

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRE-CONVENTION

New Orleans, LA



NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER

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FROM 8:02 A.M - 8:45 A.M.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MS. WILLIAMSON: Please place all electronic devices in silent mode and stand for the opening ceremonies. I should just keep it up here.

Our National Chaplain Brister Thomas will lead us in the invocation and a moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those currently serving in our nation. Following the prayer, we're going to have Pam Ray, our National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation chairman, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, followed by Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Michele DeGennaro lead us in the preamble to the Constitution.

Brister, start with the invocation, please.

MS. THOMAS: Good morning. Today we're going to have a prayer for love and compassion. Since you are our guiding force in the ALA and we want to -- and we have a simple word, a phrase

for that in Hawaii -- through love and compassion for each other and this organization, 'eha ke aloha. Amene.

And if we could have just a moment of silence. Thank you and good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. RAY: Please join me in the pledge.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

(National Anthem)

MS. DEGENNARO: For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

ALL: 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 in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to

promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and contribute to the accomplishments of the aims and purposes of The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who have endured and may still be enduring the agonies of pain, deprivation, and imprisonment. Before we begin our activities this morning, we pause to remember our POWs and our MIAs.

(Ringing)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Please be seated. This meeting of the National Executive Committee is now convened. Welcome, everyone. It's so great to be here today to celebrate the 103rd National Convention of the American Legion

Auxiliary in New Orleans, the Big Easy. Let the good times roll.

(Laughter)

MS. WILLIAMSON: As you all know, serving on the national board is a great responsibility, and you have served us well. I appreciate and thank you for your commitment to the national organization. Today, as we conduct our business, it is my hope that you will ask questions and make informed decisions about each issue presented. Your input is invaluable. Please remember to make your way to the microphones if you -- each time you wish to speak, as this is the only way your remarks can be recorded from the court reporter's transcripts for this meeting. Excuse me.

When you entered this room today, your attendance was recorded electronically by our incredible, hard-working staff at national headquarters.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: If you have any questions about your attendance, just please see one of our staff members here in the back corner and they'll make sure that you're -- you are recorded.

So, first, let's start off with some introductions. It is my pleasure to introduce -- introduce the national officers and special guests. First, we'll start off with our National Vice President Trish Ward.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And then we have Carol T. Robinson, the Central Division National Vice President.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Carol -- or sorry -- Deb Tiernan from -- the Eastern Division National Vice President.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Karen Susag -- Karen Susag, our Northwestern Division National Vice

President. Sorry.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And this is Christine,
our -- our Southern Division National Vice
President. Trahan.

MS. TRAHAN: Trahan.

MS. WILLIAMSON: I'll never get it.

(Laughter)

MS. WILLIAMSON: I got to learn how to
speak Creole.

(Laughter)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And then Jan Cushing,
our Western Division National Vice President.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Right here is Donna
Thurman, our National Historian.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And you heard earlier
from Brister Thomas, our National Chaplain.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: On this side we have

Marybeth Revoir, our National Treasurer.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Kathy Daudistel, our National Secretary.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Of course, Sara Riegel, our Executive Director.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And the person we're going to go to all week -- weekend long, Chris Dickey, our convention parliamentarian.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And of course, I'd like -- because I failed last night, I want to introduce my pages, my national president's pages. If you please would rise in the back when I call your name. April Sinclair, she is our chairman of pages in the back.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Sue Diaz.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Beverly Eves.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: And Sharon Riegsecker.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: So today they are wearing a cardinal in memory of my mom.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: So yes. The most important here, would all our past national presidents please rise and be recognized?

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, ladies.

Now let's get to the meat of the meeting.

Information about the consent agenda and how it works was circulated in the advance email, along with the following items listed on the consent agenda: the unit charter cancellation since February 24th of this year; the ALA Foundation policies, which include the audit tax filing policy, the confidentiality policy, the national president and national vice president, IT

equipment policy, record retention and disposable -- disposal policy; and the social media policy.

Does anyone wish to remove anything from the consent agenda? Hearing none, the chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the consent agenda. Please go to the mic. We just have the one mic, ladies. There's one over there. Sorry.

MS. KUNTZ: Laurie Kuntz, Department of Colorado. I move to accept the consent agenda.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Is there a second?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

MS. WILLIAMSON: So, if -- if there's no discussion, all those in favor of adopting the consent agenda please say aye, those opposed - sorry. Please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Those opposed, please say no.

The ayes have it, and the consent agenda is adopted. Thank you very much. That

will definitely speed us up today.

The chair is pleased to report that the Minutes Approval Committee met and approved the minutes from our NEC meeting in February. All board minutes have been approved and posted to our national website. A big thank you to the Minutes Approval Committee, comprised of the NEC members from Arizona, Kansas, and Nebraska. Thank you very much. You did a wonderful job.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: The Executive Committee to the NEC includes the national president, the national vice president, the national secretary, the national treasurer, and the five division vice presidents, and two NEC members of the -- of my choosing -- of the president's choosing. This year's -- those two NECs are from Oregon and Minnesota. If you just raise your hands? Thank you, guys.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: This committee was

called to action one time since the February midyear NEC, and we convened in August to review the responses to the executive director's annual review.

So, speaking of the executive director, the chair calls on Executive Director Sara Riegel to give her report. Sara? Please.

(Applause)

MS. RIEGEL: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. RIEGEL: So, I'm going to make this really brief for you guys, okay? Back in February, we were asked to go to the national judge advocate to answer some questions, and that has been completed. Please know that Tamara Shumate was with me at all times during this process. So, I am going to read -- we did meet, finally, face-to-face with the national judge advocate, and we have the answers to those questions. I will read the questions, and then I will read his answers. And then once we are done

with the meeting, we will send this out to you directly. Okay?

So, I'm going to read it verbatim from National Judge Advocate Mark Seavey. "Earlier this year, you sent me a request for clarification regarding various -- various eligibility questions. In researching the answer to those questions, I ran into a bewildering maze of rules, interpretations, and processes, and it seems to me that it would best to start from scratch here and come up with a new manner to handle these. As such, I have discussed with our team here at the Legion as well as with the American Legion Auxiliary, and what follows is what we have discovered."

The first question is, "Is membership eligibility a one-time criteria, or criterium, needed to join the American Legion Auxiliary, or is it a status that must be continuously maintained? " The answer? "Membership eligibility should be a one-time check." Okay?

Number 2 -- question 2, "What happens when a spouse qualifies for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary, then gets divorced, and receives a membership eligibility challenge?" The answer? "Provided he or she joined while he or she was married, the eligibility challenge should be thrown out." Going back to the one-time criteria/criterion. Okay?

Question number 3, "What happens when a spouse qualifies for membership in the ALA, then their veteran drops their American Legion membership? A) Is the spouse still an ALA member, American Legion Auxiliary member?" "Yes." "What would happen if the spouse received an eligibility challenge?" "It should be sent to the executive director of the American Legion Auxiliary, and from her to the counsel general."

Now what I do want to add onto question 1, if you would like me to read it again, is another discussion point that Mark has put in writing. The question was, "Is membership

eligibility a one-time criteria/criterion needed to join the American Legion Auxiliary, or is it a status that must be continuously maintained?" We saw -- his answer was, "One-time check."

The discussion thereafter was, "It appears that eligibility challenges are being used in a manner not anticipated by our -- by the constitution and bylaws but rather to engage in internal, political activities. It is not feasible to open up challenges to any who wants to question the other member, but there also needs to be a mechanism to verify when a legitimate question arises. So, from now on, the policy should be that verification of eligibility is a one-time event, with the caveat that at -- that any transfer to a new unit will reset the timer, requiring a new verification." Okay.

"Best regards, Mark Seavey, National Judge Advocate."

(Laughter)

MS. RIEGEL: Okay. No. So -- and I do

want -- there are lots of questions, but that came from the national judge advocate. So, we did meet with him. Tamara was with me. So, I would say that I would open it up to questions, but if there are questions, please let us know, and then we'll go back to -- to the national judge advocate for more discussions.

Madam President, that concludes my report today.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Sara. I'll put this up here where -- so now we will hear from our National Secretary Kathy Daudistel.

(Applause)

MS. DAUDISTEL: Good morning, everybody.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. DAUDISTEL: It's been the crazy -- I love it. It's been a crazy but good year. I want to start right off by thanking President Lisa for appointing me to this position. It's

been a really great learning experience, and I had a lot of fun.

As you all know, the national secretary position is a volunteer position appointed by the incoming national president. I didn't move to Indianapolis to carry out my duties because everything could be handled remotely. I did work with headquarters, particularly Sommer Prim and Tamara Shumate, who are huge assets to this organization, and especially to the secretary position. Thank you, girls.

(Applause)

MS. DAUDISTEL: A piece of the national secretary job is emblem approval according to our constitution and bylaws. One of the first duties out of the gate was to take emblem approval training given by the American Legion. I was also given access to the emblem approval email inbox where, according to the procedures, all questions are directed there. I quickly realized that Sommer was much quicker and way more

familiar with the approval process, and I relinquished the process to her so as to not delay any approvals.

Since then, the emblem approval has moved to the marketing and communications division due to the new word marks, and they work very closely with the American Legion PR team on a day-to-day basis, so they already had ongoing relationship. Our executive director, Sara Riegel, still has the final approval.

Another piece of the job is to capture minutes from the NEC meetings. This year we had two regularly scheduled NEC meetings, and three special NEC meetings. We had an amazing NEC Approval Committee consisting of volunteers Vickie from Nebraska, Sharon from Kansas, and Barbara from Arizona, and our staff member Sommer who helped coordinate it all. Thank you, ladies. They are very, very good at catching any errors --

(Laughter)

MS. DAUDISTEL: -- including
grammatical.

(Laughter)

MS. DAUDISTEL: But I really, really
appreciated everything you did.

At the onset of this year, we had three
departments on probation, and I am incredibly
happy to say that all three departments, with a
lot of hard work, have been removed from
probation status --

(Applause)

MS. DAUDISTEL: -- leaving us with zero
departments on probation. Yippee.

(Laughter)

MS. DAUDISTEL: I really wanted to end
on a good note, and we did. So, thank you all
for your work.

Madam President, thank you again for
this appointment. It's been a great year, and I
appreciate it. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much,
National Secretary Kathy.

Next, we have our national
treasurer, Marybeth Revoir. Would you please
come up and bring some remarks?

MS. REVOIR. Yes, ma'am.

(Applause)

MS. REVOIR: It's tough to be height
challenged.

(Laughter)

Thank you. I never realized how short
I really was until I get at one of these.

Madam President Lisa, and good morning
to each of you. In your packet of documents
prepared for this meeting, you received a three-
page financial recap covering the third quarter
of our financial year. As you know, these
reports are regularly prepared by our national
finance division and distributed throughout the
year to the -- to you, the members of our NEC.

Our investment portfolio is up 15

percent, which is always a positive considering the overall volatility in that sector we have all been experiencing. Tomorrow it'll be down, next day it'll be up. We always actively monitor our portfolio with the goal of minimizing our vulnerabilities. Income from the third quarter is up over 10 percent from our budget projections with expenses coming in almost 15 percent below budget. Some of these items will probably be paid in the fourth quarter and will be reflected on the year-end report. These items are detailed in the footnotes, which will help you understand on the actual-to-budget report you received. The final statements show -- that you received, shows a third-quarter comparison of income items to last year's totals for the same time frame.

As the National Executive Committee is tasked with financial oversight of our organization, these reports give each of you a detailed insight on how we are managing. I realize they seem like just a lot of numbers on a

page, but they do tell a compelling story on the financial health of the American Legion Auxiliary national organization.

In the nonprofit arena, an organization's financial stability is a benchmark that -- by which we are all judged. The American Legion Auxiliary is a leader in the nation for our commitment to veterans, their families, and our communities. Over our 100 years of service show that -- what we can do, and it is our job, all of us, to continue this legacy for the next century and beyond.

It has been my great pleasure as national treasurer to work with the finance division and our executive director very closely over the years. They are a wonderful group who work very, very hard, and along with having the joy of working with them, I can now call them all my friends. So it's been an honor.

Madam President, it has been a great joy to work with you during your administration,

and I would like to tell you that your dedication to the Be the One initiative has inspired me to do all that I can for it in the future. Thank you.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Marybeth.

MS. REVOIR: You're welcome.

MS. WILLIAMSON: So now we will call on our financial chairman, Nicole Clapp. Nicole, would you please come forward?

(Applause)

MS. CLAPP: I think you know what's going to happen.

(Laughter)

MS. CLAPP: Good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. CLAPP: Madam National President Lisa, members, guests, your National Finance Committee -- we're going to do a little historical reference, and then we'll get into the heart of the conversation. Your committee is

comprised of five members that are appointed for a potential of a five-year term. The committee members include myself as chairman, past National President Sharon Conatser from Illinois is the vice chair. We have two committee members that are volunteering their service, not only to the Finance Committee, but also to the Risk & Compliance Committee, and that's national -- past National President Virginia Hobbs from Kentucky, and also we have past National President Nancy Brown-Park from California serving as our liaison to the National ALA Foundation. So, thank you.

This year we had an opportunity to welcome a new member to our committee, and that is past National President Kristine West from New Hampshire. Yay. Yeah.

(Applause)

MS. CLAPP: Please thank these ladies. This is not a committee for faint of hearts. We met seven times throughout the year, two in person and five virtually. We just completed our

work yesterday as we arrived here in New Orleans to finalize the year of 2023/'24.

So, our committee -- the primary role, for those of you that are new to the NEC this year, is to really prepare with the staff and propose a budget for you, the NEC's approval. That is a daunting task, and I could not say, as chairman, we did it alone. You just heard from National Treasurer Marybeth Revoir, who needs a standing ovation because she is the one who dives into the numbers. I did the 30,000-foot level, she did the groundswell. So, thank you, Marybeth.

(Applause)

MS. CLAPP: So then on to the budget. Then we get together as a committee. We work through that electronically, and then we come into Indy. And years ago, when I started on finance, it was approximately about a week that we met to work on budget. We got it down to about five days. Now we do it in less than two

days. So yes

(Applause)

MS. CLAPP: Thank you, staff. We couldn't do it the way the budget used to be prepared.

So, for us, not only looking at those financial reports that Marybeth just commented on, of course, policies. And if you can remember about six months ago at midyear NEC, we had a request that the IT policy be removed at the consent agenda, and that is what you approved this morning, so that had further clarification. So, as I like to say in my job, closing the loop. What could we do to bring back and make sure that we're transparent in giving you the information that you requested?

You heard Marybeth also talk about government mandates, about benchmarks and fundraising and administration in general, and then the thing that's near and dear to all of our hearts is our mission delivery. And that's our

biggest area that we would expect our money to go towards is mission delivery. So again, as we look at where we're headed, the financial responsibilities, when we put the budget in -- in front of you last year, I actually was ill. I had to fly home from national convention. Cross your fingers I make it all the way through this year because national -- past National President Sharon Conatser, she presented the budget on my behalf.

And we went into three categories: things that we were excited about looking at, things that we thought might cause us a challenge to face, and then new initiatives this year and special projects that we could -- to counter those challenges. For us, ultimately working together as partners, working with the staff as well as each of you, the number one reason that we were able to advance some programming -- I bet you all know the answer. We had a dues increase. Absolutely. And that then allowed us to actually

implement some programming that we'd either considered putting on hold or that we have scaled back the last few years. So that was our biggest opportunity, which then allowed us to look at what we wanted to do.

So, if you remember receiving in the mail either the address labels, maybe a poppy bag at one time, a pen, a blanket, all those direct-mail campaigns that we did for years. And I kept saying on finance, when -- how long are we going to ride this wave? Because at some point, everything, you know, dries up. It runs out of steam. Well, this was a year that the staff came to us and said, direct mail, we have a problem. So, I'm going to read you -- as Sara did, I'm going to read you a statement that the Development Committee wanted me to share.

"While direct-mail campaigns were once a viable, well-performing revenue source, the fundraising landscape has shifted in the last five years. This year it became clear that if we

continued with direct-mail campaigns, we were in danger of spending more to send the mailing than we would receive in donations."

Wow, right? That is a 180 shift because we had hundreds of thousands of dollars that were coming in that, to me, was, like, the cherry on top. You recall me always talking to you about, we have to live out of checkbook, not out of our savings account. Our savings was rainy day. Well, this was a flip in what was going to happen.

So in lieu of the direct-mail campaigns, the development division will launch targeted campaigns using our multi-faceted marketing platform called Feathr. Now if you see Feathr printed, you're going to say there's a typo in it, because Feathr is F-E-A-T-H-R. You drop the last E. So, no E-R at the end. But it is called Feathr.

These smaller, specialized, targeted marketing efforts will allow headquarters staff

to efficiently process receipts in-house. So that means we don't have those extra fees tacked on for third-party and ultimately saving money on external vendors. So, kudos to the staff to look at creativity, and that was one way to counter our challenges that we were looking at with special projects and in turn be able to bring it all back in-house. So, thank you, staff, for the creativity, and I know Stephanie Holloway's in the back of the room. And she's had a key part of that, even with the development division of Carley Schultz. So, thank you very much.

Appreciate that.

(Applause)

MS. CLAPP: Now, Marybeth talked a little bit about income and things. So, for me, the highlight of the year, I have to say, is always looking at the quarterly financials. Well, we also remember that our biggest expense is what time of the year? Right now. National

convention. But if we want to take a look, our total revenue, 1.5 million at the end of the third quarter. Our expenses ticked up a bit. 2 million. So that means we're about 500,000 to the negative.

But we have investments, and investments came through for us once again, almost 700,000 just in that quarter alone, the third quarter. So, we had a net income in just those three months of over 200 and -- right about \$240,000.

So, I am going to give you just a little teaser that I definitely want to make sure that you pay attention to the platform remarks on Tuesday because hopefully we're going to be able to have a big woohoo as I would say, and woohoo down here isn't voodoo, it's woohoo. All right?

(Laughter)

MS. CLAPP: So, as we look at where we're headed, the finances are in a positive state. Serving on the Finance Committee now for

over a decade -- I've seen it come up, I've seen it go down, where we're at. And with next year being my last year on Finance, that's 16 years of sitting in that room. And so, realizing that we've come a long way, baby, and we have a long way to go. But if we keep the forefront of why our mission is in progress and what we're hearing to do, service, not self, I think this organization has sustainability that we would have been hard-pressed to say years ago.

So, thank you, everyone. Thank you, Madam President. I've enjoyed it once again to be finance chairman on your behalf. So, thank you, everyone.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Nicole. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. So next on the agenda, we have our Risk & Compliance chairman, Carol Westergren, who would -- if you would give her a second to go forward. As she goes backwards.

(Laughter)

MS. WESTERGREN: Good morning. ALL: Good morning.

MS. WESTERGREN: How are you all doing this morning?

ALL: Good.

MS. WESTERGREN: So, Risk & Compliance, we had a wonderful year. We met four times this year. In October, we usually always meet in person, which is always fun to get together with everyone. A lot of brainstorming goes on. If you ever have a chance to come into one of our Risk & Compliance October meetings, it's interesting isn't it, guys?

So, we did meet four times this year. We were able to have the audit. It was a very successful audit for 2023. We passed with flying colors. Big shoutout to national headquarters staff, including Sara Riegel, Gary Ward, the accounting folks, Tamara Shumate. We appreciate you all very, very much. We also have engaged

for the 2024 audit, and we are anticipating it to be with flying colors also. They will begin on that - well, they've already started to be honest with you. But it will kick off in October, and national headquarters staff will be working on that again.

I want to thank my committee, Paula Rainey, Paulette Caron, of course, our two liaisons, which is past National President Virginia Hobbs from the Finance Committee -- thank you, Nicole, for loaning her to us -- and Carrie Davenport from the ALA Foundation.

(Applause)

MS. WESTERGREN: They add -- yes. They add great insight, and it kind of just brings the whole picture together. For those of you who are not aware, Risk & Compliance -- we work with everybody. We work with Finance, we work with Constitution & Bylaws, we work with national officers, and we work with the headquarters staff and anybody else who needs us. The policies that

you passed today were presented to Risk & Compliance, and we, for lack of a better word, put our blessing on them and said we liked them and that they were good to go forward.

I do appreciate it, President Lisa. It's been a fun year. It's been an interesting year, but it's been a fun year. And as you all know, this is my wheelhouse. This is what I do for a living, so, you know, I've always enjoyed -- I enjoy digging into all this interesting information.

As I always say, without Risk & Compliance, it doesn't -- us, as Risk & Compliance, we do the hard work, and we make sure the -- it keeps running so that you all can do the mission of taking care of our veterans, active duties, and their families. Thank you very much. Appreciate you all.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much, Carol.

While she's making her way off the stage, we'll ask Michele to make her way on the stage. Michele DeGennaro is going to talk to us about the Special Committee on Foreign Units and give her committee's report.

(Laughter)

MS. DEGENNARO: I can reach that, yes. Thank you, Madam President.

This special committee was formed to investigate and give recommendations regarding foreign units not attached to departments. The formation of this special committee was promoted by a simple question. If departments have the authority to discipline units, and discipline includes charter cancellation, how would a foreign unit not attached to a department be disciplined or, if necessary, canceled?

During the midyear NEC meeting in February, this special committee gave its first report and proposed amending National Bylaws Article 11, Unit Charters, Section 1, so that the

National Executive Committee had the authority to discipline and cancel the charters of foreign units not attached to departments. The NEC supported this amendment to the bylaws and asked that the special committee continue its research and draft all corresponding amendments to the standing rules.

On Monday, August 5th, the National Secretary sent the 20-days-prior-to-national-convention amendments packet. This packet included the amendment to the bylaws concerning foreign units not attached to departments.

On Monday, August 19th, the NEC received an email containing the special committee's proposal for corresponding amendments to the standing rules. The special committee's proposed Standing Rules' amendments are dependent on the adoption of the Bylaws' amendment set to be presented to the convention delegates this Tuesday.

If the amendment to Bylaw, Article 11,

Unit Charters, Section 1, is adopted by the convention delegates, then the Standing Rules amendments proposed by the special committee will be voted on at the post-convention NEC meeting.

Are there any questions for the special committee regarding the proposed amendments to the Standing Rules?

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Okay. Hearing none --

(Laughter)

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much, Michele, for your hard work.

MS. DEGENNARO: Thank you, Madam President.

MS. WILLIAMSON: You bet. Thank you, everybody.

(Applause)

MS. WILLIAMSON: So, thank you very much to Michele and to the entire Special Committee on Foreign Units.

Wow. We're cruising right through

this. So, is there any new business today?

MS. HAAS: Madam National President?

MS. WILLIAMSON: Turn it on, please.

Can --

MS. HAAS: Madam National President.

Jeannie Haas, AEF chairman.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Go ahead, Jeanne.

MS. HAAS: On behalf of the AEF

Committee, I move the adoption of the amended AEF policy. A copy of this policy was on each chair.

MS. WILLIAMSON: So that was the one that was on your chairs just this morning. A little bit of red at the bottom. Okay? Hopefully you had a moment to review it. It's been moved to adopt the amended AEF policy that was on your chairs this morning. Is there any discussion? I'll give you a couple seconds to review it. Their heads are still down reading, so.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Nicole Clapp.

MS. CLAPP: Past National President

Nicole Clapp. I want to comment that the Finance Committee reviewed the policy yesterday and approved it with the modifications as you see in red.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much, Nicole.

Did you guys hear that over there? The -- the Finance Committee did review this yesterday, and they did approve it as you have it there. So, it's already been vetted by our Finance Committee.

So, it looks like, for the most part, your heads are up. The question is on the adoption of the amended AEF policy. All those in favor, please say aye.

ALL: Aye.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Those opposed, nay? The ayes have it, and the policy is adopted. Thank you very much, ladies.

Is there any other new business to come before us? Wow. Hearing none, that brings us to

the close of this meeting. Woohoo.

(Applause)

With the meeting agenda complete and our board responsibilities concluded, we have come to the end of our time as the '23/'24 NEC. I've appreciated working with all of you. So please stand as our national chaplain, Brister Thomas, offers the benediction.

MS. THOMAS: Thank you. If we could bow our heads. We want to thank our Heavenly Father for your grace and blessing this group for their support, their compassion, and their guidance. Their leadership strengthens our bonds and inspires our mission within the American Legion Auxiliary. Amene.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amen.

MS. WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Brister. You may be seated if you'd like.

Thank you again for your dedication and your work. It's been a pleasure serving with all of you this past year. While our time together

as a board has concluded, our national convention is just beginning. So please enjoy the next several days here in New Orleans.

And the meeting of the National Executive Committee is now adjourned. Have a wonderful, wonderful convention.

(Applause)

(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 Ridenour (OH)	June 4, 2025