



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

104TH ALA NATIONAL CONVENTION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

9:00 A.M. - 10:22 A.M.

Tampa Convention Center

Room 120-121

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P R O C E E D I N G S

PRESIDENT WARD: Good morning. It's 9:00. The National Executive Committee meeting will now come to order. Please place all electronic devices in silent mode and stand for the opening ceremonies.

(Ringing)

PRESIDENT WARD: Our National Chaplain Monique Batiste will lead us in our invocation and moment of silence for our fallen heroes and those currently serving our nation.

Following the prayer, Americanism Chairman Christine Trahan will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, followed by Constitution & Bylaws Chairman Norma Tramm leading us in the preamble to the Constitution.

Monique, start with the invocation, please.

MS. BATISTE: Bow your heads. Dear God, we are grateful for every person that has traveled

here today. We are grateful for team leading the way and our amazing national president. Thank you for keeping our minds and our hearts and reminding us of our goal, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This group started with a room full of talented individuals ready to work, plan projects, and execute. We have conquered everything planned because of every decision. Every decision was declared great by You. May we continue to grow and do wonderful things for our veterans and our communities. Amen.

ALL: Amen.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

(National Anthem)

MS. TRAMM: For God and Country --

ALL: -- 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 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 accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

PRESIDENT WARD: 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/MIAs.

(Ringing)

PRESIDENT WARD: You may be seated.

This meeting of the National Executive Committee, the eighth one we've held, is convened. I'm pretty sure it's a record.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: Welcome, everyone. It is so great to be together to celebrate the 104th National Convention here in Tampa. 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 valuable.

Please remember to make your way to a microphone each time you wish to speak, as this is the only way your remarks can be heard from the court reporter's transcripts of the meeting.

When you entered the room today, your attendance was recorded electronically by our incredible hardworking National Headquarters team. If you have questions regarding your attendance, please see someone from headquarters at the end of the meeting. And they are in the back making sure everything is going as it should, and I thank them.

It is my pleasure to introduce the national officers and special guests: Pam Ray, National Vice President.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Rosemarie Hauck, Central Division national vice president.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Lauren Lloyd, Eastern Division national vice president.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Deb Albers, Northwestern Division national vice president.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Cheryl Shine, Southern Division national vice president. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Beverly Eads, Western Division national vice president.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Dara Oliver, our national historian.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Monique Batiste, our national chaplain.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Linda Boone, Past National President and national secretary. (Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Virginia Hobbs, Past National President and national treasurer.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: And Chris Dickey, our convention parliamentarian.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: And of course, I would like to introduce, and you'll see them hopefully this coming week, my national president's pages Kristen Hensley, she's the chair; Cheryl Estep; and Rhonda Kerr, I think is here with me this morning, right there.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: And would all of our Past National Presidents please stand to be recognized?

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Information about the consent agenda and how it works was circulated in advance, along with the following items listed on

the consent agenda: The unit charter cancellations since February 22nd, 2025, and we do have a correction. We've been informed by the Department of Texas that a unit was submitted but didn't make it on the roster. It is Unit Number 110, Bill Bryan, Texas. So that is a correction.

ALA policies, contract and signature authority policy, newly titled agreements, investment policy, solicitation of funds policy.

Does anyone wish to remove anything from the consent agenda?

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Good morning.

PRESIDENT WARD: The Chair recognizes Glynis Seeley, NEC.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Morris.

PRESIDENT WARD: Morris. Once it sticks, it's hard to --

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: I understand.

PRESIDENT WARD: Glynis Seeley Morris, NEC from Nevada.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: I would like to have the contract and signature authority policy removed, please.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Glynis. Is there anything else to remove from the consent agenda?

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: Is there a motion to remove -- to proceed with the consent agenda, as amended?

MS. ELLIOTT: Kelly Elliott, Iowa.

MS. CADWALLADER: Lisa Cadwallader, West Virginia.

MS. WARD: Thank you. All those in favor of proceeding with the consent agenda as amended, please signify by saying aye.

GROUP: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no.

GROUP: No.

PRESIDENT WARD: The ayes have it, and the consent agenda is adopted as amended. We will handle that item with the Constitution and Bylaws report. So, thank you, Glynis.

I'm very happy to be here in Tampa as -- chairing this NEC meeting, and an opportunity to give you a report from this National President.

It's been six months since our last regularly scheduled meeting of the NEC, and the time has really flown, and here we are in Tampa Bay.

Since our regularly scheduled meeting in February 2025, this national president has really been on the go. A look back on the year has me visiting all 52 of our departments within the timeline of this administration. No departments were visited outside of their department conventions, and that's a big win.

So, Pam --

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: No spillover into Pam's administration, and that's a big win. Lots of great memories with you all, Tons of amazing moments that I will take with me for the rest of my life.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Europe as American Legion Auxiliary national president. Like many of the visits to our departments, I spent time with our members both in Germany and France and had the opportunity to visit some revered memorial sites.

Suresnes American Cemetery was one of my favorites, due to its small footprint and glorious view across Paris. In every cemetery I visit, I always walk the grounds looking at the crosses and seek a Kansas soldier. I was about to lose hope. But then there he was, Private Albert C. Cooper, who passed September 3rd, 1918, and I will never forget him. What was unique about this cemetery is that the majority of those interred lost their lives to the Spanish flu, not in battle.

Of course, for those who know my story of returning to Nebraska to join the families of the Detjens group on June 30th, those were the men who lost their lives on December 23rd, 1944, and were recently identified. I made a promise to the families that I would visit their loved ones at the Luxembourg American Cemetery. Promise made; promise kept. And it was heartwarming to see the rosette next to the name of Dale Detjens on the wall of the missing, recognizing that he had finally been identified. I also participated in a wreath-laying service at the cemetery.

And now, as a personal moment of

privilege and thanks to you, I never knew why my dad wouldn't go skiing with me or go to Lake Tahoe with mom and I when we would go. Well, now I know. He was in Belgium in the winter of December 1944. It was bitterly cold, -15 degrees in the foxholes of the Ardennes Forest. All he would say is, "I don't like being cold". I was in those foxholes, so now I know. And I can't imagine what it was like in that cold during the Battle of the Bulge.

Of course, I signed new eligible members up along the way, Pennsylvania and Missouri. They're headed your way. And some for the sons, too. No matter where I went across this planet, membership in the American Legion family was a topic of discussion. The trip was always and forever only about our mission and assuring that our position as a member of the American Legion family was highlighted. I mean, seriously, who would wear a suit, hose, and heels in 90-degree weather in France on their vacation?

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: So, for those who may

question the activity, I share with you my focus on the experience: One, always a membership opportunity.

Two, connect with our members and understand the challenges, and how we can organizationally assist. Three, engage in discussion with those we serve and provide a communication chain for conversations and dialog that is mutually beneficial. And last but not least, communicate about The American Legion Family; meet our servicemembers, military leadership; build relationships; and provide assurance that we will be there for them and their families, wherever they are, forever a resource.

It was inspiring to tour the Landstuhl Regional Medical Hospital, have a briefing with Colonel Warren Stewart, and discover how our American Legion family can assist with issues that require attention.

It was great to know that Commander LaCoursiere's concern over the mattresses showing extreme wear had been addressed, and new mattresses were in place.

Next up, new gurneys are needed, and hopefully they're going to arrive soon. We were accompanied on the Landstuhl tour by Lieutenant Commander Christian Labra. His story of injury and recovery is lifechanging. Struggling after battle in Iraq, seriously injured and questioning his purpose, a phone call changed his life. He then pursued a new dream to become a physician, and now he's a doctor at Landstuhl. He helps others, and of course, we loved that he went to New York Boys State.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: The USO Warrior Center was amazing and gives those recovering respite and peace. And I smiled when I saw Janet Jefford's challenge coin on the wall. It was proudly displayed.

I stayed at the Air Force Inn on the base at Ramstein, which afforded me the opportunity to connect and have dialog with servicemembers who were present. We talked about their mission, our organization, and our priorities, like advocating legislatively, and of

course, the Be the One Legion Family mission as one of the servicemembers with whom I spoke was really struggling. So maybe, on that trip, I might have saved one life. And if we saved one life, then it was totally worth it.

Finally, it was a highlight of my year as National President to have a briefing with Brigadier General Adrienne Williams, who is the commander of the 86th Airlift Wing, and Chief Master Sergeant Clifford Lawton, who is the command chief master sergeant for the 86th Airlift Wing.

I was briefed on the mission and vision of this premier wing group currently assigned to the Third Air Force, United States Air Force in Europe, Air Forces Africa. Our time surrounded discussions on our mission and how we can align to assure the airmen serving overseas have a resource for support when needed, whether for themselves or their families.

Brigadier General Williams looked me in the eye and shared her passion for embracing the art of leadership, attitude, respect, and trust.

It was a huge takeaway for me. She and I both know good leadership fixes everything. Before our briefing finished, we experienced a full overview of the 86th Airlift Wing with a Q&A session that followed.

It was a great moment when I discovered that Brigadier General Williams has a 16-year-old daughter about to start her junior year of high school.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: So of course, we shared info about Girls' State and a promise from me that, if interested, we will find a way for Madison (ph.) to attend.

I concluded the afternoon with a lunch that we, the American Legion Auxiliary, hosted for fifteen airmen. As I spoke to each of them, I was encouraged and uplifted to hear that they felt supported, well trained, and prepared for their jobs and mission. I gifted each my challenge coin, and it was truly heartwarming for many of them to share that it was the first challenge coin they had ever received. Of course, twenty-three

handwritten thank you notes to all key players were immediately in the mail. I will conclude with this fact.

This was really serious stuff. Before posting on social media, I cleared the language and photos with the Public Affairs military team, who was integral with arranging the details of my visit. Another promise made, another promise kept, which was, as I assured them, I would never do or say anything that would embarrass their general or put our organization in a position of risk or concern. This was a meeting at the highest level, demanding the highest attention to detail and protocol. And I assure you, I did not let you down -- suit, hose, heels and all.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: As we proceed with the business of the meeting, I will leave you with one final comment. It is regrettable that I was not able to travel to Europe with the American Legion National Commander, but I collaborated fully with Commander LaCoursiere and D.C. Executive Director Marquez before this trip. We aligned talking

points, activities, and strategies to ensure a successful outcome, and they were fully aware of my agenda. I will also prepare an after-action report so that we can archive the details, information, and contacts regarding my visit.

My prayer and my hope is that leading candidate for National President, Pam Ray, has the opportunity to experience what I did in Europe and that she can continue to uplift the presence and position of our organization, both domestically and globally, and share dialog about how the American Legion family is the premier veterans service organization, forever serving and forever advocating.

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this report. Let's get down to the business at hand.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you.

The Executive Committee to the NEC includes the national president, national vice president, national secretary, national treasurer, the five national division vice presidents, and

the two NEC members of the president's choosing.

This year, the NECs from Colorado and Oklahoma were chosen to serve. Thank you, Laurie. It was a very busy year for the Executive Committee to the NEC. We reviewed -- we met many times, and we reviewed eighteen applications for the available position of our executive director. After the initial pass, a review of eighteen, it was narrowed to six and then four for in-person interviews in Indianapolis. There were two candidates selected, and they were interviewed by the entire Executive Committee to the NEC via Zoom.

An individual was unanimously selected to serve as our executive director. His name is Ben Hendricks, and he will begin on September 15th. Currently, interim executive director Tamara Shumate will continue in that position until Mr. Hendricks starts. And he will be joining us tomorrow, and you will meet him on Monday, but then he will need to return to his current employment.

Currently, he's employed at Kiwanis International, where he served for about eight years. He has an extensive marketing and business background. He was the chief marketing and communications officer for Kiwanis. He continues to serve in that role until he joins us. He has two master's degrees -- one in business, one in journalism and mass communications -- and he has a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations.

The Executive Committee to the NEC met, interviewed those candidates, and Ben was unanimously selected. We look forward to having him join our organization with his skill set and to work with the amazing staff that we have in Indianapolis. I'm really excited and I hope you are too.

Next on the agenda, we have a report from our national secretary, Linda Boone.

MS. BOONE: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. BOONE: Well, you know, the national secretary's report is always in the book report,

so you can look at that. I'll just give you some highlights of the responsibilities of the national secretary and -- so it'll give you a flavor for the position.

So, we write minutes to the executive session of the NEC meetings and minutes to the executive committee to the NEC meetings. And this year, there were a lot. I think there was 15 or 16, and I'm going to have another one today. So those are the -- that's sort of the, you know, what we do to keep our corporate records in place.

The other thing that the secretary does is work with the national staff to make sure all the corporate documents are filed when they need to be, and that we have a permanent record of all those things. So, the staff does most of the work, and the secretary gets to just sort of make -- you know, authorize that that did occur.

This year, I continued what Kathy Daudistel had done, which was to have monthly meetings with the department secretaries/ executive directors. And I find that -- I found that really enlightening and was a good model to

get feedback and to provide information and education to department secretaries, and hopefully they did too. On other duties as assigned --

(Laughter)

MS. BOONE: This year, two primary things took a lot of time. One was evaluating all the Merit Medallion applications. And so that was crunch time, at the last minute, about two weeks where you have to -- we have to get everything evaluated so the staff can prepare the awards. And this being the first year, there were a lot of, well, does this work or does this not work? And we developed some ideas for next year that Pam will be incorporating, but what I would tell you is you need to follow instructions.

(Laughter)

MS. BOONE: So, I won't divulge who did this, but two departments sent me, you know, a copy of their entire C&B and go -- you know, I was supposed to go find all the C&B sections. So, on the surface, that probably made sense. Well, if you want to know where we -- go look in our C&B. But we asked for excerpts, so that the national

secretary didn't have to look through their whole C&B. So just, you know, that was a learning that we had.

So anyway, I do have a feedback checklist for every department that applied that says, you know, if you -- when you did not receive the Merit Medallion designation, then it was because of these pieces on the checklist that you missed. So, I have those for every department, and I'll probably send them through the mail on Monday on the convention floor, so you'll get those.

And then the other duty as assigned was I ended up -- was the process for hiring and evaluation of the executive director position. So, this year, you know, we had the turnover, and there was a lot involved. And what we've discovered is that we really didn't have a fixed process. We started one in 2019 when I was the interim executive director at National Headquarters to sort of test, but it got -- every year, it gets modified, if you don't have a process documented. And some of those

improvements were good; some of them maybe not so good. But what we needed was a documented what's the process that we're going to use, so that it's real clear and that we're real fair and consistent. That is really important, especially in the evaluation process and the hiring process, that we have good practices and human resource practices.

So, the subcommittee that was assigned on the Executive Committee to the NEC worked with the HR director and another person that had extensive HR experience to develop the policy that's in your packet. So that's what we're going to do now, is look at that, and hopefully you've had time to look at it. But the reason we're bringing this -- the executive committee to the NEC has authority, so we will probably -- you know; that committee will continue to use that process. But it's really important that you, as the governing board, buy into the process and endorse it so that you know how we're being consistent and fair, at least in my opinion. OK.

So, at this time, I move to adopt the

policy on the executive director hiring and evaluation process as the direction of the Executive Committee to the NEC.

PRESIDENT WARD: It is moved to adopt the executive director evaluation and hiring policy. This motion comes from a committee, so it does not require a second. Is there any discussion?

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: The question is on the adoption of the executive director evaluation and hiring policy included in your meeting packet that was circulated prior to this meeting. All those in favor, please say aye.

GROUP: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no.

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: The ayes have it, and the policy is adopted. Thank you, Linda.

MS. BOONE: Thank you, NEC.

PRESIDENT WARD: Virginia Hobbs, would you please come to the podium and give your

national treasurer's report?

MS. HOBBS: Thank you, Madam President. This was a little bit of a surprise to me, but that's OK. Serving as national treasurer has been an experience, one which I learned a lot as we moved week by week, month by month, and then here we are.

Please note that we don't always get to do things that we want to, when we work for our organization, and we don't always get to do what everybody's telling us along the side. Please note that we -- a lot of you have roles that you're filling this week at the NEC, as an NEC, and you wind up that, when you go home, you do some paperwork, don't you?

That paperwork deals with coming to this convention and submitting an expense form. Well, we have to do our expense forms in a timely manner, in a proper manner. And it's one where, ultimately, when you get your check, you're going to have a National Treasurer's signature on it. In all probability, (indiscernible) it won't be me --

(Laughter)

MS. HOBBS: -- because it takes -- when we process funds, it takes a while to do it, and hopefully we're able to get the new national treasurer in the books quicker for the signatures on our paperwork, so that your check would get there faster. So that's one thing I know you all would be interested in.

In addition to that, you're going to hear from our Finance chairman in a little bit, and they have done a wonderful job this year. After serving on the NEC as a member of the finance committee for nine years, I didn't learn nearly as much as what we've been doing and having this year. And I want to thank our entire finance staff for doing it, and the great job of our finance director -- Gary, please stand up. Take a bow. He does a great job for us.

(Applause)

MS. HOBBS: So please know that we have the best, and we appreciate those that we have that we serve with.

Madam President, thank you.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Virginia, and thank you so much for stepping in and for accepting this appointment as National Treasurer. Your experience has brought so much to the role, and I know this national president appreciates it greatly.

The chair now calls on Janet Jefford, chairman of the national Finance Committee.

MS. JEFFORD: Thank you, Madam President. Good morning, everyone.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. JEFFORD: After not being here last year because I had my hip replaced, I am really happy to be with all of you this morning. Our first order of business is to introduce our wonderful 2025 national Finance Committee, composed of all Past National Presidents.

With us today are Nicole Clapp -- please stand, Nicole.

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: Sharon Conatser, who also serves as the Finance Committee's liaison to the Audit and Risk.

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: And Desi Stoy.

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: Nancy Brown-Park, who also serves as our liaison to the Foundation, is home recuperating after falling and breaking her hip. I talked with her yesterday, and she's doing great and is really sad not to be here with everybody. We all wish her a very speedy recovery.

Also not here is Past National President Kris West. Kris has not been feeling very well and resigned from the Finance Committee last May. We thank her for her two years of service, and she also wishes everyone a very successful convention.

Last year, Nicole mentioned that serving on the Finance Committee is not for the faint in heart. She was so right.

(Laughter)

MS. JEFFORD: It is hard work. Besides two scheduled in-person meetings and one scheduled Zoom meeting, we have met an additional three times to assess and approve new alternative

investments for our portfolio and four times to review and approve financial policies to be presented to you, the NEC, for approval.

Reviewing all the policies and rewriting several of them, has been a major undertaking. I would like to thank Tamara for all her time and expertise helping us rewrite these policies, especially the travel policy and the old contracts and agreements policy, which we now call the agreements policy. I hope you will find them easier to read and understand now. And I also wish and hope that you vote to pass the agreements policy that was taken off the consent agenda.

To quote our finance director, Gary Ward, so far it has been a banner year financially. NEC, you each received the quarterly financial reports, and I hope you take time to review these carefully as part of your responsibility as an NEC member. If you have any questions, please reach out to someone, either someone on the finance committee or email Gary Ward, and I'm sure we'll try to answer those questions for you. It's really important that you

look at these and understand what's going on -- we're taking care of other people's money, and that's a big responsibility.

So far, through June 30th, our year-to-date numbers show that revenue was \$130,911 over budget, and our year-to-date expenses were \$621,313 under budget. These are numbers we love to see.

(Murmurs of agreement)

MS. JEFFORD: Some revenue highlights include -- thank you. Give yourselves a hand, NEC. You helped us do this.

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: Contributions for the AEF are higher than budgeted. Membership dues are over budget, which is a good thing. And significantly, our investment interest and dividends are over budget by over 350,000 so far, and I'm looking forward to it to even increase in the fourth quarter.

So, on the expense side, personnel and employee expenses are approximately 339,000 under budget, and travel conferences and meetings are

91,000 under budget. And our professional services and investment fees are 80,300 under budget, so that's good. As expected, postage and freight were about 60,000 over budget, but staff have filed for UPS designated status, and we're hoping that will lead us to better rates.

Not bad so far. A lot of the great news is due to our wonderful headquarters staff. Gary Ward, our Director of Finance, again deserves our thanks and applause.

Gary, where are you?

(Applause)

MS. JEFFORD: Stand up.

Every director at headquarters works diligently with their staff to look for ways to cut expenses, while at the same time exploring new ways to provide services to our members and those we serve through our mission. And I thank them all for their hard work this year.

And of course, again, Tamara, thank you for putting up with me this year and all your good advice.

Madam President Trish, I love saying

that. I want to thank you for trusting me as your Finance chairman this year. Your Finance Committee worked hard to see that all your priorities and projects were funded. Using your favorite phrase, it was epic.

(Laughter)

MS. JEFFORD: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Janet, and thanks to the Finance Committee.

I had an opportunity to see them a little bit yesterday. And truly, they've done amazing work, as has the headquarters team. You just can't imagine all the things that they do to keep me going forward and to keep all of our programs working. And they're awesome -- and epic.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: Thanks again, Janet.

National Risk & Compliance Chair Kathy Dungan could not attend the National Convention. A medical issue again, but she's OK.

So, the chair calls committee member Paulette Caron to the podium for the committee's

report.

MS. CARON: Good morning.

ALL: Good morning.

MS. CARON: Yes, Kathy does send her regrets and wishes us all a very successful convention.

The Risk & Compliance Committee had a very productive or epic year as well. We met several times throughout the year. In February, we had the opportunity to meet in person, and as you know, in-person engagements always are more productive, and we shed new light and have the opportunity to meet in person. We collaborated, and it made for a very fruitful meeting. A lot of brainstorming goes on.

The audit for 2024 was very successful. We passed with flying colors. A big shout out to National Headquarters staff, including Gary Ward -- he is amazing -- the accounting office, and of course, Tamara. We appreciate all of you very much. They helped this committee immensely.

We have also begun engagement for the 2025 audit, and we are anticipating another flying

colors passing of that audit as well.

I want to acknowledge and thank our committee, Past National President Kathy Dungan, Paula Raney, and of course, our two liaisons, Past National President Sharon Conatser from the Finance Committee and Carrie Davenport from the ALA Foundation.

For those of you who are not aware, the Risk & Compliance Committee works with everyone. We work in partnership with finance, we collaborate with Constitution & Bylaws, we work in partnership with our national officers, and we work with National Headquarters staff and anyone who needs our assistance. Our goal is to safeguard our organization and provide advice and recommendations where warranted.

It's been a fun year. It's been an interesting year. We have been proud to help lead the way with National President Trish. Thank you.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you,
Paulette.

The ALA Foundation's bylaws state that

they must be approved by the Auxiliary's National Executive Committee. As the Foundation Board recently made amendments to the Foundation's bylaws, the board is being asked to approve these changes to the Foundation's governing documents. The newly amended bylaws were in your meeting packet that was circulated to everyone via email prior to this meeting.

The chair calls on the ALA Foundation Board President Cathe MacInnes to give a brief background on why the changes were needed and to answer any clarifying questions the Board might have. Cathe?

MS. MACINNES: Thank you, Madam President.

Following this body's approval of the revised Articles of Incorporation, the bylaws were revised correspondingly. You have seen -- you have both the bylaws and this exotic note of changes, which I will point out was prepared by AI.

(Laughter)

MS. MACINNES: I had nothing to do with

it. Carley pushed magic buttons, and it happened. So, if you have questions about this, I can explain it, but I can't tell you how she got to that point.

There was one typo in the original section that went out, Section 4.8. That has been corrected. And I believe the revised copy was distributed, but I will read it for clarification in case someone didn't get it.

"In the event of a vacancy in the office of a director, the Board of Directors may elect, by vote of the majority of directors then in office, a successor who shall serve for the remainder of the term of the director whose office has been vacated. In filling these vacancies to the extent practicable, the greatest balance of interest and experience at all levels, and among all elements of the foundation, shall be maintained by the board".

And of course, that election would also be approved by the NEC before it becomes final.

And are there any clarifying questions that I can help with?

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Cathe.

Is there a motion to approve the newly updated ALA Foundation bylaws as previously circulated in your media?

MS. DUSCHECK: Madam President?

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Past National President Diane Duscheck.

MS. DUSCHECK: I move to accept the bylaws of the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation as presented.

PRESIDENT WARD: Is there a second? (No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: Is there any discussion? (No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: The question is on the adoption of the ALA Foundation bylaws included in your meeting packet that was circulated prior to this meeting. All those in favor, please say aye.

GROUP Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no.

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: The ayes have it, and the ALA Foundation bylaws are approved.

Thank you, Cathe.

MS. MACINNES: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, NEC.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: We will proceed at this time with the removed national policy. Previously, contract approval and signature authority recognized as agreements, that were removed from the consent agenda. The chair will assume a motion to adopt this policy. Is there any discussion?

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Trish, could you please repeat exactly what you just said? That just confused me. I'm sorry.

PRESIDENT WARD: We will now debate, discuss the contract approval and signature authority policy that was removed from the consent agenda to be known further, if adopted, as agreements.

The chair will assume a motion. Is

there any discussion? The chair recognizes Glynis Seeley Morris --

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: -- NEC from Nevada.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Technically, it's alternate, but all right. So, the question I have regarding this is I asked to have it removed because now we now have four to five pages to cover each individual type of agreement in this. Correct?

Where it goes into memorandum of understanding, memorandum of whatever,

PRESIDENT WARD: Contract, budgeted, unbudgeted, MOAs.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Yeah, all of those. Well, am I in the right place? Because apparently, I'm not, I guess. All right.

So, the reason I'm asking to have it removed is, is originally this was all put together in, like, maybe what, three lines in a paragraph. And now we've got five pages' worth. How does that happen?

(Laughter)

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Well, seriously. No, I don't -- I'm seriously asking that question because I don't understand why, if, in our original agreement, at the end of said agreement, where it's all crossed off, it covers most of whatever type of agreements we're getting into.

Now, instead of having a paragraph to discuss and cover what we're supposed to be agreeing to, we now have five pages of agreements instead. What happens if there's a contract that's not covered under all of these five pages of agreements? What happens in that case? Who gets to vote on that? How is it -- if there's an agreement that's not covered, what do we do? Then who's in charge of that? Because it's not covered.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you for your comments. Is there any further discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Rhetorical question. Janet, chairman of Finance, would you like to address Glynis.

PRESIDENT WARD: Absolutely. The chair

recognizes Past National President Janet Jefford.

MS. JEFFORD: Excuse me. I guess I don't understand quite what's being asked, because the old contracts and agreement policy, what's in green that you have, is all new wording. And we tried to put this policy together to handle the three types of contracts that we do. One is your regular contract that's here. One is an MOA, and one is an MOU.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK.

MS. JEFFORD: The contracts, the MOAs, all have financial obligations. MOUs usually do not. So that's why there's different ways that these are reviewed and approved. I don't know what you're referring to that we only had a paragraph before.

PRESIDENT WARD: So, Glynis, I just counted the pages of the original policy as five pages, and I just counted the --

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: I misstated.

PRESIDENT WARD: -- the pages of the revised or the proposed revision, and it also has five pages.

MS. JEFFORD: Right.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK, but I do have another question regarding it.

PRESIDENT WARD: Sure.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Secondary question, same issue. In this, the way I've been reading this, the authority for agreements under the MOAs falls under the executive director, the way it was. Now that's being taken out entirely, and budgeted contracts are being given to the deputy executive director. Then the only authority for the executive director then falls on multiyear contracts beyond a budgeted amount. Am I reading that correctly? Under your executive director authorities and their --

MS. JEFFORD: OK. Are you asking about budgeted or unbudgeted?

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: What I'm asking more is the authority, because it goes from the executive director to the deputy executive director back here.

PRESIDENT WARD: On Page 14, under budgeted, the executive director has the

authority to execute vendor contracts.

MS. JEFFORD: Right.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Right, and then there was one -- where did it go?

MS. JEFFORD: If these are -- if they're budgeted, the budget was approved by the NEC.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Right.

MS. JEFFORD: So, it doesn't have to come back to the NEC, because you've already approved that money.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: (Indiscernible)

MS. JEFFORD: Right.

So, it says here that the finance -- the National Executive Committee, when they, you know, adopted the budget; they adopted that.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK.

MS. JEFFORD: So, then the executive director has the authority to execute them on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Because we already approved that. All right.

MS. JEFFORD: Where are you looking at

the --

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: I may have mixed it with one of the others. All right. I'm sorry. That makes sense. That makes sense now. Thank you.

It's the executive deputy director. I've got the wrong page with me. Because it's changing it to the executive -- the deputy executive director, not the executive director.

MS. JEFFORD: Glynis, the reason why we separated some authority to the executive director and the deputy was the deputy executive director handles most of the contracts that have to do with the building, IT, and that kind of thing. So, she actually approving them. That was her job. So, I'm sure, though, that the executive director always knows what's going on. But the policy was written as such.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: But the way it's worded, it's not. If you look at the way that's worded --

MS. JEFFORD: It says, "The deputy executive director shall have the authority to

execute vendor contracts on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary provided the expense has been captured in the board-adopted current fiscal year budget and the contracted amount is no greater than 50,000".

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Right. So originally, it was only under the executive director, and now it's being changed to -- even though that's been her job for a long time already -- the deputy executive director. Am I correct?

MS. JEFFORD: Correct, yes.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. So, then the next one falls under the executive director to have authority.

MS. JEFFORD: Those are multiyear contracts.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. But then does that mean that nobody else other than the executive director has that?

MS. JEFFORD: Yes. Yes.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: I'm just trying to clarify.

MS. JEFFORD: Absolutely, because
they ---

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. OK.

MS. JEFFORD: -- because they're
multiyear contracts. And they are making us --
we're agreeing to multiyear contracts that would
have different NEC approval.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. But then that
means that's the only authority the executive director
has, the way that's written.

MS. JEFFORD: Oh, no.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: The deputy -- under
that agreement, am I correct? Only under that
agreement --

MS. WARD: Under the budgeted contracts.

MS. JEFFORD: Under budgeted contracts.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. And is that
the only authority the executive director has
under that one? But yes, the executive director
does a whole bunch of other stuff, too. I'm not
discounting that. I'm sorry; I'm just confused
about this whole thing.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes

Leslie Ginther, alternate NEC from the Department of Alabama.

MS. GINTHER: Thank you. I think you're missing the first sentence. The whole -- under budget, it says that the ALA National Executive Committee will annually adopt, and it goes all the way down to say that, within the board-adopted budget will be executed by the national executive director. So, it's giving the director authority. All this other sentence is doing is giving it the authority for the deputy director to continue to do what they've done for years, with a budget limit of 50,000 on each contract.

So, it's not that it's taking the authority away from the executive director. It offers the deputy executive director the ability to do their job.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Without --

MS. GINTHER: With limitations, with -- exactly, without the director having to sign off on every little thing.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you so much for

this helpful dialogue. Right? It's great. The chair recognizes Past National President Nicole Clapp.

MS. CLAPP: Good morning. It really is looking at delegated authority, is what we're talking about, because you've got the executive director and now you have the deputy. And so, the deputy can manage the contracts that are \$50,000 that you all have approved, as Janet was articulating.

And multiyear contracts, there's a lot higher dollar amount. So, in that dollar amount, the executive director needs to manage those. But everything is under -- if you look at job descriptions, the executive director supervises the deputy director. So, you have delegated authority. So, if there's something you would want to add, I would suggest delegated authority might clear that up, if that's necessary.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you so much. Is there any further discussion?

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: Hearing none, we will

vote on the motion to adopt the policy. All those in favor of adopting the amended policy, formally known as Contract Approval and Signature Authority, now to be known as Agreements, please signify by saying aye.

GROUP: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please signify by saying no.

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: The ayes have it, and the policy is adopted. Thank you. Thank you for the comments.

Your meeting packet, which was circulated via email prior to this meeting, contained two proposed amendments to the standing rules.

The proposer for both of these amendments is the national Constitution & Bylaws Committee, so the chair now calls Norma Tramm, chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, to the podium for a brief background and proposals, and to answer any questions. Norma, welcome.

MS. TRAMM: Thank you, Madam President

Trish. So, the first proposal is on Standing Rule Number 11, units number 7. And we are just eliminating stuff there.

And the reason they're being eliminated is because The American Legion national judge advocate says that membership eligibility is subject to review only at two times, and that's initial admission into the American Legion Auxiliary and then also if they're going to transfer. So, this needs to be eliminated.

Are there any questions about that one? (No audible response)

MS. TRAMM: So, 61. Sorry. I'll give you a chance to find it. It was just about the fact that the unit members could challenge membership eligibility at any time. And Judge Advocate says no, only twice. OK?

And then the second one is proposed amendment to Standing Rules Number 11, units number 10. And this is we are just eliminating a portion of it because it's already -- if you look in your bylaws, Article 4, National Executive

Committee, Section 1, you will see that they do have authority. But the authority is only to hear matters concerning unresolved at department level, if it's unresolved.

And then it has to only deal with -- review the considerations that, for instance, are they doing the policy correctly? Did they do it the right way? Were they including fairness, and did they have the correct notice? It does not have anything to do with the actual reason why they were doing that. Any questions on that? We're so good. All right.

(Laughter)

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Will somebody else please get up?

MS. TRAMM: Glynis, we love you.

(Laughter)

MS. WARD: The chair recognizes Glynis Seeley Morris, alternate NEC from the great state of Nevada.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: For clarification, for years, we have been told a unit and a department can discipline its own. Now, what this

is saying is, yeah, you can, but National is still going to have its fingers in it.

MS. TRAMM: So, no, what it's saying is that if -- like, for instance, if I'm being disciplined, OK? And I'm not happy with the process that went on.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK.

MS. TRAMM: If they didn't follow the fairness process.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Right? Right.

MS. TRAMM: If they didn't follow by giving me correct notice.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Sure.

MS. TRAMM: They didn't allow me to say why, you know, things were happening or have a voice, then National Executive Committee could say you didn't follow the right rules. We need to go back and address this.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Which is how we wind up in executive session all the time, anyway. So, in a way, this is -- all right.

(Laughter)

MS. TRAMM: And questions are always

good. I love it when people ask questions because it clarifies things for other people too, that maybe don't quite understand what it's all about. So please continue to ask questions.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Leslie Ginther, NEC -- alternate NEC from Alabama.

MS. GINTHER: So, I just want to make sure that this -- this is not stating that National would go in and overturn what a unit chose to do. They're only checking for the fundamental fairness policies and procedures being followed.

MS. TRAMM: Exactly.

MS. GINTHER: But when you take this out, does that not give the authority to the national office or organization to reverse that, because there's no language within here that says they are only reviewing for fundamental fairness?

There's nothing in there that says that what that limitation on their oversight or overview is, and since it's not stated in there, would that not give the authority to change the outcome of the discipline, even if all policies,

procedures, and fundamental fairness was followed?

PRESIDENT WARD: There are some bylaw amendments that are being considered by the delegates that will address that issue.

MS. GINTHER: OK.

MS. TRAMM: Yeah.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Lisa Cadwallader, NEC from the Department of West Virginia.

MS. CADWALLADER: Sorry. So, we're told that a unit disciplines their members, not a department, not National.

MS. TRAMM: Correct.

MS. CADWALLADER: A unit. And even though I agree that you have all this unsettlingness (sic) at unit levels, and therefore need extra guidance from your department and sometimes even from National, I think that we need to be able to more or less figure out if the unit has done something in fundamental fairness that National or department cannot overrule as long as the unit has been fair. Right?

MS. TRAMM: So, you're saying, if the unit did everything correctly, then we don't overrule the ruling. And you're correct, yeah.

MS. CADWALLADER: Right, right. We need to make sure that that's in place, right.

MS WARD: Chair recognizes Glynis Morris from NEC of Nevada.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Quick question based off of what you just said. You just finished saying that we have amendments coming up in the Constitution and Bylaws meeting.

MS. TRAMM: Correct.

MS. SEELEY WARD: So how is it that we can change something in this if we haven't voted on that yet? That doesn't seem like that -- it seems like we're getting the cart before the horse here.

PRESIDENT WARD: OK. Thank you. Thank you for your comments. At ease.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: Please welcome Interim Executive Director Tamara Shumate to the podium.

(Applause)

MS. SHUMATE: You're much taller than I am. Sorry, sound guy.

OK. So, my team and I kind of put this together, so we're handling all the appeals, so this might help. National will never get involved in any issue at a department level where we have not first received an official appeal, an appeal which the NEC voted you want to have a process for, and we do.

So, if we don't want to take appeals anymore -- to Glynis' point, this is why we're in executive session all the time -- we can vote on that. We can have a new conversation about not taking appeals. I don't know that I would because it seems like all the appeals we have at the department level, something really is wrong with the process and we're able to fix it through that.

What we never do at the national level is, to the point of this amendment, is to go in and overturn disciplinary action. We pinpoint process errors and ask them to repeat them. So,

if you had a trial but didn't give notice, you need to have the trial again, give notice. You can still have the same disciplinary outcome. We're not going to tell you the merits. We're not going to talk about whether it was right or not or if the punishment fits the crime. That's not our job. It's just at the department level to handle unresolved issues, and they are all the ones that we have had, disciplinary action oriented.

So, to say, in this piece that I'm saying we need to strike-through, we won't look at anything that deals with disciplinary action, we already are. Everything that comes to us has started at a unit level. A member has been expelled and didn't get a chance to have their say at their hearing. It comes through the department. The department says, we don't care about that process; we're not going to deal with it.

It comes to us, because every member has members' rights. They have the ability to speak on their behalf. Whatever the unit decides, the

unit decides. Whatever the department decides, they decide. We just look at process.

So right now, we're currently looking at appeals that deal with disciplinary action. So, to say, as the NEC, you want to have an appeal process, and you want to be able to look at these types of appeals, this piece has to come out. It's separate from the disciplinary action bylaw that's taking place on the floor. This is just for process.

This is a practice you're currently allowing us to do at headquarters, is to accept these appeals that start at a disciplinary action, some sort of unresolved disciplinary action. So hopefully that helps to clarify what this is. It's not changing anything. You're currently doing it. We're not going to get involved unless it hits the department level and a member sends us an official appeal, and we're never going to overturn the disciplinary action. We're only going to ask that you relook at process that maybe was missed. OK, thanks.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Tamara.

She's got a great way about her, doesn't she, in explaining that? So.

MS. MORRIS: Debbie Morris, Department of New York. I have a question on this. So, a department can reverse a unit's decision if it was all in fairness, and the member that's being disciplined goes to a department for -- to be heard. Are they allowed to reverse it then, what a unit says?

PRESIDENT WARD: The unit is the only authorized entity to discipline a unit member. The member can appeal to the department, subject to the department's governing documents.

MS. MORRIS: But a unit is -- their disciplinary is to remove the member, and the department reverses that decision. Why is that allowed? I know it has happened.

PRESIDENT WARD: The unit --

MS. MORRIS: This is just something to look at.

PRESIDENT WARD: The unit is the only authorized entity who can remove a member from the organization.

MS. MORRIS: Correct.

PRESIDENT WARD: So, the unit has that authority.

MS. MORRIS: Only.

PRESIDENT WARD: If it's within their governing documents, correct.

MS. MORRIS: If they can appeal it to the department for fairness, that's fine. But can the department --

PRESIDENT WARD: So, the authority is the national governing documents. The member can appeal to the department. So that authority is given to the department.

MS. MORRIS OK. Thank you. I just want to make sure that it's clear, too, because this is the problem we're having.

MS. BECKER: Julie Becker, Department of Michigan, alternate NEC. For clarification purposes, is it not written that the DEC's decision is final?

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Yeah, it is. Yeah.

MS. BECKER: That's my question.

PRESIDENT WARD: Hold, please.

MS. BECKER: I've got to hold, please.
I've got to be recognized.

PRESIDENT WARD: So, the DEC's
decision is final only if the process used by
the DEC is in line with fundamental fairness.
So again, process.

MS. BECKER: Thank you.

MS. TRAHAN: Madam Chair, I am --

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair
recognizes Christine Trahan.

MS. TRAHAN: Thank you. You do
recognize me. I appreciate it, Madam President.

PRESIDENT WARD: Hold, please. You're
not the NEC, but alternate NEC?

MS. TRAHAN: No, but you can recognize
me. You can recognize me.

PRESIDENT WARD: I'll recognize Christine
Trahan.

MS. TRAHAN: Thank you very much.
Appreciate it. Once again, it all depends on
what's in your governing documents at your
department, how this works. A member may appeal
to your DEC, OK? Now, it's up to the DEC

whether they're going to take that appeal on or not. They are the final say so. That's it.

Well, no, no, no. I'm not done.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They have the final --

MS. TRAHAN: That's right. They are the final say so that they're not going to take the appeal or they may take the appeal. If they take the appeal, and the member that was -- you know, had to leave the unit or whatever may be, wins that appeal? Yes. Guess what? The department is telling her; you have to take that. She is still a member of the organization. It depends on what's in those governing documents.

Now, if she does not win that appeal, she may go a little bit further to National. National is going to review to make sure that that unit followed the policies and that that department followed those policies and so forth in good faith.

Anyways, it's all what's in your governing documents.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you. The chair

recognizes Shay from the Department of Texas.

MS. KUEHNER: Shay Kuehner, Department of Texas and National Executive Committeewoman.

With all due respect to my dear friend from the Department of Texas, Christine Trahan, the point -- the clarification question for me is, yes, you are going to the DEC because I don't like the way you kicked me out of your unit. I go to -- I appeal to the DEC. The DEC accepts that appeal. So, at that point in time, they do have the ability to change my suspension or whatever it is. Because otherwise, what's the point of an appeal?

Or are they just saying, well, we don't like the way you did it. You didn't do it right, so you need to go back and do it again? So that's not really clarification. So, you can't really say that the unit is the only person who can discipline. They can start it. But at the end of the line, it goes -- apparently, it goes down a line to the DEC, and then all we did here is scratch out that they could go to -- that it doesn't -- they're not appealable to the NEC.

That's all we scratched out.

But apparently that's not true, either. They can go to the NEC after the DEC doesn't do what they thought was right.

PRESIDENT WARD: Process -- if the member appeals to the NEC, that process will be looked at by National to make sure that fundamental fairness in the process was managed correctly.

MS. KUEHNER: But they're not going to change that fact that I'm no longer in the unit?

PRESIDENT WARD: As Tamara just mentioned --

MS. KUEHNER: That's going to come up later.

PRESIDENT WARD: -- it's about process.

MS. KUEHNER: OK. OK, still clear as mud. OK, thank you.

MS. HOOD: Madam President?

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Jacquie Hood from the Department of Vermont.

MS. HOOD: I think the issue we're having here is semantics. Basically, the DEC and the NEC have authority to say you didn't do this

right, unit. We're sending it back to you. Here are the guidelines that you need to follow. Do it again, and do it right, and give the members their rights. That's all.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Chair recognizes Leslie Ginther.

MS. GINTHER: I just -- I kind of think that maybe, maybe if there was a clarifying statement before that says that procedural appeals to the National organization can be received, and then that would be clarifying to people that you're not overturning disciplinary action. You are doing a procedural review to make sure that they followed.

And I understand that may not be able to be accomplished at this particular meeting, but it may be something to look into the future. So that is a clarifying statement that you're only doing a procedural review appeal, not an overturn of disciplinary action appeal.

(Scattered applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: If adopted, this -- an

amendment could be proposed to the delegates for the bylaw that's being discussed at convention.

Chair recognizes Lisa Cadwallader from the Department of West Virginia.

MS. CADWALLADER: Thank you. I have a clarifying point. So, this talks about, basically, a member appealing. I don't know if we are covered somewhere else, and if we are, I apologize, because I just can't think of it off the top of my head. In the scenario that a unit has put a member out and the member appeals to the department, and the department says, nope, you've done it wrong, you've got to take that member, can the unit appeal to National and say, in all fairness, we did do what was right, and we believe that putting a member out is correct?

PRESIDENT WARD: So in consultation with the National Registered Parliamentarian, if the department is not following their governing documents, the unit can appeal. Again, it's process.

MS. CADWALLADER: OK. So we are covered somewhere currently, because this talks about a

member appealing.

PRESIDENT WARD: In consultation with the national registered parliamentarian, if the department is not following the correct process, the unit could appeal.

MS. CADWALLADER: OK. Thank you. MS.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Past National President Mary Davis from Washington.

MS. DAVIS: Hi, Mary Davis. We had just spoken of an appeal to clarify this particular sentence. What is the reasoning that an amendment can't be put in now, as opposed to waiting till convention, so that it clarifies it for the NEC? Is there a reason why that amendment can't be proposed by the NEC at this point -- to clarify, only to clarify.

PRESIDENT WARD: At first call, we don't have a motion yet to be amended.

MS. DAVIS: OK. So could -- if it's not a motion, could they still put in a clarification?

PRESIDENT WARD: It could certainly be

amended.

MS. DAVIS: If it's not a motion, it's not amended. But a clarification of the written word could be changed at this point, correct?

MS. TRAMM: Yeah. So we're going to follow the script here. And I'm going to first propose that we do the first one that we talked about.

So this would be, Madam President, on behalf of the national Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of the proposed amendment to Standing Rules Number 11, unit's number 7, as presented in the NEC meeting packet, which was circulated via email prior to this meeting.

PRESIDENT WARD: It is moved to adopt the proposed amendment to Standing Rule 11, unit's set number 7, as presented in the NEC meeting packet, which was circulated prior to this meeting.

This motion comes from a committee, so it does not require a second. Is there any

discussion?

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: Hearing none, the question is on the adoption of the proposed amendment to Standing Rule 11, unit number 7, as presented in the NEC meeting packet that was circulated prior to this meeting. All those in favor, please say aye.

GROUP: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no.

(No audible response)

PRESIDENT WARD: The ayes have it, and the amendment to the Standing Rule is adopted.

Please continue, Norma.

MS. TRAMM: Thank you, Madam President. And now, on the second one that we've been discussing --

(Laughter)

MS. TRAMM: On behalf of the national Constitution & Bylaws Committee, I move the adoption of the proposed amendment to Standing

Rules Number 11, units number 10, as presented in the NEC meeting packet, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

PRESIDENT WARD: It is moved to adopt the proposed amendment to Standing Rule 11, units number 10, as presented in the NEC Meeting Packet, which was circulated prior to the meeting.

This motion comes from a committee, so it does not require a second. Is there any discussion?

The chair recognizes Leslie Ginther, Department of Alabama.

MS. GINTHER: I would like to move that we amend the motion to add that appeals can be received at the national -- or by the national organization for procedural or -- I don't know how to put it.

Procedural appeals can be received by the national organization on disciplinary matters. I don't know if I'm saying this right.

PRESIDENT WARD: Can you please write it and present it to the chair?

MS. GINTHER: Yes.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes National Registered Parliamentarian Chris Dickey.

MS. DICKEY: I would draw everyone's attention to the proposed bylaw amendments that this convention will be considering. Proposed amendment number 11 really goes through all the different types of discipline and what can be done.

And so if there's something that you want to amend here, we can, but make sure it's not already going to be covered in these bylaw amendments, which I think is pretty comprehensive.

Really, these things should belong in the bylaws and not in the standing rules, and that's what a lot of this has been done to clean this up. There's not really a lot of changes, but it's been done to move it to the proper place and be consistent in wording. So it should cover everything.

So before you make this amendment, make sure it's not already covered in this. So that's all I'd like to say.

PRESIDENT WARD: Chair recognizes Linda Tome, Department of New York.

MS. TOME: I would move that we table this to post-NEC convention for the proposed change.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: I second that.

PRESIDENT WARD: The motion is not in order due to the fact that it can be postponed indefinitely, but there will be -- because there will be new people, it would be a new consideration. It can be brought up at post-con.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: Can I amend the postponement to do it on the convention floor instead of the post-NEC?

PRESIDENT WARD: That motion was out of order, so.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. So the whole thing, I can't --

PRESIDENT WARD: Yeah, correct.

MS. SEELEY MORRIS: OK. I'm just trying to figure it out.

PRESIDENT WARD: Yep.

MS. DAVIS: Parliamentary procedure.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Past National President Mary Davis.

MS. DAVIS: We have an amendment on the floor. Correct?

PRESIDENT WARD: Yes.

MS. DAVIS: So that's probably what the discussion should be.

PRESIDENT WARD: The chair recognizes Leslie Ginther, the Department of Alabama.

MS. GINTHER: I would like to withdraw my motion as, after further review of motion -- or amendments that are coming to the convention floor, it does specifically state that units can only appeal to the department level and the national organization for procedural matters. So it is already addressed further in the document. I missed it.

My bad.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, withdrawn. The question is on the adoption of the proposed amendment to Standing Rule 11, unit's number 10,

as presented in the NEC meeting packet, which was circulated prior to the meeting. All those in favor, please say aye.

GROUP: Aye.

PRESIDENT WARD: All those opposed, please say no.

GROUP: No.

PRESIDENT WARD: The ayes have it.
The amendment to the standing rule is adopted.

Thank you, Norma.

MS. TRAMM: You're very welcome.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thanks, really.

(Applause)

PRESIDENT WARD: Is there any new business? Surely there must be some, right? Hearing none, that brings us to the close of this meeting.

With the meeting agenda complete, we will move to our benediction, followed by our meeting in the executive session. I've appreciated working with all of you. Really, I

have.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: And can't wait to celebrate with you while we're here in Tampa. And I would just say I had an opportunity to meet so many of you during my visits, and it was just such a complete pleasure. And I'm incredibly grateful, and I really appreciate all the questions. It makes for a fun meeting, right? It really does.

(Laughter)

PRESIDENT WARD: Please stand with me as our national chaplain, Monique Batiste, offers the benediction.

MS. BATISTE: Dear God, we thank You for the leadership You put in place at this American Legion Auxiliary year. We know You are in the midst of all decisions we make and have made, and that they are in the best interest of us all.

We pray for traveling, grace, and mercy for our members that are still en route to Tampa. We bind anything, any desire, any chaos that does not align in the plans You have for us. We pray

all these things in Your name. Amen.

PRESIDENT WARD: Thank you, Monique. This meeting is now in executive session. Executive session includes only voting members of the NEC and invited guests.

For this executive session, the chair has invited the Past National Presidents, Professional Parliamentarian Chris Dickey, Deputy Executive Director Tamara Shumate, and the necessary National Headquarters staff required to run the meeting technology.

There are to be no other attendees in this meeting. I'll ask anyone not part of executive session to please exit now.

(Whereupon, the 2025 American Legion Auxiliary National Convention's National Executive Committee meeting was adjourned.)