

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**October 21, 2016**

**TO: National Officers, National Executive Committeemen, Past National Commanders, National Commission/Committee Chairmen, Sons of The American Legion**

**SUBJECT: National Executive Committee Report, FALL 2016 NEC**

Sons of The American Legion members who recently attended the fall 2016 National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana received a copy of the written SAL reports from each of the Commissions and Committees on Sunday, October 9, 2016.

I would like to bring to your attention an item that was listed on the Sons Internal Affairs Commission report under new business, page 12 (copy attached) conducted by Chairmen Mark Tansel (IN) that states words to the effect that The American Legion is studying the feasibility of the Sons being a stand-alone organization.

I checked with the National Adjutant of The American Legion concerning this issue who indicated that he has no knowledge of such a discussion currently underway. The Sons presently is a program of The American Legion with many benefits to all Sons members, posts, and departments with a very affordable per-capita to our members.

Please mark your copy as noted for future reference for the posts and departments of The American Legion. I also want to thank all those Commission/Committee members and the National Executive Committee for making the fall meetings a great success.



**JEFF C. FRAIN**  
National Commander

Copy to:

Robert E. Newman (IN), Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission, The American Legion  
George V. West (NH), Chairman, SAL Sub-Committee, The American Legion



## **Internal Affairs Commission**

**Opening:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 AM on October 8, 2016 in the Circle West Room of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel by Chairman Mark Tansel (IN).

**Roll Call:**

Chairman:	<u>Mark Tansel (IN)</u>	Members:	<u>Edward W. Cavanaugh (IL)</u>
Vice Chairman:	<u>Don Culver (KS)</u>		<u>Jay Cook (OK) - Excused</u>
Secretary:	<u>Lyle Larson (KS)</u>		<u>Donald "J.R." Hall (MD)</u>
	<u>National Assistant Adjutant</u>		<u>Michael L. Kirschner (CO)</u>
Liaison:	<u>Rick Cook (OK)</u>		
	<u>Past National Commander</u>		
Guests:	<u>PNC Joe Mayne (MN), PNC Michael Seaton (CA), Jon Coakley II (OH), Casey Lenort (MN), Seth Rippe (NE), Jim Stewart (NV), Mike Sawicki (IL), Gary Gummersheimer (IL), Jim Noble (NJ), Ray Jarvis (NY), Tim Timmreck (WA), George Flasiniski (PA).</u>		

**Reading of the Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There being no objections, the minutes of the Spring, 2016 meeting were approved as published.

**Reports of Committee(s):**

Convention Committee – Chairman Jim Stewart (NV) gave the report. All plans are tentative and subject to change. The Convention will be held at Reno/Sparks Convention Center. Friday August 18 evening Dinner will be at the Elks lodge across from the Convention Center. Sundays Parade will be ½ mile long, downtown, with the after party to be held inside in an air conditioned building.

Member Training & Development Committee – Chairman Mike Sawicki (IL) gave the report. The Commander's class is being held today. NMI is filled by Nominations from The NEC from your state turned in to the MTD Committee. They are requesting that a proposal for a NMI Stipend be presented to Finance Committee. They would like to pursue the idea that Commanders training start next year on Friday. A request was made from the floor that MTD look into creating some type of manual for Commanders to use for basic responsibility of the position.

Membership Committee – Chairman Seth Rippe (NE) gave the report. This year the theme is Knowledge is Power and the committee is using that to help increase membership and renewals. They are using this to help the Legion Family grow. Challenging each member to sign up 3 new American Legion Members. They are also focusing on obtaining email addresses for as many members as possible. Motion to Accept the reports as given, Michael Kirschner (CO), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donald Hall (MD). Passed

**Reports of Members:**

None.

**Old Business:**

The Commission again discussed the issue Jim Gelwicks (CO) suggested at the Fall, 2015 meeting that the Commission carefully gather participation data to find out how the new call-in is affecting the organization. Chairman Tansel said we will continue to study the issue and report back at a future meeting. Chairman Tansel informed the members that data is still being gathered for this and a report is forth coming.



Father Gary Gummersheimer (IL) asked Internal Affairs for information on who is or should give a receipt to donors stating "no goods or services were received for the donation" for IRS purposes [Form 501(c)3]. Don Culver answered this question. There is not a per quota form to use for this purpose. After some discussion from the floor Mr. Culver offered to discuss with the National Adjutant the best way to disseminate the information on how to properly fulfill this task to the Detachments and Squadrons.

**New Business:**

PNC Joe Mayne spoke to the Commission on starting a sub committee to start planning for a time when and if the SAL becomes a stand alone organization. So as to be prepared if it happens. PNC Michael Seaton informed the group that the Legion is looking into this happening.

Don Culver expanded on a few of the points that will need to be addressed if this division was to take place. The members will discuss a course of action in forming a sub committee in future meetings and the results of their findings will be reported at the Spring meeting.

**Resolutions:**

S.A.L. Resolution 1 – Fall, 2016: Endorsement of Michael S Cotton (DE) for National Vice Commander. Motion to receive and file Donald Hall (MD) 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Culver (KS). Received and Filed

S.A.L. Resolution 3 – Fall, 2016: Amend the Composition of the Strategic Initiative Committee. Motion to approve the resolution Donald Hall (MD) 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Kirschner (CO). Approved

**For the Good of the Sons of The American Legion:**

National Commander Jeff Frain (AZ) addressed the Commission. We need to continue teaching our new leaders on how to do their job and what the job entails. Knowledge is power. He thanked the members for their work and encouraged them to continue.

Leading Candidate for National Commander Danny Smith (NE) addressed the Commission. He encouraged all present to share the knowledge they obtain at these meetings and reiterated that knowledge is power. He thanked the committee for all their all work.

**Closing:**

With no further business to consider, \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman Mark Tansel (IN) \_\_\_\_\_ adjourned the meeting at 10:34 AM .

The Commission reconvened at 1:30 PM with four members present to consider Resolution 6 – Fall, 2016 (Establish a Per Diem for National Management Institute Attendees). After discussion Donald Hall made a motion to accept the resolution. Michael Kirschner seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Chairman Tansel closed the meeting at 1:35 PM.