2018-2019 PRE-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION/SECONDED/CARRIED - to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as circulated in advance in NEC board packet emailed August 16, 2019

MOTION/CARRIED – Adopted the recommendation of the National Audit Committee to rescind the charter of the National Audit Committee.

MOTION/CARRIED – Adopted the recommendation of the Special Committee on Strategic Planning for the following goals of the strategic plan: 1) cultivate a variety of mission engagement opportunities, 2) enhance organizational effectiveness of department and units, 3) recruit and retain members through mission engagement, 4) ensure financial stewardship of resources to maximize our mission delivery, and 5) enhance and foster the family relationship with the American Legion.

MOTION/CARRIED – Adopt the recommendation of the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee to rescind the Code of Conduct in the Standing Rules

MOTION/SECONDED/CARRIED - to rewrite the Code of Conduct in the Standing Rules that does not include a pledge; National Vice President Nicole Clapp will appoint a committee.

2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Amendment 1- Membership: membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion; changed eligible membership from “wives” to “spouses” opening membership up to male spouses of veterans for the first time; defines the most distant eligible relationship in accordance with IRS regulations to be grandmother and granddaughter. Consequentially: committeewoman became committee person and changed pronouns to gender-neutral.
Amendment 2 – Authority of the National Executive Committee: removed the authority of a lower-ranking document such as Standing Rules, Strategic Plans, Agreements and Memorandums to supersede the authority of the NEC.

Amendments 3 - 9 pertain to changes in national committee structure

Rationale: The current committee structure has been in place for a long time – created before the technologies that we have today. The world communicates differently today, with the internet, emails, and social media. The ALA needs to look internally and change to using the more efficient communication methods that are available today. With these new modes of communication there is not always a lot of responsibilities to assign to committee members. Each committee would still have the five divisional chairmen to communicate with the departments.

Amendment 3 – Changed the composition of the VA&R National Committee; effective after 2020 National Convention. Composition: chairman (1 year term), vice chairman (the VAVS Representative) and one member (the VAVS Deputy Representative) serving staggered 2 year terms, a representative from each National Division.

Amendment 4 – Changed the composition of the National Education Committee; effective after 2020 National Convention. Composition: chairman (1 year term), vice chairman and one member serving staggered 2 year terms; a representative from each National Division (1 year term).

Amendment 5 - Changed the composition of the National Constitution & Bylaws Committee. Composition: chairman and vice chairman serving one-year terms.

Amendment 6 - Changed the composition of the Americanism, National Security, Legislative, Poppy, Community Service, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Leadership, and Public Relations National Committees

Americanism. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

National Security. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.
Legislative. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Poppy. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Community Service. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Leadership. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Public Relations. Composition: chairman and a vice chairman, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a one-year term.

Amendment 7 - Removed the History, Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Past Presidents Parley national standing committees

Rationale:

History Committee - the duties of communicating to departments and members the importance of keeping our history and collecting memorabilia can be assumed by the National Historian. The duties of collecting and cataloging memorabilia will be assigned to a national staff position. Departments can still have, and are encouraged to have, a department history committee. The responsibility of communicating to departments about the importance of having their own collection of memorabilia can be given to the National Historian. She can do this through bulletins or communication directly to department chairman.

Past Presidents Parley – the duties of this committee at the national level are very few and would be well served by other committees. The Salute to Servicewomen Award will be moved to the National Security Committee and the Unit Member of the Year Award would be moved to the National Leadership Committee. The main responsibility was to promote past presidents in departments to take roles in promoting leaders and in the importance of mentoring.

Liaison to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation - the duties of this committee at the national level are very few and would be well served by other committees. The main responsibility of this national committee is to encourage donations to the Legion Child Welfare Foundation. We still feel that it is very important for the Auxiliary to support this foundation. The roles of this committee would be move to the member position on the national Children & Youth Committee. A Past National President may be appointed to fulfill that role on the committee.
Amendment 8 - Duties of National Historian – expands the responsibilities of the National Historian to include communicating to Departments the importance of keeping and preserving a written record, and of collecting, categorizing, and preserving American Legion Auxiliary memorabilia.

Rationale: The duties of communicating to departments and members the importance of keeping our history and collecting American Legion Auxiliary memorabilia formerly the responsibility of the History Committee can be taken over by the National Historian. The duties of collecting and cataloging memorabilia of the national organization will be assigned to a national staff position. Departments can still have, and are encouraged to have, a department history committee.

Amendment 9 – Changed the composition of the National Children & Youth Committees. Composition: chairman, a vice chairman and one committee member, plus a representative from each National Division, all of whom shall serve a 1 year term.

2020 MID-YEAR NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Amendment 1 – Amended Standing Rules to change the title of the “Code of Ethics” to “Code of Ethical Conduct”

Rationale: As a result of the vote of the NEC on August 24, 2019, the Code of Conduct was rescinded, and a special committee was to be appointed to review and make recommendations to the NEC. After meeting on January 15, 2020 by phone conference, the committee reviewed the current Code of Ethics in the Standing Rules and is making the recommendation to change the title of the Code of Ethics to the Code of Ethical Conduct as well as have NHQ staff develop ethics procedures to fulfill the statement under Ethics Violations: The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the ethics query process.

Amendment 2 – Amended the Preface to the Standing Rules. Removed the statement that limited the authority of the NEC to amend Standing Rules: “Standing Rules that specifically state ‘As provided in the National Bylaws’ can only be amended by action of the National Convention delegates.” This is a technical cleanup that was recommended by National Parliamentarian Chris Dickey.

Amendment 3 – Changed the composition of the Executive Committee. Composition: National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, five (5) National Division Vice Presidents, and two (2) National Executive Committee persons who will be appointed annually by the National President.
Rationale: The Executive Committee to the NEC should be made up of current members of the Board who have voting rights. The Executive Director or any other position that has valuable information can be invited to attend the meetings of the Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee to share information and opinions that will assist in developing the most appropriate recommendation to the NEC. A consequential amendment will be proposed at National Convention to establish the Executive Committee in the Bylaws; the statements on the purpose of the committee will reside there.

This committee composition amendment was adopted by the NEC on August 30, 2018 and later challenged that only the convention body could adopt. At the 2019 National Convention, the bylaws were amended to allow for this composition change to be reintroduced for NEC consideration and action.

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Amendment 4 – Amended Standing Rule VIII to remove reference to Audit Committee Charter. This was a technical clean-up of language after the charter was rescinded at the 2019 National Convention.

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Amendment 5 – Added new Standing Rule VI. detailing the responsibilities of the Executive Director.

Rationale: Although the National Secretary position has customarily been responsible for both management and government oversight functions, assigning management responsibilities for national headquarters to an Executive Director will allow the National Secretary to focus on the governance responsibilities stated in the Constitution & Bylaws as an officer of the organization.

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End Summary of Motions/Amendments