

**National Executive Committee Meeting
May 1-3, 2009**

Legislative Commission

The meeting was opened at 10:23 A.M. on May 2, 2009 by Chairman George B. Evans (IN).

Roll Call and Sign in of Guests:

Chairman: George B. Evans (IN)
Vice Chairman: David Lee (NY) excused due to employment commitment
Members: Carl Rossi (MA)
Roger Dees (MI)
Andy Newman (PA)
Jeff Evans (VA)

Guests: Matt Slesinski (IN), Chris Cook (OK), Pete Sierminski (CO), Kevin Dasing (NM), Thomas E. Marsden (NJ), Gary Lang (OH), Bill A. Sutterlin (OK), Mark Kilstrom (CO), Gary Winters (TX), Gary Denmon (NY), Richard Lennan (KY), Kevin I. Ivery (PA), Joe McPeters (TX), Earl Ruttkofsky (MI), Jeff Frain (AZ), Commander Tommie Cisna (IL), Michael Lawyer (WI), NVC David Downey (), NVC Moss Ed Magers (), Kevin Collier (AK), PNC Steve Laws (NC), Michael Moss (), Joe Monti (MO), Jim Roberts (FL), PNC Douglas Bible (MN)

Reading of the Previous Minutes of the Fall 2008 Meeting were discussed and approved as distributed to the commission members.

The Legislative Commission discussed their budget. It was reported:
No special budget requests were received. The bus expense is handled administratively.
The National Commander's request for additional Wreaths is handled on a year by year basis.
Commission Members were asked if any outstanding member's expense needed to be paid.

Resolutions: One resolution was received from the Community Service/ Homeland Security Sub-Committee number NEC-6-S09 Encouragement to Members to take precautions concerning the H1N1 (Swine flu) virus. This resolution will be forwarded to the Resolution Sub-Committee, and further forward to the NEC for their approval. The Commission Members were reminded All Resolutions must be submitted 30 days prior to an NEC Meeting.

The 2009 Washington Conference Report was discussed. The 2009 Washington Conference was held March 1-4, 2009. The following information was distributed to the members for their review and discussion:

1. Complete report distributed to members
2. Bus schedule distributed to members
3. Bus and box lunch report distributed to members
4. SAL 2009 Arlington National Cemetery Pamphlet distributed to members
5. SAL 2009 Guidelines for Capitol Hill Visit distributed to members

Chairman Evans thanked all Commission members for their assistance in Washington and expressed his sincere appreciation.

The 2010 Washington Conference was also discussed. The 2010 Washington Conference will be held Sunday, February 28 through Wednesday, March 3, 2010. The tentative scheduled Wreath Laying to be held at the Tomb of Unknown Memorial is Sunday, February 28 @ 3PM. The Commission is already beginning work and planning on the 2010 Washington Conference. At this time the bus schedule, box lunches, wreath laying schedule and the Commission's two pamphlets (which were distributed) will be the same for the 2010

Washington Conference. The Commission Members will review all this information and will make any necessary changes. The commission is recommending that there possibly be a handicap accessible bus.

The Legislative Commission Member's Assignments were distributed to the members for their review. All Commission/Committee Chairman were asked if they had any special legislative requests, none were received from any of the Commissions/Committees.

National Legislative member assignments: The assignments were reviewed and discussed. Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Roger Dees (MI), Children & Youth Carl Rossi (MA), Americanism Andrew Newman (PA), Community Service Jeff Evans (VA), Finance and Member Training George Evans (IN), Sub Committee on Resolutions David Lee (NY), Washington Conference assignment, box lunches Jeff Evans (VA, Arlington Cemetery Pamphlets Carl Rossi (MA), Wreath and Bus Request David Lee (NY).

The American Legion National Legislative Priorities were distributed; they were the one distributed at the Washington Conference by The American Legion. They were reviewed by the Commission and the Commission agreed for the SAL to Support the entire American Legion National Legislative Program.

The Commission discussed the Sons of **The American Legion National Legislative Web Site**. Photos of Washington Conference to be posted on Web Site were mailed to Gary Winters on April 16, with copy to Brian O'Hearn for approval. The Legislative Commission Chairman Report was also forwarded to Gary Winters to be posted on Web Site, It was emailed to Gary Winters on April 17, with copy to Brian O'Hearn for approval, and a copy emailed to Commission Members. The Commission also discussed **Sons of The American Legion National Legislative E-Group**, which currently has 110 E-Group members, with 35 E-Group messages were distributed since the Fall 2008 Meeting. Webmaster Gary Winters (TX) informed the commission that the website will also be able to accept video clips. The commission will be forwarding a short clip of the Memorial Service at the Tomb of the Unknown. We want to submit a link on the website to Improved Effective Grassroots Lobbying Training Presentation and the Improved Resolution Writing Presentation both in PowerPoint format.

The Commission reviewed the **2008-2009 Legislative Commission Plan of Works**, which were distributed to members. There were no changes or additions recommended. The Commission also reviewed the National Legislative Commission Information Booklet, which were also distributed to the members. There were no changes or additions recommended.

The Commission discussed the **Legislative Commission Veterans' Advocacy of The Year Award for 2009**, and Report, which was distributed to members. It was reported that there needs to be a Push for more entries, including Honorable Mentions. Past years recipients include

2006 *No recipient*

2007 David Lee (NY) Reno, NV

2008 Roger Dees (MI) Phoenix, AZ

2009 ?????????? Louisville, KY

No recipients have been received at this time – any suggestions. Commission Members were told to remember deadline 30 prior to convention.

The Commission members discussed the various **Legislative tools available to all members**.

The American Legion Magazine (subscription by The American Legion)

Legion Dispatch (subscription by The American Legion)

“How a Thought Becomes a Bill – How a Bill Becomes a Law” (\$9.00 per 100 copies – The American Legion National Legislative Commission)

Legislative Handbook (\$6.00 per 100 copies – The American Legion National Legislative Commission)

Improved Effective Grassroots Lobbying Training Presentation (SAL Legislative Commission)

Improved Resolution Writing Training Presentation (SAL Legislative Commission)

Proposed National Sons of The American Legion Legislative Action Team (work still in pending status).

The Commission discussed the **Homeland Security** agenda for the remaining year and their plan for becoming a full committee. We also approved the minutes of Friday, May 1, 2009.

No further business was to come before the Legislative Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A. M. by Chairman George B. Evans

DMR