

## National Legislative Commission

Meeting opened at 9:45 A.M. by Chairman George Evans (IN)

Members Present: Vice Chairman David Lee (NY),  
Daniel Robinson (MD), Roger Lee (MI),  
Michael Andreon (MO)

Guests Present: Bob Brown (GA), Bryon Robichaux (LA), Mark  
Kilstrom (CO), Tom Deal (MO), Buddy Mill (AL),  
Atwood Grandberry (CA), Leading Candidate for  
National Commander Raymond Giehll (IN), Bill Dilts  
(OH), Mark Arneson (GA).

National Commander Earl Rutkofsky and Leading Candidate for National Commander Raymond Giehll addressed the Commission.

The Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission requested Legislative Commission Liaison Michael Andreon to address their Commission. Michael then reported back to the Legislative Commission with their ideas & comments.

The Legislative Commission budget was discussed and a motion was made to add a line item for the Bus Transportation at the Washington Conference.

The 2007 Washington Conference Update was reported. All attendees attended National American Legion Commission Meetings and visited their elected officials. Round trip bus transportation was provided to participants from the hotel to the memorials. Three wreaths were purchased and presented at the Tomb of The Unknowns, WWII National Memorial, and the National Korean War Memorial. The participants also toured the Tomb Museum, The Lee Mansion, and The Tomb Guards' Quarters.

The 2008 Washington Conference planning was discussed. The date to be announced. Participants again will be requested to attend National Commission Meetings and visits their elected officials. Round trip bus transportation again will be provided to participants from the Renaissance Hotel and back, with tickets to issue. A possible box lunch for participants (at their expense) is being considered. The box lunch would contain a sandwich, chips, fruit and a drink. The Legislative Commission will study the idea of a cooler for on the bus to keep the drinks cold. There will be three memorial wreaths purchased for the National Commander to be placed at the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and the Tomb of The Unknowns. There will be no group wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns, due to previous problems with the officer of the day. Wreaths will still be available to be purchased and placed at various memorials that we visit.

The Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Priorities were discussed and reported that they could be downloaded from the National Legislative Commission Web Site. It was also reported that The Sons of The American Legion supported all National American Legion Legislative Priorities/Legislative Agenda.

The Legislative Commission is striving to have a 100% Detachment Legislative Chairman list. Their goal is to have a list by the National Convention in Reno and to give a list of Detachment

with missing Legislative Detachment Chairman to the National Vice Commanders at the organizational meeting at the end of the Convention for them to contact the Detachments. This will hopefully have a full list of Detachment Legislative Chairmen by the Fall NEC Meeting.

The National Legislative Commission Veterans' Advocate of the Year Award was discussed. No entry was submitted last year, and all Detachments are urged to submit a name. The form and rules are available on the National Legislative Commission Web Site. The new address to submit names for this award is George B. Evans, National Legislative Commission Chairman, 6600 West 87<sup>th</sup> Place, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453; not the Chicago address included in the form.

No resolutions were submitted for NEC approval at this meeting. The Sons of The American Legion National Legislative Commission Web Site was updated. The 2007 Washington Conference photographs were posted to the web site. The National Sons of The American Legion Legislative Priorities are also available, as well as the National Legislative Commission Informational Booklet. The National Legislative Commission Web Site can be found at <http://www.sal.legion.org/legislative> this address will appear in the National Update also.

The Sons of The American Legion National Legislative E-Group currently has 136 members. This group can be used for national disasters and Homeland Security. The idea of Legislative Chat Sessions is still in progress. The National American Legion Washington Legislative Office has requested our E-Group list. We will send this list to them, so they can send legislative alerts to members of the Sons. The E-Group internet address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/legislative/> this address will also appear in the National Update.

Legislative tools that are available from the Legislative Commission include the Improved Effective Grassroots Lobbying Presentation (on CD) and the Improved Resolution Writing Training Presentation (on CD). Publications available from the American Legion include The American Legion Dispatch and The American Legion Firing Line. The National Sons of The American Legion Legislative Action Team is in progress.

Sub Committee on Homeland Security Chairman Mark Smith reported on the Homeland Security meeting of Friday, May 4, 2007. The Legislative Commission ratified Jack Donnelly as a member of the Homeland Security Sub Committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 AM by Chairman Evans (IN)