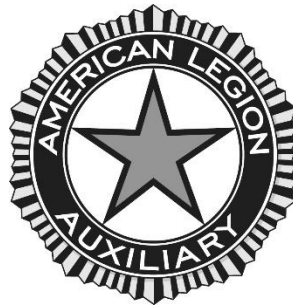


NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

POST-CONVENTION

NEW Orleans, LA



NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER

THURSDAY, 29, 2024

FROM 8:30 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT WARD: The National Executive Committee meeting will now come to order.

(Gavel)

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

(Gavel)

PRESIDENT WARD: National Chaplain Monique Batiste will lead us in our invocation. Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Christine Trahan will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by Constitution and Bylaws Chairman Norma Tramm leading us in the Preamble to the Constitution.

MS. BATISTE: Please bow your heads. Dear Lord, we are grateful. Thank you for every seat that has been filled here today, for each mind and heart that is ready to do the great work of the American

Legion Auxiliary. This room is filled with many talents, abilities, and time to work. Every project, every plan, every decision has already been declared great by You. May we grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of the veterans, the community, and the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. In Your name we pray, Amen.

ALL: Amen.

MS. TRAHAN: I pledge --

(Pledge of Allegiance)

MS. TRAHAN: Oh, say --

(National Anthem)

MS. TRAMM: For God --

ALL: -- God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations during

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

(Gavel)

PRESIDENT WARD: You may be seated. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is convened. It's been such an exciting few days here in New Orleans. I know we all want to thank the Department of Louisiana for just doing so much great work --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- on behalf of this

convention. The '23/'24 Administration should be so proud of everything that they accomplished. We look forward to bringing forth some exciting things for '24/'25 as we lead the way of service, not self. Before we begin our business, I'd like to take a few minutes to welcome you in your new role as the 2024/2025 National Executive Committee. Those present who are eligible to vote today and at the subsequent NEC meetings are the NEC members. NEC members include and are limited to National Executive Committee person from each Department; the five National Division Vice Presidents, the National Chaplain and National Historian, National Treasurer, National Secretary, National Vice President, and National President. Those present at the NEC meeting with voice but no vote are the Past National Presidents. We welcome our visitors and remind you that you may listen to the discussion but are not permitted to participate in debate nor to vote.

Members of the National Executive Committee, you are now serving in a national role as the board of directors with fiduciary responsibility to the national organization. As a member of the NEC, you no longer have the interest of your department as your primary focus. You are serving as national representatives of the national organization. And you must be making decisions and casting your votes according to what is in the best interest of the national organization. For future meetings, you will again receive information in advance. And you will be expected to have read those materials in preparation for the next meeting. This is an important role, and we appreciate your diligence in attending to your duties thoughtfully and responsibly on behalf of the national organization. Now, to get to the business at hand. The Chair asks that those of you wishing to address the meeting, make your way to the microphone as this is the only way your remarks can be heard for recording by our professional

court reporter for the transcripts of the meeting.
Also, please be sure that in making any remarks you
address the Chair.

Your attendance today was recorded
electronically when you entered the room. If you are a
voting member of the NEC and did not get checked in
upon entry, please see a staff member before you leave
today.

For this meeting and future NEC meetings, the
minutes will be approved by a Minute Approval
Committee. The Chair appoints the NECs from Alaska,
Illinois, and Ohio as the Minutes Approval Committee
responsible for approving the minutes for this year's
NEC meetings.

It is my pleasure to introduce the following:
Pam Ray, National Vice President.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Rosemarie Hauck, Central
Division, National Vice President from -

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- the great state of
Missouri. Lauren Lloyd, Eastern Division National Vice
President, --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- Department of DC is back
in the house, we're so thrilled. Debra Albers,
Northwestern Division, National Vice President --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- from Nebraska. Cheryl
Shine, the great state of Virginia, Southern
Division, --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: National Vice President.
And last but never least, originally being from the
West, we know them, West is pretty much always best,
but not always, Western Division National Vice

President Beverly Eads from Alaska.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: And then your National
Historian DaraAnne Oliver from Florida, --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- the Sunshine State.
Monique Batiste, National Chaplain, the great --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- state of Louisiana.
Linda Boone, your National Secretary, hanging in --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- Florida but from Oregon.
Virgina Hobbs, Kentucky, National Treasurer, --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- thank you. And last but
never least Sara Riegel, Executive Director, --

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- thank you so much. Our

Indiana and we know her as our convention
parliamentarian and friend of the American Legion
Auxiliary who keeps us on the straight and narrow in the
most professional way, our Professional Registered
Parliamentarian Chris Dickey.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, all.

Information about how a consent agenda works was
circulated in advance. Today's consent agenda includes
ratifying the National President's appointments. A list
of these appointments was on your chairs when you
arrived. We have two updates to the appointments list.
So, I'll give you a quick moment to grab a pen, pencil,
writing implement, lipstick. Last page, ALA Foundation
term should say 2025 not 2024.

Last page, ALA Foundation term should say 2025,
not 2024. Page 2 of 6, Finance -- I'll -- Chris, you
good? Did you find it? Okay.

Page 2 of 6, Finance, Sharon Conatser is the

Finance Liaison to Risk and Compliance, not Kristine West. So that is Sharon is the liaison to Risk and Compliance, not Kris. Okay. Finance page 2 of 6, liaison to Risk and Compliance, Sharon Conatser. Okay. Thank you.

As a reminder, the National President serves as an ex officio member of all committees.

Does anyone wish to remove anything from the consent agenda? The Chair will assume a motion to adopt the consent agenda as updated.

MS. GUENTHER: Deborah Guenther, Department of Delaware, I make a motion that we make consent to the consent agenda.

PRESIDENT WARD: There is a motion to adopt a consent agenda, Deborah Guenther. All those in favor of adopting the consent agenda, please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no. The ayes have it, and the consent agenda is

adopted. Thank you.

The Chair calls on Executive Director Sara Riegel to give her report. Sara?

MS. RIEGEL: Yes. Okay. Thank you.

Good morning, everyone. Thank you, Madam President Trish. Got to get used to all these things.

I'm going to make this short. I love to make things short. Okay. So, you heard yesterday President Trish is leading the way in this administrative year with a focus on ensuring that the American Legion Auxiliary department organizations are firm in their foundations, knowledge, skill set, and abilities. So, departments can show the way, talk the talk, walk the walk. Our grassroots organizations need a helping hand. The National Headquarters staff is ready to assist with the Department Excellence Initiative and the Merit Medallion Recognition. Having a solid infrastructure is vital to support the Auxiliary mission and purpose are why.

Thank you, Madam President Trish, this

concludes my report. That was short, right? But I do have one order of business. And I'm trying to find it.

So, Madam President, all of you received a copy of a resolution concerning the verification of corporate officers. Please be away -- aware that this convention, both elected and confirmed, the 2024/2025 American Legion Auxiliary National Officers. However, some of our financial institutions require a resolution adopted by the board of directors verifying our corporate office -- officers.

Let me be clear, our governing documents do not require this. The only reason we need this is to appease some of our financial institutions. I think that's it.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Sara.

Is there any objection to adopting the resolution concerning verification of Corporate Officers, which was previously provided in your packet?

Hearing no objections. The resolution is adopted. The

Chair asks the corporate officers to see Sara immediately following the close of this meeting to sign some official paperwork

PRESIDENT WARD: And thank you, again, Sara. National Finance Chair Janet Jefford could not be with us this morning. In her place, National Treasurer Virginia Hobbs will present the proposed FY '25 budget of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Welcome, Ginny.

MS. HOBBS: Thank you, Madam President Trish. I trust everyone that is a voting member has already received their information that was distributed back at least a week prior to National Convention. So, you have read and understand the budget.

Let me say, first of all, that our Finance Committee is excellent. They are diligent in reviewing where we were, and where we think we should be for this year, and hopefully maintain activities for the future. Please join with me in looking at some of the

information on our very first page.

We took some of the ideas that were presented last year talking about things that we're excited about, what we may -- challenges we may have to face, and then the initiatives and special projects to counteract the challenges. This was -- I can't tell you how -- how wonderful it is the distance we see now. From where we were years ago, dealing with the development of the budget and that -- what we have now. I can remember years ago taking, oh, four or five days and going through -- the entire committee going through every single line.

Now, think if you will, we were getting a report that would be this size by this size. We would have every -- everything you could think of, except the kitchen sink, in it. And it was a very taxing effort.

Now, this year, an a -- an example, the incoming national chairman and the designee to be the national finance chairman -- not chairman, the

treasurer's work together with our finance staff, who is tremendous by the way. And we worked on some of the items that had been put together by the various directors that we have at National Headquarters. And then after that day the whole Finance Committee, the upcoming leadership of the organization, and staff members worked together to put together the budget, which you have before you. They worked to get -- great together, and we all worked for the betterment of the American Legion Auxiliary.

I'm not going to go through and read everything to you. You're too intelligent to have to be spoon-fed that way. But I would like to draw your attention to things that we're talking about that we're excited about. One of the things is that we had the dues increased, and now we're in the black. That's great, isn't it? Guess what, --

(Applause)

MS. HOBBS: -- we're planning to be there again this year. We went and looked through items to see if there were things that we could continue to cut.

And -- okay. I probably shouldn't say this one, but one of the things we cut -- you know this is a presidential election year. And historically the -- we have gone with the Legion and had people representing us there, we looked at who all was listed to be authorized to go. Well, your new national secretary and your national treasurer said, we can save money there. We don't need to go to the inauguration. So, we cut off a few thousand dollars in that. So, we hope things like that are -- are ones that you appreciate because we want to try to do the best we can in working for you.

Let's look at something else that's really interesting is the fact that we had a change about direct mail. In prior years we've had wonderful responses having a very positive revenue from that. But, you know, everything comes to an end. And back

in, I believe it was, mmm, February that we heard from our division that deals with that. We found out that, hmm, it's time to cut -- cut the cord. That we can do better in -- in having special-targeted efforts that can be run through our organization, rather than having to use a third party because we have software which is called FEATHR. And I can't spell it, ya and I don't see it right up, so it's just something that we have already obtained that we'll be able to use to help improve our coffers.

Then, of course, we have some things that, huh, you know they're going to be a little bit of -- problematic. They will be, historically, because going forward we have a very nice-looking National Headquarters. But you know what that -- I'd almost like to say it's -- it's a big drain. Because when we moved into it -- and I wasn't involved in it, wasn't involved in the purchase, none of that. So, for once I am innocent. There -- there may be plenty of times

that I'm not, but this is one that I had nothing to do with it. And our staff, and particular -- particularly Stephanie Abisi and Tamara (had a tremendous effort in that. And you know, Linda Boone admits that they were the ones that got it going, that knew what -- what needed to be done, and we continue to have to -- to do repairs. And those are not always nickel and dime. So, we have that that we have to worry with.

Rather than stand here and go on and try -- and try to act like I'm real smart, or anything, or maybe kind of crazy, who knows, but are there any questions relating to the budget, what you have before you? Because if you have questions and I can't answer them, Gary -- Gary will definitely answer them for us. Are there any questions?

MS. HAMILTON: Teresa Hamilton, District of Columbia. And I see that with the direct mail we've really leveled off significantly. How are we going to measure that impact?

MS. HOBBS: That what -- what you saw was part of what was done by the third -- a third party. That's why we're going to use FEATHR. Everything that goes out this year will be targeted and it's going to be coming through from the FEATHR application.

MS. KUNTZ: Good morning. Laurie Kuntz, Department of Colorado. Clarifying question, so we know that, you know, we have to justify our employees and -- and how their mission driven. Can you tell me, of this \$3.2 million for the salaries and budgets, what part of that is mission driven?

MS. HOBBS: Hmm. It -- the -- the mission -- the salaries are spread -- are spread across as part of the programming. Each bucket for programs will have funds showing the amount that is spent on the -- on the personnel that the -- that they -- what they are involved with.

MS. HOBBS: Gary, can you come help me?

The -- the question dealt with the -- what

percent of salary is used in -- in the program -- programming. It -- it's -- it varies. It varies. And Gary has the information on that. I didn't bring extra paperwork with me this time, so that's why I asked Gary.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here comes Gary. He's -- he's going to answer.

MR. WARD: Thank you, Madam President.

One thing that will actually be kind of helpful to you, we prepare monthly financials that go to the Finance Committee. They're broken down by salaries and wages. And -- and everything is by programs. So, they receive every program, and it's got salaries and wages, and each activity that we're carrying on.

Once per quarter I will send you financial statements, and they are in a true not-for-profit format which will look like our audit report. So those financials are broken down by programs and services, by

fundraising, and by management, in general. So, as you look at those you can see what our costs are that are going towards programs and services.

And I did a presentation for the Finance Committee Friday. And we have, actually, been increasing all of our fundraising more efficiently and we're going to fundraising expenses. So, we were at, I think, 64 percent three years ago, 69 percent last year, and 74 percent of our cost went to fundraising for this year. So, we're on a great trend there. We're getting more and more efficient. We're putting more and more of our cost towards veterans, and scholarships, and those kinds of things.

Yes, Nicole?

MS. CLAPP: Not fundraising, I think you
(indiscernible) --

MR. WARD: Right. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That isn't what you were looking at?

MR. WARD: No. Yes. So, the way it works is each week we fill out our payroll, and everybody works on various things and we put the percentages where we spend our time. So, I know the AEF Committee, and maybe I spent 2 percent of my time there. And then I work on certain programs and services. And every employee does this so that we track how much that we are driving to mission delivery. So, we are actually about, you know, 74 percent of our costs, overall, are really going towards that.

And we're actually going to get more efficient next year because with the direct mail campaign we used to make \$400,000 margin on that. But those margins -- our -- our revenues have dropped, and our costs have gone up. And if we were to continue that into next year we would, at best, be -- break even.

So, with FEATHR they're going to target specific individuals that have interests in certain programs. And we have no overhead cost. And all of

that comes in online. So that -- before, if our costs were 90 percent, someone gave a dollar, ten cents came to -- you know to support the ALA and the Foundation and 90 percent supported vendors. And with FEATHR, 100 percent of that's going to come in.

And the way direct mail works is you have -- let's say it's 500,000 revenue and 450,000 of expense, all of that expense goes into fundraising. So, we fill out a 990, and they kind of look, you know, mission delivery, fundraising, and M and G and the -- and -- and individuals decide how efficient we are.

And our percentages are getting better and better so that those that look at us out there, and all this data is available, they want to see that we have a high percentage going to mission and delivery. And each year we've been jumping, and next year we're going to jump more because of the direct mail program going away and being very efficient with FEATHR. So, does that help a little bit?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. So about 74 percent (indiscernible) --

MR. WARD: I would say that's very accurate and -- and it fluctuates. The way we do the budget is -- is I run a report for how everybody spent their time for the whole year. So, I ran it from May 1st of '23 through April 30th of '24, and we get those percentages and then we apply that throughout the budget for each activity. And it is kind of floating because as Girls Nation happens, more people are putting time in there. So, July looks different than June looked, but we track that very carefully.

Any questions? Thank you.

MS. MORRIS: Glynis Morris, Department of Nevada.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Don't go away.

MR. WARD: Oh.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll see who --

MS. MORRIS: I'm questioning the FEATHR thing.

Is this a software program, and it's going to be - like, let's say I wanted an Auxiliary calendar, would FEATHR be where that would come from? And I don't get greeting cards - I don't -- I don't understand how this is going to work? I just don't.

MS. HOBBS: Well -- okay. Correct me when -- if and when I'm wrong, but FEATHR, it's -- we're going to have certain targeted areas that will -- will have at a sending. To ask you to contribute for a certain item.

MS. MORRIS: Okay.

MS. HOBBS: It may -- it may be a calendar but we have to look at the cost of the item that would -- we -- we would be sending, the number that we anticipate to receive, and what the margin is going to be.

Okay. Anyone else? Okay. Well, hearing no further questions. On behalf of the Finance Committee,

I move the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 American Legion Auxiliary budget.

Madam President?

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Ginny.

Since the motion comes from a committee, a second is not required. The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '25 budget as presented. Is there discussion?

MS. CLAPP: Point of clarification, since I want to protect Ginny, she's not a voting member of the committee. So, she really can't make a motion for the Committee. She's not (indiscernible) --

PRESIDENT WARD: She's a voting member of the NEC.

MS. CLAPP: Okay. But -- all right. I'm just saying (indiscernible) --

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you.

Are you ready for the question? The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '25 budget as

presented. All those in favor, please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no. The motion to adopt the budget has passed.

Before I bring -- call on President Cathleen MacInnes, I -- I want to say a couple of brief comments about finance, in general. Now, I thought Constitution and Bylaws was fun, but you haven't had fun until you've hung out with finance. And I say that, actually, genuinely because of the people involved in supporting the finance experience, the people who are currently on the committee, who are exiting off the committee, and are new to the committee. Everyone worked so collaboratively, and it really was fun. And it was fun because if we had an idea or something that we really wanted and felt was important, it -- it was taken genuinely. And if it made sense and there was solid rationale, we worked to make it happen. If it didn't make sense, we agreed that it didn't, and moved onto

something that did. Not only was Finance involved in that but, of course, the National Headquarters' staff worked collaboratively with the volunteer leadership, and it really was a fun experience, more fun than C and B. So, I just, personally, want to thank --

MS. CLAPP I think she has a right to say that since she didn't see them for two years.

PRESIDENT WARD: Right. Thank you for that, Nicole, by the way. You know, that was a lot of fun too.

So just thank you to the finance team. It's -- it's not always an easy thing to do, and there's a lot of moving parts. And we thank you for your questions and your interest. And I think everybody is doing their best to -- to make good things happen for this organization. And certainly that Finance Committee is right there leading the way, so special thanks to them.

Please, now, welcome ALA Foundation

President, Cathleen MacInnes, to present the proposed FY '25 budget on the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

Welcome, Cathleen.

(Applause)

MS. MACINNES: Thank you, Madam President. I believe the microphone was set for Nicole, sorry, who is much taller than I am.

You have the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation budget, an overview, and the -- the overview detail -- or the detail overview. Couple things I just want to point out to you consistent with what the National organization is doing. We are not doing direct mail anymore. We discovered we were getting about three cents on every dollar people distributed or donated, and that just didn't make sense.

And we also will be using the FEATHR software. And you'll see in the notes that we have a very good track record -- a click-through record of 1.08 percent. Industry standard is 1.9 percent,

which means we are reaching a lot of people. Perhaps not the total industry standard of nearly 2 percent, but we'll have a good click-through rate so more people will hopefully know about us.

Good news, we're -- because of the generosity of our members, we are able to increase our contributions to the ALA programs from 30,000 this year in Fiscal '24 to 37,000 for ALA Girls Nation in Fiscal '25. As well as an additional 7,000 in Fiscal '25 to support the Girls Nation service project, independently.

Additionally, Spirit of Youth Scholarships, we are now able to do a contribution to that as well, and this year are planning 20,000 to the Spirit of Youth. And finally, we've been able to increase our contribution for the National VCAF to 65,000. And as you can see, we are looking at being in the black by nearly \$28,000. And I -- Madam President, I believe I cannot make a motion to accept this budget. So, I

believe you need to ask.

PRESIDENT WARD: The Chair --

Thank you -- thank you, Cathe.

The Chair assumes a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025 American Legion Auxiliary Foundation budget. The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '25 Foundation budget as presented. Is there discussion? Hearing none. Are you ready for the question? The question is on the approval of the proposed FY '25 ALA Foundation budget as presented. All those in favor please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those oppose, please say no. The motion to adopt the budget has passed. Thank you.

MS. MACINNES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WARD: Before we get to our regularly scheduled programming, this seems like a really good time to just mention my special fundraising

experience for the '24/'25 year will benefit the Veterans Project Fund for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. We're very excited. We've worked collaboratively with the National Headquarters staff to roll out challenge cards. And we know everyone knows how to play cards. It's so easy. It's a win for everyone. So please look at them, support us. I have some flyers up here where you can hit that QR code, and the proceeds are going to benefit the Veterans Project Fund. We need to work together to make it happen. So please, help our administration get these where they're needed most and that is with our members and our units in small town America. So please, help us. Thank you.

Back to the regularly scheduled programming.

And super fun, Constitution and Bylaws up next. On Tuesday, August 27th, the 2024 National Convention delegates adopted an amendment to the National Bylaws, Article XI, Unit Charters, Section 1, giving the NEC authority to discipline foreign units not attached to a department. The post-NEC packet emailed to you on

August 19, 2024, included seven proposed amendments. And now I'm going to defer to Norma Tramm because it says in big letters right there. That's Norma, so...

MS. TRAMM: She -- she figured I was going to be really nervous about this because she's so good at it that she said my part, so I don't need to.

Madam President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I propose that we handle these seven amendments as a bundle.

You didn't want me to repeat all that, did you?

PRESIDENT WARD: Well, --

MS. TRAMM: Did you want me to repeat it? I can.

PRESIDENT WARD: No. Chris says - Chris said, we're good.

My apologies to you, Norma.

MS. TRAMM: It's okay.

PRESIDENT WARD: Says right there, Norma.

MS. TRAMM: I know it does. That's okay.

PRESIDENT WARD: Is there any objection to handling these seven proposed amendments to the Standing Rules as a bundle? Hearing none.

MS. TRAMM: Madam President, on behalf of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of the Standing Rules amendments 1 through 7.

PRESIDENT WARD: It has been moved to adopt proposals 1 through 7.

Is there any discussion? The question is on the adoption of proposals 1 through 7. All those in favor, please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those oppose, please say no. The ayes have it. And proposals 1 through 7 are adopted. Thank you.

MS. TRAMM: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Norma.

Is there any new business to come before this NEC meeting? Hearing none. We will move onto the next item.

IEs (ph.).

You did it, Chris.

Point of clarification, there was some questions regarding the national secretary and national treasurer. They were ratified, confirmed under the consent agenda. They're the Executive Committee to the NEC. So that occurred under the consent agenda. Thank you.

As we close the first meeting of the 2024/2025 National Executive Committee meeting, I ask you to please stand with me as our National --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) --

PRESIDENT WARD: -- Glyn, we'll pray in just a moment.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: First, I'd like to invite your National Secretary Linda Boone to the podium for announcements.

MS. BOONE: I get to say something.

So, some of you did not get in your program yesterday the information about the National President's Homecoming. So, you can go to the website and sign up through that.

So, you've got some? Okay, great. But if you (indiscernible) can't, ksforward.com. So be there.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, National Secretary Boone. And our team in the back does have some flyers in hand, so please see them.

And we thank you so much for letting us know that that occurred. We appreciate that.

And now, please join me and stand as our National Chaplain Monique Batiste offers the benediction.

MS. BATISTE: Dear Lord, we thank you.

We are grateful for the leadership in place as we embark on another American Legion Auxiliary year. We pray for traveling grace and mercy for every Legion family member as we return home to do the work of this wonderful organization. We pray you are in the midst of all decisions we make and that we are made -- that -- and that they are made with the ALA mission in mind. We ask all these things in Your name. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

PRESIDENT WARD: This concludes the first meeting of the 2024/2025 National Executive Committee. The meeting is now adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

(Adjournment)

<u>Minutes Approval Committee</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>
Penelope Foster Caswell Mazonna (AK)	June 4, 2025
Janet A. Bacon (IL)	June 4, 2025
Jane Ridenor (OH)	June 4, 2025