



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
*Veterans Strengthening America*

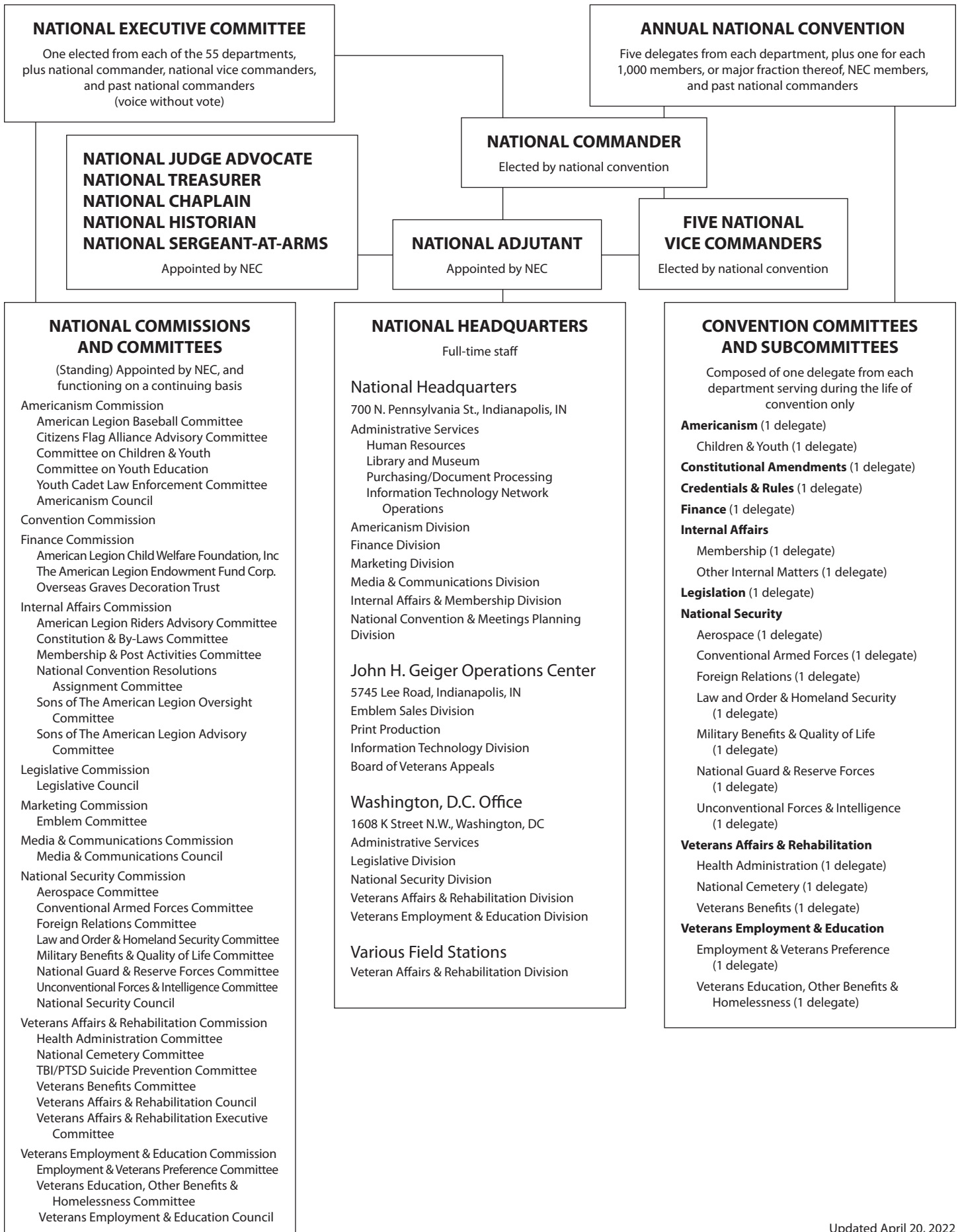
# Outline of Authorization

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Membership and Purpose for Commissions and Committees

Revised November 2021

# ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION



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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Applicable to all Commissions and Committees

### EXCERPT FROM NATIONAL BY-LAWS

#### Article I, Section 4 and 6

##### Section 4

The National Commander shall name such committees as shall deem advisable, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next meeting succeeding the appointment.

##### Section 6

There shall be the following standing commissions: Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Marketing Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, and Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

The commissions shall consist of such number of members of The American Legion as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. Appointments to such commissions shall be made by the National Executive Committee upon nomination by the National Commander. The National Executive Committee is empowered to assign duties and responsibilities to all standing commissions and committees and to group standing committees with commissions for the purpose of efficient supervision and coordination of activities.

### LIAISON COMMITTEES

**(Applies to all commissions)**

#### Resolution No. 1 National Convention 2015

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 6, of the National By-laws, which currently reads: Section 6. There shall be the following standing commissions: Americanism Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Veterans Employment & Education Commission. The commissions shall consist of such number of members of The American Legion as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. Appointments to such commissions shall be made by the National Executive Committee upon nomination by the National Commander. The National Executive Committee is empowered to assign duties and responsibilities to all standing commissions and committees and to group standing committees with commissions for the purpose of efficient supervision and coordination of activities; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee recommended the Marketing Committee become the Marketing Commission; and

WHEREAS, This recommendation is hereby accepted, which means the provisions of the National By-laws, Article I, Section 6 must be amended; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention that Article I, Section 6, of the National Bylaws, be amended to read as follows:**

**Section 6. There shall be the following standing commissions: Americanism**

**Commission, Convention Commission, Finance Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Legislative Commission, Marketing Commission, Media & Communications Commission, National Security Commission, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Veterans**

**Employment & Education Commission. The commissions shall consist of such number of members of The American Legion as the National Executive Committee may from time to time determine. Appointments to such commissions shall be made by the National Executive Committee upon nomination by the National Commander. The National Executive Committee is empowered to assign duties and responsibilities to all standing commissions and committees and to group standing committees with commissions for the purpose of efficient supervision and coordination of activities.**

**Opinion Rendered by National Judge Advocate, October 28, 1970 Re: NEC Liaison Committee Members voting on commission**

"Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, November 1949, liaison committees were appointed from the personnel of the National Executive Committee to serve with the various standing commissions in order to establish as close as possible a relationship between said commissions and the National Executive Committee. Members of the National Executive Committee Liaison Committee have a voice in the affairs of the commission to which they are liaison. However, since the liaison is a member of the National Executive Committee and has a vote in that body, which is superior to the commission to which he is liaison, he has not been given a vote in the commission to which he acts as liaison. As a general rule, members of the National Executive Committee Liaison Committees have a voice but no vote."

**Resolution 19, October 2019 NEC**

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the resolution adopted by the National Executive Committee at its meeting held November 18-20, 1948, liaison committees appointed from the personnel of the National Executive Committee were created to serve with the various standing commissions in order to establish the closest relationship between such commissions and the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Said procedure has proved its value, and it is believed that such liaison can be effectively continued by the appointment, without duplication, of such members from the National Executive Committee to serve as a liaison with each of said commissions; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 16-17, 2019, That the national commander each year appoint, without duplication, members from the National Executive Committee to serve as a liaison with each standing commission listed in Article I, Section 6 of the National By-Laws; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That such appointments shall be made annually at the post-convention meeting of the National Executive Committee, and the appointees shall serve until adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing, provided that in the event of the termination of membership on the National Executive Committee of any member so appointed, such appointment shall automatically terminate, and the vacancy shall be filled by the national commander then in office, from membership of the National Executive Committee; and, be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That National Executive Committee Resolution No. 1, October 16-17, 2013, titled, "Liaison Committees" is hereby superseded and rescinded.**

## **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

**(Applies to all commissions and committees)**

### **Opinion Rendered by National Judge Advocate, October 1, 1969**

It is my opinion, for reasons which I shall state herein below, that ex-officio members of national commissions are entitled to voice and vote on the commissions of which they are ex-officio members.

Page 570 of the publication "Parliamentary Law," by General Henry M. Robert, contains the following statement, which I quote:

"Ex-Officio means 'from the office,' or 'by virtue of the office.' Thus if the bylaws make the president of the society president ex-officio of the board of managers, it means that the society's president, by virtue of that office, is also president of the board of managers. The moment he ceases to be president of the society he automatically ceases to be president of the board. A member or officer ex-officio is as much a member or officer as if elected to the position."

Robert's Rules of Order Revised (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition), Section 51, page 210, contains the following statement:

"51. Ex-Officio Members of Boards and Committees. Frequently boards and committees include some members who are members by virtue of their office, and, therefore, are termed ex-officio members. When such a member ceases to hold the office, his membership on the board terminates automatically. If the ex-officio member is under the control of the society, there is no distinction between him and the other members except where the president is ex-officio member of all committees, in which case it is evidently the intention to permit, not to require, him to act as a member of the various committees, and, therefore, in counting a quorum, he should not be counted as a member. The president is not a member of a committee except by virtue of a special rule, unless he is so appointed by the assembly. If the ex-officio member is not under the authority of the society, he has all the privileges, including the right to vote, but none of the obligations of membership; as when the governor of a state is, ex-officio, a manager or a trustee of a private academy."

This ruling does not apply to paid national staff, such as the national treasurer or the national judge advocate, who are not permitted to vote as ex-officio members according to Resolution No. 34 adopted by the May 2012 NEC.

## **NATIONAL COMMANDER'S REPRESENTATIVES**

**(Applies to all Commissions and committees)**

### **Resolution 35, October 1968 NEC**

WHEREAS, Questions have arisen pertaining to the status and rights of national commander's representatives on the several national commissions, committees and other appointive bodies; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary that these questions be clarified by the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The National Commander's Advisory Committee has examined this problem in depth and has agreed that representatives of the national commander on national appointive bodies should exercise all the rights and privileges of members of such bodies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That persons named as national commander's representatives to national commissions, committees, and other bodies of the national organization shall have the same rights and privileges as the appointed members of such bodies, including the right of voice and vote when present at a duly called meeting of said bodies; and, be it further



RESOLVED, That the foregoing clarification of the status of national commander's representatives be included in the publication entitled "Outline of Authorization, Membership and Purpose for Commission and Committees of the National Organization of The American Legion" when next issued.

## **CONSULTANTS and ADVISORS**

### **(Applies to all commissions and committees)**

Opinion Rendered by National Judge Advocate, April 25, 2012

"At the national level, it has been the practice to deny consultants and advisors to commissions and committees a vote, while allowing them voice in matters pertinent to their area of expertise. I would advise that this practice continue."

(This opinion supersedes any previous contradictory opinions as to consultants and advisors.)

## **APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL COMMANDER'S REPRESENTATIVES, CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS**

### **(Applies to all commissions and committees)**

There is authorized to be affiliated with each standing commission and committee one national commander's representative who shall serve with voice and vote as specified in Resolution No. 35 of the National Executive Committee, October 16-17, 1968, and such number of consultants and advisors as are deemed appropriate and necessary, who shall serve with voice but not vote as stated in an opinion rendered by the national judge advocate, April 25, 2012.

## **HONORARY MEMBERS**

### **(Applies to all commissions and Membership & Post Activities Committee)**

Honorary Members: There is authorized to be affiliated, with all standing commissions and the Membership & Post Activities Committee, honorary members who have no specific duties except those that may be assigned from time to time by their department. These honorary members are not listed in the national commission and committee book, have no duties at the national level, and are never called in to national meetings. Upon request, a form will be sent from the national commander's office to the department so it may name honorary members. Copies of the nomination letter will be prepared at National Headquarters and sent to the department for dissemination. There is no limit on the number of honorary members a department may nominate.

# SPECIAL COMMITTEES

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO NATIONAL COMMANDER

### Authorization

- Established: Resolution 11, November 1946 and Resolution 28, October-November 1947 NEC meeting.
- Resolution 71, November 1949 NEC meeting made changes to set-up.
- Authorized in present form by Resolution 1 at August 27, 2012 Pre-Convention NEC meeting.

### Membership

This committee consists of such members as the national commander shall appoint, a majority of whom shall be members of the NEC and at least one member from the Finance Commission. The national commander nominates the committee subject to NEC approval. The term of each member shall be co-extensive with that of the national commander who nominated him or until his successor is appointed. The chairman shall be selected by the national commander from among the members of the committee, and the immediate past national commander shall serve as vice chairman.

### Purpose

- To act as advisor and counselor to the national commander and all other national officers on matters of policy and activities.
- To study and report on matters referred to it by the national commander, the National Executive Committee, the national adjutant, or members of the committee.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Authorization

- Established: Resolution 30, October 2014.

### Membership

- The National Executive Committee authorizes the national commander to annually appoint a "Department Advisory Committee" composed of three to five members of the National Executive Committee.

### Purpose

- To provide advice and guidance on issues requested by department.

# AMERICANISM COMMISSION

## Authorization

- Established 1919.
- Resolution 546 made constitutional committee at 1924 National Convention.
- Continued as constitutional commission by Resolution 189, 1947 National Convention.
- Authorization for present commission restated by Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.

## Membership

The Americanism Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed thirty members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Committee on Children & Youth, the chairman of the Committee on Youth Education and the chairman of the Baseball Committee shall be ex-officio members of the commission.

## Purpose

- To supervise and coordinate national committee activity.
- To promote an understanding and appreciation of American government, the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, and activity in the American way of life through youth activities, community service, instruction of prospective citizens and legal immigrants, education and educational facilities, and protection of the U.S. flag from physical desecration.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.
- Assigned to the Americanism Commission for supervision and coordination are the Committee on Children & Youth, the Committee on Youth Education, The American Legion Baseball Committee and the Americanism Council.

## AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMITTEE

### (Assigned to Americanism Commission)

#### Authorization

- Created as a subcommittee by action of the fall 2013 NEC assigned to Americanism Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Resolution 1, October 2015 NEC changed name and established current membership.

## **Membership**

The American Legion Baseball Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed six members selected from among the members of the Americanism Commission or from at large to serve for a term of one year; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year.

In addition to the six members appointed by the national commander, two members from the Americanism Commission shall be appointed annually by the chairman of that commission.

There is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary which may include representatives of The American Legion and non-members of The American Legion. The consultants shall be appointed for terms of one year each, or until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The total composition of the committee shall consist of those with a strong background in the game of baseball.

The chairman of The American Legion Baseball Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Americanism Commission.

## **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend rules (administrative, playing and safety); policies; plans; and activities of The American Legion Baseball program.
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to The American Legion Baseball program.
- To promote The American Legion Baseball program and its principles.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Authorization**

- Resolution 19, NEC, May 4-5, 1994, "Authorization to Create the Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee"
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership
- Resolution 15, May 2016 NEC changed to committee under Americanism Commission

### **Membership**

The resolution stated that the national commander be and he is hereby authorized and directed to create the Citizens Flag Alliance Advisory Committee composed of the following members

- The national commander.
- The immediate past national commander.

- The chairmen of the NEC Liaison Committee to the Americanism, Legislative, Media & Communications, Finance Commissions.
- The chairmen of the Americanism, Legislative, Media & Communications and Finance Commissions.
- Such number of consultants as the national commander may deem necessary and appropriate.
- The national adjutant and national judge advocate shall be ex-officio members.
- The national commander may also invite the American Legion Auxiliary in the numbers as deemed necessary.

### **Purpose**

- To aid in the campaign to secure a constitutional amendment empowering the Congress to enact legislation to protect the Flag of the United States from physical desecration.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH**

### **(Assigned to Americanism Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Child Welfare Committee authorized as a constitutional committee by Resolution 546, 1924 National Convention
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC authorized present commission.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC, set membership and organization.
- Resolution 2, 52<sup>nd</sup> National Convention, September 1-3, 1970 changed name to Commission on Children & Youth by amendment of Section 6, Article I, of the National By-Laws.
- Resolution 52, NEC October 1970 NEC, defined purpose.
- Amended by Resolution 7, October 1979 NEC, going from 5 areas to 8 regions.
- Resolution 26, October 2004 NEC, dissolved geographical regions.
- Resolution 2, 2005 Pre-NEC Meeting, dropping 8 region membership on commission and made one group within commission.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC changed to committee under Americanism Commission and set current membership.

#### **Membership**

The Committee on Children & Youth shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall of 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such



interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year.

There is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary which may include representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Eight and Forty. The consultants shall be appointed to serve for terms of one year each, or until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The chairman of the Committee on Children & Youth shall be an ex-officio member of the Americanism Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To formulate, recommend, and implement plans, programs, and activities designed to:
- To assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
- Improve conditions for all children and youth with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
- To prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible, utilizing services of and cooperating with sound organizations and agencies for children and youth.
- To maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual needs.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **COMMITTEE ON YOUTH EDUCATION**

### **(Assigned to Americanism Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Created by Resolution 12, May 1976 NEC, which assigned committee to Americanism Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC changed name and established current membership.

#### **Membership**

The Committee on Youth Education shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed six members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year.

Two members from the Americanism Commission shall be appointed annually by the chairman of that commission. The National Executive Committee Liaison chairman to the Americanism Commission is also a member of the committee.

The national commander may annually appoint, at the recommendation of the American Legion Auxiliary national president, three members of the American Legion Auxiliary as consultants to the Committee on Youth Education.

The total composition of the committee shall consist of both educators and lay persons with a strong interest in education.

The chairman of the Committee on Youth Education shall be an ex-officio member of the Americanism Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To inform itself and The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary of developments, problems and potentials in the field of education.
- To recommend appropriate policies and programs for The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary.
- To maintain contact with the educational community so that there may be an interchange of thinking between The American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary and educators, students, and other organizations concerned with the well-being of education throughout the nation.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Americanism Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Created by NEC Resolution 6, October 2016 NEC, which assigned committee to Americanism Commission for supervision and coordination.

#### **Membership**

The Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairman and not to exceed five other members selected from the Americanism Commission or from at large; provided, however that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, the chairman, vice chairman and not to exceed five other members of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year.

The National Commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

There is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary who may either be a representative of The American Legion or a non-member of The American Legion, and who shall be appointed for term of one year, or until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

## **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend guidelines (administrative and safety), policies, strategic plans and activities of The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program
- To promote The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program and its principles
- To develop and engage in methodology encouraging those departments without an American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program to establish one
- To promote uniform branding of The American Legion in prominence in all Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Programs
- To work towards the ultimate goal of establishing a national capstone program
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the Americanism Commission

## **AMERICANISM COUNCIL**

### **(Assigned to Americanism Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Created by NEC Resolution 62, May 1962
- Duties defined in Resolution 3, October 7, 1962 Pre-NEC meeting.
- Assigned to the Americanism Commission for purposes of supervision.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Americanism Council shall consist of such members as may be appointed by the national commander upon nomination submitted by the several departments and ratified by the National Executive Committee.

Appointments to the Americanism Council shall be effective until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

#### **Purpose**

- To understand, support and disseminate the principles of the commission to which assigned.
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to the commission.
- To be available from time to time at the request of the commission chairman or national commander to participate in activities relative to the purposes of the commission.
- May be asked to represent The American Legion at meetings of other like-minded organizations.
- At the national commander's discretion, council members may be called in to any regularly scheduled meeting of their parent commission. Council members shall have voice but no vote.
- To promote and disseminate programs and principles of The American Legion;
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

The Americanism Council shall take its directives and instructions from the Americanism Commission. The Americanism Commission and Division are responsible for keeping Americanism Council members on all mailing lists of the commission and division.

This council does not have a chairman, since it does not meet. The chairman of the Americanism Commission will be the ex-officio chairman of this council.

# CONVENTION COMMISSION

## Authorization

- November 1934 to May 1935: This was a temporary National Convention Liaison Committee.
- May 1935 to November 1944: This was a permanent National Convention Liaison Committee.
- November 1944 to July 1945: National Convention Corporation.
- July 1945 to November 1947: National Convention Bureau.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC authorized present commission.
- Resolution 537, 1948 National Convention made it a constitutional commission and increased membership.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC, set membership and organization.
- Resolution 38, October 1988 NEC abolished Contest Advisory Committee.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC abolished Distinguished Guest Committee.
- Resolution 36, May 9-10, 2018 NEC Assignment of Convention Commission.

## Membership

The Convention Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twelve members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

Three department adjutants may be designated to serve as an advisory board to the commission. The advisory board members shall be appointed at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee to serve a one-year term each.

The retiring president of each convention corporation shall be an ex-officio member of the commission for the following year.

The Convention Commission is authorized and directed to appoint a "chief judge of contests" for any contests at conventions.

The Finance Commission is assigned oversight of the Convention Commission effective May 2018 (Resolution 36, May 2018 NEC). The Convention Commission will provide financial updates to the Finance Commission at all regular meetings of The American Legion when the Convention Commission is in session.



## Purpose

- To oversee the implementation of The American Legion's Request for Proposal (RFP) pertaining to the guidelines for selecting cities to be recommended to the National Executive Committee (NEC) for awarding a National Convention bid.
- To supervise and coordinate (with the host convention corporation, where applicable) all activities, venues and logistical requirements associated with the conduct of a National Convention. The duties and functions of the host convention corporation, where applicable, and National Headquarters of The American Legion are outlined in The American Legion Policy and Procedures for National Convention Corporations and for the National Organization. The American Legion Policy and Procedures to be updated annually in coordination between the National Convention Commission and the national judge advocate.
- To administer and refer all National Convention related resolutions to the applicable national commission and the National Executive Committee.
- To assist the chief judge and assistant chief judge of contests with the implementation of procedures supporting the effective conduct of all uniformed groups' contests at the National Convention.
- To provide financial updates to the Finance Commission at all regular meetings of The American Legion when the Convention Commission is in session.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

# FINANCE COMMISSION

## Authorization

- First record of a Finance Committee was in 1919.
- Resolution 307, 1922 National Convention established it as a constitutional body.
- Resolution 189, 1947 National Convention made it a constitutional commission.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC assigned committees to commission.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.
- Resolution 36, May 2018 NEC assigned Finance Commission oversight of the Convention Commission.

## Membership

The Finance Commission shall consist of seven members. The national commander and the national treasurer are ex-officio members of the commission (see note on Page 3). The national adjutant is ex-officio Secretary and not a member of the commission. The chairman is taken from the membership of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year.

## Purpose

- To prepare the yearly budget and the handling of funds under that budget;
- Such other duties as shall be prescribed by the NEC, subject to the approval of the NEC.
- (See Article I, Section 5, of the National By-Laws of The American Legion.)

Assigned to the Finance Commission for supervision and coordination is the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust. The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation is not a part of any commission, but does submit its reports to the NEC through the Finance Commission, as does The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Finance Commission is assigned oversight of the Convention Commission.

## Article I, Section 5, National By-Laws of The American Legion

The National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a Finance Commission to be composed of seven members. Of the seven members appointed following the National Convention (1945) at which this amendment is adopted, two shall be appointed to serve for a term of one year, two shall be appointed to serve a term of two years, and three shall be appointed to serve for a term of three years; thereafter, each succeeding appointee shall serve for a term of three years until removed by the majority vote of the National Executive Committee. The national commander and the national treasurer shall be ex-officio members of said commission and the national adjutant shall be ex-officio secretary of the said commission. The Finance Commission shall be charged with the preparation of the yearly budget and the handling of funds under the budget, and such other duties as shall be prescribed by the National Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

## **AMERICAN LEGION CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION, INC.**

**(Separate corporation, but reports through Finance Commission)**

### **Authorization**

- Resolution 1, September 3, 1953 NEC authorized committee to create a foundation.
- Resolution 20, October 1953 NEC meeting, at which time the national commander, national adjutant and the national judge advocate were authorized and directed to take the necessary steps to incorporate such a foundation.
- Resolution 55, October 1954 NEC approved foundation's articles of incorporation.

### **Membership**

Nine members who may also serve as directors. Starting with 1954 NEC meeting, as directors, upon recommendation of the national commander, these are selected by the NEC as follows: three shall serve one year, three shall serve two years, and three shall serve three years. Thereafter, three shall be selected annually to serve for a period of three years.

The board of directors is composed of nine directors, to be elected by the annual meeting of the members. Three shall be elected each year, following the initial staggering of three for one year, three for two years, and three for three years. Each director must be a citizen of the United States.

### **Purpose**

- To receive by gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, and money or property in trust.
- To use and expend the principal and/or income of said trust or any part thereof for the benefit of children and youth of the United States, its territories and possessions, and/or other children whom the foundation shall select or determine.
- To make said payments or expenditures upon such conditions and limitations as the foundation shall determine.
- To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children and youth.
- To add to progress in the child welfare field and the sum total of man's knowledge of children and youth through research, studies, surveys, projects or in other ways, including but not limited to all youth activities now or hereafter sponsored by The American Legion.

Expenditures from said trust, either principal and/or income, may be made, but are not limited to the national organization of The American Legion, to finance or help finance programs, studies and activities of benefit to children and youth; to departments or posts of The American Legion and organizations affiliated with The American Legion for the same purposes; and to other organizations and agencies for the purpose of financing in whole or in part research, programs and activities of benefit to children or which will further the purposes stated herein.

## **THE AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION**

**(Separate Corporation, but reports through Finance Commission)**

### **Authorization**

- Organized under Delaware state law as a non-profit corporation.
- Resolution 441, 1924 National Convention directed the National Executive Committee to create a trust
- June 1925 NEC approved the corporation.

- Resolution 55, November 1946 NEC set the membership at nine.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC stated it was a separate corporation, not assigned to any national commission, but would report to NEC through Finance Commission.
- Resolution 3, October 2018 NEC approved The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation to be renamed to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation.

## **Membership**

Up to thirteen members to be selected by the NEC, three to be appointed each year and each to serve for a term of three years. Members need not be Legionnaires, though to this time, all have been and this provision was evidently put in, anticipating a future when The American Legion would cease to exist.

Thirteen directors to be elected by the members of the corporation, three to be appointed each year and each to serve for a term of three years. The directors need not be members either, of the Legion or the corporation, a provision intended to meet conditions which may arise when members of the Legion are too old to fulfill duties of this kind. The officers consist of a president, a vice president, a secretary, and treasurer, elected by the board of directors. The first two shall be members of the board; the others may or may not be.

## **Purpose**

- To act as trustee of The American Legion Endowment Fund for rehabilitation and child welfare.
- To receive in trust from The American Legion or a donor to the fund the net proceeds of all funds, moneys, or property given, paid, devised, or bequeathed to or otherwise acquired by the fund.
- To hold in trust the property of the fund.
- To supervise the custody of said fund and the investment and reinvestment of the principle of said fund.
- To supervise the expenditure of the income of said fund to the end that the income shall be expended solely for the purposes designated, that is, to say rehabilitation and child welfare, etc.

## **OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION TRUST**

### **(Assigned to Finance Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Funds for the decoration of overseas graves were raised in 1921 and 1922.
- At May 1923 NEC meeting, a trusteeship plan was recommended to handle the fund, which was being held by the national treasurer in trust.
- From then until 1935, the plan was acted upon by the NEC in various forms, but the trusteeship never was completed because of objections raised by the designated trustees.
- At November 1935 NEC meeting, the reorganized plan was reported approved and signed by all the designated national officers, placing it in current operation.
- July 1945 NEC meeting authorized certain changes in chairmanship.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC assigned it to the Finance Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current purpose.

## **Membership**

Consists of the current national commander of The American Legion who shall be chairman and the immediate past national commander of The American Legion and his predecessor, who shall serve respectively for three, two and one years to be calculated from the last day of the National Convention of The American Legion, and the national adjutant and the national treasurer of The American Legion and the chairman of the Finance Commission who shall serve so long as he remains such chairman. Each retiring trustee is released from any and all liability by reason of his acts as trustee.

## **Purpose**

- Charged with the custody, control, and administration of the fund, the earnings on which are to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the World Wars who lie buried overseas.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION

## Authorization

- First known as the Internal Organization Commission.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC and Resolution 537, 1948 National Convention established as a constitutional commission.
- Resolution 21, May 1948 NEC changed name and broadened duties.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 51, October 1970 NEC assigned pollution responsibility.
- Resolution 31, May 1971 NEC assigned overseas cemeteries responsibility.
- By adopting Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials Committee was abolished, its duties assigned to the Internal Affairs Commission, and three members were added to the Internal Affairs Commission's membership.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.

## Membership

The Internal Affairs Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Of the twenty-one members who shall be appointed to the commission at the fall 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee, seven shall be appointed for a term of one year, seven shall be appointed for a term of two years, and seven shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, the chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, and the chairman of the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee shall be ex-officio members of the commission.

## Purpose

- To formulate and recommend policies and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to activities conducted for organizational purposes, including but not limited to such policies as do not properly come within the scope of any other national commission.
- To review and give guidance to the necessary administrative operations of the National Headquarters.
- To recommend policies and procedures relating to trophies and awards given by the national organization in connection with American Legion activities.

- To act on all nominations for The American Legion Distinguished Service Medal and report recommendations to the National Executive Committee.
- To be responsible for the contents of the Manual of Ceremonies, promotion of the use of the manual, the proper wearing of uniforms, caps, regalia, official badges, etc.
- To review and recommend to the National Executive Committee, recipients of the International Amity Award and the Canadian Friendship Award.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

Assigned to the Internal Affairs Commission for supervision and coordination are the Membership & Post Activities Committee, the Constitution & By-Laws Committee, the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee and the American Legion Riders Advisory Committee.

Committee responsibilities relating to memorials exclusive of national cemeteries shall remain the responsibility of the Internal Affairs Commission. Sons of The American Legion was transferred to Internal Affairs from Americanism in May 1961. Governance of the program entitled American Legion Riders is within the authority of the Internal Affairs Commission.

## **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Internal Affairs Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Established in 1993 as a post-level activity at Garden City American Legion Post 396, Department of Michigan.
- October 2010 NEC ALR Advisory Committee to Internal Affairs Commission established as a special committee.
- Resolution 8, October 2015 NEC assigned to Internal Affairs Commission.
- Resolution 4, May 2021 NEC, assigns a department adjutant who is a Legion Rider to be a consultant affiliated with the committee.
- Resolution 5, May 2021 NEC, combined Resolution No. 35, October 2007 NEC, Resolution No. 32, May 2011 NEC and Resolution No. 19, October 2020 NEC, to establish guidelines for The American Legion Riders National Program.

#### **Membership**

The American Legion Riders Advisory Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed seven members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary but at least one who is a department adjutant as well as a Legion Rider.

## **Purpose**

- To work in concert, as directed by the Internal Affairs Commission, with American Legion posts, districts and departments as needed to build awareness and support of the Legion Rider program and the annual Legacy Run.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Internal Affairs Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Special committee from November 1937 to November 1939
- Current committee authorized by Resolution 24, November 1939 NEC.
- Reorganized by Resolution 26, November 1941 NEC.
- Resolution 55, November 1946 NEC enlarged membership.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC assigned to Internal Affairs Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.

#### **Membership**

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the Commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Internal Affairs Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To study and make proper recommendations concerning all matters pertaining to the Constitution & By-Laws and all matters pertaining to the Uniform Code of Procedure for the Organization of National Conventions of The American Legion.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Internal Affairs Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- In existence since November 1942 under various names.
- November 1946 NEC changed name to Membership and Post Activities Committee.
- Resolution 58, May 3-4, 1961 NEC changed name to Department and Post Membership Activities Committee.
- Resolution 24, October 24-26, 1961 NEC changed name back to Membership and Post Activities Committee.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 6, May 1-2, 1963 NEC authorized committee to meet each year prior to National Convention, and the Committee was authorized – within the provisions of Rule 9c of the rules of the National Executive Committee – to make a direct report at the spring and fall meetings of the NEC through the Internal Affairs Commission.
- Resolution 52, October 1970 NEC, set purpose.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Membership & Post Activities Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twelve members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year.

Three department adjutants may be designated to serve as an advisory board to the committee. The advisory board members shall be appointed at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee to serve a one-year term each. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

In order to avail itself of the most up-to-date information, the committee may, with the approval of the Membership & Post Activities Committee chairman, invite up to six experts in the field of membership procurement to its annual planning session, provided that no such invitee shall serve more than three consecutive terms.

The chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Internal Affairs Commission.

## **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend policies and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to the enrollment of members, the collection of dues, the functioning of department, posts, and intermediate levels in a manner to attract and retain members, and the development of leadership training and promotional activities necessary to the foregoing.
- To develop and execute a multi-year membership and post procurement plan, which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee. The NEC shall be updated on the plan's progress at least once per year (May 2012 NEC).
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Internal Affairs Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Created by Resolution 17, May 1930 NEC as the "National Policies Commission."
- Resolution 521, 1930 National Convention changed name and revised powers.
- Committee enlarged by Resolution 17, November 1942 and Resolution 55, November 1946 NEC.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC assigned it to Internal Affairs Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC changed name and established current membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year.

The chairman or the vice chairman of the Legislative Commission of The American Legion, a member of the National Executive Committee Legislative Commission Liaison Committee, and the chairman of the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee or his designee are authorized to sit with the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee in an advisory capacity, to advise with respect to resolutions which contain subject matter involving legislative programs of The American Legion and which have been submitted to the National Convention for consideration.

The chairman of the National Convention Resolutions Assignment Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Internal Affairs Commission.

## **Purpose**

- To meet as needed prior to the National Convention to receive and consider germane and appropriate resolutions.
- To transmit appropriate and germane resolutions with or without recommendation to the appropriate convention committee.
- To return, through the secretary of the National Convention to the source, inappropriate or non-germane resolutions that may be resubmitted, when corrected, to the National Executive Committee or National Convention by the originator. Inappropriate or non-germane resolutions include, but are not limited to: Convention resolutions (1) containing more than one subject, (2) calling for or requiring the expenditure of funds, (3) containing personal attacks or derogatory characterizations, (4) outside the purview, (5) not pertinent or inappropriate for action by the National Convention or (6) unclear and undocumented. Deficient resolutions, once corrected, in order to be reconsidered, need to be resubmitted to the National Convention or National Executive Committee as provided in the National Constitution and By-Laws. Questions about resolutions should be reviewed with the national adjutant as secretary of the convention. Other national officers or staff may be involved, as appropriate.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.
- Attention should be paid to Resolutions 20 and 21, NEC May 1960 in this committee's deliberations.

## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Internal Affairs Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Created by Resolution 1, October 2021 NEC as the "Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee"

#### **Membership**

The Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee shall consist of a chairman and two members which may be members of the American Legion Internal Affairs Commission or whoever the American Legion national commander may recommend for appointment.

One member shall serve one year, one member shall serve two years, and one member shall serve three years and, thereafter, one shall be selected annually to serve for a period of three years. The chairman shall be appointed annually.

In addition to the three members of the Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee, the American Legion national commander may appoint from time to time additional consultants who will serve one-year terms.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, based on recommendations by the national commander.

#### **Purpose**

- To oversee and approve the administrative and appointive actions of Sons of The American Legion
- Appoint members to the Sons of The American Legion Finance Commission
- Works closely with the Sons of The American Legion Resolution Subcommittee to ensure resolutions are in proper format, germane to Sons of The American Legion, and do not conflict with American Legion resolutions

## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Authorization**

- Created by Resolution 2, October 2021 NEC as the “Sons of The American Legion Advisory Committee”

### **Membership**

The Sons of The American Legion Advisory Committee shall consist of a chairman and four members initially named by the American Legion National Executive Committee, plus the current national commander of Sons of The American Legion with voice but no vote.

One member shall serve one year, one member shall serve two years, and one member shall serve three years and, thereafter, one shall be selected annually to serve for a period of three years. The chairman shall be appointed annually.

The chairman of the Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee and the American Legion national adjutant are named as consultants.

The chairman shall be appointed annually. Appointments to fill members’ expiring terms shall be made annually by the American Legion National Executive Committee.

In addition to this advisory committee, the American Legion national commander may appoint from time to time additional consultants who will serve one-year terms.

### **Purpose**

- To discuss issues germane to Sons of The American Legion and recommend courses of action to the Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee.
- Collect detachment recommendations for Sons of The American Legion national offices and positions and recommends approval of same and year of service to the Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee.



# LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

## Authorization

- First authorized as a constitutional committee by Resolution 546, 1924 National Convention.
- Enlarged by Resolution 32, November 1940; Resolution 12, November 1944; Resolution 26, December 1945; and Resolution 55, November 1946 NEC.
- Changed to a constitutional commission by Resolution 189, 1947 National Convention and Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current purpose.

## Membership

The Legislative Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed thirty members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Legislative Council shall be an ex-officio member of the Legislative Commission.

## Purpose

- To provide the National Executive Committee with a copy of the annual consolidated Legislative Council activities report (which summarizes the Legislative Council's grassroots lobbying efforts for each congressional session and is due to the National Executive Committee at its Pre-Convention meeting per Resolution 28, NEC, October 19-20, 1994).
- To collect, into a single report, a comprehensive compilation of all resolutions adopted by the National Convention and/or the National Executive Committee which seek action by the United States Congress or are a legislative policy statement of The American Legion.
- To update this compilation after each of the aforementioned sessions into a comprehensive summary of The American Legion's legislative program (all resolutions requiring legislative action become part of The American Legion's legislative program immediately upon adoption, and the Legislative Commission shall compile such resolutions and make the current compilation in its entirety a part of its report to each meeting of the National Executive Committee for the sole purpose of establishing an orderly historical record of resolutions stating legislative policy and/or requiring legislative action, per Rules of the National Executive Committee, 8b.
- To assist other commissions and their staffs in representing The American Legion before the United States Congress, and each committee thereof, on all legislative matters in which The American Legion is officially interested.

- To assist, through its reports to the National Executive Committee and its liaison with other Commissions, in the formulation of appropriate legislative actions to be officially endorsed by resolution adopted by The American Legion.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

Assigned to the Legislative Commission for supervision and coordination is the Legislative Council.

## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **(Assigned to Legislative Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Authorized by Resolution 45, NEC April 30-May 1, 1975.
- Amended by Resolution 18, NEC May 4-5, 1977.
- Resolution 32, October 1992 NEC, set purpose.
- Resolution 28, October 1994 NEC, set purpose.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Legislative Council shall be composed of members appointed by the national commander upon the recommendations of the departments of The American Legion. Recommendations to the national commander for appointments of members of the council shall be submitted by the respective departments within thirty days following any election or appointment of a member of the House of Representatives or Senate. A maximum of one representative from each congressional district and a separate representative to serve in liaison with each United States Senator shall be appointed within a department.

The national commander shall appoint a chairman of the council and a vice chairman from each department. The chairman of the council shall be an ex-officio member of the Legislative Commission.

The membership of the Legislative Council shall be composed of Legionnaires who are politically active in their states or various congressional districts and whose judgment and advice are respected by their elected representatives. Any member who does not meet these criteria may be removed by the national commander and, with the advice and recommendation of a department, a replacement will be appointed.

Appointments to the Legislative Council shall be for two years or until December 31, immediately following the next succeeding general election of members of Congress, except that the chairman shall be appointed annually, his term of office to extend no longer than December 31 of the next succeeding year. Members of the Legislative Council, once they have been approved by the national commander, need not be resubmitted for each successive Congress, provided that the member of Congress to which he is assigned has not changed. However, the department has the right to remove council members and nominate replacements at any time. When a new council member is nominated, either as a replacement or because a new member of Congress has been elected, the Legislative Commission will require the prospective council member's qualifications to be submitted with the nomination.

The Legislative Commission is charged with keeping the membership of the Legislative Council up to date and a vital force capable of immediate effective action when members of the council are called upon.

The chairman of the Legislative Council shall be an ex-officio member of the Legislative Commission.

## **Purpose**

- To propagate an interest in and a furtherance of the legislative goals of The American Legion.
- To serve as a medium for disseminating information and of developing an understanding with our elected representatives in Congress.
- To prepare the Annual Consolidated Legislative Council Activities Report based on the Legislative Council vice chairmen's reports submitted to the Legislative Council chairman. Each Legislative Council vice chairman's report is due no later than July 31 each year and will summarize the department's grassroots lobbying efforts.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

The Legislative Council as a body shall not be called into general meeting at national's expense. Furthermore, members of the council may not be called in at national expense to fill allocated calls to the spring or fall meetings, National Convention or Washington Conference. However, the national commander may call one or more members of the council together for the purpose of assisting in carrying out specific or various legislative mandates.

Meetings may be held within a department as often as necessary to discuss strategy and tactics for carrying out priority national legislative mandates or to be briefed by a vice chairman, who shall chair such meetings. The chairman of the Legislative Council or the vice chairman of the respective department may call these meetings, however, any expense incurred will be borne by the department or participants.

# MARKETING COMMISSION

## Authorization

- Resolution 11, October 2014 NEC recommended the creation of the commission and established membership and purpose
- Resolution 1, 2015 National Convention ratified it as a constitutional commission
- Resolution 2, 2015 Pre-Convention NEC meeting established current membership and dissolved the Revenue Enhancement and Marketing Committees upon implementation at the close of the October 2015 NEC
- Resolution 31, May 2016 NEC, established advisory committee to the commission

## Membership

The Marketing Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year.

Three department adjutants may be designated to serve as an advisory committee to the commission. The advisory committee members shall be appointed at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee to serve a one-year term each. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

## Purpose

- To work in concert with all American Legion commissions and committees to build awareness and support for the mission and programs of The American Legion.
- To promote same to active duty military, Guard and Reserve components, military veterans and retirees, and the general public.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.
- Assigned to the Marketing Commission for supervision and coordination is the Emblem Committee.

## EMBLEM COMMITTEE

**(Assigned to Marketing Commission)**

### Authorization

- Created by Resolution 1, September 11, 1932 NEC meeting.
- Resolution 55, November 1946 NEC enlarged membership.

- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC assigned it to the Finance Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current purpose.
- Resolution 11, October 2014 NEC assigned it to the Marketing Committee for supervision and coordination.

## **Membership**

The Emblem Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed nine members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

## **Purpose**

- To oversee the operation of the Emblem Division and submit recommendations dealing with changes and general policy to the National Executive Committee.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

# MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

## Authorization

- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC eliminated Public Relations Commission and The American Legion Magazine Commission.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC recommended the creation of the commission and established membership and purpose.
- Resolution 1, 2013 National Convention, ratified it as a constitutional commission

## Membership

The Media & Communications Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-six members selected at large provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Of the twenty-six members who shall be appointed to the commission at the October 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee, nine shall be appointed for a term of one year; nine shall be appointed for a term of two years; and eight shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The national commander is authorized to appoint an advisory committee to the commission of not more than five members, not necessarily members of The American Legion, to be chosen at his discretion from those professionally and/or technically qualified to offer advice relative to matters of concern to the commission. The advisory committee members shall be appointed at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee to serve for terms of one year each. This advisory committee shall have voice and no vote.

## Purpose

- **Internal:** To educate, motivate and inform The American Legion family of the mission and programs of The American Legion for the purpose of making them promoters of and participants in the activities and aims of The American Legion.
- **External:** To build awareness of and support for the primary mission and purpose of The American Legion, especially among individual citizens, the United States Congress, national and local government agencies, and corporate America.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

Assigned to the Media & Communications Commission for supervision and coordination is the Media & Communications Council.

## **MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL**

### **(Assigned to Media & Communications Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created council and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Media & Communications Council shall consist of such members as may be appointed by the national commander upon nomination submitted by the several departments and ratified by the National Executive Committee.

Appointments to the Media & Communications Council shall be effective until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

#### **Purpose**

- To understand, support and disseminate the principles of the commission to which assigned;
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to the commission;
- To be available from time to time at the request of the commission chairman or national commander to participate in activities relative to the purposes of the commission;
- May be asked to represent The American Legion at meetings of other like-minded organizations;
- At the national commander's discretion, council members may be called in to any regularly scheduled meeting of their parent commission. Council members shall have voice but no vote.
- To promote and disseminate programs and principles of The American Legion;
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

The Media & Communications Council shall take its directives and instructions from the Media & Communications Commission. The Marketing Commission and its divisions are responsible for keeping Media & Communications Council members on all mailing lists of the commission and divisions.

This council does not have a chairman, since it does not meet. The chairman of the Media & Communications Commission will be the ex-officio chairman of this council.



# NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

## Authorization

- Created as a committee by 1929 National Convention through consolidation of the then Military Affairs Committee, Aeronautics Committee, and Naval Affairs Committee.
- Since 1929, NEC has changed set-up at various times.
- Presently a constitutional commission, by action of Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC and Resolution 537, 1948 National Convention. At this time, it was designated Security Commission.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, established current membership and purpose.

## Membership

The National Security Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Aerospace Committee, the chairman of the Conventional Armed Forces Committee, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the chairman of the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee, the chairman of the Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee, the chairman of the National Guard & Reserve Forces Committee, and the chairman of the Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee shall be ex-officio members of the commission.

## Purpose

- To recommend policies that will ensure the national security of the United States of America.
- To have an understanding of the federal budget process and the budget of the United States Departments of Defense, State and Homeland Security.
- To maintain a professional working relationship with the United States Departments of Defense, State and Homeland Security.
- To maintain a professional working relationship with all congressional oversight committees and staff relating to the purposes of the commission.
- To monitor the hearings of these oversight committees and provide congressional testimony in cooperation with the Legislative Commission and staff.
- To be knowledgeable about security threats to the United States of America as defined by the United States Departments of Defense, State and Homeland Security.

- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

The commission's purpose is national security. It will have the authority to recommend policy on matters of national security, such as energy self-reliance, for the United States of America.

Assigned to the National Security Commission for supervision and coordination are the Aerospace Committee, the Conventional Armed Forces Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee, the Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee, the National Guard & Reserve Forces Committee, the Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee, and the National Security Council.

## **AEROSPACE COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to the National Security Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Resolution 8, November 1936 abolished an earlier commission and established a new commission
- Lost independent status and became committee of National Defense Group by Resolution 2, September 29, 1946 NEC.
- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC re-organization plan assigned it to Security Commission for supervision and coordination.
- Formerly called Aeronautics Committee.
- Resolution 7, October 8-9, 1958 NEC changed to Aeronautics and Space Committee
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 31, April 30-May 1, 1973 NEC changed name to Aerospace Committee

#### **Membership**

The Aerospace Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Aerospace Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To consider and project the advancement of military and commercial aerospace technologies and programs to include space exploration and research.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **CONVENTIONAL ARMED FORCES COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to National Security Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Conventional Armed Forces Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not exceed eighteen members selected at large provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall 2013 meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Conventional Armed Forces Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To review the budgets of the Departments of the Army, Navy (including the Marine Corps) and the Air Force.
- To recommend policies to ensure the United States armed forces are of sufficient numbers, with quality training and modern equipment, to counter any strategic threat from any nation, a combination or a terrorist threat to the United States of America and its allies.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to National Security Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, changed to committee under National Security Commission and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Foreign Relations Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two

years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To review the policies of the United States Department of State.
- To make recommendations that will enhance the core objectives of the Department of State, those being: (a) promoting peace and stability in regions of vital interest, (b) creating jobs at home by opening markets abroad, (c) assisting nations in establishing investment and export opportunities, and (d) bringing nations together and forging partnerships to address global problems such as terrorism, the spread of communicable disease, cross-border pollution, humanitarian crises, nuclear smuggling and narcotics trafficking.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **LAW AND ORDER & HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to the National Security Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, eliminated Law and Order Committee and Homeland Security and Civil Preparedness Committee
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Law and Order & Homeland Security Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To review the policies and objectives of the United States Department of Homeland Security.
- To make recommendations which relate to homeland security, the United States Coast Guard, the governmental and non-governmental roles in disaster management and recovery that enhance the internal and external security and the security of the borders of the United States.
- To review immigration policies as they may affect the internal and external security of the United States.
- To support and recognize the contributions of police, fire, and first responders at all levels.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **MILITARY BENEFITS & QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to National Security Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, eliminated Military Affairs Committee
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Military Benefits & Quality of Life Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To review compensation, retirement benefits, health care and quality-of-life issues for service personnel of the active, reserve and guard components of our nation's military and military retirees, as well their families and dependents.
- To make recommendations that will assure the quality of life of our armed forces personnel and military retirees.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE FORCES COMMITTEE**

**(Assigned to the National Security Commission)**

### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, created committee and established membership and purpose.

### **Membership**

The National Guard & Reserve Forces Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the Commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the National Guard & Reserve Forces Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

### **Purpose**

To review the budgets of the National Guard and Reserve components of the armed services to ensure that the Guard and Reserve Forces have sufficient number of personnel for assigned missions both state and federal, sufficient budgets for training, as well as modern equipment to meet all obligations.

## **UNCONVENTIONAL FORCES & INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE**

**(Assigned to National Security Commission)**

### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, created committee and established membership and purpose.

### **Membership**

The Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Unconventional Armed Forces Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the National Security Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To review the budgets, as available, of the Special Operations Command and the Central Intelligence Agency as well as those of other intelligence agencies.
- To recommend policies as to sufficient personnel, quality training, modern equipment, and the sharing of intelligence between this command and all other intelligence agencies regarding national security, terrorist activity and strategic threats to our nation.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL**

### **(Assigned to National Security Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Resolution 62, May 1962 NEC, dissolved the National Security Training Committee, in anticipation of the creation of the National Security Council.
- Resolution 4, October 1962 Pre-Conv NEC, created the National Security Council, defined its duties and assigned it to the National Security Commission for purposes of supervision.
- Resolution 2, October 2003 NEC changed name from National Security Council to National and Homeland Security Council.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC, changed name back to National Security Council and established current membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The National Security Council shall consist of such members as may be appointed by the national commander upon nomination by the several Departments and ratified by the National Executive Committee.

Appointments to the National Security Council shall be effective until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The National Security Council shall take its directives and instructions from the National Security Commission. The National Security Commission and Division are responsible for keeping National Security Council members on all mailing lists of the commission and division.

#### **Purpose**

- To understand, support and disseminate the principles of the commission to which assigned.
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to the commission.
- To be available from time to time at the request of the commission chairman or national commander to participate in activities relative to the purposes of the commission.
- May be asked to represent The American Legion at meetings of other like-minded organizations.



- At the national commander's discretion, council members may be called in to any regularly scheduled meeting of their parent commission. Council members shall have voice but no vote.
- To promote and disseminate programs and principles of The American Legion.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

This council does not have a chairman, since it does not meet. The chairman of the National Security Commission will be the ex-officio chairman of this council.

# VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION

## Authorization

- First authorization for present commission was Resolution 546, 1924 National Convention, establishing it as a constitutional committee.
- Resolution 21, November 1939 NEC authorized Executive Committee for Rehabilitation Committee.
- Additional changes to Executive Committee by Resolution 17, November 1942 and Resolution 24, November 1943 NEC.
- Resolution 189, 1947 National Convention and Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC established as a constitutional commission.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, 1970 National Convention, amended Section 6, Article I of National By-Laws, changing name to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.
- Amended by Resolution 38, May 1979 NEC, going from 5 areas to 8 regions.
- Resolution 26, October 2004 NEC, dissolved geographical regions.
- Resolution 19, 2005 May NEC, dropped 8 region membership on commission and made one group within commission.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current membership and purpose.
- Resolution 24, May 2018 NEC established VA&R Commission Executive Committee

## Membership

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R) shall be composed of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the twenty-one members who shall be appointed to the commission at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, seven shall be appointed for a term of one year, seven shall be appointed for a term of two years, and seven shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for a term of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Health Administration Committee, the chairman of the National Cemetery Committee, and the chairman of the Veterans Benefits Committee shall be ex-officio members of the commission.

## **Executive Committee**

The National Executive Committee, acting on the recommendation of the national commander, shall make appointments for a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Executive Committee of six members, comprised of members of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, with terms of one year.

The members of the VA&R Executive Committee may be called in as needed during a time when the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission is not scheduled to meet to address time-sensitive, critical matters with the national commander concerning support to veterans, claims and benefits, memorial affairs, veterans health care, and other matters.

### **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee of The American Legion policies, plans and programs on direct assistance, outreach and support for veterans and their families with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims and benefits, health care, memorial affairs and women veterans programs to ensure that they receive the highest quality of care from the VA for their injuries and illnesses incurred from their military service.
- To coordinate the activities of the national organization in veterans affairs.
- To oversee the effectiveness of The American Legion's programs of service to these veterans and their dependents in claims for benefits administered by federal and state programs.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

To accomplish these purposes, the commission and staff will have an understanding of the federal budget process and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) budget and maintain a professional relationship with the VA and the congressional committees and staff charged with the congressional oversight of the VA in cooperation with the Legislative Commission and staff.

Assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission for supervision and coordination are the Health Administration Committee, the National Cemetery Committee, the TBI/PTSD Committee, the Veterans Benefits Committee and the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council.

## **HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Health Administration Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-four members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the twenty-four members who shall be appointed to the commission at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, eight shall be appointed for a term of one year, eight shall be appointed for a term of two years, and eight shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for a term of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Health Administration Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs to insure that veterans and military personnel are receiving timely and quality care at VA Regional Medical Centers, community-based outpatient clinics and long-term care facilities and any other medical functions under VA Health Care.
- To review and make recommendations on the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program and all volunteer programs at these facilities.
- To review and recommend policy as to veteran state homes (VHA);
- To ensure that VHA research is fully funded and that the VHA affiliation with medical universities remains robust.
- To ensure that the VHA budget can meet these objectives.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **NATIONAL CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

**(Assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)**

### **Authorization**

- Formerly known as the Graves Registration and Memorial Committee
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 2, May 1968 NEC changed name and transferred from Internal Affairs Commission to Rehabilitation Commission.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC established current purpose.

### **Membership**

The National Cemetery Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-four members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the National Cemetery Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

### **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs as they relate to Department of Veterans Affairs' national cemeteries, and the internment of veterans, military and their dependents. This includes Arlington National Cemetery administered by the Department of the Army.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **TBI/PTSD SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Resolution 13, October 2010 NEC created Ad Hoc Committee on Traumatic Brain Injury
- May 2013 NEC established permanent committee
- Resolution 9, October 2015 NEC created established membership and purpose.
- Resolution 33, October 2020 NEC renamed the former TBI/PTSD committee to the current TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee

#### **Membership**

The TBI/PTSD Committee shall consist of not more than six members selected, at large, for terms of one year and such consultants and commander's representative, as necessary by the national commander.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee from the membership of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

#### **Purpose**

- To continue to investigate the existing science and procedures as well as alternative methods for treating Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) not currently being employed by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the purpose of determining if such alternative treatments are practical and efficacious.
- To evaluate the therapies for treating TBI and PTSD currently employed by DoD and VA.
- To make an annual report to the full Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and the National Executive Committee concerning the TBI/PTSD Committee's findings and recommendations.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **VETERANS BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Veterans Benefits Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-four members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the twenty-four members who shall be appointed to the commission at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, eight shall be appointed for a term of one year, eight shall be appointed for a term of two years, and eight shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for a term of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Veterans Benefits Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To formulate and recommend to the National Executive Committee, through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, policies, plans and programs to ensure that veterans, widows and dependents are receiving timely decisions on claims and timely receipt of earned benefits.
- To review these veterans benefits to make sure they remain consistent with changes in the economy.
- To review the Department of Veterans Affairs' veterans benefits budget to make sure the above objective can be reached.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

### **(Assigned to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created council and established membership and purpose.

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council shall consist of such members as may be appointed by the national commander upon nominations submitted by the several Departments and ratified by the National Executive Committee.

Appointments to the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council shall be effective until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council shall take its directives and instructions from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission. The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission and Division are responsible for keeping Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Council members on all mailing lists of the commission and division.

### **Purpose**

- To understand, support and disseminate the principles of the commission to which assigned;
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to the commission;
- To be available from time to time at the request of the commission chairman or national commander to participate in activities relative to the purposes of the commission;
- May be asked to represent The American Legion at meetings of other like-minded organizations;
- At the national commander's discretion, council members may be called in to any regularly scheduled meeting of their parent commission, with voice but no vote.
- To promote and disseminate programs and principles of The American Legion;
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

This council does not have a chairman, since it does not meet. The chairman of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission will be the ex-officio chairman of this council.



# VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION

## Authorization

- Resolution 27, October-November 1947 NEC meeting authorized and made a constitutional commission.
- Resolution 1, October 1962 NEC set membership and organization.
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC recommended the name change and current membership and purpose.
- Resolution 1, 2013 National Convention, ratified commission as a constitutional commission.

## Membership

The Veterans Employment & Education Commission shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the commission, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the commission.

Appointments to fill members' expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for terms of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies in unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the commission to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this commission as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Employment & Veterans Preference Committee and the chairman of the Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee shall be ex-officio members of the commission.

## Purpose

- To supervise and coordinate all activities of committees assigned to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.
- When necessary, to initiate action concerning all matters affecting the economic well-being of veterans and/or the re-establishment of all war veterans returning to civilian life after a period of active service in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- To keep the national commander and the National Executive Committee informed concerning all developments affecting the economic welfare of veterans in all areas under the jurisdiction of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

Assigned to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission for supervision and coordination are the Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, the Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee, and the Veterans Employment & Education Council.

## **EMPLOYMENT & VETERANS PREFERENCE COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Veterans Employment & Education Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC eliminated Employment Committee and Veterans Preference Committee
- Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Employment & Veterans Preference Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed twenty-one members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the twenty-one members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, seven shall be appointed for a term of one year, seven shall be appointed for a term of two years, and seven shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for a term of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Employment & Veterans Preference Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To survey, study, and recommend solutions on problems relating to employment, unemployment, underemployment, reemployment, and workers compensation of all war veterans who seek, or have, attachment to the labor force, public or private.
- To study all questions involved in the protection of preferential rights of veterans in civil service.
- Such matters as may concern the obtaining of veterans' preference by legislation, with special attention to securing a more rigid enforcement and broad extension of federal, state, and municipal civil service, with adequate preference for veterans by legislation, and assisting veterans in the enforcement of the veterans' preference provisions of the law in cases which may be referred to it that show a violation of the spirit or letter of said veterans' preference provisions contained in the federal statutes, federal civil service regulations, executive orders, or otherwise, in all federal governmental employment .
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **VETERANS EDUCATION, OTHER BENEFITS & HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE**

### **(Assigned to Veterans Employment & Education Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created committee and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee shall consist of a chairman, a vice chairman, and not to exceed eighteen members selected at large; provided, however, that the chairman shall not be appointed from among the members of the committee, and the vice chairman shall be appointed from among the members of the committee.

Of the eighteen members who shall be appointed to the committee at the fall meeting of the National Executive Committee, six shall be appointed for a term of one year, six shall be appointed for a term of two years, and six shall be appointed for a term of three years. Thereafter, appointments to fill expiring terms shall be made annually at each fall meeting of the National Executive Committee and such appointments shall be for a term of three years. The national commander is authorized to make such interim appointments as may be required to fill vacancies of unexpired terms, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next ensuing meeting.

At its fall meeting each year, the National Executive Committee shall appoint, upon nomination by the national commander, a chairman and a vice chairman of the committee to serve in such capacity for one year. Also, there is authorized to be affiliated with this committee as many consultants as deemed appropriate and necessary.

The chairman of the Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission.

#### **Purpose**

- To insure that veterans educational benefits provided by the United States government to veterans are sufficient to pay all of the cost of a college education at state-supported colleges, all of the costs of trade school education, and a substantial portion of education provided by privately-owned colleges.
- To ensure that every generation of veterans has substantially the same or better benefits than the previous generation.
- To ensure that the federal and local governments are allocating sufficient resources to alleviate and end the challenge of homelessness among America's veterans;
- To ensure that all veterans receive the benefits to which they are entitled as recompense for their military service on behalf of a grateful nation.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

## **VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COUNCIL**

### **(Assigned to Veterans Employment & Education Commission)**

#### **Authorization**

Resolution 1, May 2013 NEC created council and established membership and purpose.

#### **Membership**

The Veterans Employment & Education Council shall consist of such members as may be appointed by the national commander upon nominations submitted by the several departments and ratified by the National Executive Committee.

Appointments to the Veterans Employment & Education Council shall be effective until the close of the next succeeding fall meeting of the National Executive Committee.

The Veterans Employment & Education Council shall take its directives and instructions from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. The Veterans Employment & Education Commission and Division are responsible for keeping Veterans Employment & Education Council members on all mailing lists of the commission and division.

#### **Purpose**

- To understand, support and disseminate the principles of the commission to which assigned.
- To review and be familiar with the resolutions pertaining to the commission.
- To be available from time to time at the request of the commission chairman or national commander to participate in activities relative to the purposes of the commission;
- May be asked to represent The American Legion at meetings of other like-minded organizations.
- At the national commander's discretion, council members may be called in to any regularly scheduled meeting of their parent commission. Council members shall have voice but no vote.
- To promote and disseminate programs and principles of The American Legion.
- Such other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee.

This council does not have a chairman, since it does not meet. The chairman of the Veterans Employment & Education Commission will be the ex-officio chairman of this council.



## THE AMERICAN LEGION

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