hall shall be identified and admission to the business section at the National Convention shall be restricted to those persons displaying the official convention badge or other acceptable official credentials who are under the age of 12 years.

The National Convention hall is defined as the area predetermined and set aside for the general business of the sessions of the National Convention.

Number 6, only authorized photographers shall be permitted on stage during the convention sessions.

Rule number 7, there shall be no public presentation of gifts to individuals from the American Legion Auxiliary except by prearrangements with the National President.

Rule number 8, the chairmen of each department delegation shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that only accredited delegates wearing official convention badges are seated with their delegation.

If a delegate is to be absent from a meeting, an alternate delegate shall take her place with the delegation.

Rule number 9, only voting delegates of the convention may make motions and address the National Convention. To address the National Convention, the voting

delegate shall rise and, number one, proceed to a microphone; number two, address the Chair; number three, wait to be recognized by the Chair; and, number four, upon being recognized, the Chair shall state her name and department.

Rule number 10, 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.

The completed motion form is then to 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.

Rule number 11, the proposed revision of the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and resolutions -- National Constitution, Bylaws, and standing rules shall be considered seriatim, each document as a whole, the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the standing rules. The reading of each document shall be required.

Number 12 --

VOICE: Shall not be required.

CHAIRMAN NAVARRETÉ: Shall not be required. I stand corrected.

Rule number 12, debate on any question shall be limited to two minutes for each delegate. No person shall speak on the same question more than twice without the consent of the convention. No delegate may address the convention a second time on the same question until all delegates who desire to speak on the topic have spoken.

During debate, delegates, alternates, and guests are to remain seated within their delegation or assigned seating area unless they approach the microphone, completing a motion form, or entering or exiting the general section.

Pages may deliver messages to the stage and to other delegations at any time.

Rule number 13, during the seriatim, consideration of the proposed revision of the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution & Bylaws and standing rules, total debate for each document, Constitution, the Bylaws, and the standing rules including amendments thereto shall be limited to one hour.

After seriatim consideration, the entire revision shall be considered open to amendments for one hour. After each debate on the entire revision shall be considered for an additional 30 minutes on the merit of the entire revision and not open to further amendment.

Rule number 14, 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 in accordance with the current National Constitution & Bylaws and standing rules.

Rule number 15, voting shall be the voice vote or by an electronic voting keypad or device except when the Chair deems it necessary to use some other method or when a roll call is requested by the chairmen of three department delegations. Voting by electronic voting keypad or device shall be deemed to be the division of the assembly.

Rule number 16, when the Chair deems electronic voting devices are to be used, packets containing electronic voting keypads shall be provided for each department.

Electronic voting keypads shall not be removed from the National Convention hall. Delegation chairmen shall sign for the issuance and return the -- of the electric -- electronic voting packets as instructed.

Placed inside each voting packet envelope shall be:

A, the number of electronic voting keypads corresponding to the number of the department's voting delegates, one to be assigned to each voting delegate of the department;

B, one certification sheet shall have the number of votes to be cast as certified by the Credentials Chairman.

Rule number 17, when the Chair deems paper ballots are to be used, a ballot envelope shall be provided for each department. Placed inside each envelope shall be:

A, the number of ballots to be cast by each department;

B, one certification sheet which shall have the number of votes to be cast as certified by the Credentials Chairman.

Rule number 18, if a paper ballot is used, each chairman of the department's delegation shall appoint two delegates to assist her in counting the number of votes cast. The chairman shall distribute a ballot to each voting delegate.

Rule number 19, if a paper ballot is used, the chairman of the delegation shall enter on to the certification sheet the total number of votes cast plus the absentee votes witnessed by the assistants.

The chairman of the delegation shall place the certification sheet and all of the ballots in the ballot envelope. The name of the department shall be removed from the ballot envelop by the chairman of the delegation. The chairman shall return the ballot envelop as instructed.

Twenty, the National President shall appoint an Election and Tally Committee.

Rule number 21, nomination of candidates for National Division Vice President shall be at the division caucuses on Saturday, August the 24, 2013.

Rule number 22, nomination of candidates for the office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Wednesday, August 28, 2013.

Rule number 23, nomination of candidates for national offices shall be made from the floor.

Rule number 24, nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate except for the candidates for National President who will be allowed four minutes. There shall be no seconding speeches.

Rule number 25, following nominating speeches for national officers on Wednesday, August the 28th, 2013, each of the nominees for National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be introduced to the National Convention by the Auxiliary member making her nomination, said introduction to be only by name and department affiliation in response to the introduction. The nominees shall be allowed a maximum of two minutes for her remarks.

Rule 26, election of national officers shall be held on Wednesday, August the 28th, 2013. When there is but one candidate for any office, the nominee may be elected

by voice. When there is more than one candidate for a national office, the election shall be by paper or electronic ballot as determined by the presiding officer.

A majority of votes shall elect each officer. When no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken between the candidate receiving the two highest numbers of votes with the candidate receiving the most votes on the second ballot being elected.

Rule number 27, the National Convention Parliamentarian with the approval of the National President, the National Vice President, the National Secretary, and the National Treasurer is authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the voting delegates in connection with the revision considered at this convention.

Rule number 28, these rules may be amended during the convention by a two-thirds vote.

And the last rule which is not printed in your program is as follows:

Rule number 29, amendments to the revision of the Constitution, Bylaws, and standing rules shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative for adoption.

Madam National President, by the direction of the Rules Committee, I move the adoption of the National Convention rules for 2013 as just read.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. Microphone number two.

The question is on the adoption of the National Convention rules for 2013 as just read.

Is there any discussion?

Microphone number two. Can't hear you.

MS. SCOTT: Madam President, in the committee meeting --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Identify yourself and your department.

MS. SCOTT: I'm sorry. Donna Scott, Department of California.

In the meeting for the Rules Committee, there was a change in item number -- rule number 16. It was supposed to be changed to read that the delegate chairman or the delegate -- or the delegation secretary shall sign for the issuance and return of -- that was added.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: That is correct. It was just omitted by -- it was just failed to be read, but it is in the rules.

MS. SCOTT: All right. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We apologize. Thank you.

Is there any further discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. The question is on the adoption of the National Convention rules for 2013.

All those in favor, please press the number one on your voting pad. Those opposed, press two. Please vote now.

Okay. Voting is closed. The voting is closed. We're going to ask for the results and see what it says. Okay. Ninety-eight point ninety-nine vote in favor and 1.01

oppose. It's on -- it goes by the keypads. The instructions were if the last number that you punched is what is recorded.

Microphone number two.

MS. SNYDER: Ardis Snyder, Department of Oregon.

I have two. I pressed them. Neither worked. I got no -- no response except for the -- the deal that it didn't count. Your percentages are on the number that actually go through, not the number of people who are actually voting.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Just a moment.

We have certified that the voting is registering and if they're not -- if you feel like yours is not working, go to the back. But Stephanie Abisi will be glad to show -- go back and show you that the person that questioned theirs did record.

Okay. The technicians in the back certify that they are working.

MS. LEDISHUK: Madam President -- whoops. Wow.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Microphone number three.

MS. LEDISHUK: I think I need to stand two feet back. Lorna Ledishuk (phonetic), Department of Washington.

I attended the meeting yesterday for the voting. I have explained to all of our delegates this morning to ignore everything other than push the button once they know it works.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Microphone number two.

MS. SMITH: Madam President, Pat Smith, Department of Wisconsin.

Our question was, how many actual votes cast are being registered?

(Applause.)

MS. SMITH: We're not interested in the percentages. We want to know how many votes were actually cast for each one.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I have asked the National Secretary to explain how it works, how the votes are counted.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, I can't explain the technology of it, but it is recording all the votes cast. If we show the numbers, understand that some of you are not voting. So you've got a problem either way. We can show the numbers cast or we can show the percentage.

Our experience was when we showed the number cast, then people were madly trying to calculate what the percentage was. So if you want -- well -- and both the Parliamentarian and Madam President are saying when we take a voice vote, we don't know either how many are voting.

So just understand whatever -- whatever practice ends up being in place, not everybody votes. So the numbers are never going to total the total number of registered delegates because we have no way of knowing how many people are voting or how many people are not voting.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Madam National Secretary.

MS. CRAIG: Madam President, microphone number four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number four.

MS. CRAIG: Yes. Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina.

If -- when we vote and we need a two-thirds vote, then -- then we need to know -- I mean, we're dealing with numbers and not percentages. And I think that's part of the concern. So just please show us the numbers.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Microphone number two. Number two.

MS. SNYDER: Ardis Snyder, Department of Oregon.

Okay. When I pushed the numbers, should it not come up on the screen in order to count?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: No.

MS. SNYDER: So it -- so it gets the little box with the X through it and it's still counting?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It's electronic.

MS. SNYDER: Well, yeah, but --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It does count.

MS. SNYDER: -- it's not telling me how it's voting.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It does count. To answer -- to answer the question that -- that several -- I've heard twice, we can't switch it to the numbers.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: But I think we need to take a vote. All right.

MS. NELSON: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It will be changed to the numbers, the numbers cast.

(Applause.)

MS. NELSON: Madam President. Madam President, microphone number four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number four.

MS. NELSON: Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right.

MS. NELSON: It's been suggested that once they -- that everyone stand once they press their number and it turns green, they sit before you say the -- because that way, they'll know their numbers are -- their numbers are cast.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: To use that people standing would defeat the purpose of the electronic vote because it's supposed to be confidential.

MS. NELSON: Madam President, to clarify, once it turns green, they'd sit. Just so you can see that their votes were cast. They're thinking that -- that it's not turning green and their vote's not being cast. So they're pressing it over and over and over.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

MS. NELSON: So if they stand up, once it turns green, they sit down. Before you close voting, they'll all know that their vote was cast.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Stephanie will address that.

MS. ABISI: I was really trying not to talk this year. Ignore the lights. If you're pressing it right now, the voting is not open. So you're not going to get anything. So just ignore the lights. As long as voting is open, you can press the button as many times as you want.

Once voting closes, the last but -- the last one or two that you press is your vote. So -- but you really just need to press it once and then it will record. Okay?

MS. JUNTUNEN: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We will switch to numbers.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: But you must understand when we switch to numbers, it will not show the percentages and they cannot switch it back and forth. When we switch to numbers, it will just be numbers. No percentages can be shown. Okay?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You okay with that?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Very good.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number two.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Linda Juntunen, Department of North Dakota.

I've asked -- I've been asked to ask a question for clarification on the little keypads. There's the small screen on there. If you are voting button number one, should it show 1A and that your vote is registering as 1A?

If you are pushing button number two, should it say 2B and then it knows you voted 2B, because what then happens if it shows neither one nor two, it's giving like a small file with a no line through it? And that is indicating or suggesting that you have voted nothing.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I think a lot of the confusion is when the voting starts, it has to be done in between the time that it is open and when it's closed.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Correct. Excuse me. I do understand that. But immediately when you called voting is open, we can push the button and it's still giving us the little box with the line rather than either a number one or a number two. And I think that is the confusion that is indicating our vote is not registering.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I'm going to ask the Parliamentarian to come and explain because she is very, very familiar with the voting keypad.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARIAN DICKEY: We have, Madam President, in the script that when we have a vote, she'll say please vote now. That's to tell you to vote, but it's also telling the technicians in the back to open up, turn on the voting. That's when it starts recording.

If you try to -- and then at the end, there's a -- you'll see a count down clock. And at the end, she will say voting is now closed, please show the results. That's also a message back to them to tell them to turn it off.

If you are trying to vote when it's not open, you're going to get that zero with a line through it. Okay. It is during the 30 second countdown this is happening. Okay. During the 30 second countdown. Also everyone is trying to vote at the same time. So you have 30 seconds. A lot of times, we only do 10 seconds. We've increased the

amount of time to allow you to vote several times. We're getting -- they're getting a large number back there. They're recording.

VOICE: In our delegation of 14, we had four members that came with that zero with the line. So does that mean that four of our delegates' vote did not count which is not going to reflect in a percentage because the percentage is merely the percentages of the number that has voted?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: If it's -- if it's showing that, it should not take --

VOICE: If it showed a zero --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- because it was not open or it was all -- you're voting too quickly or too late.

VOICE: No, no, no.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

VOICE: Madam --

MS. WORKMAN: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number two.

MS. WORKMAN: Linda Workman, Department of California.

I think what happens is everybody is trying to vote at the same time, so that's why we're getting the zero.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It takes -- it takes a --

MS. WORKMAN: And so perhaps --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- a few seconds.

MS. WORKMAN: Right. But perhaps if we voted in sections, there wouldn't be 800 people voting at the same time.

MS. STADTLER: Madam President --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Two, microphone two.

MS. STADTLER: -- Linda Stadler, New Jersey.

I tried this with the first vote and it worked fine. The second time a vote was called, I got the line across that said it didn't go through. I waited and I started to watch the clock and I hit it again. It still didn't work.

So it's not as if I was doing it at the very beginning when everybody was voting at the same time. And it was like 20 -- 20 seconds or whatever to go. So it was plenty of time before you closed the vote. So there's an issue with some of these that they're not recording.

I still have a line through it and it was -- it was still open. And it was in the middle and it was at the beginning. So it's -- something wrong with this hand held one.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I'll confer with the experts.

MS. BOYER: Madam President, microphone three, please.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number three.

MS. BOYER: Madam President, Janice Boyer from the Department of Pennsylvania.

When we received these last year, we were told unless you saw the green light, your vote was not counted. And I believe this is where the confusion is coming. A lot of them are not getting the green light. They're blinking orange and red and by the time the

voting is finished, they have not got a green light. So according to the logic we were given last year, our votes are not being counted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I will confer.

MS. DIXON: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number two.

MS. DIXON: That was number one. Kim Dixon.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, number two, I'm ready for number two.

MS. WALLACE: Eva Wallace, delegate, Department of Washington.

All I'm getting when I vote is that little box with the line through it. And it's been with every vote.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Thank you, Eva.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Madam President, microphone number three. Mary Davis, Department of Washington.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Our instructions, at least in our department from our page who went to the meeting, was that we were to ignore all the lights. The -- whenever you punch in which vote you want, it will count the very last punch that you put in. The lights mean nothing this year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

VOICE: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I'm going to ask Stephanie to clarify. She can give you some clarification.

MS. ABISI: Hi. Last year -- we have the exact same keypads that we did last year, the exact same ones. The lights didn't mean anything last year. We did. We really went through and clarified all of these instructions this year because we knew that there was some confusion last year.

The lights don't mean anything. The circle with the line through it could mean that potentially your keypad has gotten off the wrong channel. It's a little technical. But -- but with the rules vote, we did three test votes and all of the -- the votes came through. With the rules vote, we had more votes cast than we did for the test votes.

So, ladies, the keypads are working. Ignore the lights. If you truly think that there is a problem, go back to the back of the room. We do have ones that you can exchange, but your votes are being recorded and they are being cast during the -- during that 30 second interval. But if voting is not open, you're going to get the circle with the line through it.

Okay. The rules have not changed from this year to last year. Not rules, but the instructions. It was a mis-instruction that we gave to you last year not knowing that -- we thought, oh, a green light meant go. It didn't. It was just a mis-instruction last year which is why we did tell the delegation chairmen and secretaries today or yesterday, sorry, that -- to ignore all the lights.

(Applause.)

MS. DIXON: Madam President, microphone number one.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: One.

MS. DIXON: Kim Dixon, Department of Iowa.

I have a suggestion, please. Department of Iowa did not have their voting keypads for the test. And I have a suggestion that we please have a vote where every delegate in the room pushes the button, a button now that we all have the numbers up there, and everyone can see 831 votes cast. We will all know they're working.

(Applause.)

MS. NOBLE: Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number two.

MS. NOBLE: Madam President, Debra Noble, Department of New Jersey.

We had the same issue last year. We found when we did stand and vote, they were working. May I suggest just for a test everyone stands and votes and if it registers, then you sit. That's what we did last year. Just as a test.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well, what we're going to do is vote again on the rules and it will be registered in numbers, not in percentages.

VOICE: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

VOICE: We're just suggesting one more test where everybody votes the same. Everyone votes either a -- a one say. Then we know every vote has been counted regardless of what it shows.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

VOICE: And also, if we all stood up when we did it and everybody sat down --

VOICE: No, no.

VOICE: -- just that once. That's what Chris was saying. Okay.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Chris Dickey.

PARLIAMENTARIAN DICKEY: I think it's important to know that there's 831 keypads out there, but there are not 831 people out there. There's a lot of empty seats out here. We can see them. And so you -- you have the possibility for your department to vote all those, but we don't know that you're taking the time to do that.

Okay. And there's -- there's some departments where they have like 50 percent of the people here, so they have to vote another half additional keypads if they -- if they wish to.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We're -- what we're going to do is re-vote on the rules. Are you ready?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on the adoption of the convention rules for 2013 as read previously in our discuss -- is there -- we finished the discussion.

All those in favor, press number one on their voting keypad. Those opposed, please press two. Please vote now.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Voting is now closed. Please show the results. Six hundred and seventy-eight voted in favor. And it is working. There's a two-thirds in the affirmative and the motion is carried. And the rules for the 2013 National Convention have been adopted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: National Secretary Mary “Dubbie” Buckler will give the program report.

(Music.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

A printed copy of the program has been provided to each convention delegate. Do you have it?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Awesome. On page 121, please note that the public relations session will run from 2:30 to 3:45, 2:30 to 3:45, the PR grassroots session.

Please mark out the printed end time of 2:45. It’s 3:45. You’re not going to do it in 15 minutes. Just saying. Everybody got that one?

And because we are going to be honored this year with a visit from the Vice President of the United States, we have additional changes to the schedule for tomorrow.

And they are the Woman of the Year Luncheon starts at 11:45 a.m. The Woman of the Year Luncheon starts at 11:45 a.m.

National Convention session two on Tuesday will begin at eight a.m. and recess for the Woman of the Year Luncheon at 11:30. So on deck in here tomorrow at eight. At 11:30, we will recess. The Woman of the Year Luncheon will start at eight -- that would be good -- 11:45. We all good on that?

Okay. Vice President Joseph Biden will address the Legion Family at a joint session where the Legion is holding its convention beginning at 1:50 p.m., 10 minutes to two.

So we have until the re -- so when the Woman of the Year Luncheon is over, those who want to hear the Vice President speak, and we’re all invited, need to make way quickly to The American Legion’s convention site, convention meeting. They’re just -- it’s all here. It’s just down -- down the way a little bit.

‘Cause you -- you all -- most of you clicked that this was not your first convention, so as some of us say, this means this is not your first rodeo, so you know that we’re going to have to go through some security to get in to see the Vice President.

So we’ve got a very, very tight schedule tomorrow. Vice President will begin addressing the Legion family at 1:50. The American Legion Auxiliary general session will reconvene at three p.m., assuming there’s still business to conduct, and we’ll adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

So tomorrow is tight. We start at eight. We’re breaking at 11:30. Woman of the Year luncheon at 11:45. Vice President Biden speaks at 1:50. And then if we have additional business to conduct because we don’t get done before we adjourn tomorrow morning, then we will reconvene at three o’clock back here and we’ll adjourn at 4:30. We all good?

Okay. There will be no recess on Wednesday, August 28th. The session will adjourn when all business has been completed. Coolers are not allowed --

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- nor other forms of refreshment. So thank you. And, Madam President, those are the corrections to the program. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

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

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, microphone four.

I move the adoption of the changes to the program.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is there a second?

VOICES: Second.

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

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on the motion to adopt the program with the changes noted. All those in favor, press one on your keypad. Those opposed, press number two. Please vote now.

The voting is now closed. Please show the results. Six hundred and fifty-two in favor. Well, anyhow, 98.96 percent is in favor which is 652. That -- I was told that it couldn't switch, but obviously they can.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The affirmative has it and the convention program is adopted. By adoption of these reports, the 93rd National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is officially organized for conducting business.

I am very happy to start this morning off with a visit from our friend, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Mr. Chris Huntzinger.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hailing from Penbrook Squadron 730 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Chris -- Chris started out his year as Commander by saying I plan to promote the heck out of this organization.

No profanity allowed, Chris.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Chris is a 23-year member of the SAL and helps charter the Penbrook Squadron which has grown from 16 to 600 members over the years. His eligibility is established by his father, Paul Huntzinger, a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

Please welcome from The Sons of The American Legion National Commander Chris Huntzinger.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: Well, thank you, Madam President. Thank you so very much.

Please be seated.

President Thomas, Secretary Buckler, American Legion Auxiliary members, members of our American Legion Family, good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: It is a very good morning. I want to thank you for the invitation to come and address you and bring greetings on behalf of 351,000

plus members of the Sons of The American Legion, your Sons of The American Legion working hard for you every day.

And, boy, did they do that this year. And in just a moment, I'm going to give you a few facts and some figures for you to chew on and digest because it was a great year.

But before I do that, I'd like to thank the Department of Pennsylvania and my wife, Cathy Huntzinger.

If you would please stand and wave, Cat.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: I'm so very, very proud that she's been a member of our unit, Penbrook Unit 730, all these years and she does quite a bit, especially with the breakfasts.

So thank you again, honey, for being here with us today.

She's been the rock, my rock this year and she really is.

But, you know, traveling with President Thomas and Commander Koutz this year has been just fantastic. We've enjoyed the tours that we went on this year, everywhere that we went. Some of the sight-seeing was just fabulous. It was fantastic. We enjoyed the tours of the VA facility.

And a couple of times when I toured my program Fisher House this year, my project, both the -- Madam President and Commander Koutz were with me. And, boy, I really appreciate them, seeing what Fisher House and the Foundation does for the veterans and their families throughout our great nation. But, like I said, I enjoyed everything this year.

At this time, I would like to introduce also that I -- up on stage with me is the -- my aide to National Commander Joe Swasinski (phonetic) who did a fabulous job this year from the detachment of Pennsylvania.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: Also with us is the new National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion 2013-2014 from the detachment of Maryland, Mr. Joe Gladden.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: And with Joe is his aide to Commander also from the detachment of Maryland, Mr. Bruce Pequin (phonetic).

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: Let me tell you about a few things that our Sons of The American Legion were able to do this year to aid The American Legion programs and aid The American Legion Family.

As you well know and if you don't know, we did donate this year from The Sons \$453,599 to the Child Welfare Foundation.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: We are the largest single contributor to CWF as we are every year. And I found out this morning from our CWF Chairman this year coming up that we only need \$100,000 in donations right now to hit the \$6 million mark that your Sons of The American Legion have donated over the year to CWF.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: We totaled for Children & Youth programs this year over \$1,183,000 with over 146,000 service hours, VA&R to the tune of \$44,863 and over 8,000 hours just alone for the Family Support Network with The American Legion Family, over \$320,509 in volunteer hours, over a million dollars in cash grants this year.

And for my Fisher House project this year that we did, and we thought it was such a great foundation, it was great to support this year, I had asked for donations and we did with donations coming in at this weekend Sons of The American Legion National Convention, we topped \$60,000 in reported donations to the Fisher House Foundation.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: You know, this year, one of my themes was forging our future together. And, of course, it was for our Sons of The American Legion, but it was for our American Legion family, our American Legion -- our American Legion Auxiliary, our Sons, and our American Legion Riders.

And I also want to let you know that everywhere I went this year, I tried to, if they were meeting, see the American Legion Auxiliary Juniors and what they do. And they do a fabulous thing. They do fabulous programs. Continue with that support because as we all know, our young people are the future of this organization and of our great nation.

I want to thank you again for the invitation this morning. Thanks for everything that you have done this year. Thank you for the hospitality.

Madam President, you have a great convention and it's back to Pennsylvania very soon for me. Thank you so very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: He's been wonderful to work with this year.

And at this time, I would like to present you with a small token of my appreciation. And you couldn't go with us to Germany, but we brought you something anyway.

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: Ooh, thank you. Oh, my.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER HUNTZINGER: Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We also have something for his wife, Cat. She's not on stage, but we're going to send it by him.

And his aide -- would the aide step forward? I have a little something for the aide. He's been around quite a bit this year too.

Thank you, George.

GEORGE: Thanks, Peggy. I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You're welcome. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Let's hear a round of applause for these great people.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Chris.

Amanda Washburn has been a lifelong member of Unit 360 in Cook, Nebraska. She was signed up at birth through the service of her grandfathers, both of whom served in the Army during World War II.

Please welcome our 2012-2013 Honorary National Junior President, Amanda Washburn.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

MISS WASHBURN: Good morning, ladies.

VOICES: Good morning.

MISS WASHBURN: As she said, I'm Amanda Washburn from the Department of Nebraska.

VOICES: Woo.

MISS WASHBURN: I would like to say "thank you" to start off. Without you ladies, we couldn't have the Junior Program and we wouldn't be able to have our wonderful meetings. So thank you for all your support. You deserve a round of applause.

(Applause.)

MISS WASHBURN: Our Junior meeting went great this year. We had a wonderful Chairman, Marie Goede from Minnesota.

(Applause.)

MISS WASHBURN: I have a gift for Ms. Peggy. This year, my project was your project, the Children of Warriors. And in Nebraska, we raised \$850 for your project.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Are you done?

MISS WASHBURN: I am done.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well, we have something for her, too. We are presenting her with a scholarship in the amount of \$2,000.

(Applause.)

MISS WASHBURN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And a little something personal. And so we thank you very much for what you have done. It has been wonderful. Thank you.

MISS WASHBURN: Awesome. Can I introduce my successor?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Yes, you may.

MISS WASHBURN: And our new National Junior President is India Archer in the Department of New Mexico.

(Applause.)

MISS ARCHER: Good morning, ladies.

VOICES: Good morning.

MISS ARCHER: It's wonderful to see you all here today and be presented as your 2013-2014 Honorary National Junior President. Whoa. This is a dream come true.

As I told my Junior counterparts, it has been through many years of hard work as a member and officer that I have come to understand is the work of the many that creates that success of the whole. I did not get here alone.

I would like to thank my home unit and Post 69, District 9, the Department of New Mexico Legion Family, and my family and friends for supporting my endeavors.

And, Madam President, if I may ask the Department of New Mexico to please stand and be recognized.

(Applause.)

MISS ARCHER: Thank you.

An amazing group of women over there.

A thank-you to Past National President Ms. Rita Navarreté, for being a great role model for me.

A thank-you to my parents, Rosalie Lopez and Gib Archer, for always being encouraging, supportive, and loving through all the highs and the lows, and especially my grandmother, Mary Lou Lopez, for instilling in me the importance of serving God and country. She set the bar high.

Thank you, Grandma. I love you.

I look forward to a productive and exciting year working alongside National President Nancy Brown-Park.

As I begin this chapter in my life, be sure that I will continue the work of the American Legion Auxiliary with honor and humility. If I don't see you in the land of enchantment, I will see you all next year.

Thank you again and have a fantastic convention.

(Applause.)

MISS WASHBURN: And now here comes the fun part of the Juniors. I'm going to hat her.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MISS WASHBURN: Hat hair to the extreme.

(Laughter.)

MISS ARCHER: Thank you so much, Amanda. This has been a great year working with you.

MISS WASHBURN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, ladies. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Here today is Attiya Latif, our 2013 Girls National President from Hagerstown, Maryland. Attiya is active in debate, public speaking, and the National Honor Society. She is founder and president of Coexist, a club that promotes ethnic, cultural and religious acceptance. She is also the current Maryland State Champion of The American Oratorical Competition.

While Attiya was on the campaign trail, she was asked where she would want to be planted if she were a tree. She replied, "I would want to be a tree in Arlington National Cemetery. When I saw the rows upon rows of graves of the people who had

lived and died for our country, it gave me shivers thinking about the dedication of those men and women. As a tree, I would like to stand over them as a sentinel in tribute to their sacrifice.”

Please join me in welcoming Attiya.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT LATIF: I feel like I always have to do that.

Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT LATIF: My name is Attiya Latif. And as you have just heard, I am President of Girls Nation 2013.

Before I start, I just want to give a shout out to Maryland. Where is my -- where are my Maryland people?

VOICES: Woo.

PRESIDENT LATIF: Okay. So about two months ago, I was sitting in a room full of around 70 other girls sitting through an orientation for a program called Girls State. Now, I'll be honest with you. I had no idea what I was signing up for. I just heard the word Senator and came running.

Two months ago, I didn't even know what Robert's Rules of Order were let alone who Robert was. The only -- the only special state symbol I knew was the Maryland blue crab. And Maryland Representative John Delaney could have been a country singer for all I knew.

Two months ago, my world was small. I remember sitting in that room listening to the nice lady in the front of the room talking about running for Senator and qualifications and bills and taxes. And I remember thinking to myself I don't know what this is, but I'm going to do it.

Two months ago, my world was very small and Girls State changed that. The very first day of the program, I made a promise to myself that I would do as many things as I could at Girls State, emcee, mock trials, Senator, City Council President. I didn't want to miss a single opportunity to deprive myself of sleep.

I met girls from all walks of life, all parts of Maryland. I learned about doubt, hope. I learned self-discovery and eventually I learned what triumph was.

I saw how our government works. What was once two dimensional now became a three dimensional working program for me and I fell in love with it.

Now, if Girls State was life changing, Girls Nation was mind blowing. Ninety-eight Senators from across the United States all came to Maryland's 4H center for Girls Nation. There were girls walking into those double doors in droves talking about their jet lag, six hour flights to which my hour and a half car ride couldn't really compare to.

There were so many amazing people I met. And you hear people talk about Girls Nation and everyone claims that it wasn't meeting Obama, President Obama that defined it. It wasn't winning President that was what defined my experience. It was the 97 other Senators, the 97 best friends I made at Girls Nation.

The Senators of Girls Nation defined the program with their accomplishments and their goals. I'll give you two examples. Vice President of Girls Nation 2013 Yujin

Seo is in Korea right now on a program sponsored by Harvard University teaching young girls how to debate.

My good friend Ava Tenant (phonetic) has created a program at her high school called Promote Giving which inspires young teenagers to sacrifice of their many prom luxuries and instead put money towards homeless shelters.

Future politicians, scientists, leaders in every field, these girls had one thing and one thing only in common and that was passion, the ability and the hope to turn their dreams into a reality. They walked through life with confidence, determination no matter what challenges were thrown in their way.

Girls Nation is the program that instills this confidence into America's young leaders. It inspires youth not only to dream big but to pursue those dreams. It awakens passion, determination, and a dream right here in your heart to contribute to America and change the world for the better.

One of the most significant moments of the Girls Nation experience which I talk about a lot was actually going to Arlington Cemetery. Now, poor excuse for a Marylander that I am, I have never been to Arlington Cemetery.

So when I first laid eyes on that row upon row, the endless expanse of white tombstones, I was shaken to the very core. Here lay the men and women who had died for our freedom, not just for America, but for Americans, not for the country, but for the women, children, the future back home.

And these people are sitting here today, veterans who continue to live for America's future through programs such as the Samsung Scholarships, Girls Nation, Boys Nation, the Junior American Legion Program. These all contribute to the future of America.

Somewhere -- I want to put this into perspective for you. Somewhere in Africa or any other country that's third world, any place, there's a little boy who's starving. His ribs jut out over a distended malnourished stomach. His mother is starving also. She's dying of sickness. And soon she will leave him alone in the world. No education will ever be available for him. No opportunities will exist for him. He will be all alone.

These days, most teens don't see how lucky we are that we live in a country that gives us rights, gives us freedom, gives us opportunity and gives us a democracy that protects us. And this is all thanks to the veterans who sit before me today.

Please give yourself a round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT LATIF: I stand before you today with a heart that is filled to the brim with gratitude. Words can't express how much this experience has meant to me.

Thank you for giving me a chance to find my dreams and for giving the youth and future leaders of America a chance to spread their wings and fly. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Attiya, we are truly proud of all you have accomplished. Please wear this Tiffany bracelet as a reminder of your time at Girls Nation and your relationship with the American Legion Auxiliary.

PRESIDENT LATIF: Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It was a pleasure to be with you.

PRESIDENT LATIF: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Now we will hear from our Youth Development Pod committees beginning with Girls Nation. What single American Legion Auxiliary event can be inspirational, educational, life changing and fun? For me, it is the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State/Girls Nation Program, one of our premier programs since 1937.

Here to tell us more is our Nation -- Girls Nation Committee Chairman Martha Corriher to tell us more.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Thank you, Madam President.

Sit back and relax as I take you on a short tour of the Girls State sessions and the Girls Nation sessions.

From department reports, registrations were up or were equal to last year's with a very diverse group of future leaders eager to learn how and why government happens. The delegates had the opportunity to use their debating skills when presenting their bills and resolutions.

Two lucky Senators were chosen to attend a 2013 Girls Nation session from each department. The Senators began their service project upon arrival at Girls Nation. Nine hundred pocket flags were folded by the Senators and staff and have already been shipped to troops in Afghanistan.

Before lights out each night, the Girls Nation communities held a time of reflections to talk about the events of the day and what type of influence it may have had in their hearts and minds.

The Senators represented the Auxiliary eloquently during the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery at their Sunday service. Several Senators shared their religious beliefs during the ecumenical service.

And with only a few short weeks before the Girls State sessions between them and the Girls Nation sessions, the 98 Senators were given the task to write and submit their Senate bills or resolutions for the Girls Nation Senate session.

Bills were assigned to committees for passage and then on to the Senate floor for debate. Once on the floor, those bills were on there and the Senators took charge debating them and resolutions with passion and a true sense of ownership regarding their future.

A heartfelt and moving activity was hosting a barbecue picnic at the Walter Reed Medical Center for the wounded receiving treatment there. These young ladies embraced what they were about to experience and showed our heroes love, respect, and true appreciation for their service.

The Senators interacted with the warriors and their families sharing smiles, stories, and thank-yous for the service given to our country. What made it a more personal connection for some of us were meeting heroes from our own state.

We were able to share what the Auxiliary can do for them when they return back to their states and for many of us, it will be a lifelong connection with those families.

Prior to going to the monument tours, the Senators heard a firsthand account of a holocaust survivor, Nesse Godin. She urged the Senators to fight against any future treatment like the holocaust happenings because this is nothing that should happen anywhere in the world. She reminded them that all human life is to be valued and respected.

The 98 Senators shared their voices in song at the Lincoln Memorial during the mall monument tour. Their voices showed their patriotic spirit while the crowds listened in a amazement.

Campaigning and holding elections in their communities within their political parties and the highly anticipated election of the Girls Nation President and Vice President had the Senators and the staff on pins and needles.

In keeping with our high technology tabulation method, we made sure the results were kept confidential until the not-so Secret Service allowed me to announce the winners.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: As you learned a few moments ago, Attiya Latif from the Department of Maryland was elected the Girls Nation President and Yujin Seo from the Department of Nevada as Vice President. The inauguration took place in the Senate building on Capitol Hill with Madam President Peggy giving the oath of office.

Two other off campus trips included a war photography exhibit which gave the Senators a firsthand view of war and the Pentagon Memorial that claimed so many American lives that fateful day on September 11.

Capitol Hill day is always exciting for the Senators. Most Senators got to meet at least one of their U.S. Senators and their representatives.

To give the Senators a lighter side of the election, a talent show was held with the Girls Nation Senators showing their quality talent while the Girls Nation staff shared their fun side to a wonderful week.

Martha and the Maniacs surprised the Senators with their performance.

And then on Friday, the long awaited trip for a lifetime of the Senators to the White House. The visit to the White House and seeing President Obama in person will be a memory they will cherish forever. They even had the privilege to be able to sing happy birthday to the Commander in Chief.

The week ended with the Girls Nation grand finale of food, fun, music, and special presentations. A child's military table ceremony was presented showing what our deployed military members miss when they are deployed concerning their children.

A candlelight service was held so the Senators and staff could reflect on the week's events while sharing the foundation of the Auxiliary and remembering sacrifices made by our veterans and active duty military.

The new Girls Nation President and Vice President received their scholarships. The outstanding citizen was chosen by the Girls Nation staff and was awarded to Ann Marie Haggerty from North Carolina for her participation in every aspect of the program.

Saturday morning was a sad time for the Senators having to say see you later, not goodbye, to all their newfound friends. The bond these young women have developed during the week will hold them together forever.

Madam President, this concludes my report.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Martha, do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Madam President, I do not.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Martha.

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Job well done.

CHAIRMAN CORRIHER: Thank you much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We believe that the more people know and understand about the needs of children in their communities the more interest they will have in learning how they can help meet those needs. While all children are important, the Auxiliary particularly focuses on helping the children of our veterans and servicemembers.

Here is our national Children & Youth Committee Chairman, Sharon Conatser.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Madam President Peggy, units across the nation came together as a team and worked for the Children & Youth of our country. Vince Lombardi once said the achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual. It takes all of our members coming together to support our veterans and active duty children.

Children of veterans and active-duty military are the concern of The American Legion Family. Our all voluntary military force has changed the landscape of our military. The stress level of deployments not only affects the spouses of the deployed but also their children.

A 2012 report from The American Legion reported that there are 1.9 million children with a parent serving in the military. Two hundred and twenty thousand of these children have a parent currently deployed.

Operation: Military Kids continues to be a huge program in many departments. They not only help the children understand but educate our school personnel and the community about the unique needs of our military youth and the impact of a deployment on families.

In the Department of New York, they came together to do a fundraiser for Landstuhl Hospital in Germany. It's a neonatal hospital used by service personnel. When their members heard of the tremendous need, they came together and worked as a team and donated \$6,012 worth of baby clothing and items needed by the hospital not only for the babies but for the moms as well.

Major Michelle Plasterer is in charge of this neonatal unit and dubbed the children born and cared for there as the little warriors.

Unit 303 Merville, Department of Iowa, held a baby shower in a box to help out military moms. They made baby blankets, hats, booties, sweaters, onesies, bathing items

and mittens. Along with those items, \$2,602.48 was donated to the VA for this project. They will purchase items and present them to the women veterans for their newborns.

In Maine, the units raised \$10,000 for a camp which helps families deal with the stress and reintegration upon return from deployment.

In Ohio, Unit 532 adopted seven National Guard families with a parent currently deployed and in need. The baskets for each were tailor made for that family. It was a true American Legion Family project as all collected and donated gift cards, food, clothing, and toys.

Youth Hero Awards and Good Deed Awards continue to be a success. This program is a great way to get your unit recognized in your community. Plan a special presentation and invite the TV stations and newspapers to your event.

Here are a just a few of the examples of the ones I received.

The Department of Washington recognized Skyler Lee, age 13. She collected 4,500 new and gently used coats to give out to the community who are in need of coats. She received such an overwhelming response that she was able to donate them for the veteran stand down.

The Department of Florida recognized 20 students on their way to prom in a stretch limo that stopped to help five adults and two children trapped in a van. They went to work in their gown and tux attire and saved these people. "When you see the accident-- (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: "When you see the accident, it's pretty intense, kind of like a movie scene," Peter Kim, a high school senior, told WSVN-TV. He opened the trunk and saw a boy. I grabbed him and I set him down and told him everything was going to be all right.

Kim said he pulled groceries out of the van to try to reach a woman and a 2-year-old. She was lying there and it got to me a little bit because she wasn't moving at all and I saw her baby girl just lying there and went to reach for her. And that's when she turned around and said take my baby, take my baby, take her, save her, Kim said, according to WSVN.

Ayden Ristay, 12, of Illinois, entered an essay contest and was selected as the winner. He went on an honor flight and interviewed the veterans for Channel 6 News. I would like to quote Ayden who wrote this letter to his grandpa in heaven.

"There's a flight called the honor flight and it honors veterans. There are sponsors that get to go with the vets and push them around in a wheelchair if they need one and talk and visit with them all day long. It would be like I was with you for all day.

I found your Navy hat in a box downstairs last weekend and it fit my head. I also found your American flag from your funeral. Mom said you didn't die in the war, but you had a military burial when you passed away. Can I keep your flag?

Some day I'm going to be in the military. I'm thinking about joining the Marines, so don't be too upset if I don't join the Navy. Okay?

I hope some day a long, long time from now I can meet you and we can sit on a cloud in heaven and can hear all about your war stories. You are my hero, grandpa. I salute you. Love, Ayden."

This is only --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: This is only a sample of those wonderful award recipients. There are good children out there and it's our job to seek them out and honor them.

In Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, he said, and I quote, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Can we as a nation, an organization, and as a people fulfill this pledge and be the one to care for our veterans, active duty military, and their children in the future?

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Sharon, are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is now my pleasure to introduce the -- is the Convention Chairman here somewhere?

We now have the pleasure of welcoming our National Commander, James Koutz, of Boonville, Indiana, who was elected National Commander of The American Legion during the organization's 94th National Convention last year in Indianapolis.

Commander Koutz entered the United States Army in 1969. In January of 1970, he then reported to Vietnam and served an extended tour of duty. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Specialist 5 in March 1971 and quickly joined The American Legion.

He is a member of Boonville Post 200 where he was honored as a life member in 1991 and served as Post Commander for nine years.

Please welcome to the stage our guest and my friend, your American Legion National Commander, James Koutz.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Welcome.

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you very much. Please be seated.

VOICES: Woo.

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Indiana's here.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you so very much, Madam President, distinguished Auxiliary, guests to this 95th National Convention in Houston Texas.

Thanks for giving me such a wonderful President. I can tell you that Peggy will follow you anywhere.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: And I mean anywhere.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: You know, we've had a great time together and I hope that was up on a picture here on the back. I don't know if it was or not.

VOICE: It was.

COMMANDER KOUTZ: It was? Okay. See, I told you she'd follow me anywhere.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: But it was -- we've had a great year. Her and I and Chris Huntzinger, the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, we have been a great team together. We've had some great times together.

And I want to thank everybody in the Auxiliary for all you've done with me. You've done everything including Operation Comfort Warriors, The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. You've done everything for me.

Before I go any farther, I want to introduce some people that's with me and most of you in the room know that, well, the wife of a soon-to-be Past National Commander, my wife, and everybody knows her, Vickie Koutz.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: The National Sergeant at Arms, Al Pledo (phonetic)-- (Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: -- from Indiana. And my (indiscernible) around everywhere we go is Steve Short.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: But, again, let me say thank you for all that you do. You all do such great work. With the American Legion Auxiliary, we don't know where The American Legion would be because you all help on everything that we ask of you. That's very important.

The American Legion Family sticking together, that's what we need to do, you know, because of several things, and I'm going to bring up one important, that the National President and I when we went to Normandy on D-Day, that if it hadn't been for her and I, there would have been no U.S. presence for D-Day in Normandy.

You know what the big word is, don't you? Sequestration. That's their favorite word in Washington, D.C., their favorite big word. But there's no excuse for that word.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: I also want to thank you for what -- you know, when we got back, we went immediately and put it on the air, on the website about writing our Congressmen, our Senators, and I even wrote one to President Obama that what a shame that was that we were the ones that had to represent the United States of America in Normandy.

The National Anthem had to be played by the German band. The paratroopers, U.S. paratroopers are always there to do the parachuting, the reenactment of D-Day, but it had to be done this year by the French and the Germans. What a shame.

So if you haven't wrote that letter or emailed to your Congressman or Senator, I ask you to do so because next year is the 70th anniversary and there better be some U.S. presence there especially some of our Senators and Congressmen and the President.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: You know, the World War II veterans are leaving us at a great percentage every day. And especially the 70th anniversary, we need U.S. presence there. And I'm sure the National Commander and the President will be there again. And I hope the Sons of The American Legion Commander can be there also because we need to be, 70th anniversary.

So let me finish up by saying thank you for all you do. Operation Comfort Warriors, what I can say? My goal was to raise a half a million dollars. We did that before May thanks to you.

I raised that goal to 750,000 and probably by today, we're almost there, short by a few dollars, but we got till Thursday. And we might even reach a million dollars. Who knows?

And if we do, that money is going to be there for our soldiers when they need comfort. That's the reason I chose Operation Comfort Warriors so that we could buy those comfort items for those soldiers when they come back from Iraq or Afghanistan that are injured, that are ill, or wounded.

You know, their medical care is paid for by the United States government, but the things they don't get are the comfort items. And I think that is the least that The American Legion Family can do is buy comfort items for them and anything they request. It's not--

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you.

It's not just that we take a truckload down there and give it and load it or unload it off the truck. It's things that these soldiers are requesting such as Segways, TVs, radios, boomboxes.

We have outfitted several -- several rooms in many military hospitals with exercise equipment, massage chairs. They really like the massage chairs.

You know, these soldiers are there anywhere from a week, month. Some of them are there three or four years. I met several of them at Walter Reed when I came to Girls Nation when you all had the picnic. We met many of them that have been there three and four years. And that's -- they reminded me and told me thank you for having Operation Comfort Warriors.

So with that, let me say thank you very much. Have a great convention. I know we're going to.

And I know that you all know that the Vice President will be here tomorrow. I hope to see all of you there. We have got two great days of openings. Usually we just have one day of opening, but this year, we're going to have it Tuesday and Wednesday. So I invite you to stop by if you get a chance and your meetings get over.

But let me say thank you for giving me such a wonderful, wonderful National President in Peggy Thomas from Virginia.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: And the last thing I want to say to you is if you don't remember nothing about me, remember my slogan. In The American Legion, every day is Veterans Day. Thank you. God bless.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you very much. Thank you.

And I want to present a little gift in appreciation for Peggy being with me all year and following me everywhere.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: I will present her a little gift.

Peggy.

Wasn't it on the screen? She don't believe me.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, my goodness.

COMMANDER KOUTZ: I don't want her to take this out of the box because it's packed, ready to go, but it's a cuckoo clock.

(Applause.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: When we were in Germany, you couldn't hardly get her away from me and I tried to get to where I could look at cuckoo clocks.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: And then she was going to buy a cuckoo clock and I had to tell Liza -- Dr. Liza, you all know her -- Lisa, I said, don't let her buy a cuckoo clock; I already got one.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: But this is made right over in Germany and they are-- they do beautiful work.

So, Peggy, this is to you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I have a little something for him. I should give him nothing.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: There was only 10 minutes between trains and we went in the same direction.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: My mistake was following him.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: That's for me to put my Mountain Dew in.

(Laughter.)

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you very much, Peggy. Thank you.

Thanks, everybody.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Vickie, the first lady --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- we have a little something for you, just a little something.

COMMANDER KOUTZ: She won't drink Mountain Dew.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Somebody told us she liked Nutcrackers and when we were in the land of Nutcrackers, we got her one.

(Laughter.)

(Applause.)

MS. KOUTZ: Thank you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You're welcome.

Steve, that's the aide. Just a little something for the aide because you know what an aide does. I have one non-paid.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Read it. Can you read it? I thought my eyes were bad.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: That's the wrong one.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: That's why he wasn't reading it.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You'll have to get yours from my unpaid page.

(Laughter.)

MR. SHORT: Thank you.

COMMANDER KOUTZ: Thank you, everybody.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well, that's what happens sometimes. If we were perfect, we wouldn't be here.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I want to say thank you again to Commander, his wife, and to his aide.

At this time, we will hear from the Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation. It is my pleasure to introduce Past National President Linda Newsome, National Chairman of the Liaison to the Child Welfare Foundation, to present her report.

(Music.)

CHAIRMAN NEWSOME: She definitely is taller than I.

Madam National President, the American Legion Auxiliary is proud of its participation in and support of The American Legion's foremost philanthropic priority in educating the public about the needs of children across the nation.

The Child Welfare Foundation, established in 1954, the Child Welfare Foundation has awarded more than 12.6 million, yes, with an M in grants --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NEWSOME: -- to assist America's children. During the 2013 calendar year, 237 grant applications were received for consideration by the board. The Screening Committee recommended awarding 20 grants totaling \$734,220.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NEWSOME: Thank you. Yes, they did good work.

The Auxiliary sponsored six grants and another five jointly with the Sons of the Legion. Among the recipients is the American Academy of Pediatrics of Illinois which was awarded \$12,180 for their project Connected Kids. This grant will update and enhance the content of Connected Kids taking into account new forms of violence such as cyber bullying and new research on issues related to exposure to violence and toxic stress.

The Auxiliary also sponsored a grant of \$43,050 to Children's Organ Transplant Association of Indiana for their project Bowling for Life. The grant will produce Bowling for Life fund raising materials such as templates for events with step-by-step instructions, media and social networking tips.

Located in Towson, Maryland, the Immune Deficiency Foundation was awarded \$48,500 for their project the Little Zebra, a children's storybook. The grant will produce an illustrated children's storybook that will help explain primary immune deficiency disease, PIDD, to a child or their peers.

And a grant of \$45,486 was awarded to Darkness to Light of Charleston, South Carolina for their project Helping Military Families Prevent Child Abuse. The grant will produce and distribute 15,000 sets of child abuse prevention educational materials customized for military families. They will go to 33 Armed Forces YMCAs in the United States.

Contributions to the foundation this year totaled just under \$770,000.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NEWSOME: Thank you.

Sons of The American Legion led the way with contributions over their \$450,000 goal finishing with \$4,504 -- wow -- \$453,559.07. I don't have that much money. I can't say those words. Contributions of \$176,538.07 were received from The American Legion. And the Auxiliary contributions totaled \$96,025.03, an increase of almost \$10,000 from last year. Great job, ladies.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NEWSOME: Together with other contributions and bequests brought our total to \$769,320.60.

Madam President, while that concludes my platform remarks, with your permission, I would like to present two distinguished guests who have joined us this morning.

While one of the two gentlemen you're about to welcome is well-known to all regular delegates to this convention, we have a Legionnaire joining us for the first time.

First, Dennis Boland, Past Department Commander, Department of Florida, was appointed to the Commission on Children & Youth in 1993 and its chairman in 2006. He was appointed to the Child Welfare Foundation Board of Directors in 1999 and its President in 2004.

Jason Kees, Army veteran and Legionnaire from the Department of Illinois, joined the Legion's headquarters staff in 2002 as assistant director, Americanism and Children & Youth Division. In 2012, he was appointed to serve as the staff liaison to the

National Commission on Children & Youth and executive secretary of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Gentlemen, the podium is yours.

(Music.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: I tell you what. Linda gives one heck of a report, so now I got to ad lib everything.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: Well, as we say in southwest Florida, how you all are?

VOICES: Good.

PRESIDENT BOLAND: Aw, come on. How you all are?

VOICES: Good.

PRESIDENT BOLAND: All right. You know, Linda told you about the 70 -- \$734,000 we gave out to 20 children's organizations in grants last year. I'd like to tell you a couple of them. And when I say a couple of them, it's amazing that each one of these, someone in the audience here has been affected by those grants.

You know what? Lois McFall (phonetic) and myself, her son -- her grandson is autistic and we gave a grant on autism. And yesterday or Friday when I was before the Sons of The American Legion, one of them got up there and the Sons spoke. And his child had the same thing, autism.

So when you ask how is it going to help me or how is it going to help my department, I'm telling you that your donations will help someone in your direct family or your relative.

I'd like to mention a couple of the organizations that we gave grants to was the Childhood Leukemia Foundation, COTA, Children's Organ Transplant, Huntington Disease, National Autism, the National Marfan Association, and Spina Bifida Association.

As Linda said, I had the opportunity to be a Department Commander a few years ago and the first time I really felt why I wanted to be involved with children is when I went to the All Children's Hospital in Tampa. And I went to the Neonatal and I see a child that I could put in my hand. And that child because of what we did had the gift of life.

It's amazing --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: It's amazing what you do and think about that. You all bore a child, but after that you still had the opportunity to give life to another child. And that's what makes you so great.

You know, you guys are the hardest -- I shouldn't say guys, but that's just a nomenclature you say, but you guys are the hardest working Legionnaires that we have in the Legion and I thank you for that.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: You talked about COTA and the gift of life. Josie Bosta (phonetic), 7-year-old girl, is celebrating her one year anniversary on September 9 because she had a heart transplant. You know, your donations made that happen.

I can never thank you enough for what you do and I know you feel in your heart you want to do more. And we will do more for the children of our nation.

You know, we're still helping our children. This year, we raised \$769,320.60 and we did that as a team because if you don't have a team, you don't go anywhere.

I is never in that word. It's our family that makes our structure so strong. We are the greatest organization, our programs aligned with your programs to ensure that children of our nation have a future ahead of them. I could never thank you enough for what you do for that cause.

Raising funds is difficult at times, but I had the opportunity as the President of the Foundation to attend three fund raisers this year. I was in the Department of Ohio and they raffle off 50 rifles in one given day. They started at 9:15 in the morning until five o'clock. Every 15 minutes, they raffle off a rifle. They took in \$85,000, but --

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: Would that be Ohio?

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: Bottom line is they had to pay for the guns and everything. And Blair told me they probably raised about \$35,000 that day, but that was outstanding what The Sons did.

I went to Arizona for a golf tournament and it was amazing. They took a picture -- you talk about first class doing stuff. They took a picture of our foursome and then when we got back to the post, they gave you the picture on a plaque with the Sons' logo in there. It just had class all the way and they raised \$12,000 that day.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: The best -- well, I shouldn't say the best because Colorado doesn't understand the birds of our nation. I was in Colorado for the great Clear Creek duck race.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: Now, they released 2,850 ducks into the Clear Creek and the water was still coming off heavy off the mountains. And it was flowing down to the Coors Brewery. Anyhow --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: All right. All right. All right. I got to Colorado. It was 80 degrees on Thursday. Friday it was 75 degrees. Saturday we had the Buffalo Bill Parade and it was 72 degrees. Sunday I had to get in the water. The water was 52 degrees flowing rapidly, changed my voice and my body structure.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: And the air temperature was 64 and raining. Now, a boy from south Florida doesn't need that.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: But those are the kind of things that make our family gel. We do things. You think outside the box and you have a great time. And like the Sons of The American Legion, in my detachment, Mike Dooley always told me, he says, you know, we have fun so we can raise money, so we can have fun, so we can spend it, so we can have fun, so we can raise money. And basically that's what we do.

You know, and because of that today I would like to present some awards to people. I wish I could give everybody awards because you -- what you do is just outstanding.

But, anyhow, I'd like to present the Excellence Award to the Department of Wyoming.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: The Excellence Award, you'll find as you look back on your life that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others. It was written by Henry Drum (phonetic).

Achieving the highest in per capita giving 2012-2013, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming. The board of directors gratefully recognize your outstanding support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Service to the critical needs of America's children is made possible through your caring and generosity.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: A representative from Colorado coming up.

VOICE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BOLAND: Thank you. Appreciate it. Picture, picture, picture.

VOICE: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BOLAND: The Meritorious Achievement Award, there's a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life's happiness, freedom, peace of mind are always attained by giving to someone else, Peyton Conway March.

Achieving the highest increase in per capita giving for 2012-2013, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Udie -- U.S. Udie Grant Award goes to the Department of Florida.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: The U.S. Udie Grant Legacy Award 2012-2013 presented to the Legion Family, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida in recognition of outstanding support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. We thank you. No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been reward for what he has gained, Calvin Coolidge.

(Applause.)

VOICE: Thank you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BOLAND: I could tell you stories about Peggy. They're a little risqué so I guess I better not tell you.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: To me, the greatest award that I can give and was always my goal as a Legionnaire and hopefully that the Department of Florida Legion would get, the Department of Florida, the Auxiliary for the past few years have attained

this goal and I envy them, envy you and they have contributed so much, but the Garland D. Murphy Jr. Award presented by The American Child Welfare Foundation, American Legion Auxiliary to the Department of Florida for the program year 2012-2013.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: In recognition of their designation as the number one in the total contributions received from their volunteers in support of the annual programs designed to meet the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of our nation's children through productive and meaningful grants signed by Jason Kees, the Executive Secretary, and myself, Dennis Boland as President.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

PRESIDENT BOLAND: I always try to end with I love you like my family. You are my family. You are the greatest people in this world and I am so proud to be affiliated with you.

Thank you very much for what you do for our country, what you do for our veterans, and what you do for our children of our nation. May God bless you forever. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN NEWSOME: No, ma'am.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Linda.

The Junior Activities Program works to engage the next generation to become members in the American Legion Auxiliary. Please welcome our National Junior Activities Chairman, Marie Goede.

Marie.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Madam President Peggy, good morning, members.

Juniors across this great nation have soared to new heights this year in support of all Auxiliary programs, volunteering in each and every area of need.

Juniors in Vermillion Unit Number 29 of Abbeville, Louisiana, enrolled an angel of a family. Amy Callahan and her two daughters, Alana and Maggie joined the Vermillion Unit this year and have contributed massively to the unit and community.

Alana and Maggie, honorary Junior members, decided they wanted to adopt a family from Moore, Oklahoma who'd suffered damage during the tornado that struck the community. They discussed it with their parents and agreed they would do what -- they would deliver whatever they could collect from their friends.

Soon the whole community got involved and trucks started pulling out. The first truckload took food and water and the second truck brought clothes for the entire family and their neighbor who had also lost everything.

Landis Unit 146 Juniors of North Carolina planned their activities for the year in August of 2012. Because of the various ages and different cities, it was easier to plan this way.

After hearing National President Peggy's ask to help the homeless veterans, that is just what the Juniors decided to concentrate on all year. They planned their first big activity ever. The homeless not helpless -- hope -- the Homeless not Hopeless project was conceived.

The Juniors planned an overnight camp-out at the post home to bring awareness to the community about the number of homeless veterans within the local veterans hospital program.

Stores with access to large cardboard boxes were contacted for boxes that the Juniors planned to build their homeless sleeping quarters for the camp-out.

Letters were mailed out to churches, businesses, and Legion Family members asking for donations of nonperishable foods and clothing for the entire family, toys, beddings, toiletries, and whatever else they would be willing to donate.

They contacted their local high school JROTC and asked if they would like to assist them. The Junior Unit President got her community service club at school to help collect canned foods and donated 3,500 cans in nine days.

During sleep-out the community stepped up and donated items for the project. The JROTC also assigned the different companies in their class to bring certain items.

One big box store got some of the other stores involved and they brought items they collected from their employees.

The attendees were fed from a makeshift soup kitchen with only the bare necessities. Interactive games and crafts were provided just as they might have been treated if they were at a homeless shelter.

At bedtime, all attendees crawled into their sleeping area they had created during the daylight hours.

The next morning, the in-kind value of the project totaled \$19,135.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: The VAMC homeless program staff members also used the post home to separate all items so they could box the items for each individual veteran and/or their families.

You have previously met Honorary National Junior President Amanda Washburn from the Department of Nebraska who presided over the 30th annual National Junior meeting. Forty-seven Junior members attended. What an energetic group of young ladies. They were amazing.

The service project was the Littlest Patriot. This project is for the female veteran who is expecting a child or recently gave birth. The items placed in these bags are items that we would put in for their own infants, wipes, lotion, blankets, onesies, socks, et cetera.

The bags used to place the items in the -- the bags used to place the items in was the USA bag with the Auxiliary name on it. That way, they will know we were the organization that donated those items.

Since we are a women's organization, the thought was this would be a project that would give back to the female veteran since they are so often forgotten.

The off-site visit this year was to the DeBakey VAMC where the members presented the Littlest Patriot bags and were able to spend time visiting with the veterans.

Also, at the con -- at the con -- meeting, the newly elected officers for the 2013-2014 were installed.

All Juniors have done an outstanding job this year. They are our future and having worked with youth for several years, I can attest that our Juniors are the cream of the crop and this organization is in good hands.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Marie.

Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: No, Madam President, I do not.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Marie.

CHAIRMAN GOEDE: Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is my pleasure to introduce the 2013 Convention Corporation President, Mr. John Morris.

(Music.)

VOICE: God bless you, Texas, and keep you brave and strong that you may grow in (indiscernible) and work throughout the ages long. Texas.

PRESIDENT MORRIS: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT MORRIS: To you, my dear friend, Madam President Peggy, and to each and every one of you sitting out in the audience, I'm certainly glad that I'm only bringing a welcome address because I've been sitting in back of the curtain listening to these previous speakers and their reports and I think you all have a problem. You don't advertise enough because it was phenomenal what I heard them say.

I just couldn't believe it and I've been behind the stage a lot of times at your conventions, but this is the cream of the crop right here for what they're doing right now I can say.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MORRIS: With that being said, as President of the National Convention Corporation of Texas, I want to welcome each and every one of you here today, this morning, rather, I think it's morning, it's supposed to be, but it is really a fantastic convention going on here.

I hope that you all have enjoyed yourselves since you have been here and you've been able to see what the city of Houston has to offer. And it happens to be the home of the Honor Guard, National Honor Guard for this coming year again.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MORRIS: And a good congratulations to them.

I trust you all have, like I said, have a good -- had a good time since you've been here. And if you haven't, then that's your own fault --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MORRIS: -- because there are so many things to do around Houston and the general area. You have a ton of entertainment. You can go to Galveston if you have time which I know that you all are so busy having your meeting on

Monday. I thought this was an off day, but I found out it wasn't because you all really attend to business while you're at your National Convention.

And I have no doubt that this convention is going to be as successful or more successful than the convention 12 years ago in San Antonio, Texas. And that was a good convention.

In fact, they wanted this one back, but due to the fact that we had had conventions everywhere else, late National Commander Joe Matthews, which many of you know -- knew, he suggested that we have it held here in Houston, Texas.

And that we did. We finally got it and we're looking forward to having another convention here in 10 or 12 years. And you can see what has happened with this city since the last convention here back in the '70s. And it has grown three, four, five times. You cannot see over the buildings anymore. You have to go around them.

And I would like to say thank you for all of you ladies that participated in the parade either on the sidewalk, in the review stand, or out in the middle of the street. You were fantastic. You did a good job and that's what makes us a family is working together, walking together, and doing our programs together.

And I want to say that we should continue on our -- on our path that we're going down right now. And with that, Madam President, I would like to say a word about yesterday's parade and the good Lord. I've had many people come to me and ask me how is the weather going to be in Houston, Texas, that time of the year, especially at the parade.

Well, that time of the year, I said it's going to be real cool --

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MORRIS: -- inside.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MORRIS: And that I'm not going to let it rain on my parade and it didn't. It was very successful and we were fortunate.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT MORRIS: Thank you.

We were fortunate to have clouds and a good cool breeze blowing. About 90 degrees, I think, but that is cool around here this time of the year.

But, anyway, I want to thank all of you that participated and I'm looking forward to our next convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Thank you, Madam President, and you all have a good day and a successful convention. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, John. Good job.

Is Gallagher here? Gallagher Benefit Services began as our volunteer benefit provider in 2011. They started in the Midwest and with the goal of building a relationship with our members and introduced them to their new discounted benefits.

Here to speak about their experience on working with Gallagher and how the program can succeed is Katie Tucker, Department Secretary of Ohio.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

SECRETARY TUCKER: Good morning. Good morning, Madam President.

As Department Secretary, I receive many phone calls from family members of deceased Auxiliary members wanting information about their loved one's insurance policy and wanting to know how they can initiate a claim or even a phone number to call to initiate a claim.

I ran up here. Sorry.

Many of you know and maybe some of you don't know, but the Department Headquarters do not keep that information and we don't manage the claims. Neither does the National Headquarters.

So you can imagine my frustration when I'm not able to assist a spouse or a son or a daughter of the member and it also leaves a negative connotation with the family member when they're unable to receive assistance at a difficult time. And the only name that they can associate with that is the American Legion Auxiliary because they have a policy in hand and no one to help them.

So last year when the National Convention -- so last year at National Convention when it was announced that there would be a new member benefits program and that there would be an organized -- organization managing all facets of that member's benefit, I was elated. This would be another resource for departments and ultimately the members themselves.

We were also told that the National staff would have a point of contact on staff to assist departments with their questions and concerns when assisting members.

Since then, Ohio has embraced the new partnership with Gallagher Benefits. It is important to us in Ohio that our members have every opportunity to reap the benefits of their membership.

We began last fall spreading the word through monthly bulk mailings and newsletters. I began working one on one with Shannon and her representatives on promoting and dispersing the information that we could offer to our members.

In January, they attended our mid-winter conference and then they came back again this summer to our Department Convention. Members can now put a face to the name and the organization.

We were also pleased when she contacted me and said that she'd like to contact our unit presidents and our district presidents and set up informational meetings all over the state of Ohio.

Gallagher and the American Legion Auxiliary are taking the approach that members need to see them, know them, and know what they offer and know that they will be there in their time of need.

I appreciate National Headquarters' efforts to provide top-notch quality benefits, not to mention the great customer service that all members will receive from this new partnership.

I encourage department secretaries and you yourself, the members, to embrace this new relationship so that our members can start enjoying all of their benefits.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you, Katie, for your story and kind words. Now to discuss how Gallagher's member benefits program started and how they adapted it to fit our needs is Shannon Lockhart.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

MS. LOCKHART: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you so much, Katie.

She's been such a pleasure to work with and you can't even -- I can't even tell you how organized and helpful she's been. And I appreciate all the kind words.

And thank you so much. It's so wonderful to be back at the National Convention once again this year to talk about the Auxiliary's member benefit program and how -- and I'm just so excited to be just a little part of this truly special group that does such wonderful selfless things as an organization for others.

It was so much fun watching all of you march in the parade yesterday as you also deserve the recognition for all that you do.

And I love this great city of Houston in this big lone star state of Texas. It's really terrific to see so many familiar and friendly faces this weekend as we've been to a great number of department conventions over the past few months as Katie explained to roll out the greatly expanded exclusive Auxiliary member benefits program.

I want to personally thank each and every one of you that I've worked with thus far and those who I will be working with in the future for all of the terrific ideas and the overwhelming cooperation in helping to spread the word to our members about this terrific program.

For those of you who may not be familiar, I'm the account manager for the Auxiliary members benefit program and work for Gallagher Benefits. Gallagher has been around for more than 85 years as one of the world's largest international brokerages and we're very honored to be working with the Auxiliary to help bring this terrific program to its members.

I, too, am also a fellow Auxiliary member in Michigan in the Detroit metro area.

(Applause.)

MS. LOCKHART: Thank you. Yea, Michigan.

And I have a personal investment in the organization as well obviously. So I'm very excited to be able to work directly with the Auxiliary to spread awareness of the terrific benefits that the Auxiliary members and their families are so entitled to for all the support to the organization, the troops, and the veterans.

My role with Gallagher is the overall service of the program and to ensure that the information is of the -- regarding the expanded member benefits program is disseminated to the leadership and the members so that everyone is aware of the benefits and they can take advantage of these services that their families are so entitled to.

Now, we all know that the members look to you as the leadership when they have questions, so this is why we feel that it's so important for you to first and foremost be informed of the program. The Auxiliary leadership and members spoke and we listened. As you may or may not know, during the process, we had changed our rollout strategy of the program to better fit our members' desires and suggestions. This is why

we changed our strategy to first meet with the department leadership by attending the department meetings, conventions, and then meeting or -- and then to inform and educate of the new benefits program and then to work with the state leadership on setting up the meetings at the division, district, and unit level in each state to continue the process and helping everyone to become more aware of the benefits that are available.

Gallagher, together with National Auxiliary, has worked hard to put together this expanded member benefits program from what you've seen in the past which includes a variety of discount services, insurance products, and financial services and different avenues for accessing these benefits as well.

Today I will just touch on the highlights of these benefits available, but, again, I will be here at the booth in the vendors hall all day today. And so if you have any questions, feel free to stop by and see me. I also have a lot of information that you can utilize for your own personal information or you can take a supply with you back to your state to kind of distribute to your members as well.

And I can also email this information to you, so please stop by and say hi.

Today the -- some of those products that we have available are fully insured dental plan, discount dental plans with Carrington which is one of the nation's largest carriers, term life insurance, whole life, universal life which are all with several very well-known carriers across the nation.

Long-term insurance which we all know is becoming more and more important today, there's critical illness insurance which pays lump sum benefits when you have covered illnesses such as stroke, heart attack, and cancer, Medicare supplemental insurance which we also have licensed representatives available to help determine what best suits your needs.

VSP vision insurance, everyone has heard of VSP, as the nation's most well-known vision plan and vision discount plans through EyeMed as well.

Also new we have -- and by popular demand by the Auxiliary members is our pet insurance and also the newest benefit is the abenity discount program which is completely free paid by Gallagher, brought to all of our members. This is a brand new benefit that offers over 100,000 discounts nationally.

Just to name a few there are automotive discounts, car dealerships, travel discounts, hotels, car rentals, et cetera, retail and shopping through Costco, Sam's Club, grocery discounts, restaurant discounts, movie tickets.

I just took my six kids to the movies the other day and I got some great discounts by going online and printing off my tickets ahead of time.

Entertainment with theme parks, national attractions such as Walt Disney World, Six Flags, Universal Studios, the list just goes on and on and on. I could stand here all day and name them off.

But the best way is just to stop by my booth today and get a flyer. You have to have a special code for the Auxiliary to input your own personal account and then you can put in your ZIP code and it will bring up all the different discounts that are right in your area. So make sure you take advantage of that because it's completely free and it's a really neat discount.

Speaking of the website, information about all of these benefits can also be found on the national Auxiliary's website at ALAforVeterans.org, I think we're all pretty familiar with that, under the member resources, member benefits tab.

And we also have plenty of flyers like I indicated at our table, booth in the vendors hall that I can send home with you. There's a good supply of those. I'd like to get rid of them so I don't have to carry them back home.

And you can -- I can also email these in nice color copies to you in email so you can use those for communications, your newsletters, emailing, and then you can have them on supply as well if you don't want to carry those back home with you.

So also there's a toll-free number that members can call. It's 855 -- I don't know the number by heart, but it's all listed on those flyers and information as well.

And for each benefit, there's a prompt that you can press. For example, one would be term life insurance. And you'll be directed to an actual licensed representative that can help you specifically with that benefit.

And then you can also call me. My information and phone number and email is all over the flyers and my business cards. Don't ever feel shy to pick up the call -- the phone and call me or to email me. I'm always -- that's what I'm here for, to help you.

So also to support the program is extended benefit services representatives or we call EBS. You may -- if you stop by the booth this weekend, you may have met Eddie Orzoko (phonetic). He's the Houston representative for EBS and there -- he's available to come to your district, unit meetings, whatever meetings that you're having as a guest speaker. And he can talk about all of these benefits as well.

And in addition to all of the benefits that I've listed thus far, they also can talk about estate planning, home and auto insurance, free tax planning information, financial services, annuities, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and the list just goes on and on and on and on.

We have so many new benefits, so please take advantage of them. You're so entitled to these benefits and I just can't tell you how much these benefits would really -- are a terrific program for you.

If you haven't already done so, stop by, say hi, and thank you so much for all your support and all that you do for the organization and the veterans and the military families as well. Thank you so much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Let's give Shannon a big thank you for updating us on Gallagher and for being a sponsor of our National Convention.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Lastly, we have National Secretary and Executive Director Dobbie Buckler to talk about The American Legion and its members so they can -- to ensure a better relationship and a more successful membership program.

(Music.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay, everybody. Since I have been here, I've heard from some of you we want better benefits for our members. We want more benefits for our members.

So how many of you have actually accessed the benefits? That's not many.

How many of you have gone online and looked at them? Okay. That's a little bit more.

Well, we have listened to you and we have provided a lot more benefits, but we know it takes a while for people to really understand that it really is a better deal.

There are a lot of products for people, life insurance, gap insurance, accident insurance, many more kinds of insurance. And the good thing about this program is where before we had one broker who provided one product from one vendor, now if you're looking for gap insurance, you can look for it from a variety of vendors.

And they're all the ones that you see advertised on television. These are the top names. These are the reputable companies and they all have created special discounts for the American Legion Auxiliary. And that's the key is stuff we need at a lower price, especially for us. You can find them again on our website under members or member benefits.

We have a flyer that we've created that just gives you an overview. So if you're having a unit, district, or department meeting and you want people to be aware of it, take advantage of this flyer so that people can see. It really is a lot more than they've ever had an opportunity to access in the past.

In fact, it's way more. We now have access to literally thousands of discounts through the abenity program. You don't need to remember abenity. You do need to remember that you can go to the website and find it because there's just a lot of stuff there. And we can tell by looking at the tracking numbers that not very many of you are doing this.

So Gallagher Member Benefits is our new provider. We had one before, a great contract for that provider, not such a great contract for the American Legion Auxiliary.

Gallagher Member Benefits is doing this all on their own company's investment. We have not paid them to develop this for us. They're in 17 states right now and right now they can't afford to go into any other states until the 17 states they're in are starting to take advantage of some of this.

Again, the three key people who are working this program for us from Gallagher Member Benefits are an American Legion Auxiliary member, an American Legion member, and a Sons of The American Legion member. So they really are family and they are scouting the best deals for us. But if we don't take advantage of them, we may not be able to continue to keep offering this. So we really need you to look into it.

We talk a lot about you can get this online, you can get this by texting, by emailing. Well, a lot of you say we don't have computers. Not a problem. In every issue of -- recent issue of the magazine, we have included a one-page ad that has that toll-free number on there. So you can call and there really are people there.

And I went up to Michigan to hear what they're saying to our members when they talk, when they call to them. And that was a good visit because we made a few tweaks so that they wouldn't intimidate you or scare you.

And we made a big change and this is a key thing for -- that I want you to remember. We started out this program thinking, well, we'll just, as they say in the business, cold call our members. We'll just call people because we've all told you that you have this and we know you all remember that we told you that we have this, right?

We know you don't have anything else on your mind. There's no way you could possibly forget that we said you have a lot more benefits through a company called Gallagher Member Benefits.

Well, we discovered that people were a little intimidated by the phone calls. So we are now taking a whole different relationship building approach. They will come to your unit meeting. They will come to your district meeting. They will come to your department meeting because we know that if you have a higher comfort level with them, you're going to feel more comfortable accessing the benefits, right?

This is the audience participation part. Right?

VOICES: Right.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. All right. So we ask you to really take advantage of this because there are great deals. I'm not going to list them all. Great discounts. Can't list them all because there are now literally thousands.

But we can't continue to keep doing it if you don't take advantage of it. So please, please, please, you are important. Who's important?

VOICES: We are.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: How important are you?

VOICES: Very.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And what have we done to provide more --

VOICES: Benefits.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- benefits for you is because we --

VOICES: Love you.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Dubbie.

Bear with me. The American Legion Auxiliary supports the legislative priorities adopted by The American Legion. As advocates for our veterans, we encourage our members to contact the -- their elected officials to implore them to keep the needs of our military and their families in front and center as they go about their legislative work.

Here with her report is Coral May Grout, National Legislative Committee Chairman. Coral.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: Madam President, get the glasses on, the members of the Legislative Committee have worked together as a team to assist departments and units in supporting the legislative agenda of The American Legion at all levels of government.

I'm happy to share with you that this report is based upon 100 percent department reporting --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: -- from all 52 departments. The variety of ways in which the Legislative program was accomplished this year was amazing and I wish I had the time to share all the information with you.

The Department of New York's 2,558 members in 61 out of their 62 counties initiated 1,235 contacts with local, state, and national legislators via letters, emails, telephone calls, and visits.

Unit 178 partnered with their post to hold a forum for candidates.

Unit 203 discussed amending the current New York civil service law to include additional military service with the Veterans Committee.

Rosemary Luzem (phonetic) of Canandaigua Unit 256 received the most responses to U.S. Senators Schumer, Gillibrand, Representative Reed, and the White House about TRICARE, military prescription co-pays, cuts to military pay and benefits, and the national defense authorization bill.

Districts held well-attended legislative breakfasts. Members attended Hill Day in Albany meeting with legislators at a breakfast. Members also attended the dynamic Washington, D.C. conference meeting with legislators or their aides.

Past Department President Karyn Porempski and the Department Chairman Julie Harrison Kleszczewski wrote a resolution to address the exorbitant out-of-state college tuition rates for veterans and the military.

The resolution passed locally in New York County in the Department Convention and was sent to National Headquarters. Then The American Legion National Education Committee sent legislators, chairmen letters in effective states.

Finally, the in-state tuition for veterans provision was added to the quality education through Post-9/11 GI Bill which was sponsored in the Senate -- (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: -- by the Chairman Sanders of Vermont and Ranking Member Burr of North Carolina. The American Legion submitted testimony on this legislation on June 5th, 2013.

Great job, New York.
(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: In the Department of Florida, a TRAIN was used for legislation. The letters stood for talk about the importance of initiatives, research The American Legion and Auxiliary websites to keep current on bills, advocate for veterans, active duty military and their families by communicating with local, state, and federal officials, initiate support for The American Legion's priorities, and now is the time to act and act they did.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GROUT: The Auxiliary members in the Department of Florida made 4,276 contacts with their legislators through emails, telephone calls, letters, or in person. Forty-two out of 59 elected officials responded to invitations and made visits to Legion family events.

Members attended the Washington, D.C. conference where the Department of Florida hosted a luncheon for all 27 of their legislators. All legislators attended or sent a representative. And Senator Nelson met privately with The American Legion family.

Several national chairmen and officers including National President Peggy were invited to meet with Secretary Shinseki. More than 100 American Legion family members joined Commander Koutz for his testimony on Capitol Hill.

Throughout the year, The American Legion Family members met with many federal legislators at numerous gatherings. Auxiliary and post members also met with

federal, state, and local representatives to discuss issues related to veterans and military families.

Most legislators are very interested in the priorities identified by The American Legion. May that continue.

Madam President, that concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Coral.

But wait, there's more. In recognition of your work, the Legion has a few words. Please welcome the Legion's Legislative Commission Chairman, Brett Reistad of the Department of Virginia.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN REISTAD: Thank you so much.

Still good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN REISTAD: I am here this morning with my counterpart, Jeff Steele, the Assistant Director and grassroots coordinator for the National Legislative Division in Washington, D.C.

We are here today to recognize the leadership of your Legislative Committees because as you're well aware, our successes on Capitol Hill and Washington, D.C. and in our respective general assemblies, it doesn't happen by accident. It happens because there is a lot of work that goes into preparing a program and a legislative agenda.

And that agenda requires advocates to go forward and meet with our elected representatives to ensure success. And The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion ensure that that is done successfully.

And I'm very proud to have assumed the role of Legislative Commission Chairman and I look forward to working very closely with your organization and the members of The American Legion to continue to ensure that we are successful in serving our veterans and serving those folks in the United States military that require our assistance to keep things moving forward as they should.

Today it's my privilege to present to Coral and to Marcia just a token of our esteem for their cooperation with our division and our commission. And I look forward to working with you during the course of the next year as does our National Legislative Division in Washington, D.C.

You're aware that we have National Commander's testimony coming up on September 10th in Washington, D.C. and a Washington conference that will follow, I believe sometime in the spring. And I look forward to seeing as many of your lovely members in attendance to assist us in promoting all of the -- all of the initiatives that The American Legion is putting forward in this next year.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN REISTAD: Thank you very much, everybody.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN REISTAD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much for coming.

Coral, are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN GROUT: We have none, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Coral. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN GROUT: You're welcome.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: For the Auxiliary, Laura Balun has become a household name. She has headed the VA Voluntary Service Office for many years and last month retired.

While we are delighted she is able to retire and start a new chapter, we are sad as an organization that she is leaving. We would like to acknowledge her work to all veterans' project volunteers with a couple of presentations.

To make the first presentation, I invite to the stage Theresa Long from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a group with which the ALA enjoys a vibrant collaboration.

Please welcome lifelong Auxiliary member of the Department of Arkansas Theresa Long.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

MS. LONG: Thank you, National President Peggy, for that kind introduction and to Vice President Nancy and all of the National officers of the American Legion Auxiliary for inviting me to be with you today.

Good morning, everyone.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. LONG: As a lifelong member of the Department of Arkansas, it's a pleasure and honor to be representing the Corporation for National and Community Service and participating in the convention with you.

The Corporation for National and Community Service oversees a number of federal programs including AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps and SeniorCorps, as well as the Martin Luther King Day of Service and September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance.

We are proud to work with ALA to provide funding for the call to service consortium AmeriCorps and VISTA projects. What started out as a small pilot project at the Louisville ALA National Convention has blossomed into a major initiative for our agency.

The AmeriCorps and VISTA members are doing amazing work to provide service for veteran and military families across the country. And as an ALA member, I am so proud to have been involved with this initiative since its inception.

CNCS has designated veteran and military families as one of our major focus programming areas and is committed to increasing its efforts and investment as well as our partnership with other federal, state, local, and community nonprofit organizations.

As part of this effort, CNCS had the opportunity to work with Laura to strengthen our partnership with VA Voluntary Service and to be approved for membership on the National Advisory Committee.

Laura was a strong advocate and realized the impact a partnership between CNCS and VAVS could have in providing service to our veterans.

During the first year, 125 volunteers provided over 7,000 hours of community service to veterans at VAMC centers across the country. We are so proud of that and know that's a number that is going to continue to grow year after year.

So today it's my pleasure to bestow on Laura the President's Volunteer Service Award. The President's Council on Service and Civic Participation created these awards in 2003 to encourage and recognize outstanding volunteer service and to inspire others to volunteer.

The award honors those Americans like you, Laura, who have made serving a central part of their lives. We have no more worthy recipients of service than our nation's veterans.

So on behalf of the President of the United States, I am honored to award you with the President's Volunteer Service Award for your outstanding service on behalf of America's veterans. Congratulations on an amazing career and best wishes as you start this new chapter in your life. Laura.

(Applause.)

MS. BALUN: Thank you.

MS. LONG: And thank you, ALA, for all that you continue to do and look forward and hope you have a great convention.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Theresa.

And now the Auxiliary would like to present our special award in recognition of your many years of service and support to us as an organization, to our VAVS volunteers, and to all veterans.

We will miss you and would like to present you with this EPOCH Mission Service Honor Award which reads: To Laura Balun for her career, devotion to improving our veterans' quality of life.

Laura, would you like to say a few words?

MS. BALUN: Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

MS. BALUN: You know, it is I who should thank you for the many years of service that you provided to veterans. So thank you for everything that you have done.

I had a wonderful career not only in serving veterans as a recreational therapist but also as -- within voluntary service. I had the distinct pleasure to work with individuals like Helen Thomas, Madam President Peggy Thomas, and Pat Kranzow.

Is Pat here?

(Applause.)

MS. BALUN: And Theresa Long and the list goes on and on and on. But I truly know the impact that the American Legion Auxiliary has on service to veterans and their families. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your service. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And now we want to officially present you with the award and the box is in the back.

MS. BALUN: Okay. All right.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. And now we're going to have a photo op. And I would like the National Secretary to officially escort you back.

MS. BALUN: Thank you. Thank you.

(Music.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Laura and Theresa, both.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We will now hear reports from our Veteran/Military Support & Advocacy Pod. Whatever a veteran needs, job assistance, transportation, food, clothing, whatever, Auxiliary volunteers will do their best to provide it. With troops constantly deployed during our nation's longest period of war, our mission to assist veterans and their families has never been more important.

Here to tell us how the VA&R program helps fulfill our mission to serve veterans and their families and our national -- is our national VA&R Committee Chairman, Janet Jefford. Janet.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Madam President Peggy, your special emphasis of helping the homeless, especially women veterans, is exemplified by the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Their homeless women veterans program began in 2010 when this -- when the Department President decided to make this her special project and asked Kathy Wollmer to be the Chair.

Kathy has shared with me that at the first event they held, only two women veterans came. But through hard work and dedicated Auxiliary members, it took three years for the Auxiliary and this program to be recognized by both the VA and the public.

This year's Department President, Diana Sirovina, believes this outreach to women veterans is a win-win for all. It creates awareness for the military service of women veterans and shows women veterans that they are appreciated and supported by the American Legion Auxiliary.

One of the goals of -- is to offer assistance in the form of grants. This year, they assisted 45 women veterans with \$38,353 in grants.

One grant went to a Mrs. Wilson to pay for two months' rent and utilities. Ms. Wilson is a single parent with no child support and due to a difficult pregnancy consequently lost her job.

The Auxiliary helped connect her with the Wisconsin Employment Resource Connections to find new employment, is helping her work with the courts for child support, and is helping her receive budgeting advice from a military financial consultant.

Funding for the grants is provided by donations from members of The American Legion family and from community partners.

One community partner was Waunakee High School. They raised \$1,200 during a boys' basketball game through the hoops for troops challenges. Their student council president wrote: Your organization stands for a new beginning and our high

school and student council is honored to play a small part in the difference the American Legion Auxiliary is making for hundreds.

A vital part of this program is an effort called making connections woman to woman. Currently 54 Auxiliary members from 11 districts throughout Wisconsin belong. These women are the boots on the ground. They provide the direct contact that is so helpful answering questions, finding and recommending local resources, and most importantly being the face that other -- that others -- that offer that friendly smile that is so needed.

The Department of Wisconsin has been able to assist women veterans while creating a community awareness of the sacrifices they make when serving our country and the hardships they continue to face after they return home.

In Kathy's words, "I am very proud to say Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary has again helped women veterans take a step forward to independent living. It is our members that have made this program so successful. They have opened their minds and their hearts to our women veterans."

For the second year, the VA&R Committee provided grants to departments to help them with local creative arts festivals. The New Jersey Lions VA Medical Center was celebrating its tenth year of holding a local festival. Typically this event was held from 9 to noon and was comprised of an art display and a social hour followed by a brief ceremony. All funding for the festival was set at \$500.

The local festival committee had a dream. They wanted to expand the event from a morning display and award ceremony to a luncheon where the event would be much more celebratory. They wanted to purchase a mesh panel display wall to improve the visibility of the art display and to add a workshop to further encourage lifelong love of the arts, but they needed funding.

To make that dream come true, in step the members of the Department of New Jersey led by VA&R Chairman Doreen Gallagher on the far left of this picture in January, she reached out to the medical center to inquire how they might help. With the three wishes in mind, Doreen applied for a grant from the VA&R Committee and received \$2,000 to help the dream come true.

The result, this year, veterans were treated to a luncheon enjoying time with fellow veterans and their families. All of the entries were displayed for viewing allowing everyone to admire and to hear the stories behind the entries.

Forty veterans attended the art workshop learning new mediums in which to express their feelings. A recreational therapist told Doreen veterans in previous years would come, get their award, and leave. This year was the first year we were able to really focus on all participants, celebrate their accomplishments, and make them feel special.

Continuing the theme of service to veterans, I am so honored to introduce you to a very special lady, Mrs. Katherine K. Arnold. Kay is well-known for her big hats. She never leaves home without one.

Another thing Kay is well-known for is her work at the Bedford, Massachusetts, VA Medical Center where she has been a regularly scheduled volunteer since 1959. She now walks with a cane, but it hasn't stopped her from volunteering.

Over the last 54 years, Kay has provided 47,957 hours of volunteer service.
(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: If you do the math, that computes to over 23 years of full-time employment with no vacation days and no holidays.

Kay has received many honors and accolades from the VA. I thought it was time that the Auxiliary recognize this great accomplishment of one of Peggy's angels.

Madam President, after reading all the reports, I can assure you that this year your Auxiliary angels have soared to new heights in serving our veterans and their families.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Janet.

Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Yes, Madam President. We have one resolution.

VOICE: Madam National President, Resolution 2 was submitted by the National VA&R Committee. The subject is combining field service and home service. It reads as follows:

Whereas, the care and improvement of the quality of life for American veterans and their families is one of the founding purposes of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, and

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary encourages and recognizes forms -- all forms of service to veterans and their families outside Veterans Administration hospitals, medical centers, and other facilities, and

Whereas, currently the American Legion Auxiliary tracks home service volunteer hours and field service volunteer hours separate, and

Whereas, there continues to be confusion among the volunteers about what constitutes field service volunteer hours and home service volunteer hours, and

Whereas, separate pins and hour bars are awarded for field service volunteer hours and home service volunteer hours, and

Whereas, all members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Junior members, American Legion members, members of the Sons of The American Legion, and non-affiliated volunteers recruited by the American Legion Auxiliary are eligible to serve as field service and home service volunteers and receive recognition for volunteering outside of Veterans Administration hospitals, medical centers, other facilities,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the field service and home service programs be combined in a new program entitled Service to our Veterans,

Resolved that a new pin be designed to service for our veterans other than the regular hospital volunteer pin, that the pin be given when a volunteer has accumulated 50 hours of service and that hour bars be available for the same increments as now given for field service and home service hours,

And Resolved that volunteers who have accumulated over 50 hours of field or home service are eligible for the new pin with the hour bar designating their combined field and home service hours,

And Resolved that all currently accumulated hours for field service and home service be combined when awarding the first hour bar for the new service to our veterans pin,

Resolved that the rules now governing the reporting and recognition of field service hours remain in effect,

And Resolved that if adopted at the 2013 National Convention in Houston, Texas, this Resolution becomes effective during the 2014-2015 administrative year.

The VA&R Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the Resolution be adopted.

No recommendation was received from the Finance Pre-Convention Committee.

Madam President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of Resolution 2 as just read.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on the adoption of Resolution Number 2 as just read. The VA&R Pre-Convention Committee recommends the Resolution be adopted.

Is there any discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those in favor -- microphone one.

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

My concern is that at the present time, the field service requires an orientation and home service does not. Field service deals directly with the veterans and I do believe there needs to be some guidance with those that are participating in field service.

Our home service volunteers often are women that never leave their home, may be homebound, not members that go to meetings or volunteer outside their home, not that we also have those as well, but I don't think that they probably will want to take an orientation class.

So I'm a little bit concerned about that particular part of this Resolution as far as needing an orientation.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Diane.

Is there any further discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I would like for the VA&R Chairman to respond to that.

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Diane, I don't know if this completely answers your question, but one of the resolved clauses in there does say that all rules governing the field service, home service hours reporting will still apply.

And so we have every intention of continuing an orientation program for those people volunteering in service to our veterans mainly because there's a lot of issues we need to be aware of, confidentiality, you know, just how to -- how to conduct ourselves, and that sort. So that's what we're hoping we would still do that orientation.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Any further discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those in favor of Resolution Number 2, please press the number one key on your voting keypad. Those opposed, press two. Please vote now.

Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Five hundred and twenty-five in favor and it looks like 94 opposed. The affirmative has it and the Resolution is adopted.

Thank you, Janet.

(Music.)

THE NARRATOR: It's time to meet another one of the thousands of American Legion Auxiliary everyday angels.

VOICE: She's an everyday angel.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Auxiliary is filled with everyday angels that are out there working our mission and not asking any praise for it. One such person is Lorraine Boucher of Unit 34 in Rhode Island. Just in her first year of retirement, Lorraine goes above and beyond.

Recently, Lorraine brought together numerous Auxiliary members to revitalize an overrun and weed filled garden at her local veterans' home. She recruited volunteers from her church and the community, cleared the beds and planted new flowers and trees. Lorraine is a leading force for veterans and their families.

Join me in giving Lorraine a round of applause.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The American Legion Auxiliary supports the legislative priorities. We've already done that. We will just jump right ahead.

By providing for the needs of our military families on -- by providing for the needs of our military families on the home front, we hope to ease the minds of our deployed servicemembers so they don't worry about their loved ones back home and can focus on the monumental task of protecting our country.

Please welcome National Security Committee Chairman Mary Davis to report.

(Music.)

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Madam National President Peggy, The American Legion membership eligibility dates for the Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism are August 2, 1990, until today. That means essentially that we have been at war for 23 years. 1.4 men and women currently serve.

The founders of the American Legion Auxiliary felt that national security was so important to protecting our way of life that they established it as one of the principles of the ALA. Taking care of our active duty personnel and taking steps to help ourselves in the event of an emergency is what national security is all about.

From the land of earthquakes and wildfires, Department of California National Security Chairman Tamara Bell reported that one unit sent six members to become CERT

trained. They then returned to their community where they shared what they had learned by hosting a community-based course on emergency preparedness.

One topic of special interest addressed the steps to ensure the safety of pets in emergency situations.

Illinois Department Chairman Ann Flanagan reported on activities conducted by the members of Liberty Unit 289 in Strasburg.

Unit Chairman Jill Laten (phonetic) related a chain of events that helped turn their military Christmas box project from a small unit project to a project supported by the entire community.

In a thank-you letter to the editor of the local paper, she wrote, and I quote, "When I was in the Champaign Walmart about 5 p.m. on a recent evening, a woman in line commented on the numerous items that I was placing in my cart. I informed her they were items that were being included in the military Christmas box. Next thing I knew, there was a gentleman standing next to me who asked if I had someone in the military. I said I had a son, a Marine, currently in Afghanistan. The gentleman informed me he was a veteran and he thanked me for my son's service.

"The next thing I knew, the gentleman had purchased items and gave them to me to put in the box. I thanked this veteran, but I'm not sure if he heard me because of the lump I had in my throat. I will never forget this honored veteran's act of kindness." End quote.

Then after another article requesting community support, approximately 40 people responded to assist with filling the boxes, each topped off with a handmade card by one little girl.

Historically the project received enough money to fill and send 20 boxes. However, this year, 66 boxes were filled and shipped. I'd like -- I like to believe it was because of Jill's letter which touched the hearts of the citizens of Strasburg.

After the boxes were received, a member of the battalion wrote in part, first off, my battalion and I would like to thank you for each one of the packages. They were awesome. Your contributions to the troops are outstanding.

I have been out here for almost six months and distributed several care packages but none were as appreciated so much as these. We are proud to fight for such a great country that supports us wherever we are at. Hooah, shipmates. RP2 Justin L. Finney (phonetic).

Now, this year, this spring, PCs for DMZ soldiers was a short-term grassroots nationwide fund raising project. While National President Peggy was visiting our soldiers deployed to the Korean DMZ, she learned that they do not have access to any computers for personal use.

The project spearheaded by the National Security Committee and department chairmen reached out to members nationwide for financial support of this project. With Auxiliary providing the equipment, eight computers and one printer, the installation created a personal use computer lab for our soldiers.

In turn, we received the following email: "We deeply appreciate all that you and all involved have done for our community. I know this truly means a lot to each of our soldiers and want to personally say thank you to everyone that made this happen.

Please let them know from all of us that this will truly have a positive impact in keeping our soldiers in contact with their families at home and help immensely with their distance education. Thank you again and God bless.” --Command Sergeant Major Hidalgo.

What a great American Legion Auxiliary opportunity for every member to help our troops in the remote Korean DMZ. These are but a few examples of the many great projects reported.

From sea to shining sea and beyond, Madam National President Peggy, our members soared to new heights as they embraced and furthered the fundamentals of our National Security program.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: No, Madam National President. We have none.

However, I do have a quick presentation of very big importance.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: If you'd stay here with me.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: And I -- if I could have the National Security up here, too.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is she here?

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: I don't know. Is she here?

I would like to give to you both on behalf of the United Nations Command Security Battalion Joint Security Area called the JSA -- their motto is in front of them all and so I am presenting this in front of them all.

To you, Madam President, the award reads: "In front of them all, Peggy Thomas, National President, American Legion Auxiliary, thank you for your contribution and outstanding support to the soldiers of the United Nations Command Security Battalion Joint Security Area. On behalf of the soldiers and families, we are sincerely grateful in front of them all. Daniel H. Edmond (phonetic), Lieutenant Colonel, and Commander Sergeant Major Daniel S. Hidalgo."

I have one for you and I have one for the staff at National Headquarters.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Thank you, Mary.

You would have to be there to see the need and I thank the Auxiliary members for their quick response.

The Poppy Program raises community awareness and respect for our veterans by educating Auxiliary members and the public about the symbol of the poppy. Here to tell us more about connecting the visual image of the poppy with the sacrifices made by our veterans is Melanie Taylor, National Poppy Committee Chairman. Melanie.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam National President, the Poppy Committee has worked diligently all year to promote the Poppy Program and what the red crepe paper

poppy stands for, the honoring of all veterans past and present who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the freedoms we enjoy today, the memorial poppy.

This Chairman stressed the importance of offering the poppy not only one week per year but to offer these poppies year round including the entire month of May.

Members reported distributing poppies to City Council members while accepting their poppy proclamation and claiming May as poppy month. They gave poppies to veterans living in veterans' homes, VA medical centers, nursing homes, and their local churches.

They stood in front of grocery stores, post offices, small town businesses, and big box stores during the month of May.

Ms. Indianapolis 500 and her court of princesses even wore our poppy flower on their sashes in publicity photos for the Indianapolis 500 race.

Unit 41, Department of Arizona distributed their support --
(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: -- of the Poppy program for the veterans in a big way. A 10 foot by 36 foot electronic billboard located in El Mirage, Arizona, showed just how much they supported their veterans. This advertisement forever honoring their service ran for five days from May 23 to 27, 2013, Memorial Day weekend.

The red crepe paper poppy has been displayed everywhere throughout the year in many creative ways. Poppies were used in memorial wreaths for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

And Ehrig McTurk Unit 127, Department of Iowa, collects evergreens before Memorial Day to make over 200 poppy wreaths to place on all the veterans' headstones at their local cemeteries.

Poppies were also used in church centerpieces, wreaths for the Chapel of Four Chaplains services, Christmas decorations including decorating a Christmas tree, room decorations for veterans in nursing homes, and corsages were made for unit and district officers' installation as well as new unit members for their initiation ceremony.

Unit and Post 139 from the Department of Virginia presented over 8,000 poppies to World War II veterans arriving at Reagan National Airport --
(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: -- on various honor flights throughout the year. Units all across America sponsored poppy poster contests in their local schools.

Elephant Butte Unit 44 from the Department of New Mexico reported receiving 381 entries. What a job that must have been judging all of them. And what a great way to teach our children the significance of the poppy and the sacrifices our veterans have made.

Congratulations to all the divisional winners.

Shasta Unit 197 Poppy Chairman from Redding, California, was interviewed by Channel 7 ABC local affiliate newscaster while distributing poppies in front of one of her local stores.

The unit Poppy Chairman stated that all units around the nation are distributing poppies this time of year and sometimes it's difficult to find a location that will allow you to do this. Some merchants feel that you are bothering their customers and will not allow

you to stand in front of their stores. Others are welcoming and have no problem with the poppy distribution.

This unit collected over \$11,000 last year distributing their poppies which was donated to the Redding VA Outpatient Clinic to benefit the veterans.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Speaking of others that are welcoming, this Chairman received an email from Public Relations Chairman Trish Ward sharing with me that Northeastern Unit 459 from the Department of Michigan found a sweet way to honor our veterans during the month of May.

Their Poppy Chairman, Margo Forester, contacted a local bakery owner and asked if she would help by making poppy cookies. These sugar cookies were decorated with the Flanders Field poppy and written were the words we remember.

Now, this Chairman just had to call the bakery owner and asked if she would mail me some of those cookies, but she was not able to do this. But she did suggest that I contact my local bakery and see if they would in turn do it.

So I contacted my dear friend at Cousteau (phonetic) Bakery and they agreed to make the sugar cookies and sold them for two weeks in May. The proceeds from the sale of these cookies \$550 were used to purchase gasoline cards for the Pathway Home which is a PTSD ward at the Yountville Veterans Home in Napa, California.

This is a transition center for combat veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan who are suffering from PTSD or recovering from traumatic brain injuries.

Now, Madam President, I would like to present you with one of these cookies from Cousteau Bakery and I hope you enjoy it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: My husband will testify that they are delicious.

(Laughter.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Madam President, we are honored to have two very special young ladies who have been selected as Little Miss Poppy and Miss Poppy. Both are exceptional young ladies who have shown true leadership, love for our veterans, and understand the true meaning of our memorial poppy.

With us this morning is National Little Miss Poppy, ages 6-12, Alyssa Stroupe, a member of Merle Guild Unit 208 from the Department of Illinois.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: It is my pleasure to present to you Alyssa Stroupe.

(Applause.)

(Music.)

MISS STROUPE: National President Peggy, distinguished guests, and members, I am Alyssa Stroupe, Unit 208, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Thank you so much for giving me this honor to serve as National Little Miss Poppy to promote the Poppy Program that honors our veterans for their service and help so many of our veterans.

I would like to introduce and thank my grandmother Carol and my Aunt Sue, 9th District President, for giving me this opportunity to be at National Convention.

I would also like to thank my Unit 208 and advisor, Ms. Sandy Malik (phonetic), for all their support.

Thank you again for giving me this honor. I look forward to serving as National Little Miss Poppy.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: For Little Miss Poppy Alyssa Stroupe, we present this award to you to keep and to take with you. Thank you so much and congratulations.

MISS STROUPE: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Alyssa. You are a wonderful Junior and have done a great job this year in promoting the Poppy Program.

National Miss Poppy, ages 13-18, Alexis Poterack, also a member of Merle Guild Unit 208 from the Department of Illinois --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: -- was unable to be with us today. Alexis demonstrated dedication to the Poppy Program and did an outstanding job during her year as her unit's Junior Auxiliary President. We wish her good luck in her future endeavors.

In Flanders Field, the poppies blow between the crosses row on row that mark our place and in the sky the larks still bravely singing fly scarce heard amid the guns below.

Ms. Moina Michael would be proud of all that the American Legion Auxiliary has accomplished with our Poppy Program, forever taking care of our veterans, and never forgetting those veterans past and present who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We shall keep the faith.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Do you have any recommendations or resolutions?

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: We have one Resolution, Madam President.

VOICE: Madam National President, Resolution 1 was submitted by the National Poppy Committee. The subject is to remove obsolete poppy resolutions from Policies & Procedures publication. It reads as follows:

Whereas, it is necessary to update the Policies & Procedures book of policies and mandates of the organization, and

Whereas, many of those mandates and policies are no longer relevant and should be extracted from the document,

Whereas, The American Legion National Executive Committee met in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 8 and 9, 2013, and adopted an amended poppy resolution that provides more flexibility for the Poppy Program, and

Whereas, by The American Legion amended poppy resolution dated May 9, 2013, all previous Legion resolutions number 534 of 1925, Resolution number 274 adopted 1926, Resolution 697 adopted 1931, Resolution 22 adopted 1942, Resolution number 45 adopted 1945, Resolution number 40 adopted 1952, Resolution number 69

adopted 1953, Resolution number 6 adopted 1957, Resolution number 20 adopted 1967, Resolution 18 adopted 1971, Resolution number 15 adopted 2001, and Resolution 28 adopted 2008 be rescinded because they are superseded, and

Whereas, the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program resolutions listed below were companion resolutions to the now obsolete American Legion resolutions listed heretofore,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the American Legion Auxiliary assembled in Houston, Texas, August 23 through 29, 2013, that the following poppy resolutions be rescinded and removed from the Policies & Procedures document because they are no longer applicable.

These are titled: Legion approved Auxiliary program urges departments and posts to cooperate;

Legion approves Memorial Day distribution;

Paper poppy adopted;

Poppies made by hospitalized and disabled veterans;

Poppy tags printed handmade by veterans;

New run-proof type of paper pop -- poppy paper;

And mandates number 48 and 49.

The Poppy Pre-Convention Committee recommends the Resolution be adopted.

Madam President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of Resolution Number 1 as just read.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on the adoption of Resolution Number 1 as just read. The Poppy Pre-Convention Committee recommends the Resolution be adopted.

Is there any discussion?

MS. EPPERSON: Madam President, Toni Epperson, Department of Oregon.

We have -- just for clarification, we have changed our Poppy program from five months to year round. As of a month ago when this resolution came to our department, we had 18,000 2014 poppies already made by hospitalized veterans.

I'm afraid if we pass this resolution that it will just get more commercialized and I would hate to have to distribute a poppy with it said made in China.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Is there any further discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This is mandated by the Legion. We have to pass it. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You got that? Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those in favor of Resolution Number 1, please press the number one key on your voting keypad. All those opposed, please press the number two. Please vote now.

The voting is now closed. Please show the results. Five hundred and ninety-nine in favor, 68 opposed. The affirmative has it and the resolution is adopted.

Thank you, Melanie.

CHAIRMAN TAYLOR: Thank you, Madam President.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The chair asks that the national secretary read the announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President.

A reminder that the workshop training sessions will begin this afternoon at 2:30 with the train the trainer session beginning at two. Please check your programs for room information.

Installation rehearsal will take place in this room immediately following this morning's session.

I don't have any additional information at this time about the National Vice President of the United States visit tomorrow afternoon other than what I've told you. So as there are details to share, they will be shared later on. But just know that the schedule that you amended in your program book this morning is still accurate.

Also remember please do not leave the general session hall with your electronic keypads. Again, if any one is lost, the department will be charged a hundred dollars per keypad.

I also have been -- I've spoken to several of you. Some of you may know, may not know, please keep National -- Past National President JoAnn Cronin in your thoughts and prayers. She tripped and fell yesterday and broke her nose.

VOICES: Aw.

JoAnn, I hope you're watching this on streaming and you heard that.

Could you say that again for her?

VOICES: Aw.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. We know that JoAnn heard that that time. She's -- you know, for the condition she's in, she's doing -- doing all right. She's back from the hospital in her hotel room and is sore and bruised as you can imagine.

So we are indeed grateful that National President Peggy gave her an excuse from being here this morning. She's so generous.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And remember again you may be on camera. We are live streaming this National Convention for the first time, so that means that your family, friends, those who couldn't be here can watch this convention live on their computers. Go to the computer. There's a button that's very obvious and they can watch this live.

So remember how the other day I said none of (indicating) --

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: -- or this (indicating).

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: But now that the cameras may be on you, how about a resounding "hello?"

VOICES: Hello.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Oh, you'll look lovely. I'm sure they caught every one of that.

And also for those of you who like to follow or your friends follow on social media, it's hashtag pound A-U-X-C-O-N. So you can get the latest tweets and updates on social media that way.

Also another reminder. Lost and found in the Convention Center is on the second floor. If you've lost anything, that's where you need to go see if you can find it. If you found anything, that's where you need to go turn it in. So, again, lost and found is on the second floor of the Convention Center. For example, someone brought up a bag of things that were left at the memorial service. They have been taken to lost and found.

Another announcement. There are still tickets available for all of the events at the Auxiliary Convention Headquarters office on the first floor. How many are familiar with our Headquarters office on the first floor? Okay. Good. That's most of you. All right. So -- so that's where you can still get information about tickets.

Tuesday's schedule is very tight. Vice President Biden will be here tomorrow afternoon.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. So about the schedule being very tight tomorrow, remember that, again, you all know the drill with handbags and things. Those of you who want to go see our National Vice President, Joseph Biden, he will be in the Legion session. It is a joint Legion family session, so we are all invited.

It makes tomorrow very tight. You all know what's on the agenda for tomorrow. So, you know, you could just pass it five minutes and we could just be done or do keep your -- do keep your questions and things succinct so that we can move debate along. It really is -- we want everything to be thoroughly debated, but we also, you know, try to just make it as -- move as quickly and as efficiently as possible tomorrow.

Now, delegates, on your seats you should have found a sheet of paper like this. Did you? This would be nodding in the affirmative. And you should have found the latest copy of the Constitution, Bylaws, and standing rules revision. Yeah, on -- delegates, delegates, it was on your seat, correct?

VOICES: Yes.

VOICES: No.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, then we have a lot of thieves in the room because they were placed on your chairs before you walked in.

Okay. If you're a delegate and there was not a copy on your chair, you know where National Headquarters' office is, so we can -- we can trying to take care of that after the fact.

You have been provided copies in advance. It is -- the most updated version is on the website. Tomorrow it will be explained to you how we will handle the -- what I'm calling the typo, correction, fixes on this sheet of paper. So these are all the ones as of Saturday that have been noted.

And I'm going to take a moment of personal privilege, Madam President, because Cathi Taylor at National Headquarters who did this monumental typing job for

there to be fewer than a dozen of these things to correct, I think that's a pretty good effort on her part.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Cathi. I know you're watching at your desk while you're working and multitasking.

There is on here -- at your Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Con Committee meeting, you also -- each department got two copies of the tracked version, the very colorful version, correct? Yes.

And you had the questions and answers up to that point. A lot of those questions were asked again at the Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Con meeting. There was one additional subject matter question that was asked that is on this sheet that was on your chair.

So Madam President has asked that I quickly go through and explain that and that is -- the question was in general, if we're going to be presented a whole new revision of the governance structure next year or down the road, why not just postpone this revision and do it all together.

You'll remember last year, we did the Policies & Procedures update. Some of you may remember how long that took. It's a lot to try to do all of that in one convention. So this year, it was a conscious decision to do the Constitution & Bylaws and standing rules revision.

Now, I want to clarify something that is -- several people have asked me about this and they're confused, so I want to be real clear about this. In the revision that you'll be voting on tomorrow, in the Bylaws under the NEC, the National Executive Committee portion, there is a provision in there that reads, any intermediate governing body established by National Convention, by National Convention act shall be subordinate to the National Executive Committee and shall report to, be accountable to, and its actions ratified by the National Executive Committee.

I want you to understand what that sentence is saying. Any intermediate governing body ever established, the word ever is not needed, so I'm adding my emphasis now.

If you, the National Convention delegates, next year, two years, in five years were to ever adopt an intermediate body that would be subordinate to and accountable to the National Executive Committee, you don't have to come back and amend the Bylaws.

All the Bylaws revision is doing is giving you the authority to do that. And if you ever exercise that authority, then it would be as you determined by convention action. So you'd have the whole, you know, a -- you know, amendment and all the information and you would determine at some point in time down the road how you would want to do that. Then that would go into the standing rules.

So it won't require a Bylaws revision. What's in the Bylaws revision only gives you the authority. It's very similar to -- remember how departments were given the authority to establish intermediate bodies, districts, counties, councils? Many of you had been doing it for, oh, 80 or 90 years, but we put that into the Constitution & Bylaws last year.

This is a very similar provision. You don't have to establish intermediate bodies at your department level. You don't have to do it at the national level. But if you do, this is how it would be done and where it would go.

So is that clearer for -- 'cause several of you have asked me that question. Is that clear?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That's not very -- is that clear?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Thank you very much, Madam President. It's been a long session. Thank you very much. That concludes my announcements.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: She's so fast sometimes.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you to all our National Chairmen who have presented and to all of our special guests from The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion who stopped by to visit today.

And how about one more round of applause for all of today's distinguished guests?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This concludes the opening session of the 2013 National Convention. We are now adjourned.

(Music.)

(Whereupon, at 12:49 p.m., the above-entitled session was concluded.)

NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013

ANNOUNCER: Here to begin our session is your National President, Peggy Thomas.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The 93rd National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will come to order.

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Before we would begin, I would like everyone to please take a moment to ensure your electronic devices have been placed on silent mode. Thank you. Will our National Chaplain Rosemarie Hauck please come forward to lead us in our Invocation.

(Ring of the bell.)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: As we go to God, I ask you to please bow your heads and close your eyes and come to a calming moment.

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. We thank you O God, for another wonderful, sunny, warm day in Houston. We thank you for

last night's slumber. As we walk in this day, we ask you to place angels and blessings around us. We ask that our minds will always be focused on the Golden Rule. Help us to always show love, concern and compassion to one another.

I also ask, Lord, and you may be tired of me asking, but I will ask again, that you be an everlasting presence in the life of President Peggy, as she wisely leads us. We ask all these wonderful things in your precious name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Please be seated.

(Ringing of the bell.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Yesterday, we met our first featured American Legion Auxiliary Everyday Angel, Barby Rice. She flew all the way from Anchorage, Alaska, to be with us. What a wonderful example of service (indiscernible). Don't you agree?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This morning, we are traveling to Upstate New York to meet another incredible Everyday Angel. Let's take a look.

(Viewing video.)

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: Is it possible for one idea to change the world? That's the question asked in the movie "Pay It Forward." And it's the inspiration of a very special Saratoga County, New York, Auxiliary member.

MS. DESFOSSE: Hi. I'm Cathy DesFosse, and this is my shop, Cutworks.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: And among a long list of community service activities, she utilizes her skills to help veterans who need a boost.

MS. DESFOSSE: One of the things I do is I cut hair for a living. And I take the guys and/or women that are homeless vets in this area and we brought them into the shop. We first drive them here, and then, through their transition, they learn how to take a bus here, get their hair cut, make their own appointments and then return home. All those skills are really good, because those are everyday living skills.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: Many of Cathy's clients come from VET HELP, a local veterans assistance agency, where Cathy has been an active volunteer and supporter.

MALE: I work at VET HELP, Veterans Housing, Employment and Life Skills Program here in Saratoga County, New York. We operate two homeless transitional shelters for veterans, one male, one female. I've known Cathy for about five years. Not only does she help our veterans with haircuts, but she's constantly helping out in the community.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: Cathy is a relatively new Auxiliary member whose desire to serve is deeply embedded.

FEMALE VOICE: From her own research and new results for the awareness campaign, we've learned that prospective, newer, younger members do not -- are not really interested in sitting in long meetings. But there's one thing they are interested in, their desire to help our veterans. I may not go to a lot of meetings, but I take the time to do the things that are important out there. And you can, too. It's almost like a puzzle. Every member, just like Cathy, is a piece of that puzzle that fits into our organization. When all the pieces fit together in just the right spot, possibilities are endless.

MALE: Not only does she cut hair for our VET HELP veterans, she also helps out with the Capital Region Stand Down cutting hair.

MS. DESFOSSE: At our Stand Down, we offer services to homeless vets that are brought in approximately five hundred a year to do haircuts, medical service and then provide them afterwards with things to help them get through the winter time.

MALE: It's fun to watch them going in looking shaggy and coming out walking tall and proud.

MS. DESFOSSE: And for those gentlemen and women, it's like night and day for them. It makes them feel better, which gives them a little bit more get up and go.

MALE VETERAN: After getting a haircut by Cathy, I feel exuberant.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: Cathy is particularly concerned with the plight of women veterans.

MS. DESFOSSE: Most people are unaware of the needs of the women veterans. It is totally different from the men. Their stresses are different. A lot of them still have children. Their needs are different and most Americans are not aware of how many homeless women vets there are actually out there.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: VET HELP also operates a shelter for homeless women veterans. Before Cathy volunteered to help, she did her homework.

MS. DESFOSSE: The first thing you want to do whenever you want to go to help somebody is validate the need. By doing this, pick an area that you're comfortable with, such as a transitional shelter for the veterans. By going there, you can find out what their needs are and you're already going to know that it's a legitimate place to spend your time or to donate.

FEMALE: Hearing Cathy's story reminds us that we need to provide flexibility for our members to be able to work on either an ongoing project or just a single day of service. Either way, both are so valuable.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: And either way, both offer a way to pay it forward.

MS. DESFOSSE: The movie is basically about a little boy who brings somebody home to help a homeless person, and through everything he does he's going to pay it forward. And if all of us lived our lives like that, we just donated an hour or two a week, this whole world would be a better place. And it's that simple. You can do so much for so many other people.

MALE: A couple years ago at Christmas time, I gave Cathy an angel figurine because of the way she helps veterans and the community at large 365 days a year. She is truly an Everyday Angel.

MS. DESFOSSE: It's just about trying to help people one at a time.

VIDEO ANNOUNCER: And that's why Cathy is an American Legion Auxiliary Everyday Angel.

MALE VOICE SINGING: She's an Everyday Angel.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Cathy could not be with us today, but we thank her for all she does for America's veterans.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: USAA was tasked with providing an Affinity Credit Card Program for the American Legion Auxiliary. USAA has expanded their offerings for members and are now offering a poppy deigned American Express card. Here to tell us more about USAA's program is Ellen Roeder. Please welcome her to our stage.

(Applause.)

MS. ROEDER: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. ROEDER: Standing here before you this morning, I'd like to take a moment just to express the appreciation and excitement that USAA has for our alliance with the American Legion Auxiliary. USAA is proud to be your preferred provider of credit card services. Some of you may be long time USAA members. Some of you may be new USAA members. Thank you. Others may be asking who is USAA and what is this credit card program all about with the Auxiliary? I've heard some things, but I'm interested to learn more.

First, this morning I'd just like to start out with just a little bit of background about who USAA is and what we're all about. USAA is a private financial services firm founded in 1922 for the sole purpose of providing products to the military community, veterans and their families.

Today, we are over 9 million members strong, with over 23,000 employees, 30 percent of which are veterans and military spouses. Like the American Legion Auxiliary, USAA has a purposeful mission that centers on supporting and providing for those who have gone above and beyond. Every decision that we make at USAA centers on whether or not it aligns with our mission and core values. These two items truly serve as USAA's compass for everything that we do.

We are so appreciative of the opportunity to align ourselves with a veterans service organization like yours, whose mission and vision and work truly compliment each other. USAA is thrilled to see the success of our code program at hand.

Since our initial launch, we have seen success with a couple thousand active credit card accounts, and I know we have a lot more growth in store. You may be asking yourself why should I get a USAA American Legion credit card? What makes this card program different?

Through this program, the Auxiliary is compensated for every new account, for each account renewal and for a portion of the retail sales volume. So the more you use your card once you get it, the more the Auxiliary will benefit. Or, in other words, words that make my husband's ears ring, the more you shop and shop and shop and shop with your card, the more you'll give back to the Auxiliary.

This card program, as a reminder, offers no annual fee, low APR rates and the ability to earn points for every purchase you make with the card, which you can redeem for things like cash and travel.

If you haven't applied yet, don't worry. application information could be found at the USAA booth just next door at the expo or you can call the American Legion or the American Legion Auxiliary's vanity phone number, which is 1-855-291-ALA1 or you can visit us on our website at USAA.com/ALA.

Today in recognition and appreciation for the hard work and for the success of the card program, I'd like to offer and highlight three departments for their success. First off, the Department of Montana. I'd like to award you with a \$600 cash reward for your department for number one, being number one in retail sales volume.

(Applause.)

Okay. Number two, and not far behind for retail sales volume transactions, the Department of North Dakota, I'd like to award you with \$400.

(Applause.)

And coming in third place, the Department of Puerto Rico, I'd like to award you with \$200.

(Applause.)

Today, as a special grand prize, I'd like for each of you to take a minute and reach under your seat. Two of you in this audience today will have a specially taped poppy poster under their seat, which will offer a prize. Raise your hand if you find it. All right. So we've got -- is that Oregon or -- Oregon! All right! Oregon, you will be awarded \$500 from USAA.

(Applause.)

Oh, we've got one right here in the center. Is that Maryland? Maryland! Congratulations on \$500 for your Department. Please see Tabitha in the ALA office after your meetings today. She can give you information and we'll get those prizes sent to you all.

(Applause.)

Please go back to each of your Departments and units and get everybody excited about the program. Get them to call and apply. As I conclude my presentation today, I want to say thank you again for your time and your service to our communities, the military, veterans and their families. You make a difference. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Ellen. Let's give her another round of applause. Money is always good. It is my pleasure to introduce to you today a delegate from Veterans Affairs Republic of China. Each year they host their Legion family as we make our visit to Taiwan. Here with us today is Deputy Secretary General Han Song accompanied by Major General Nick and Major General Leon, representing the Veterans Affairs Commission of the Republic of China. Let's give them a warm, warm welcome.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY GENERAL SONG: Please take the seat. Thank you. Good morning.

VOICE: Good morning.

GENERAL SECRETARY SONG: Beautiful ladies. And good looking men. Han Song representing the Veterans Affairs in Taiwan bringing greetings on behalf of the Ministry, in the United States you call Secretary of VA. It has been so many years that we the two organizations associate with each other, and we in Taiwan show very high respect for all the -- the very solemn work you do for the American soldiers and their family.

We are trying very hard to copy your workshop, and so far we are still working on it, but I -- I don't know how many years to go we have to learn and then can come to your -- your size and your -- your scale. But we are trying.

This morning, I come here mainly to bring the greetings and our highly respect to you. In the past almost 50 years, you see the American Legion Auxiliary went together with the Legion leadership to visit Taiwan every year. And your national president, Mrs. Thomas, went last year, and we are hoping many more of you will be going. We are sure, and she will agree, that you will like it.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: There we serve very special kind of water that will keep ladies even more beautiful. I mean it. I mean it. You will try that. And for the first shocked. It's a very tiny glass. Be very careful with that glass though. Don't make it too fast, otherwise you will swallow the glass. Now your man and your children will not like it.

Okay. All in all, I'm just here to say thank you for your good friendship in the past years, and bring you greetings. But before I go, I never go without sharing with some offerings from us. And the offering this morning this year is a learning of a quick learning Taiwanese language.

We speak -- official language is Mandarin or Chinese. But we have many kinds of dialects from each locale. In Mainland China plus Taiwan, we have over 2,000. But from Taiwan, in addition to the official language, which is Mandarin, we also speak Taiwanese. And very easy term, when you go to Taiwan, you learn the Chinese saying, Thank you. That's slowly repeat after me. Xie Xie.

VOICES: Xie Xie.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Don't make it too fast. If you make it to fast, that will become -- you don't like it. The four letter words. Right?

And now, the three greetings in the morning, the afternoon and evening. That's good morning. You don't repeat after me. That's your language. The Taiwanese is Zao an.

VOICES: Zao an.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Zao is "to look for," okay, or morning. An is "peaceful" or "a husband." To look for a husband is Zao an. And then when it's noon time you say wu un.

VOICES: Wu un.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Wu un Taiwanese means "have" or "you found." And un again is a husband. You found a husband. And then when it comes after the sun goes down, it's wan an.

VOICES: Wan an.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Wan is "evening or night." Wan can also be meant change. You don't want that. Right? Thank you very much. Don't -- don't make them around. Thank you very much. And I have brought with me one gift especially for the National President for her hard work in the past year. This is a piece of glasswork. And I believe she will love it with a good -- I mean with a lucky Chinese zodiac sign in it. Okay.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: You want to open it?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Absolutely. They won't see. Americans are not good at ripping paper. We try to save everything.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Just do it cowboy's way. The glass for you to keep your fingerprint.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: All right. There you go.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, beautiful. Wow! Beautiful.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Beautiful.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you very much. Thank you.

DEPUTY SECRETARY SONG: Thank you, everybody. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We will now hear reports from the Organizational Support Pod. Kris Nelson, Past Presidents Parley Chairman, will now give her report. Kris?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Morning. Madam President, joining me this year on the Past Presidents Parley National Chairman were Phyllis Sickmond and Carol Van Kirk. Past Presidents on every level of the organization were encouraged to continue their support of the Auxiliary by accepting the responsibility that knowledge and wisdom as a past leader can make a difference in developing and mentoring even one member. Several Departments reported mentoring programs with Past Presidents and new members.

Departments across the country also reported thousands of dollars raised for their local college nursing and medical field programs. Units used a variety of methods to raise these funds. Several Departments reported their support of female veterans with holiday cards and gifts. California reported that their Past Presidents had the advantage and ease of contact with active military, since they are located near a base. Unit Past Presidents are very active in supporting the military and their families.

In Kansas, one unit reported adopting a single pregnant soldier who had recently returned from a deployment. Gifts, including baby furniture and financial assistance were provided to the mother and her newborn daughter. Members enjoyed sharing much needed time and attention with both the mother and the baby, showing the soldier the compassion of the Auxiliary and their love for the military families.

The Department of Kansas also reported their Department Past Presidents Project, Jeans for our Veterans. This resulted in donations of approximately \$400 to provide new jeans for veterans housed at both Colmery O'Neil and Dwight D. Eisenhower VA Hospitals.

In New York, one unit had a joint venture with the Kiwanis Club. They provided female veterans at the Zion House with personal items and clothing.

South Dakota Past President donated \$2,000 for a room renovation at the State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The facility is under construction and the Past Presidents are truly honored to be a part of this endeavor.

Maryland reports their Past Presidents supporting the Helping Hand Fund for female veterans at the Maryland Center for Education and Training. These donations helped them to obtain the essentials needed once they are ready to go out on their own and set up an apartment.

The Past Presidents in Idaho held a food convoy for each of their veterans homes to provide and help keep food costs down and improve veterans' quality of life. They assisted 92 veterans, five active duty military and 27 families this year at a donation of \$2,025 with 315 volunteer hours. Way to go, Idaho!

(Applause.)

Past Presidents of Unit 273 in Florida invited all female veterans from Bay Pines VA Medical Center to their post for a Christmas party. About 30 veterans and care givers attended. With a beautifully decorated hall, Christmas music playing, and a delicious lunch, including a variety of homemade desserts by -- by their members, all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon.

(Applause.)

Each veteran received a scarf with a matching bracelet and a small clay pot of flowers for their night stand.

The Past Presidents also joined the Auxiliary, Legion, SAL, and Riders hosting a dinner the first Wednesday of every month for all the veterans from Bay Pines Hospital and Domiciliary.

Kentucky reports that they remember all of their Past Department Presidents with cards and birthdays, holidays and get well cards during illness. They also honor their Past Presidents with dinners thanking them for their service as distinguished members.

One of the highlights of the year is the Department's selection of unit member of the year. Forty-three Departments reported a selection of unit members of the year. These members were recognized by outstanding efforts in numerous programs reflecting dedication, creativity, perseverance, and compassion. Needless to say, they're all multitaskers.

Although many were recognized for an outstanding event or program, none were recognized for that alone. Honorees were described as members who would always rise to the task if needed.

Although one honoree raised some \$50,000 for her unit in the past five years, topping \$18,000 this year alone, she also holds an office, serves on the Executive Committee, chairs the Americanism Committee and has logged 700 hours in community service.

Most honorees have a special focus. For some, it is service to the homebound veterans. For others, it may be a service program or enlisting a special talent or interest, be it sewing, cooking or knitting. One honoree logged many hours in the Education Program, organizing a Veterans in the Classroom initiative, teaching flag etiquette along with a pocket flag activity and recognizing teachers for their contribution. Another

honoree, who chaired the junior activities program, had the juniors involved in almost every program area with additional activities designed to raise funds where needed.

All 43 recipients are committed to our mission and have done wonderful things. I would like to share four of their stories. Amy Hankins Brown of Arizona --

(Applause.)

-- designed a t-shirt displaying the message, "Heroes Don't Wear Capes; They Wear Dog Tags." She organized a mailing campaign for poppy donation letters and spearheaded a fund raiser that realized some \$1,500 for the purchase of Josh Dogs for a presentation to children of deployed parents.

Astor Hanks of California --

(Applause.)

-- heads a newborn baby project with local military families unit Juniors who saved pennies for the purchase of diapers, blankets and other items for distribution at Christmas and on Mother's Day. She coordinates the collecting of donated supplies and the purchase of additional supplies for veterans at the annual Stand Down and organizes placement of over 1,200 flags on the graves of deceased veterans.

A 17 year member, Edie Cookson of Colorado, --

(Applause.)

-- demonstrates that veterans are her priority by her endless hours of work with the homebound and those in nursing centers, gifting them with cards, flags, poppies, free haircuts and best of all, her company. She also contributes her time to Veteran Legionnaires and can be found in the Post kitchen on Wednesday, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays for special events.

Cindy Phillips, another multitasker from Delaware, employed a Catch It Live Radio. This podcast was to promote the Poppy Program and organization's importance to the community. As part of Operation Military Kids Program, she organized an event to supply family packs to keep families deployed, members connected, soliciting funds and gift cards, greeting cards, stamps, playing cards, puzzles, phone cards were purchased and cash donations.

She also organized the collection and distribution of newly and gently used bedding to a transitional facility for veterans.

Join me in thanking our 43 unit members of the year.

(Applause.)

Madam President, this concludes my report. Madam President, active duty service women were asked to submit a narrative entitled, "Why I Support Women's Role in Today's Armed Forces". I would like to share with you tidbits from each of the narratives written by our five winners in this year's salute. Senior Master Sergeant Josephine Carrillo, Jo, --

(Applause.)

-- of the United States Air Force from California stated, "My military friends and I take the battle buddy and wing man concept seriously. Which means in peace or in war I can count on them watching my back and vice versa, no matter what. My friends Diana, Dianna, Linda, Cindy, Helena and Mary are the most courageous women in the

Armed Forces. I know that even though we are back home I can call on them whenever I need and I know they will be there for me.

My daughter, Joanna, is my number one heroine and a veteran of the Army and served as a combat medic. Jo shared that in 1996 her life changed forever. She stated, "I deployed in support of Operation Southern Watch in Abdul Aziz Airbase in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to fill an active duty shortfall. I was assigned as a air medical evacuation team member transporting sick and injured throughout the area of operation. Our mission was to sustain life in flight and care for our sick and injured military DOD members while transporting them to definitive care centers outside of the area of operation.

On the night of June 25th, 1996, on or about 10 p.m., as the temperature was finally down to 100 degrees, I was walking and talking to my fellow airman about my children and how I missed them and we came under attack by a cowardly terrorist that was waiting for us over the fence. That night was the longest of my life with 19 dead and 450 injured.

As I ran to the others to the safety and at the center of the compound, I realized I was the only medic on site at that location with nothing but water and paper towels given to me by the locals.

A petite young lady shouted out, "I can help you. I took safe aid and body care." I immediately recruited her to help and we got hundreds of -- hundred triaged and out to clinics and awaiting ambulances.

Young and barely out of her 20's that young mechanic saved many lives and is my hero." Jo ended her narrative stating, "I wholeheartedly support women's roles in the armed forces. And I -- and I speak to young women in schools today, I encourage them to explore the opportunities that taught me great courage, self esteem, equality, educational skills and leadership. Aim high."

Please join me in welcoming U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Josephine "Jo" Carrillo.

(Applause.)

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CARILLO: Hi. Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CARILLO: First of all, I want to start with saying thank you. It's an honor and a privilege to be here with you before you. I am proud to be a part of the American Legion Auxiliary, which exemplifies Service Not Self. And that's what we're all about. Right?

Thank you, all of you for taking care of the home front while we're away, taking care and fighting for our freedoms abroad. I really appreciate what you do for us, how you fight for us at home and take care of our homes, fight for our benefits, take care of our children, send us care packages. We love everything that you send us -- the letters, the brownies especially. Thank you. I -- I love receiving the tins when I'm overseas, you know, we get all excited and go around the box and there's always cookies or brownies. Thank you. Thank you very much. It's always great.

The homecomings are great too, because you're always there to meet us. We'll always see American Legion Auxiliary will have you at the airports or at our bases or when we come to the Post. It's always a party. It's always a great welcome. Thank you

very much. And most of my history you've heard it was that my job in the military is to provide the best care in the air and bring everyone home safely. So we do sometimes have planes full of injured, sick and injured from every single branch of the service.

We bring them back. They come back in good hands. We hug every one of our patients and we let them know that we're very proud, that they are our heroes. Anyway, thanks again for what you do for us. Because of you we also -- we mentor other young females to come into the military to step into our shoes and to take the reigns.

I often go to schools and different technical schools and bring women -- young women in, also taking them to our post so they can see that they could serve here at home or overseas with us. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: We would like to present you with this honor. This is an award presented -- this is an award presented to Senior Master Sergeant Jo Carrillo of the Air Force for her service.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Congratulations.

SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT CARRILLO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Sit in one of these chairs because I'm calling you all back up again. Something happened here. United States Army Sergeant Lydia Johnston of Kentucky is a dual --

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: -- is a dual member of the American Legion Post and Unit 233 and a member of the Legion Riders of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In her narrative, Lydia states, "Women have seen their roles in the military change significantly over the past 30 years. Just in the past few years, there have been Military Operational Specialists (MOS) that have opened up to women. The funny part about this is to me women have been occupying these roles without being validated on paper.

In other words, there was no certificate of training showing that they completed infantry training or Door gunner fighting. Door gunner fight training. Women have been the front line of defense when their battle buddies, both male and female, have come under enemy fire. They've been the ones running into the fire to pull out a wounded comrade off the battle field.

For over a decade now, they have been the ones in combat roles that were traditionally only occupied by their male counterparts. It is no surprise to me that there was so much commotion in our homeland when it was announced that women would be allowed to train in combat MOS that were previously closed to them.

I had to sit back and laugh a little hearing that women would finally be allowed to train for jobs they'd been doing all the time.

Lydia shared, "When I joined the Army in May 2005, all I wanted was to be a combat medic. I was an EMT in the civilian sector for nine years before enlisting, and I was familiar with my skill set and felt confident that I could make a difference in Army medicine. I continually worked hard on my medical skills as they seemed to be ever changing."

Lydia concluded her narrative stating, “One day soon, women will have the opportunity to not only train and work, but they will also be able to fight in combat alongside their comrades in arms.”

Please join me in welcoming U.S. Army Sergeant Lydia Johnston.

(Applause.)

SERGEANT JOHNSTON: All right. I’m a little bit nervous, so please bear with me. Where’s Kentucky at?

(Cheers.)

SERGEANT JOHNSTON: Love you guys. Madam President, honored guests, friend and my family of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Old Rock, thank you for your honor and support of my service. You know, it’s just like I wrote in my narrative, that women have been performing in these roles for a very long time since the very beginning of -- of our country, actually. They’ve been out there providing healthcare, starting the first sanitation service in our country, making sure that there was clean water and clean food for our soldiers.

Little bit of a -- little story that I just absolutely love is when General Dempsey took command of the Army’s 1st Armored Division in June of 2003, CNN Correspondent, Matt Smith, reported it with a little bit of a humorous story. He says, “As he prepared for a trip outside his headquarters, General Dempsey took a moment to introduce himself to the crew of his Humvee. I slapped the turret gunner on the leg and said, “Who are you?” She leaned down and said, “I’m Amanda.” General Dempsey says, “All right. Female turret gunner protecting the division commander.” He says that it was at that point when he realized that something had definitely changed and that it was time to do something about it.

I never doubted my ability to take care of my family -- not just my family, but my American Legion family, my Army family, my Marine, my Air Force, my Navy family, every single one of them. If -- if I’ve worked with them, I do not doubt my ability to take care of them. Nobody ever should. Nobody should ever doubt themselves. And when you join the ranks of the United States military and you’ve promised your blood, sweat, and tears to the greatest organization in the world, that’s when you really have to step up, make sure that you know your skill set and rock on.

So last year I guess during this ceremony, Brigadier General Dana Born had shared during her acceptance speech of being honored as the Service Women of the Year, Sir Isaac Newton’s famous quote, “If I see further than most, it’s because I stand on the shoulders of giants.”

There’ve been so many women who have come before me, who’ve set a standard that is so high and for me, every day I do what I can to make sure that I’m not only going to meet that standard, but exceed it. All I truly want is to make my husband, Casey Bell proud, make my children proud of me, to be an idol and a hero to my children, to keep on honoring Post 233, Kentucky.

And I just want to say thank you all very much. This is an extraordinary honor to be selected by the American Legion Auxiliary as United States Army’s Service Woman of the Year.

And thank you very much for allowing me to represent Second Squadron 17th Cavalry Regiment of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division Air Assault.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: And now it is our honor to present to Sergeant Lydia Johnston with the U.S. Army for Honorable Military Service in the War on Terrorism on behalf of the grateful nation.

SERGEANT JOHNSTON: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Thank you very much.

SERGEANT JOHNSTON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN NELSON: You can have a seat there. I'm going to call you all back up when I'm done.

SERGEANT JOHNSTON: Okay.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: United States Coast Guard ME3 Paige Wyatt of Texas--

(Cheers.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: -- stated, "As a child, I grew up with a great understanding of military life, as my father served in the United States Marine Corps. Being raised in a very strict and disciplined household, I was not always interested in a military career. After achieving many awards throughout my high school swimming career, I dreamed of continuing to compete in college and eventually the Olympics. However, upon graduation, I did not receive the scholarship I had strived so hard for, and I quickly redirected my focus and decided to pursue a career in the military.

With my love for the water, I knew that the Coast Guard would be the perfect fit for me, as I would be able to assist in helping protect America's home front and save lives." Paige shared that during basic training she was selected as female squad leader and was responsible for the leadership and development of her fellow ship mates. She stated, "I held this role until graduation, after which I received orders to a small boat station in Bodega Bay, California.

I soon became a qualified communications stand watcher, boat crew member and a boarding team member (BTM). As I led seamen, I responded to more than 200 search and rescue cases on radio and phone. As a boat crew member, I was involved in over 100 SAR cases resulting in 50 lives saved and millions of dollars in property protected.

Paige went on to state, "As the only woman out of 25 men in the law enforcement division at my current duty station, I strive to accomplish my personal best, proving I am strong and capable to do the duties of a law enforcement officer in the military. By my actions and achievements, I hope to encourage all women in the military that anything is possible no matter what the odds."

Paige concluded her narrative stating, "I plan on making the Coast Guard a career and honor really serving 20 or more years until I am eligible for retirement. For my next tour of duty, I hope to be stationed at a recruiting center where I can have a

major impact on helping the next generation of women and men to join the military. I am proud that the Pentagon is now making significant changes to expand the opportunities for women in military.”

Please join me in welcoming U.S. Coast Guard ME3 Paige Wyatt.

(Applause.)

ME3 WYATT: Good morning. How’s everybody doing?

VOICES: Great.

ME3 WYATT: As you all know, my name is Paige Wyatt, and I’m completely honored to be here. There’s a couple things I want to thank or a couple of people I want to thank first. Madam President, thank you so much for -- for best opportunity in this honor.

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Thank you.

ME3 WYATT: And well as Madam President, just the whole entire American Legion Auxiliary for putting on this amazing event. With that being said, I could not have done this without some pretty amazing people in my life. I want to thank my commanding officer, my XO and my lead supervisor for helping me out and nominating me for this award, as well as my husband. Without them -- and my boarding team, go out every day face dangerous circumstances, go offshore and do security boards out of Galveston, which is just right down the road, and protect our country here.

I know that these women that have spoke before me are completely amazing, the things that they’ve done in their career. Most of these women have been in the Coast Guard for -- or I’m sorry, -- in the military for quite a long time, coming up on about three and a half years now, so pretty early in my career, and it’s completely amazing to be getting this award right now.

They’ve shared quite a few stories. I just have one more. When I was in Northern California -- I don’t know who many people know what the weather is like there. But it is --

(Cheers.)

It’s pretty dreary, foggy, cold, and in the winter time the weather off -- off the coast of California builds up crashing waves that are 20 plus feet. My job was to ride on a 47 foot motor life boat, go off -- off the coast and save people that were in distress. I’ve pulled more people out of the water than I want to think about that were not alive. But the people that were alive, and having the opportunity to save them and have them look you in the eye and say “thank you,” that’s something that I’ll never forget.

On a happier note, now that I do law enforcement, I get to go offshore in Galveston and do all these freighters and deal with people who don’t speak any English, which is a completely different change in the environment, and one that I -- I love. My -- my heart is definitely in law enforcement.

As the only woman out of 25 men in the law enforcement division, I come into work everyday striving to do my best, knowing that I have to hold my own weight and pull strong for the rest of the women in the Coast Guard that are fighting right along side of me, as well as in the whole -- every branch in the military.

By my actions and achievements, I hope to encourage all women in the military that anything is possible no matter the odds. Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Presented to Paige Wyatt, Coast Guard, for Honorable Military Service in the War on Terrorism on behalf of a grateful nation. Thank you so much.

ME3 WYATT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN NELSON: Congratulations. Thank you very much.

ME3 WYATT: Okay. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: United States Marines Staff Sergeant Jessica D. Cavender of Texas in her narrative states, “Females serving in the military may seem like a relatively new concept, but women have served the past 4,000 years spanning across numerous countries and cultures. Thousands of women honorably served their countries during Word War -- during the World Wars as nurses and in other service roles, while countless others have disguised themselves as men during the Civil War in order to serve the front line with their male service counterparts.”

Jessica went on to say, “Why do I support roles in today’s military services? That is simple. As a female, I live in the greatest nation in the world, and just like my mother who served in the United States Marine Corps in the 1970s, I have been given the opportunity to serve the best country in the world. Females make up than less -- make up less than 15 percent of the military, but offer a significant and valuable contribution to our nation’s defense.

I didn’t join the military as a female. I joined as an American to serve my country. Just as Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream not to be judged by the color of his skin but by the content of this character, females across the globe, have a similar dream not to be judged by our gender, but rather by our merit as service members.”

(Applause.)

“Although some roles in today’s military are still not open to women, I feel that our dreams have come true. We serve besides our male counterparts and are treated with the same respect, esprit de corps. As females -- as female roles grow, so will the strength and service of our nation.”

Unfortunately, Jessica D. Cavender is not able to be with us today, but let’s give her a round of applause anyway.

(Applause.)

United States Navy Lieutenant Commander Aletha Tatge of Washington shared: “I support women in the military 100 percent. The method of fighting wars has changed in a lot of ways from a physical to an intellectual one. Look at cyber warfare. It is all about understanding informational technology and manipulating it as you -- as you wish from afar. Look at the transformation of technology and the creation of nuclear ships, weapons and power plants. It is the education that drives transformation and women are a strong part of that.

Along with education, I strongly believe leadership support must be in place and constantly validated with feedback. No longer can rules be created without receiving statistical data to see their effects.

Diversity is a common word in most professional organizations. I'm privileged to be part of the Naval Academy graduating class of 1994. We were the first group of women to be assigned combatants. For me, it was the first group of minority women. Though I knew the challenges that came with change, I was not prepared to endure the negative impact of poor leadership and lack of support. But I'm privileged to be part of the creation of diverse work environment and the betterment of women soldiers."

Aletha shared her first assignment was on board the USS Abraham Lincoln and it was the best tour of her 20 years because of the leadership excellence. She stated, "My assignment on the Lincoln confirmed yet again that leadership support makes a difference for transformation."

Aletha shared her third tour on board the USS Fife was perhaps the toughest. She stated, "I was integrated with old school leadership who were furious that I received the required education and training they still needed and haven't completed because they've been at sea. Do I blame myself for that or do I blame the system or do I continue with my professionalism and try to improve my leadership?"

As much as some of my leaders tried to mentally defeat my confidence, I knew my self worth and it wasn't easily deterred from the task of completing my job honorably and with my most integrous (sic) energy focused on the success of the organization.

I learned my second biggest lesson, "Know who you are and never let anyone tell you something you can't do." Aletha was diagnosed with cancer and shared that the Navy did not have a sabbatical period where she could be assigned without hindering her career. Over ten years, she went back to school and received her Masters and attempted to change her career field, but was not released from her community.

Aletha concluded her narrative sharing the active participation of leaders enforcing diversity will create an enjoyable work environment. Despite all my trials, I never once doubted my abilities, because I received an education that allowed me to work with some of the best scientists, engineers and environmental specialists. Through all of my experience, I've learned diversity and integration will continue, and women will continue to play a vital and important role in our U.S. Armed Forces. For that I'm proud to be serving the Armed Forces."

Please join me in welcoming U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Aletha Tatge.
(Applause.)

LT. COMMANDER TATGE: Wow! This is awesome! Hello, Houston!

VOICES: Hello!

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TATGE: I wanted to say that for a long time. How do you guys like the cool weather that I brought from Washington? Where are my Washington ladies?

(Applause and cheers.)

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TATGE: And in honor and representing to the Taiwanese delegates, xie xie in Taiwan. Now, if I could remember the change of husband, then I would have loved that one.

Giving honor to God. It is an honor and a privilege to be here today. I don't know if most of you know, I retired June 28th after 20 years of active duty.

(Applause.)

Thank you. If the Convention was one more month later, I would not have fit in my uniform, so thank you. On behalf of the members of Post 181 and Auxiliary of Lake Stevens, Washington, I'd like to thank you for this prestigious award. My 24 years of service can be surmised from one of the many quotes that I had to memorize while attending the Naval Academy. "On the strength of one link of the cable, dependeth the might of the chain, who knows when thou might be tested, so live that thou bearest the strain."

My family of 10 migrated from Jamaica. Like most foreigners, I became somewhat of an introvert. Can you tell? As I assimilated the behaviors and ethics of my surroundings, I remember my track coach and French teachers' attempt to advise me to choose a civilian college. It wasn't because of the education side, but the extroverted type of requirements that the Academy would surely demand.

However, I was determined to endure the strain in order to make it through college without my parents' financial assistance. The Academy prepared me well for the next step in my career. With proper training, I did not hesitate once about being the first female on two of my three ships.

(Applause.)

The challenging part was those who chose not to support the changes that the Navy demanded. But that did not stop me. My strength came from many years of my mother's ministry and a strong understanding that my circumstances did not define me. With my goals -- when my goals were forced off track by a leader who believed that I was just a goal setter and that all my boxes were checked ahead of schedule, I kept going because of the support from many veterans who crossed my path.

On a personal note, when I was going through -- when I was diagnosed on my third ship with cancer, the irony of the -- the diagnosis was that my -- the previous CO of the Jarrett was diagnosed with cancer, and because she was the first female CO of the Jarrett she decided to continue her tour and do her deployment and finish an historical event. Upon her return from deployment, however, this cancer had been -- become fatal and she did not make it.

And so when I was diagnosed, it was a knock on the door saying do I continue my career as a surface warfare officer or do I take care of myself? And the irony of it all is this was a ship where they thought that they were going to do something about my career and make me not become a CO of a ship. And it was hard for me to deal with, but I -- one -- one thing that came out of my -- my trials, a quote that I live with every day "to be surrounded by positive forces and positive people for the rest of my life".

(Applause.)

And with that, there are many veterans that came in my life and helped me.

My husband is a reservist and, bless my children's heart, Duncan and Conrad, one of us was always gone. And -- I have one more minute. Right? But because of the veterans, it was a very hard time having the kids being separated from one of their parents and the veterans they just -- they just took us in and I love it. I love the fact that they involved them in volunteer work, and that just made their life a big difference.

I would like to say a special thanks to Karen Morea. Morea. Got it. Her family is -- she's the president of our Auxiliary 181 and she and her family and her sons and

daughter took us in and played with my boys and I will never forget it, because now my boys volunteer for the Auxiliary and the for the Legion and they're -- you've passed on a wonderful skill. Thank you.

(Applause.)

Knowing that every minute of our -- the veterans' valuable time brings hope to a soldier, our members continue to give and give. Our effort Back in -- to School Brigade, partnership in Operation Home Front, Nimitz Carrier Strike Group Halfway Party, Seattle Stand Down, Operation Comfort Warrior and Recruiting for Boys and Girls State Oratorical are but a few.

We continue to strive to give support to our veterans to -- to the best of our capabilities and abilities. I'd like to say a special thanks to you all for your efforts. And I applaud you.

(Applause.)

Thank you to my mom, Blanchetta Reese, who recently suffered from a stroke, but then she is -- she is going to be able to watch this live. I appreciate her for all her years of continued belief in my efforts. To my siblings, cousins, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunts and uncles, who never doubt my activities to overcome. And, finally, to my husband, Brad, and two boys, Conrad and Duncan, thank you for your support. My success would not have occurred without your love and devotion.

Thank you once again. I'm proud to have served in the Armed Forces, and I look forward to continued service in Auxiliary and Legion. God bless you all.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN NELSON: This award is presented to Lieutenant Commander Aletha Tatge with the U.S. Navy for Honorable Military Service in the War on Terrorism on behalf of a grateful nation.

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TATGE: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER TATGE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please join me by giving this year's recipients a round of applause. They're all going to join us on the stage.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much for your service and for allowing us to honor you today. You are true heroes. How about another big round of applause for all of our servicewomen?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Kris, are there any resolutions or recommendations?

(Laughter.)

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I guess not. There are no -- no resolutions and no recommendations.

ANNOUNCER: It's time to meet another one of the thousands of American Legion Auxiliary Everyday Angels.

SINGING: She's an Everyday Angel.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: In Nebraska, the Syracuse Unit has an Everyday Angel in their midst. Janice Bates goes all out on public relations. She secured the daily newspaper to cover their mid -- mid-year conference. According to family unit member, Lisa Moore, she is absolutely fantastic. She keeps that unit going strong and is a District President. She works really hard in keeping the Southwest corner of Nebraska informed about what the Auxiliary is doing. Big claps for Jenice and the Department of Nebraska. Let's hear it.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Now, before we move on to our Constitution & Bylaws Report, we're going to do one last test vote. The Chair calls on National Secretary Dubbie Buckler to review the instructions.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Thank you, Madam President. Between yesterday and today, dozens and dozens of these were spot tested. They all work. So thank you for the applause for technology. The -- so the issue is not that the keypads are not working. So -- and this will be the only time you'll see me have one in my hand, by the way. I'm not a voting member, so it's kind of fun to have one in my hand for a short period of time.

Okay. Here's what we think is happening. You're wearing them -- you're wearing them hanging down. Right?

VOICES: Right.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Here's what we think's happening, because people were walking around watching it. When you pick it up, some of you are putting your thumb over these bottom buttons.

VOICE: Oh.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Ahh! And that's giving you that little not sign. The little "chup chup" sign. Or it's making it -- making a delay in your vote. So when you pick it up, make sure you're not inadvertently punching a button. Another thing that we observed as people were walking around is you're pushing that button and you're holding it. Push and release.

It isn't a walkie-talkie, so you don't have to keep it down, you know, the whole time. Push and release. And that -- and then also make sure, you know, up here 1 and 2, make sure your hand's not hitting another button along the way.

The buttons are sensitive, so, you know, you can be holding it all over the place, and if you hit a button -- if you -- you think you're just holding the keypad, it's -- it's real easy to just hit a button wrong.

Also we noticed that some of you are pushing down and -- and talking and looking around and not looking to see if that little light comes on. It doesn't come on and stay on. But every Department got a list of the instructions for the keypad. So you all have two sets of this and I am not going to read the whole thing to you.

But here is the key thing. When you push it once the vote is open, and we're going to be mostly voting 1A or 2B, because we're going to be voting yes or no all day today. If you've made a valid selection it's this little green indicator, if you hit 1A, that'll pop up in there. It doesn't necessarily stay up there. But you've got to be watching for it.

If you push the button and then you're turning and looking over at somebody else's, you may have missed the indicator and you think then you haven't voted.

So we're going to try it again. This will be the only time you will see me holding one of these devices. We're real clear on that. Right? Okay. Well, so in addition -- what -- what -- what happened to our National President? Okay. Well, so in -- so another thing we're going to do today, is we're going to leave the voting open for 45 seconds.

VOICES: Yeah!

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Is that a "yeah"? Okay. And we're going to do what we did last year, which will give you a higher comfort level. When the voting is open, we're going to ask you to stand.

VOICE: Yeah!

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now, some of you are saying "yeah" and some of you are groaning. But this will give everybody a higher comfort level. If you all stand, and when your -- your vote has registered and you sit down, you'll at least be able to see that -- that it's working. Okay?

Now, if part way into this we see that everybody's comfortable with it, we may eliminate the standing and sitting depending on how many votes we take today. But for the first few, anyway, are we okay with doing it that way?

(Applause.)

VOICE: Yeah.

VOICE: Okay. No, it's me.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay.

VOICE: So right.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now, let's try our keypads. If you are a delegate, please press the number 1 key on your voting keypad.

VOICE: Everybody stand up.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Everybody stand.

VOICE: I know we registered so I could.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Can vote now.

(Voting music.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: It works. Well, it just registered. Anyway. Okay. Because everybody is voting at the same time, remember if it doesn't happen the first time, wait two or three seconds and push it again. Give it two or three seconds to register. If it -- if you don't see anything, wait two or three seconds more and then push it again.

VOICE: 777.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, we see a lot of people still standing, but 750 votes were cast. So your votes are registering whether you're able to see the little green indicator there or not.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. No. That's good. Okay.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

VOICE: We're doing this again or are we done?

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. So test results show 778 delegates are voting in the room.

VOICE: Is that good? Are we don't with that? Are we all happy? Everybody happy?

VOICE: Peggy had to go over and deliver readings to the Legion, so I'll --

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Yeah. So, I'm -- I'm doing it now.

VOICE: I'm sorry. I didn't know. I do that. I should have told you. Okay.

VOICE: So we're all set. Okay.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Every time we vote we're going to have (indiscernible).

VOICE: So I'll just tell them to (indiscernible).

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Okay. Terrific. The Constitution & Bylaws are governing documents that should be known by all members at all levels of the organization. Lynne Wild, National Constitution & Bylaws Vice Chairman, will present her report.

(Applause and cheers.)

VICE CHAIRMAN WILD: Thank you. Madam President, the Constitution & Bylaws of any organization are the nuts and bolts that hold it together. They ensure that an organization works effectively each and every year to achieve its mission. Therefore, these documents need to be developed and written properly and reviewed periodically. All members should be familiar with these documents to understand how our organization operates and is structured. Being familiar with them will also allow for a better understanding of members' rights and benefits.

For years, members have commented that the American Legion Auxiliary's National Governing Documents are hard to follow, confusing and contradictory, because of 90 years worth of amendments. And just last year, delegates at National Convention voted to remove some 80 obsolete policies and resolutions from the National Policies and Procedures Manual, which have not been updated as a publication since 1998.

As a result of all that work at last year's National Executive Committee Meeting and National Convention, additional research has been going on to comb through all of the NEC and National Convention Proceedings since 1999. National Headquarters is assembling all the policies currently in force into a new document that will be -- that is being finalized and which will become available this year.

As we've all learned from presentations by our National Parliamentarian, the Constitution is the Organization's Articles of Incorporation. It should rarely, if ever, be changed.

The Organization's bylaws are its structure and they should not change more frequently than every 10 to 15 years. Given the increased scrutiny of non-profits today by federal regulatory agencies and public watchdog groups, it's more important than ever to have good governing documents in place. They should provide a sound framework of order, be easily accessible, and be easy to understand.

Well, it's been nearly three years in the making, but finally, as a National Organization, the National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules have been revised for a variety of reasons. Overall, these revisions streamline the Auxiliary's National

Governing documents so that most of the process, detail, and policy items are moved to the Standing Rules.

This will provide more flexibility for the organization to keep such things updated without having to amend its bylaws every year, as has been done nearly every year in the past.

And it's also important to understand that not everything in an organization does or every governance scenario an organization might face can or should be written into an organization's governing documents.

The revision was completed with you, the members, in mind. These National Governing Documents are now more user-friendly and will be a helpful resource for all members. They were written to make information clearer so that any member can consult the Governing Documents and understand what she's reading, what the structure of the American Legion Auxiliary is, who has the authority for various governing matters and the basic steps legally required for enacting important governing matters.

The National Judge Advocate and National Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey, collectively spent nearly one hundred hours examining, writing and editing the revision. It's been a really big project.

VOICE: Yeah.

VOICE: Yes.

VICE CHAIRMAN WILD: It has been carefully reviewed by National President, Peggy Thomas, immediate Past President Kris Nelson, the National Children & Youth Chairman, Sharon Conatser, the National Treasurer and the National Secretary. And let's acknowledge Cathi Taylor from National Headquarters, who has done all the typing and incorporating all the final comments.

(Applause.)

These edits from the Counsel General and the National Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey, and, finally, Madam President, I can report that the work done to revise governing documents has been done at the Department level, too. We're aware that the Departments of Wisconsin, --

VOICE: Yeah.

VICE CHAIRMAN WILD: -- Minnesota, Iowa, --

VOICE: Yeah.

VICE CHAIRMAN WILD: -- Nebraska and Washington have each taken action this year to revise their own Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules, with three adopting total revisions and two moving significant portions into its Bylaws -- excuse me, portions of its Bylaws into its Standing Rules.

We also know that many other Departments are -- have similar revision project in the works. So there may be much more to report next year. While Governing Documents may not be exciting, they are vital to an organization's health. We encourage units and Departments to review your Governing Documents and update them in similar fashion.

Even if no changes are to be made, a thorough review will ensure that everyone understands them. I'd like to end my remarks on a personal note and ask that we all keep Priscilla Imburgia in our thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery. We know

she would rather be here with us, but she is doing what she needs to do for her health at this time. Thank you, Madam President. This concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Lynne. Lynne, are there any proposed amendments?

(Laughter.)

VICE CHAIRMAN WILD: Yes. I'm sorry for that. There is one revision and three amendments.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Before we give consideration to the revisions and amendments, I call on Parliamentarian Chris Dickey to give an explanation of how a revision is handled.

MS. DICKEY: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MS. DICKEY: Well, the time is just about here. Isn't it? We've been talking about this and -- and I've been asked to explain this to you several times, and I hope you bear with me. But there's been several people come and ask questions and I've really appreciated that opportunity to answer questions.

But I know that this process is a little difficult to get your arms around. And so I want to go through it again, because I think a couple people out there can -- can agree with that it -- I explained it to them several times and finally a little light bulb went off in their head and they said, "Ahh, now I get it." And even after I'd explained it.

A revision to governing documents is handled differently than regular amendments. So just -- you kind of have to put out of your mind what we've done in the past, and think about what we're going to do here today. In a short while, Lynne Wild, as Vice Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, will come forward and make a motion to place before you the revision of the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules.

And then at that time, because of rules that we adopted in your Convention Standing Rules, we will consider it seriatim, which means we will consider each document, and by document I'm saying Constitution and then the Bylaws and then the Standing Rules, we're going to consider each one separately. And each one will be open to for discussion and amendment. And already we know that there are amendments coming forward. We've already received that. So that will be done.

But the vote on whether or not we want to adopt the revision doesn't happen until -- it could be four and a half hours later. And I think that's where some people have a misunderstanding that they think we might be voting on it immediately. We don't. The document that you received on your chairs yesterday, and hopefully, you all have a copy of it, this whole document is open to amendment and discussion. And that's what we're going to be spending a good portion of time doing before we take a vote on it.

So we will, with your Standing Rule -- Convention Standing Rules that you've adopted, we are going to spend one hour on the constitution, where it'll be open for discussion and amendment, and when that is finished, then we will move the Bylaws and spend up to one hour on discussion and amendment on the bylaws. And when that comes to an end, then we will spend up to an hour on the Standing Rules in discussion and

amendment. And when that comes to end, then we will consider the revision as a whole where you can -- any amendment to any portion of it would be in order.

And we do that because if we amend something in the Bylaws that affects something in the Constitution we need to go back and fix any type of conflict that we might have caused. So we need to be able to fix that.

And then at the very end, before we take a vote on whether or not to -- to adopt the revision to make them your new Governing Documents, it will be open for 30 minutes for debate only on the merits of whether or not this should become your new Governing Documents. And then it will come down to just one vote and if that vote receives a two-thirds vote, then this document with any amendments that are adopted here, will become your new set of Governing Documents and your old ones will just go away.

If perchance this is not adopted, then we will go to a -- there's three amendments that were noticed before Convention. They were one from Arizona on adding some new vice presidents, one from Virginia, changing language in -- about being 18 and older, and one from Minnesota with some clarifications to the finance committee. We will go to those.

If the revision is adopted, we won't go to those, because they will be trying to amend those proposals into the revision.

For anyone that wants to make an amendment to the revision, you adopted in Convention Standing Rule Number 10 that it needs to be put on a motion form before you make your motion. Motion forms can be found at the end of the stage over here at the corner. They're over there. They're a four part form. The maker takes off the bottom, goldenrod copy, and you send the rest of them up here. We appreciate all those that have already been sent up here. That'll make the process go much faster.

Also, if you're wanting to speak or make a motion you need to go to one of the microphones. But for everyone else, your rules say that you need to stay seated within your -- your Department seating.

Debate is limited to two minutes per person. We have timers to make sure all that happens fairly. We have -- and we'll be keeping time on the amount of time that will be dedicated in debate for each one of the documents.

If at any time anyone is confused at all about the process that's going on, while we're -- while we're involved in this, please go to the microphone, and what you would say is, "I rise for parliamentary inquiry." That means you have a question about the process. And we're more than happy to help you understand what you don't understand at that time.

But we want to make sure that this is fair for everyone, that you understand what's going on and we want to help you do it. So please don't let the process intimidate you. So if you have any questions whatsoever during that time, please don't feel afraid to do that, because I assure you if you have a question someone else in this room also has a question. Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Chris. These are exciting times. Are there any other questions? Lynne, please proceed with presenting the revision and the amendments.

VICE CHAIRMAN WILD: It is the responsibility of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to bring all proposed amendments to the floor for deliberation apart from any endorsements status by the Pre-Convention Committee. Therefore, regardless of the Pre-Convention Committee's recommendation on the adoption of the amendments, I will, on behalf on the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, move the adoption of all amendments.

On behalf of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of the revision of the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules as distributed, including the changes on the additional typos and corrections to the revision handed out.

The revision also includes a proviso that states that if adopted, the section of Article 3 of the revised Constitution regarding Membership Eligibility, specifically adding "descendants," will not go into effect until after the Legion amends its Constitution Article 13, Section 2. The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the revision be adopted.

VOICE: Madam President, microphone three.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: For what reason do you rise to speak?

VOICE: I'm asking if now that she has stated what we're to discuss, is this the time to move for an Article to be amended to be included in that?

VOICE: Not yet.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Not yet.

VOICE: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thanks, Cindy.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Just really quickly just so you know where Peggy is. She's gone off to speak to the Legion. So she's not sick or she didn't run and hide, she went to speak to the Legion.

(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Good timing. The question is on the adoption of the proposed revision to the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules submitted by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee as distributed, including the changes in the additional typo and corrections to the revision handout.

The revision also includes a proviso that states that if adopted the section in Article 3 of the revised constitution regarding membership eligibility, specifically adding "descendants", will not go into effect until after the Legion amends its Constitution, Article 3, Section 2. The Constitution & Bylaws Convention Committee recommends that the revision be adopted.

The proposed revision will be presented and considered seriatim by document. That means that we will first consider the Constitution, then the Bylaws, and then the Standing Rules. Please use your copy of the revision to follow along as each document is being presented and considered. We will now consider the Constitution. Is there discussion or amendment to the Constitution?

MS. CONATSER: Madam President?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Wait. Wait. I'm not quite done yet.
(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The Chair calls on Sharon Conatser of the Special Ad Hoc Committee of Governing Documents.

MS. CONATSER: Madam Vice President? I'm over here.

MS. CONATSER: Microphone three, Sharon Conatser, Department of Illinois.

MS. CONATSER: Great.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Sharon.

MS. CONATSER: I'm here. The Special Ad Hoc Committee listened on the phone calls and would like to offer the following amendment to Article 6, under National Convention. It's on page 5 of your copy you found on your seats. It now reads, "Representation Section 2 -- representation of the National Convention shall be by Departments. Each Department shall be entitled to delegates based upon the number of members whose dues are paid up to date as provided in the Standing Rules. Changes to the formula for delegate voting strength and manner for casting votes may be determined only by action of the National Convention delegates."

I move to amend the Constitution, Article 6, National Convention Section 2, by striking the word "action" and inserting the words "a two thirds vote". It has been moved and seconded to amend the constitution Article 6, National Convention Section 2, by striking the word "action" and inserting the words, "a two thirds vote". Is there any discussion to the motion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Are you ready for the question? The question is on amending the Constitution Article 6, National Convention Section 2 by striking the word "action" and inserting the words, "a two thirds vote". Those in favor --

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Madam -- Madam President?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Sorry. Can you --

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Microphone number four.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

MS. NAVARRETÉ: I would like to second that motion. Rita Navarreté,
Delegate from New Mexico.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Rita, but it came from a--

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Oh, it came from a Committee. It doesn't need a second.

VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

MS. NAVARRETÉ: The light bulb just went on.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

(Laughter.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Mine's starting to come on. Thank you.
Okay. Those in favor of adopting the amendment, press number 1 on -- oh, please all stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Yeah. Those in favor of adopting the amendment, press number 1 on your voting keypad. Those opposed, press number 2. Please vote now.

(Voting music.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Please show the results. There is a two thirds in the affirmative and the amendment is adopted.

MS. KOKERNAK: Madam President, microphone three.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone three?

MS. KOKERNAK: Thank you, ma'am. Cindy Kokernak, Department of Virginia. On behalf of the Department of Virginia I move that Article 3, Section 2a be amended by striking the words "over the age of 18" and adding the words, "age 18 and older". If I might, may I give minor clarification?

VOICE: No. Wait. Just a minute.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You need to wait just a second, Cindy.

MS. KOKERNAK: Thank you, ma'am.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: It has been moved and seconded to amend Article 3, Section 2a by striking the words "over the age of 18" and adding the words, "age 18 and older". Vote. Are there any questions?

MS. KOKERNAK: Madam President, as clarification you are 18 and then a nanosecond later you're over 18. However, the average person on the street if you say I'm over 18 they assume that may be 19 or 20. We would just like it to be very clear at age 18 and older you are a senior member. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Is there further discussion?

(Whereupon, there was no response.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The question is on amending Article 3, Section 2a by striking the words "over the age of 18" and adding the words, "age 18 and older". Everybody stand.

(Whereupon, the audience complied with request.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Those in favor of adopting the amendment press number 1 on your voting keypad. Those opposed, press number 2. Please vote now.

(Voting music.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Please show the results. There is a two thirds in the affirmative, and the amendment has been adopted.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So remember to sit down after you vote. Okay? Thank you. Because we're --

MS. JOHNSTON: Madam President?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Can you let me know what mic you're at? That's helpful.

MS. JOHNSTON: Microphone one, please.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone one.

MS. JOHNSTON: Sally Johnston, Department of New York. By direction of New York, I move to amend Article 3, Section 1 of the proposed revision of the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary by inserting the word "daughters" on line 2 before the phrase, "and direct and"-- excuse me -- "and direct and adopted female descendants" and inserting the word "daughters" on line 3 before the phrase, "and direct and adopted female descendants". And I have rationale for that.

(Pause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So we -- I would ask if there's any objection to postponing this amendment until we get a ruling from Counsel General. We have asked for the ruling. So if we can postpone this for a little bit until we get that ruling, that would be helpful.

MS. JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, might I -- excuse me, Madam President, might I have the opportunity to give the rationale?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You will when we bring it back.

MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

MS. BRIERE: Madam President, Microphone two. Robin Briere, Department of Florida. A daughter would be a direct descendant and that's covered in this.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So -- so --

MS. BRIERE: It's already covered.

(Applause.)

MS. BRIERE: So there's no need to add "daughters" because they're automatically a direct descendant and that is covered in this article.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay, Robin, it will come back, because our -- our -- actually our article is identical to the American Legion. So we need to get a ruling from Counsel General. Thank you.

MS. BRIERE: Yeah. Thank you. There's no need to list them as a separate.

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, microphone number four.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Kris Nelson.

MS. NELSON: Microphone number four. For clarification, I believe that was addressed at the beginning that we -- that that would be a proviso that would be done after the Legion had their meeting and it would be worded exactly the same. My understanding is that the American Legion by Congress tells us what that wording can be and we cannot change it without their approval. Is that right?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Well, we'll come back to it. We'll -- we'll address it. Thank you, Kris. Oh, there -- is there any further discussion on the Constitution?

MS. BLAKE: Madam President, microphone two, Judy Blake.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone two.

MS. BLAKE: Judy Blake, Department of Arizona. On behalf of the Department of Arizona, I move to amend Article 4, National Officers, Section 1 by striking the current section and inserting the following: "The National Organization shall have the following National Officers: National President, National First Vice President, National Second Vice President, National Third Vice President, five National Division

Vice Presidents, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Chaplain and National Historian.”

Amend Article 4, National Officers, Section 2 by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “The National Convention shall elect the following term Limited National Officers: National President, National First Vice President, National Second Vice President, National Third Vice President, National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain and National Historian, with the proviso that if these amendments are adopted, the offices of Second Vice President and Third Vice Presidents will not go into effect until the election process at the 2015 National Convention.”

Madam President, if these amendments are adopted, the Department of Arizona will have several consequential amendments to offer. I have my rationale, --

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. Just a second.

MS. BLAKE: -- but whenever it's appropriate let me know.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: It is moved and seconded to amend Article 4, National Officers, Section 1 by striking the current section and inserting the following: “The National Organization shall have the following National Officers: National President, National First Vice President, National Second vice President, National Third Vice President, five National Division Vice Presidents, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Chaplain and National Historian” and amend Article 4, National Officers, Section 2 by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: “The National Constitution shall elect the following term-limited National Officers: National President, National First Vice President, National Second Vice President, National Third Vice President, National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain and National Historian with the proviso that if these amendments are adopted the offices of Second Vice President and Third Vice Presidents will not go into effect until the election process at the 2015 National Convention.”

Are there -- is there any discussion on the motion to amend?

MS. BLAKE: Madam President, if I may, I'd just like to read the Department of Arizona's rationale.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: National President recognizes microphone number two.

MS. BLAKE: And it's still Judy Blake from the Department of Arizona. I apologize. This amendment is being proposed to safeguard the right of national delegates to elect the organization's leaders.

Currently, the national VA&R Chair and Children & Youth Chair are appointed by the new National President every year. The practice has developed that these are the women who will go on to run for a National Vice President and National President. Delegates feel they are being given only one choice when they vote, and others are being discouraged from running for Vice President or President if they have not held the two named chairmanships.

In essence, members feel the National Presidents are choosing their successors. Thirty-four of the 93 national presidents, 37 percent have come from only eight Departments. Fifty-two of the 93 national presidents, 56 percent have come from just 14 Departments.

It is true that the office of National President requires experience and skill. By adding the two new offices, time to gain this experience and skill will be retained and the delegates will be electing the highest four offices in the organization. The aim is to encourage women when they feel they are prepared to run for national office with no appointments implicitly required. We are merely seeking to protect and encourage the right of delegates to elect their national leaders. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. KOKERNAK: Madam President, microphone three.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Recognize microphone number three.

MS. KOKERNAK: Thank you. Cindy Kokernak, Department of Virginia. I speak against this particular item. I can tell you that Peggy Thomas, our National President, has served on many, many committees before she ever was given the opportunity to be National Children & Youth or National VA&R. And if you speak to Peggy, she even says in our own Department if you want to achieve the highest level of leadership possible you should prepare yourself by having as much knowledge as possible of as many programs.

The National President represents us everywhere. She needs to know the programs. And I trust our leadership to choose those chairman that have proven themselves in prior chairmanships that follow through that meet all of the criteria for being the best leaders that we can elect.

Our National Constitution & Bylaws says that anyone can run for any position. Someone can run for National Vice President, as you are doing, they can run for National President. But I believe our leaders only choose the very best from those that have experience. Thank you very much.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Cindy.

(Applause.)

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, microphone number four.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Recognize microphone number four.

MS. NELSON: I speak in opposition of this amendment. We -- we ask for resumes and --

VOICE: Point of order.

MS. NELSON: I believe you need to take turns between pros and cons.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: As much as possible. Continue, Kris.

MS. NELSON: We -- we ask members every year to send applications and ask for appointments that the National Organization gives, out of our 800,000 -- 700,000 members we receive less than 200.

If our members want to move on to be Vice President, I believe they should send an application, their Department should send an endorsement and then the upcoming leaders can see that they're interested and give them chairmanships so that they can get the knowledge and move forward, and that has not been happening. So I would encourage that this practice begins so that if someone wants the position, that they get the knowledge and the experience to move forward. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Kris. Chair recognizes microphone number one.

MS. SICKMOND: Phyllis Sickmond, Department of New York. If our president or a member of this cabinet said "Trust us; we know who the good leaders are and we'll start them and then -- and then we will make the decision for you about who goes up the line," I think we'd all scream and say this is a democracy.

I think we should let our members have the opportunity to elect and the leaders who are in place get to make a big impact on that election, because they are the ones that decide which members of our organization are capable in the first place in holding chairmanships. And if they see they aren't doing a good job, the next one in line can decide that they shouldn't have further chairmanship.

So it's only the people that the delegates are seeing at the (indiscernible) at every convention and at leadership conferences and they're the -- they're the ones that our members are going to vote for. And I think that if we are allowed to vote for the President of the United States, we ought to be able to vote for our national leaders.

(Applause.)

MS. DORAN: Madam National President, Microphone two, Sharon Doran, Department of Arizona.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Recognize microphone number two.

MS. DORAN: Thank you. I think I'm going to do this a little differently. I'm in favor of this and I'll tell you why. When God released Adam and Eve, he gave them a choice to do what they wanted to do. He is the supreme power. He gives us choices. The Constitution of the United States of America says we're a democracy and we each have our individual vote.

The preamble to our Constitution says "for God and Country." We associate ourselves together the following purposes. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, which gives us democracy. And it says we will protect the masses and the classes from an autocracy.

I believe that this is a necessary move. It is not directed at the wonderful women who have served before and who are quite capable. It is, again, it is about our individual vote. There is no malice of forethought in this at all. It is our right to choose our leaders. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. MENKE: Madam Vice President.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Chair recognizes a pro statement.

MS. MENKE: Joyce, microphone three, please.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Are you speaking in favor?

MS. MENKE: Microphone three is over here.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Sorry. It's -- okay.

MS. MENKE: No.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. Good enough. Are you speaking in favor of the amendment?

MS. MENKE: Yes, ma'am.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay.

MS. MENKE: Joyce Menke, Department of Wyoming. I am in favor of this amendment, and in no disrespect to the people that are serving, but I have a question for

you. Will not your merit stand up against an open election conducted and voted by your members to fill these positions without -- to me, a dictatorship or a select group of ladies that are determining our leadership? Because I fail to see where your qualifications would prevent you from being elected.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Looking for a con.

MS. DAVIS: I am.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone? Microphone three.

MS. DAVIS: Three. Microphone three, Mary Davis, Department of Washington. This body does elect yearly our President and our Vice President and anyone may be nominated off the floor. I also have a concern for the smaller Departments who may not have individuals who are well known throughout the Departments who are much larger, and they may not know the qualifications of those who might be running. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you. Microphone two. Pro? Pro or con?

MS. BOUCHER: Con. Microphone one, Madam Vice President.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Are you speaking of pro or con?

MS. BOUCHER: Lorraine Boucher, Department of Rhode Island. We are in favor of this amendment because one of the problems that we have is increased alienation from National from a small department, where people feel that nothing that they do or say is really having any impact on National. Why bother to vote?

And in order to combat the -- the decision of people not to apply for chairmanships on the national level because, again, there is a feeling that it all goes to certain Departments. I think that this is just opening it up and I doubt that it will change much of what happens, but it will give people the feeling that there -- it is open. Thank you.

(Applause.)

MS. DUSHECK: Madam President at --

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone --

VOICE: Microphone's four.

MS. DUSHECK: Microphone two, Diane Dusheck, Department of Wisconsin. This year for the first time the presidents, the secretaries, and the membership chairmen were all able to gather in Indianapolis in spring and get all the information for the Plan of Action. And they were able to get that from all the chairmen.

If we make this change, the Children & Youth Chairman and the VA&R Chairman and their parts of the Plan of Action won't be available until after National Convention. A lot of Departments have said that that really puts them behind. So I speak in opposition to this.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

VOICE: You're up.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The Chair will recognize a pro comment.

MS. MAHONEY: Microphone three, please.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone number three?

MS. MAHONEY: Jean Mahoney, Department of Florida. I have been a member of this organization for 59 years, and I have never voted for a National President. (Applause and laughter.)

I think it insults our intelligence by an incoming candidate to say "if I'm elected." You were appointed three years ago. And I have -- the best of my friends are Past National Presidents, and I -- I duly respect all of them. But I do think that the membership as a whole should have some voice. So I am definitely for this.

(Applause.)

MS. TRAMM: Madam President, microphone four.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I'm recognizing a con statement.

MS. TRAMM: Microphone four.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Number four.

MS. TRAMM: Madam President, Norma Tramm, Minnesota. I see a flaw in the amendment. And what it does, it doesn't matter what year you change it to, because it came up last year, and now you've moved it to '15. As long as you're still electing these women to be in those positions, you still aren't addressing what's going to happen as far as what was said previously that they aren't available.

If you want to make them available, you need to pre-elect that Children & Youth Chairman or that Third Vice President the year in advance of what they're going to be doing, rather than the year that they're going to be serving. Otherwise you're going to come up with the same situation where they're not going to be prepared for their year, because, as we know, it takes time to prepare.

We have a huge organization, Children & Youth is one of our premier programs that we need to really prepare for. So I -- I just disagree with making this amendment at this time.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you. Take a pro statement. Are there any -- a con?

MS. GROUT: Microphone three.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I recognize microphone number three.

MS. GROUT: Coral May Grout, Department of Massachusetts. I've belonged to the American Legion Auxiliary for 60 years. And I've been coming to National Conventions for the last 35. I'm really concerned about the impact of this amendment on two chairmanships, VA&R, Children & Youth. They are our most valuable programs. The planning for VA&R and Children & Youth begins in May when all of the National Chairmen come together for training, for development of the Plan of Action.

If you will elect your Third Vice and Second Vice Presidents at the election, by the time they develop their Plans of Action, you're into late September, early October. Do we as unit members want to wait until September or October to find out how to pursue our most important programs? I don't think so.

And I'd like to add I've been coming here again for over 30 years. If it ain't broke, why are we fixing it?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank --

MS. NEWMAN: Madam President, Rosey Newman, two.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Rosey, do you have a pro comment?

MS. NEWMAN: I have a pro. I'm a Past National Chaplain. I ran against someone and we didn't know who would win, but we both had a Plan of Action ahead of time. They will be ready. Whichever one is elected, she will be ready.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Chair recognizes microphone number one.

MS. HARVEY: I am opposed in this amendment for the simple fact if you --

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Can you state your name and department, please?

MS. HARVEY: It's Chris Harvey, Department of Colorado.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Chris.

MS. HARVEY: If you remember correctly, last year the National Divisional Vices were not allowed to travel because of funding. If we put two more officers in there, where is the funding going to come for all of our Vice Presidents?

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The -- the chair will recognize a pro comment.

MS. NOBLE: Madam President, microphone two.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Microphone number two.

MS. NOBLE: Debra Noble, Department of New Jersey. I speak in favor of this amendment. If you look at the Plan of Action from year to year, other than small nuances, they basically are the same for Children & Youth and VA&R. We add small differences, but for the most part they remain the same. So I do not believe that would be an issue.

The other thing I would like to bring up is our Constitution provides that these appointments are ratified by the NEC. The Chairman who attend the May meeting have not yet been ratified. Therefore, their Plan of Action shouldn't be accepted until they are ratified at National Convention by the NEC.

(Applause.)

MS. SHOOK: Madam President, microphone one.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Do you speak in -- in opposition?

MS. SHOOK: Madam President, Pam Shook of Indiana. I call for the vote.

(Applause and cheers.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I need a second.

VOICES: Second.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: All those in favor of ending debate?

VOICES: Aye.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Please stand.

VOICE: Opposed?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Opposed? I guess we didn't have to stand.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. Now, are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The question is on amending Article 4 -- Article 4, National Officers, Section 1, by striking the current section and inserting the following: "The National Organization shall have the following National Officers: National President, National First Vice President, National Second vice President, National Third Vice President, five National Division Vice Presidents, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Chaplain and National Historian" and amend Article 4, National Officers, Section 2 by striking the first sentence and inserting the following: "The National Constitution shall elect the following term-limited National Officers: National President, National First Vice President, National Second Vice President, National Third Vice President, National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain and National Historian with the proviso that if these amendments are adopted the officers of -- the offices of Second Vice President and Third Vice President will not go into effect until the election process of the 2015 National Convention."

Those in favor of adopting the amendment, press -- oh, everybody stand.
(Attendees stand.)

Those in favor of adopting the amendment, press number 1 on your keypad.
Those opposed, press number 2. Please vote now.

(Voting music.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. Okay. The voting is now closed.
Oh, no. Oh, sorry.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Keep the voting open.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Keep the voting open?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Because of the -- we feel -- we feel that this is really important, we're going to -- we've had over 750 votes, but that's a little different than the previous, so we're going to take this vote again. So if you'll all stand.

(Applause.)

(Attendees stand.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: But don't do anything until I tell you. You know we're really eager beavers as Auxiliary members, but -- okay. The voting is now open. So all those in favor, please press 1 on your keypad. Those opposed, please press 2.

(Voting music.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: It's still open. So --

(Applause and cheers.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: We look good. I -- I don't see anybody standing. Voting is now closed. Please show the results.

VOICES: Aw!

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So there is not a two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment is -- isn't it? Right?

VOICE: Wait. It's not finished.

VOICE: It's not two thirds.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: It -- it's not two-thirds, so the amendment failed.

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. So let's get back to (indiscernible). Yeah!

(Applause.)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I've never been glad to see somebody in my whole life. Okay. So let me just -- let do --

(Whereupon, National President Peggy Thomas returns to the chair.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Where are we?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. So we -- here, let me -- this is the next amendment. This was brought by the State of New York. So you're going to do this, and then you'll ask -- we put it on hold. Because we had to get a ruling from Counsel General. So you'll read it. I guess -- do you want to explain it?

(Whereupon, there was a discussion off the record.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I'm back.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: At this time, I would like to call on our National Secretary Dobbie Buckler to give an opinion or a ruling by our Counsel General. Debbie?

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. With regard to the proposed wording which I sent to Counsel General, and I am reading verbatim. Counsel General's response: "The wording as proposed in the revision NEEDS", and he emphasized that in capital letters and underlined, "NEEDS to stay as written. Any change will be inconsistent with the Legion. The reasons for proposing it are not -- for proposing the amendment to the revision are not correct or supportable. If adopted, the wording," again, please understand I'm reading his wordings, "If adopted, the wording would make the Auxiliary look silly in court.

(Laughter.)

If adopted, The American Legion must report it to the Internal Revenue Service and the Auxiliary's tax exempt status for the entire organization, every Department and unit will be seriously in jeopardy. Remind your delegates that your current eligibility language stays in place anyway until the Legion would make a change to it.

The wording is consistent with the Legion's Charter and the Legion has already changed the sons Constitution Bylaws to read this way using the word "direct descendants -- descendants and thereof". And, finally, therefore, please inform your delegates that as your attorney, I strongly advise against it."

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, this concludes his report.

(Applause and laughter.)

MS. VAN KIRK: Okay. Madam President, I have microphone whatever.

VOICE: One.

VOICE: One.

MS. VAN KIRK: One. Microphone one.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

MS. VAN KIRK: Carol Van Kirk, Department of Nebraska. I'd like a point of clarification perhaps from our parliamentarian. When we are stating in our Constitution that through the eligibility of direct -- the direct descendants, if I were a unit person reading that, I would assume I could sign up great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great whatever granddaughters. So we're putting in something right there into our Constitution that I feel has not been approved either.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: There is no motion on the floor at this point. I need clarification from New York if they want to move this forward. So there's no motion of the floor and no request from New York, so we cannot move forward.

MS. CORKER: Microphone one?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Microphone. Okay.

MS. CORKER: Barbara Corker, Department of New York. Sally stepped out of the room for a second. Can we wait until she comes back in?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We're -- we're on a tight schedule. The maker of the motion stepped out of the room.

VOICE: It's from the Department. We know the Department --

VOICE: (Indiscernible).

PRESIDENT THOMAS: To go to the ladies room.

VOICE: (Indiscernible).

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It just says the Department of New York. So the representative from New York, a delegate, can make the motion on behalf of New York.

MS. CORKER: On behalf of New York we make a motion to withdraw.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It -- okay. Thank you. That never came to a vote. Is there any other discussion on the Constitution?

(No response.)

MS. JOHNSTON: I'm sorry. I didn't hear that, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is there any other discussion on the amendments to the Constitution?

MS. JOHNSTON: Well, we do have that in the -- the amendment that's being proposed. The direct descendants.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It's been withdrawn.

MS. JOHNSTON: Pardon?

VOICE: There's no motion on the floor. The motion was to add the word "daughters", but it's not necessary. So the language (indiscernible).

(Discussion off the record.)

MS. JOHNSTON: Oh, okay. It's just the language. Everything is okay to go forward. Do you want to come and tell them -- because I was out of the room. I think somebody better explain exactly.

MS. VAN KIRK: If I'm not mistaken, the -- the language is in the proposal that it is -- the leadership is putting forth.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The language is in the revision, Carol.

MS. VAN KIRK: The direct descendants.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: But the amendment from New York was withdrawn. It never came to the floor.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: There was no vote on that.

MS. VAN KIRK: I understand that.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: So there is no motion. So --

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, microphone four. The wording by the Special Ad Hoc Committee that is in the revision is what -- what Dubbie just read to us, was given to us by The American Legion and it is the exact wording they told us to put in and that is going through on the revision. Does that answer your question?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Yes.

MS. NELSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is there further discussion on the Constitution?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: No. We will now consider the Bylaws. The Chair calls on Kris Nelson of the Governing Documents Ad Hoc Committee. Kris?

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota. On behalf of the Special Ad Hoc Committee, I move to amend the Bylaws. Article 5, Committees, Section 3 by striking the current reading and inserting the words: "The composition, terms and purpose of the National Standing Committees and National Committees shall be provided in the Standing Rules. Amendments to the composition, terms or purpose of such National Committees may be determined by only a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates."

VOICE: Page 11. Page 11. Thank you.

MS. NELSON: Would you like me to read it again?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Read it again, Kris.

MS. NELSON: On behalf of the Special Ad Hoc Committee, I move to amend the Bylaws, Article 5, Committees, Section 3, page -- it's on page 11. I want to strike the current reading and insert the following words: "The composition, terms and purposes of the National Standing Committees and National Committees shall be provided in the Standing Rules. Amendments to the composition, terms or purpose of such National Committees may be determined only by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates."

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. This coming from a Committee it does not need a second. Is there any discussion on the motion to amend?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on amending the Standing -- the Bylaws, Article 3 by striking the current reading and inserting: "The composition, terms and purpose of the National Standing Committees and National Committees shall be provided in the Standing Rules. Amendments to the composition, terms or purpose of

such National Committees may be determined only by a two thirds vote of the National Convention delegates.”

Those in favor of adopting the amendment please press number 1 on your voting keypads, but please stand to do it. Those opposed, 2. Press 2. Please vote now.

(Audience stands.)

(Voting music.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It looks like everybody is sitting now, so voting is closed.

(Applause and Cheers.)

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please show the results. The amendment is adopted.

We will now consider Standing Rules.

VOICE: No, no, no, no.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: No?

VOICE: More discussions on that.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, okay. Do we have any more discussion on the Bylaws?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I want to move.

(Discussion off the record.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. President Thomas. Is there any other. We want to give you plenty of opportunity on the Bylaws. I can't see, so I have to see in the dark. Any further discussion?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You ready to move on?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We will now consider the Standing Rules. Is there a discussion or amendments to the Standing Rules?

MS. NELSON: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Microphone four.

MS. NELSON: Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota. On behalf of the Department of Minnesota, I move to amend Standing Rule 6, Committee's Section on the Finance Committee by adding the following to the end of the second sentence.

VOICES: What page?

MS. NELSON: Page 29. Sorry. "And may serve a maximum of two five-year terms consecutively and by striking the third and fourth sentences." Madam President, I've been asked to read it again with your permission.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I will read it, Kris.

MS. NELSON: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Department of Minnesota moves to amend the Standing Rules to Committees section on the Finance Committee by adding the following to the end of the second in sentence: "And may serve a maximum of two five-year terms

consecutively by striking the third and fourth sentences.” Is there discussion on the motion to amend?

VOICE: I’m here.

MS. NELSON: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Kris?

MS. NELSON: The justification is there is already two five-year terms in the current wording, and by passing this amendment there would not be a two year break in terms for a person on the Finance Committee. If they had to take that two year break, they would lose their knowledge and have to start all over at the --

VOICES: Aw.

MS. NELSON: -- after two years. So stops. It’s always been 10 years. It’s still 10 years. There’s no break between the terms.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Microphone one?

MS. HATFIELD: Donna Hatfield, Department of Nebraska. Could you read the way it would be intended as -- as amended as Kris amend or proposes that it be amended? Please?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. As amended, the National Finance Committee shall be comprised of five members serving staggered five year terms, at least three of whom shall be past National Presidents. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a five year term. Members having completed the five year term shall --

(Discussion off the record.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You want the current language or the, what it will be?

VOICES: What it will be.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: What it will be.

MS. NELSON: As amended.

VOICES: As amended.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: As amended, it will serve a maximum of five year term, two five year terms consequently by striking the third and fourth sentences, which is -- the third and fourth is right here. That is not true. Just a minute.

(Discussion off the record.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. The National Finance Committee shall be comprised of five members serving staggered five year terms, at least three of whom shall be past National Presidents. One member shall be appointed each year to serve a five year term.

And it will -- we would strike the third -- third and fourth sentence and add: “And may serve two five year -- two five year terms consecutively. The Chairman shall be appointed annually and serve as one of the five members. The National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be additional members of said Committee with voice, but without vote.” We got it? Is there further discussion?

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Microphone four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Rita?

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Rita Navarreté, Delegate from New Mexico. Point of clarification. The document that we received that says “Final” includes all the revisions or amendments. No, just the revisions. Is that correct?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Just the revisions. It was what was proposed (indiscernible) on the floor.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Just the revisions. What was proposed on the floor.

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Yes, ma'am. I want to say --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Huh?

MS. NAVARRETÉ: Excuse me, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

MS. NAVARRETÉ: I want to say I believe the word "not" should have been omitted in the typing and then it would read: "Members shall be appointed each year to serve a two year term. Members having completed a five year term shall be eligible for reappointment in the National Finance Committee for a period of two ..." and so forth and so forth. It was just explained to me as a side note by Kris Nelson on the Ad Hoc Committee that what was just previously read by our National President is what is to be considered.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Satisfied, Rita, with the explanation? Clarification? Is there further discussion?

MS. JUNTUNEN: Madam President, Microphone two.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Linda Juntunen, Department of North Dakota. Clarification on wording. We have a question. When Kris Nelson first read it, did she say that there would be not more than two five-year terms?

VOICES: Yes. Yes.

MS. JUNTUNEN: A maximum of 10 years total then --

VOICE: Right.

MS. JUNTUNEN: -- that someone can serve?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: A max -- a maximum of two five-year terms consequently.

VOICE: Consecutively.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Consecutively. Yeah.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Does -- does that in turn mean that if someone would come off for a year they could then be reappointed for two more five-year terms?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Yes. Yes.

MS. JUNTUNEN: Yes? Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Yes. They could.

VOICES: No, no, no.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Yeah. They could come off. Yes, they can.

MS. NELSON: Madam President, microphone four. You would only be allowed to ever serve two five-year terms, but you could serve them consecutively.

VOICE: That's not the way it's written.

MS. NELSON: Right now it's -- you could serve a five year term, go off two years and come back for five years. This wording would say you can serve two five-year terms consecutively.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: But her question was if you serve two five-year terms and you came off one year, then you could be eligible to run again. Wasn't that the question? Wasn't that -- wasn't that what she said?

(Discussion off the record.)

MS. NELSON: Madam President, would not the wording "May serve a maximum of two five-year terms consecutively" say that they can only serve --

VOICE: That's a problem.

MS. NELSON: It says "a maximum of".

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Consecutively.

VOICE: Okay.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It says consecutively. But they would serve -- the way it's written they can serve two five year terms if appointed consecutively. They do not have to come off as the way it's written is the way it's understood, I think, by the Parliamentarian.

MS. NOBLE: Madam President, microphone two, Debra Noble, Department of New Jersey. I believe to clarify if we leave in the sentence: "No appointee having served two or more terms on the Committee shall be eligible for reappointment." I believe that takes care of the question can they serve more than a total of 10 years. I think we can't take that line out.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: That's -- that's -- it was not proposed that way. Was it?

VOICE: No.

(Discussion off the record.)

MS. CRAIG: Madam President, microphone five.

VOICES: Four.

MS. CRAIG: I mean four. My fault.

(Laughter.)

MS. CRAIG: Microphone four, we -- everybody needs a laugh. So -- so I would like to amend the amendment. Is that permissible?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You want to add an amendment? Can she make an amendment?

MS. CRAIG: I'll -- I'll tell you that in a minute.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You -- you can propose an amendment.

MS. CRAIG: Okay. Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina, microphone four. I propose to amend -- let me have yours so I can add mine. "And may serve a maximum of two five-year terms consecutively and no appointee having served two or more terms shall be eligible for reappointment."

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We have to vote.

MS. WILD: We need a second and we need to put it on a form.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. We need a second and it has to be put on a form.

MS. NELSON: Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota. I second that.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: While we're waiting for the form to fill out, would you all like to stand up and -- and do a wave?

VOICE: Surprising us on TV.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: But do not leave the room. Get your blood flowing. Turn to your neighbor and say, "Thank you for a good job."

VOICE: Thank you for a good job.

(Pause to complete form for amendment of motion to amend.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Now you've got your blood flowing to your brain. You may be seated. Or to your legs. Whichever. I am now calling on our Executive Secretary/National Secretary Executive Director to make some important announcements. It may -- it may refer to food, so listen carefully.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: This is -- this is what you call being flexible in providing you useful information while we are attending to urgent matters. So until Kris can write fast, we're just going to fill in the time with some announcements. So 2013-2014 National Committee Appointees. Several of you are going to be meeting and I'm -- so I'm just going to give the ones I have so far.

If you're a 2013-2014 National Committee Appointee for the following committees, please gather to meet as I announce. Children & Youth will be meeting at 7:45 a.m. at the back of this room. National Security will meeting -- be meeting at -- tomorrow morning at the close of the session by the Minnesota sign. Let's hear every -- where Minnesota is.

MINNESOTA VOICES: Yeah. Woohoo!

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Anybody else think that was kind of lame?

VOICES: Yeah.

VOICE: Yeah!

SECRETARY BUCKLER: All right. So where is Minnesota?

MINNESOTA VOICES: Woohoo! Yeah!

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Do you remember that little part about this is being video streamed live?

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So we want everybody to be smiling and enthusiastic, especially right now, because I'm sure the cameras are on everybody right now, because there's not much going on up here while I just give announcements.

VOICE: Okay, Buckler. Microphone four. Ole! is over this way.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That was one of my favorite members in the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That's an inside joke. And I shouldn't do that. Okay. They look like they're still writing. Girls Nation -- the 2013-14 Girls Nation Committee will meet immediately following the Woman of the Year Luncheon at the back of the room. The 2013-14 National Leadership Committee Appointees will meet tomorrow at the conclusion of the business meeting in the Massachusetts sections. Where's Massachusetts?

(Cheers.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Much better on the first take. Okay. Those are the -- those are all the Committee announcements I have so far. Want to remind you lost and found is on the second floor at the Service Desk.

And while we're waiting, I want to remind you all that -- it's something that you all -- we all know, that we are losing our World War II veterans, sadly, at a fast rate. And in the audience with us today is a U.S. Navy Wave -- World War II veteran, who is 90 years old, Ramona Hendricks from the Department of Illinois, who's been supporting the Legion family for 70 years.

(Applause and cheers.)

As you -- as you -- as -- as -- World War II was a major victory, a milestone in the United States history. It's why we're here today. And so as we honor our World War II veterans and one amongst us, let's just have our applause be for every World War II veteran.

(Applause and cheers.)

I see a hand waving. God bless our World War II veterans. And if any of you have ever participated in or with an Angel, an honor flight, you know how precious that experience is.

MS. MAHONEY: Can I -- can I get my druthers too? Jean Mahoney, Department of Florida, 90 years old, U.S. Navy veteran.

(Applause and cheers.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Both of them. We hear you, U.S. Navy veterans. Jean, I did not have that announcement up here, or I would have included you in it. So I mean isn't -- stop and think though. Isn't it wonderful?

VOICES: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We still have time. Isn't it wonderful that we have -- we have two World War II U.S. Navy veterans amongst us? I just think that's over --

MS. HENDRICKS: Microphone two. Just a minute. Jean and I have been friends and I don't know about her, but this is my 52nd convention.

(Applause and cheers.)

MS. HENDRICKS: And one year -- one year Jean and I got to ride in the parade in Women Veteran Trapper something.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you. And, Madam President, I don't know when you lost control, but we're just going to roll with it here. Also, when the -- when we are done voting today, remember to turn in your keypads. It's a thousand -- a -- oh, I just off --

(Gasps.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Strike that for the record. It is a \$100 dollar charge if we don't get the keypads back. So please remember to do that. Directions to the Women's of the -- Women of the Year Luncheon. That is in the George Bush Grand Ballroom on the third floor.

And that is for the -- for -- I think most of you were at the Constitution Bylaws Pre-Con Committee Meeting, because the room couldn't have held another person. That's where that Constitutional Bylaws Pre-Con Meeting was. That's the same room

where the Woman of the Year Luncheon will be. So you can go out either take the escalators or elevator up to the third floor and you're going to be in close proximity.

I also am going to grab a couple of props. Okay. I want to thank -- how many found your little -- your -- your fan. Are these cool? I mean, literally -- that's what they do, but they're cool. I want to thank -- we'll take care of that. It -- it was not intentional, I assure you. So the delegates got them, but not the National Officers because you are the special ones.

(Applause and cheers.)

We get the leftovers. We want thank USAA for these. And we also, yesterday, how many of you got your cozies that were in your seats?

(Applause.)

We want to thank-- they were -- they were in every seat, a cozie yesterday. We want thank, U.S.A. or we want to thank Gallagher Member Benefits. Gallagher Member Benefits is a \$5,000 sponsor of this Convention. USAA is a \$5,000 sponsor of this Convention. And I think that deserves a round of applause, since I'm just --

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Nobody has tapped me on the shoulder to stop yet. Also, while we're thanking our sponsors, the Woman of the Year Luncheon is sponsored by Quadriga Arts. And for those of you who get our direct mail fundraisers, the holiday cards, the spring all occasion cards, the -- the calendar for the Foundation, the pocket calendar. If you're donating through our direct mail and you get those, that -- the company that produces that -- those mailers for us is Quadriga Arts, and they are a \$15,000 sponsor of our Women of the Year Luncheon. So, please, collectively, that's \$25,000 in sponsorship. So I think -- can we give it up for our sponsors?

(Applause.)

Thank you. And this -- I will resume my announcements later on. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. It appears the maker of the motion is wanting to withdraw the original amendment and present a new amendment that presents the terms and limitations of the term. This would keep us from having to vote on the amendment and then they amended amendment. And it would all be in one. Is there any objection to that?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Saves time. The new one is move to amend the Standing Rule, Rule 6, Committee Section on the Finance Committee by adding the following to the end of the second sentence: "And may serve a maximum of two five-year terms consecutively. No appointee having served two or more terms on the committee shall be eligible for a reappointment." Do you have any -- any -- is there any discussion? Do you understand it?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Any discussion?

VOICE: No.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: No discussion? Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Everybody stand.

(Audience stands.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question on the amendment, all those in favor, press 1 on the keypad. Those opposed, press number 2? Please vote now.

(Voting music.)

(Pause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is everyone seated yet? Well, the voting is closed. Can we see the results? The vote is in the affirmative and it is adopted. Is there any other further discussion from the floor?

MS. NELSON: Madam President, microphone four. Kris Nelson, Department of Minnesota. On behalf of the Department of Minnesota, I move to amend Standing Rule 6, Committees Section of the Finance Committee by striking the words, "three" and inserting the words "a minimum of one" in the first sentence.

VOICE: Second.

MS. NELSON: Page 22.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Right. What page?

MS. NELSON: 29. Sorry. Page 29. One second.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Would you restate it, Kris?

MS. NELSON: On behalf of the Department of Minnesota, I move to amend Standing Rule 6, Committees Section of the Finance Committee, by striking the words, "three" and inserting the words "a minimum of one" in the first sentence.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The way it reads now is the National Finance Committee shall be comprised of five members serving staggered five-year terms. At least three of whom shall be past National President." And the proposed amendment is removing the -- the "three" and having "a minimum of one" past National President. Is that clear to everybody?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Is there any discussion?

MS. NELSON: Madam President, Kris Nelson, Microphone four. This -- this does not tie the hands of the President. She can put the people she feels are qualified to be on the Finance Committee. It can -- it still gives the right to have five National Presidents if she wants. But it also gives her the opportunity to put people on who are not.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kris.

MS. CRAIG: Madam President, microphone four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Number four.

MS. CRAIG: Four, Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina. I am opposed to this. We've heard over and over all we can about the -- the experience gained from the Children & Youth Chairman, the VA&R Chairman and the Vice President attending all of these meetings, and we are paying several thousand dollars for them to attend the Finance Committee to learn and to gain experience and then they become the National President, then they become a past National and no longer do they have the experience to be on the Finance Committee. That bothers me tremendously.

We have an investment firm. We have a controller. We have a National Treasurer to handle all of the finances. Who better to understand the needs of our Auxiliary units and our members and our programs better than the past National Presidents. And I know it is a minimum of one and she can continue to appoint more than one, but I still think the majority vote of the Finance Committee should be past National Presidents.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

MS. BOEHLER: Microphone one.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: One?

MS. BOEHLER: Over here.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, over here.

MS. BOEHLER: Karen Boehler, Department of Colorado. I speak in favor of the change to indicate that we bring it down to a minimum of one. And let me tell you why. I heard what Flora Jean said, and she's right. I believe the training, the learning, the education, the expertise is ongoing. However, I've heard in many discussions that, as this has been discussed, not necessarily a National President might be the best one to sit on those committees, because she's right. Finance is a huge issue.

And, again, we have many members who might be more qualified, again, no disrespect intended, in that as a field of expertise. And so, I would just suggest to the membership this is a real nice show of good faith from the leadership, who said we don't need to have all past National presidents in those positions.

So I think this expands the opportunity for better skills people as well as more membership involvement.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

MS. BARBKNECHT: Microphone four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Five?

MS. BARBKNECHT: Four.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Four? You don't speak southern. I don't understand.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

MS. BARBKNECHT: Oh, sorry. I-- I speak Minnesotan, unfortunately. Carol Barbknecht, Department of Minnesota. The reason our Department passed this is because we wanted to give the National President the opportunity to appoint members that might be accountants, financial planners, CEOs of corporations that have expertise to contribute to this Committee.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

DELEGATE WALLACE: Madam President? Microphone two.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

DELEGATE WALLACE: Eva Wallace, Department of Washington delegate. I speak from experience, having worked with D&O on clients for many, many, years and I definitely speak in favor of this. I feel that it's important that we seek out the most

qualified people to help and assist our -- our national organization. And by doing this, it gives the flexibility to our National President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Any further discussion? Any further discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on amending the Standing Rule 6, where it says, the Finance Committee should have -- replace "three" and inserting the word "a minimum of one" in the first sentence. I've sorry. Those in favor of adopting the amendment, press number 1 on your keypad. Please stand. And those opposed, press number 2.

(Audience stands.)

And everybody stands to vote.

(Voting music.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Is everyone seated? Have they voted? Okay. The voting is closed. Show the results, please. 681 in favor, 143 opposed. The -- the amendment is adopted.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is there any other discussion on the Standing Rules?

MS. CRAIG: Microphone four, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Flora Jean?

MS. CRAIG: Flora Jean Craig, Department of North Carolina. I wish to amend Article 6, Committees Core National Standing Committees Audit. It's on page 30. I wish to amend and by striking the words "one of whom shall be appointed by the National Finance Committee and one of whom shall be appointed each -- well, each year by the National Finance Committee and one of whom shall be appointed each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation after the words "to Liaison members", and insert the words, "one of whom shall be recommended each year by the National Finance Committee and one of whom shall be recommended each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to the National President for appointment."

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is there a second?

VOICE: Second. Second.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is -- did I hear a second?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. There is a second. It is moved and seconded to amend Article 6 Committees, one National Standing -- I can't read it.

VOICE: Core.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Core. Core National Standing Committees audited by striking the words "one of whom shall be appointed each year by the National Finance Committee and one of whom shall be appointed each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation after the words "to Liaison members" and inserting the words, "one of whom shall be recommended each year by the National Finance Committee and one of

whom shall be recommended each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to the National President for appointment.”

Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on amended number 6 to -- and I will -- do you want me to read the whole thing again or do you understand?

VOICES: No.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. Thank you. Those in favor of adopting the amendment, press number 1 on your keypad, and those opposed, press number 2. Please stand everybody. And please vote now.

(Audience stands.)

(Voting music.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: After your vote is taken -- it's accepted, please sit so I'll know. Okay. The voting is closed. Please show the results. 739 in the affirmative, 64 opposed. The amendment is adopted. Thank you very much. Is there any other discussion? Any further discussion on the Standing Rules? Any other discussion on the Standing Rules?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing none, we will consider the revision as a whole. Is there a discussion or amendments to any portion of the revision?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing none, we'll move on. We've moved on to the last (indiscernible). Okay. We are ready to debate the merits. We will now have debate on the merits of the revision. Motions to amend are no longer in order. Is there a discussion on the revision? Is there any discussion on the revision?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. It is time to vote on the revision of the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules. A two-thirds vote is required for adoption. The question is on the adoption are the revision to the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution Bylaws and Standing Rules as amended, including the changes and the additional typos and corrections to the revision document titled with the proviso that if adopted the Section in Article 3, of the Revised Constitution regarding membership eligibility, specifically adding “descendants” will not go into effect until after the Legion amends its Constitution Article 3, Section 2.

The Constitution & Bylaws Pre-Convention Committee recommends that the revision be adopted. Those in favor of adopting the revision, please press number 1 on your voting keypad. Those opposed, press 2. And you know the drill. Everybody has to stand to vote.

(Audience stands.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: There is a two-thirds in the affirmative and the revision is adopted. Let's hear it!

(Applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Lynne, for all your hard work and dedication. Let's -- let's hear it for Lynne Wild.

(Applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: As you know, Lynne had to step in at the eleventh hour and take over and it has been more than a little bit of work. I'm going to call on Dubbie Buckler for -- to finish the announcements I wouldn't let her make a while ago.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. A moment of personal privilege. Thank you to all of you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: It was a really big project. I was just informed that the Legion Riders just presented a donation check to the American Legion for nearly \$1 million.

(Applause and cheers.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Wow! Wow! So it can be done. Let me finish up with the 2013-2014 National Committee appointees for the following Committees. I believe I announced this previously for Girls Nation immediately following the Woman of the Year Luncheon at the back of the room. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation meet at the close of tomorrow's session by the Illinois sign.

(Cheers.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: What do you think? Was that good enough? Okay.

VOICES: Yeah.

VOICE: No.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Legislative Commission -- Commission. Legislative Committee for 2013-14 meet at the close of tomorrow's session by the California sign.

(Cheers.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. Now, remember that we are streaming live on our ALA Video Channel.

(Cheers.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So, let's give ourselves a big "hello."

VOICES: Hello!

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And lastly, Madam President, I just would like to bring -- bring you both an update. Syble Deshotel did not join us today. She's in a room. She wasn't feeling very well. So let's keep her in our thoughts and prayers as we go into lunch. Past National President Syble Deshotel. Past National President JoAnn Cronin did leave to go back home today.

We -- some of us saw her last. Remember I shared with you that she -- that she tripped on stage and she broke her nose and is not -- not on this stage, at the parade. I'm sorry.

(Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Past National President JoAnn Cronin tripped at the parade on the reviewing stand and she fell and she broke her nose and so we -- some of us did see her last night. She -- very bruised as you can imagine. She looks like she was in a boxing match and she didn't have, you know, the other guy didn't have gloves on. So -- so Madame President, who is so kind and wonderful, said, you know, I really think you can go home. You've got a pass for the rest of the Convention.

So, anyway, please keep JoAnn and Syble both in your prayers as we go for the lunch. And I'm going to remind you again, Woman of the Year Luncheon is in the George Bush Ballroom, which is on the third floor. So as you head out, you can either take the elevator, the escalator up to the third floor if you're going to that.

Now, the final announcement is for those of you who will be going to join The American Legion's Joint Session to hear Vice President Joseph Biden, you know the term "lockdown." You must be in and once you're in the doors will be locked at 1:45. So lock down time is 1:45. If you're going to that, you're going to have to go through security checks. So you're advised to get over there as quickly as you're able, so that not everybody is bunching up, you know, 2,000 people trying to get through in a five minute period of time will take a little time. So let's try to filter in as we're ready to do that. Madam President, those conclude my announcements.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Dubbie. Since we have a lot going on today, the luncheon and the Vice President coming, this meeting will adjourn and reconvene tomorrow at 8 o'clock.

(Applause and cheers.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:41 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was recessed.)

NATIONAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013

VOICE: Soaring to new Heights. The 93rd American Legion Auxiliary National Convention. Here to begin our session is your national president, Peggy Thomas.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The 93rd National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary will come to order.

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Welcome everyone to today's session. Please remember to silence all electronic devices. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: At this time I want to ask National Chaplain Rosemarie Hauck to come forward and give the invocation.

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Please rise. With heads bowed and eyes closed, we go in the mode to approach God. Let us pray.

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. His mercies endureth forever.

Heavenly Father, we come humbly before You asking Your blessings upon this day. We ask that You let us go forth with love and peace in our hearts. As we proceed

with this meeting and election, we ask You to give us the wisdom to elect those who will follow in promoting the aims and purposes of the American Legion Auxiliary.

God, we ask you for the constant remembrance of our motto: Service Not Self. We take this time to pray for veterans, active military personnel and their families. Please keep those serving in foreign lands safe so that they may return home unharmed.

We ask all of things in Your wonderful, loving Name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Rosemarie. Please be seated.

(Ring of the bell.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Good morning. And thank you for your patience and diligence during our meeting yesterday.

As I told you during our opening ceremonies, we're presenting a few of the literally tens of thousands of Auxiliary members who live by our motto, Service Not Self.

We call them "Everyday Angels," not because they are ordinary, but because they work to help our veterans, active duty military and their children every day.

It's time to meet another one. Travel with me about three hours West near San Antonio. Let's watch.

Ladies and gentlemen, from William F. Randolph Unit 593 in Converse, Texas, please welcome Candy Zavala.

(Music.)

VOICE: When Auxiliary member Candy Zavala isn't working at her job as a court reporter at a juvenile detention facility in San Antonio, Texas, you might find her doing this.

(Music.)

MS. ZAVALA: And this is what I do for fun. My husband and I enjoy riding motorcycles and we heard about the Riders group being started here at the post. So he and I decided to join. In order to be a Rider, you had to be an Auxiliary or a Legionnaire or an SAL. And that's how I came to the Auxiliary.

VOICE: Finding younger new members is critical to growing the Auxiliary's ability to help our veterans. And many units have discovered unique ways to accomplish that task.

MS. ZAVALA: I'm not sure if this is unusual or not, but I would say that the majority of our Auxiliary unit executive board are Riders and came to the Auxiliary because of the Riders.

VOICE: Being a member of the Auxiliary also lets you be a member of the Riders. Forty percent of our Auxiliary members are Riders. It also brings in a younger group that wants to come in and help support the veterans.

MS. ZAVALA: With the influx of new and younger members here at our post, it has really done a lot to revitalize our Legion Family.

VOICE: One of the ways Candy spreads the word about the Auxiliary is through Zumba. Candy is a certified Zumba instructor and even teaches a class at her unit.

(Music)

VOICE: Until I started coming to classes with Candy here at the Legion, I didn't know anything about the Auxiliary and all that it entails and all of their activities. And Candy has a way of talking about all of her activities and drawing people into it.

VOICE: Often, Candy lets her class know about Legion Family events and invites them to participate.

MS. ZAVALA: For members and non-members alike, don't forget this weekend is chicken fried steak Friday night, 6:00 to 8:00 and Saturday morning breakfast, 8:00 to 11:00. All you can eat for \$6.

VOICE: And though Zumba is for all ages, it often attracts a younger, vibrant crowd.

Another way Candy has helped spread the news about the Auxiliary was through her involvement in the awareness campaign.

VOICE: When they tasked me to find some people to do the commercial for the awareness campaign, Candy Zavala was one of the first ones that I thought of.

MS. ZAVALA: She explained to me what it was and I told her, "Girl, I am there."

VOICE: She's enthusiastic, she's dedicated and I knew she would jump at the opportunity and not tell me no and she didn't.

MS. ZAVALA: When I found out what the awareness campaign was all about, then I was really excited.

VOICE: Candy and a number of other Texas Auxiliary volunteers spent the day as extras, models and advisors for the filming of the commercial to increase Auxiliary awareness.

MS. ZAVALA: After I saw the commercial and the end result, I was so proud. I was proud of my Auxiliary Family.

VOICE: And Candy's sense of pride is evident to those around her, whether it's through the Riders, Zumba, the awareness campaign or some other creative tool.

MS. ZAVALA: The new and younger membership that have come into our unit and post family have done so much to revitalize our post. And it came through the Riders. It works for us. And it might work for other places, too. But the key is to be open and willing to look for members in those places you would least expect.

VOICE: American Legion Auxiliary here in Texas finds unique and unusual ways. We definitely think outside the box. And Candy is just an example of that. With her reaching out to people through her Zumba exercises, through the Riders program, we are telling the story of the American Legion Auxiliary all over the state of Texas.

VOICE: So if you happen to see Candy zooming down the highway on her Harley, keep in mind she is another of thousands of American Legion Auxiliary everyday angels.

(Music)

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Ladies and gentlemen, from William F. Randolph Unit 593 in Converse, Texas, please welcome Candy Zavala.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The next business this morning is the nomination of national officers for the 2013-2014 administrative year.

Representatives making the nominations, as well as the candidates, are to be seated on the stage.

Dubbie Buckler, National Secretary, will read the rules governing nominations.

(Music)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. The rules for the nomination of candidates are as follows. And this would be Rule 21. Nomination of candidates for National Division Vice President shall be at the caucuses on Saturday, August 24, 2013.

Nomination of candidates for the Office of National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be on Wednesday, August 28, 2013.

Nomination of national officers shall be made from the floor.

Nominating speeches shall be limited to two minutes for each candidate, except the candidates for National President who will have four minutes.

There shall be no seconding speeches.

Following nominating speeches for national officers on Wednesday, today, each of the nominees for National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, and National Historian shall be introduced to the assembly by the Auxiliary member making her nomination, said introduction to be only by name and department affiliation. And in response to the introduction the nominee for office shall be allowed a maximum of two minutes for remarks.

Madam National President, this completes the reading of the nomination rules.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Nominations are now in order for the Office of National President. The National Secretary will call the departments with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, the Department of California has an announced candidate for the Office of National President. The delegation chairman should ask the Chair to recognize a delegate for the purpose of the nomination.

MS. MIKESSELL: Madam President, microphone 1, Terri Mikesell, Department of California.

The Department of California asks that you recognize Linda Workman for the purpose of nomination.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Linda. The Chair recognizes the delegate from the Department of California for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. WORKMAN: Madam National President and Delegates. Who would have thought that the daughter of an Air Force veteran and a Navy veteran would be brought together for a lifetime of friendship by leading a life of dedication to veterans and children?

And who would have thought that a skinny little towheaded girl and a skinny little brunette would be running around Legion halls and convention centers thinking, What a great place for a vacation?

Who would have thought that these young girls would be acting like fools at junior conference and getting the stinkeye from their mothers?

Who would have thought that these young women would dedicate their lives to working the Girls State program?

Who would have thought that these women would be there for each other through boyfriends, some not so great, to our marriages to wonderful, supportive men, our children and grandchildren?

Who would have thought that you would walk 60 miles to support me after my life was changed due to breast cancer?

Who would have thought that these women would share the pride that each felt as their best friend became Department President of an organization that was their life and breath?

Who would have thought that at our age we could still kick up our heels at a sock hop?

And who would have thought that these women would become the roommates that their mothers were for so many years at Auxiliary functions?

Who would have thought that we would share the grief of losing their parents and be there to help each other through their time of pain?

Who would have thought that their harebrained idea of starting an electronic unit would actually fly and become a model for others to follow?

Who would have thought that the magic ring that your mother and I gave you would lead you to the path that you were destined to achieve, leading the Department of California and going on to serve the National Organization through your many chairmanships to the office of National Vice President?

And who would have thought that I would be standing here today, humbled to be nominating my lifelong friend to the highest office the American Legion Auxiliary can offer?

Who would have thought?

Madam President and delegates, on behalf of George Tadlock Unit 472, District 26, and the great Department of California, it is my honor and privilege to place in nomination the name of Nancy Brown-Park for the office of National President for the year 2013-2014.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Nancy Brown-Park is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National President?

Hearing none, nominations for National President are closed.

Nominations are in order for the Office of Vice President. The National Secretary will call departments with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. The Department of Connecticut has an announced candidate. The delegation chairman should ask the Chair to recognize a delegate for the purpose of a nomination.

MS. HANSEN: Madam President, microphone 1. Nancy Hansen, Department of Connecticut asks that the Chair recognize Rita Barylski, delegate from Connecticut, for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Chair recognizes the delegate from Connecticut for the purpose of making a nomination. Janet Jefford is the delegate. Is the delegate coming forward? Come on. It's Rita. Okay.

MS. BARYLSKI: Madam President, Peggy, Delegates and guests. Good morning. My name is Rita Barylski. I'm a past department president. It is with great pleasure that I present to you on behalf of the Department of Connecticut, Janet Jefford, Connecticut's endorsed candidate for the office of National Vice President.

Janet is a 45 year member of the Auxiliary and a member of Goodale-Rameker Unit 56 in Glastonbury, Connecticut. Her membership in the Auxiliary honors the service of her father, Bill Lucas and WWII Army veteran and her son, Willy, an Army veteran from Desert Storm.

Her greatest role model was her mom, Stella Lucas. Stella served as District President and as the Connecticut Finance Chairman for more years than anyone can remember.

Combined, her parents volunteered at Boys State Girls State for over 70 years. As many of us, it was the Girls State program that first caused Janet to be active in the Auxiliary with the assistance of Mrs. Joan Graham.

Janet has served her department with distinction. She was named the unit president of the year and district president of the year when she served. Janet has maintained that sense of pride in a job well done as department president and during all of her national appointments.

In her professional life, Janet is a vice president at Goodwin College in East Hartford, Connecticut. If you ask here where she works and what she does, she will tell you, "I work at a place that really cares about its students and its staff. I am so lucky. I get to make a difference in people's lives every day."

As your national vice president, Janet will continue to make a difference. Her enthusiasm and love for the Auxiliary will help it to grow and prosper.

Family is important to Janet. She has two sons, Willy and Christopher, daughter-in-law Carlin (phonetic) and two wonderful grandchildren, Morgan and Lucas. All are members of The American Legion family.

Janet has always taught them the importance of giving back to their communities. She has been a mentor to many past leaders from the Department of Connecticut and many leaders that are here today.

The Connecticut American Legion Family is proud and I am honored to nominate Janet Jefford for the office of National Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary for 2013-2014.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Janet Jefford is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Vice President?

Hearing none, nominations for National Vice President are closed.

Nominations are now in order for the Office of National Chaplain. The National Secretary will call the Departments with announced candidates.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. The Department of Texas has an announced candidate.

The delegation chairman should ask the Chair to recognize the delegate for the purpose of the nomination.

MS. PETERS: Marty Peters, Department of Texas, microphone 3.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Texas for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. PETERS: The Department of Texas asks that the delegate from the Department of Texas be recognized for the purposes of nomination.

DELEGATE FOR TEXAS: Good morning. Madam National President, delegates to this convention, it is with great pride and a special privilege for me to present from the Department of Texas our candidate, Lynda Horton-Turk for the Office of National Chaplain.

Lynda's eligibility for membership is through the service of her late husband, Edward Jack Horton who served 28 years in the U.S. Army. She is now married to Carroll (phonetic) Turk who served in the United States Army and is a member of Farrus Anderson Post No. 75 in Mineral Wells, Texas.

Lynda served twice as unit president, vice president, twice as chaplain, and has served as secretary/treasurer for many years as well as serving on many other committees.

She has served the 17th District as vice president, president and chaplain. And she has served as president and chaplain for the 4th District.

Lynda served the Department of Texas as the national executive committee woman, president, vice president, historian, as well as serving on many other committees.

On the national level, Lynda served as Southern Division national vice president, National Americanism Committee twice, Leadership, vice chairman, National Security vice chairman. She has served the Southern Division as Junior chairman, Membership chairman, Education chairman, Legislative chairman and she served as co-chairman of the National President's Day Dinner Committee in San Antonio, Texas.

Lynda is now retired after having worked for Crabtree and Crabtree CPAs for 31 years as office manager and staff accountant. And for Frazier and Torbin (phonetic) CPAs for 13 years.

Lynda just completed two years serving as president of the Mineral Wells Zonta Club, a professional business women's organization where she served as second vice president, first vice president and chaplain.

She is very active in the 11th Avenue Church where she is responsible for starting the homebound visitations and prayer services for the shut-ins. She has taught Sunday School for preteens for several years.

Lynda serves on the Board of Directors of Hope Incorporated, a home for battered women and children. Lynda is always ready to step up and serve as Chaplain when requested to do so. She is very dedicated and believes it is a pleasure to serve God and country.

It is with great pride that the Department of Texas nominates my dear friend, Lynda Horton-Turk for National Chaplain for the year 2013-2014.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Chaplain?

MS. PEEL: Madam President, microphone 4.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

MS. PEEL: Karen Peel from the Department of Ohio. Please recognize the delegate from Ohio for the purpose of a nomination for National Chaplain.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Ohio for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. ROBINSON: Madam National President, delegates, audience and guests. I am Carol T. Robinson from the Department of Ohio. It is an honor and privilege that I present to you on behalf of the Department, Ms. Shelley Riggs, Ohio's endorsed candidate for the Office of National Chaplain.

Our honored nominee is a Paid Up For Life member of Zanesville Unit 29 where she has belonged for over 30 years.

She gained her eligibility through the service of her late father, Bernard C. Harris, a U.S. Army WWII veteran. She and her husband Joe have been married for 35 years. They have one daughter, Mrs. Steve Angie Russell and two grandchildren, Tyler and Hannah.

Well known in her community as the co-chairman of the Eastside Ministry and Unit 29 Tools for School projects where every year they put together 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for the needy children in the area.

Shelley is an active member of the St. Luke's Lutheran Church where she served as the church council secretary for many years. She retired in 2001 from Genesis Healthcare where she was supervisor of imaging services.

Delegates, you've had the opportunity to review Shelley's resume in the *National News*, therefore there is no need for me to race through the long and impressive leadership positions that Shelley has held to get here. But I will tell you, as a unit and Department Chaplain, Shelley was compassionate and sincere when she performed many Auxiliary memorial services and countless acts of kindness through cards, phone calls and letters to the sick members and grieving families.

Shelley has dedicated much of her life to the service of veterans and their families. Shelley is a hard worker and a true and loyal friend. She loves the American Legion Auxiliary and values its mission.

Madam President, delegates of this convention, it is with great pride that I nominate the Department of Ohio's candidate, Shelley Riggs for the Office of National Chaplain.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Chaplain?

MS. SIROVINA: Madam President, microphone 3.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right.

MS. SIROVINA: Diana Sirovina, Department of Wisconsin. I ask that you recognize the delegate from Wisconsin for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Chair recognizes the Delegate from Wisconsin for the purpose of making a nomination.

DELEGATE FOR WISCONSIN: Madam President, each year at our annual convention, one of our major responsibilities as delegates is to choose our leaders that will guide and direct us in the ensuing year. We address the convention body and list the qualifications of the candidate our Department has endorsed for a specific office.

It is my pleasure to present the qualifications of Gayle Janson from the Department of Wisconsin for the Office of National Chaplain. We ask that you listen, consider, evaluate and choose wisely those officers who will serve with and for all of us this coming year.

Every time we recite the preamble, we start with the phrase, for God and Country. And so today I will list Gayle's qualifications that fit into the body of that phrase I think particularly appropriate for a candidate for National Chaplain.

Gayle was baptized, confirmed and married at St. Theodore's Catholic Church in Minnesota and subsequently became a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, in 1958. Gayle served as a religious education teacher for over 30 years, parish religious coordinator for 25 years, numerous officer positions in the parish women's club culminating as president.

She was selected churchwoman of the year in 1997 and Knights of Columbus Parishioner of the month, March 2012. Elected to the Parish Council for two terms serving as president and is currently serving as lay distributor lector and has been commissioned as a lay leader of prayer by the bishop. Serves as vice president of the women's club, and treasurer of the Southwest Deanery (phonetic) Diocese of Superior Catholic Women's church group and sings in the church choir.

For country, Gayle was elected town clerk for 22 years, served on the election board for 35 years and is currently a chief inspector.

She has retired from the Bermer (phonetic) Bank and the Town of River clerk's position. Gayle's additional contributions are 34 years of continuous and tireless service to the American Legion Auxiliary and the veterans we honor.

Gayle's eligibility comes from the military service of her father, Alton Eggy (phonetic) Navy Seabees, WWII husband, Bill, son Matt, 20 years Korean War and included Desert Storm and grandson, Philip Goldman (phonetic), currently serving all Air Force.

Gayle was married for 52 years, presently widowed. Has 18 children, 18 -- 8 children --

(Laughter)

She's been really busy, right?

(Laughter)

Eight children, 18 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren, all members of the Legion Family.

Our candidate for the Office of National Chaplain has a proven record of achievement and the qualifications and enthusiasm to carry out the duties of this office successfully.

Gayle is typical of that group of American women who serve for human dignity and liberty.

Gayle has served her unit, county, district and department in numerous offices and chairmanships and additionally has served the national organization as a National Executive Committeewoman, alternate National Executive Committeewoman and Central Division Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman.

Gayle is a member of Brass-Fossam-Janke Unit 185, Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Gayle is a dedicated and devoted member of our organization. Faith in her capabilities has been expressed as she was endorsed by the Department of Wisconsin. So with confidence in her ability and pride in her record, I place in nomination, Gayle Janson for the Office of the National Chaplain. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

Gayle Janson is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Chaplain? Hearing none, nominations for National Chaplain are closed.

Nominations are in order for the Office of National Historian.

The National Secretary will call the Departments with announced candidates.

Dubbie.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you, Madam President. The Department of Louisiana has an announced candidate. The Department of Arizona has an announced candidate. The Department of Nevada has an announced candidate.

The Delegation Chairman for each of those candidates should ask the Chair to recognize the Delegate for the purpose of those nominations.

MS. BOUTTE: Elda Boutte from the Department of Louisiana. Please recognize the delegate from the Department of Louisiana for the purpose of a nomination.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Chair recognizes the delegate from Louisiana for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. BROUSSARD: Thank you. Madam President, Delegates and guests, I am Winnie Broussard and it is an honor for me to place in nomination, Louisiana's endorsed candidate, Ms. Cindy K. Newton for the prestigious Office of National Historian for our 2013-14 administrative year.

Cindy is a Navy Veteran having served during the Vietnam era from 1973 through 1976. She came from a family of veterans. All having served during different eras, namely her husband, two children, father, and grandfather.

Cindy is a life member of Unit 47 Ponchatula having served the Auxiliary for over 45 years and has been a member of the American Legion for 25 years.

She is a very dedicated, hardworking member of our organization and has served all offices and on many committees in her unit, district, department and national organization and has earned numerous awards. She is also involved in many community activities.

Please help in supporting our candidate, Ms. Cindy K. Newton for the Office of National Historian.

Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Cindy K. Newton is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Historian?

MS. MEDALEN: Yes, microphone 1.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Microphone 1.

MS. MEDALEN: Kathleen Medalen, Department of Arizona. Please recognize the Delegate from Arizona for the purpose of introduction.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Department of Arizona has an announced candidate.

MS. CUSHING: Good morning. Jan Cushing, Department of Arizona. Madam National President, Officers, Delegates, alternates and guests. The Department of Arizona is proud to endorse Sharon L. Doran as a candidate for National Historian 2013-2014.

Sharon L. Doran is a 36 year member with 26 consecutive year membership. Sharon is eligible through her husband, Gary Doran, Army, Korean War, her two brothers, Ron and Jack Air Force and Navy. And her daughter, Jessica Jaramillo (phonetic) warrant officer, United States Army Reserve.

Sharon has served as an officer on all levels of Unit, District, and Department and is currently serving as NEC 2012-2013 for the Department of Arizona. Sharon is also serving as Western Division Community Service Chairman.

Sharon has attended 10 out of the last 11 National Conventions, two Mission Training sessions and two Washington D.C. Conferences.

While serving as Department Historian, Sharon was selected as the Western Division History Award recipient.

Sharon has served on the judging committee for the National History Awards for 2009-2010.

Outside her Auxiliary community, Sharon is a board member for her home town promotion program and she is a family readiness program leader for the United States Army Reserve.

With her dedication and years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary and a dear friend, I am confident she will do an excellent job.

On behalf of the members of the Department of Arizona, I proudly nominate Sharon L. Doran for National Historian 2013-2014. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Sharon L. Doran is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Historian?

MS. SEELEY: Madam President, microphone 1. Glynis Seeley from the Department of Nevada would like the chair to recognize our delegate for the purpose of nomination.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Delegation Chairman is recognized the Delegate from Nevada for the purpose of making a nomination.

MS. COBB: Thank you. My name is Judy Cobb and I'm from the great Department of Nevada. National President, Delegates, and ALA Members. The

Department of Nevada would like to nominate for the Office of National Historian, Hazel Lockhart-Breeding.

Hazel has been a valued member of the Auxiliary for 43 years. She helped charter LD Lockhart Unit 14 in Nevada in 1982-83 and continues to call Unit 14 her home.

She held every position within the unit and has held offices within the District and Department, including Department President twice.

Hazel is also a past Western Division Vice President.

The Department of Nevada would like you to know some of her qualities that make her a good candidate.

Hazel was a bookkeeper and an accountant by trade. Once a detail oriented person, always a detail oriented person. A talent that would serve her well as National Historian.

With 30 years of experience as Secretary Treasurer, she not only keeps unit proceedings, reports, financial and otherwise, she can pull information from the files of her memory at a moment's notice.

Her writing is precise and she has the gift of a storyteller. There are many women within our Department who through years became officers and chairmen, because Hazel has seen their hidden qualities. She encourages. She supports. She mentors. She never forgets to show her appreciation.

During our recent Department convention held in Laughlin, Nevada, the Department body voted to endorse Hazel for your 2013-14 National Historian.

She may only be 4'9", but she is one person I look up to. With great pride and for the Department of Nevada, I nominate my friend, my Auxiliary sister, Hazel Lockhart-Breeding.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hazel Lockhart-Breeding is nominated. Are there any further nominations for the Office of National Historian?

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Hearing none, nominations for National Historian are closed.

With these nominations and the nominations made during the Division Caucuses on Saturday, August 24, 2013, nominations for the 2013-2014 National Officers are completed.

Rule 25 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 California please introduce the candidate for National President?

MS. WORKMAN: It is my pleasure to present Nancy Brown-Park from the Department of California.

(Applause)

MS. BROWN-PARK: Dorothy, click your heels three times. Am I really here? Because of the amazing leaders that have mentored and helped me along the way, my dream is becoming a reality.

As we approach our hundredth year, I believe we are at a crossroads and ready for change as we welcome the next generation of volunteers to our organization.

If elected, my priorities will be membership, leadership -- and leadership development.

I'm committed to working with The American Legion Family to serve veterans, active duty military and their families.

I want to thank my Department, the Department of California, for their support over the last 66 years.

(Applause)

My wonderful friend, Linda Workman, for putting up with me for all these many years and her guidance. Can you believe the different sizes we were along the way?

(Laughter)

Whoa. We went from big to little, to big to little. Our hair changed along the way.

My -- I want to thank my amazing friends and family who have traveled from far, far away -- and they are right back there -- for being here to support me. I come from a very, very small family and my family has been really my friends. My friends and my Auxiliary friends and the Legion family. So I want to thank them. They've traveled from as far as away as Toronto, Canada.

And my amazing husband, who is my rock and never fails to help when I need him. I love you, sweetie. Thank you for everything.

So again, I ask for your support and I look forward to working with each of you as we work to secure the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Connecticut present the candidate for National Vice President?

MS. BARYLSKI: Madam President and Delegates, I would like to present to you, a candidate from the Department of Connecticut for National Vice President 2013-14, Janet Jefford.

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: I am pleased and honored to be here this morning as a candidate for National Vice President. Thank you, Rita for your friendship and for your wonderful endorsement.

I also need to thank my Department, the 1st District and my Unit for giving me the opportunity of service and for allowing me to learn and grow as part of this awesome organization.

With your permission, Madam President, would the members from the Department of Connecticut please stand.

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: You are so much a part of this. Thank you so much.

I love the American Legion Auxiliary. I love its mission of service to our veterans, to our youth and to our communities. But most of all, I love and respect the dedicated and sincere members -- all of you who make this organization what it is. We often use the word family. Each of you, by your actions, defines the true meaning of that word. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your family.

I ask for your support today and I promise to support Nancy and her visions for the coming year. I will do my best to fulfill the trust you have given to me to help the American Legion Auxiliary grow and prosper and continue its service to those who have served us so well. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Texas present the candidate for National Chaplain?

TEXAS DELEGATE: It is an honor and a privilege for me to present Lynda Horton-Turk for the Office of National Chaplain for the year 2013-2014. Lynda.

MS. HORTON-TURK: Thank you, Catherine. And Madam President, with your permission, I'd like the Department of Texas to please stand.

VOICES: Yay.

MS. HORTON-TURK: They have been behind me through every endeavor. Madam President, Officers and Members, it would be a great honor to serve as your National Chaplain.

Have you ever had this ache in your heart that you feel like you would -- there's something else you need to do? And as I talk to you in the Constitution & Bylaws when we were introduced, you know, I told you that I wasn't going over my background. I just wanted to tell you why I wanted to do this.

You know my husband was missing in action, didn't know if he was dead or alive. You were there for me. Then he was reported that he was found. I was so thankful because I was a young wife and a young mother. But whenever he went on to serve 28 years in the United States Army. Then he passed away with a brain tumor in 1995, you were there again for me. Four years later I lost my only child and you were there again.

My goal, if elected, is to be able to comfort our Veterans, comfort the families in need and our members.

My philosophy is, yesterday is history, today is a gift from God and always be thankful. Tomorrow is a promise.

I promise to you, if I'm elected, I will be there for you and hopefully be able to give back to you what you have given so much to me in the past. May God bless each and every one of you and I would appreciate your vote. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Ohio present the candidate for National Chaplain?

MS. ROBINSON: It is a pleasure to present Shelley Riggs from the Department of Ohio.

(Applause)

MS. RIGGS: Thank you, Carol T., for the inspiring words that you presented earlier. National President, Peggy, Delegates, Alternate, Visitors of this great organization. Today I follow a dream.

My theme as Department President was Reach for the Stars; the possibilities are endless. Today, I reach for another star. If elected, I promise to be here for all of you and pray for this great organization with the help of God. Another dear friend of mine, Jo Harback (ph) was National Chaplain many, many years ago and I know that Jo is looking down today on me as I seek this Office of National Chaplain.

Before I read a poem that was written by my sister, Pam, I would like for the Department of Ohio to please stand. Thank you all for your support as I reach for the stars again today.

(Applause)

MS. RIGGS: I'm sorry. Well, want to help me out, Peggy? The paper is stuck together. I'm sorry. Thank you.

(Laughter)

MS. RIGGS: No matter your faith, no matter where you are, He's always watching over you, whether you are near or afar.

Just look to the stars and heavens above. He'll wrap his arms around you and surround you with His love.

I'm a candidate for National Chaplain. A more dedicated person you won't find. As you cast your vote in a moment, please keep me in mind.

God bless you all.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Wisconsin present the candidate for National Chaplain?

WISCONSIN DELEGATE: It's my privilege to present the candidate from Wisconsin for National Chaplain, Gayle Janson.

(Applause)

MS. JANSON: There's a church in our area that has a message board in front that's always worth reading. Last week they had a message that I couldn't help but feel was meant for me. Great occasions to serve God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.

If you do not choose me for the great occasion to serve God as your National Chaplain, I know He will show me numerous ways to serve Him, you and our organization.

Thank you, God bless you all and when you vote, remember Gayle Janson. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Louisiana present the candidate for National Historian?

MS. BROUSSARD: It is an honor for me to introduce to you, Ms. Cindy K. Newton, candidate for National Historian. Cindy.

MS. NEWTON: Thank you. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Winnie Broussard and the State of Louisiana. Thank you for your support.

I am a candidate for National Historian. I am a United States Navy Veteran. I served my country at the Armed Force Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia.

I want to tell you a little bit about my story. Thirty-six years ago, I didn't have what these ladies today have because when we came back from Vietnam, we were shunned upon. When I first attended my first Legion meeting, the commander looked at his sergeant in arms and asked his sergeant in arms to escort me out. Out of the meeting, I looked at them and said, I'm a proud veteran and I am a member of The American Legion.

That's when I decided to follow my mother and my grandmother's footsteps in the American Legion Auxiliary. That's why I'm here today because of what my parents told and gave me -- the incentive to work for our programs. And I hope that everyone here will follow mine and everyone else the programs that we have today for our lady veterans, which I'm very, very proud to see that we recognize those ladies. Because we not only have our husbands, we have our children that we leave at home to be able to fight for our country.

And I appreciate all that you would do for me and what better than a veteran to write the history of our organization. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Arizona present the candidate for National Historian?

MS. CUSHING: It's my honor and pleasure to present Sharon L. Doran, Department of Arizona.

MS. DORAN: Madam National President, Officers, Guests, Delegates, Alternates, first of all I'd like to thank Jan for the kind words she spoke and your check is in the mail.

(Laughter)

MS. DORAN: I am humbled today to stand before you. I want to thank the Department of Arizona for having been there for me and for encouraging me. Would you please stand?

(Applause)

MS. DORAN: Thank you, Arizona.

I stand before you, once again, donned in my instruments of torture -- panty hose and shoes that are higher than the floor. Most of you heard the qualifications I gave you on Saturday. So I'm just going to add a little bit to that.

History is the foundation that builds the future. Life must be learned backwards, but it must be lived forward. My wish is to encourage each Department Historian to be excited about her involvement in the Department history and have a one-on-one relationship with the National Historian.

Looking beyond the bare requirements of what you're supposed to report when the National President comes to visit, which is the template, I would like to know what is going on in your lives, in your State. What are we doing together to help the National President build a wonderful history?

The spoken word can be like a gentle breeze across the land or a raging storm that thunders in your ears. But it is only by its inscription into the annals of history that the spoken word retains its power to affect society. That is what I want for you.

I want you to be inspired what we will have accomplished and will continue to accomplish as American Legion Auxiliary members.

History has taught me more things, especially a philosophy about life. I am asking for your vote and I will tell you there are no losers in any candidate that stands before this audience. Anybody who has the courage to stand up here is a winner.

And the one thing that life has taught me is life is full of cacti, but you don't have to sit on it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the representative from Nevada present the candidate for National Historian?

MS. COBB: It is my pleasure to present Hazel Lockhart-Breeding.

MS. LOCKHART-BREEDING: Thank you, Judy Cobb, Nevada Department Officer for my nomination. Hello ladies of our delegation. I'm Hazel Lockhart-Breeding, endorsed candidate from Nevada for National Historian.

I assure you that if elected, whether you are Unit, District, County, or Department Historian, I will be there for you for questions or advice. No time is too long to spend with you.

I can be reached by phone, cell phone, mail or email. Rest assured, I will help you with your problems. I ask three things. Seek a Department Historian, submit a mid-term report and year-end history. Our successful year will bring a successful history for our Auxiliary and National President to be, Nancy Park-Brown.

By working together, the American Legion Auxiliary history for 2013-2014 will be recorded and preserved for the years to come.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it! God bless you all.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You're a trip.

This concludes the nominations for the 2013-2014 National Officers. We will proceed with the election of National Officers. Dubbie Buckler, National Secretary, will read the Convention Standing Rule governing the election.

(Music)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, Convention Standing Rule #26 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 paper or electronic ballot, as determined by the presiding officer.

A majority of votes cast shall elect each officer.

When no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken between the candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes, with the candidate receiving the most votes on the second ballot being elected.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You have nominated Nancy Brown-Park of California for the Office of National President. In accordance with the Rules you have adopted, if there is but one candidate for an office the nominee will be elected by voice.

All in favor of electing Nancy Brown-Park as National President for the 2013-2014 administrative year, please say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "no."

VOICE: No.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We have two thirds vote, so she is nominated.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Chair declares Nancy Brown-Park of California duly elected as National President for the 2013-2014 administrative year.

Nancy, will you please stand and take a bow?

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Janet Jefford of Connecticut is the only nominee for the Office of National Vice President.

All in favor of Janet Jefford for the Office of National Vice President say, "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "no."

VOICES: No.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The ayes have it and Janet Jefford has been duly elected as National Vice President for the 2013-2014 administrative year.

Please stand, Janet.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: 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 -- before we go into this, if the people backstage if they do not have their keypads, would somebody from their Department please make sure they do have them for the vote?

Donna Ray of Ohio has been nominated for the Office of Central Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Donna Ray as Central Division National Vice President, please say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "no."

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Donna Ray has been duly elected as Central Division National Vice President. Donna, please stand.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Margaret McMahon of New Jersey has been elected for the Office of Eastern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Margaret McMahon for Eastern Division National Vice President please say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "no."

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You have elected Margaret McMahon as Eastern Division National Vice President. Margaret, will you stand?

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Pat Steranka of Colorado has been nominated for the Office of Northwestern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Pat Steranka Western Division National vice President, please say, "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "no."

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You have elected Pat as the Northwestern Division National Vice President. Pat, please stand.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Angela Kilcrease of Mississippi has been nominated for the Office of Southern Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Angela Kilcrease as the Southern Division National Vice President, please say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed "no."

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Angela Kilcrease has been elected the Southern Division National Vice President. Will you stand, Angela?

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Ginger Cox of Arizona has been nominated for the Office of Western Division National Vice President.

All those in favor of Ginger Cox as the Western Division National Vice President, please say "aye."

VOICES: Aye.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Opposed, "no."

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Ginger Cox has been elected the Western Division National Vice President. Ginger, will you please stand?

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: For the election of National Historian we will be voting with our electronic key pads. The nominees are: Sharon L. Doran, Arizona; Hazel Lockhart-Breeding, Nevada; Cindy Newton from Louisiana.

If you would like to vote for Sharon L. Doran, please press #1.

If you would like to vote for Hazel Lockhart, please press #2.

If you would like to vote for Cindy Newton, please press #3.

(Music)

Please vote now.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please stand if yours did not go through. It's still open.

(Pause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Voting is now closed. Will they show the results?

(Pause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The election committee is back now getting the votes and the election judge will read the election when she comes forward.

ELECTION JUDGE: Madam President, Members, the number of votes cast were 802. The number of votes needed to elect, 402. Sharon Doran, Arizona received 450 votes. Hazel Lockhart-Breeding from Nevada, 108 votes. Cindy Newton, Louisiana, 244.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you Beverly. Thank you.

Number of votes cast, 802. The number of votes needed to elect, 402. Sharon Doran, Arizona 450, Hazel Lockhart 108 from Nevada. Cindy Newton from Louisiana, 244.

The National Historian is Sharon Doran from Arizona.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: For the election of National Chaplain we will be voting with our electronic key pads again.

The nominees are Lynda Horton-Turk, Texas; Gayle Janson, Wisconsin; Shelley Riggs, Ohio.

If you would like to vote for Lynda Horton-Turk, please press #1.

If you would like to vote for Gayle Janson, please press #2.

If you would like to vote for Shelley Riggs, please press #3. Please stand this time and then do not sit down until your vote is taken -- verified.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please vote now.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The votes are now closed -- the voting is now closed. And we will wait for the election judge to come and give us the report.

(Music)

ELECTION JUDGE: Madam President, the number of votes cast for the Office of National Chaplain, 828. The number of votes needed to elect, 415.

Lynda Horton-Turk from Texas has 296 votes. Gayle Janson from Wisconsin, 235. Shelley Riggs from Ohio, 297.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Beverly.

Number of votes cast 828. Number of votes needed to elect, 415. So there is no election.

The Convention Rule Standing Rule #26 provides that when no candidate receives the majority of votes on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken between the candidates receiving the two highest number of votes.

The two candidates are Lynda Horton-Turk and Shelley Riggs.

If you wish to vote for Lynda Horton --

(Pause)

VOICE: Okay, it's up now.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Is it up?

VOICE: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

If you wish to vote for Lynda Horton-Turk, please press 1 on your voting keypad. If you wish to vote for Shelley Riggs, please press 2 on your voting keypad. You will be voting for these two candidates. Please stand. We are ready to vote.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The voting is closed. We will wait for the election judge to read the tally and the committee report.

ELECTION JUDGE: Madam President, the number of votes cast, 817. The number of votes needed to elect 409 for the Office of National Chaplain.

Lynda Horton-Turk of Texas has 389 votes. Shelley Riggs of Ohio has 428.

(Screaming.)

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Number of votes cast, 817. Number of votes needed to elect, 409. Lynda Horton-Turk from Texas, 389. Shelley Riggs from Ohio, 428.

The Chair declares Shelley Riggs, Ohio, the National Chaplain for 2013-2014.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you, your 2013-2014 American Legion Auxiliary National Officers.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please stand. Thank you, ladies.

(Music)

AUDIO RECORDING: It's time to meet another one of the thousands of American Legion Auxiliary "Everyday Angels."

(Music)

(Pause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- behind schedule so pictures will be taken backstage later. Thank you, ladies. Congratulations to you all.

(Applause)

(Pause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All right. We're going to meet another Everyday Angel. From Unit 491 in McHenry, Illinois, Sue Kolena supports her unit in any way she can. Fellow unit member Dana Diederich says, "I have been a member of the Auxiliary for just a year. In this time, I have seen Sue at every event or meeting I have attended. If there is anything we need she is there to help. She is one of the most gracious people I have met on our unit. From bake sales to making crafts, donating money, working Poppy Days and more; we can always count on her.

She is a person that you look up to and hope that others will follow her lead. Sue is not with us today, but let's show her and the Department of Illinois some appreciation.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The National Finance Committee, in addition to developing the proposed annual national budget, oversees the financial policy of the organization. The committee reviews the financial statements and makes recommendations to the National Executive Committee for action to ensure the organization is meeting nonprofit benchmarks and government mandates. Here to tell us more is National Finance Committee Chairman Nicole Clapp.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Thank you, Madam President. Your National Finance Committee is a five member committee with each appointed member serving a five year term.

The primary role of the National Finance Committee is to develop that annual proposed budget and review the national financial reports.

The National Finance Committee review the draft budget, making any adjustments that may be desired to reflect new or changing goals.

The National Finance Committee recommends a budget for the National Executive Committee consideration and adoption.

Additionally, the National Finance Committee oversees the financial policies of the organization, reviews the annual audit of the ALA and the ALA Foundation. And makes policy recommendations to the National Executive Committee and to assure the ALA is meeting not for profit benchmarks and governmental mandates.

One member of the National Finance Committee is also designated to serve as the liaison for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board. And another committee member is designated as a liaison to the American Legion Auxiliary National Audit Committee.

We would like to highlight a few major areas of financial accomplishments during President Peggy's year of soaring to new heights for God and country.

The financial performance of the national organization for 2012-13 fiscal year is very positive. With sufficient revenue streams from the dues increase, which was adopted at the 2011 National Convention, and the improved performance of our investments, we were able to initiate the new Department Leadership Conference and underwrite costs for three department representatives to attend. And to resume the Department visits by the National Division Vice Presidents. And to roll out a new event online registration system.

The successful fund-raising efforts by our direct mail vendor continued with this fiscal year with three campaigns designated for the American Legion Auxiliary and one for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

Fiscal year donations as of July 31st, 2013 netted a goal of \$212,000. \$17,000 -- (Applause)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: -- yes -- greater than the net guarantee by the direct mail vendor. The analysis of the 2012 direct mail donations indicated 243,000 gifts were received. And of those gifts, 109,000 came from you, ALA members and 134,000 came from non-ALA members. Therefore 23 percent more gifts came from people outside of the American Legion Auxiliary, a tremendous support of external support for our organization.

In the fiscal year, 2012-2013 the number of people applying for the Auxiliary's USAA Credit Card Program continued to increase. As of June 2013, \$1,326 Auxiliary USAA credit cards have been issued.

And \$2.7 million have been charged by us, ALA Auxiliary credit card holders. Based on the growth and the number of cards issued and cardholders used, the ASA -- USAA Credit Card Program royalty revenue shared with the departments in the fiscal year 2012-13 is expected to increase from the \$12,500 that the credit card program royalty distributed to the departments during the last fiscal year, 2011-2012.

So please consider obtaining a USAA credit card and charge, but as they say, responsibly of course.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Fiscal year 2012-2013 also show the expansion of the ALA member benefits program being offered by a special service agreement with Gallagher Member Benefits. The depth and breadth available to the ALA members has greatly enhanced by offering ALA member benefit services that can be purchased at a substantial savings through Gallagher Benefit Services.

New this year is a large offering of special discounts through Abenity, a broker of discounts for ALA members. From technology providers, such as Apple, and Spirit, national attractions such as Walt Disney World and Six Flags. And discounts for movie tickets and dining.

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

Thank you, Madam President. This concludes my financial report.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Nicole, are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: No there are not, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you for your report.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: You're welcome.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: 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. Here to tell us more about how our organization's memorabilia is collected and preserved is our National Cavalcade of Memories Chairman Kenya Ostermier.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN OSTERMIER: Thank you, Madam President. You have definitely been soaring to new heights on angel's wings in the Auxiliary programs.

Do you remember the angel in It's a Wonderful Life? This angel showed George how different things would have been without him being on the earth. It was amazing to see how many people's lives would be changed without him. This is how you could think about your Auxiliary work. Look at your programs and imagine what could

or could not happen to our veterans and military families based on your participation and creativity.

Department of Illinois Chairman Levera Davis (phonetic) really worked at the mission of kicking up our heels.

Several units used modern technology such as digital cameras and smart phones to enhance their cavalcade displays. Linda and Rosheda Lovena (phonetic) worked on displays in the Department Cavalcade of Memories in honor of their deceased father from Highland Park Post 14.

In addition to the usual places, charters are on display in local historical societies, libraries and community buildings. One of the oldest items on display is a military jacket belonging to Dwight Eisenhower. The Veterans History Project organized by an Auxiliary member included ten veterans in her church. They interviewed them and five court reporters transcribed the material. Their histories will be archived at the Library of Congress and the State of Illinois.

At their Department Convention, there was a display of Auxiliary memorabilia including information on the first POW in the South Pacific who was credited in the movie, Back to Bataan starring John Wayne.

Department of Illinois past President, Doris Sholtz (phonetic) received a congratulatory letter and this license plate from the Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White.

These (indiscernible) girl state albums date back to the 1940s. What a treasure. Joanne Snodgrass, Cavalcade chairman from Missouri, reports several units with success stories.

Clem P. Dickenson (phonetic) Unit 14 buys a book for the memorial book section of the county library showing the stories of their departed members.

Union Unit 297 is putting out a report and booklet about their annual Memorial Day program.

Haney Pennock Unit 370 has an active Cavalcade of Memories with their charter signed by Past National President Eliza London Shepherd and National Secretary Lucy Boyd.

Joanne T. Smith, Chairman for the Department of Massachusetts completed an ambitious project to scan Department history books from the years 1920 to 1988 and put them on a DVD. They were distributed at a Department Executive Committee meeting and a conference.

Also on that disk were books of newspaper articles from the years 1926-32. Her goal was to have one in each registration packet. Here is a great example with a fantastic picture of the first Department Officers of the Department of Massachusetts. She has completed a list of Department Presidents by year and the officers who served under their administrations.

Included on the disk is a partial list of decades of president's themes. Examples are, the Greatest Show on Earth, Let's Ignite Massachusetts, and the Wizard of Oz.

Their first Department President, Ms. Bessie Edwards was buried in Arlington National Cemetery along with her husband, U.S. Army Major General, Clarence R. Edwards and their daughter, Bessie Porter Edwards.

Joanne organized her American Legion Family to lay a wreath on their graves during the Washington Conference. She believes it is up to her as a Cavalcade of Memories chairman to make sure our organization stays aware of its importance to not only our members, but to future members and also to our communities.

Joanne is looking forward to the 100th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary. She is known in Massachusetts as the Cavalcade of Memories lady.

She has enjoyed investigating the pioneer women who had the forethought to save documents throughout their years of participation in the Auxiliary.

Shirley Turner, Department Cavalcade Chairman of Mississippi sent information on some of her Department's Cavalcade activities.

On October 20th, 2012 Cooper Yeager (phonetic) Unit 28 had a day of appreciation honoring Martha Rogers at the Calhoun City Unit 60 for 32 years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary, her church and her community.

The Past President Parley Chairman of Bourgeois Stieffel Ray Unit 77 collected pictures and information about their past presidents that had been lost in Hurricane Katrina.

Just this short tour around the U.S. illustrates how very many lives have been changed by our Auxiliary angels' unselfish actions in all of our programs. How different things would be without them. Their angel wings are quietly whispering around us.

The continuation of our program work is essential so that we do not find out what happens without these angels. A Wonderful Life scenario is a much better ending.

Thank you to my Committee, Vice Chairman, Sue Freeman, Honorary Past National President Miriam Junge, and Past National President Kristine West.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kenya. Are there any resolutions/recommendations?

CHAIRMAN OSTERMIER: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kenya.

CHAIRMAN OSTERMIER: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: An effective Historian knows how to document moments in time in such a way that creates a historical path for others to follow in years to come. Please welcome this year's historical road paver, our National Historian, Angela Kilcrease.

(Music)

(Applause)

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: Thank you, Madam National President. Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: "Once upon a time." When we hear those words, we anticipate a wonderful story that will either transform or inspire us. For the American Legion Auxiliary, our stories are those of service, sacrifice, and dedication.

Each Department Historian was given the mission of recording the many activities that occurred during the administrative year. For most this was a monumental

feat as our angels in service do so much to further our mission to serve our Veterans, the military and their families.

I have the great honor to work with a group of historians who truly exemplified angels in service. Happily I received 31 mid-year progress reports and 32 year-end reports. Also, most of these historians wrote a history for their Department documenting the service given and adding to the historical path for others to follow in years to come.

Soon after the 2012 National Convention, we opened an ALA Historians Facebook group and we have enjoyed our online meeting room. Social media can do much to further information sharing. It is also my hope that this group will continue to interact and new historians will join in the discussions.

Honoring our past veterans, past, present and future. How true those words, especially when it comes to the Historian Program.

Many Department Historians used unique ideas to promote this important program in their neck of the woods.

Kathy Wons, Department of Texas Historian --

VOICES: Yay.

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: -- wrote a communication titled, Telling Our Texas Story. In it she asked Unit Historians to share activities, resources and innovations in gathering their own story.

Nancy Ronco, Department of Maine Historian sent a square of material to each unit asking them to place something unique to their unit on that square, including the Unit Charter date, the name, and the number. Once the squares were collected, Nancy sewed them into a history quilt that she presented to her Department President at their State Convention. Very lucky lady.

There are so many other great stories of service and ingenuity from our Department Historians, but time will not permit the telling of all of them. I would be remiss to not commend the many unit and district historians across our great country where our history and reporting begins and is most valuable.

I was told an inspiring story about a faithful unit and District Historian in the Department of Florida. Historian Pat Clark --

VOICES: Yeay.

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: -- has won her Department's award for best district traditional history and scrapbook for a total of four times.

She did this while facing several personal challenges along the way. However, Pat has always managed to keep a positive attitude and served her beloved Auxiliary using her talents to record history as it was made.

I thank each and every historian at all levels for your service and for helping the American Legion Auxiliary soar to new heights.

Lastly, I greatly appreciate the five National Divisional Vice Presidents for helping me select this year's winner of the coveted Toomey Award for Best Department History. Believe me, it was not an easy choice to make as we received some outstanding histories. However, the choice came down to one.

This year's winner of the Toomey Award goes to Ardis Snyder, Department of Oregon.

(Applause)

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: Many congratulations to her on her nearly perfect history.

(Applause)

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: Congratulations.

Pulitzer Prize winning author David McCullough says that “no harms done to history by making it something that someone would want to read.” For us, that someone will be our next volunteer and/or leader. What we record today of our service, not self, will be the inspiration for those who follow in our footsteps.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this year as your National Historian. It has been an honor and a pleasure.

Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: There are none, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Angela.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We will now hear from our Family Support Pod.

Americanism programs teach respect for our country and our nation's flag. The Auxiliary creates opportunities that all Americans can do to show our respect and set positive examples of living as grateful, patriotic citizens.

We believe promoting a spirit of patriotism by teaching about it develops lifelong respect for what we hold dear -- our country and her flag. Here to report is National Americanism Committee Chairman Diane Duscheck.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK: Madam National President, how many places can you think of for a flag? Waiving it at a parade, putting it on a Veterans grave, folded pocket flags, flags in yards, on the backs of motorcycles and on cars. On bridges, on homes and businesses, at schools, nursing homes, and churches. Units have passed out flags, flown flags, and retired worn flags.

The Arlington, Virginia, unit actively works to get business owners in the community to trade in their tattered flags for new flags. Between businesses and homes, the Unit collected 1,129 flags and took them to Quantico Marine Base for proper ceremonial disposal.

A Florida Unit created I Spy an American flag where homeowners and businesses were eligible for awards for flying the American flag.

Students had firsthand experience voting in an election and seeing how each vote counts. Unit members in Minnesota carry out kids voting right in the polls. This year, the unit set up shop in the local police station. 187 children from grades 3 through high school cast their own votes. Some students received class credit for participating in the vote.

By the time students are in high school, they are exercising new found privileges. They're already looking forward to their first real election that they can vote in and have their voices heard.

North Carolina members manned a voter registration table in the high schools to answer student's questions and to sign up eligible new voters. They registered 60 students.

When you need help, ask a third, fourth, or fifth grader. In Spearfish, South Dakota, the Unit President wanted poems based on Veterans, the Apple of our Eye, in order to decorate walls of the local VFW post where the community was going to have a free Veteran's Day dinner and program.

She went to the teachers of the third through fifth graders. In only a couple of weeks, 240 poems and additional thank you cards for tables were ready to go, turning the student activity into an opportunity to show appreciation to veterans.

The authors of the most outstanding poems received a certificate. Please note that these children are posing in front of a Veterans Wall of Honor. This was also a membership opportunity where rather than asking a girl to join the juniors, a young girl's involvement and sense of purpose lured her to ask if she could join the juniors. What a successful banquet.

We have the opportunity to lead by example, to show Americanism, not merely to talk about it, to influence the lives and consciousness of our youth and to develop citizens who believe in justice and freedom.

We are the examples of Americanism we want our youth to follow and members have soared to new heights as they shared their values with school children.

Thank you. And Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK: No there are not, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Diane. Excellent report.

CHAIRMAN DUSCHECK: Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We know the sacrifices of our veterans are the reason we live in freedom. Easing the burden of the cost of their children's education is one way we can express our gratitude to them, which is why the Auxiliary supports a number of scholarship programs including the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship fund which was my President's Project this year.

Here to report is National Education Committee Chairman, Kathy Dungan.
Kathy.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: Madam National President, Miriam Elderman once said, "education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." The Auxiliary believes that the more knowledge our young people gain, the better citizens they will become. Knowledge gives them an opportunity to change the world.

Educated youth can make a difference in their communities. Our goal is to see that they are afforded every education opportunity. One unit providing that opportunity is Barret Davis Watson (phonetic), Unit 233 of Good Hope, Georgia.

They participated in every aspect of the education program. They awarded two students each a \$1,000 scholarship. They donated to the National Scholarships. The unit collected school supplies and nursing supplies valued at \$2,380 and donated them to seven schools.

They handed out flags at a local school's Tie a Yellow Ribbon Program. They participated in POW/MIA day of recognition. A total of 3,800 thank you cards and cards for holidays prepared by local school children were included in packages sent to military in Afghanistan.

Books, DVDs, magazines all valued at \$3,500 were donated and \$300 was donated to the public library's reading program.

Teachers of the Year were honored with a brunch and a monetary gift. They collected 1,400 Campbell Soup labels and 1,200 Box Tops for education. They also participated in Veterans in the Classroom Programs.

The Unit's efforts resulted in over 675 volunteer hours and \$10,293 in expenditures. Great job, Unit 233 of Good Hope, Georgia.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: Family readiness program manager, Debra Krale (phonetic) told of a unit that honored the service to our military. Unit 82 of Carnegie, Pennsylvania partnered to support the service members and families of the 171st Air Refueling Wing of the Pennsylvania International Guard by offering in kind donations and financial support.

Pocket flags and deployment bags containing DVDs, snacks, books, and other items were given to deploying members of the 171st. They supported the FRG day camps by purchasing lunches for attending military children.

Ongoing items provided were school supplies, phone cards, gift cards, and baby items. Manager Krale distributed these items to needy guard families. Ms. Krale says, "the Auxiliary has proven itself repeatedly by the commitment to our veterans. I am proud to be associated with them. They touch the lives of those serving in their own backyard."

Excellent job, Unit 82 of Carnegie, Pennsylvania.

(Applause)

The above acts of kindness, donations, collections, and member dedication are repeated everyday by thousands of local units across the nation. Dedicated members soared to new heights with the education program.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kathy.

CHAIRMAN DUNGAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Community Service projects focus on enhancing the quality of life for veterans and their families, 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 we have for those who serve our country and give so much. Please welcome to the stage National Community Service Committee Chairman Lisa Williamson.

(Music)

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Good morning, Madam National President. In the spirit of self -- 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 for our veterans, our military, and their families.

Our mission can be confusing when it comes to the American Legion Auxiliary's Community Service program, but our creative Auxiliary members always come up with ingenious ideas to remember our veteran and military populations while performing community service projects and accomplishing both the objectives of this program this year.

We put the unity in community. Let's talk about the objectives. The first one is to develop, implement, and monitor community-wide service activities that aid veterans, service members, and their families. Two units show their passion and imagination at work in their communities by being visible in their communities and working with other organizations to benefit our mission.

John J. Morris Unit 62 in Peoria, Arizona, came up with a creative fund-raiser that benefitted homeless veterans and involved the entire community, a duck race.

They requested donations to sponsor a rubber duck in a race down a local water canal. They involved the whole community from local water districts to radio and television stations. The project was highly successful and they plan on making it an annual event.

George Washington Unit 1 in D.C., a newly formed and extremely active group has hit the ground running. In conjunction with the local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter, they volunteer each month to wash the Vietnam wall on the National Mall. Although this is done at 6 a.m., they say it's a great honor to join them in this tribute to our Vietnam veterans.

They have also joined with the local woman's veteran's homeless shelter in the Wreaths Across America post-holiday cleanup effort at Arlington National Cemetery. This is only a brief summary of all that they have done in the past year since they have formed. They may be only 17 members strong, but they are soaring to great heights.

Every department reported that Auxiliary members made a huge impact within their communities during various national days of service. Remember: Any day can be a day of service and it needn't be a recognized holiday or a day of service.

Let me tell you about what one community did in a big way and it happened in my community of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Thousands turned out to say thank you to the men and women in uniform in what was the largest military appreciation events in our state's history. The salute to our military parade honored more than 5,000 active, veteran, and wounded warriors of the military in a parade through downtown Fairbanks. The parade ended in a packed

celebration at local city park where thousands of families and supporters showed up for an afternoon of celebration with hotdogs, activities, and music.

The entire American Legion Family was instrumental in pulling this off, mobilizing businesses, individuals and other veterans organizations to wave flags, cook hotdogs, and even pick up trash. I'm not saying that we took the lead in this project, but our legion Family definitely played a big part.

Being visible within our community also was a membership tool, only we didn't have to ask a single person to join, they asked us.

Community Service's other objective this year was focused on promoting economic security for veterans, service members and their families.

Job fairs and career mentoring were action steps that helped us attain this objective. The American Legion has partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce foundation to host hiring our hero job fairs across the country for our veterans. A request for the Auxiliary's help was made, and boy did we help.

Auxiliary members from Arizona, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Mississippi, and Washington D.C. volunteered, just to name a few.

They sat in on teleconferences, arranged for venues, greeted job seekers, and manned booths in an effort to help veterans, soon to be separated servicemembers and their spouses obtain gainful employment.

As well, some members volunteered just yesterday at the hiring our heroes transition and benefit career fair held in conjunction with our national convention here in Houston.

These job fairs have placed thousands of veterans and their spouses in employment, a true success. I would like -- I would continue with all the wonderful events that our members do in support of our veteran and military population but my time is up.

I truly feel they are angels among us as we soar to new heights in support of the American Legion Auxiliary's mission.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: No ma'am, there are not.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you for an excellent report, Lisa.

CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Chaplains provide spiritual and emotional guidance often in times when many of us feel lost. They are compassionate listeners who always bring dignity and love to every situation. Please welcome our very own national chaplain, Rosemarie Hauck.

(Music)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Thank you, Madam National President. Good morning. The Holy scriptures recorded in Luke 1:37 "for with God, nothing will be impossible" played a significant driving force of soaring heights for this national chaplain and chaplains across the country.

The 2013 chaplain's goal was to be more than a person who gives the benediction, the opening prayer and benediction. Chaplains were encouraged to provide spiritual and emotional guidance by lending dignity and respect to make a difference to hurting people.

The challenge was given to be a tuned-in listener who is concerned and compassionate by showing love and kindness to all. Prayers and support were given to members affected by Hurricane Sandy, tornadoes, fires, flooding this year, in the death of unit members, Past National President June Stolte and past National Chaplain, Marie Boldecour (phonetic).

This was a good time to contact someone to give them a fresh burst of spring cheer. A plea was placed on the chaplain Facebook requesting chaplains to lead the way for donations for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Sometimes it is the little things that mean the most. Then again, sometimes the big things count a lot. At any rate, both are nourishment to the soul.

The Chaplain's Facebook page was once again well received, with 37 department chaplains reporting its use. Thought of the month expressions were also received well.

As National Chaplain I appreciate being asked to give messages, bring greetings, and pray at many public patriotic ceremonies. It was an honor to have served with Ron Derrick, The American Legion National Chaplain.

It didn't take us very long for us to realize that we think alike, thus making our job easy to work and pray together for the entire American Legion family.

Kudos to Stephanie Holloway and Aaron Meyer for their guidance to me this year. I will always remember you. God has truly used his tool named Rosemarie to serve in this capacity this year. I'm eternally grateful to each of you for allowing me to serve as your chaplain. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Madam President, my prayer for you is God will continue to shower his many blessings upon you. Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Rosemarie, thank you for your excellent report.

Would you please lead us in the Celebration of Life for Past National President June Stolte?

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: A friend is like a (indiscernible) strong. A friend is like a joyous song that helps us on our way. When golden ties of friendship bind the heart to heart, the mind to mind, how fortunate we are. Death has again entered into the ranks of Past National Presidents. June Claire Stolte, nee Rocher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rocher, was born June 12, 1929 in Manchester, Missouri.

Her family lived on a farm in the area now known as Creve Coeur, Missouri. She graduated from Eureka High School in Eureka, Missouri.

June married Walter Stolte in 1947. She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Norman, sisters Ruth and Goldie, and her husband Walter.

June's eligibility into the Auxiliary was through the service of her husband, Walter who served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. A life member of Creve

Coeur Memorial Unit 397 for 62 years. Was a lady of ladies. She was a shining example of an American Legion Auxiliary member. She had a good word and a smile for everyone.

June actually lighted the room when she walked in and her smile would melt you, even when you didn't want to be melted. June's sister Ruth told me many stories of the Hasty Tasty restaurant June owned. I was told customers came near and far to get the fresh home-baked pies June was known for.

She was known for her use of her baking skills to raise funds for Unit 397. She later worked for the secretary for the special school district in the St. Louis County.

June became president of Unit 397 after serving in most offices and chairmanships at the unit level. She served as District 10 president in 1957, 1958. June became Department President in 1967, 1968. On August 25th, 1982, June was installed as National President.

During her installation address, June challenged the membership to rekindle the spirit of patriotism in her community. Her theme, "Let Freedom Ring," was a highlight with all the American Legion Auxiliary programs.

The membership theme, "Patriots in Petticoats," was considered the battle of 1983. June stated and I quote, "Patriots as patriots we work to serve the veterans and let freedom ring throughout the nation by participating in our programs." End of quote.

As part of her term as National President, June placed an emphasis on education by expanding the Auxiliary scholarships offered at the time and increasing the amount awarded in recipients.

The Past Presidents Parley awarded \$80,088 to 286 nursing students that year. Two other important programs were national security which promoted the savings bonds and USO. The junior activities theme was let freedom ring, we're tomorrow's leaders.

June served as national -- served with National American Legion Commander, L. Keller Jr. (ph) from Illinois.

They shared their passion for the organizations and worked closely together to accomplish the goals of serving veterans in all of their programs.

June was National President during the period of time when the National President resided in an apartment in Indianapolis to be near the headquarters before modern technology. June settled in her new surroundings to prepare and begin her duties.

Her first travel began on the fun side by attending the 1982 American Legion Baseball World Series in Pennsylvania. Her official duties began with regional leadership seminars. Her first foreign trip was to Europe. Walter accompanied her on her foreign trips. At the Awareness Assembly in 1983 June was privileged to meet President Ronald Reagan.

When spring time arrived, June embarked on her far east visit. This trip ended with rest and relaxation in Hawaii.

After serving as National President, June returned home to become active again in Unit 397, District 10, the community and the church. She sang in her church choir for 25 years. She had a passion for the Auxiliary and was willing to share her knowledge with anyone. She took Past National President JoAnn Cronin under her wings to mentor her as she made her way in her journey to be National President. June also stated --

JoAnn always has stated how June would encourage her when she became discouraged when her journey became longer than expected.

Because of this great respect, JoAnn went out of her way to make sure June got ice cream for some of the Past National Presidents at the National 2003 Convention in St. Louis from Ted Drewes, June's favorite spot.

It turned out to be June's last National Convention. JoAnn states -- and I quote, "June will always be dear in my heart for the kindness shown to me." End of quote.

On a personal note, June and I were members of the same district in Missouri. It was June who walked to me sitting in the back of the room at my very first district meeting to speak and introduce herself. After speaking with me briefly and flashing that smile I told you about, I was gently encouraged to join she and Lois Hoincamp (ph) in the front. She had a way of encouraging you when you didn't even want to be encouraged by using that beautiful smile and soft voice.

It was June who caught me off guard when she nominated me for my first district office, which was District Chaplain in 1991. Her faith in me still is an ever present part in my life as I serve as National Chaplain.

Sometime after the 2003 National Convention, her son Gary decided to move her -- his mother -- to Arizona to be close to the family. Those of us who had the pleasure of knowing June whether in the Creve Coeur Memorial Unit 397, the 10th District, the Department of Missouri or the National level, will always remember June and her glowing smile.

June has left us the torch. On January 15, 2013 in Tucson, Arizona she made her final trip to Missouri and was buried by the love of her life, Walter, on January 26th, 2013.

June was a dear mother of Gary, Pam Stolte. Loving grandmother of Dana Neil (phonetic) and Garret Neva (phonetic), loving great grandmother of Candice (phonetic), Knox (phonetic) and Emily (phonetic), dear aunt, great aunt, mentor and friend of many.

(Music)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Memories, like the corners of my mind. Misty colored memories of the way we were. Scattered pictures of the smiles we left behind. Smiles we gave to one another for the way we were.

Can it be that it was all so simple then? Or has time re-written every line? If we had the chance to do it again tell me, would we? Could we? Memories, may be beautiful and yet what's too painful to remember we simply choose to forget. So it's the laughter we will remember when we remember the way June was. The way June was.

Please stand and join me in prayer.

Our Heavenly Father, we ask that Your blessings be bestowed upon June's loved ones and friends. We pray that our present sorrow will bring us closer to You. We thank You for the understanding that death does not separate us from June. Help us to know she is not dead, but living and enjoying Your grace and love more than when on this earth. We pray that June has entered into all the joys of Your life. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

You may be seated.

(Pause)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Madam President, with your permission I have a presentation. Madam President, it started out as one book, but I guess I prayed too much-

(Laughter)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: -- and it became two books. I asked each National Officer and Department Chaplain to submit a prayer or inspiration for you. In addition, a special surprise for you is the inclusion of an expression from your National Commander and his first lady, Victor -- Vickie. I'm sorry, Vickie.

(Laughter)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: The books begins with the prayers from Past National President Kris West during your installation last year. Would the Department Chaplain that served during this year please stand?

(Applause)

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: On behalf of these chaplains, we hope that you enjoy your books this winter when you have more time to go through. They were prepared for me for our deep friendship over the many years with my love for you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I love you so much.

What a beautiful report and memorial service.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Auxiliary's growth depends on strong grassroots public relation efforts. The Public Relations Program works together at all levels — unit, department, and national — to positively promote and advance the objectives and programs of the Auxiliary beyond our membership.

Trish Ward, our National Public Relations Chairman, joins us now to present her report.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN WARD: Madam National President, it's a friendly smile, a welcome handshake, our emblem on a T-shirt. It's a blog, a Facebook posting, an article in the newspaper, a positive attitude. It's a flyer, a photograph, a poster, and even a cookie.

VOICES: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WARD: Public relations is communication and public relations is everything.

The methods we use to communicate about our good work took many forms using tradition and technology. The teams got innovative and creative to positively excite, elevate and escalate attention to program initiatives. Every program benefitted from a consistent and cohesive public relations campaign. And thanks to a dedicated grassroots team, greater awareness was achieved, new members were retrieved and efforts from the unit level and beyond were communicated into homes across the national landscape.

Department of Michigan Public Relations Chairman Margo Forrester said it best with her rally call, "PR: It's where you are." Keeping it fresh, Unit No. 459 from Grand

Rapids connected with a local bakery to design a poppy cookie with the proceeds to benefit their unit's VA&R activities. Enter WOOD-TV 8, the local NBC affiliate, to lend a helping hand with an onsite live feed kept this innovative idea in the forefront of area news and highlighted the importance of the poppy program throughout the community.

Speaking of community, congratulations to Unit No. 132 Oro Valley from the Department of Arizona for making a difference in community service and telling the world about it. Recognized as Outstanding Community Partners of the Year by the Arizona National Guard, this team along with American Legion Post No. 132 received extensive press for their hands on personal involvement in veterans and community programs.

The Departments of Virginia and South Carolina did their part to keep the commemorative honor buttons alive and well. And special thanks to Theodora Daniels Ruffin and her mother, Mary Owens, of Portsmouth Unit No. 190 in the Department of Virginia.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN WARD: Local VET Buttons Up for National Campaign featured Theodora's smiling image on the front page of a special Veterans Day edition of the Virginian Pilot as her story of service to our country was detailed and the honor buttons were highlighted.

And then there's the little Department that could and did. Stepping up in a big way when sequestration forced the cancellation of many traditional Memorial Day events, the Department of the District of Columbia made sure an honor wreath was laid at the WWI Memorial to recognize and remember the sacrifice of our soldiers.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN WARD:

This selfless act of remembrance was the lead story on Military.com and then got picked up by MSNBC. Congratulations team for identifying a need, filling it and then making sure everyone knew about it.

When all else fails it's time to take it to the streets. Maryland's custom ALA license plate kept them front, center and in everyone's rear view mirror.

And when the kids win, we all win. Splashed across the Anderson news was the smiling face of Pam Rice of Unit No. 34 from the Department of Kentucky.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN WARD: A 2013 recipient of the Lewis Hine Award for service to Children & Youth, Pam was honored with this award for her service to military children and promoting veteran's awareness. This press release drafted and submitted across the regional landscape was picked up by the area news outlets and served to truly epitomize how telling one's story can make a huge difference in communicating about our mission and sharing our good work.

Blogging, posting, and tweeting joined writing and phoning as our members continued to embrace and harness new technology for the purpose of communicating about our pride, passion, and purpose for veterans and their families.

Whether it was highlighting the outstanding efforts of our Girls State citizens, sharing the word that National President Peggy Thomas was in town for a visit, or just

publicizing super duper dog day, great PR made a positive difference from sea to shining sea and everywhere in between.

Yesterday we cabled; today we tweeted. Tomorrow who knows, but regardless of the method used, the message has not changed. Share our good work, tell our story, believe in the mission and blast it out to the world.

PR: It's where you are, and PR is everything. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Trish. Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN WARD: Yes, there are Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Before the resolution is presented, the Chair calls on Past National President Kris Nelson to address the convention delegates.

(Music)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NELSON: Good morning, Madam President, last year the convention body, you, voted to conduct a test phase of the national awareness campaign using the professional PR firm Publicis. President Peggy asked me to serve the lead for member review team and it's been an enlightening experience.

After conducting market research, Publicis created an advertising campaign utilizing direct response television, web ads, and print. This took place over a four week period in five test markets that were strategically chosen -- Colorado Springs, Lexington, Norfolk, San Antonio and Seattle.

Local Auxiliary members were utilized in these test markets to call respondents who conveyed an interest in volunteering. You're going to hear more about this from the professionals, but let me just tell you, our test phase of the awareness campaign saw a 20 percent increase in responses over what was projected for these test markets.

We now have a five-year membership goal to increase our rosters by 20 percent above and beyond what we're already doing.

That's an interesting correlation. It's not one or the other, it's both working hand in hand to accomplish our goals. Membership will not grow if people do not know who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Our accountant has often told us that one area where we lack efforts is in the money we spend on fundraising. Fundraising will not come if people do not know who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

Another popular Veterans Service Organization spends \$9 million in advertising to increase their fundraising dollars. What we're spending is nowhere near that amount.

And we can proudly tell our members and donors that more than 90 percent of the dollars that they donate go directly to work in our programs.

For someone to be interested in membership in our organization or to donate, they first have to be aware of us. Once they are aware and interested, we need to accept that they may have a new way of communicating and volunteering by participation.

Campaign research has shown that the majority of women who responded to the campaign test were younger and technology savvy. We need to embrace and accept new technology and new ways to be an Auxiliary member.

From the beginning we said this campaign would not work without the grassroots component. In addition to the campaign, we have some wonderful tools. Publicis built an enhanced PR kit for units to use in their own communities. All of us can download it. We can all view the television commercial right from our national website. These tools will help us to do our part on the grassroots level.

Raising the level of our brand is not an overnight project. Every national president in recent years, Carlene, Rita, myself, and now Peggy, have heard from you about how so many people have never heard of the American Legion Auxiliary. Making this campaign a nationwide effort will raise the awareness of our great organization making your job in your community easier.

It takes acceptance, awareness, and action by everyone to move this organization forward. First, accept new ways younger members want to volunteer and work our mission. We embrace technology and new ways of conducting business. Second, we make people aware of who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Third, we spring into action spreading the word asking women to join and working their hearts out for our veterans, military, and their families.

Our objective for the public awareness campaign was to test and raise the levels of American Legion Auxiliary awareness and understanding of our Auxiliary mission. Your vote last year to start the ball rolling on this awareness effort was history in the making. There is so much work yet to be done. I sincerely hope that you won't stop the progress now.

For any of you who know me know that this is an issue I am passionate about, however I'm going to let you hear more about it from the experts.

Back to tell you more about phase one of the public awareness campaign is Tom Hirschauer, President of Publicis Indianapolis, and Nancy Brennan, Senior Vice President, MSL Group Chicago, and Nancy will address you first.

(Music)

(Applause)

MS. BRENNAN: Good morning and thank you, Kris. Tom and I are honored to be here today with people who understand that freedom comes at a price and that we must serve those who have sacrificed to preserve it. It's been a long journey from Indianapolis and last year's convention to Houston today. But my colleague Tom and I are here to report real progress in activating membership and raising the awareness of your great organization.

Your leadership has taken a spark of enthusiasm, combined it with real passion and commitment to build a recipe we believe can be followed to make this organization even bigger and stronger.

As Kris mentioned, Tom and I represent Publicis Groupe, a world class communications agency with expertise in advertising, public relations, digital communications, and social media, and with experts around the world and across the country. We represent many of the biggest and well-known brands in the country including Proctor & Gamble, General Motors, and Eli Lilly.

We also have experience that is highly relevant to the Auxiliary's needs. For years we supported the U.S. Army recruiting command in communications and for more

than five years we worked with Lions Clubs International on reputation and membership building and I worked on both.

I have also -- I also have a more personal connection to the Auxiliary's cause. As I shared last year, my father served in WWII, the Korean War and in the Air Force reserve in Louisiana for a total of more than 30 years of service. Through him, I came to understand the sacrifice that our military make and the importance of advocating for our military and our veterans. But just by being here today, you are demonstrating your commitment to this organization and to the tradition and values it honors.

But we all must be more than keepers of the flame. We must nurture it and fan it so that a younger generation catches the fire and carries the torch forward. This is your charge. For as Ronald Reagan said, "freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be found, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

The communications program we have tested over the past year and we'll share with you today is focused on helping you deliver on the organization's mission. To honor the sacrifice of those who serve, to advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism for God and country.

Our role has been to help bring your vision to life by shaping compelling communications that support your grassroots efforts, elevate your brand, and inspire a new generation of advocates and potential members. But make no mistake, bringing this vision to life and your commitment to acting on it are simply not nice to have. They are critical success factors in preserving an organization whose future is honestly in jeopardy. This is an effort you must tackle with purpose and resolve.

Why are we so concerned about the future? Why is it so important to engage a new generation of members? Because as an organization, the Auxiliary is rapidly aging. The facts are important.

Seventy-two percent of members are over 50 and more than a third are over 70. Now that wouldn't be so terrible if the pipeline of members was strong and retention was solid. But after many years of relative stability, in the last ten years, we've seen a decline of 16 percent, nearly 130,000 members. At that rate, by 2031, the Auxiliary could be permanently gone. Now, let's break this down a bit. If conflicts were to end today, veterans would still need our service for another 60 years. But if our rate of decline simply holds steady, we only have 20 years of service left in our ranks. That leaves a 40 year gap. After 93 years of service, let today not be the day when you walk away from your heritage, from your legacy, and your dedication to serving.

The truth is we've already given up more than 1.6 million hours of service to those who have sacrificed. We are under serving our veterans. But our work and the work of many of your leaders and members over the last year has proven that we can change the path we're on.

As you'll see in the rest of this presentation, you can make a real difference. There are those who are just waiting to be asked for service. You just have to ask.

If you don't ask now, when will you? And if not you, then who? Because we are running out of time. The work we are sharing today was not simply an Auxiliary leadership initiative or an agency advertising campaign. We only provided the tools and

the framework. It worked because those markets we worked with made it real. They made it personal. It was their campaign. They lived the goal of engaging a new generation and they worked hard. And going forward, so much each and every member of this organization if you want to carry the torch forward.

(Applause)

MR. HIRSCHAUER: Thanks, Nancy.

So we know what the problem is. What was the plan or what is the plan that we presented to you a year ago? How did we act on that plan? What did we learn over the last year? And what do we do to decide to go forward?

So what is the plan to build awareness? Well, it's essential in two ways as the speakers have said this morning. Service is local. That means each and every one of you at the unit level have got to be involved with this. It would be wonderful if that's all we needed to do, but that's not enough. So we need some support from national to build awareness.

Now wouldn't it be wonderful if all we needed to do was to run some television commercials and the membership flooded in? Well, the answer is neither one of them can work by themselves; that we've got to do this together. We told you last year that we were adding and bringing forth three channels of participation and communication. One was public relations of which you do a good job at. We were adding a television campaign which we'll show you here in a second and we're suggesting that the continuation of the direct mail program, which you heard about earlier I believe from the finance committee the success that it is getting. All of these programs will work together and each of them in and of themselves will get better as we move forward.

From a public relations standpoint, we simply helped retool the current kit. There was a meeting, an outbreak session on Monday, which was packed, which we think is great, where that new program was shown to everyone, including a 15-second commercial that comes off of the 60-second commercial that can be used for -- for public television.

So the PR effort is going to be enhanced. So what are the objectives of this plan? Well we have to first and foremost build awareness. People don't act if they don't know. And if they don't know, they don't act. And we're going to read you some quotes in a little bit that really brings this point home.

So we're here to build awareness of who we are, what we do, and quite frankly, why it matters.

And in so doing, we're asking not only for you to be involved as you will be in public relations, but to get others to join you to do it. And the beautiful thing about people here in the United States, and you see it every day, whether it's a disaster or if it's a day to day problem, people are there to help.

We all have a natural inclination to want to get involved and to help. But you have to ask, you have to know. I can't help something that I don't know about. And that's what this program is about.

So what was the program a year ago that we brought to you? We said, well, we want to do a program over three years, but you know what? Let's take it a step at a time.

Let's first test some concepts and some ideas. Let's take some learnings from that test to hopefully make it better and then proceed on to the next step.

So we did phase one, which was done in May of this year, and we're suggesting that we move on to phase two. So let's remind ourselves about phase one.

We said that we were going to create and test messages. What we say and how we say it is extremely important. There's a lot to be said about the organization. It's who we are, what we do, and why we matter. And we also had to say, would you come join us? Would you participate with us?

In a test situation we said, let's go to three to five markets across the United States. Let's build awareness and generate leads for membership, and then let's determine what those measures are so we can come back this year to say, here's what we said we were going to do; here's what we did and here's how it worked.

It was interesting to go through the criteria for the test markets. We decided that we could afford somewhere around five markets and that's what we did. We wanted to see how many of those markets had a large military base or installation on them. Why? Birds of a feather flock together, fish where the fish are biting, you get the idea. The assumption is that if there's a military base in the area, there are military families there. They would be as inclined as any to get involved. Same thing with a VA hospital and those markets that were very active already. And obviously we wanted a high percentage if that was possible for young women and young men who are listening.

Now, not every one of these five markets could do all of these things. Some were larger, some were smaller. So in phase one, what did we do, what did we learn, and where are we going from here?

So let's tell you now what we did. We selected, as you know, five markets based on the criteria that I have said. And they are Colorado Springs, Lexington, Norfolk, San Antonio and Seattle. And if I could just take a second to personally thank the lead volunteers that helped us with this campaign. They did a lot of work in their local market and this could not have been done without their help.

We also said, all right, these are the five markets. They're all a little different. Some are smaller, some are bigger, some are on the east coast, some are on the west coast, some are in the south. Let's go out and test some messages. Let's see if they all say and do the same thing.

Well, one of the things that we found out was that the awareness level of the American Legion Auxiliary prior to this campaign was relatively low. In fact, in Colorado Springs when the respondents were asked, have you ever heard of the American Legion Auxiliary, only 13 percent of them said yes. That's a lot of people that don't know who we are. And if they don't know who we are, they can't act and they can't respond and they can't get involved. Lexington was 16, Norfolk 22, San Antonio 15, Seattle 22.

I don't think these numbers should be terribly surprising, but I think what it does, it puts this in context. Next, what did we do?

We went out and bought media over a three and a half week period in those five markets. We utilized direct response television. We were able to do some minor sponsorship events at the military bases in some of these cities. And we also found that

in the military cities and on basis there were print possibilities so we ran some print publications.

I will tell you that the best responses came from the television. The print ads virtually gave no response, maybe it heightened some awareness. The events did not provide any response. So it was almost entirely the television that generated this.

Here is copies of the print ads and I think you know Candy, who is listed. So we also hired a 800 number telephone service that took the calls in that were scripted that were able to find the information about a respondent. We also created a microsite. It was called StepUpALA.org. And as Nancy had told you, we revised the toolkit.

And we also said to ourselves, all right, how are we going to measure this, how are we going to know whether this campaign has been successful or not? And one of the measurements we used was that we believed that we were going to get 1,000 responses out of these five markets. And we determined based on some math that Lexington was going to have fewer responses than Seattle. Pretty simple, Lexington is a lot smaller than Seattle. What we found out was more than likely that was true, although there were some variations in the responses by the market.

So what else did we do? We created a television commercial, a 60-second spot to tell the story of the ALA so people knew who we are, what we do, and why it matters. And hopefully to motivate women to pick up the phone and act.

Here is the commercial.

(Music)

VOICE: There are lots of unmet needs out here. And while I can't change everything, I can change some things. So I stepped up and became an American Legion Auxiliary volunteer.

For nearly 100 years, they've been helping our veterans, military, and their family here and abroad. Military deployment can be tough on a family, so we do what we can to help. And every injured and homeless veteran deserves the compassion we can give them. We are here to help.

Plus, we also have programs to teach our youth how to be good citizens and young women how to be leaders at ALA Girls State. I wanted to give back like the other 800,000 American Legion Auxiliary volunteers. There's history here, patriotism, pride, open arms. It doesn't take much time to make a difference.

Will you join me and please step up to help our country's heroes and their families? Call the number to volunteer today.

(Applause)

MR. HIRSCHAUER: Thank you. You'll notice lines in the TV commercial like, "It doesn't take much time to step up." That all came out of research. It's what younger women told us about how they would want to respond and volunteer. So what did we learn? If that was the program, the prescriptions we set out, we did what we said we were going to do, but what did we learn? And boy did we learn a lot.

Number one, women 35-plus are not aware of who we are. I gave you the awareness numbers just a second ago. And they're also not aware of what we do. So if we can't get past awareness and what we do, we can't expect to grow membership. Now, here's the good news, when we tell them what we do, they're willing to consider service

or action. They believe in the organization once they know what the organization does and how you do it. We simply need to tell them more of what we do.

And we also learned that we in fact most definitely can create action from a younger female audience. Quite frankly, we didn't know. We didn't know whether we would get a 40 year old to pick up the phone and respond or were they all going to be 60 and 65 years old. This test proved that the younger female in the United States of America is willing to stand by you and with you to your veterans and our veterans.

(Applause)

MR. HIRSCHAUER: Now here's really another key -- a key finding and I think it points to the youngness of the audience that responded. Twenty percent of the respondents out of those initially around 1,000, we thought would use or did use the telephone, eighty percent used the internet. Typically in direct response, you wouldn't see that flip, but it would be much more like 60/30, 40 or maybe 50/50. Only 20 percent of the people that watched this commercial picked up a phone to call. So what did they do? They went to the website. That is a younger audience. And this was the really key piece of information. Fifty percent of those who went to the website either used a mobile phone or used a tablet to access the micro site.

Now, what does that say? I have this vision in my head, there's a young gal sitting maybe in the kitchen or in her living room, watching television, sees a commercial and guess what she's got next to her? Her telephone. And what does she do when she sees the commercial? She says, oh my gosh. I had no idea who these people were and what they did. I think I've got to learn more. And she used her phone to go to the microsite.

That statistic or this finding was critical to us and really gave us hope about moving the organization forward from a younger audience. Now the other thing we found out too is that when they went to the microsite -- and we'll show you the microsite in just a second -- there was a high abandonment rate. That would say they'd go to the microsite and they didn't see what they needed to see. They wanted more information.

So then we went out into the marketplace and did another study. Now this is a bit of an eye chart, but I think it's important for you to see these numbers.

After viewing the American Legion Auxiliary commercial we asked them how much did you like the commercial? They could say, I didn't like it all, it didn't move me, it didn't -- most people said -- 61 percent if you look at the far righthand side of the chart, that's totals, 61 percent of the audience said they were very favorably inclined toward the commercial. That says they liked it. And you'll notice down that spine, 60 percent, 66 percent were the various markets. So one market didn't overwhelmingly like it and one not like it to give us an average. It was about the same.

So the good news is, they liked the commercial. Now that may not say they'd act or do anything, but at least they liked the commercial. The next question was, okay, so if you liked it how did it make you feel differently about the American Legion? Well, nearly 6 in 10 said, I feel differently. I have a new vision or view of this -- I like the commercial, but now I have a different view or vision of the organization. That's an important finding. And last, what is the likelihood to engage? And you'll see on the blue boxes, that's prior to seeing the commercial. The red boxes are after seeing the

commercial. So we were able to change the likelihood to engage almost three to four times by simply viewing the commercial.

So what does that say? Gee, we did a great commercial? No. What it says is that when they found out who we are, what we do, why we matter in the form of this commercial, people are willing to act and to get involved.

So let's take a look at the spot one more time, seeing what you've seen from the facts that I just gave you. Let's look at the spot again.

(Music)

VOICE: There are lots of unmet needs out here. And while I can't change everything, I can change some things. So I stepped up and became an American Legion Auxiliary volunteer.

For nearly 100 years, they've been helping our veterans, military, and their families here and abroad. Military deployment can be tough on a family, so we do what we can to help. And every injured and homeless veteran deserves the compassion we can give them. We are here to help.

Plus, we also have programs to teach our youth how to be good citizens and young women how to be leaders at ALA Girls State. I wanted to give back like the other 800,000 American Legion Auxiliary volunteers. There's history here, patriotism, pride, open arms. It doesn't take much time to make a difference.

Will you join me and please step up to help our country's heroes and their families? Call the number to volunteer today.

MR. HIRSCHAUER: I've given you facts. You've seen the spot. But when you do research sometimes the data is a little cold and doesn't really tell the true story.

So what we wanted to do is read you some verbatims or things that people actually said. So if the English isn't great, it's not because I can't type; it's because this is the way these people talked when they were talking to the researchers. It's off the cuff, quite frankly. So let's look at a response from each of the markets, because I want you to see the similarity across these United States and what they felt after they saw the commercial.

Here's a 56-year-old in Colorado Springs which said, "I didn't know it existed, but it's right up my alley. I need to look into it."

Or this lady, 57, from Lexington had mostly known about American Legion where veterans gathered to drink and have bands. "This puts a whole different twist on what the Auxiliary is all about, knowing they are there to help with families in need who have dads and husbands taking care of our country."

This is an amazing quote because this lady had a perception of your organization that was probably true to some degree. You do go there to gather and have a drink and hear a band; there's nothing wrong with that. But you're so much more than that. And if that's all they know about you, they're not going to help you put bands and drinks in people's hands, you're going to help veterans of this country.

In Norfolk, a 48-year-old said, "I wasn't aware of ALA until I saw the commercial. I've been looking for a volunteer organization that my family and I could participate." Now what does that tell you? There are people out in this country who have wonderful families that want to find a way to engage and volunteer. This lady said,

“Maybe I've found mine. I've intended to call the ALA to get more details on volunteerism. We live in a military community. My close family members have served. I would like to give back in some way.” Norfolk, Virginia, and she hadn't heard of the American Legion Auxiliary. That's our fault, not hers.

San Antonio, Texas, age 44, “wasn't aware of the good work they do.” And finally, in Seattle, Washington, age 40. “I never heard of them and what they do until I saw the ad and now I know and now I'm interested.”

We also had the opportunity to talk to a couple of members and we wanted to show you some video of their reaction to the commercial the first time that they saw it.

(Video)

VOICE: I just saw the commercial and I must say I am extremely proud to be an American Legion Auxiliary member.

VOICE: I just finished seeing the commercial and I am so excited. Why? Because I think it reflects our organization's mission statement. I think the opportunities it presents with all of our programs is just wonderful.

MS. HIRSCHAUER: I love her because she took it back to mission. She's a great ALA member that understands the mission and what was being done here.

(Applause)

So what's critical here is what are the metrics? Well, we believed we were going to obtain around 1,000. We've got 1,200 which is a 20 percent increase in the responses. You can see that 258 of those came from calls, 942 went to the website.

We learned a lot. We think we learned very positive things. We learned the viability of the organization simply by telling our story. So the question to all of you is, how do we go forward?

Well, our recommendation is multi-fold. Proceed into phase two. Remember we said it was a three phase program. Continue to use this television commercial that you saw to tell the story with one important modification, which is at the bottom of the screen, which is to ask for donations.

Why not? People give their time, talent, and treasure. If I don't have the time or I don't believe I have the talent, but I have the treasure, why not ask? Let other Americans help us help our veterans. Ramp up the local PR effort. We've talked about that. And beef up the microsite and I'll show you that here in just a second.

So from a media standpoint, what are we going to do differently? Remember we were in five markets, that's all local television. We're going to move from five markets now to a national campaign on national cable. And we're going to choose cable stations based on these kinds of filters -- women 35-plus, in other words we're not going after 12-year-olds. These women will have told the researchers that in fact they volunteered sometime in the last year and they gave a minimum of \$100. So we're going to want to look for people that looked and act like that.

The national cable TV buy and digital web-based media, we're going to buy some web. We'll launch and run for four weeks. New news, it's going to start in about two and a half months, October 28 through November 21. Why those dates? Two reasons. Around Veterans Day, which is November 11, heightened awareness of who we are, what we do and why we matter and the last two months of the year are the greatest

giving periods in a calendar year. There are going to be other people out asking for donations--why not us?

We'll be delivering about 51 million impressions on television and 9 million impressions on web. And the national cable buy will include Entertainment, Lifestyle and Information News networks and here are some of those networks that you'll be seeing the creative on, if you vote positively today. It's a good amalgamation of networks here in the United States. A lot of buzz about this.

VOICE: We like it.

MR. HIRSCHAUER: Now, what about the -- what about the microsite? Remember what I told you is that when you went to the microsite, they wanted more information or would have liked to have been able to read a little bit more? On the lefthand side of the screen is the microsite that we built for the test. And we wanted -- the three ladies at the bottom were stories about why they were involved. We thought that was important. But the form to fill out to be involved to volunteer was literally on the front page. We didn't provide much information and that was probably a mistake. So what we want to do is change the website. The first thing you see when you come is on the righthand side. You can either press a button to volunteer or you can press a button to donate. And at the bottom of the page when you go to that front page, you'll see some information about the ALA.

If you go to volunteer, what will pull up the next page is a list of about seven or eight of your activities, much of what you've already heard today from your committee chairman on what the opportunities are to volunteer. So we're giving that information. You then go and fill out the form.

In terms of donations, the same thing will happen. You say, well, gee I don't want to volunteer right now, but I'd like to give some money. You press the donation button, up comes five or six areas where you could donate so you could designate. It's extremely important to have a donor designation when you're asking for money, but also for greatest need. And then there's a form that can be filled out that will take MasterCard and Visa.

So we learned we needed to provide information and we're going to do so with this new microsite.

We will also ask that we ramp up the PR efforts in a concerted effort and here's just one example of what we can do. There's no reason why every unit in the United States, on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Girls State, Veterans Day, and on an issue of veterans healthcare could not write an opinion-editorial. In fact, they will be written for you. What you need to do is put your name as the unit president, unit PR head, send it to your local paper. We literally could have thousands of newspapers across the United States on or by Veterans Day talking about who we are and what we are doing while this commercial is running. That's real power. That's why we need your help at the local level.

So, this is not an inexpensive program as you heard last year. \$600,000 is what we budgeted and brought to the convention last year for phase two. It's the same dollar, but keep in mind, there are other veterans organizations out there spending \$9 million a

year to ask for money. This is a step in the right direction. It's a lot of money; we understand that. But it's extremely important we think to keep going.

What are the desired outcomes of phase two? Obviously to increase the awareness and to honor those who have served. Is that not really the purpose of why we're here? Reverse this decline in membership and now also impact fundraising.

It's been an honor to be involved with the national staff, national committee members that were involved with this and to present to all of you. We ask you finally before you vote, if not now, when? And if not you, who? Thank you very much.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The chair calls on Resolutions Chair Barb Kranig.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam National President, Resolution No. 3 was submitted by the National Public Relations Committee, the National President, and the National Vice President. The subject is the National Awareness Campaign: year two of a three-year plan. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, in recent years, Auxiliary national presidents have observed and remarked that public awareness and understanding about the American Legion Auxiliary is sorely lacking, and

WHEREAS, when meeting domestically and internationally with military servicemembers, veterans, and their families, Past National Presidents and National President Peggy Thomas have further observed that the American Legion Auxiliary is not known by the very people for whom the Auxiliary exists to serve, and

WHEREAS, American Legion Auxiliary membership has steadily declined, and a factor often cited by members in surveys and focus sessions is a lack of awareness about the organization among those who are, unknowingly, eligible to belong, and

WHEREAS, the 2012 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention voted to approve engaging Publicis Groupe USA to develop and implement phase one of a three-year professionally developed public awareness campaign, and the 2012-13 NEC approved funding for phase one on 8/30/2012 in an amount not to exceed \$750,000, and

WHEREAS, the results of the first phase of the American Legion Auxiliary National Public Awareness Campaign included a PR toolkit created by Publicis for members and a professionally created and produced 60-second commercial to raise public awareness about the American Legion Auxiliary, and that the results shared with delegates at the 2013 National Convention demonstrated that the commercial aired in the five media test markets produced greater than expected viewer interest in the American Legion Auxiliary, and

WHEREAS, National President Thomas throughout the year has discussed the importance of raising public awareness and continuing the professional national public relations initiative which can further expand public awareness about the existence of the American Legion Auxiliary — “who we are, what we do, and why we matter,” and

WHEREAS, continuing the professional public awareness campaign will provide new opportunities to increase membership and potentially raise donations to offset the cost of phase two of the professional awareness campaign, as well as aid in advancing the overall goal for the “Million Members by the Centennial” initiative.

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED, that the American Legion Auxiliary continue to engage Publicis Groupe USA to implement phase two of the professionally developed and conducted national awareness campaign to raise public awareness about the organization's existence, mission, and service outreach, and

Be it further RESOLVED, that upon adoption of this resolution by the 2013 National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Executive Committee take action at its first 2013-2014 meeting to appropriate funds not to exceed \$600,000 for the second year phase two of the professional American Legion Auxiliary public awareness campaign.

And be it further RESOLVED, that the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention 2014 be apprised of the results of the second phase of the campaign and determine the desire to proceed with a subsequent third phase of a national public awareness campaign based upon successful implementation of phase two.

And be it finally RESOLVED, that the national organization proceed with retaining the services of the internationally reputable professional national public relations firm Publicis Groupe USA to implement phase two of the national public awareness campaign to include wider paid broadcasting of the awareness commercials produced for the American Legion Auxiliary upon the adoption of this resolution by the National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary held August 27-28, 2013, in Houston, Texas.

Both the Finance pre-convention committee and the Public Relations pre-convention committee recommend that the resolution be adopted.

Madam President, on behalf of the Resolutions Committee, I move the adoption of Resolution 3 as just read.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The question is on the adoption of Resolution No. 3 as just read. The Finance pre-convention committee and the Public Relations pre-convention committee recommends the resolution be adopted.

Is there any discussion?

(No response)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All those in favor of --

(Pause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Mic 1?

MS. PEEPLE: Yes, mic 1.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

MS. PEEPLE: Bobby People (phonetic) from the Department of Iowa. I have a question.

We heard numbers about how we were going to increase membership. Do we have any indication of the increases that we sustained in these test markets?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: No. No, we do not. It's an awareness campaign, not a recruitment.

Any further discussion?

MS. WILLIAMSON: Microphone 4, please.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

MS. WILLIAMSON: I speak in support of this resolution --

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Identify --

MS. WILLIAMSON: Sorry. Lisa Williamson, Department of Alaska. I speak in support of this resolution. I've heard some grumbling that the only ones that come up to this microphone are national officers or national chairmen, so let me take my badge off and speak as a grassroots member. This badge allows all of us to speak on any topic. I support this resolution. Some of you know my son just graduated from basic military training at Lackland in January. I want this organization to be around when he's a veteran.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Lisa. Any further discussion? Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Please stand when you vote. All those in favor of Resolution No. 3 please press the number one key (1) on your voting keypad. Those opposed press two (2). Please vote now.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We're ready to vote.

(Music continues)

(Pause)

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The voting is now closed. Please show the results.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: 709 in favor, 94 opposed. The affirmative has it and the resolution is adopted.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Trish.

Strategic planning produces a framework of high-level directional goals that enable the organization to focus its energy on effectively serving its purpose. Strategic planning helps an organization prepare for the future, anticipate and manage change, improve decision-making processes, and identify existing strengths. Here with her report is our Long Range Strategic Planning National Chairman Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

(Music)

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Madam President. Strategic planning is a disciplined approach to deciding what an organization is, what it does and why it does it with a focus on the future. Strategic planning produces a framework that enables the organization to focus its energy, coordinate the efforts of individuals so that they are working toward the same goals, and assesses the organization's response to changing factors and adjusts accordingly.

It is really a document of agreements about the future of the organization and the steps to get there. Our mission statement tells us why we exist. This statement makes it clear about who we serve in our communities. The vision statement tells us what we

want the organization to be in the future, the premier service organization for people to join to help us fulfill our mission -- vision and to support the purposes of our organization. These clarifying documents are meant to show to the public the reason for our existence as an organization, summarizing our purpose and direction. They describe why the organization was created and its ultimate dream for the future.

Strategic planning initiatives completed include our American Legion Auxiliary gateway to services, a resource for veterans and military families. It's on the national website directing viewers to helpful information including family, community and social services, health and wellness, career training and education and financial and legal support, providing a one stop shopping option to help them find the help they need for a variety of concerns.

Technology including a newly designed website and the membership system IMIS, the ALA Character Initiative, membership, leadership and minimum standards developed for units and departments by the unit and department standards team.

Plans are in place to include these findings in a guide for departments and in the Unit Handbook from these initiatives and they should be available for Departments early 2014.

The team is also developing a new governance model with information to be shared with departments, by December 2013. Future initiatives will be developed and brought to the NEC for approval. The strategic plan is the backbone that supports the rest of the body. Operational, departmental, and individual plans are drafted by staff for staff. Business plans and budgets are drafted by your financial officers and committees. Fundraising plans are created by a development staff and our ALAF Board.

But all must relate to the master document, the strategic plan. Undertaking the process of strategic planning offers numerous benefits to a non-profit organization. Strategic planning helps an organization prepare for the future, anticipate and manage change, improve decision making processes, identify existing strengths and provides an opportunity to analyze the systems and processes.

Strategic planning takes time. It is not accomplished overnight, rather it is designed to address long-range goals and happen over a three- to five-year time period. Get the right people on the bus and the right people in key seats to provide services of value to our members.

Do the right thing at the right time and at the right cost. We, on the Strategic Planning Committee believe that these important actions are critical to the long-term success of our organization.

Thank you, Madam President. This concludes my platform remarks.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN PULVERMACHER-RYAN: No, Madam President, there are none.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Jan.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The Leadership Program prepares future leaders and helps develop their skills so that everyone from our youngest Junior member to our

young-at-heart adults can step into a leadership role with confidence. Here to tell us about the importance of the American Legion Auxiliary's Leadership program is National Chairman Kathy Daudistel.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN DAUDISTEL: Madam National President, leadership is the responsibility of every member and every member has the potential to be a leader. By encouraging others to embrace the Auxiliary vision, and to contribute by applying their own unique skills, together we will help our organization soar to new heights.

In Mississippi, as in many other departments, the goal was to educate and in some instances, reeducate our members on the basics of our great organization. We simply cannot ask members to accept leadership positions without providing them with the proper training and tools.

In an effort to reach more members, departments hosted leadership workshops not only at the department level, but also at the District and Unit levels. Chairmen focused on the leadership correspondence courses, mentoring members and teamwork and encouraging the use of available resources.

Many departments focused primarily on the newly revamped leadership correspondence courses. And used them as a tool to learn the history of the Auxiliary and its programs.

Sharon Spiker from Kansas used the junior correspondence course to create a course specifically for new members. She also designed a specific course completion wallet card for each member who passed this course.

Jeri Greenwell of Maine heavily promoted the courses at each one of her leadership workshops. Members were given copies of the course to take home and complete at their leisure. As a result, over 100 members participated in the courses this year.

Every year in Iowa, a weeklong camp is held for members ages 8 to 18. Leadership Chairman Anne Crawford reported that this year the junior leadership course was presented as one of the programs and began the session by presenting the first part of the course.

During the week, other members of the camp staff and various department chairmen presented the other aspects of the course. By the end of the week the girls had taken the entire course, completed the test, learned flag etiquette, conducted a mock meeting, and participated in a memorial service.

An awards ceremony wrapped up the week and 75 girls received certificates for passing the course. This is a great way to guarantee future leaders for our Auxiliary.

Many chairmen used the mission training DVDs as starting points for their workshops. Ohio added in history pertinent to their State for a more personal touch. Maryland, Wisconsin, and other departments created gamed and interactive activities. South Dakota Chairman Melanie Martins thought outside the box when her president asked her to conduct a leadership workshop at the mid-winter conference.

To carry out her plan, Melanie designed an activity that would require good communication skills while at the same time promote teamwork. The idea was to build a specific Lego model within an allotted time. Each team consisted of four members. A

builder, a runner, an observer, and a director. Each team member had a specific job. The director was the only one that saw the actual model and had to share her knowledge with the runner on how to build the model.

The runner's job was to pass the information on to the builder. From her direction, the builder would actually construct the model. The observer's job was to watch the entire process and to evaluate the dynamics of the team. After the time limit was up, the teams discussed the good, the bad, and the ugly aspects --

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN DAUDISTEL: -- of the project. They learned that clear communication was a major factor in successfully completing the project. They also learned that each member of the team had different skills, but by working together, even the most difficult task became easier to accomplish.

In the words of the songwriter Rod Williams, "We are like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle. We are all unique and have our own special place in the universe. Without each of us, the puzzle is incomplete."

On behalf of the National Leadership Committee, consisting of Vickie Koutz, Martha Arnold, Toni Gimpel, and myself, thank you for helping our organization soar to new heights.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN DAUDISTEL: Madam President, this concludes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN DAUDISTEL: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Kathy.

CHAIRMAN DAUDISTEL: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Good report.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: 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. When a natural disaster or other calamity strikes this fund could be the helping hand for a struggling member in need of food, shelter, or utilities for her family.

Please welcome National Auxiliary Emergency Fund Committee Chairman Ann Rehbein to give her report.

(Applause)

(Music)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Madam National President, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund is the legacy of Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin, who was a devoted member of Ross Wilcox Unit 79.

She joined the Auxiliary in 1929 and was active until her passing in 1969.

With her generous gift of \$106,000 she enabled the American Legion Auxiliary to establish the initial fund. Because of her, the Auxiliary continues to offer grant assistance to its members.

This year, \$134,676 has been donated to the fund from 49 states and Puerto Rico.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Yeah, that's great. Here are a few of the ways this money was raised. Arizona units are raising funds with raffles, cans, piggy banks for loose change at meetings, special fund-raising events for the victims of Hurricane Sandy, 50/50 pools, fundraising lunches, dinners and bake sales.

In the spirit of helping their own members, units have also offered personal assistance to members outside the AEF program. One unit helped with high medical bills for two members and another unit helped a member with bus tokens when her vehicle was broken down so she could continue to go to work.

In Maine, the department chairman, Lucille Allen, writes that she was disturbed by the number of members who had no idea what AEF stood for. Her number one goal was awareness. Letters were sent to all units and included the Auxiliary Emergency Fund brochure. A department AEF pin was designed to be awarded for each \$25 donation.

These pins were made possible by a member in memory of a past department president. A goal of 50 percent response was set and exceeded with 47 units and 15 individuals responding to the call of sisters helping sisters. Maine's donation was \$2,115.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Which is a 2,115 percent increase in donations because last year they sent nothing.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Lorna Solynovich (phonetic) reports that the department of New York has made a valiant effort. Donations from 119 units in 50 counties, six memorial donations and 56 individual donations added up to \$11,025.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: Which is a 1,999 percent increase over the year before.

Twenty states had increases in their donations with Arizona, Idaho, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Virginia having substantial increases in their donations.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: The Department of Mississippi has its very own magnolias in Hovious Grayson in Unit 112 in Jackson. These ladies had rummage sales, raffles, cake walks and personal donations and raised \$3,600.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: This from Nancy Sanders, Department Secretary. The Department of Mississippi makes sure we have donations to AEF because we have had to come to the Auxiliary so many tragic times.

So many tragic times. How fitting those words are for that's what the Auxiliary Emergency Fund does, members helping members in times of tragedy and financial hardships. This year, 67 financial hardship grants worth \$89,975 and 146 disaster grants

totaling \$134,250 were sent to 27 departments with 75 helping our members in New Jersey and 57 to those in need in New York.

From sea to shining sea, hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires, blizzards, floods and just everyday life has caused much anguish to these members. Aren't you glad that we have this great Auxiliary Emergency Fund to help these members in need?

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: I know that I am. Madam President, this concludes my report.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN REHBEIN: No, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Ann.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The ALA Foundation secures the service work of the American Legion Auxiliary for future generations. It opens a different door of opportunity to individuals, corporations and other foundations wishing to financially support the ALA. Here with the Foundation Report is Foundation President Linda Boone.

(Music)

PRESIDENT BOONE: The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation is a subsidiary organization of the American Legion Auxiliary. This means it is controlled by the governing body of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Foundation Board has designated and appointed directors based on their positions held in the American Legion Auxiliary to insure the Foundation's mission remains focused on the financial support of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The elected director positions are required to be ratified by the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee to reinforce this subsidiary role.

The Auxiliary provides a part-time staff to support the foundation and marketing and promotional projects are supported by several staff members. The Foundation was created in 2007 to be used as a fundraising tool to access the grants from government agencies and foundations and corporations to enhance our ability to meet our mission.

It is our ability to meet our mission. It is also a tool for our membership to support Auxiliary priority programs by making a donation to the Foundation.

Following the money helps us understand the purpose of the foundation. Not all donations will come to the Foundation. Funds that will be used for individuals such as scholarships and the emergency fund will continue to go to the Auxiliary. Donations to the Foundation will become part of an endowed or non-endowed funds.

Endowed means that funds are placed in investments and only the interest is used to pay for the programs each year. When the endowment is large enough, it can keep pace with the annual cost of programs and the basic fund stays intact for the future.

Non-endowed funds are used for shorter term priorities. Grant funds are used for the specific deliverables of the grant agreement. The current development plan for the foundation sets goals to grow the foundation through grants and donations from targeted sectors.

The reality for success of the Foundation will be in the actual dollars. The Foundation is still very new and it will take several years of donation growth before it can

make a significant difference in providing program funding for the American Legion Auxiliary.

For the future of the American Legion Auxiliary to complete its mission we need members inspired to make an annual donation beyond dues to the Unit, Department, and National Organizations. Investing in ourselves through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will be necessary.

Membership dues are not enough to support the long-term viability of the American Legion Auxiliary. In order to continue to provide the same level of service and to expand our services, we will need additional funds.

How can you as one person help? Focus your philanthropy on priority issues, which we hope is the American Legion Auxiliary. Decide on how much you plan to give to your Unit, Department and National levels each year. Make a commitment that the Auxiliary is a priority. Help educate other members within your Unit and Department about the Foundation and its purpose. Educate on the multiple ways an individual can be supportive by making an annual cash donation, remembering others with a memorial donation, making a foundation a beneficiary on life insurance policies, retirement accounts or in a will.

You may also consider submitting an application to serve on the foundation Board of Directors. We are interested in people with skills that would aid in the growth of the foundation.

The FY13 year is coming to an end and there are some successes that -- here are some successes the Foundation Board would like to highlight.

A beautiful 2013 wall calendar was distributed as an incentive to potential donors and the response was so positive we have recently mailed a 2014 calendar to potential donors.

To commemorate the Auxiliary's stained glass window in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., an ornament was provided as a thank you gift to donors of \$250 or more. There are still some available if you wish to receive.

The Foundation provided a corporation membership in BoardSource, which made Departments eligible to access information around non-profit management from experts in the field. The Foundation did this because the Foundation knows how limited Department budgets are. Because Foundation members are American Legion Auxiliary members and each understand the needs of departments have for materials to help the American Legion Auxiliary learn how to better fund raise and operate efficiently.

Because individual members in such treasure troves -- excuse me -- individual memberships in treasure troves such as BoardSource are cost prohibitive to most of us, the special price of this group membership for Department and National leaders is \$5,000. Because the best, first way to expand money from the Foundation is to invest this \$5,000 to help Departments who are frequently asked to give and give and help others.

Because the Foundation wanted to give a meaningful way to help you. We hope that you're using these tools and taking advantage of learning about nonprofit management from the experts.

One of the easiest and helpful method of providing a monetary gift to the American Legion Auxiliary is through making the Foundation a beneficiary in your estate no matter how big or how small.

This guide was developed to provide you with personal planning information. As a bonus, in the August magazine issue starting on page 30, key content of the guide is highlighted so every member and non-members can begin planning to support the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary far into the future. We hope that you will review this and take action.

The focus of the Foundation Board will be on these goals for the next year, raise funds for our core mission by submitting investor proposals to foundations and corporations. Pursue investor opportunities that will help support programs at the department level. Educate members about the foundation and encourage participation through a variety of methods.

The financial support of members will be the key to the success of this foundation. We hope that we can count on you among our supporters.

Madam President, that completes our report.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Are there any resolutions or recommendations?

PRESIDENT BOONE: No, ma'am.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BOONE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: The strength and influence of the Auxiliary comes from its members. The Membership Program works to ensure the future growth and prosperity of the organization by partnering with units, departments, and divisions to develop strategies to retain current members, recruit new ones, and engage members in mission-related activities. Please welcome National Chairman Sue Britton with the Membership Committee report. Sue.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Madam National President, do we have any angels in the house?

VOICES: Yeah!

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Do we have any angels in the house?

VOICES: Yeah!

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: I know we have a multitude of hardworking angels here in Houston this week and it's my privilege to fill you in on just who some of them are. The angels from Oklahoma started their year off right as they promoted membership with an 11-by-17 size poster that you couldn't miss. "We want you" was prominently displayed and you knew they meant business about getting new members.

A fairly new group of angels in Unit 1 from the District of Columbia flapped their wings so hard, they came up with an e-newsletter that caught the attention of many across the nation promoting events, like the washing of the Vietnam War Memorial encouraged participation of its members.

Those sunshine angels from Florida used a train theme of all aboard to promote membership. In an effort to eliminate zero units, district presidents with zero units were

made to wear a placard saying, check out my caboose. Now, don't you think that little activity got a lot of attention?

Those classy angels from New York are hot on the heavenly trail promoting membership using their Empire Girls State Alumni newsletter with a membership application for all past Girls State citizens.

Now we know National President Peggy had the inside angel track all year. But how did she help pull off the Department of Virginia's rise to the top early in the game and make sure they came in first with 100 percent of their numeric objective?

The way angel wing feathers are still floating in the skies above Virginia following their celebration, Janet Renner's enewsletter really made the difference for them.

Up in Iowa, angel membership chairman Diana Shaddock (phonetic) reported they asked each member to show your true colors as they were seen racing for membership with their red, white, and blue cars this year.

Not only angels were in abundance this year, but butterflies were used in Kentucky representing new beginnings for a membership theme of fresh beginnings for new and old, may the ALA reach our goal.

Now we each know that our members can move mountains, but it actually happened in the Department of Colorado this year. Chairman Susie Bozella (phonetic) reported that one new unit is a prototype of what units may look like in the 21st Century. Almost all of the members are wives of current or recently separated servicemen.

Indiana members knew that reading to learn more about serving our veterans was the best way to promote membership.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: They distributed bookworm bags with membership information and joined in on a membership bus tour throughout the state with National Commander Jim Koutz.

Now someone please help me out here. I can see that this is Marla Sobol (phonetic) who continually appeared as the membership angel throughout North Dakota this year, but is that the devil she's standing next to?

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: I'm wondering if her angelic charms rubbed off on him. Whoa! The members of --

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: -- the members of Glenhale Unit 287 hold an annual red flannel festival.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Cedar Springs is famous for the making of red flannel and each year at a banquet, they celebrate those who met the early bird deadline of November 11th. They invite Legion Family members and gift them with either the red flannel long underwear or the nightgown and cap.

According to Past Department President Mary Goller-Kiltz (phonetic), they even do the chicken dance in them.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Something must be working because Mary indicates that Unit 287 has been a goal unit for the past 53 continuous years.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Did you hear about those clever angels in the North August Unit 77 in South Carolina? One of their members was seen wearing their honor their service button. And guess who saw it? Someone from the local newspaper asked for a closer view and then wrote an article on it and even posted it on their website. What great free publicity.

Well, you all know about the little recruit one pin. Right? This patriotic angel pin was awarded by National President Peggy Thomas to recognize any member who recruited just one new senior member, because we knew if each of us did that, we would be over the top. Well, over 50,000 new members were recruited this year.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And 4,152 recruit one pins were distributed. And the Department that recruited the most new members was -- that's right, the Department of Pennsylvania.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Congratulations. They signed up 5,567 new members this year.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Super job, by Carol Harrison, Department Membership Chairman and her team.

As we all know, creating good working relationships amongst our members is the vital link to creating harmony within a unit. Being sensitive to others sometimes means the difference between keeping a member or losing one. This year there were nine winning entries for the National President's Service Not Self award.

And the awards and citations have been mailed to these units but I would like to announce their names and share them with you.

And the winners are, winner number one, the Winters-Peterson Unit 242 from the Department of South Dakota. This unit holds meetings with three other units in their area. They offer special awards, socials, and always consider all ideas equally. The unit has a strong junior program and holds an annual scrapbook and vendor fair fund-raise.

Their various projects allow this active younger member unit to be welcoming and work together cohesively.

Our next winner is the Getchel Nelson Unit 210 from the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: This unit personally asks members which pod they would like to be involved in for project work. They readily accept newly presented ideas and host a birthday dinner each year for the American Legion. They place great effort on keeping things calm and refuse to allow for gossip or criticism.

Our third winner is the Stanley McCollum Unit 280 from the Department of Illinois.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: By inviting ideas from new members they are sure to keep them involved from the start. If a member misses a meeting, the president calls them to update them on decisions made to keep them in the loop.

The fourth winner is the Rood Williams Unit 271 from the Department of Florida.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: This unit offers to work schedules around the schedules of their members. They recognize and clearly understand that every member cannot be present at every event. And know that some members are better at some things than others.

The fifth recipient is the Harrisonburg Unit 188 from the Department of Virginia.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: This unit recognizes hours served by its members and efforts were made to remove existing cliques and attendance at unit meetings have tripled. With members focused on our mission, other issues have fallen by the wayside.

Highway cleanups, back to school drives for supplies and coat and glove drives for domestic violence victims fill their time.

Our sixth winner is the Forsaith Drowne Unit No. 108 from the Department of New Hampshire.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: This newer unit makes themselves very visible in the community. They worked with their local town officials to create an electronics recycle day and sponsor informational booths at town functions.

The seventh recipient is the Roy Unit No. 33 from the Department of New Mexico.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: This unit is very responsive to as they say, modernization. New members are given a notebook containing a copy of the unit charter and various resource tools. Members efforts are publicized and also rewarded with small tokens of appreciation.

New ideas are implemented immediately if accepted.

The eighth Service Not Self award goes to the Merrick Unit 1282 from the Department of New York.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: This unit is a visible mark in their community wearing their uniforms as they attend functions. Communications between meetings and events is critical. The unit matches new members talents and skills with projects to be sure a good fit outcome is realized.

And the final Service Not Self award goes to Hole in the Wall, Unit No. 90 from the Department of Wyoming.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: From providing flags along Main Street to meals for veterans, from sponsoring blood drives to a community flag retirement ceremony, this

unit strives for inclusion of all members. They encourage members to be mindful of the special needs of any members.

Congratulations to all the National President's Service Not Self award winners.
(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And one of our departments has achieved all four milestones that were initiated at the beginning of the year. Congratulations to the Department of Virginia.

(Applause)

(Music)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And now the moment we've all been waiting for. For the departments who have achieved 100 percent or more of their 2013 numeric objective.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Now I do just want to say that after the awards all of the official photographs will be taken backstage.

OK. In sixth place, the Department of California at 100.06 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: In fifth place, the Department of Washington at 100.09 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: I really -- I forgot to give you the names of the folks from California. Department President is Terri Mikesell and Department Membership Chairman was Danielle White.

And from the Department of Washington, Department President, Hanny Elston and Department Membership Chairman Janet Sperry.

In fourth place, the Department of Arizona at 100.56 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And with us from Arizona was the Department President, Kathleen Medalen, the Department Secretary, Barbara Matteson and the Department Membership Chairman Karen Smith.

(Music continues throughout)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: In third place, the Department of Alaska at 100.69 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And with us from Alaska was the Department President, Beverly Eads.

In second place, the Department of the District of Columbia at 103.85 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: From the District of Columbia was Mary Huffy, the president of Unit 5. She is also the unit member of the year for the District of Columbia and she's the only delegate here from the District of Columbia.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And now in first place, National President Peggy Thomas' own Department of Virginia at 105.78 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And from the Department of Virginia accepting that award was Department President Ann Starke and Department Membership Chairman Janet Renner.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: I do just want to add a little side note here that just prior to the National Convention, another Department also reached 100 percent. Congratulations to the Department of Nevada.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And they are going to be backstage for some official photographs.

And now, Madam President, we decided that we needed a special surprise for you.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: That always scares me.

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Yeah. She says that always scares her. Well it scared me too when we first started this, but the -- we decided to initiate the National President's surprise award. That will be for any department who increased membership by an additional 1 percent or more between -- 30 days prior to convention and August 22nd. These citations will be mailed to the departments, but I want to share with you who those are.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh, good.

(Music)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: The departments winning the National President's Surprise award are the department of Hawaii at 1.01 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: The Department of Utah at 1.09 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: The Department of Washington at 1.11 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: The Department of Virginia at 2.66 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And the Department of Puerto Rico at 2.73 percent.

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: And the Department of Nevada at 3.65 percent.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: Madam President, we've given it our best shot this year and I know that our members will continue to increase the numbers until December 31st. They have shown great determination and ability throughout this year.

Madam National President, this concludes my platform remarks.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Do you have any resolutions or recommendations?

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: No. Madam President, I do not.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN BRITTON: You're welcome, sweetheart. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Membership is hard. Give her another round of applause.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And now what we've been waiting for, National Secretary's report given by our National Secretary, Dubbie Buckler.

(Music)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Yes, I'm going to read all of it.

(Laughter)

VOICE: Oh no.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Madam President, thank you for this and all your introductions this year. They have either been spot on or interesting or comical to say the least.

I want to start out by reporting what we have not done, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Those introductions were made only to you.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And she's still doing it.

We have not been in the news for the wrong reason and we have not embarrassed or shamed the organization by any misdeed. And we have not had a 60 Minutes crew come marching into our office.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So what we have done is we've had another stellar fiscal audit, a stellar federal grants audit, an A-plus magazine audit and we are in the midst of our first ever information technology audit, but the comment so far from the auditors that we have proper practices and security measures in place. We're doing a pretty good job.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And as you've experienced, Madam President, we have a pretty terrific knowledgeable staff and they're committed to the mission.

As the National Headquarters staff, we volunteered over 100 hours. We've raised and donated over \$2,000 in items for our Indianapolis homeless veterans shelter which is our National Headquarters project, and everyone on staff has contributed.

And our national communications staff worked on a stand down and collectively raised another \$1,000 for that.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So we believe in what everyone in this room is doing. We've also again come in under budget on National Headquarters operations.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Over 90 percent of the national budget supports mission delivery. Only a tenth goes for administration and fundraising. This is outstanding and I will tell you and it's no small accomplishment. And I want to say thank-you to the National Headquarters staff, and I want to thank our national leaders because we work together as a leadership team.

It takes governance and management volunteers and staff. It takes us working together to be effective. And Madam President, thank you because you have been most effective to work with.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Collectively in your National Convention Guide about in the middle of the document, you're going to find a couple of pages. We talked about what we spend our money on. But we really need to be talking about what it is, the impact we have. You just approved a national public awareness campaign and by the way, the commercials -- every department has received this. You've received a version of the commercial that you can use at meetings, and you've received a professional version of the commercial that you can use for your local television stations.

But collectively the impact of this organization is \$1.85 billion. And if we're going to grow, we need to grow because we need to recognize what a contribution we make to the veteran's community, to the families of our active duty military and to our communities at large. Because the collective dollar value of the volunteer hours from this organization as measured by a national organization that calculates these things at \$22 an hour, that's how much your \$8 million of volunteer service are worth, \$1.85 billion and that's a number you need to be remembering when people say, well who is the American Legion Auxiliary? Oh my gosh, we are a massive volunteer service organization and collectively we leave a \$1.85 billion dollar footprint on improving the quality of lives for our veterans, military and their families. You rock on.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So for the people to know who we are, what we do and why we matter, I hope you've noticed this year that we've revamped the magazine. We've combined eNews and eBulletin so that we're not clogging up people's inboxes and their email inboxes and making it easier to find those things in one newsletter.

We've improved the website. How many of you have gone there?

VOICE: I love it.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: How -- oh, I love that. Oh you -- how many of you love it?

VOICES: We love it.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Thank you. We do all these things with you in mind. We have an ALA video channel, the Everyday Angels, the National President's report, the videos you've seen around -- rolling around convention, they're all going to be on the website when we get back. And something that's going to be -- you're going to be seeing very soon online depending on how quickly you go to the website. We have now completed an American Legion Auxiliary Branding Guide.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That is a bigger -- this was another big project. One of the things that is so important for us all to do is remember the proper way to use the name an emblem of the organization. In fact, there are a lot of legal requirements, restrictions on how the name and emblem can be used. And it's our job to be the emblem police, if you will, and make sure that happens properly.

Well, we get a lot of emails, a lot of questions about this so we have put together a guide that hopefully will make it easy for your departments and your units to know how to properly use the name and emblem of the organization to promote the organization.

Now as you've heard, donations have increased. A third more of our direct mail donations are now coming from non-members and that's key. We want outside people investing in us. You've heard about the plan giving guide. This year we have now -- we are in our fourth year of our American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service. We are now one of the largest organizations and efforts that they fund. We have eclipsed the \$3.2 million mark now in our fourth year. We now have 75 AmeriCorps members serving 30 organizations who are part of the American Legion Auxiliary Call to Service Corps consortium. That's 30 organizations who are relying on the American Legion Auxiliary to make it possible for them to improve their efforts to serve our veterans and military. They are supporting our mission. We are helping them do it. That is increasing our profile, increasing our presence and increasing our importance in the eyes of others. This is really a significant program and the Corporation for National and Community Service is now the largest external investor in the American Legion Auxiliary bar none.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, thank you, that was -- we now have the Call to Service Corps in Maine, Missouri, New Mexico and New Jersey. And a final thing that I think would be very fitting to let you know is that because we now have such prominence and when you're in Washington, D.C., people who didn't know about us before do because of this program. And our VISTA who was in our Washington D.C. office was one of a select, very small group invited personally to meet with President Obama in his office in the White House. We've arrived.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: We've also grown and I will share that one of the things we've strived to do over the years is to improve our relationships with the Legion because if the Legion Family grows, we all grow. If we grow, the Legion Family grows. We are a family and we needed space and on short notice. And I want to thank the Legion because they have now donated additional office space to us and that's about a \$2,500 in kind donation to us each year. They have not increased our rent. They have just provided extra space to us.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Our Girls State Program and Operations Guide has now been in use for over a year. This program is now run in an entirely different legal and regulatory landscape than it ever was before. Our liability for this program has never been greater than it is now.

Between the issues that we deal with on sexual orientation, religious preferences, dietary preferences and then on and on, we have a lot of challenges to keep that program as well managed and risk managed as possible. So the next really big project that we've been working on is a Department Operations Guide. We rolled out the first chapter. We have about seven other chapters that we're working on. And we hope that this will be something that will be useful to you and it's predicated entirely on the many hundreds of thousands of messages that come to our National Headquarters office each year about "Can you give us advice on how to do things?"

Another thing that is almost ready -- because it's been a really big typing project is -- this is lovely. This is the draft. The American Legion Auxiliary's national policies. You remember last year we went through and did a lot of housekeeping and cleaned those up? And remember the book went through 1999 and what year is it this year?

VOICES: 2013.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Well, at least you're all awake. Thank you. Well, that means that there were about 13 years' worth of proceedings and minutes to go through to see -- to pull all the other current policies. So that work is almost done and everything has been plunked into one document and our goal is by the end of the year to have it pretty and cleaned up so that you Now have one place where all the policies are contained.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now, this -- I just talked about the number -- what's behind that governing documents. We get a lot of emails and phone calls to the office. We get about a quarter million phone calls to the National Headquarters every year and we get about three quarter million emails. We get about 1,000 emails coming to National Headquarters every day. That's a lot of email; that's a lot of inquiries. And that's behind some of these things we've been trying to do to make it easier for you all to spend time doing God's work and less time looking at policies and procedures and how to do things.

A quarter of those emails go to Marta and me alone, so I guess this is now as good a time as any to say thank you to my right hand, my counterpart, the National Treasurer, Marta Hedding because she is a treasure --

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And if I get hit by a Mack truck, Marta can step right in and take care of anything. So those of you who have that truck parked outside, I know where it is and I'm going to walk the other way.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now this does bring me to a concern. I want to talk seriously. We're a big business. We're a big national organization. At the national level, we are a multimillion-dollar corporation. Your departments are big small businesses. Regardless of the size of your department, you're a small business and the things you have to do today as a small business are very different from the things you had to do ten, fifteen years ago. I'm not talking about the 990, but that's just one example of how times have changed and how you have to do things differently.

So I want to share with you that I'm very concerned because in the last 11 months we've had 13 new department secretaries. That's a 25 percent turnover and some didn't even stay one year.

Your department organizations are also small businesses and there needs to be continuity. And what we're noticing at the national level based on all the calls we get is a new department secretary comes in and there's not much succession planning and there's not a lot of training available. So we are willing to do that at the national level. We do help as much as we can, but you all have different ways of determining who your department secretary is and I'm asking you to consider that you're running a business and you need somebody there who can stay and grow in the position and develop the

experience and expertise. The position needs to last more than a year. Your department secretary position as an officer if you want that to change annually, that would be up to you. But the person who is serving as your department operations manager by whatever title you use, that person needs to grow and gain experience and we need some continuity. Because without that, we are impeding the success of the entire organization and it's just very telling when you have 25 percent turnover. And we've had about 15 to 20 percent turnover since I've been here, in department secretaries.

Next year you're going to lose a couple more and they're going to take collectively, some 40, 50 years of institutional knowledge with them. So please think about that. It's time to revisit what that role is and how that role is selected and the longevity that gets attached to that.

And so now, National President Peggy, I do want to end on a lighter note. I have talked with the court reporter for this meeting. There will be an omission from the record yesterday.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I do want you to know that when you try to say that a person slipped on stage and tripped on stage, that "slipped" and "tripped" can sometimes come out as "stripped," and that's not at all what I meant.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: You will not find it in the proceedings.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And so now, dear National President Peggy, my friend, our steel magnolia. I want people to know that it has been an absolute delight to work with you this year.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now you're touching me. I'm going to cry. What a lot of you don't know because she is very soft-spoken sometimes -- sometimes.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Publicly she's very soft spoken. She is every bit a lady. This is where you all say, yes.

VOICES: Yes.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: But she was vice president of a large oil corporation. She understands what I just was talking about. We're a big business and she understands that corporate side of things. And she understands what I can do and she's let me do it and I understand what she can do and I've worked well with her. She's worked well with me. I feel like we've been a big team. And I'm saying something that I've heard her say before -- she usually adds a lot of other stuff to make you laugh on top of that, but for the moment we're going to be serious about this.

The organization has had some challenges. It does every year. It's had some special ones this year. A lot of them that you don't know about because again it's corporate stuff. But she has handled it remarkably and she's handled it with resolve and she's handled it with civility. And I think for that, we all need to give her a round of applause.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Dubbie. Thank you.

(Applause)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And I will tell you she's also a hoot. And Peggy, when you joined the ranks of Past National President, you have another career ahead of you. There's a comedy channel.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: They are looking for better talent. You could step in there and you could give some of these other stand up comedians a run for their money. She has done this to me so many times where you're sitting on stage and we're supposed to be -- it's decorum, right, decorum?

VOICE: Yes.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And she'll lean over and say something to me that you all don't know what she's just said that cracks me up and she has tested my ability to maintain my decorum all year long with her one-liners. But she is an absolute gem and it's been a very great pleasure to work with you and Peggy, I just wish you the best. I'm so glad you've had a great convention. I know you'll have a great ceremony tomorrow and I look forward to many years of friendship.

Oh and one other thing, you notice how slim and trim she is?

VOICE: Yes. (Laughter.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That's because for the last three, four years that I've known her, when she's been in Indianapolis and we've gone out to eat, she only eats half of her food and she boxes up and she has sent it home to my college student son.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: A lot of us have done that.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: So for feeding my son who now has decided that he -- he is -- he has just graduated from college and he has a girlfriend who lives in Virginia. So he is repaying you for all of those meals that you have provided to him. So Peggy, this concludes my remarks. You're a gem and thank you. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve with you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You can have another two minutes if it's about me.

(Applause)

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Dubbie. Dubbie is --

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Be careful.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: She's very good at her job. She has a rich background in business and she does a good job. I tease her a lot, but she really does a good job. Thank you.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: That's an understatement.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Would Loretta Smith, from the Department of Virginia -- and I said Virginia, please come to the podium and present the National President's Scrapbook? Here she comes.

(Pause)

MS. SMITH: Madam President, we will be so glad when you get home. We've missed your humor and your leadership. This is two albums of many to come. And it's been many hearts and many hands that have helped you with these. So this is my hands to your heart.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Beautiful work.

MS. SMITH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Beautiful work and I will spend many hours sitting, sipping hot tea, and looking through my scrapbook. Thank you, dear friend.

MS. SMITH: You're welcome. Thank you.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I will treasure those for years to come.

I am pleased to introduce the members of the very hardworking Resolutions Committee: Barbara Kranig, Chairman; Miriam Junge, Vice Chairman; and Penny Maklary, Member.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam National President. The pre-convention's committee met at 10:45 on Saturday, August 24. Honorary Past National President Miriam Junge brought greetings from the National President Peggy Thomas.

National Parliamentarian Chris Dickey was present to help answer questions. Miriam Junge reported on several resolutions considered by the NEC earlier in the day. Approved were resolutions in support of legislation for prevention of sexual assault in the armed services, establishing a five-year millennium million member task force, and a joint task force with The American Legion for membership.

A resolution proposing a new Auxiliary hat design was not approved. A spirited discussion concerning poppy design materials used and other poppy design materials used and other possible options for poppy manufacturing ensued.

The two resolutions were submitted to the committee for convention action. Resolution 1 was received from the Poppy Committee pertaining to elimination of obsolete policies and procedures for the Poppy.

Resolution 2 submitted by VA&R chairman and Children & Youth chairman recommended combining Field Service and Home Service. Penny Maklary led the discussion on the merits of the resolutions. Both resolutions were recommended for approval by their respective committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. Members of my committee were Miriam Junge from Ohio as vice chairman and Penny Maklary, Arizona, a member.

Madam National President, this concludes the report of the Resolutions Committee, but we do have three resolutions to present.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay. You go ahead with your resolutions.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Let me get this out of your way.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam President, may we combine the first and second resolutions for action? Okay. At this time, Miriam Junge will present the first resolution.

MS. JUNGE: Thank you Madam Chairman, Madam National President.

WHEREAS the delegates and guests have gathered here in Houston to listen and learn as the officers and chairman have proudly reported on the accomplishments made possible by the dedicated service of the volunteers of this great organization.

And WHEREAS the Past National Presidents willingly assisted and continue their support and interest in the programs are always an inspiration.

And WHEREAS the National Secretary, Mary "Dubbie" Buckler, and the National Headquarters staff in Indianapolis and Washington D.C., Paula Raney, convention chairman and the local convention committees, the Hilton Americas Hotel and the George R. Brown Convention Center have served most capably and effectively.

Now therefore BE IT RESOLVED that by our applause, we show our appreciation to each of the named participants.

(Applause)

MS. MAKLARY: Courtesy resolution No. 2. Madam National President, WHEREAS the 93rd convention has been graced by many distinguished guests from the American Legion Auxiliary led by National Commander James Koutz, The American Legion staff, Sons of The American Legion, the honorable vice president of the United States and foreign dignitaries from Taiwan's Veterans Affairs commission, and;

WHEREAS representative from Girls Nation, our own Juniors, Miss Poppy, VAVS representative for the Department of Veterans Affairs, department/unit members of the year honorees, the Woman of the Year recipient, and active-duty servicewomen.

And WHEREAS representatives who directly benefitted from the Auxiliary program have expressed their appreciation for the many hours that were extended and expended by our volunteers this year.

Now, therefore BE IT RESOLVED that by our applause we thank these participants for contributing to our convention.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Madam President, I move the adoption of these resolutions.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Madam Chairman, I think they have been adopted by their receiving -- receiving your report by all the applause, by acclamation. Let's do it (indiscernible).

Good job. Thank you so much.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Now you go sit down.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Oh you've got more?

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: I've got more.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KRANIG: Always have more. Madam President, may I ask at this time that the vice president assume the chair?

WHEREAS a lady with southern charm from the Commonwealth of Virginia has led the American Legion Auxiliary with determination this year. And WHEREAS

her corporate background and quiet leadership style allowed her to get things done without a lot of fanfare.

And WHEREAS she has found visiting with veterans in hospitals and homes most meaningful.

And WHEREAS her special project, Children of Warriors Scholarship, has raised double the amount of contributions that she anticipated. And WHEREAS her leadership skills were challenged by the awesome revision of Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, a challenge she successfully met yesterday.

WHEREAS she has recognized special angels throughout the convention and; WHEREAS she has accomplished all of this with warmth, grace, and wit.

Therefore BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize her as our special angel with our standing applause.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I love you. Thank you so much. Thank you, thank you.

(Recorded Voiceover: "The American Legion Auxiliary proudly presents the National President's Award for Excellence. This exclusive honor is awarded to the 'best of our best' and epitomizes Service Not Self by recognizing efforts in planning and implementation of American Legion Auxiliary programs. Here to present is your national president, Peggy Thomas.")

PRESIDENT THOMAS: All year we've talked about "Angels in Service." Well, now I get the opportunity to introduce you to a few of these angels and show you exactly how they earned their wings.

This year I wanted to show that it's not just the big units that win this award, so I decided to pay close attention to what some of the smaller units were doing.

Hopefully, after seeing this year's winners, units of all sizes will be excited about nominating their unit for the National President's Award for Excellence.

I think you will agree that, no matter the size of the unit, today's recipients have each gone above and beyond the call of duty. In other words they have truly soared to new heights, transforming the words of our mission into powerful actions.

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 all of you.

(Applause)

Here today to help me bring you the highlights of everything these angels accomplished this past year are Vice President Nancy Brown-Park; VA&R Chairman Janet Jefford; and Children & Youth National Chairman Sharon Conatser. Ladies, will you please join me on stage? And Sharon, would you do the honors of announcing our first winner?

(Music)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: I would be happy to, Madam President. All right then, let's get to it. It gives me great pleasure to announce the first winner of the National

President's Award for Excellence. Please put your hands together for: Johnson-Nicoles-Kuhlman-Olson Unit 53 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin — Department President Diana Sirovina.

(Applause)

(Music)

This year, Wisconsin's Unit 53 put a strong focus on homeless veterans — not only assisting them directly, but bringing awareness about this growing population.

Their first objective was to create real awareness of the growing population of homeless female veterans and their children. This objective was met by working with the local VA to host a “Making Connections — Women to Women” workshop to inform the public about the homeless female veterans epidemic. During their second Holiday Stand Down for Women Veterans, twenty female active-duty servicemembers and veterans attended and received books, personal items, clothing, jewelry, toys, bedding and more.

They created a wishlist so that female veterans can list the items their families need the most and the unit purchases for them. So far: microwaves, kids bikes, bookcases, bedding, and furniture have all been provided to female veterans.

Next it was on to tackle the problem of unemployed veterans. By working with the local VA center, it was determined that the center's unemployed veterans needed supplies for job interviews. Unit 53 jumped into action collecting backpacks, writing supplies, thank you cards and stamps for veterans to use while applying for jobs.

Next they volunteered at the "Hire Our Heroes" job fair running registration, evaluations and provided lunch.

As if tackling the issues of veteran homelessness and unemployment weren't enough of a challenge, these ladies also found time to donate their time, talent, and treasure directly to our active duty service members, veterans and their families — just listen to these figures:

Logged over 2,000 volunteer hours directly with veterans.

Donated over \$11,000 dollars directly to veterans.

Donated over \$12,000 in in-kind donations to active-duty military and veterans.

Collected over \$10,000 in Poppy revenues.

Made 230 Camo Quilts, logging over 2,000 volunteer hours.

Created 48 “shower bags” for active-duty females using 276 volunteer hours, \$240 in cost and nearly \$4,000 worth on in-kind donations.

\$1,144 was donated to active-duty military.

Directly served nearly 250 active-duty servicemembers.

Gave nearly 2,500 volunteer hours to military families.

And donated almost \$1,000 directly to military families.

All in all, Unit 53 made directly touched the lives of over 450 veterans.

I know I speak for everyone in this room when I say that this team of angels has definitely taken us to new heights and we thank you, Unit 53!

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And now it's my pleasure to present the National President's Award for Excellence 2013 to Johnson-Nicoles-Kuhlman-Olson Unit 53 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Congratulations.

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: And now National VA&R Chairman Janet Jefford will present the next award.

Janet?

(Music)

CHAIRMAN JEFFORD: Today I have the privilege of announcing the third unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence. And the award goes to Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233 in Loganville, Georgia, Department President Sandra Wittenmyer.

(Music)

All right, hang on to your hats because by the time I'm done telling you about Unit 233 you are going to be asking yourselves, "What didn't this unit do?" Unit 233: Sent 1,185 care packages to Iraq and Afghanistan which included over \$16,000 worth of goods and nearly \$15,000 in postage.

Served over 1,000 plates of barbecue dinner held for veterans and their families.

Donated over \$6,000 to "Soldiers Connections" — a volunteer group run by Unit 233.

They worked with a local women's ministry and convinced them to donate \$1,300 worth of cash and goods to help with their active duty service members' care packages.

Hosted monthly pizza parties at the Georgia War Veterans Home Donated almost \$3,000 worth of gifts to the Georgia War Veterans Home so that veterans could shop for Christmas gifts.

The unit also supplied a gift wrapping service.

Received an email from a mother whose son was returning from Afghanistan and said that his platoon would be in need of toiletries and bath items when they returned. Unit 233 stepped up and donated almost \$1,500 worth of toiletries for all 29 members of the platoon.

Reached a goal of making sure everyone in the Veterans Home, all 234 residence received a Christmas present.

Participated in National President Peggy's project to donate laptops to the Korean DMZ. They donated \$500 and got their post commander to donate \$125.

Donated \$250 to Operation Military Kids.

At Christmas Time donated — over 150 hours of drive and delivery time, 227 miles, nearly \$3,000 delivering presents to struggling families with kids.

Donated a total of 556 donated school supplies estimated at over \$2,000.

Donated nearly 700 educational items to their local public library, a donation worth over \$3,500.

Total donations to the Education program came to \$10,293 and nearly 700 volunteer hours.

Oh, yeah, did I mention they also found time to grow their membership?

What tremendous things you have achieved this year - we are all proud of your accomplishments.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is my pleasure to present to you the National President's Award for Excellence 2013 Barrett-Davis—Watson Unit, Sandra Wittenmyer, Loganville, Georgia.

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: I understand the president of this unit is in the audience. Would you please stand up and be recognized? Is she coming up?

(Applause)

CHAIRMAN CONATSER: And now our National Vice President Nancy Brown-Park will present the next award.

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Wow. I am already blown away and we've only heard about two units! Okay, well it only gets more impressive from here on out, so let's jump into the next award winner.

The third National President's Award for Excellence goes to Arlington Unit 139 in Arlington, Virginia - Unit President Betty Dahlke.

(Music)

This unit distributed 200 yellow ribbons to boost awareness.

Collected 1,129 retired American flags and transported them to Quantico Marine Corps Base and participated in flag burnings.

Distributed in 14 honor flights and distributed 4,600 pocket flags with poppies.

Flag etiquette sessions presented at nine local schools and presented 2,400 flags to those schools.

Eighteen delegates sponsored for Virginia Girls State at a total cost of nearly \$5,000.

They donated over \$15,000 and 3,029 hours directly to the Americanism program.

They held an annual Christmas Party for almost 70 military kids with lunch and toys to the tune of over \$2,500 and 1,650 volunteer hours. Their goal was to support The American Legion Children & Youth programs, so Unit 139 donated nearly \$5,000 to and over 1,600 volunteer hours to the programs.

They held a "Make a Difference Day," which was a coat and blanket drive for homeless veterans where they collected and distributed over 1,244 items.

This unit donated nearly \$11,000 worth of in-kind donations and over 2,300 volunteer hours.

They sponsored 19 delegates to Virginia Girls State and donated a printer for the staff office.

Made over 9,000 poppy favors sent them to veterans in 11 Virginia Medical Centers.

They made 680 corsages for Virginia Girls State and 135 for Girls Nation.

They presented 6,000 poppies to WWII veterans arriving at Reagan National Airport Honor Flights. They distributed over 17,000 total poppies.

And they even took a little time to grow their membership — wow.

Thank you ladies for all that you do for our veterans, active duty service members and their families. This organization truly would not exist without angels like you. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is my pleasure to present to you the National President's Award for Excellence 2013 Arlington Unit 139 in Arlington, Virginia - Unit President Betty Dahlke, Arlington, Virginia.

(Applause)

(Music)

And now, please welcome National President Peggy Thomas to present the last two unit award recipients and then she will conclude with the department Award of Excellence. President Peggy?

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I'm so glad I get to present these next two winners because both really remind us that often times great things come in small packages.

As I read off these units' accomplishments, try to guess how many members they have. In comparison to the other winners today I think you will be surprised.

The fourth unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence is Tehachapi Unit 221 in Tehachapi, California - Department President Pat Gracey.

(Applause)

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This unit did something very cool when they started their "Feed our Veterans Project." Now I know when we give these awards we usually read laundry list of accomplishments, but for this award winner, I think it would be best to tell you the story behind their "Feed Our Veterans Project" because it truly reminds us that those we seek to serve are everywhere — even in the most unlikely places.

By doing some research and being proactive this unit discovered that 95 percent of enrolled students at a local training school for Airstream's Wind were veterans.

Now let's be honest - how many of you would have seen the Airstream Training School and thought veterans? Well, not me, and these classes were literally filled with veterans all trying to learn a new career so they could get into the workforce.

After speaking with the school and the veterans, it turned out that the students rarely had enough money to eat lunch during the day and were going home to empty refrigerator at night. So, Unit 221 stepped up, or should I say "flapped their wings" into action.

They provided food to the veterans as well as toiletries and cleaning supplies.

They spent over \$5,000 to feed over 20 classes worth of veterans — roughly 300 students.

And volunteers worked with each student to explain their GI Bill benefits, help the veterans get financial aid for the class, and put them in touch with the local employment office and local veterans resources.

Finally, there was one student, a veteran Arizona who left his family in California, so that he could attend these classes in hopes of finding a job.

When Unit 221 met him, he didn't have any food and his power and water had been shut off. The unit and post worked together to get power and water turned on as well as donate a supply of food.

Unit 221, your 52 members have taught us --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- how important it is to be involved in your communities and that little creative thinking can lead us to mission delivery opportunities we never knew existed. You truly are Angels in Service.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is my pleasure to present the National President's Award for Excellence 2013 to Tehachapi Unit 221 in Tehachapi, California - Department President Pat Gracey.

(Applause)

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This unit really took their support of military families to a new level this year. Their priority this year was - to contribute to the practical, emotional and social well-being of military service members and their families - and let me tell you, they went above and beyond their goal!

The fifth and final unit to receive the National President's Award for Excellence is Cary Unit 67 in Cary, North Carolina — Unit President Judith Rea.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Unit 67 is another example of something great coming in small packages. Unit 67 served nearly 7,500 troops and spouses of active-duty military and over 200 military children.

They volunteered nearly 1,000 hours.

Donated over \$3,500.

Traveled over 2,487 miles to serve our veterans and their families.

Worked with the USO to ensure all military traveling through the airport had a warm meal and place to relax. These airport hubs alone served over 2,800 active-duty military and allowed Unit 67 to log nearly 500 volunteer hours.

Traveled 2,200 miles to provide crafts to over 2,165 military children. It was estimated that over 4,000 servicemembers and their families enjoyed these craft days.

Donated \$500 to Operation Comfort Warriors.

And Donated \$1,400 to Military Mission in Action.

Not to mention, they increased their membership this year.

So, knowing almost all of our other winners had nearly 250 members or more, does it surprise you to know that this unit accomplished all of this with about 80 members?

(Applause)

Well, they did. Congratulations Unit 67 and thank you for showing everyone in the audience that no accomplishment is too small to be recognized and celebrated.

To all of the units out there who chose not to submit applications for the National President's Award, remember, it's not about how big you are, it's about the size of your accomplishments.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And now it is with pleasure that I present to you the National President's Award for Excellence 2013 to Cary Unit 67 in Cary, North Carolina — Unit President Judith Rea.

Thank you so much and congratulations.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And now for the moment you've all been waiting for. It is time to celebrate the department recipient of the 2013 department award.

This department has achieved so much this year! They truly are angels in service and they have soared to heights I never imagined possible. It is my absolute pleasure to announce the 2013 department recipient of the National President's Award for Excellence is the Department of Wisconsin, Diana Sirovina, Department President.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Department of Wisconsin achieved so many great things this year I got tired just from reading their report. I did it in two parts. In fact, I had to spread out across two tables just to look at all of their great pictures and read all of their reports. Let me share just a few things with you:

Logged over 156,000 volunteer hours to VA&R.

Spent and donated over \$220,000 to VA&R programs.

Served this nearly 32,000 veterans.

Donated over \$7,000 to veterans assistance funds.

Donated over \$8,500 to C&Y emergency funds.

Donated nearly \$6,500 to homeless veterans assistance centers.

Donated over \$87,000 to VA hospitals.

Donated over \$6,500 to VCAF.

Were an integral piece in the creation and running of Camp American Legion - a program that provides rest, relaxation, recuperation and rehabilitation to Wisconsin veterans, active-duty servicemembers and their families. Camp also welcomes families of the fallen to assist in the grieving process.

Donated over \$20,740 to Camp American Legion.

Raised \$256,335.00 in poppy donations.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Over 20,000 hours donated to active-duty military.

Almost \$73,000 donated to active-duty military.

Over \$26,000 donated to military families.

Camo Quilt Project -- over 20,000 quilts to active-duty military, over \$3,000 in donations for Camo Quilt.

Finally, the Department of Wisconsin decided their goal would be to raise awareness of homeless female veterans and females in the military. They achieved this goal by being a founding group of "Making Connections — Women to Women," a program that has special focus on women in the military.

The Department President named the Homeless Women Veterans Grant Fund as her project.

Department of Wisconsin was able to donate almost \$42,000 to that fund this year - which brings the grand total to over \$100,000.

Boudicca House (home for female veterans) was given a career center by the department of Wisconsin, included three laptops, laser printer, toner cartridges, and a car full of other office supplies. Boudicca House has also been given welcome bags for new residents.

SAL Squadron 537 donated over \$1,000 in food supplies so that the residents of Boudicca House could have Christmas dinner.

Do you see what I mean? I'm worn out just from hearing about all the hard work they did and not to mention reading this report.

Department of Wisconsin, 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.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: It is my pleasure to present the National President's Award for Excellence 2013 to the Department of Wisconsin, Department President Diana Sirovina, my friend.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: 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 our National President's Award for Excellence winners on our new website and in a future issue of *Auxiliary* magazine.

So, let me encourage all of you to consider joining these units and the Department of Wisconsin 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.

Let's give all of our National President's Award for Excellence recipients one more round of applause.

(Applause)

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Now, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you, present to you, our National Headquarters convention team and I would like for them to come out on stage. Are they here?

From Communications, Stacy Poca, Travis Perkins, Aaron Meyer.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: From Accounting, Tim Bresnahan, from our DC office, Sharon Riegsecker, from our executive office, Patricia Blazek and Tamara Shumate.

From Events, Nicole Chernish, Tabitha Rhoda, Stephanie Abisi and Laura Casey. Let's give them a big warm welcome.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you so much. They've had to work with me all year.

Would the National Secretary please make any announcements?

(Music)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Following this session, would the 2013 National President's Award for Excellence recipients please come to the stage for a few photos to be taken by National staff?

A past department president pin from South Carolina has been lost somewhere in the convention hall. Just asking you to keep your eyes open for it. If you find it, please take it to lost and found. You found it? Okay. Thank you.

The rules of announcements are, you send up a follow-up announcement.

(Laughter)

VOICE: Pardon me, I have a follow-up announcement.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. The 2013-2014 following national committees are going to be holding meetings. Today at recess, this session Americanism in the front near the podium. Legislative today at the recess by the California sign. California.

VOICES: Yay.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: You are so tired.

Junior Activities today at the close of session by the Louisiana sign.

VOICE: Woo.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: This one says, we found it.

(Laughter)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Okay. There are still a few tickets available for States Dinner. Those of you who sent up notes, if you go to the office, you can inquire about that and they can handle that over there.

The membership award winners, please go back stage after this session for official photographs.

And the 2013-14 national officer's meetings, we're probably going to be running a little bit over, so at the -- upon conclusion of this session if you are in that meeting, please make your way over to the ALA national offices in the next hall over and we will start that meeting when we all get there.

Madam President, that concludes my announcements.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well, thank you so much.

While we are getting ready for the close of the convention, we will be resetting the stage. I ask the national officers to leave the stage at this time.

(Pause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I know you're hungry, but we're almost there.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: To give my president's report, you will see it. But I have to say to you, what a great ride. I've been all across America and several foreign countries representing you, my band of angels, extraordinary angels. When we were discussing an approach to create my report, I knew I wanted to focus on our mission and I knew I wanted to do something a little different. Well on both counts, I think we did just that.

Let's take a look.

(Music)

(Video)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well, here we are. It seems like no time at all since I stood on stage to accept your nomination as national president and in the blink of an eye, the year is over. So thank you for what has been a wonderful year. Thank you for the hard work and dedication in serving our veterans, the military, and their families. Keep up the good work and continue to ask everyone you know to join us in serving those who have so bravely served our country.

Now, in a slightly different way, I'd like to invite you to join me in looking back at some of the great things that we have accomplished this year to take the American Legion Auxiliary to new heights.

I don't watch a lot of TV, but as they say I was channel surfing and I found this program I think you'll like. The first segment is about the American Legion Auxiliary's first ever public awareness campaign. Let's take a look.

VOICEOVER: From around the world, across the nation and up your street, American Legion Auxiliary Television presents, Auxiliary Action News with your host, Joy Dumandan.

JOY: Welcome to the American Legion Auxiliary National Action News. I'm Joy Dumandan, your host for this special year in review broadcast. Last year at the 2012 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention, delegates voted to move forward with a groundbreaking public awareness campaign professionally developed and implemented by the third largest advertising and PR firm in the world. The goal of this campaign was to attract volunteers to our organization by raising awareness about who we are, what we do and why the American Legion Auxiliary matters.

TV and print ads ran throughout the month of May in five media test markets: Norfolk, Virginia; Lexington, Kentucky; San Antonio, Texas; Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Seattle, Washington.

These five test markets were carefully selected based on factors such as proximity to VA facilities and military installations, along with enlistment rates, geography and media market affordability.

The TV Ad produced captures the spirit and purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary in a fabulous 60-second commercial available on the national website's ALA video channel for the world to see.

The commercial was created and produced by the Indianapolis offices of Publicis Groupe who also created a series of magazine ads that ran in various publications.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the commercial, every TV spot and print ad included a special American Legion Auxiliary website and unique phone number so that response to the ad could be tracked.

An Auxiliary member was selected in each of the five test market cities to coordinate the campaign's response efforts.

Altogether, the ad campaign generated 1,200 responses, exceeding expectations by 20 percent. Women liked what they saw and said they believe in what we do, they just didn't know we even existed.

As National President Peggy Thomas often says, “You can accomplish a lot if you work together and don't worry about who gets the credit.” And she and her predecessors have put those words in action.

Having worked for two years garnering support to boldly address the stark reality that most people just don't know who the American Legion Auxiliary is and what we're all about. A professional, national public awareness campaign is an exciting and much needed undertaking for the national organization.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This is very exciting, but I can't take credit for the idea and all the work that went into making it happen. But I sure am glad our delegates voted to see this dream become a reality.

We do great things in the Auxiliary and people need to know about it. I am proud we got the ball rolling during my time in office.

Let's take a look at two more important segments. Membership and mission outreach.

(Music)

JOY: Membership recruitment and retention continue to be a major focus of the American Legion Auxiliary these past 12 months. Across the country, grassroots efforts included membership drives, personal invitations, creative incentives, and recognition programs. And all this personal touch helped bring in new members. More new ones this year than in recent history.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We must grow our membership to give our military and veterans the support they need. Our service members are coming back home faced with so many new challenges ranging from PTSD to unemployment and homelessness.

There's also an increase in returning female veterans who need our support. The needs of all our returning troops are increasing. So our membership has to increase, too. And ladies, we still have 96 legion posts without an Auxiliary unit. Let's change that. There are so many ladies out there eligible for membership in our organization. Let's go out and get them.

JOY: And of course, increasing membership is crucial for mission outreach. After all, the American Legion Auxiliary cannot work the mission without our valued members. Reports have poured in that when National President Peggy Thomas comes to visit a department, she comes to work, spending time in VA Hospitals, and veterans homes, participating in memorial ceremonies and reaching out to military families everywhere in every state she visited. Delivering phone cards and books, Thomas spent a tremendous amount of time this past year, talking one and one with veterans and visiting with their families. What a humble and heartwarming demonstration of service, not self.

National President Thomas understands the importance of serving as the organization's ambassador, serving with the same steel magnolia dignity she shows to grassroots members doing God's work as she shows to national and world dignitaries.

Let's hear what Auxiliary members and National Headquarters staff had to say.

VOICE: The most special thing about Peggy Thomas is that she's always been a member in the American Legion Auxiliary first. She served as a hospital representative at our VA hospital in Virginia and she always puts veterans at the forefront of her mission.

VOICE: The best thing about working at National Headquarters is being able to hear all the national president's stories about their department visits. The difference with Peggy's was her stories included how she's at the grassroots level volunteering with these departments. It's not just a local visit.

VOICE: President Peggy epitomizes the mission statement of volunteerism of the American Legion Auxiliary. I am proud to call her my friend.

VOICE: Peggy Thomas and her generation have been volunteering for the last 50 years at their local VA facilities.

VOICE: National President Peggy truly understands the responsibility of membership. Every visit she makes she talks about how being a member in the Auxiliary serves our veterans.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: How we communicate with prospective and existing members is critical to our success and we've made great strides. Let's watch.

(Music)

JOY: While National President Peggy Thomas was on the road carrying the important message of who we are, what we do and why we matter, National Headquarters was implementing some important strategic decisions to revamp and enhance its current communications tools.

After two years of growth and content and visitor traffic, the American Legion Auxiliary's national website received a gorgeous make over. Navigation is much more user friendly and members can now do more things online. We hope you had a chance to check it out.

And after careful analysis of the Auxiliary's 2012 reader survey, several enhancements were made to *Auxiliary* magazine. Auxiliary Aces, a section which focuses on member ideas and success stories was moved to the front of the magazine shining a brighter spotlight on grassroots efforts and ideas.

Readers said they wanted more military history and armed forces information, so that has been incorporated into the all good section of the magazine.

Feature stories were introduced that dig deeper into the backgrounds and experiences of our veterans. And *Auxiliary* magazine launched a new column called Mission Matters, which provides practical how-to advice for implementing American Legion Auxiliary mission outreach programs. Feedback on the new look and new content has been very favorable.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well of course you like it, they were your ideas. Thanks, Auxiliary members, for the great suggestions and thanks to our National Headquarters staff for listening.

The next Action Now Auxiliary News segment is about one of my favorite subjects: children and scholarships.

(Music)

JOY: Helping military children and providing scholarships are causes that have been close to President Peggy's heart this year. Peggy Thomas selected the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship Fund as her 2012-2013 national president's project. She set off last September with a goal to raise \$39,000 for the scholarship fund

and did she ever succeed. Throughout the past year, she has raised over \$62,000, exceeding her goal by almost 40 percent.

(Applause)

JOY: And generating tremendous awareness about American Legion Auxiliary scholarship programs. And look at the proud faces of some of this year's scholarship recipients. President Thomas preached and demonstrated the value that the American Legion Auxiliary places on educating children to become good citizens, one of the organization's founding pillars of purpose.

And given the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and President Thomas' background, it's easy to see that she has a special place in her heart for the children of our veterans and our military.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I have a lot of compassion for our veterans and their children. Our service members aren't paid nearly what they should be. But they should all be able to give their children the education they deserve.

I grew up in a big Appalachian family and I understand going without. But our servicemembers have given the best part of their lives to our country and we all need to give back, making sure their children receive a good education is an important part of that.

I had the pleasure of meeting a young girl in Augusta, Maine, who won the president's scholarship. She was so grateful to receive the money for school that she wanted to come to the Legion post to personally thank me.

I was late getting to the post as there was no flight in and I had to take a bus from Boston. She was so excited, she would not leave until I got there.

That just meant the world to me and I found it very touching.

JOY: Now there is just not enough broadcast time to share all of the stories that tell of the commitment and compassion that National President Peggy Thomas conveyed in her quest to help the organization to soar to new heights, but soar we did, so be sure to go to ALAforVeterans.org to find out more about these and other examples of mission outreach.

Well, this wraps up our special year in review edition of Auxiliary Action News. We know that freedom is not free. Our military and veterans have earned our gratitude, our love and our respect. Let's show it. On behalf of the entire American Legion Auxiliary Family, I'm Joy Dumandan wishing you great success. And I'll end this special edition with a challenge to each of you to make opportunities to tell your communities who we are, what we do and why we matter. Our future depends on you.

VOICEOVER: Auxiliary Action News.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Now wouldn't it be something if there actually was a show on TV like that. A show that told the world about who we are and what we do. Well, maybe action news isn't a real TV program, but along with our expanded communications efforts, including our first ever awareness campaign, we sometimes overlook our best real tool to spread the word, each of you.

Please don't be bashful. Tell everyone you know about the Auxiliary and those we serve. It's contagious. As I leave office, special thanks to American Legion Commander Jimmy Koutz and Sons of The Legion Commander Chris Huntzinger. It was

a privilege serving with them and an honor to accompany them as we traveled to represent the Legion Family.

Thank you, Lisa Chaplin, my daughter, for staying by my side throughout the foreign travel along with her husband Kevin. Kevin took so many photos serving as my official photographer that many people thought he was the commander's aide.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Of course, I must also thank the many departments who made me feel so welcome during my travels to their states and accompanied me on my visits with veterans and military families.

Thank you, National Secretary Dubbie Buckler and Tamara Shumate, for their dedication to our mission and hard work this year and the entire National Headquarters staff who have been wonderful in extending their professionalism and support.

Most importantly, I thank all of you the American Legion Auxiliary members. It was truly an honor representing you this year as your national president and seeing firsthand the wonderful work you do.

I challenge each and everyone of you to continue taking the American Legion Auxiliary to new heights. Our work is important and there is still much to do. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

(Music - Video Ends)

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. Please be seated.

I want to just take a moment to touch on a few things. I want to re-emphasize my deep gratitude for all of the departments when they hosted me and took such good care of me, fed me well, gave donations to my project and all the gifts.

I want to thank the Department of Virginia for supporting me and staying with me all year and also I said in the video that my daughter Lisa and Kevin have been a godsend and I would be remiss if I did not add John Paulsel for putting all this together, because didn't he do a good job?

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: But I want to tell you, I have done my very best to represent and lead this organization for one year. And it has been my most pleasure, but I never let it slip my mind or forget what the mission was and I ask all of you to remember what the mission is.

And I will just touch on a few things that made an impression on me that will stay with me a lifetime. One was laying the wreath at Arlington Cemetery, which is in a category all by itself, a trip to Dover, Delaware, to where they bring the dead back and the respect that is shown to the fallen. It is remarkable.

To Landstuhl Hospital to visit with four members that just came off the battlefield and they were -- they allowed us to say thank you. They were bleeding and in severe pain. And when you see these things, you remember that freedom is not free. Somebody pays the price.

But I want to say to you, keep on soaring to new heights.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: You are the best of the best, I have to tell you and I love each and every one of you. So in a year as your national president, I've collected a lot of stuff. And so last week I was at National Headquarters cleaning out my office and it hit me, how appropriate, Nancy Brown-Park's theme really is -- so in the spirit --

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: -- of Pass It On, I decided to pass on a few things that Nancy can use during her year as your national president. Let's watch.

(Laughter)

(Video)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well this is my last day in the office and I'm just packing up a few personal things. But I do have some things that I want to pass on to Nancy.

(Music)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And then I'm going to put some stuff in for Nancy, as I said. One is a pillow because she's going to be flying more than she's flown in her lifetime this next year and this will make her more comfortable.

And I want to put this in because this is in case she gets stranded somewhere and does not have her luggage with her. She will need that. And her feet will hurt, so this is therapeutic foot cream that I want her to have because her feet will hurt places she didn't know she had.

And this is eye shade and ear plugs so that she can get some rest on the plane. She'll need that, too. And a box of Tums because she's going to need this. You can't do anything without the national staff and you've got to keep them happy. So here is a list of all the pizza parlors and restaurants around her, so that you can go and get them something to eat, keep them well fed. That's always a good thing.

And there's some other things that I'd like to throw in for Nancy and the entire organization that I want to some items in.

Fortitude, because we need fortitude to move the organization. Forge ahead with new ideas, promote civility. Promote civility again. We just can't get enough of that, can we? Keep the faith. Pride in the organization. Service Not Self. In the last little box is perseverance because that is absolutely necessary. And last, but not least, I want to give this angel to Nancy to travel with her this year and to keep her safe and bring her good luck.

Nancy, your theme is Pass It On, so I'm passing this box on to you to pass onto the organization. I know you're going to be a fantastic president for the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause)

(Music)

Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to welcome the new incoming president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Nancy Brown-Park.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: As I said in the video, I know that you're going to be a fantastic national president. Would you like to say a few words?

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I've got tears in my eyes. Peggy, thank you. You continue to be a wonderful mentor and friend. And thank you and your predecessors for leaving me a sound organization to lead. It is my goal to build our solid foundation that you have left to me. In the spirit of my theme, you most certainly have passed it on. And the foot cream and the neck pillow will come in pretty handy.

Both my parents were very active in the American Legion Auxiliary and they passed their spirit of service to me. It's our job to pass onto our next generation of Auxiliary volunteers. Thank you for all your trust, confidence and support. I won't let you down. I love you so much and thank you for everything.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: I've promised her I'll be there for her. She'll be crying for me about November.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Nancy. And once again thank you for a great year as your national president. See you tonight -- no, I'm your -- I'm the National President.

(Laughter)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: No, really you're not anymore.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This -- let me put her in her place. Thank you, Nancy, and once again thank you for a great year as your national president. I say to you.

(Laughter)

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: It's a pecking order.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: See you tonight at the States Dinner and tomorrow morning at the installation of our national officers and --

VICE PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: And I'm leaving.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Well, wait just a minute.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Go ahead.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, everyone. I will see you in the morning at 8:00. Be here. You are recessed until 8:00 in the morning. It is ten minutes to 2:00 and now you can go eat.

(Music)

(Whereupon, at 1:50 p.m. the above-entitled meeting was adjourned.)

INSTALLATION CEREMONY THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

ANNOUNCER: Good morning and welcome to the installation ceremony for national officers of the American Legion Auxiliary. Please welcome your National President Peggy Thomas.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: This meeting of the 93rd Annual National Convention will now come to order. Good morning everyone.

AUDIENCE: Good morning.

PRESIDENT THOMAS: We are assembled this morning for the installation of the 2013-2014 newly elected officers. What a very special day and time it is for the Department of California!

(Applause)

PRESIDENT THOMAS: And of course for our great organization as it once again is ready to record the history of the 94th National President being installed to the highest officer of the American Legion Auxiliary. I am so happy and proud of everyone here that will witness this once in a lifetime experience for our newly elected officers.

It is now my honor to introduce the installing officer for the ceremony, Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan from the Department of Wisconsin.

(Applause)

(Music)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you Madam President, and good morning. It's a very special privilege and it's with a great deal of pride that I welcome all of you to the installation of Nancy Brown-Park from the Department of California as National President.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: And the department presidents who will serve with her this year as we begin a new year of service for God and Country. Participants in this morning's program are the following: Sergeants-at-Arms Valerie Hardy and Sherry Schneider, Department of California; Color Bearers for the flags of the Department of California are Doreen Long and Debbie Rapport, Past National President Josie Melgard's daughters.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: The soloist is Joe Gladden, National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion. The Installing Chaplain is Past National President Kris Nelson; and the emcee Linda Workman, Nancy's childhood and very dear friend.

Members of the audience, please remain seated as I ask the Sergeants-at-Arms to bring forward the incoming and National Vice President Janet Jefford from the Department of Connecticut, escorted by Richard Anderson, National Executive Committeeman; and Joe Jackson, Alternate National Executive Committeeman from the Department of Connecticut.

(Applause)

(Music)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Please stand as the colors of the Department of California are presented.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Please be seated.

It is with great delight that I ask you to welcome the National President for your 2013-2014 year Nancy Brown-Park, escorted by her husband Jim Park and daughter Chloe.

(Applause)

(Music)

VOICE: Every generation they will tell their children of your awesome God and your mighty acts. They will tell the stories of your faithfulness and glory.

(Cheering)

VOICE: And we will pass it on to all who have yet to come how you have been so (unintelligible) and oh so rich in love and all will celebrate the wonders you have done. Yes, giving your glory, honor, blessing, and praise. Together we'll pass it on, the greatness of your ways.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Please remain standing as I ask Past National President Kris Nelson to come forward for the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance by Chloe Park, Nancy's daughter.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NELSON: Please join me in prayer. Dear God, as we begin a new year of service not self, please help us to follow the lead of President Nancy as we pass it on to make life easier for life's true heroes, our veterans, military, and their families. Guide us in our service. Help us to remember daily to pass it on and give us the strength to be women of strength. A strong woman works out everyday to keep her body in shape, but a woman of strength kneels in prayer to keep her soul in shape. A strong woman isn't afraid of anything, but a woman of strength shows her courage in the midst of her fear. A strong woman won't let anyone get the best of her, but a woman of strength gives her best to everyone. A strong woman walks sure-footedly, but a woman of strength knows God will catch her when she falls. A strong woman wears the look of confidence on her face, but a woman of strength wears grace. A strong woman has faith that she is strong enough for the journey, but a woman of strength has faith that it is through the journey that she will become strong.

God, as we begin our year of service under President Nancy, passing it on, give us the courage, wisdom, diversity, and dedication to be strong women, making the difference everyday to those we serve. In your name we pray, Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Chloe will now lead us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: You may be seated. Thank you, Kris and Chloe. Please welcome the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Joe Gladden, singing "God Bless America."

COMMANDER GLADDEN: And please join in with me on this.

God bless America, land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her, through the night with the light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans wide with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home. God bless America, my home sweet home.

Thank you.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Joe. Please be seated. Here with a special reading is Sandra Rice, presenting "A Family Is Like," by Nicole M. O'Neil.

MS. RICE: A family is like a circle, the connection never ends. And even if at times it breaks, in time it always mends. A family is like the stars, somehow they are always there. Families are those who help, who support and always care. A family is like a book, the ending is never clear. But through the pages of the book, their love is always near. A family is many things with endless words that show who they are, and what they do, and how they teach you so you know. But don't be weary if it's broken or through time it's been so worn. Families are like that -- they are split up and always torn. But even if this happens your family will always be. They help define just who you are and will be a part of you eternally.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Sandra. Nancy, it is a personal privilege to share this day with you. We have shared many events over the past years but none has been more significant or exciting than today. I can assure you that this will be a year filled with delight and much satisfaction. You will find joy in surprising places and your life will be enriched by these happenings with new found friends and memories to last a lifetime.

Will the newly elected officers please rise to take your oath of office?

The members of the American Legion Auxiliary have entrusted you with great responsibility. You have been elected to provide guidance in the activities of our organization. You familiarize yourselves with the duties of your respective offices. Always remember that the welfare and success of this organization depends upon you.

Every American Legion Auxiliary member assumes the obligation of preserving the integrity of both the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, contributing to the aims and purposes of our organizations.

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me, giving your name where I give mine.

I, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, promise to perform faithfully --

VOICES: I, (various names) promise to perform faithfully --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- all the duties of the office I am about to assume.

VOICES: -- all the duties of the office I am about to assume.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: And I further pledge that I am not a member of --

VOICES: And I further pledge that I am not a member of --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- and do not subscribe to --

VOICES: -- and do not subscribe to --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- the principles of any group --

VOICES: -- the principles of any group --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- opposed to our form of government.

VOICES: -- opposed to our form of government.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you.
 You may be seated.
 And now, would the newly elected Department Presidents please rise? President Nancy will come forward to give them their oath of office.
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Raise your right hand.
 I, Nancy Brown-Park --
 VOICES: I, (various names) --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- promise to perform faithfully --
 VOICES: -- promise to perform faithfully --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- all the duties of the office --
 VOICES: -- all the duties of the office --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- I am about to assume.
 VOICES: -- I am about to assume.
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: And I further pledge --
 VOICES: And I further pledge --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- that I am not a member of --
 VOICES: -- that I am not a member of --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- and do not subscribe to --
 VOICES: -- and do not subscribe to --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- the principles of any group --
 VOICES: -- the principles of any group --
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: -- opposed to our form of government.
 VOICES: -- opposed to our form of government.
 PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You may lower your hands. Congratulations, ladies. I look forward to working with you this year.
 (Applause)
 PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: 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. Would all members of the American Legion Auxiliary please stand and raise your right hand and repeat after me?
 I solemnly promise to renew my pledge of service --
 VOICES: I solemnly promise to renew my pledge of service --
 PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- to the American Legion Auxiliary --
 VOICES: -- to the American Legion Auxiliary --
 PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- and to give wholehearted support --
 VOICES: -- and to give wholehearted support --
 PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: -- to these newly elected officers.
 VOICES: -- to these newly elected officers.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you. Please remain standing as I ask the rest of the audience to rise for a prayer by our Installing Chaplain Kris Nelson.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NELSON: Please join me in prayer. Dear God, when we have food, help us to remember the hungry. When we have work, help us to remember the jobless. When we have a warm home, help us to remember the homeless. When we are without pain, help us to remember those who suffer. Help us to destroy complacency and be compassionate. Help us be concerned enough to pass it on, by our words and actions, to those veterans, military, and families who cry out for help. Grant President Nancy safe travels. Grant her the strength and energy to daily motivate our members to pass it on. Be with Jim and their family throughout the year and give them the strength to endure long separations. And finally, Dear God, please continue to bless our veterans, military, and their families. In Your Name we pray, Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Kris. You may be seated. The retiring officers will transfer their pins and ribbons of office to their successor.

(Music)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Now I would ask the retiring officers to come forward and present the newly elected officer to the assembly. As the outgoing officers return to their seats, Past National President Peggy will present them with their pin and ribbon. We will begin with National Chaplain Rosemarie Hauck.

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Good morning. It is my proud honor to present to you the National Chaplain for 2013-2014, Shelley Riggs from the Department of Ohio.

(Applause)

CHAPLAIN RIGGS: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAPLAIN RIGGS: Thank you all for the opportunity that you have given me to become and be your National Chaplain. Together we will pass it on as we work together for one common goal. As your Chaplain, we will pray together for God and Country. To Nancy, I will pray for you as you travel about and spread the word of what a great organization we have in the American Legion Auxiliary. May you always be safe.

This is a day the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice, and be glad in it. God bless you all.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: The National Historian, please? Angela Kilcrease.

HISTORIAN KILCREASE: It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2013-2014 National Historian Sharon Doran from the Department of Arizona.

(Applause)

HISTORIAN DORAN: Thank you. I'm actually going to keep this short and sweet. And I belong to one God, and I belong to one organization, and that is the American Legion Auxiliary. And I will do my best to serve the Historian position with

the dignity and the work that it requires so that I can record the accomplishments of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you.

(Applause)

HISTORIAN DORAN: It now gives me pleasure to introduce the Southern Division National Vice President, Shirley Fraser from the Department of Florida.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FRASER: And I am proud to present to you the 2013-2014 Southern Division National Vice President, Angela Kilcrease from the Department of Mississippi.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT KILCREASE: I first want to thank my beloved Department of Mississippi for your confidence in me to serve and represent you this year. I want to thank the members of the Southern Division for your confidence in me to elect me to serve you this year. We're going to remain positively southern this year. I look forward to great things from you. And so we can pass it on to the next year of ladies that come through to lead us. Thank you again and keep it positive.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FRASER: And now Joan Reinoehl, Eastern Division National Vice President from the Department of Pennsylvania.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT REINOEHL: I'm very proud to present the newly elected Eastern Division National Vice President for the year 2013-2014, from the Department of New Jersey, Margaret "Maggie" McMahon. Did I say it right?

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT MCMAHON: First of all, I want thank my Department of New Jersey and the Eastern Division. And it's going to be an honor and a privilege to serve the best division in the American Legion Auxiliary next year. And Elsie and Albert, I'll do you proud. Thank you.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT REINOEHL: And now I'd like to present Mary Jo Berning, Central Division National Vice President from the Department of Iowa.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT BERNING: It is with great pleasure that I introduce the 2013-2014 Central Division National Vice President from the Department of Ohio, Donna Ray.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RAY: Good morning. National President Nancy, this is going to be a terrific year for you and the members of the American Legion Auxiliary. The Central Division stands with you in your quest to pass it on. Support is there. Would the following states please stand up? And I pray I get it

right. Illinois. Indiana. Iowa. Kansas. Michigan. Missouri. Ohio. West Virginia. And Wisconsin.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RAY: Thank you so much. A special thank you to my husband for my eligibility, and to Ohio for all your support and dedication. I was in a meeting the other day and I'd like for you to remember three things this next year. Let's get it done. Let's do it right. And let's have fun. Thank you and God bless.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT BERNING: I'd like to introduce to you the Northwestern Division National Vice President Doris Ann Werlinger from the Department of South Dakota.

(Applause.)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT WERLINGER: Thank you. Good morning and thank you to the Northwest Division for a wonderful year, and to the members of the American Legion Auxiliary. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the new Northwest Division National Vice President 2013-2014 Pat Steranka from the Department of Colorado. Please give her a warm welcome.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT STERANKA: Thank you so much. And I just want to thank my state, my grand state of Colorado, for their support. And the Northwest Division, we're going to be the best. Don't listen to her. We are going to be the best and we are going to have the highest number of members, and we're going to communicate and pass on the good word. So I think we're going to do good. Thank you.

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT WERLINGER: It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you the Western Division National Vice President Barb Rutherford from the Department of Washington.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT RUTHERFORD: Good morning. It is a pleasure to introduce to you the 2013-2014 Western Division National Vice President from the Department of Arizona, Ginger Cox.

(Applause)

DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT COX: Good morning, everyone. I stand before you with great pride. And I thank you for the honor to represent the American Legion Auxiliary as the Western Division Vice President. Thanks to my Department of Arizona for all of their support, and thanks to my family and friends who have always stood beside me. I look forward to a great year and God bless every one of you.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: We also have two members on stage who are officers of the American Legion Auxiliary who serve behind the scene and will be nominated to continue their service at the National Executive Committee meeting, which will take place immediately following the close of

this installation. They are National Secretary Dubbie Buckler and National Treasurer Marta Hedding.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Today symbolizes and end as well as a beginning, a renewal as well as a closure. Today we have witnessed an orderly transfer of the role of the Presidency and of all of our officers, and together we celebrate our unity. Congratulations to all of you and our very best wishes for an incredible year of service. I sincerely hope it meets your every expectation. Good luck in all your endeavors, and safe travels.

Would the National Vice President Janet Jefford from the Department of Connecticut please come forward along with National President Nancy Brown-Park so Nancy can give you your pin and ribbon.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I'd like to introduce Janet Jefford from the Department of Connecticut, your new National Vice President, and my wonderful friend.

VICE PRESIDENT JEFFORD: Thank you, Nancy. Madam National President, national officers, members, and guests, I am so honored to be given this extraordinary opportunity to serve as your National Vice President. I am ready to seize this opportunity and I pledge, with your support and God's help, to serve with dignity and commitment to the National Organization and to each of you, friends and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

My immediate family couldn't be here with me this morning, but hopefully you will get to meet them in Charlotte next year. But my Legion family is here. Will all the members of the Department of Connecticut please stand?

(Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT JEFFORD: Thank you so much for the love and support you have given to me. You have made this possible. Thank you. I love you all. And will the Eastern Division please stand and be recognized? Thank you.

(Applause)

VICE PRESIDENT JEFFORD: Thank you for your support. There are a couple of others I need to thank today. First, my mom. Mom, hopefully you are up there watching with Joan and Kathy. Thank you for introducing me to the American Legion Auxiliary and all its possibilities.

Next, my friend Virginia Hobbs. Ginny convinced me that I could be Department President. And she has been my mentor every since. Thank you, my friend. And by the way, Ginny, the Past National Presidents pin that you lent me to wear? You can take it back to Kentucky now.

And to Carol Van Kirk, who gave me my first chairmanship. I hope I've lived up to the confidence you have shown in me.

And of course, Kris Nelson, who appointed me Children & Youth Chairman. What can I say, Kris? You will always be important in my life.

President Nancy, my friend, you and I have made the journey through the various chairmanships together. I am so happy to be serving under you this year.

Nancy has a vision for the coming year, a vision of cooperation and service

centered on a plan to grow our membership to one million members by our centennial celebration in 2019. Nancy, I pledge to you and the entire leadership team that I will support that effort. You have asked us this year to pass it on. As National Vice President, I promise to help pass on my love for the Auxiliary, my belief in its mission, and my hope for its future.

Again, thank you all for the confidence you have shown in me. May God give us a year of successes, may he keep President Nancy safe in her travels, may he bless each of you and your families, and may he always bless the best country on earth and those that defend it. Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Janet. Past President Peggy and President Nancy, please come to the podium so that Peggy can present Nancy with her pin and ribbon.

(Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: She refused to take her ribbon off.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: My friend, it is indeed an honor to present to you your gavel, the symbol of authority for our organization. Use it wisely and in the best interests of our organization.

Now we will hear from our National President with her vision for the coming year. Madam President, you're on.

(Music)

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Madam National President Peggy, Jan, Legion Family members, guests, and friends. My journey started 65 years ago at 4 days old. My parents Jean and Dick Brown were both active members of The American Legion Family. Some of my first memories are from an old log cabin in San Anselmo, California. The American Legion Family became our family. My dad was the Post Commander and my mother served as Department President. Forty years later we became the first mother-daughter in California to serve in that high position.

This would not be a reality if it weren't for all the men and women who mentored me along the way. The 2013-2014 Auxiliary year is dedicated to my Legion Family and friends.

Congratulations go to President Peggy for an outstanding year of dedicated service, and thank you, Peggy, for your love and support throughout the year.

Janet, congratulations on your election. Your new office of National Vice President reflects the trust and confidence the membership has in you. I know you will cherish that trust and know that I will rely on your heavily this next year for your support and friendship.

I also want to recognize Sharon Conatser, Mary Davis, and all the National Chairman appointees who have agreed to serve with me this year. They have worked tirelessly to prepare the information for the first Department Leadership National Conference, the Plan of Action, and the new content for the Mission Training. A big thank-you for all the work you have done. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Yeah, great, give them a big hand. Because they all worked really, really, really hard. They do a lot of work really early on in the year.

Thank you to the Legion Family from the Golden State of California. Will you please stand and be recognized? Stand up! Stand up!

(Applause)

(Cheering)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Now that is California gold! Would everyone in the Western Division please stand to be recognized? Thank you very much for all your support throughout the years.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You can sit down now.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: A big thank you to Installing Officer Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan and her wonderful installing team; our amazing singer National SAL Commander Joe Gladden; and my special friend former American Auxiliary Girls Stater and Girls National Senator Sandra Rice. I can't thank you enough for making this such a special event. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I will always be indebted to Linda Workman and the members of my campaign committee. Thank you all for your hard work and generosity over the last three years. Kris Nelson, Janet Jefford, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, and Krisann Owens, your friendship, support, and guidance have meant so much to me. Thank you.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The Melgard family, Bob, Diane, Debbie, and Doreen are here today. They have been family friends and Past National President Josie was a mentor for me. And I know she looked forward to this day. Thank you, Melgard family, for making the trip. I know that Josie, our special angel, is watching over all of us today. I want you to know my husband said there is no crying in baseball, and there is no crying at the installation. So far I'm not succeeding.

And our daughter Chloe, who is here, and our son Christopher, who couldn't make the trip, they have been supportive. And I know at times it has been hard when we miss special occasions because we had to attend Legion functions. Thank you, Chloe, for all the years of support. Your dad and I are so proud of the beautiful young woman you have become.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: And last but not least, my husband Jim. This journey would not have been possible without your support. You have been with me through all of the tough times and the good times. I know you will be there for me this coming year and we will have a wonderful experience together. I can't tell you how much I will miss you and our dog Willie. But thank goodness for FaceTime. Thank you, honey. Thank you so much.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: OK, OK. First, let's make this a pass it on moment. Everyone get out your smart phones and tweet or Facebook what you are doing right now. Use the hashtag #PassItOnALA. Can you tell I love technology? I think it's a way we can pass it on to the next generation and be the veterans organization that is trending.

My theme this year is Pass It On. It's our turn to inspire the next generation of volunteers. To ensure our organization is here to support the future generations of veterans, military, and their families. It is time to pass on the legacy of the American Legion Auxiliary. The National Chairman and staff have spent many hours developing a plan that will help you serve the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. It is your toolkit to success. Pass It On. There are many new ideas you can get started on as soon as you return home.

Over the summer I read a book called "Dinner With The Smileys." I cried and laughed and didn't want the book to end. It tells the story of one military family, one year of heroes, and lessons for a lifetime. It is an uplifting true story of a wife, mother, and three young boys' year long experience where someone new came to dinner each week to fill Dad's chair while he was deployed overseas. It's a story about how the community came together to help a military family. Who will help families like the Smileys in the future if we don't Pass It On?

Our Community Service program this year has many objectives that will help you reach out into your communities. One is the Walk, Run, Roll. It is a way you can create community awareness, raise money you can pass on to veterans and their families in your community. Check out the Community Service Plan of Action on the American Legion Auxiliary website to get started. And I pledge to you, I will try to attend as many walks as I can if you put on a walk in your community.

There are so many ways we can pass it on this next year, from knowledge to patriotism, to the love and respect of each other. We cannot be successful as an organization if we don't become more tolerant and accepting of each other. The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program taught me about the importance of diversity and tolerance. Each year more than 20,000 young women attend a program that embraces the difference in all of us. It's time we all pass on that feeling to all of our members, and those who would like to be part of what we do.

I have two important goals this year. The first is to secure the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. During the 2013-2014 administrative year we will be developing tactics that we will begin rolling out in the 2014-2015 membership year. The 2012-2013 NEC has approved a special task force to develop a multiyear plan to grow membership. The task force will include 20 volunteers from all levels of the organization with the passion and commitment to work on a membership growth plan and will include a member of the American Legion to ensure that our plan is aligned with the American Legion's strategic membership five-year plan. It will take a big commitment to stop the slide and grow our organization so we can pass it on to the next generation of volunteers. Today we help Vietnam veterans. Who will help the young veterans of today 40 years from now if we don't pass it on?

My second goal is to develop mission and department training. Past National President Carlene, Kris, and Peggy have been instrumental in bringing training back to our members. At the first Department Leadership National Conference back in May, you made it clear that leadership training is a key to our success in the future. You talked, we listened. The Mission Training has been revamped and includes two tracks. The first is American Legion Auxiliary Programs: What's This All About? And the second is Organizational Effectiveness: Developing the Grassroots Leader in You. And that's ready to go. It's on the website. So please go and find it, sign up, and attend. I think you'll enjoy it.

Day two will be dedicated to membership, raising awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary, and our role in the community. We will also roll out a pilot department training program in the spring of 2014. Is your department a candidate?

My National President's Project this year is a new fund called the American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Project Fund. The fund will be used to grant money to the American Legion Auxiliary departments and units the developing needs of veterans, military, and their families. Our goal is to raise 50 cents a member. This is a great way to pass on needed items for veterans and their families.

So now I'm -- oh, you didn't give it to me.

He's still in training.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: This is transitional unity, as Lisa said. So now I'm excited to tell you about the homecoming. We're going to Disneyland.

(Cheering)

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: We're going to Disneyland. The dates are October 17-20. And we will visit the Reagan Library, Newport Beach, and Lakewood Post, and have a day at Disneyland. So I hope you can all make it.

We are committed to strengthening our ties with The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our military, veterans and their families.

I'd like to end with something my mother wrote 50 years ago as a department president. Although we may feel that enough has been done, or that the job we hold is too heavy, we have a tribute to the past, a responsibility to the present, and a legacy to give to the future. You as a member are important to your American Legion Auxiliary unit, your department, and the national organization. You are the essence and the reason for our existence. The power and the effectiveness of our organization depends on each of us as individuals. Jean Brown, California Department President, 1962-1963. Thank you all and I look forward to a wonderful year with each one of you. Thank you.

(Applause)

(Standing ovation)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Please welcome back Joe Gladden singing, "The House I Live In."

COMMANDER GLADDEN: Please say a little prayer for me as I do this for Nancy. Truly you are united in service with our organization.

(Music)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: (Singing.) What is America to me? A name, a map, or flag I see? A certain word democracy? What is America to me? The house I live in, a plot of earth, a street. A grocer and a butcher, all the people that I meet. The children in the playground, the faces that I see, all races and religion that's America to me. The place I work in, the worker by my side. The little town, the city, where my people lived and died. The howdy and the handshake, the air of feeling free. The right to speak your mind out, that's America to me. The things I see about me, the big things and the small. The little corner newsstand, or a house a mile tall. The wedding and the churchyard, the laughter and the tears. And the dream that's been a-growing for more than 200 years. The town I live in, the street, the house, the room. The pavement of the city or the garden all in bloom. The church, the school, the clubhouse, the million lights I see. But especially the people, that's America to me.

(Music)

(Applause)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: Thank you. That goes out to you, Nancy. Thank you for choosing such a wonderful song and letting me a part of this installation today. God bless America, everyone.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: We're going to deviate from the program for just a bit. There's a very busy man sitting behind, impatiently waiting to get back to his meeting. It's my pleasure to introduce the incoming National Commander Dan Dellinger from the Department of Virginia.

(Applause)

INCOMING COMMANDER DELLINGER: Thank you. Thank you very much. President Nancy, Past National Peggy, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joe Gladden, officers, newly elected officers, delegates, and guests, first of all I would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to be here this morning to share in this most special moment. Unfortunately there is some pressing business I need to get to in another hall.

I'd like to thank you, all the ladies of the Auxiliary, for giving me a special lady to work with this year, and a very enthusiastic and energetic woman. I've heard the word Energizer Bunny somewhere?

(Laughter)

INCOMING COMMANDER DELLINGER: But truly, I'm looking forward to working with her as she passes it on. And I promise you that we will all work together, National Commander Joe Gladden, Nancy Brown-Park, and myself, to promote the four pillars upon which our great organizations were founded. In our service to our veterans, our servicemen and woman, our communities, and our nation.

Nancy said we can strengthen our ties. That's not quite exactly accurate. We will strengthen our ties.

(Applause)

INCOMING COMMANDER DELLINGER: We will work together as a family as we go forward this year and represent you before our nation. And the last thing I have

to say is thank goodness they didn't ask me to sing or you would all be going away from here right now.

So congratulations, President Nancy. Thank you for the opportunity to be here. I look forward to working with each and every one of you. And may God bless you all. God bless our troops everywhere. And God bless this great country we live in. Thank you.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: As usual he forgot to introduce his wife. He's so interested in --

(Laughter)

INCOMING COMMANDER DELLINGER: Yeah, I owe her something now. I can see it coming. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the soon-to-be First Lady of The American Legion, my lovely partner, friend, and wife, Margaret.

(Applause)

INCOMING COMMANDER DELLINGER: And before we leave, I would like to one thing. Nancy? Joe? Please come forward. We need to get together as a team. This is us. This is Team American Legion.

(Applause)

INCOMING COMMANDER DELLINGER: God bless you all.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: That's great. I'm excited. So I'd like to introduce, I would like you to meet my husband Jim. Come on.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: That's two. That's two.

MR. PARK: I'll get it right.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Anybody want to apply for the job?

(Laughter)

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I'd like to introduce you to my husband Jim, who will introduce our family and friends. Our special friends and family who have come from all over the country and Canada to celebrate this very special occasion with us.

MR. PARK: No, I'm okay. I don't cry. No crying at installations. No crying. Yeah, it gives me great honor to present to you our friends who have come from all over the country and Canada. And if you would, if you would like stand and wave and be recognized, or you can sit in your chair. The first is Valerie Hardy. She is a long time friend of Nancy's and special Girls State counselor. And now you are going to be Director of Girls State this next year in California.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: The next I would like to introduce from Mill Valley, California, it is Nancy Mear and her long time fiancé Tom McElvoy.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

MR. PARK: Nancy and Nancy have known each other for 45 years. They met each other at the College of Marin, and have been fast friends for all these years. And if you get to San Francisco, look up Tom because he's the best bartender in San Francisco.

And the other friend who has come all the way from Toronto, Canada is Anna Laughlin. A very, now I wrote here and I changed this, it says a very old friend. I said a very close friend. And she is great. She, when we travel overseas to the Far East or Europe, Anna is going to come and take care of Willie for us. So thank you.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: And then some very close friends from Palm Desert, Sue Abramowitz and Lenny Abramowitz. Sue is a counselor and a member of the eUnit.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: And Lenny is a disabled Vietnam veteran and he belongs to Post 519 in Palm Desert. Now you can catch him, if you are in Palm Desert, at Sammy G's. He plays the bongos Friday and Saturday night. It's great. You'll love it.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: And then Kathy Graf from California. She is a long time friend and is now becoming a member of the E Unit and a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Kathy?

(Applause)

MR. PARK: So then our other very, very good friends Rob McGushin and Margaret McGushin. They are next door neighbors.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: And they are both, Rob is a Legion member and Margaret is the Unit member. And when Nancy is traveling they invite us over, or us, they invite me over to dinner every night. Margaret is a great cook and Rob has a great collection of wine. So how could I turn it down?

And last but not least is Steve Puckett. Are you here? Is the principal of the company we work with, American Dawn. And he and Nancy have been long time friends, for over 20 years. He is a great salesman, a smart businessman, compassionate, and a scratch golfer.

(Laughter)

MR. PARK: Oh yeah, Nancy and I are so appreciative of our wonderful friends joining us on this very special day. Thank you so much for being with us.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: Okay? What?

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Don't --

MR. PARK: Oh, OK.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So honey, I want to be, give you my pin and be the first to pin it on your cap. And the cap that Jim is wearing for the day is my dad's cap. So he's wearing, my dad is here with us as well. So he's got my dad's cap on.

Thank you, honey.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: Do you want to give me a kiss?

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Oh, yeah.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Nancy, he's learning.

(Laughter)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you, Jim, for those special introductions. And Nancy, thank you for those wonderful words and giving us a peek into the future you see for the American Legion Auxiliary for the coming year. Those members who are present with us today and those at home in their own departments will accept the challenges you have presented and carry us forward through an amazing year.

History is a ribbon always unfurling and you certainly will make history this coming year as your ribbon continues to unfurl, starting today, until the end of your year. The end of your year of service to our veterans, the military, their families, and our communities.

Now it's my pleasure to introduce an outstanding member of the Department of California, Linda Workman, Past Department President, and chairman of Nancy's campaign committee, to introduce those special guests that are here with us today. Linda?

(Music)

MS. WORKMAN: Our National President Nancy is urging all of us to pass it on this coming year and build a legacy to our sons and daughters. It is my pleasure to introduce our next guest, who truly knows what it means to uphold the legacy of our forefathers. Our National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Joseph Gladden.

(Applause)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: It's an honor to be here today. I just want to say first off to the officers, outgoing President Peggy, and the rest of the officers, you had an incredible year. I was so proud of my National Commander Chris Huntzinger with the job that he did last year and I'd just like to thank Chris and Peggy and Jim for all the work they did last year.

(Applause)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: I'd also like to say that moving forward this year my theme is going to be United In Service. And United In Service to me means the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion working together to make our programs be the best that they can possibly be. And I think we're off to a great start, Nancy, with what we had here today.

I want to thank Nancy for putting me on the spot today. I was scared to death. I asked her yesterday if we could have a few coolers placed strategically around the room. I sound much better the more of those things you had.

(Laughter)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: I'd also be remiss if I didn't thank my National President from Maryland Linda Newsome, who is a dear friend of mine and she's the one

that got me into this. So thank you, Linda. No, it was a great opportunity and I am so happy to have done that for you.

My membership this year, we're going to be shooting for the moon in membership, shooting for 375,000 members. It's going to be a lofty goal. But one of the ways that I'm asking my membership, and I'm actually going to ask you as well to do that, is to start a family tree. I want you to sit down, start with the first person eligible to be a member of The American Legion, and then work forward. Find out who is in your family tree. Find out who is a member of our American Legion Family. And then all those persons that aren't, I challenge you to sign them up. I know in my own family, I'm sitting with about 45 people on my family tree and only about 13 of them are members of the American Legion family. So I have a lot of work to go.

Now the exciting thing about that is I'm not only going to sign up Sons of The American Legion members, but I'm going to sign up American Legion members, and I'm going to sign up American Legion Auxiliary members.

(Applause)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: And we do have to be united in service for us all to achieve the goals that we want to do.

So with that, Nancy, I just say congratulations. Jim, I thought you did a heck of a job, buddy. You know, they just said they wanted to introduce you. They didn't tell you to come forward, so I thought you did wonderful.

(Laughter)

COMMANDER GLADDEN: I'm looking forward to working with everyone this year. My thoughts on things are let's have fun and the rest will work itself out. So God bless America, God bless the American Legion Auxiliary, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Joe. Passing on the knowledge and the aims of this great organization is what we are destined to do. Although there was an angel who was a mentor to many of us, she cannot be with us today. But I know she is looking down and smiling knowing that her support and mentoring truly made a difference because she passed it on. It is my honor to present to you Past National President Josie Melgard's husband Bob, and her daughter Diane.

(Music)

(Applause)

MS. RAPPORT: It's an honor to be here today representing my mother, and my sisters, and my dad, to say congratulations, job well done, to President Nancy. Nancy talked about becoming an Auxiliary member 65 years ago at birth, and that's the way it was in our family, too. Mom and Dad met Jean and Dick through the Legion in the early fifties and quickly became friends. And the family quickly bonded together. Jean was one of Mom's early mentors, passing along to her guidance, enthusiasm, and love for the organization. Our families visited back and forth and at one point we even shared custody of a gray French poodle named Francois. No, you didn't get him back. Jean and Dick had moved to a place that didn't allow dogs and so we had a nice, large ranch out in the country and we were asked to care for him until they got a larger place. We turned

him into a bonafide country dog and every time we heard that they might be moving we wanted to hide him because we weren't about to give him back. He was a great, great friend.

When my youngest sister Doreen graduated from college, Nancy was right there with a job for her. And Doreen left San Francisco and went to Hawaii with Nancy on her first big adventure. They lived together, so Nancy was not only her boss, her roommate, and her mentor. Again passing it on, passing the love of family through the generations.

Mom was National President in 1985-1986 and I know that the Brown family were one of her biggest supporters. After she left office she watched Nancy's progress through the ranks and no one could have been prouder of her and the job that she did. The day that Mom got the call acknowledging that Nancy would in fact become National President this year, she was in tears. She could barely speak she was so happy. Every time we talked to her, "Did you know? Nancy is going to be National President." "Yes, Mom, we know, and we're so proud."

I know that she's here today watching over all of us, and I know that she would be the first to give Nancy the biggest bear hug available. Mom considered her a fourth daughter and Mom knew that she would go on to do great things for this great organization.

Madam President, we give you our support, our love. And we wish you the best year ever. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. MELGARD: It's kind of hard to see, I have my daughters all here with me. We wouldn't miss this for anything. One thing for Jim, he did an excellent job up here. But he's got to remember that Nancy is the job. She is the President, and he has to walk one pace behind her.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

MR. MELGARD: But I know that he is, if he's like me, his shirt is, I hope his shirt is a little larger than he usually wears because his buttons will be popping. Because I know he's mighty proud. And so I want to wish Nancy one of the best years. And God bless her, crisscrossing the United States, and their foreign tours. They will learn a lot and see a lot, and a lot of things that we're supposed to bring back and tell you but a lot of people don't believe us when we see poverty. But we had a wonderful time. And I know that Nancy and Jim in their foreign travels will have an excellent time. And Jim will have to learn how to cook. And he has to wash, well maybe he'll even have to clean house, too.

(Laughter)

MR. MELGARD: Anyway, Jim and Nancy, may you have the best year ever. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Diane and Bob. It is now my privilege to present to you the National Executive Committeewoman from the Department of California Terri Mikesell.

(Music)

MS. MIKESELL: Good morning. Nancy, what an honor and a privilege it is to serve with you this year as the National Executive Committeewoman from California. It has been many years since the Department of California has had the honor of a National President and I know that you will serve our national organization with the same dedication and finesse that you served our department. Congratulations on this very life changing endeavor and know that the Department of California is proud of your accomplishment. And if there is anything we can do to assist you, we are there for you. We will continue to pass it on and work towards the growth of this great organization together. Thank you, Nancy.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Terry. Standing by Terry's side this year as a National Executive Committeeman of the Department of California, it is my pleasure to introduce Al Lennox.

(Music)

(Applause)

MR. LENNOX: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

MR. LENNOX: I said to Nancy, with her sash on she looks like royalty. And I look at all these ladies with their sashes on, they look like royalty, and royalty they are. Let's give them a round of applause.

(Applause)

MR. LENNOX: Anybody that's been in the American Legion for any length of time and that has any sense at all, knows that the heart and soul of this organization is the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause)

MR. LENNOX: You fill a void in America. You fill a hole, a gap. America wouldn't be what it is today without the American Legion Auxiliary. I firmly believe that.

(Applause)

MR. LENNOX: I first met Nancy about ten years ago when we were walking the halls of Congress. And for those that have had that opportunity, all congressional offices have a flag outside the door. So what we would do is we wouldn't just go to our own local representatives. But we would go to every office that had a California flag. So it was a busy day. We would take a house and we would canvass it. Now Nancy came up and said, "Can I join your team and stomp the halls with you?" And I said, "Well, okay. Maybe I can get her to buy me lunch." Well the first office we went to, we, some receive you very well. Some aren't so friendly. Well the first one wasn't so friendly. And I was ready to say, "Well, we did our best." And Nancy said, "Excuse me, we are the American Legion. We are here to tell you what our mission is. We are here to tell you what veterans need and what their family needs. And you are going to listen to us before we leave this office."

(Applause)

MR. LENNOX: I bought her lunch.

(Laughter)

MR. LENNOX: Every year after we did the same thing again. And Jim came along, too --

(Laughter)

MR. LENNOX: And we had great success. This lady is a very, very special lady. She's dedicated. She's committed. She's tenacious, tenacious to the mission of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, veterans, and their families. We couldn't have a better President this year than Nancy Brown-Park.

(Applause)

(Cheering)

MR. LENNOX: Come on, California, let's --

(Cheering)

MR. LENNOX: -- make sure everyone knows that the rest of the United States is just a suburb of California.

(Laughter)

MR. LENNOX: I'm sorry. I had to say it. She's a great lady. She'll do a great job. I'm proud to know her. Wow. Look for the best, you're going to get it. You're going to get a great job this year. God bless America.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Al. California is honored this next year to be shooting hoops for our veterans. And the woman who will be leading us to pass it on is the Department of California President Anita Biggs.

(Applause)

(Music)

MS. BIGGS: Good morning. It gives me so much pleasure to bring greetings, and they already stood up, from the Department of California, Madam Department President Nancy Brown-Park.

VOICES: No, no, no, no, no. National President.

MS. BIGGS: I know.

(Laughter)

MS. BIGGS: It says department on this paper. National President. I really, the timing of this year could not be more perfect for me to be the Department President along with our National President Nancy. It has been truly a dream come true for me. And you all know our theme is we are the California Dream Team. We are here to support you, Nancy, in whatever you decide to do this year. Through your travels, we'll be praying for you. And as you say, and I say as well, you are my sister from another mother.

(Laughter)

MS. BIGGS: Mr. Biggs and I are great friends with you and Jim. We love hanging out with you. And I just, you guys don't know this, but I have to, I'm sorry Nancy, I have to tell it. This, I've been trying to teach Nancy how to dance.

(Laughter)

MS. BIGGS: It's a big job. And unfortunately, she's going to lose a whole year of training in her travels. But don't worry, when she comes back we'll get back in step. Okay?

So I wish for you a very successful year full of wonderful travels, safe journeys, just knowing that we're here for you for whatever you need. We will always have your back and we love you. Thank you. Thank you all.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Anita. This next gentleman is someone who has been a true believer of the Legion family and supporting all aspects of the Legion Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders. It's my honor to introduce the Department of California Commander Joseph Garcia.

(Cheering)

(Music)

(Applause)

COMMANDER GARCIA: Hello American Legion Auxiliary, here we go --

(Applause)

(Cheering)

COMMANDER GARCIA: -- an my fellow comrades. I'm so excited to be here today to address this assembly. It's such a great honor to be here on behalf of our National President Nancy Brown-Park. There is a saying that behind every great man is a good woman. Well I think that saying should be changed. After being involved with the American Legion Auxiliary, I've learned a lot. The saying should be beside every great man is a better woman.

(Applause)

COMMANDER GARCIA: One of the first interactions I had with Nancy was, I'd better get away from that real quick, was we were involved in a fundraiser. I have to bring this up because it was a good experience. This fundraiser was a golf tournament. And we were playing together and we were out there, we were tearing up the fairways. I mean, literally we were tearing them up. And when we were finished, we were so excited. The course was a 72 and we had a 61. Oh, we were doing great. And somebody came along and busted our bubble that said there's nine more holes to play.

That wasn't all when I first met President Nancy. As time went on watching her conduct her meetings, or participate in Auxiliary programs, President Nancy set a real example of true leadership. While mixing with others you see her professionalism and her Auxiliary knowledge really shines. You are all in for a real treat with President Nancy. I am so proud of Nancy. The entire Department of California is proud of Nancy. And each and every one of you will be proud of President Nancy as she displays her leadership.

I must say one of the most important and defining features of President Nancy will be her compassion. The compassion she has towards everyone that she meets. The compassion she has toward the American Legion Auxiliary. And the compassion she shows every veteran that she comes across.

Linda, I thank you for letting me speak today. I thank the American Legion Auxiliary for everything you do to help our veterans. May God bless the soldiers that are protecting our country, may God have a special blessing for those soldiers' families, may God bless each and every one of you, and may God bless America.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Joe. Long before the national organization worked hand in hand with our newly installed National President Nancy, there was a gentleman who did. And it is my privilege to introduce to you Steve Puckett.

(Music)

(Applause)

MR. PUCKETT: Thank you very much. It's truly an honor and a privilege to be here today. And I thank you all for your service and for all that you do. We appreciate it.

Two quick stories. I'll be brief, for Nancy. I met Nancy back in we'll say the early nineties, so we won't be too specific. We both worked for a company named Fieldcrest-Cannon, a home textile producer back when we made textile products in the U.S. And I was new to, I had just been given a new responsibility. And I was asked to go to New York to attend a sales meeting, a big group, sales, marketing, a lot of people. I didn't know anyone. I did not know anyone. The first event was a golf tournament. It's funny that golf seems to be the theme with Nancy. But a golf tournament in Princeton, New Jersey. I went over and I was paired up with Nancy and another designer, a young lady. Similar to the story that was told about the 61, I would say that, I'm not sure we actually added up the score. But, but for probably about five hours I laughed. I have never had more fun on a golf course than with Nancy. That was an absolute, I got to know a lot about her. I heard about the Auxiliary, imagine that.

(Laughter)

MR. PUCKETT: And she just was an absolute blast. Those of you that know Nancy, she can talk. Wow, can she talk.

And then a few years later Jim came along. Mr. Patience, as we called him. Our First Man, now as we'll refer to Jim. And Nancy had become my mentor. She gave me a lot of advice. I could come to her with so many things. And it was a friend for life. Truly the best thing that happened to me was that day of golf in Princeton.

And I happened to mention a few years later casually that I had been seeing someone and Nancy asked if it was serious. And I said it may be. And she informed at that point that the young lady would need to get by her before we could move any further with this relationship.

Loyalty is a big issue with Nancy. So we, they proceeded, and the next thing I knew Jim and Nancy were in Charlotte, North Carolina, we were there. And I'm going to say within 30 seconds of the conversation I was already getting the she's not, that's not going to work, she's not in. That is not the person for you.

(Laughter.)

MR. PUCKETT: So the rest of the three hours were me trying to keep her from saying anything, and not doing that anymore, and trying to keep everybody away. So that went aside. A few years later I did meet another young lady and mentioned it to Nancy again. And she said, well, bring her out. Bring her out. And that was a tough decision, a very tough decision. But I did. I brought her out. And she said, for those of you that also know Nancy, we'll go to my home away from home, Napa Valley. And so we went to Napa and did some wine tasting. And over a grueling day and a half I finally got approval from Nancy.

(Laughter)

MR. PUCKETT: Final approval came and probably less than a year later we were married, and now I have a beautiful little boy. So thanks to Nancy.

(Applause)

MR. PUCKETT: You know, there are so many things in life that shape who we are and what we become. And Nancy, I think from birth your purpose was the Auxiliary. It really was. And that purpose that I heard about that day in Princeton, I've seen it over 20 years develop into a passion. I mean, a deep seated passion. And between Nancy's ability to talk, and negotiate, and her loyalty, and her passion, she's going to be a shining star. There's no doubt about it. So congratulations. I'm honored. And on behalf of me, my wife Carrie, and our son Josh, we love you. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you, Steve. This next person is probably the most important of all as he has supported Nancy for any and every endeavor she has sought and been willing as the call to the Department of California. I proudly present to you Nancy's strongest supporter, her wonderful husband Jim Park, and her beautiful daughter Chloe.

(Applause)

(Music)

(Cheering)

MR. PARK: Good morning. This is certainly a great day for Nancy and I, and the Legion Family. And I would like to take a few minutes to tell you what you can expect from Nancy this year. And I can tell it best through a story.

When Nancy and I first started to date 20 years ago she invited me to Girls State where she was chief counselor. Not knowing much about Girls State at the time, I agreed. Nancy spent the afternoon showing me around and telling me about the city, county, state governance of Girls State, and the structure. Then she invited me to attend the assembly that evening. I said I didn't think it was a good idea because I was the only man on campus. But Nancy insisted. So make the first note: when Nancy has her mind set on something she usually makes it happen. As they say, do it, get it right, get along, get acknowledged, and have fun.

So needless to say, I went to the assembly where there were 550 high school girls. And it was in an auditorium. And it's basketball seating, where they have the tiers. And Nancy walks me in. Here are 550 girls, high school girls, she proceeds to sit me right in front. And then she says, "I'll be back."

(Laughter)

MR. PARK: I said this is not good. She said she'd be back soon. So a few minutes later she comes back in front of the assembly and starts, and I hope I get it right, the Girls State chant. Are you from Girls State?

VOICES: Yeah.

MR. PARK: Okay. Give me a G! No, so it went on. And in a few minutes she had a whole place rocking. I mean, she had, people were on their feet. And I said to myself, I said she's, she's good. She's very good. I didn't ask her to marry me then, though. But she was very, very good.

But during her years as counselor she would receive many letters of appreciation from the girls in making the Girls State experience a great one. In fact, this year the California Girls State gave Nancy the life achievement award for 40 years of service.

(Applause)

MR. PARK: So as people said before, here's what you can expect from Nancy. Someone who is inspirational, passionate, and dedicated to the Legion family and its mission. She is committed to passing on the legacy to future generations of veterans and their families.

So in conclusion I am so proud of her. And she will serve you very well as the National President. Thank you, Nancy. And people are going to ask me what I'm going to do while she's away, and I'm going to go to Toastmaster School.

(Laughter)

(Applause)

MR. PARK: So Nancy, we have a little something here for you. I've disguised it in another bag. She loves, she loves these little blue boxes.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Oh, it's beautiful. It's a beautiful bracelet with a heart charm on it.

MR. PARK: It says, "I love you."

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: And it says, "I love you," on it.

MR. PARK: For your traveling.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: From you? This is from Chloe. It's a beautiful charm and it's a horseshoe for good luck. Thank you, sweetie. You did an awesome job.

(Laughter)

MS. WORKMAN: Thank you very much, Jim and Chloe. And now I'd like to turn the podium back over to Past National President Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you so much, Linda, and all your wonderful folks from California. I'm sure you are all bursting with pride as this special lady begins this memorable year as National President. It's my privilege and honor to welcome Past President Peggy into the ranks of Past National Presidents, and to thank her from the bottom of our hearts for this very special year of service and for everything she has accomplished. It was indeed an incredible year of service and one that leaves us with rich memories of that service. I think we should stand and give Past National President Peggy a round of applause.

(Applause)

(Standing ovation)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: And Past President Peggy, if you would come forward for some very special presentations? Presenting Past National President Peggy with her Past President's pin will be Wendy Riggle, and Kris Nelson will present her Past National President's ribbon. Lisa Chaplin, Peggy's daughter, and Linda Newsome, Past National President, National President when Peggy was the Department President of Virginia, will bring forward the National stand of colors as Rita Navarreté, Past National President, presents them. The audience may remain seated as Peggy stands with her son-in-law Kevin between her stand of colors as they are presented to her.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NAVARRETÉ: Madam Retiring National President, and dear friend Peggy, we have now come to the close of this convention, which marks the end of your stellar year as the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary. As you take your rightful place between the beautiful colors, may they remind you of your year of dedicated service, not self.

For a moment now, stand proud knowing your theme, Soaring to New Heights, motivated members across America as they served our veterans, their families, and communities. You witnessed firsthand the most compassionate, caring, and giving women in the world as you traveled. You have said the best of the best. Members exceeded your expectations as \$52,000 was raised for the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship Fund. Your caring attitude of recognizing the needs of military troops on your Korean trip led to the members donating funds to purchase laptops for their personal use, a tool that would allow them to keep in touch with their families while serving in the DMZ Zone. You gave members an opportunity to donate to a heartfelt cause in supporting the troops.

Under your leadership several milestones were met, as the new public awareness campaign was introduced, a redesigned magazine, new leadership training, and increased the support of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and other Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation programs.

But perhaps the most humble moments were when you visited departments and witnessed the many, many projects completed by Auxiliary members. Projects that truly reflect our mission of service our veterans, their families, and their communities. Members soared to new heights as they volunteered over 8.3 million hours. Would these be those ordinary angels we heard of this week? I believe so. And we all heard firsthand of how one person can make a difference in reaching out to meet a need, whether in a small or large community.

Your southern personality charmed many as you spoke from your heart and truly left a footprint on those who heard your message. It is no wonder why some call you that Steel Magnolia Lady.

Your colors stood tall at the National Headquarters and are now ready for you to take them home, where they will remind you of the precious memories and friendships you have made. Madam Retiring President, your service to this organization will be remembered as one filled with wit, charm, steadfast, strong character, grace, and most of all your passion to serve the greatest women's organization, the American Legion Auxiliary. May you honor and cherish them as they are given to you with much love and appreciation. *Via con Dios mi amiga, tu amiga por siempre.* May you continue to walk with God and your friend forever. May your faith continue to believe all things are possible as we serve for Service Not Self, and definitely for God and Country.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: The color bearers may return the colors to their standards. Peggy, if you will come forward also, and Kevin you may be seated. We will have Wendy Riggie present her Past President's pin, and Kris Nelson will present her Past National President ribbon.

MS. RIGGLE: National President Peggy, it's an honor and a privilege to present to you this Past National President's pin, which was my mother Sherry McLaughlin, who served during 2001-2002. And with your permission, I'd like to tell a little short story about the pin.

Unbeknownst to many, my mom actually lost her Past National President's pin several years after she was presented it. So she immediately ordered another one and she thought that was the end of the story. When she was nearing the end of her life in 2010 she asked and made sure, gave me very specific instructions, as you may know Sherry, that I was to pass that pin back to the National Headquarters and if it was their pleasure that it go to Kris Nelson. Which I did, and I presented to Kris at the last convention.

As I was preparing her condo for sale and sorting through her clothes and packing them away, I packed away a jacket and noticed there was a little glimmer of light on it. So I turned it back over and voila, I found the lost pin. And so I emailed Dubbie and I said we've hit a gold mine. Because I know how precious those pins are. I'm returning the pin to the national office and you may do with it what you wish. I saw Kris Nelson a couple months later and I said, "I'm so glad you had my mom's pin. And did you hear the story of the second pin?" And she said, "Oh yes, I know the story quite well." She said there are many that wanted the pin. But she said the national office asked me to decide who it should go to, and I said there is no question about it. Peggy and Sherry were great friends. They roomed together. And if Sherry were alive she would ask that it go to Peggy.

So Peggy, as I present you this pin know that you carry my mom with you each and every day that you wear it. And as I made Kris Nelson promise last year, there is one last thing you have to do. You have seen so many things, experienced things that ordinary individuals won't. And I know you've talked to Lisa about it. Sorry, Lisa. But you've got to go home and well them the stories. Because they happened so quickly you could not have told them all. And someday they will remain unsaid. So you've got to make me that promise.

Congratulations, Peggy. You've had a great year.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you. And I loved your mother very much.

MS. RIGGLE: I know you did. And I am sorry I didn't know you sooner, but I've loved getting to know you. But I'm going to let you finish this.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NEWSOME: Past National President Peggy, what an honor it is to present this ribbon to you as you wear it from here on in. I first met Peggy in 1991 during Margaret Yankovich's incoming administrative when I was on the special forces team. However, I did meet John first because John met me at the airport. And we remained strong and very dedicated friends ever since then.

Peggy, you've done an outstanding job. I wish Anna was here, but we all know she was not able to be here. And I thank you for a job well done and continue your strong leadership in the American Legion Auxiliary.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT NEWSOME: Thank you. Love you.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT THOMAS: Love you, too.

(Applause)

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT PULVERMACHER-RYAN: Thank you all for those inspiring presentations. Past President Peggy, please take your seat and your place in our history as a Past National President of the American Legion Auxiliary.

There are just two announcements before Past National President Peggy closes her convention. First, a reminder that the NEC meeting will commence immediately following the close of this convention in Room 320 ABDE in this building. Secondly, please show courtesy by remaining in your seats until the official close of the convention and the recession of the retiring officers. No President's pins will be available until after the official close. So if you leave early you won't get a pin.

Madam Past National President Peggy, I return your gavel to you so that you can close your convention.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT THOMAS: Thank you, Jan. I wish for you a most successful year filled with opportunities serving our veterans, their families, and our communities. The theme of Pass It On will make a difference as members continue to serve. Congratulations to Nancy and my sincere best wishes. Thank you all for your love and support. I look forward to joining the Past National Presidents as the junior member.

This has been a journey to remember. This year will be recorded as a chapter of my life of service to the greatest organization one can be privileged to belong. While milestones like serving as National President are important to remember, we must celebrate everyday for the difference we are making in the lives of veterans, their families, and individuals in our communities.

I believe that National President Nancy and her officers are off to a great beginning in planning a year of fulfilling our mission, and strongly support our motto Service Not Self.

Would the retiring officers, the newly elected officers, the family and platform guests of the National President be retired along with the colors of the California delegation?

(Music)

VOICE: (Singing.) If a stranger shows you a kindness, for no reason shows you a smile, don't hold it there in your heart very long, pass it on. If you find your magical lantern and your wishes all come true, when you've had it good and your turn is done, pass it on. Reach out and give when you've got something good. Give the message to everyone. Tell every mother and daughter and son to pass it on. That's all you've got to do. Pass it on, like somebody passed it on to you. As you walk down your road less traveled when it feels like you lost your way, if a hand reaches down and helps you along, pass it on. Reach out and give when you've got something good, give the message to everyone. Tell every mother and daughter and father and son to pass it on. That's all you've got to do. Pass it on, like somebody passed it on to you. Pass it on. That's all you've got to do. Yeah. Pass it on. Like somebody passed it on to you. Oh, if you find the light in the darkness, see the good in everyone --

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT THOMAS: Everybody please take their seats. The convention is not closed.

The National Chaplain Rosemarie Hauck will give the closing benediction. Upon completion the National President's pages will retire the colors.

CHAPLAIN HAUCK: Please rise. Let's go to God. God, as another Auxiliary year has come to an end I pray that we will be grateful for the experiences it held for us, both good and bad. God, I ask that you will be with our new President Nancy and her officers as they step out to serve you, our country, and the American Legion Auxiliary. Heavenly Father, I pray for traveling mercies as we each depart from this place. I thank you for the service that President Peggy has rendered unto you and the American Legion Auxiliary this past year. Now to each of you I pray that the Lord will bless and keep you, may the Lord bless and keep you. May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace in your rising up and in your lying down, in your going out and in your coming in, in your labor and in your leisure, in your laughter and in your tears, is my prayer for each of you until we meet again. Amen.

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT THOMAS: Will the Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant-at-Arms please come forward to retire the colors?

The 93rd Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary is now adjourned. Thank you all for attending and safe travels until we meet again.

(Whereupon, at 9:54 a.m., the above-entitled meeting was concluded.)

POST-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Ladies, we're going to start in about two minutes so if you could find your seats that would be terrific. Okay, let's get started. So this National Executive Committee meeting 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.

Shelley Riggs, National Chaplain, will lead us in our invocation and moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those serving our nation today for the protection of our country. Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Martha Lee Thatcher will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by the Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Kathy Dungan leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution. Shelley?

CHAPLAIN RIGGS: Let us pray. Good morning, God. We thank you for the opportunity for everyone to be gathered here today. Thank you for knowing each of us by name and we ask your blessing on all of us as we begin a new year with this great organization. Help us to be open minded and listen to each other as we work together for one common goal. Please watch over us and remind us constantly to be kind to one another. Come fill our lives with your love, fill our conversation with your grace and

truth, fill this meeting with your presence. And always remember, pass it on. All this we ask in your most Holy Name, Amen.

ALL: Amen.

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

ALL: (Singing.) Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight o'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming. And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

ALL: For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve the memories of the instances of our associations during the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit through posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You may be seated. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened. Before we begin our business I want to take a few minutes to welcome, I want to take a few seconds, that sounds better, to welcome you in your new role as 2013-2014 National Executive Committee. Those present who are eligible to vote today and at the subsequent NEC meetings are the NEC members, which include and are limited to the National Executive Committeewomen from each department; the five division national vice presidents; the national chaplain; the national historian, national vice president; and the national president.

Those allowed to be present at the NEC meeting with voice but no vote are the Past National Presidents, and the National Treasurer, and National Secretary.

We welcome our visitors and remind you that you may listen to the discussion but you are not permitted to participate in the debate or the vote.

I would also at this time like to impress upon the members of the National Executive Committee that you are now serving in a national role as a 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 the national organization and you must be making decisions and casting your vote 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 the material read in preparation for the next meeting. This is an important role and we appreciate your diligence and attendance to your duties throughout the, responsible, thoughtful and responsible on behalf of the national organization.

Now to get to the business at hand. The Chair asks that those of you wishing to address the meeting make your way to the microphone in the center aisle as this is the only way your remarks can be heard by the recording of our professional court reporter for the transcripts of this meeting. Also, please be sure that in making any remarks you address the Chair.

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

Serving as Parliamentarian for this meeting is Chris Dickey, Professional Registered Parliamentarian.

For this meeting and future NEC meetings the minutes will be approved by a Minutes Approval Committee. The Chair appoints the NEC from Virginia, Connecticut, and Wisconsin as the Minutes Approval Committee responsible for approving the minutes for this year's NEC meeting.

Our next business in order is the confirmation of the National Secretary and the National Treasurer. One of the first responsibilities of the National President is to present the National Secretary and National Treasurer to the NEC for confirmation. The question is on the confirmation of Mary "Dubbie" Buckler for the Office of National Secretary for the 2013-2014 administrative year. All in favor say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: All opposed say, "No."

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You have confirmed Mary "Dubbie" Buckler your National Secretary for 2013-2014 administrative year. Congratulations.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: I am very pleased to present for confirmation Marta Hedding for the Office of National Treasurer for the 2013-2014 administrative year. The question is on the confirmation of Marta Hedding for the Office of National Treasurer. All in favor say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Opposed, "No."

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You have confirmed Marta Hedding as your National Treasurer for the 2013-2014 administrative year.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The National Secretary and National Treasurer are serving continuously in their position and we are therefore continuing their service under the oath they have previously taken. Congratulations and thank you for your service, and I look forward to a grand year together.

Can I please have all of the National Officers stand to be recognized?

(Applause.)

Could all the Past National Presidents please stand to be recognized at this time?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, ladies, for your continued service. You have truly passed it on to those of us coming up behind you.

The next item of business is the approval of the standing and special committee appointments for the 2013-2014 administrative year and foundation board appointments. You have copies and there is a change I need you to write in so if you will grab your pens I will give you that change.

Okay. Thank you. On your appointment list please make the following corrections. Under Audit, page one, Virginia Hobbs is the National Finance Committee Liaison to the Audit Committee. Paula Parker-Sawyers is the Chairman, and add Linda Boone as the Foundation Board Liaison member. Okay? Now on page three replace Paula Parker-Sawyers with Virginia Hobbs, at the very, very top, very top. Page three. Page three, the fourth line down, you are going to replace Paula Parker-Sawyers with Virginia Hobbs. So this keeps, this is what we did at the Pre-NEC meeting.

So the question is on the motion to approve -- no. Okay. The question is on the motion to approval the complete list of appointments to standing and special committees for the administrative year 2013-2014, and Foundation Board appointments as presented. Is there any discussion?

MS. DORAN: (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So if you will remove Sharon's name and we will replace her? I guess then you will send it out? It's under National Security. She's on the very bottom, Western Division. She's been elected as National Historian so she will be replaced and that will come out to you in the, via email. Okay. Perfect, okay. Is there any more discussion? Are you ready for the question? All in favor please say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Those opposed, "No."

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The motion to approve the complete list of appointments has passed. Congratulations and thank you for your service.

Please now welcome Finance Committee Chairman Nicole Clapp to present the proposed fiscal year 2014 of the American Legion Auxiliary.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Congratulations, Nancy and Janet. We look forward to an exciting year under your leadership. As the incoming National Finance Committee Chairman I am very honored to present the 2013-2014 fiscal year budget of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MS. DAWSON: Excuse me, Sally Dawson, Department of New York --

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Yes, Sally?

MS. DAWSON: There are several of us sitting here that don't have copies of the budget. So we are supposed to be voting on, well, I've been on the road for several days getting here. So, and I understand there were some in the back today but there are none left. So anyone who is voting should have a copy of it.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So how many don't have a copy.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: We will be projecting it onto the screen for you as well. But it was emailed to you several actually weeks ago, about two weeks ago.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay. Just future, you need to, you'll have to kind of watch for it and make copies. They can have mine. Do I have one?

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Who else needed a copy of the budget? We have an extra copy. Okay. Continuing on, on behalf of the Finance Committee, Vice President Kris Nelson, who had to leave, Desi Stoy, as well as JoAnn Cronin, and our newest member Ginny Hobbs. So thank you, committee members.

I would also like to thank the National Headquarters staff and the national chairmen for your input, your guidance, and new ideas to make sure we develop a very comprehensive yet realistic budget.

We need to complete to meet our goals, obligations, and expectations of providing service for you, our members, our veterans, and their families, while balancing the governmental requirements comparing ourselves to the national benchmarks which we will share with you in a few moments. Tim Bresnahan, our Controller, has spent countless hours preparing the documents which he and I will go over with you this morning. He's going to be running the computer as well as if you have any direct questions I will summon him, motion to come on up.

So as we go through these documents the first you have is the narrative. It has the color at the bottom. The budget this year proposed with the dues increase from 2011, the dues increase, the 2014 fiscal year budget has a proposed balanced budget with a net profit of \$572,738.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: So being able to get to a budget with this balance we are able to continue with the ongoing department visits by the National Division Vice Presidents. You will see a laundry list there of bullet points. I'm going to hit on just a few. Again, we will not, and I repeat not, have a 15 cent per capita rehabilitation assessments. That is an average aggregate cost of \$100,000 that you will be able to keep that money in your departments. We will, as the new Madam President articulated in her speech, the mission trainings and develop departmental trainings as well. We have increased our donation this year for the sponsorship for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, VCAF, by an additional \$20,000. So our donation now, our sponsorship is \$120,000. We will continue with the funding of a new five-year national strategic plan, as well as continuing with the new structure of the department leadership national conference, with again this year sponsoring three representatives to come from each department. We are also proposing the Five-Year Centennial Million Member Initiative to celebrate our 100th birthday that will be fast approaching us. And we, as you approved yesterday as a delegation, we will, in the budget you will see the awareness campaign for the second year with a \$600,000 phase two expense.

So as we move down you will see the program and member expenses in the budget, \$7,861,998, to be exact. As well as personnel costs and the Foundation, which Foundation Chairman Linda Boone will go over herself. But I do want to reiterate for the Foundation that the budget has been reviewed and has been supported by the Finance Committee going forward. One of the key points we will join together on is a grant

writer position to help bring in potential grant funds for the Foundation and to support the ALA programs.

So if you see at the very bottom, if Tim scrolls down, in the color you will see where we were six years ago and that's when the investment structure dropped. Investments completely, as we know, bottomed out. So you can see a budget of \$9 million and we spent \$7.3 million. 2012, we really tightened the belt in knowing that we had a deficit downturn and that we were on a path of not sustaining our longevity. So we dropped the budget to \$7.6 million, spent a little over \$7 million. And in '14 you will see that we are approaching \$9 million once again in our proposed budget.

Going on to the second page are the reserve funds. I want to reiterate that no dollars for operations are coming out of reserve funds to make that balanced budget. The only reserve funds that will be released this year will be the \$600,000 for the awareness campaign. And we are actually putting money back into our reserves. Halfway down on the page under the marketing milestone event, that is another \$10,000, up from \$45,000 to \$55,000 towards the rebuilding for our 100th anniversary. So something we can all look forward to.

So with that, that is the overall narrative. But I would now like to flip with you to the next slide, which is a pie chart. It is a horizontal document. This compares us by program. And if you look at the two charts the one on your right is fiscal year 2013, how the money has been spent. Administrative funds, three percent for fundraising, management in general, we were at 9 percent, and mission delivery, 88 percent. Yesterday National Secretary Dubbie articulated from the platform how we manage our expenses. You will see that we are holding true very similar this coming year with fundraising at four percent, management in general nine percent, and 87 percent for mission delivery. The rest of those on that page are the detail at the top, breaking it down by program. So we are a little heavy yet compared to the national standard on programming, but we know that is obviously near and dear to our hearts, is our mission. And ultimately we do need to continue to increase our fundraising. Typically you see that in a 20, ten to 20 percent range, and obviously we are still in single digits. So it's something for us to continue to focus on.

Moving on then to the actual detail budget, focusing on the highlighted footnote areas. Last year if you recall was the last year of having both the Presidents & Secretaries and the Department Leadership Conference, so this year we will just have the one conference. We have the double expense there. So you will see that reduction, and you'll see how it affects that down in the expense line as well. We have increased our AEF disaster grants by about \$50,000 realizing that there's many natural disasters that happen besides for personal emergencies. We are also, as I mentioned, the \$20,000 for the VCAF sponsorship, the centennial what we've talked about, the grant writer position, and as you all know if you are in any type of business or in personally, your health insurance goes up. We are expecting an 18 percent increase in health insurance costs this coming year. And as a hospital CEO I'm hoping it's just 18 percent, to be honest. Okay? So if you will follow down onto the footnotes, onto the second page, following the expenses, you will see that this encompasses all of our grants and all of our funding. So the total expense of \$8.6 million for '13, where we expect to come in projected for the

end of this year, by the end of September at \$8.2 million. So we're hoping to come out in the black. And our proposed budget is \$8.9 million for the upcoming fiscal year. So that is approximately an 3.6 percent increase in expenses. And we know cost of living is starting to again start to rise. It has laid flat for several years but we are starting to feel that as well in industry across the country.

Questions for me on our budget before we move to the grants? All right. Hearing none, we will move on to the VISTA grants, Exhibit A and B. These are our AmeriCorps ALA Call to Service Corporation VISTA Grants. And we have the first grant that has a net expense to the Auxiliary of just \$31,344. The key point is to look below that, that 56 VISTAs contributed human resources. These are dollars that we would have either not spent or not been able to provide programming at a tune of \$600,000. So when we just have to pay \$31,000 I think we've got a pretty good deal there, and a brain trust, and intellectual capital.

Then on to the second VISTA Grant, which was our second initiative with this organization. Our investment is now about \$100,000, and again another \$325,000 in intellectual capital was brought to the organization.

Questions for me regarding our budget? All right. If not, Madam President, on behalf of the National Finance Committee I move to adopt the fiscal year 2013-2014 budget.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Since the motion comes from a committee a second is not required. The question is on the approval of the proposed fiscal year 2014 budget as presented. Is there discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The question is on the adoption of the fiscal year 2014 budget as presented. All those in favor say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Opposed?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The motion is approved and the budget has been passed.

CHAIRMAN CLAPP: Thank you very much, ladies.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Okay, just really quickly because this is a question of personal privilege. Madam President, she'll always be my President, but the Junior Past National President Peggy has just arrived. Would you like to come up and take your rightful seat?

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Sorry. It's a pecking order. You're in the back. You're second row.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: You haven't moved up to the front row yet, Peg.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Since -- now I'm really all flustered up here. Oh, okay. Foundation Board President Linda Boone will now present the Foundation budget.

PRESIDENT BOONE: Good morning.

VOICES: Good morning.

PRESIDENT BOONE: All right. So you should have the Foundation budget was the last page, I believe, of your financial information that was distributed. Okay, everybody there? All right. So the projected revenue and expenses for the Foundation for fiscal year 2014 is \$267,534. And a balanced budget. And this includes in kind support from the American Legion Auxiliary in terms of staffing and marketing, those kinds of things, for us. Are there any questions about the footnotes for the budget or any of the information?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BOONE: All right. Madam President, hearing none on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board I move that adoption of the fiscal year 2014 budget.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Since the motion comes from a committee a second is not required. The question is on the approval of the proposed fiscal year 2014 Foundation budget as presented. Is there any discussion?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Are you ready for the question?

VOICES: Yes.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The question is on the adoption of the fiscal year 2014 Foundation budget as presented. All those in favor say, "Aye."

(A chorus of ayes.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Opposed, "No."

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: The motion to approve the proposed fiscal year 2014 Foundation budget has passed.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Is there any new business to come before the NEC meeting?

(No response.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Hearing none, the Chair now calls on National Secretary Dobbie Buckler for announcements.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: I can do announcements in the dark. If you did not attend the NEC 101 meeting, if you did not attend the NEC 101 meeting, please see Tamara. Tamara, stand up and let them see your lovely wave. Tamara in the back of the room has the NEC 101 packet that was distributed. And most of you were there. Do we have someone here who -- oh yeah, let me call you out. Those of you who weren't there, I didn't mean to do it that way, but okay, who wasn't there? Or didn't get a packet,

Tamara has them in the back of the room for you. So and make sure that you get one from her.

And my next announcement is on behalf of the National Headquarters staff. I would like to announce that we pledge our full support to the newly elected officers, including our newly elected National President, and wish you a safe and productive year with everything that we can do to advance the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you.

SECRETARY BUCKLER: Now this is the audience participation part, yes, thank you.

(Applause.)

SECRETARY BUCKLER: And finally I would like to announce that it looks like it is safe travel weather for today. So those of you who are leaving today, we wish you Godspeed as you get packed and packed up and make it to the airport, or to your cars, or whatever your mode of transportation is. And for our officers as they begin their years, we wish them safe travels. And to our Past National Presidents we thank you on behalf of the National Headquarters staff for your continued support to the incoming National Chairs. On behalf of National Headquarters staff I would announce that we pledge to continue our full cooperation to make your efforts to implement our programs as effective as possible. And to all of you on the NEC who were just rocking awesome in the NEC 101 orientation, excellent, excellent NEC members before you. Thank you for your diligence on behalf of National Headquarters staff. Everything we do we try to do to make this organization better. We are a team and we thank you all and we wish you all safe travels. So Madam President, those were my announcements.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Peggy, you trained her well. That's good.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: So, and I think, Dubbie, as all of us, as members and National Officers, pledge our support to the National Staff to work with you and hopefully we all treat each other with respect and civility. And so I look forward to working with you this year.

As we close the first meeting of the 2013-2014 National Executive Committee, I leave you with these words. Let us never forget that our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service in the community, state, and nation be ever a main objective of the American Legion Auxiliary and its members. Let us ever be watchful of our organization and ourselves that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice and freedom, loyalty, and democracy. Please stand with me as our National Chaplain Shelley Riggs offers the benediction.

CHAPLAIN RIGGS: Let us pray. As we prepare to conclude this meeting, we once again lift up our hearts to you. We thank President Nancy and all in attendance for their fellowship and understanding of mutual respect and shared visions. We are grateful for the gift of insight into the common goals we share. As you have blessed us as we came together, now bless our departure and journeys homebound. Keep a watchful eye on our men and women who continue to protect our country. Bless President Nancy in her travels and keep her safe. We ask this in your most holy name. Amen.

VOICES: Amen.

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Thank you, Shelley. So ladies, this concludes the first meeting of the 2013-2014 National Executive Committee. Safe travels home, and I look forward to seeing you on the road. Pass it on.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BROWN-PARK: Oh, the meeting is now adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, August 29, 2013, the above-entitled meeting was concluded.)

Appendix A



SUMMARY OF MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

**AUGUST 23-29, 2013
HOUSTON, TEXAS**

2012-2013 NEC MEETING AUGUST 24, 2013

**2013 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 26-29, 2013**

2013-2014 NEC MEETING AUGUST 29, 2013

**American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee 2012-2013
Final 2012-2013 NEC Meeting held Pre-National Convention
in Houston, Texas
August 24, 2013**

Summary of Motions/Resolutions Adopted

- M/S/C to approve the items on the Consent Agenda as circulated in advance (items included charter cancellations; resolutions to a. support legislation to improve the prevention, reporting, investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults and the resulting after care in the US Armed Forces; b. to ratify new American Legion Poppy Program and Fund rules; see NEC 2012-2013 meeting packet circulated)
- M/S/C to confirm appointments to National Finance and National Audit Committees (see p. 13 in this publication)
- M/S/C to approve the National Finance Committee Investment Policy Statement (see Investment Policy Statement at www.ALAforVeterans.org)
- M/S/C to ratify and conform to revised American Legion Poppy Program rules (see p. 26 in this publication)
- M/S/C to establish ALA 5-Year Million-Member Centennial Task Force (see p. 27 in this publication)
- M/S/C to request The American Legion establish a joint TAL/ALA Membership Eligibility Task Force (see p. 27 in this publication)

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American Legion Auxiliary National Convention 2013
Houston, Texas
August 26-29, 2013

Summary of Motions/Resolutions Adopted

- M/S/C to adopt the 2013 National Convention Credentials Report (see p. 42 in this publication)
- M/S/C to adopt the rules for the 2013 National Convention (see p. 52 in this publication)
- M/S/C to adopt changes to the 2013 National Convention program (see p. 54 in this publication)
- M/S/C to combine Field Service and Home Service programs into one program entitled Service to Our Veterans, becoming effective during the 2014-2015 administrative year (see p. 92 in this publication)
- M/S/C to rescind and remove obsolete Poppy resolutions from the ALA National Policies and Procedures (see p. 99 in this publication)
- M/S/C to amend the proposed National Constitution revision, Article 6, Section 2 (see p. 128 in this publication)
- M/S/C to amend the proposed National Constitution revision, Article 3, Eligibility, Section 2a (see p. 128 in this publication)
- M/S/C to amend the proposed National Bylaws revision, Article 5, Committees, Section 3 (see p. 140 in this publication)
- M/S/C to amend the proposed National Standing Rules 6, Committees, Finance Committee, second sentence (see p. 147 in this publication)
- M/S/C to amend the proposed National Standing Rules 6, Committees, Core National Standing Committees, Finance, first sentence (see p. 149 in this publication)
- M/S/C to amend the proposed National Standing Rules 6, Committees, Core National Standing Committees, Audit, first sentence (see p. 150 in this publication)
- M/S/C to adopt the proposed National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules as amended (see final adopted National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules Revision which follows)
- M/S/C to elect the 2013-2014 national officers: National President, National Vice President, National Chaplain, National Historian, National Central Division Vice President, National Eastern Division Vice President, National Northwestern Division Vice President, National Southern Division Vice President, and National Western Division Vice President (see pgs. 169-172 in this publication)

M/S/C to implement Phase Two of the National Awareness Campaign (see p. 200 in this publication)

The following courtesy resolutions were adopted (see pgs. 220-221 in this publication):

M/S/C to show appreciation to each of the named participants

M/S/C to thank the named participants for contributing to the convention

M/S/C to recognize National President Peggy Thomas as a special angel

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**American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee 2013-2014
First 2013-14 NEC Meeting held Post-National Convention
In Houston, Texas
August 29, 2013**

Summary of Motions/Resolutions Adopted

- M/S/C to confirm Mary “Dubbie” Buckler, National Secretary, for the 2013-2014 administrative year
- M/S/C to confirm Marta Hedding, National Treasurer, for the 2013-2014 administrative year
- M/S/C to approve the complete list of appointments to Standing and Special Committees for the 2013-2014 administrative year (see 2013-2014 Red Book)
- M/S/C to adopt the proposed 2014 fiscal year Auxiliary budget as presented
- M/S/C to adopt the proposed 2014 fiscal year Foundation budget as presented



American Auxiliary

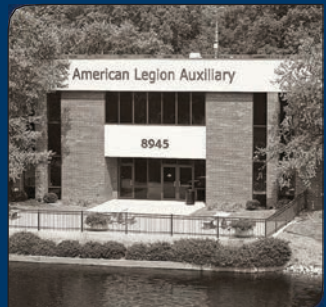
National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules



REVISION

*Adopted 2013
National Convention*

Initially Adopted 1921



**In the Spirit of Service Not Self for
Veterans, God and Country**

AUTHORITY

The National Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary, as set out herein, is in full force and effect and represents action taken by National Conventions, being the Constitution adopted at the First National Convention, Kansas City, MO, November 1-2, 1921, and as amended at the Second Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, October 16-20, 1922; Third Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, October 15-19, 1923; Fourth Annual Convention, St. Paul, MN, September 15- 19, 1924; Fifth Annual Convention, Omaha, NE, October 5-9, 1925; Sixth Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, October 11-15, 1926; Seventh Annual Convention, Paris, France, Ratification Meeting, New York, NY, October 18, 1927; Eighth Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, October 8-12, 1928; Ninth Annual Convention, Louisville, KY, September 30-October 3, 1929; Eleventh Annual Convention, Detroit, MI, September 21-24, 1931; Fourteenth Annual Convention, Miami, FL, October 22-25, 1934; Seventeenth Annual Convention, New York, NY, September 20-23, 1937; Nineteenth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, September 25-28, 1939; Twenty-second Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO, September 19-21, 1942; Twenty-third Annual Convention, Omaha, NE, September 21-23, 1943; Twenty-fifth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 18-21, 1945; Twenty-sixth Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, September 30-October 4, 1946; Twenty-ninth Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, August 29-September 1, 1949; Thirty-first Annual Convention, Miami Beach, FL, October 15-18, 1951; Thirty-second Annual Convention, New York, NY, August 25-28, 1952; Thirty-third Annual Convention, St. Louis, MO, August 31-September 3, 1953; Thirty-fourth Annual Convention, Washington, DC, August 30-September 2, 1954; Thirty-fifth Annual Convention, Miami Beach, FL, October 10-13, 1955; Thirty-sixth Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, September 3-6, 1956; Thirty-seventh Annual Convention, Atlantic City, NJ, September 16-19, 1957; Thirty-ninth Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN, August 24-27, 1959; Fortieth Annual Convention, Miami Beach, FL, October 17-20, 1960; Forty-sixth Annual Convention, Washington, DC, August 29-September 1, 1966; Forty-seventh Annual Convention, Boston, MA, August 28-31, 1967; Forty-ninth Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, August 25-28, 1969; Fiftieth Annual Convention, Portland, OR, August 31-September 3, 1970; Fifty-first Annual Convention, Houston, TX, August 30-September 2, 1971; Fifty-second Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, August 21-24, 1972; Fifty-third Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI, August 19-23, 1973; Fifty-fourth Annual Convention, Hollywood, FL, August 19-22, 1974; Fifty-sixth Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, August 23-26, 1976; Fifty-seventh Annual Convention, Denver, CO, August 22-25, 1977; Fifty-eighth Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, August 21-24, 1978; Sixtieth Annual Convention, Boston, MA, August 18-21, 1980; Sixty-first Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI, August 30-September 2, 1981; Seventy-first Annual Convention, Phoenix, AZ, August 31-September 5, 1991; Seventy-fifth Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, September 2-6, 1995; Seventy-

eighth Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, September 5-10, 1998; Ninety-second Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, August 24-30, 2012; and Ninety-third Annual Convention, Houston, TX, August 23-29, 2013.

The Bylaws as adopted at the Second Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, October 16-20, 1922, and as amended at the Third Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, October 15-19, 1923; Fourth Annual Convention, Saint Paul, MN, September 15-19, 1924; Fifth Annual Convention, Omaha, NE, October 5-9, 1925; Sixth Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, October 11-15, 1926; Eighth Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, October 8-12, 1928; Ninth Annual Convention, Louisville, KY, September 30-October 3, 1929; Eleventh Annual Convention, Detroit, MI, September 21-24, 1931; Thirteenth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, October 2-5, 1933; Fourteenth Annual Convention, Miami, FL, October 22-25, 1934; Fifteenth Annual Convention, Saint Louis, MO, September 23-26, 1935; Sixteenth Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH, September 21-24, 1936; Eighteenth Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, September 19-22, 1938; Nineteenth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, September 25-28, 1939; Twentieth Annual Convention, Boston, MA, September 23-26, 1940; Twenty-first Annual Convention, Milwaukee, WI, September 15-18, 1941; Twenty-second Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO, September 19-21, 1942; Twenty-third Annual Convention, Omaha, NE, September 21-23, 1943; Twenty-fifth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, November 18-21, 1945; Twenty-sixth Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, September 30-October 4, 1946; Twenty-seventh Annual Convention, New York, NY, August 28-31, 1947; Twenty-eighth Annual Convention, Miami, FL, October 18-21, 1948; Twenty-ninth Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, August 29-September 1, 1949; Thirty-first Annual Convention, Miami Beach, FL, October 15-18, 1950; Thirty-second Annual Convention, New York, NY, August 25-28, 1952; Thirty-third Annual Convention, Saint Louis, MO, August 31-September 3, 1953; Thirty-fourth Annual Convention, Washington, DC, August 30-September 2, 1954; Thirty-fifth Annual Convention, Miami Beach, FL, October 10-13, 1955; Thirty-sixth Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, September 3-6, 1956; Thirty-seventh Annual Convention, Atlantic City, NJ, September 16-19, 1957; Thirty- eighth Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, September 1-4, 1958; Thirty- ninth Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN, August 24-27, 1959; Fortieth Annual Convention, Miami Beach, FL, October 17-20, 1960; Forty-sixth Annual Convention, Washington, DC, August 29- September 1, 1966; Forty-seventh Annual Convention, Boston, MA, August 28-31, 1967; Forty-eighth Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, September 9-12, 1968; Forty-ninth Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, August 25-28, 1969; Fiftieth Annual Convention, Portland, OR, August 31-September 3, 1970; Fifty-first Annual Convention, Houston, TX, August 30-September 2, 1971; Fifty-second Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, August 21-24, 1972; Fifty-third Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI, August 19-23, 1973; Fifty-fourth Annual Convention, Hollywood, FL, August 19-22, 1974; Fifty-fifth Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN, August 18-21, 1975; Fifty-

sixth Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, August 23-26, 1976; Fifty-seventh Annual Convention, Denver, CO, August 22-25, 1977; Fifty-eighth Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, August 21-24, 1978; Fifty-ninth Annual Convention, Houston, TX, August 20-23, 1979; Sixtieth Annual Convention, Boston, MA, August 18-21, 1980; Sixty-first Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI, August 30-September 2, 1981; Sixty-second Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, August 23-26, 1982; Sixty-third Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, August 22-25, 1983; Sixty-fourth Annual Convention, Salt Lake City, UT, September 2-5, 1984; Sixty-sixth Annual Convention, Cincinnati, OH, September 1-4, 1986; Sixty-seventh Annual Convention, San Antonio, TX, August 24-27, 1987; Sixty-eighth Annual Convention, Louisville, KY, September 5-8, 1988; Seventieth Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, August 27-30, 1990; Seventy-first Annual Convention, Phoenix, AZ, September 2-5, 1991; Seventy-second Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, August 24-27, 1992; Seventy-third Annual Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, September 6-9, 1993; Seventy-fifth Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, September 2-6, 1995; Seventy-sixth Annual Convention, Salt Lake City, UT, September 2-5, 1996; Seventy-seventh Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, September 1-4, 1997; Seventy-eighth Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, September 5-10, 1998; Seventy-ninth Annual Convention, Anaheim, CA, September 4-8, 1999; Eighty-second Annual Convention, Charlotte, NC, August 23-29, 2002; Eighty-fourth Annual Convention, Nashville, TN, August 28-September 2, 2004; Eighty-fifth Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI, August 19-25, 2005; Eighty-sixth Annual Convention, Salt Lake City, UT August 26-31, 2006; Eighty-seventh Annual Convention Reno, NV, August 20-30, 2007; Eighty-eighth Annual Convention, Phoenix, AZ, August 23-28, 2008; Eighty-ninth Annual Convention, Louisville, KY, August 24-27, 2009, Ninetieth Annual Convention, Milwaukee, WI, August 27-September 2, 2010; Ninety-first Annual Convention, Minneapolis, MN, August 26-September 1, 2011; Ninety-second Annual Convention, Indianapolis, IN, August 24-30, 2012; and Ninety-third Annual Convention, Houston, TX, August 23-29, 2013.

CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PREAMBLE

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

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

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 2. The National Headquarters of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be in the same city or metropolitan area as The American Legion National Headquarters.

ARTICLE II

Nature

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary is a civilian patriotic service organization of women that supports the mission of The American Legion.

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

ARTICLE III

Eligibility

Section 1. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

*[Note: The wording above for Article III, Section 1. was adopted at the August 2013 National Convention under a proviso that delays enactment upon the Legion's adoption of corresponding changes to its governing documents. Until The American Legion enacts this wording, the previous wording remains in effect, as follows: Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the **mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, and grandmothers of members of The American Legion, and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters, and grandmothers** of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955; February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975; August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984; December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990; August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States; all dates inclusive, or who being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.]*

Section 2. There shall be two classes of membership, Senior and Junior.

- (a) Senior membership shall be composed of members age eighteen (18) and older; provided, however, a member eligible under Section 1 of this article and who is under the age of eighteen (18) years and married shall be classified as a Senior member.
- (b) Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen (18) years, whose activities shall be supervised by the Senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into Senior membership with full privileges.
- (c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually or for life.

ARTICLE IV

National Officers

Section 1. The National Organization shall have the following national officers: National President, National Vice President, five (5) National Division Vice Presidents, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Chaplain, and National Historian.

Section 2. The National Convention shall elect the following term-limited national officers: National President, National Vice President, National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain, and National Historian. Each National Division Vice President shall serve without seniority. Such officers shall serve for one (1) term or until their successors are elected; a term shall start upon adjournment of the convention at which they are elected and end at the adjournment of the following National Convention.

Section 3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the National Vice President shall become President and shall assume the duties and authority of the office. Vacancies occurring between National Conventions in these offices other than National President shall be filled by election by the National Executive Committee, and any member of the American Legion Auxiliary, in good standing, shall be eligible for election to such vacancy, provided, however, that no Past National President, or Past National Vice President shall be elected to fill any vacancy in these respective offices.

Section 4. The National Secretary and National Treasurer may serve an unlimited number of terms and shall be confirmed annually by the National Executive Committee.

Section 5. All questions affecting the eligibility, election, and conduct of a national officer shall be referred to the National Executive Committee where a decision by a two-thirds vote in said committee shall be the final authority thereon.

ARTICLE V

National Executive Committee

Section 1. Between National Conventions, the National Executive Committee shall serve as the governing body of the organization with fiduciary, policy, and strategic responsibility for the organization.

Section 2. The National Executive Committee shall be comprised of the National President, National Vice President, the five (5) National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain, National Historian, and one National Executive Committeewoman or alternate from each Department, to be elected as such Department shall determine. Alternates shall serve only in the absence of the National Executive Committeewoman.

The National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be members of the National Executive Committee, and, when the positions are held by employees of National Headquarters, the National Secretary and National Treasurer shall serve with all rights except the right to vote.

All Past National Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, with all rights except the right to vote.

Section 3. The National President and National Vice President shall serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the National Executive Committee respectively.

Section 4. The term of office of a National Executive Committeewoman shall commence immediately following the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing, and shall end at the adjournment of the next succeeding National Convention. The Alternate National Executive Committeewoman shall serve only in the absence of the National Executive Committeewoman.

ARTICLE VI

National Convention

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary National Convention shall be held annually at the same time and place as the convention of The American Legion for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and transacting such other business as shall properly come before it.

Section 2. Representation in the National Convention shall be by Departments. Each Department shall be entitled to delegates based upon the number of members whose dues are paid up-to-date as provided in the Standing Rules. Changes to the formula for delegate voting strength and the manner for casting votes may be determined only by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates.

Section 3. The National President and National Vice President shall be delegates-at-large to the National Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Departments, and shall serve as National Convention Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.

Section 4. The five (5) National Division Vice Presidents, the National Chaplain, and the National Historian shall be delegates-at-large to the National Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Departments.

Section 5. Past National Presidents in good standing in their Units shall be life delegates-at-large to the National Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Departments.

Section 6. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates-at-large to the National Convention, with vote to be exercised with their Departments.

Section 7. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate may be cast by the majority of the delegates present from her Department. The manner for casting votes shall be as provided in the National Convention Standing Rules.

Section 8. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when sixty percent (60%) of the Departments are represented by having paid their National Convention registration fees.

Section 9. Additional information regarding National Convention delegates shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the National Secretary to the Departments and members of the National Executive Committee by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.

Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution, as shown in Section 1 hereof, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one session of the National Convention prior to taking the vote.

Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed as required in Section 1 hereof, may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the National Convention delegates.

BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

ARTICLE I

Organization

Section 1. The American Legion Auxiliary shall be organized into Divisions and Departments, and the Departments in turn into Units.

Section 2. Each Division shall be composed of at least seven (7) Departments.

Section 3. There shall be one (1) Department in each state, in the District of Columbia, and there may be one (1) Department in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish Departments or Units in the insular and other possessions of the United States and may also establish Units in foreign countries.

Section 4. Departments shall have authority to create and charter intermediate bodies between the Units and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 5. The Department Executive Committee shall define the authority of such intermediate groups, but in no event shall such authority invade the prerogatives now vested either in the Unit or Department or National Organization.

Section 6. Such intermediate bodies now existing within the Departments and heretofore authorized or recognized by such Department are hereby officially recognized to the extent of the authority herein granted.

Section 7. A Unit in the territorial or insular possessions of the United States or in a foreign country, which does not have Department status, may have the status of a foreign Unit not attached to any specific Department of the American Legion Auxiliary. Any such Unit which requests affiliation with a Department shall be assigned to the same Department as its American Legion Post, if accepted by the Department. If there is no Department of the American Legion Auxiliary, the National Executive Committee shall assign said Unit to a Department.

ARTICLE II

Election of Officers

Section 1. The election of the following officers shall be by secret ballot: National President, National Vice President, five (5) National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain, and National Historian. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect. When there is but one (1) candidate for an office, the nominee may be elected by voice vote.

Section 2. There shall be a National Secretary and National Treasurer to be nominated by the National President and confirmed by the National Executive Committee at the Post-Convention National Executive Committee Meeting.

Section 3. The five (5) National Division Vice Presidents shall be nominated in their respective Division Caucuses.

Section 4. All National Officers, members of the National Executive Committee and members of all National Committees shall be in good standing in their Units.

Section 5. No person shall be eligible for reelection to the office of National President, National Vice President, National Division Vice President, National Chaplain, or National Historian.

ARTICLE III

Duties of Officers

Section 1. National President: It shall be the duty of the National President to preside at all sessions of the National Convention and meetings of the National Executive Committee; to appoint or hire a parliamentarian(s); to appoint members of national standing and national committees; to appoint other committees as she deems advisable to further the mission of the organization; and to appoint officials not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, all subject to confirmation by the National Executive Committee. The National President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees, and shall perform other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Section 2. In the event the National President becomes incapacitated or is otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the National President, the National Executive Committee may declare the position vacant.

In the event there is a vacancy in the office of the National President, the National Vice President shall become President and shall assume the duties and authority of the office. In the event the National Vice President has assumed the office of National President for a period of less than six (6) months, she may run for a succeeding full term as National President.

Section 3. National Vice President: It shall be the duty of the National Vice President to be the presiding officer at a meeting of the organization in the absence of the National President.

She shall assume such other duties as assigned to her by the National President.

In the event the National Vice President thus assumes the office of National President, the National Executive Committee shall fill the office of National Vice President. If this term is less than six (6) months, the person so named is eligible to election by regular process to the office of National Vice President.

Section 4. In the absence of both the National President and the National Vice President, a chairman pro tempore shall be elected by the National Executive Committee.

Section 5. National Secretary: It shall be the duty of the National Secretary to record proceedings of the National Organization in convention assembled, the National Executive Committee meetings, to keep all records of the National Organization, and to perform other duties as assigned. It is the specific responsibility of the National Secretary as a corporate officer to maintain constant and continuous control of all trademarks, trade names, patents and copyrights of the American Legion Auxiliary, including, but not limited to, on the recommendation of Counsel General, the hiring and engagement of competent outside legal counsel and others as needed to protect the trade names and trademarks.

Section 6. National Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the National Treasurer to serve as custodian of the funds of the National Organization, to account for the same, to sign all checks in dispersing the funds of the organization, and shall perform other duties as assigned. In the absence of or in addition to the National Treasurer, the National Secretary shall be authorized to sign checks according to policy.

Section 7. National Division Vice Presidents: It shall be the duty of the National Division Vice Presidents to act as representatives of the National President on all matters referred to them by her, and to be advisory heads of their respective National Divisions, and to perform other duties as assigned by the National President.

Section 8. National Chaplain: It shall be the duty of the National Chaplain to offer prayer and to perform such divine and nonsectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by the National President or the National Executive Committee, and shall perform other duties as assigned.

Section 9. National Historian: It shall be the duty of the National Historian to complete a historical record of the administrative year in which she serves, and to maintain and update the historical records of the National Organization through the process provided in the Standing Rules, and shall perform other duties as assigned.

ARTICLE IV

National Executive Committee

Section 1. Role: The National Executive Committee shall serve as the governing body of the organization with fiduciary, policy, and strategic responsibility for the organization between National Conventions. It shall be the duty of the National Executive Committee, as corporate directors for the American Legion Auxiliary, to ensure that the organization has adequate resources to fulfill its mission. The National Executive Committee is responsible for the organization's adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.

Section 2. Authority: The National Executive Committee shall adopt the annual budget for the National Organization; adopt policies and standing rules, unless otherwise noted in the National Constitution, these Bylaws or Standing Rules, strategic plans and agreements, and memorandums of understanding; review financial statements and accept the national annual audit; ratify committees; confirm the nomination of the National Secretary and the National Treasurer, confirm committee and other national appointments, and confirm the appointment of officials not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws; levy assessments as needed; ratify the cancellation of charters; receive for filing reports from national subsidiary organizations; and other duties and responsibilities that are the normal function of a corporate board of directors.

Any intermediate governing body established by National Convention action shall be subordinate to the National Executive Committee and shall report to, be accountable to, and its actions ratified by the National Executive Committee.

All questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of National Officers shall be referred to and determined by the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee shall be responsible for establishing the process and procedure for making the determination that a National Officer or a national committee member serving a single- or multiple-year term is incompetent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to discharge the duties of the national office.

All questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the National Executive Committeewoman from any Department or of the Department Officers or members of Department Executive Committees shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee or governing board of the Department involved, which shall be the final authority thereon. The rules governing the fulfillment of this section shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 3. Duty: It shall be the duty of each National Executive Committeewoman to fulfill the responsibilities of the National Executive Committee, and to articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and to her Department.

Section 4. Meetings: The National Executive Committee shall meet as provided in the Standing Rules. Special meetings may be held upon reasonable notice at the call of the National President. The National President shall call a meeting of the National Executive Committee upon written request of not less than fifteen (15) members.

Section 5. Quorum: A majority of the voting National Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum of the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

Committees

Section 1. Pursuant to the Article on Duties of Officers, the National President may appoint committees as she deems advisable to further the mission of the organization, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee. When a vacancy occurs on a committee, the National President shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, all subject to confirmation by the National Executive Committee.

Section 2. There shall be the following core National Standing Committees: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Americanism, National Security, Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, Audit, and such other mission and member/organizational support committees as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 3. The composition, terms, and purpose of the National Standing Committees and National Committees shall be as provided in the Standing Rules. Amendments to the composition, terms, or purpose of such national committees may be determined only by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates.

ARTICLE VI

Subsidiary Organizations

Section 1. A separately incorporated American Legion Auxiliary subsidiary organization shall conform and comply with all legal and organizational requirements of the National Organization to ensure that the required constant and continuous control of all trademarks and trade name law is satisfied.

All subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be subject to regulation by the United States trademark laws and by action of the American Legion Auxiliary National Convention or the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee. At a minimum, each subsidiary organization must comply with the regulations provided in the Standing Rules.

ARTICLE VII

Department Organization

Section 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be comprised of the Units within their respective areas. A minimum of five hundred (500) adult members shall be required to issue a Department charter. Each Department charter shall be signed by the National President and the National Secretary.

Section 2. Each Department shall have the following department officers: Department President, Department Vice President(s), Department Secretary, Department Treasurer (or Department Secretary-Treasurer), National Executive Committeewoman, an

Alternate National Executive Committeewoman, and may have a chaplain, historian, and such other officers as the governing documents of the Department may prescribe.

Section 3. Departments shall have authority to create intermediate bodies between the Units and Department to act as a liaison between such organizations and for the purpose of promoting the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. An intermediate body shall be administratively subject to the Department and totally under Department jurisdiction. Department Executive Committees shall have the authority to set forth responsibilities and limits of all intermediate bodies. In no event shall these responsibilities established by the Department Executive Committee usurp the prerogatives of the National Organization, Departments, and Units.

Section 4. All persons handling funds of the Department shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity-crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Department Audit Committee, Department Finance Committee, and/or Department Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Unit Organization

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Unit shall apply to the Post to which it will attach and the Department in which it resides as provided in the Standing Rules. Upon receipt of a properly executed charter application from the Department, the Unit charter shall be signed by the National President and National Secretary.

Section 2. The minimum membership of a Unit shall be ten (10) Senior members, with the exception of a Department Headquarters Unit that shall have no minimum membership requirement.

Section 3. A Unit shall be given the name, location, and number of The American Legion Post to which it is attached.

Section 4. The qualifications and process for establishing and existing as a Unit in good standing shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 5. Each Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be responsible for verifying eligibility and deciding its membership, subject to the restrictions of the national governing documents. No person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government shall be eligible to become or remain a member of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 6. All persons handling funds of the Unit shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company; or shall be covered by fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount as determined by the Unit.

ARTICLE IX

Finance

Section 1. The revenue of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be derived from annual membership dues in a per capita amount established by the National Convention delegates, and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee. Modification to the National per capita dues for members shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the National Convention delegates. Dues shall be payable in amounts as provided in the Standing Rules. A member's status is dependent upon timely payment of dues as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. The fiduciary responsibility of the National Executive Committee shall include adoption of the National Organization's budget, and review and acceptance of financial reports and the annual audit.

Section 3. The National Organization shall ensure that all persons handling funds of the National Organization shall be bonded by a reputable, solvent bonding and surety company, or shall be covered by fidelity/crime insurance in an adequate amount approved by the National Secretary and National Treasurer, and reported to the National Audit Committee.

Section 4. With the exception of the National President, National Vice President, National Secretary and National Treasurer, there shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by national officers, National Executive Committeewomen and chairmen of national committees in the exercise of their duties to the American Legion Auxiliary may be paid from the national treasury when authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

Suspension, Cancellation and Revocation of Charters

Section 1. All charters granted by the American Legion Auxiliary are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Department Charters

Section 1. The process for the suspension, cancellation, and revocation of a Department charter shall be as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 2. Upon suspension of an American Legion Auxiliary Department charter, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Department, and to provide for the governance and administration of the Department during said suspension.

Section 3. Upon cancellation or revocation of an American Legion Auxiliary Department charter, the National Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Department, and to take all necessary and proper steps and proceedings to wind up and close the affairs of the Department. The National Executive Committee may provide for continued recognition and activities of Units in said Department as it may deem proper.

Section 4. With regard to suspensions, cancellations, and revocations of Department charters, in no event shall the National Organization be required to assume any financial obligation with regard to records, assets, property, and belongings.

Unit Charters

Section 1. The Department Executive Committee may suspend, cancel, or revoke Unit charters for good cause to it appearing.

Section 2. Any Unit that a) fails to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the governing documents, policies, or requirements of the National Organization or Department, or b) ceases to function as an American Legion Auxiliary Unit from one Department Convention to the next, shall surrender its charter at the direction of the Department President. When a Unit so directed to surrender its charter fails to do so, the Department Executive Committee may take immediate steps to revoke the charter.

Section 3. An American Legion Auxiliary Unit whose charter has been suspended, cancelled, or revoked by the Department may appeal the decision of the Department Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee, as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 4. Upon suspension of an American Legion Auxiliary Unit charter, the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agents, to take possession, custody and control of all records, assets, property, and belongings of the Unit and to provide for the governance and administration of the Unit during said suspension.

Section 5. With regard to suspensions, cancellations, and revocations of Unit charters, in no event shall the Department organization be required to assume any financial obligation with regard to records, assets, property, and belongings.

Section 6. Cancellation of a Unit charter shall be in order when two (2) or more Units merge, when a Unit ceases to function, or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a Department. In the event a Unit charter is canceled or revoked without the consent of such Unit, it shall have the right of appeal to the National Executive Committee as provided in the Standing Rules.

Section 7. The National Executive Committee may prescribe rules of procedures to be followed in the revocation, suspension or cancellation of Unit charters, with full power from time to time to revise or amend such rules, provided, however, that until such rules have been adopted the procedure now in existence shall be applicable. All rules and procedures shall be in accordance with the principles of due process of law.

ARTICLE XI

Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern this organization in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with applicable state statutes, the National Constitution and Bylaws, Standing and Special Rules.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

Section 1. The Bylaws may be amended at any National Convention by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided the proposed amendments shall have been submitted through the National Secretary to the Departments and members of the

National Executive Committee by distributing same to them at least twenty (20) days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further that all proposed amendments shall be read at a regular meeting of the National Convention. Departments shall be responsible for distributing the proposed amendments to their delegates to the National Convention.

Section 2. Amendments proposed after distribution by the National Secretary may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Convention delegates, provided they have been read at one meeting of the session prior to taking the vote.

Section 3. An amendment not having been previously read or distributed may be adopted by the unanimous vote of the National Convention delegates.

ARTICLE XIII

Authority

The authority under which all Departments, Units, subsidiaries, intermediate bodies, and affiliated entities of the American Legion Auxiliary shall function is vested in this National Constitution & Bylaws and such Standing Rules as have been duly adopted. Any provision of any Department or Unit Constitution or Bylaws, any subsidiary, intermediate body, or affiliated entity's bylaws, or any regulation of any Department, Unit, subsidiary, intermediate body, or affiliated entity in conflict with the foregoing authority shall be void.

STANDING RULES OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

PREFACE

These American Legion Auxiliary Standing Rules are duly adopted by the appropriate national governing body of the American Legion Auxiliary to provide guidance to the American Legion Auxiliary, its Department, Units, subsidiaries, and affiliated entities. Standing Rules have the same importance as the National Constitution & Bylaws and may be amended as frequently as needed.

Certain Standing Rules can only be amended or rescinded by action of the National Convention delegates, as specified therein. Standing Rules that specifically state “As provided in the National Bylaws” can only be amended by action of the National Convention delegates.

Except when otherwise specified in the Bylaws or these Standing Rules, a standing rule may be amended or rescinded by a two-thirds vote of the National Executive Committee, or, if notice has been given, by a majority vote. In addition to these Standing Rules, supplementary national policies or rules may be adopted as they are needed from time to time by the National Executive Committee or National Convention.

CODE OF ETHICS

American Legion Auxiliary members are expected to comply with the organization’s governing documents and comport themselves according to the following Code of Ethics adopted by the National Executive Committee.

This Code of Ethics serves as a guide for conduct acceptable within the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

As a matter of fundamental principle, the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will adhere to the highest ethical standards to earn and protect the public’s trust in our performance to carry out the Auxiliary’s mission, uphold rigorous standards of conduct, and be good stewards of our resources.

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, as witnessed through the conduct of its national governing body, officers, staff, and volunteers, must earn the public's trust every day and in every possible way. National leaders are expected to abide by all laws and demonstrate their ongoing commitment to the core values of integrity, honesty, fairness, openness, responsibility and respect.

The American Legion Auxiliary strongly recommends that all chartered entities and affiliated organizations at all levels adopt a Code of Ethics and conduct themselves accordingly.

In keeping with the best practices of high performing nonprofit organizations, it is the expectation of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation that its national business standards, operations, and conduct conform to the following Code of Ethics.

Personal and Professional Integrity

All members, volunteers, and staff of the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation act with honesty, integrity, and openness in all their communication, business, and transactions as representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary (organization). The organization promotes an environment that values fairness and commitment to the organization's founding principles and demonstrates respect for others.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall conduct their personal and professional lives in a manner befitting the organization's mission and values, recognizing that their actions reflect upon the credibility and reputation of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall work to positively influence their environment to build respect, credibility, and strategic importance of our organization to the public, our members, and the communities we serve.

Legal Compliance

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation are knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to: complying with laws and regulations related to human resources, financial accountability, taxation, fundraising, trademark protection, and licensing.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall exercise due diligence in obtaining information on applicable laws and regulations for their jurisdiction.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall recognize that compliance with applicable laws is a paramount standard.

Governance

The American Legion Auxiliary's national governing body is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization and oversight of the finances, operations, policies and programmatic performance.

The governing bodies of both the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall:

- Ensure that the organization conducts all communication, business, and transactions with integrity and honesty;
- Ensure that policies of the organization are in writing, clearly articulated, and officially adopted;
- Ensure periodic review of the organization's structure, procedures and programs to determine what is working well and what practices the organization might want to change in order to be more efficient, effective or responsible.
- Ensure that the resources of the organization are responsibly and prudently managed;
- Ensure that the organization has the capacity to carry out its programs effectively.

Responsible Stewardship

The boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are responsible for managing and preserving the organization's assets. Officers, board members, staff, and volunteers are expected to understand their fiduciary responsibilities so that the charitable purposes of the organization are carried out and assets are properly safeguarded and managed.

Officers, board members, appropriate volunteer leaders and staff shall ensure that:

- Financial reports are created and maintained on a timely basis that accurately portray its financial status and activities.
- Internal financial statements are provided accurately and timely.
- Annual financial reports are made available to the public.
- Employees, national leaders, and members are provided a confidential means to report suspected financial impropriety or misuse of its resource.
- Written financial policies governing management and investment of assets and reserve accounts, internal control procedures, and purchasing practices are developed and implemented.

Openness and Disclosure

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will provide comprehensive and timely information to the public, the media, and its members, and is responsive to reasonable requests for information. All information about the organizations will fully and honestly reflect the policies and the practices of the organizations.

Conflict of Interest

The organization has the right to expect that the decisions made by the national boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are made objectively and in the best interest of the organization.

To avoid the appearance of impropriety by those who could benefit directly or indirectly from any action by the Auxiliary and its Foundation, the organization shall develop, adopt and implement a conflict of interest policy.

Such policy shall include requirements to fully disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest and prohibitions on activities that conflict with legal, ethical, and

fiduciary obligations to the organization.

Fundraising

The organization shall take care to ensure that all means and materials for solicitation accurately and correctly reflect its mission and use of solicited funds. The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall respect the privacy concerns of individual donors and expend funds consistent with donor intent.

To assure that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the organization and the causes they are asked to support, the Auxiliary and its Foundation will respect the following rights of donors:

- To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- To have access to the organization's most recent financial statement and others on request.
- To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
- To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- To expect that all relationships with individuals representing the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation will be professional in nature.
- To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

Grant Making

The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall have specific stated responsibilities in carrying out grant programs. These responsibilities include the following:

- A formal and consistent application process which includes defined eligibility.
- Fair and equitable selection criteria.
- Assurance of applicant privacy.
- Clear, timely and respectful communications throughout the application process.

Inclusiveness and Diversity

The organization recognizes the value of the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of its membership. The organization promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect for the worth and dignity of its members, those eligible to become members and those we serve.

Ethics Violations

Any member may report a violation of ethical conduct or actions contrary to the governing doctrine without fear of retaliation.

The organization considers all inquiries and complaints about actions of members to be strictly confidential.

Ethics Query – An ethics query is a means for inquiring whether or not a practice warrants filing a complaint alleging a violation of the Code. Anyone may register a query of a possible violation of the Code by a member.

The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the ethics query process.

Ethics Complaint – An ethics complaint provides a process for receiving, investigating and acting on a violation of the Code made against any member or staff and provides a process that is fair, responsible, confidential and consistent.

The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the complaint process.

Whistleblower Protection

A whistleblower is any member who, in good faith, promptly reports instances of any suspected violation of the Code. The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall establish and abide by policies to protect the

Auxiliary.

Any member who acts maliciously by making known information she knows or reasonably believes to be false is not a whistleblower and will not be protected under the whistleblower mechanism.

The organization expects improper activity to be reported accurately and will protect whistleblowers from retaliation.

The organization will investigate any allegation that a whistleblower has been retaliated against for disclosing information that the whistleblower believed to have been accurate. Any member who believes she has been retaliated against for whistle blowing is expected to report it immediately. If the complaint is validated, the organization can impose disciplinary sanctions against the retaliating member including termination of membership in the organization.

THE STANDING RULES OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ARE:

I. NATIONAL ORGANIZATION:

1. The American Legion designated the birth date of the American Legion Auxiliary as November 10, 1919.
2. The American Legion Auxiliary shall coordinate with The American Legion on all similar governance and program matters, and conduct itself at all times in a manner that ensures harmony.
3. The National Judge Advocate of The American Legion shall be the Counsel General of the American Legion Auxiliary on all legal matters and matters pertaining to the National Constitution & Bylaws and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

All requests for information from and opinions by the Counsel General MUST come through the Department Secretary or Department President to the National Secretary, and thence referred to the Counsel General for his ruling, and said ruling will be sent by the National Secretary to the Department Officer.

4. The candidate(s) for National President, in consultation with National Headquarters staff, shall plan membership engagement, retention, and recruitment programs consistent with the goals of The American Legion. The plans shall be presented to the Departments no later than June 1 of the same year.

II. NATIONAL CONVENTION:

1. The date and place of the National Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary shall conform to that of The American Legion.
2. Representation in the National Convention shall be by Departments. Each Department shall be entitled to five (5) delegates; and one (1) additional delegate for each fifteen hundred (1,500) members or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer

thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of said National Convention, and to one (1) alternate for each delegate. The delegates and alternates shall be selected not less than two (2) weeks before the National Convention at Department Conventions or in any manner specified by any Department Constitution; provided that the Department hosting the National Convention shall be privileged to hold its Department Convention and select its delegates at the time and place designated by its Department of The American Legion. In addition to the above, the National President, National Vice President, each National Division Vice President, National Chaplain, National Historian, members of the National Executive Committee, and each Past National President in good standing with her Unit shall be delegates-at-large with vote to be exercised with their respective Departments, except for the National President who shall vote as chairman of the National Convention.

The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate may be cast by the majority of the delegates present from her Department.

As provided in the National Constitution, amendments to the National Convention delegate voting strength and the manner for casting votes shall be by action of the National Convention delegates.

3. As provided in the National Constitution, the National President shall be the Chairman of the National Convention. The National Vice President shall be the Vice Chairman of the National Convention; and in compliance with Constitutional requirements, may act in the place of the National President, the National Secretary shall be the Secretary of the National Convention, with the authority to appoint assistant secretaries with the approval of the National President.
4. The Officers of the National Convention who are present and the chairmen of the special and standing committees required to report at the National Convention shall be permitted to sit with the National Convention body.
5. There shall be the following named National 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

National Convention, and to conduct other business as described in this section.

- a. There shall be the following special National 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 propose the rules under which the National Convention shall operate. The Rules shall provide for the orderly organization and operation of the National Convention. The National Convention Standing Rules shall be adopted by a majority vote of the National Convention delegates with continuing power of revision.
 - 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 National 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 National Convention delegates.

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 either to a) recommend

to the National Convention delegates that a proposed resolution be adopted; b) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposed resolution not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the National Convention delegates regarding a proposed resolution. Each member of the Committee on Resolutions and one (1) representative from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the National Convention delegates. The committee on Resolutions shall report its activity to the National Convention delegates.

- 4) Any other special National Convention committee as deemed appropriate by the National President.
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- b. Pre-Convention Committees shall exist for the National Chaplain and National Historian, and for the following national committees: Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cavalcade of Memories, Children & Youth, Community Service, Constitution & Bylaws (see additional subsection on Constitution & Bylaws in this section), Education, Finance, American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, 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 plus one member assigned by each department.

The Pre-Convention Committees that correlate to the national committees shall each be comprised of members of the correlating national 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 ensure 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 either to a) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposal be adopted; b) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposal not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the National Convention delegates 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 either to a) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposed resolution be adopted; b) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposed resolution not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the National Convention delegates 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 National Convention delegates.

- c. 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 National Convention delegates, and to verify that amendments adopted by the National Convention are correctly incorporated into the governing documents.

The purpose of the meeting of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution & Bylaws is to clarify the meaning of the proposals for National Convention delegates prior to National Convention.

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 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 either to a) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposed amendment be adopted; b) recommend to the National Convention delegates that a proposed amendment not be adopted; or c) make no recommendation to the National Convention delegates regarding a proposed amendment. Each member of the Pre-Convention Committee on Constitution & Bylaws and one (1) representative assigned from each department shall be entitled to vote on the recommendation to be made to the National Convention delegates.

- d. Each Division of the National American Legion Auxiliary shall, for the purpose of nominating a National Division Vice President, meet at a time and place designated by the Call of the National President. Rules and suggested agenda for Division Caucuses shall be sent out from National Headquarters prior to the National Convention (or with the Call to National Convention). Candidates endorsed for National Division Vice Presidents shall not be announced until an official Division Caucus immediately preceding the year of her candidacy.
- e. The National President shall appoint the National Convention Host City Chairman who is charged with preparation of the preliminary plans and local arrangements for the National Convention in consultation with and with the approval of the National President. The National President shall also appoint such other National Convention committees as appropriate, including Distinguished Guests, Credentials, Rules, and Resolutions. The National President may also appoint a National Chairman and Vice Chairman of Pages, and Personal Pages.

The National Convention Host City Chairman shall appoint her host committee, including a Vice Chairman, a Secretary and members of all committees necessary for the functioning of the National Convention

on the local level, with all such appointments to be approved by the National President.

III. DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP NATIONAL CONFERENCE:

1. A Department Leadership National Conference shall be held annually. Necessary expenses incurred for attendance may be paid from the national treasury when authorized by the national budget or authorized by the National President and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.

IV. DUTIES OF NATIONAL OFFICERS:

In addition to the duties of the National Officers as provided in the National Constitution & Bylaws, the following officers shall abide by the following rules and regulations:

NATIONAL PRESIDENT:

1. The National President shall serve as chairman of the National Executive Committee, and chairman of the National Convention.
2. The National President may appoint an Advisory Committee of three (3) to five (5) members as approved by the National Executive Committee.
3. The National President may authorize the candidate(s) for National President to make necessary plans for the upcoming administrative year, and authorize such travel as may be necessary.
4. Should the National President become incapacitated, the National Secretary shall inform the National Executive Committee.

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT:

1. The National President may authorize the National Vice President to attend meetings on her behalf, and attend such special meetings or official Department visits as she may authorize.

2. When the National President so directs, the National Vice President shall serve in an advisory capacity to a specific National Chairman to develop a program.
3. The National Vice President shall not attend Department Conferences or Conventions or other functions in an official or unofficial capacity unless specifically authorized to do so by the National President (attendance at her own Department Conference or Convention being the exception).

NATIONAL DIVISION VICE PRESIDENTS:

1. The National Division Vice Presidents shall not attend National or Department Conferences or Conventions in an official capacity unless specifically authorized to do so by the National President. Attendance at her own Department Convention is the exception. National Division Vice Presidents may attend as a member from their own Department. However, it should be understood they are not to assume an official position or attitude in this case and no special courtesies should be accepted.
2. While National Division Vice Presidents may contact Department Presidents regarding their tentative date for an official visit, the request for the official visits of the National Division Vice President must be sent by the Department President to the National President and the National Division Vice President shall wait until she receives official authorization from the National President before completing her plans.
3. The official visit of the National Division Vice President to a Department shall be for a duration not to exceed forty-eight (48) hours unless an exception has been authorized by the National President. The agenda for a National Division Vice President's visit to a Department shall be planned and provided in advance.
4. National Division Vice Presidents shall not be authorized to visit Puerto Rico or the Philippine Islands, nor shall they present themselves as representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary on personal or unofficial visits to foreign destinations during their term of office.
5. National Division Vice Presidents shall arrange for and conduct their Division Caucuses at the National Convention in accordance with these Standing Rules.

6. Endorsed candidates for National Division Vice President shall not send notice of their endorsements to candidates for National President until the year before they will be a candidate for such office in their Division.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN:

1. The National Chaplain is responsible for all invocations and benedictions at official meetings.
2. The National Chaplain shall conduct the official Memorial Service for any deceased Past National President at the National Convention.

NATIONAL HISTORIAN:

1. The National Historian shall prepare a written account of the organization's administrative year in which she served for reference in the compilation of future American Legion Auxiliary National history books. Quarterly reports are due to National headquarters within thirty (30) days of end of the quarter for the first three (3) quarters of the administrative year. Failure to submit reports will result in a termination of travel authorizations. The completed report is to be filed in National Headquarters no later than December 31 following the National Convention, a copy to be sent to the National President with whom she served. The Past National Historian pin will be presented when a completed history is received by December 31 of the year in which she leaves office and is accepted by the National President for whom she served.
2. The National Historian shall be responsible for compiling and sending to the Departments an Outline and Rules for Department Histories that are to be submitted in contest for National Award. Judging of the Department Histories shall be done by the five (5) National Division Vice Presidents under the supervision of the National Historian.

V. NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. The fiduciary responsibility of the National Executive Committee, as

directors of the National Organization, is as provided in the National Bylaws.

2. The National Executive Committee shall meet at least three (3) times a year, with notice, at the call of the National President. Meetings of the National Executive Committee shall be open except when the National Executive Committee is meeting in executive session.
3. Chairmen of national committees who are not members of the National Executive Committee shall have the privilege to make motions on behalf of the committee they chair.
4. The National Executive Committee shall determine the membership year for the organization.
5. Cancellation of charters may be presented at the National Executive Committee meeting prior to the National Convention or at a National Executive Committee meeting called between National Conventions. Cancellations approved by the National Executive Committee shall become effective immediately following National Convention.
6. The National Executive Committee shall make determinations regarding the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of national officers and of national committee members in executive session pursuant to the principles of due process and equal protection, and in consultation with Counsel General.
7. In the event the National President, National Vice President, National Historian, National Chaplain, or a National Division Vice President becomes incapacitated or is otherwise unable to discharge the duties of National President, National Vice President, National Historian, National Chaplain, or a National Division Vice President, the National Executive Committee may declare the position vacant.
8. In the event the National Secretary or National Treasurer becomes incapacitated or is otherwise unable to discharge the duties of her office,

the National Executive Committee may declare the position vacant only if the position is held by a person who is not an employee of National Headquarters. When the position is held by a person who is an employee of National Headquarters, the declaration of vacancy must be in accord with federal and state employment law and for good cause on the motion of the National President.

9. The National Executive Committee shall refer matters regarding the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of a National Executive Committeewoman or a Department officer to the Committeewoman's or Department officer's Department for the Department's determination.
10. The National Executive Committee may establish procedural rules regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of Unit charters, with full power to revise or amend such rules. The general process shall be as provided in the section on Charters in these Standing Rules.

VI. COMMITTEES

1. As provided in the National Bylaws, in addition to the core National Standing Committees – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Americanism, National Security, Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Finance, and Audit – there shall be the following national committees: Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Cavalcade of Memories, Community Service, Education, American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, and Public Relations. The overall purpose of each standing committee is as specified in this section; the purpose of each national committee is as described in the American Legion Auxiliary National Plan of Action.
2. As provided in the National Bylaws, the chairmen and committee members of all national committees shall be appointed by the National President and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.
3. As provided in the National Bylaws, when a vacancy occurs on a committee, the National President shall appoint a member to serve the unexpired term subject to confirmation by the National Executive Committee. Chairmen and committee members serve until their successors are appointed.

4. As provided in the National Bylaws, the National President shall be considered an ex-officio member, additionally, of all committees.
5. As provided in the National Bylaws, the National President in consultation with National Headquarters staff may appoint other special or ad hoc committees necessary for the good of the organization during an administrative year. Special Committees shall be appointed subject to confirmation and ratification by the National Executive Committee. Limited, specific purpose ad hoc committees may be appointed at the discretion of the National President subject to National Executive Committee confirmation.
6. The composition of each National Standing Committee and each National Committee and the number of members and their terms shall be as described in this section, and any amendments thereto shall be by action of the National Convention delegates.

Core National Standing Committees

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation: The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee shall be comprised of a chairman who shall serve a one-year term; three (3) members serving staggered three-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year to a three-year term, and a representative from each National Division who shall serve a one-year term. Of the three (3) members serving three-year terms, one (1) shall serve as the National Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Representative, and two (2) shall serve as National VAVS Deputy Representatives. The purpose of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee is to promote programs and services that assist and enhance the lives of veterans and their families, ensuring restoration and/or transition to normally functioning lives.

Children & Youth: The Children & Youth Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Children & Youth Committee is to work collaboratively with The American Legion to promote programs that protect, care for, and support children and youth, especially those of our military and veterans.

Americanism: The Americanism Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and four (4) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Americanism program is to promote patriotism and responsible citizenship.

National Security: The National Security Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and four (4) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the National Security Committee is to promote a strong national defense.

Membership: The Membership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Membership Committee is to promote the benefits of membership and to promote retaining and recruiting a diverse, active membership to carry out the American Legion Auxiliary mission and programs.

Constitution & Bylaws: The Constitution & Bylaws Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The purpose of the Constitution & Bylaws is to inform members about having proper governing documents at all levels.

Finance: The National Finance Committee shall be comprised of five (5) members serving staggered five-year terms, at least one (1) of whom shall be a Past National President. One (1) member shall be appointed each year by the National President to serve a five-year term and may serve a maximum of two (2) – five-year terms consecutively. No appointee having served two (2) or more terms on the committee shall be eligible for reappointment. The chairman shall be appointed annually and serve as one (1) of the five (5) members. The National Secretary and National Treasurer shall be additional members of said committee with voice, but without vote.

The National Finance Committee shall meet quarterly at the call of the National President. Special meetings shall be held at the request of three (3) of the five (5) committee members. The National Vice

President, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman, and National Children & Youth Chairman may attend as guests for the purposes of observing to gain experience about national budgeting and finances.

The purpose of the National Finance Committee is to oversee the development and implementation of general national financial policy subject to approval or ratification by the National Executive Committee; and to provide oversight of budgeted funds in the budget and report any significant variance to the National Executive Committee.

Audit: The Audit Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, each serving staggered three-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year by the National President; and two (2) liaison members, one of whom shall be recommended each year by the National Finance Committee and one of whom shall be recommended each year by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation to the National President for appointment. The National President shall appoint the chairman. Liaison members shall have voice without vote.

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide oversight assistance to the National Executive Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities regarding accounting and reporting practices, reliable systems of internal control, the corporate responsibility program, and the quality and integrity of the Auxiliary's financial reporting. Audit Committee members shall be financially literate, and the chairman shall have the necessary background to be considered an "audit committee financial expert" in matters of accounting and auditing.

National Committees – Mission Outreach

Education: The Education Committee shall be comprised of a chairman serving a one-year term, three (3) members serving staggered three-year terms, one of whom shall be appointed each year to serve a three-year term; plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Girls Nation: The Girls Nation Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and four (4) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The Girls Nation Committee shall direct the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation program and conduct the annual session of the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation, with the Girls Nation Chairman serving as Director under the supervision of the National President.

Junior Activities: The Junior Activities Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Legislative: The Legislative Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Poppy: The Poppy Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Community Service: The Community Service Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and four (4) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

National Committees – Member/Organizational Support

Auxiliary Emergency Fund: The Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides

grants to American Legion Auxiliary members who qualify for specific types of emergency assistance. A three-member review and processing committee shall consist of the National Secretary, the National Treasurer, and a staff member of The American Legion Children & Youth Commission.

Cavalcade of Memories: The Cavalcade of Memories Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Leadership: The Leadership Committee shall be comprised of a chairman plus three (3) members, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Past Presidents Parley: Past Presidents Parley shall be comprised of a chairman and two (2) members, all of whom shall be Past National Presidents and all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Public Relations: The Public Relations Committee shall be comprised of a chairman and three (3) members, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Liaison to Child Welfare Foundation: The Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation Committee shall be comprised of three (3) members, two (2) of whom shall be Past National Presidents and one (1) of whom shall be the Chairman of the Children & Youth Committee. The appointed Past National Presidents shall serve staggered two-year terms, one (1) of whom shall be appointed each year to a two-year term. One (1) Past National President shall be appointed each year to serve as the chairman, the Auxiliary's primary liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Special Purpose Committees

Advisory: The National President may appoint an Advisory Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee, comprised of members subject to confirmation by the National Executive Committee.

Long Range Strategic Planning: The National President may appoint a Long Range Strategic Planning Committee subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee, comprised of a chairman, National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, Immediate Past National President, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation chairman, Children & Youth chairman, and other members at her discretion, subject to confirmation by the National Executive Committee.

7. Committees shall promote their programs in conjunction with corresponding American Legion commissions and committees. Purposes of committees not specified in the Standing Rules shall be as assigned by the National President or as provided for in the annual action plan or other published national guides. Meetings of committees shall be approved by the National President.

VII. NATIONAL CHAIRMEN:

1. National Chairmen shall not accept invitations to visit other Departments other than their own without permission of the National President.

2. When a National Chairman is authorized by the National President to officially represent the National Organization at a meeting or event, a written report must be submitted to the National President.
3. National Chairmen are required to maintain records of their activities during their administrative year and share their records with their successors and the appropriate national headquarters staff.

VIII. SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1. As required by United States trademark laws and the American Legion Auxiliary National Bylaws, all national subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be subject to regulation by action of the national governing bodies of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Subsidiary organizations are subordinate to the National Organization and shall comply with the following legally binding rules that ensure the constant and continuous control of the trademarks and trade names of the National Organization.

The five (5) Rules of a Subsidiary Organization are:

1. All officers, directors, trustees, etc., must be confirmed by the American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee.
2. All vacancies in the subsidiary corporation must be filled in the same manner as provided in the organization's bylaws and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.
3. The subsidiary corporation must report to the National Headquarters, and reports must include financial reports submitted no less frequently than monthly.
4. The American Legion Auxiliary National Treasurer must be a signatory on all accounts of the subsidiary.

5. The American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee shall approve the establishment of all subsidiary organizations and must approve the subsidiary's articles of incorporation, constitution and bylaws, and must approve all amendments thereto.
2. Subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary may not have national dues that are higher than the national dues of the American Legion Auxiliary. Subsidiary organizations shall provide all required reports and financial statements as directed by the American Legion Auxiliary.
3. The following organization(s) is/are subsidiary(ies) of the American Legion Auxiliary:

American Legion Auxiliary Foundation

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation (ALA Foundation) was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) charitable public benefit corporation to raise funds to benefit and assist the American Legion Auxiliary in carrying out the educational, charitable and other exempt purposes of the Auxiliary.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, classified in a different category of tax exempt organizations by the Internal Revenue Service than that of the National Organization, has its own tax exempt determination (ruling) from the IRS. The Foundation shall comply with all legal and regulatory filings as required. Members of the Foundation's audit committee may be the same as those serving on the national Auxiliary Audit Committee. A representative from the Foundation board of directors shall participate in meetings of the national Auxiliary Audit Committee. The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall abide by the National Audit Committee Charter.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall elect directors and officers as provided in the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Bylaws as approved by the National Executive Committee. American Legion Auxiliary Foundation directors and officers shall be confirmed by the National Executive Committee before they assume office.

The American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall abide by any memorandum for

the record by and between the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, as approved by Counsel General and the American Legion Auxiliary's external audit firm.

DEPARTMENT SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1. As required by United States trademark laws and the American Legion Auxiliary National Bylaws, all Department subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be subject to regulation by action of the Department governing bodies of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Subsidiary organizations are subordinate to the Department and shall comply with the following legally binding rules that ensure the constant and continuous control of the trademarks and trade names of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The five (5) Rules of a Subsidiary Organization to a Department are:

1. All officers, directors, trustees, etc., must be confirmed by the American Legion Auxiliary Department Executive Committee.
 2. All vacancies in the subsidiary corporation must be filled in the same manner as provided in the organization's bylaws and confirmed by the Department Executive Committee.
 3. The subsidiary corporation of the Department must report to the Department Executive Committee, and reports must include financial reports submitted no less frequently than monthly.
 4. The American Legion Auxiliary Department Treasurer must be a signatory on all accounts of the subsidiary.
 5. The American Legion Auxiliary Department Executive Committee shall approve the establishment of all Department subsidiary organizations and must approve the subsidiary's articles of incorporation, constitution and bylaws, and must approve all amendments thereto.
2. Subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary Departments may not have dues that are higher than the Department dues of the

American Legion Auxiliary. Subsidiary organizations shall provide all required reports and financial statements as directed by the American Legion Auxiliary.

UNIT SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS

1. As required by United States trademark laws and the American Legion Auxiliary National Bylaws, all Unit subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be subject to regulation by action of the Unit governing bodies of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Subsidiary organizations are subordinate to the Unit and shall comply with the following legally binding rules that ensure the constant and continuous control of the trademarks and trade names of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The five (5) Rules of a Subsidiary Organization to a Unit are:

1. All officers, directors, trustees, etc., must be confirmed by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit's governing board or governing body.
 2. All vacancies in the subsidiary corporation must be filled in the same manner as provided in the organization's bylaws and confirmed by the Unit's governing board or governing body.
 3. The subsidiary corporation of the Unit must report to the Unit, and reports must include financial reports submitted no less frequently than monthly.
 4. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit Treasurer must be a signatory on all accounts of the subsidiary.
 5. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit shall approve the establishment of all Unit subsidiary organizations and must approve the subsidiary's articles of incorporation, constitution and bylaws, and must approve all amendments thereto.
2. Subsidiary organizations of the American Legion Auxiliary may not have dues that are higher than the Unit dues of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Subsidiary organizations shall provide all required reports and financial statements as directed by the American Legion Auxiliary.

IX. DEPARTMENTS:

1. Departments of the American Legion Auxiliary are separate entities that operate independently as affiliates of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization. Departments shall be governed by their own Department Constitution and/or Bylaws, rules and policies, which shall not conflict with the National Constitution & Bylaws, National Standing Rules, National rules and policies. Departments may refer to the American Legion Auxiliary Department Operations Guide, the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program and Operations Guide, Manual of Ceremonies and other publications of the National Organization for guidance in the conduct of their programs and the administration of the Department activities.
2. Governance issues within a Department not resolved by the Department Executive Committee may be appealed to the National Executive Committee. The National Executive Committee has the authority to accept or reject appeals for consideration.
3. Departments shall not charge for materials received free of charge from National Headquarters.
4. The Unit has the responsibility for the discipline of its members. A member disciplined by her Unit may appeal the Unit's disciplinary action in writing to the Department Executive Committee. The Department Executive Committee shall review the appeal and respond as it deems appropriate. The action of the Department Executive Committee is final. Disciplinary actions against members, including membership suspensions, are not appealable to the National Organization. All discipline must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. A Department may discipline a Unit for failure to discipline a member.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the Department Executive Committee as directors of the Department organization to determine all questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's

officers and directors, Department Executive Committee members, and the Department's National Executive Committee members. Such matters shall be determined according to due process and shall be specified in the Department's governing documents, to include:

- a) questions affecting the election, eligibility, conduct, and capacity of the Department's officers and directors, Department Executive Committee members, and the Department's National Executive Committee members shall be submitted in writing to the Department Executive Committee;
 - b) the Department Executive Committee may designate, appoint, and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding such matters;
 - c) the Department Executive Committee shall provide due and proper notice of any hearing and trial;
 - d) the findings of fact and recommendations of said matters shall be presented to the Department Executive Committee for its approval, rejection, or final action.
 - e) the action of the Department Executive Committee in such matters shall be final and conclusive without appeal to the National Organization.
6. A Legion Department has no authority to regulate an Auxiliary Department and vice versa.
 7. A Department has the authority to establish Department policies for endorsement of candidates for National offices. National Headquarters does not oversee the manner in which Divisions select candidates for National Division Vice President.
 8. Names and addresses of all elected Department Officers and the Department Secretary, whether elected or appointed, must be provided to National Headquarters no later than thirty (30) days after Department Convention.
 9. Names and complete contact information of all Department Chairmen

must be entered into the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System by the Department no later than the date established by National Headquarters.

10. National Headquarters shall notify Departments of all resolutions and amendments adopted at each National Convention.

X. UNITS

1. Units of the American Legion Auxiliary are separate entities that operate independently as affiliates of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization. Units shall be governed by their own Unit Constitution and/or Bylaws which shall not conflict with the National Constitution & Bylaws, National Standing Rules, National rules and policies, Department Constitution and Bylaws, or Department rules and policies. Units may refer to the Unit Handbook, the Manual of Ceremonies and other publications of the National and Department organizations for guidance in the conduct of their programs and the administration of the Unit activities.
2. Units have the authority to establish annual Unit dues. Annual dues collected by the Unit shall include Department and National dues. Units shall remit Department and National dues according to the policies adopted by the National Executive Committee.
3. As provided in the National Bylaws, the minimum membership of a Unit shall be ten (10) Senior members. A Department Headquarters Unit shall have no minimum membership requirement.

No person may, at any time, be a member of more than one Unit.

A new member joining the American Legion Auxiliary prior to the annual National Convention must pay full current annual dues to be eligible for full membership rights, privileges, and benefits.

A new member joining after the National Convention may be given by her Unit full membership rights, privileges, and benefits from the date the dues are received through December 31 of the following year.

Any member in good standing wishing to transfer to another Unit must present to the new Unit her current membership card. Upon acceptance

- of the transfer by the new Unit, no dues shall be transferred.
- A member whose dues are paid up-to-date and who is not subject to suspension or membership revocation under due process shall be considered in good standing and the member shall be entitled to full membership rights, privileges, and benefits in the new Unit.
4. A Legion Post has no authority to regulate a Unit and vice versa.
 5. When a Unit ceases to function or its charter has been revoked or canceled, the charter and all Unit records and funds shall be immediately forwarded to Department Headquarters which has no obligation to assume any of the Unit's debt or other obligations.
 6. A Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked by its Department without the Unit's consent may appeal the Department's decision to the National Executive Committee as provided in these Standing Rules.

XI. CHARTERS

Department Charters

1. As provided in the National Bylaws, the National Executive Committee shall charter Departments with a minimum of five hundred (500) adult members.
2. The National Executive Committee after notice and hearing may suspend, cancel, or revoke the charter of a Department for any good and sufficient cause to it appearing. The National Executive Committee may designate, appoint and authorize a subcommittee to hear, try, and make written findings of fact and recommendations regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Department after said Department shall have received due and proper notice of said hearing and trial. The subcommittee shall present its written findings and recommendations to the National Executive Committee for its approval or rejection. All suspensions and revocations must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and

recommendations shall be final.

3. The hearing and trial of any cause involving the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any Department of the American Legion Auxiliary shall be had and held under rules of procedure to be adopted by the National Executive Committee.

Unit Charters

1. A properly executed Unit charter application shall include typewritten names of at least ten (10) new or current Senior members, and be accompanied by the per capita dues for each member, plus the Unit Charter fee. Application for Unit charters shall be signed by the Department President and the Commander and Adjutant of The American Legion Post to which the Unit is attached.
2. Department charter fees should be in proportion to the current charter fee as established by National Headquarters. There shall be no charter fee for a Department Headquarters Unit.
3. The Department Executive Committee after notice and hearing may suspend, cancel, or revoke the charter of a Unit for any good and sufficient cause to it appearing. All such actions must be imposed in accordance with the principles of due process and equal protection. The proceedings shall be conducted with a court recorder present who will make a complete record.
4. The Department Executive Committee may order the suspension of a charter for a period not to exceed one year.
5. A Unit whose charter has been suspended, canceled, or revoked without its consent may appeal the Department's action to the National Executive Committee within sixty (60) days of receipt of notice of the Department's action. Notice shall be given by United States postage prepaid certified mail return receipt requested.
6. The general process by which a Unit may appeal the decision of its Department Executive Committee to suspend, cancel, or revoke its charter shall be:

- a) The Unit shall provide written notice of the appeal to the National Secretary within sixty (60) days of the Unit's receipt of notice of the action by the Department.
 - b) The Unit shall provide the written appeal with supporting documentation to the National Secretary and provide a copy of the written notice and appeal with supporting documentation to both the Department President and the Department Secretary.
 - c) The National Secretary shall notify the National President of the appeal.
 - d) The Department, upon notification of the Unit's appeal, shall provide a written copy of its actions regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation, of the Unit's charter to both the National President and National Secretary and a full copy of the file of the Department's proceedings.
 - e) The National President, as presiding officer of the National Executive Committee, shall appoint a special subcommittee of three (3) to five (5) members of the National Executive Committee to review the appeal.
 - f) The National President shall present the appeal at the next meeting of the National Executive Committee that allows for proper due notice and review of the appeal.
 - g) The special subcommittee shall meet at least one day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee at which the National President will present the Unit's charter appeal. The special subcommittee shall review the appeal and recommend to the National Executive Committee action(s) to be taken thereon.
 - h) The National Executive Committee shall act on an appeal as provided in the following section.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the National Executive Committee to hear and act on an appeal duly presented from a Unit whose charter has

been suspended, canceled, or revoked by the Department Executive Committee without the Unit's consent. The National Executive Committee after notice may conduct a hearing. The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the Unit's charter for any and sufficient cause to it appearing.

The special subcommittee appointed by the National President to review the appeal shall make written findings of fact and recommendations to the National Executive Committee regarding the suspension, cancellation, or revocation of the charter of any American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

The special subcommittee shall notify the Unit and the Department of the day it will report to the National Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee may approve, reject, or take other action on the appeal. The action of the National Executive Committee upon such findings and recommendations shall be final.

XII. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

1. The National per capita dues shall be nine dollars (\$9.00) per annum for Senior members, and one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per annum for Junior members.^a The per capita dues for Senior members shall include a complimentary subscription to the American Legion Auxiliary national magazine. Each Department shall remit the national per capita dues promptly to the National Treasurer at least monthly.
2. As provided in the National Bylaws, modification to the National per capita dues for Senior and Junior members shall require a two-thirds vote in the affirmative by the National Convention delegates.
3. Dues shall be payable annually for the succeeding calendar year or may be paid for life via a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership.
4. A member failing to pay such annual dues by January thirty-first of the current membership year shall be delinquent and suspended from

a. The National per capita dues amount was last amended at National Convention in August 2011, effective in the 2013 membership year.

membership privileges.

A member deemed delinquent for failing to pay dues by December thirty-first of the current membership year shall be classified as expired. Such expired member may rejoin as an active member under her original join date without interruption of her continuous years of membership, and her membership privileges reinstated, by payment of all past dues.

A member deemed expired for failing to pay dues by December thirty-first of the current membership year may rejoin, with a new join date, at any time in the future by re-establishing eligibility and making application as a new member.

Member applications and member reinstatements may also require Unit action if a Unit's governing documents so state.

5. As provided in the National Bylaws, the National Executive Committee, by a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, may levy a per capita assessment.

XIII. JUNIOR MEMBERS:

1. Any Junior elected to serve as an honorary Junior officer must be paying dues as a Junior member for the membership year in which she is installed.
2. Honorary National Junior offices carry courtesy titles bestowed by the American Legion Auxiliary, and the position of Honorary Junior National President or any other honorary Junior officer elected nationally or by a national division of the American Legion Auxiliary is solely an honorary, courtesy position without any formal recognition and with no official or formal duties, and shall not include traveling as a representative of the national American Legion Auxiliary or conducting fundraising for Junior election campaigns or related activities benefitting an honorary Junior national officer or candidate.
3. Honorary division Junior presidents may be elected at national division Junior meetings to serve the ensuing year.

Appendix B



**AWARDS PRESENTED
DURING NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 26-29, 2013**

(Visit www.ALAforVeterans.org to see a full listing of 2012-2013 awards.)

AUGUST 26, 2013

LIAISON TO CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION COMMITTEE AWARDS:

Excellence Award - Department of Wyoming
Meritorious Achievement Award - Department of Colorado
U.S. Udie Grant Award - Department of Florida
Garland M. Murphy Jr. Award – Department of Florida

AUGUST 27, 2013

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY COMMITTEE AWARDS:

Salute to Active-Duty Servicewomen Award

United States Army - Sergeant Lydia Johnston
United States Marines Corps - Staff Sergeant Jessica D. Cavender
United States Navy - Lieutenant Commander Aletha Tatge
United States Air Force - Senior Master Sergeant Josephine Carrillo
United States Coast Guard - ME3 Paige Wyatt

Unit Member of the Year

Judith Garsee, Unit 67, Department of Alabama
Amy Hankins Brown, Unit 62, Department of Arizona
Pat Clark, Unit 130, Department of Arkansas
Esther Hanks, Unit 339, Department of California
Edie Cookson, Unit 32, Department of Colorado
Tracy Chesky, Unit 45, Department of Connecticut
Cindy Phillips, Unit 28, Department of Delaware
Rebecca Clayton, Unit 113, Department of Florida
Sara Plott, Unit 251, Department of Georgia
Karen Depperschmidt, Unit 152, Department of Kansas
Diane Kennedy, Unit 13, Department of Kentucky
Ginger de la Motte, Unit 26, Department of Idaho
Holly Giertz, Unit 26, Department of Illinois
Althea Murphy, Unit 266, Department of Iowa
Mary Phillips, Unit 500, Department of Indiana
Kathleen Robinson, Unit 136, Department of Maine
Jennifer Effler, Unit 96, Department of Maryland
Margaret Finch, Unit 411, Department of Michigan
Marilyn Prchal, Unit 79, Department of Minnesota
Beverly Cottom, Unit 79, Department of Mississippi
Jeanna Sibbert, Unit 137, Department of Montana
Karen Greenland, Unit 251, Department of Nebraska
Beverly Gutzman, Unit 4, Department of Nevada
Beverly Sanschargin, Unit 82, Department of New Hampshire
Christine Brodi, Unit 54, Department of New Jersey
Donna Mills, Unit 576, Department of New York

Kay Surlles, Unit 345, Department of North Carolina
Frieda Larson, Unit 14, Department of North Dakota
Dorothy Hazen, Unit 33, Department of New Mexico
Mary Ann Wigton, Unit 257, Department of Ohio

Woman of the Year Award: Presented to Patricia “Patty” Shinseki

AUGUST 28, 2013

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AWARDS:

Service Not Self Award

Winters-Peterson Unit 242 - Department of South Dakota
Getchel Nelson Unit 210 - Department of Wisconsin
Stanley McCollum Unit 280 - Department of Illinois
Rood Williams Unit 271 - Department of Florida
Harrisonburg Unit 188 - Department of Virginia
Forsaith Drowne Unit 108 - Department of New Hampshire
Roy Unit 33 - Department of New Mexico
Merrick Unit 1282 - Department of New York
Hole in the Wall Unit 90 - Department of Wyoming

Milestone 4 - Numeric Objective (100%)

Department of California at 100.06 percent
Department of Washington at 100.09 percent
Department of Arizona at 100.56 percent
Department of Alaska at 100.69 percent
Department of the District of Columbia at 103.85 percent
Department of Virginia at 105.78 percent

NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:

Johnson-Nicoles-Kuhlman-Olson Unit 53 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Barrett-Davis-Watson Unit 233 in Loganville, Georgia
Arlington Unit 139 in Arlington, Virginia
Tehachapi Unit 221 in Tehachapi, California
Cary Unit 67 in Cary, North Carolina
Department of Wisconsin