



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

POST-CONVENTION

Charlotte, NC

August 31, 2023

8:45am EST

American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters
3450 Founders Road
Indianapolis, Indiana

ATTENDANCE

National Officers

National President.....	Lisa Williamson
National Vice President.....	Trish Ward
Central Division National Vice President	Carol Robinson
Eastern Division National Vice President.....	Debra Tiernan (<i>absent</i>)
Northwestern Division National Vice President.....	Karen Susag
Southern Division National Vice President	Christine Trahan
Western Division National Vice President.....	Jan Cushing
National Chaplain	Brister Thomas
National Historian.....	Donna Thurman
National Secretary.....	Kathy Daudistel
National Treasurer	Marybeth Revoir

Guests: NHQ Executive Director Sara Riegel; NHQ Deputy Director Tamara Shumate; NHQ Director of Finance Gary Ward, NHQ Executive Assistant Sommer Prim; Professional Registered Parliamentarian Chris Dickey, Past National Secretary Coral Grout.

Past National Presidents

Carlene Ashworth
Linda Boone
Nancy Brown-Park
Sharon Conatser
Kathy Daudistel
Mary Davis
Diane Duscheck
Virginia Hobbs
Janet Jefford
Desi Stoy
Peggy Thomas
Kristine West
Vickie Koutz

National Executive Committee members

Alabama.....	Donna Hinkle (<i>absent</i>)
Alaska	Penelope Mazonna
Arizona.....	Barbara White
Arkansas	Denise Smith
California	Kathie Martinez
Colorado	Laurie Kuntz
Connecticut.....	Debra Knickerbocker
Delaware.....	Deborah Guenther
District of Columbia	Teresa Hamilton
Florida.....	Jane Hardacre
Georgia	Susan Hall
Hawaii.....	Brister Thomas
Idaho	Kristal Tighe
Illinois	Janet Bacon
Indiana.....	Pam Shook (<i>absent</i>)
Iowa	Kelly Elliott
Kansas.....	Sharon Spiker

Kentucky.....	Bonita Robey
Louisiana.....	Joanie Schendel
Maine.....	Virginia Chaput (ANEC)
Maryland.....	Alta Glotfely
Massachusetts.....	Debra Lyons
Michigan.....	Marcy Jorac
Minnesota.....	Jean Walker
Mississippi.....	Elizabeth Belue
Missouri.....	Louise Welch
Montana.....	Christine Nelson (absent)
Nebraska.....	Vicki Ozenbaugh
Nevada.....	Glynis Morris (ANEC)
New Hampshire.....	Terri Ouellette
New Jersey.....	Margaret McMahon
New Mexico.....	Dorothy Hazen
New York.....	Marie Mock
North Carolina.....	Julie Smith
North Dakota.....	Tammy Ryberg
Ohio.....	Cindy Masowick
Oklahoma.....	Tracey Smith
Oregon.....	Krisann Owens
Pennsylvania.....	Kelly Moyer
Puerto Rico.....	Maria Montanez (absent)
Rhode Island.....	Rose McClarnon
South Carolina.....	Pat Ward
South Dakota.....	Mary Jo Stier
Tennessee.....	Charlotte Connors
Texas.....	Shay Kuehner
Utah.....	Judy Daybell
Vermont.....	Kelly Donaldson
Virginia.....	Pam Lipscombe
Washington.....	Lorna Ledoschuk
West Virginia.....	Paulette Anderson
Wisconsin.....	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Wyoming.....	Vicki Paddock

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Call to Order.....	5
Invocation.....	5
Pledge of Allegiance.....	6
National Anthem.....	6
Preamble.....	6
President's Opening Remarks.....	8
Introductions.....	9
ALA sponsor, ShipThrifty, Comments.....	12
Consent Agenda.....	22
Executive Director Report.....	23
National Treasurer Report.....	28
National Finance Committee Report.....	31
ALA Foundation Budget Report.....	39
National Risk and Compliance Committee Report.....	41
National Constitution and Bylaws Report.....	44
Adjourned to Executive Session.....	45

1 and to all those who need just a little bit of extra
2 something this morning. Please be with our leaders as they
3 have taken on new roles to take us forward into this year.
4 Thank you for all that you have given us and, please, let us
5 reflect and be worthy of your love. For all of us together,
6 amen.

7 ALL: Amen.

8 CHAIRMAN WILLIAMSON: Sallie?

9 MS. ROSSMAN: Everyone, now please stand and face
10 the flag.

11 ALL: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the
12 United States of America, and to the Republic for which it
13 stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and
14 justice for all.

15 ALL: (Singing.) Oh, say can you see by the dawn's
16 early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight's
17 last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars through
18 the perilous fight o'er the ramparts we watched were so
19 gallantly streaming. And the rocket's red glare, the bombs
20 bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag
21 was still there. Oh, say does that Star Spangled Banner yet
22 wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

23

24 ALL: For God and Country, we associate ourselves
25 together for the following purposes:

26 To uphold and defend the Constitution of the

1 United States of America; to maintain law and order; to
2 foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to
3 preserve the memories and incidents of our association
4 during all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual
5 obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat
6 the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make
7 right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on
8 earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles
9 of justice, freedom, and democracy; to participate in and
10 contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of
11 The American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our
12 association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

13 MS. ROSSMAN: Thank you.

14 (Ringing of the bell.)

15 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: You may be seated.

16 The meeting of the National Executive Committee is
17 now convened. Welcome. Welcome, everyone. It's nice to
18 see everybody's smiley faces bright this morning. A little
19 frog in my throat. Must have been from all the singing and
20 dancing last night. Thank you, Madam Past National
21 President, Vickie, for a roaring rousing time last night.

22 (Applause.)

23 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: That band was amazing,
24 amazing.

25 Before we begin our business, I want to take a few
26 minutes to welcome you to your new role for the 2023-2024
27 National Executive Committee. Those present who are

1 eligible to vote today and at subsequent NEC meetings are
2 the NEC members. NEC members include and are limited to the
3 National Executive Committee person from each department,
4 the five division vice presidents, the National Chaplain,
5 the National Historian, the National Treasurer, the National
6 Secretary, the National Vice President and the National
7 President

8 Those present at the NEC meetings with voice but
9 no vote are our wonderful past national presidents.

10 We they're going ooh, ah. We welcome our
11 visitors and remind you that you may listen to the
12 discussion but are not permitted to participate in debate
13 and have -- no vote.

14 Members of the National Executive Committee, you
15 are now serving in a national role on the board of directors
16 with fiduciary responsibility to the national organization.
17 As the member of the NEC, you no longer have interests
18 solely in your department as your primary focus. You are
19 serving the national representative for the national
20 organization and you must be making decisions and casting
21 your votes according to what is in the best interest of the
22 national organization.

23 For future meetings, you will again receive
24 information in advance and you will be expected to have read
25 the materials in preparation for the next meeting. This is
26 an important role and we appreciate your diligence in
27 attending and to your duties of thoughtfully and responsibly

1 on behalf of the national organization.

2 Now, to get to the business at hand, the Chair
3 asks that those of you wishing to address the meeting make
4 your way to the microphones. There are microphones -- oh,
5 they're being -- they will be placed back in the aisle after
6 our presentation today. Make your way to the microphone as
7 this is the only way your remarks can be heard for the
8 recording for our professional court reporter for the
9 transcripts of this meeting. Also, please be sure that in
10 making any remarks you address me as the Chair. To track
11 your attendance today, please write your full name and
12 department on the note card that each of you have on your
13 chairs today.

14 The national headquarters staff members will be
15 circulating a basket to collect your cards. There's the
16 baskets, there's the national staff, here's your card.

17 For this meeting and future NEC meetings, the
18 minutes will be approved by a minute approval committee.
19 The Chair appoints the NECs from Arizona, Barbara White, from
20 Kansas, Sharon Spiker, and Nebraska, Vicki Ozenbaugh as the
21 minutes approval committee responsible for approving the
22 minutes for this year's NEC meetings. Sound good? You guys
23 are awful quiet.

24 So, it is my extreme pleasure to introduce to you
25 the following: serving this year as your National Vice
26 President, none other than Trish Ward.

1 (Applause.)

2 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: I just got goose bumps.
3 Serving the Central Division as the National Vice President
4 is Carol T. Robinson.

5 (Applause.)

6 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Serving the Northwest
7 Division -- sorry, serving the Northwestern Division, National
8 Vice President is Karen Susag.

9 (Applause.)

10 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: You will note that I did
11 skip over the Eastern Division National Vice President,
12 Deborah Tiernan, from the Department of Vermont. She had an
13 earlier flight today and was unable to change those flights,
14 so. But I know she's here in spirit.

15 And Southern Division, none other than Christine
16 Trahan.

17 (Applause.)

18 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: And Western Division,
19 Jeanette Cushing, also known as Jan.

20 (Applause.)

21 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: At the other end of the
22 table, we have Donna Thurman is our National Historian.

23 (Applause.)

24 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: And you heard from Brister
25 Thomas this morning as our National Chaplain.

26 (Applause.)

27 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: And this lady here to my

1 left, although usually she's my right hand, is Kathy
2 Daudistel serving as our National Secretary.

3 (Applause.)

4 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Next to her, of course, our
5 National Treasurer, Mary Beth Revoir.

6 (Applause.)

7 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON And one more over is Sara
8 Riegel, our Executive Director.

9 (Applause.)

10 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Finally, I want to
11 introduce Chris Dickie who will be my right hand today

12 (Applause.)

13 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: -- our convention
14 parliamentarian. Okay?

15 Information on consent agenda was circulated in
16 advance. Today's consent agenda includes the National
17 President's appointments and two charter cancellations that
18 we inadvertently missed at the pre-convention meeting.

19 Both documents were on your chairs when you
20 arrived this morning. Please note on the appointment
21 listing you will see both -- you did not have a -- they did
22 not have packets on their chairs this morning?

23 VOICE: This is all I had.

24 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: They said they did not have
25 the listing, the appointment listing and the two charts
26 the two charts --

27 VOICE: (Indiscernible).

1 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: They might have been
2 snagged by somebody else? Oh, shoot, I'll go back, I'll go
3 back, I'll go back.

4 You know what? We're going to back -- they found
5 some? Here's some here. Do you -- does everybody have the
6 listing? We need one more? While we get that -- yes. No,
7 I -- it's stuck. That's we're going to backpedal a
8 little because I skipped ahead here. My sincere apologies.

9 Okay. Everybody has them over here now? But we
10 are going to backpedal. I skipped ahead and flipped too
11 many pages ahead.

12 So, this convention NEC meeting is again sponsored
13 by our good friends at ShipThrifty. When ShipThrifty co-
14 founders' Rob and Michelle Williamson's friend was deployed,
15 they learned just how complicated and stressful military
16 shipping could be and decided to see if they could do
17 something to make it better for service members and their
18 families. The team learned the ins and outs of military
19 shipping and created tools built to make the military
20 shipping process simpler.

21 Today ShipThrifty happily serves military families
22 making it possible for them to ship with ease. So, let's
23 give a warm welcome to Rob and Michelle from ShipThrifty,
24 the sponsor of today's meeting. And, again, my apologies.

25 MS. WILLIAMSON: Good morning, everybody.

26 ALL: Good morning.

27 MS. WILLIAMSON: We're going to see if Rob and I

1 can behave and work together today. So first of all, thank
2 you for having us. You have the clicker, dude. You --
3 thank you for having us here. It's always an honor to
4 sponsor this meeting. Congratulations to all of you in your
5 new role.

6 What are you doing?

7 MR. WILLIAMSON: It clicks.

8 MS. WILLIAMSON: I think I have to take that away
9 from you. Dude, we're just starting.

10 MR. WILLIAMSON: It's --

11 MS. WILLIAMSON: Maybe I need to take it. There
12 we go. So, we are here because we are all about empowering
13 you guys to do, whether it's technology, shipping, you know,
14 stretching your donation dollars, whatever it is.

15 That being said, shout out to Michigan. They have
16 not only been sending care packages, but they are actually
17 getting the "Be The One" information out there to our active
18 service members and those active service members actually do
19 need opportunities to open conversation. So, it's a cool
20 thing. Anybody in here from Michigan? Way to go, Michigan.

21 So, this is the Caldonia group. How many of you
22 saw us out on the floor during the convention time? A few
23 of you. Well, I'm glad we have the opportunity to introduce
24 ourselves. Rob, you want to take the next slide?

25 MR. WILLIAMSON: Assuming the clicker behaves
26 which --

27 MS. WILLIAMSON: I think it's operator error.

1 MR. WILLIAMSON: It's got a -- no, it's got a
2 little clicker delay. There it is. So yeah, as Michelle
3 mentioned, we are really delighted to be here and we're
4 thrilled to support your organizations and our service
5 members. And over the past six months or so, we've been
6 building our team out and some of you may have met Harrison
7 and Amanda, Army former and Army transitioning and Amanda,
8 the other Amanda as we call her, we're really building the
9 team to help you with whatever it is that you need to do,
10 whether it's setting up a care package event, whether it's
11 questions about how to do that, or whether it's about just
12 what restrictions exist, things like that because ultimately
13 we are all about saving you time, money, and hassles. And a
14 couple of the key things that I would point out that I think
15 it's really important for everybody in the room to know is
16 that military shipments are non-refundable, meaning if
17 there's an issue with an address and it comes back, that
18 cost is gone. And so we've built tools into the process
19 that can check an address, allow you to check for
20 restrictions, things like that.

21 MS. WILLIAMSON: You're taking my slide, dude.

22 MR. WILLIAMSON: I'm sorry. There you go. And
23 so, we are experts in support, not just the technology, but
24 the process. We have groups that will send 2 care packages
25 and we have groups that will send 500, and along their
26 journey we have these various tools in place that help them
27 do that.

1 MS. WILLIAMSON: So, with those tools -- can you
2 go to the next slide -- we are all about helping you guys.
3 So, if you've never done one and you want to do one, we can
4 step you through it. We can help you get addresses. We are
5 there as a support network for you. This is way more than
6 about shipping for us. Over the years, we've seen a lot of
7 notes come back. We've worked with a lot of chaplains who
8 literally say these packages save lives. They will put them
9 out in areas where people can come and get them and they'll
10 say I'm going to the chaplain to get some toothpaste.
11 They're not going to the chaplain to get some toothpaste;
12 they're going to have a conversation about some of the stuff
13 they're seeing and what's going on. Okay?

14 We have chaplains who will save some of the
15 packages and they set them aside for people who are really
16 struggling and make sure that the folks who actually need
17 the support are getting the support. We have things to help
18 you guys keep your money where it needs to be going into the
19 things that you do, all the good stuff.

20 So, research and checking are in the tools. A lot
21 of people don't know that there are base-specific
22 restrictions, and so if you're sending coffee or beef jerky
23 to Germany, that can come back and then you're out that
24 money that can do other good things. So, we are here as a
25 resource. Whether you ship with us or not, we will help you
26 understand how to get your packages over there. Okay?

27 A lot of times we hear people say they don't have

1 addresses. We have a care package request form in the tools
2 that you can brand for your organization. You can put your
3 pictures, you can put a logo on there, it will help you get
4 addresses. You can share that in the community so that
5 those community people are learning about you as well as the
6 troops when they get your packages. Okay?

7 And then we've got an address checking feature.
8 Majority of our shipping is military. So, we have
9 proprietary tools that we've built to double check addresses
10 on the military side that nobody else has. Okay? Next
11 slide.

12 It's about making it easier. Our tools -- how
13 many of you have ever gone to the post office and had to
14 wait in line while they typed your stuff in for you? Yeah.
15 Yeah. So you don't have to do that anymore. You can do it
16 on the tools and you can literally copy labels and customs
17 forms. So if you're sending to the same person, we've
18 literally had people copy 500 times, they check out, and
19 they're done. Tools produce a manifest. You can go in,
20 drop that off. It's literally ten minutes at the post
21 office to drop all your packages off. And you can track
22 them all the way to the base. So you can actually see when
23 they're arriving at the base and making sure that your
24 dollars are doing the work that you intended them to do.
25 Shipping tips, most of you probably know the common things,
26 no aerosols, no lithium batteries. If lithium batteries go,
27 they've got to be brand new in a computer or laptop. It's

1 got to be documented a certain way. We can help you with
2 all that too. Next slide.

3 Couple other things that we do is we help keep you
4 up-to-date on what's going on with the postal rules. So, if
5 any of you are doing customs forms, they want more details
6 now. Okay? So, you've got to add more detail **in** there to
7 have those packages go and not have them be returned. They
8 now have dangerous goods in there. So, you'll have to say
9 whether you have dangerous goods or not. We keep you **in**
10 sync with base-specific restrictions **in** the tools and we can
11 teach you other ways to be able to get that stuff out there
12 while you're collecting donations. And then the holiday
13 surcharges are coming. I'm sorry. So they usually start
14 around the first week in October now and go through January.
15 Next slide.

16 MR. WILLIAMSON: Clicking.

17 MS. WILLIAMSON: No, it didn't switch.

18 MR. WILLIAMSON: Clicking? There we go.

19 MS. WILLIAMSON: There you go.

20 Another thing that we do is we advocate for you.
21 I want to -- most of you who stop by, most of you are using
22 this flat rate box, right? The box that I have next to it
23 can save you \$2 to \$8 and it's branded for the Legion.
24 Okay? Per box that adds up. We do have a box partnership.
25 The difference is you have to buy the box. The free box,
26 it's not actually free, guys. So it's usually anywhere from
27 \$21 to \$22. Shipping with these boxes usually runs anywhere

1 from \$8 to \$15. Boxes, a plain box is about a buck, branded
2 box is two. It's a lot of savings to do with other things
3 that you guys work on.

4 MR. WILLIAMSON: And what's really cool is you'll
5 notice there's a QR code on the side of the one with the
6 Auxiliary logo. That actually -- a service member and the
7 folks around them can actually scan that and sign up through
8 your branded page on ShipThrifty and now they're in an
9 address book, and so you can send to them very easily. And
10 also you get an email with that information so you can now
11 make contact with them and you can reach out to them and see
12 if they need help. And maybe there's a good opportunity to
13 build a relationship in the future.

14 MS. WILLIAMSON: So for the people who are already
15 using our tools, we have a VIP page. This VIP -- the VIP
16 page is for our ShipThrifty users. You guys actually get to
17 help us develop the tools, what do you need, what do you want
18 to see. Any time a new feature comes out, you guys are the
19 first ones to have access to it. Okay? So we build with
20 you and for you. If you need something, let us know and
21 we'll help you with it.

22 And then we want to highlight your work. We have
23 Amanda, that you saw in the beginning. She was an Army PR
24 person. So she is really robust at getting stuff out
25 online. She will do complimentary press releases for you
26 guys. So if you're looking to do an event and you need help
27 from the community, send us an email with some information.

1 We will get that out. Let us know your local papers, radio
2 stations and we will do our best to try to help you guys get
3 featured and get the word out about what you're doing.

4 Next. That was right.

5 MR. WILLIAMSON: Yeah. You were just looking at
6 me.

7 So ultimately, we look forward to working with you
8 to support our service members because, unscientifically but
9 extremely consistently, we hear that over half never receive
10 a care package and we've heard that from -- everything from
11 platoon leaders to chaplains to you name it. And so we
12 encourage you to band your groups together to send care
13 packages to service members and we are thrilled to have the
14 opportunity to help you do that.

15 MS. WILLIAMSON: Next slide.

16 So the other thing that we do to support is we
17 actually give back. Okay? So when you guys are creating
18 your ShipThrifty accounts, please do your unit accounts and
19 when you sign up, put ALA in the affiliate. We actually
20 give back to national so that they can support you guys and
21 support the overall mission. It's a really important part
22 of this program is being able to give back for us. The
23 other thing that we are in the process of doing is adding a
24 roundup onto ShipThrifty to be able to donate to the Be The
25 One program. Rob and I have both lost people to suicide
26 personally. We have heard some of the struggles that happen
27 with the service members and we are really committed to be

1 able to help support the Be The One program all across the
2 realm.

3 The Legion people that we talk with, once people
4 use us, they're usually like we'll never go back, we'll
5 never do it another way. Some of you who have used the
6 tools might be thinking yeah, I can attest to that. But
7 we're all about serving you. So if you need anything -- you
8 can flip to the next slide.

9 If you need anything, we are here for you. We are
10 a resource. Feel free to call us. If you call, you'll
11 probably get one of us first. You can email. We are here
12 to support you however we can. If you need connections to
13 other groups, if you want to pull different people together,
14 we will help support you in that.

15 So thank you very much for having us. Thank you
16 for all you guys do for our veterans and active-duty service
17 members and we appreciate you.

18 MR. WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you both, Rob,
21 Michelle. I'm personally really tickled that you're going
22 to be helping us out on the Be The One initiative.

23 So does everybody have the consent agenda now and
24 the listings -- the appointment list as well as the two
25 charter cancellations? So we're going to continue on.
26 Please note on the appointment listing, you will see both a
27 special committee and a special purpose committee for the

1 2023 administrative year. The Chair is renewing the
2 American Legion liaison special committee. You will see the
3 appointments committee on your list. The Chair has made
4 appointments to the special purpose advisory committee.
5 Those names also can be found on your appointments list.

6 I want to thank all the previous Legion liaison
7 committee members for their hard work and dedication. Each
8 of them has put much time and energy and sleepless nights
9 into a better relationship between the American Legion and
10 the American Legion Auxiliary and my sincere and heartfelt
11 gratitude for those who have served.

12 Because of great strides that are being made on
13 this committee and in the spirit of continuity, the Chair is
14 reappointing the '22-'23 members to the '23-'24 committee.
15 A special purpose committee -- or sorry, a special committee
16 needs a purpose or a charge. The Chair has reviewed past
17 proceedings of NEC meetings and I cannot find anything that
18 clearly states the Legion liaison's committee scope. So
19 we're going to do that right now.

20 The purpose of the Legion Liaison Committee stated
21 on the appointment sheet is to establish, foster, and
22 advance a working relationship between the volunteer
23 national leadership of both The American Legion and the
24 American Legion Auxiliary with the ultimate goal of
25 operation and cooperation in matters of mutual concern as a
26 family, no more, no less.

27 In the past, much has fallen on the shoulders of

1 this committee, some that really don't have anything to do
2 with being the conduit with the Legion. To that end, the
3 Chair has made appointments to a special purpose advisory
4 committee. This committee will take on much of that work
5 that somehow was lumped into for the Legion liaison
6 committee and much of it is administrative. These
7 individuals will be just as the name implies, my advisors.

8 The advisory committee charge is also listed on
9 your appointment sheet and includes advising the national
10 president of policy, procedures, protocols when asked, and
11 any other duties as asked by the national president. The
12 charge for both these committees will be -- include a
13 stipulation that requires the committee to report to the
14 national president within 30 days of the meeting. The Chair
15 hopes that by stating each committee's charge, there will be
16 little to no overlap of work. The Chair will ensure the NEC
17 receives reports on the work of each committee.

18 I'd also like to remind you that the national
19 president serves as an ex officio member of all committees.
20 Does anybody wish to remove anything from the consent
21 agenda? The Chair will assume a motion to adopt
22 the consent agenda. All those in favor of adopting the
23 consent agenda, please say aye.

24 ALL: Aye.

25 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Those opposed, no? Sounds
26 like the ayes have it. Thank you very much.

27 So now we're going to have a report by our

1 executive director, Sara Riegel. So Sara, if you would
2 please join me up here?

3 Those of you who don't know, Sara Riegel, our
4 executive director.

5 MS. RIEGEL: If you guys haven't noticed,
6 Lisa and I like to joke, especially about how I always wear
7 black.

8 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: What am I wearing?

9 MS. RIEGEL: I came this morning prepared to wow
10 her with color and this one comes in black, I'm like what,
11 what is going on here?

12 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: You're rubbing off on me.

13 MS. RIEGEL: I know. So thank you, Madam
14 President.

15 Good morning, everyone.

16 ALL: Good morning.

17 MS. RIEGEL: As usual, it is good to see you all
18 here with your smiling faces. I hope everybody's knees are
19 still okay this morning. Mine are not. **I'll** try and keep
20 this short as usual. Okay?

21 This year -- sorry, I've got too many speeches
22 going on here. So first of all, I love quotes and I loved
23 all the quotes that were said yesterday on the stage, but I
24 have one from Henry Ford. "Coming together is a beginning.
25 Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."
26 The quote resonates with me as I thought about my report
27 this morning. The word together just stuck. After six

1 months in this role, I've been asked about my management
2 approach. Teamwork is the answer. The NHQ staff is here to
3 work as a team of support to the mission and purpose of the
4 national organization of the American Legion Auxiliary. We
5 all come together with different areas of knowledge, skill
6 sets, experience, and perspectives. I am truly thankful for
7 all the collaboration, especially with the finance
8 committee, and all the long hours, our directors at national
9 headquarters, and the staff. This year, we will continue to
10 evaluate the operations. So I wanted to give you a couple
11 of examples, just a couple, not the whole list.

12 So this year one of the things that we have to do
13 is a necessary evaluation with ALAMIS. We have to do kind of
14 like a discovery. So that is one thing, we've got to
15 unfortunately spend a little money to evaluate our systems
16 and operations. So one of the things we have to do is
17 whether or not we are capable of moving forward with moving
18 to the cloud. Our database is very, very customized. So
19 this is a necessary evil. Hate that word, but it's
20 necessary to be done. It may be painful. So if you would
21 like to send candy and flowers to Tamara and Kelly Harrier
22 as they probably have to go through this process because I
23 leave all IT with her and all membership with Kelly. So
24 flowers, candy, bribes, good. I'm good with that. But we
25 will be doing that. That will identify whether or not we
26 are capable of moving on so we can serve you all better.

27 The other side to this, I know, I'm -- I love

1 technology to a point, but our executive and admin division
2 who are back there holding council back there, I'm going to
3 say Tamara, please stand.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. RIEGEL: Tamara, as the deputy executive
6 director, she's really, really good technology wise. You
7 give me a spreadsheet, I'll give you the world. With her
8 though, she's like Sara, this can go **in** form stack. The
9 keywords are used in form stack, what is logic. I was like
10 oh, no. No, no, no, no, no. So Tamara as well as Summer --
11 Summer, stand up. Yeah, I'm doing it, sweetie.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. RIEGEL: All right. So these two ladies have
14 gone on a journey that started last year which is to
15 internally -- we started with ourselves as test rats
16 internally bring us to a more collective effort. So we have
17 been internally moving our forms to form stacks so we can
18 also collect our data. So I am telling you these things so
19 you guys know that when we're sitting there, we're not just
20 twiddling our thumbs. We are moving forward. We are
21 improving upon how we can support you as our members, as our
22 NECs and leaders. Okay?

23 And as you guys have noticed, development, we have
24 an incredible development team that we have been working
25 with. Actually, Carley was probably -- came back to us last
26 year about a week before we went to convention, and since
27 then she has been an incredible source and she's been

1 really, really great. Oh, Carley, didn't know you were back
2 there. Okay. Carley, please. Carley Schutz is back there.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. RIEGEL: So with that, Carley has been just --
5 I mean, she's a firecracker. Let's just call it what it is.
6 She comes in with great ideas, but here's the thing about
7 us, this past year, I have had more conversations where it's
8 not just Carley. She may bring the idea to the table, but
9 she's going to get the director from exec admin, from
10 communications, from finance. They usually bring me in at
11 the last minute, but you know, the collaborating and talking
12 to each other because everything that we do internally
13 impacts us all in every division and then it impacts you.

14 So these are some of the things that we are
15 looking at and developing over the past year. Also we've
16 taken something that happened a couple of years ago and I
17 forgot when it happened. Sharon, I apologize. Sharon came
18 over early on when you were finance chairman and she kind of
19 said let's have a face-to-face before we present this. And
20 that was so all of us could be on the same page. So if
21 you're kind of getting my message here, it's about reaching
22 out and talking to each other, collaborating, crossing, I
23 guess -- sometimes I feel like there's always a line but
24 crossing those lines and having those conversations, that
25 has been my management as far as teamwork. Sometimes we've
26 had to have those kind of hard conversations, but you guys
27 don't need to know all of that.

1 Anyway, so those are some of the things that, you
2 know, we are doing as staff. I want you to know that they
3 are incredible. Everyone that works there is an incredible
4 source from -- and titles do not mean anything to me. Okay?
5 It's what you do with it. So I am -- even though I hold the
6 title of ED, or executive director, excuse me, acronyms,
7 that does not make me any better than anybody else on the
8 staff. They are incredible. So if I can ask, big hand for
9 our national headquarters staff that are still here.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. RIEGEL: All right. And then I'll leave the
12 thunder to our Finance Chairman and our National Treasurer.

13 What do you want? Oh, thank you. Okay. I do
14 have so that concludes my report, Madam President. And
15 now, Madam President, I have one item of business before I
16 conclude my report. You received a copy of the resolution
17 concerning verification of corporate officers. Please be
18 aware that this convention both elected and confirmed the
19 2023-2024 American Legion Auxiliary national officers.
20 However, some of our financial institutions require a
21 resolution adopted by the board of directors verifying our
22 corporate officers.

23 Let me be clear -- to be clear -- our governing
24 documents do not require this. The only reason we need this
25 is to appease some of our financial institutions. And can
26 we have -- are they all here?

27 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: I'm not sure.

1 MS. RIEGEL: Okay. Okay. I will check with
2 Tamara. Okay. Thank you.

3 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Uh-huh.

4 MS. RIEGEL: Is there -- thank you.

5 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Sara. Is there
6 any objection adopting the resolution concerning
7 verification of corporate officers which was previously
8 provided in your packet? You're looking like a blank. Are
9 you guys good?

10 Okay. Hearing no objection, the resolution is
11 adopted. Thank you, Sara, and good job on what you learned
12 this morning.

13 Next the Chair calls upon National Secretary,
14 Kathy Daudistel to give her report.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. DAUDISTEL: Good morning. Thank you, Madam
17 President. Seeing as how I was only ratified five minutes
18 ago, I have no report.

19 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Kathy, for that
20 rousing report.

21 How about we see what Mary Beth has for us as the
22 National Treasurer?

23 MS. REVOIR: I do have a short report, ma'am.

24 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: That would be wonderful.
25 Please?

26 MS. REVOIR: Madam President and good morning to
27 each of you as we start a new year with our National

1 Executive Committee. Today for some of you, this is your
2 first experience in dealing with governance issues for the
3 American Legion Auxiliary's national organization. Your
4 duties are vital and varied.

5 To each of you who have been serving on the NEC
6 previously, I ask a short indulgence in hearing some
7 information that you might already be familiar with and I
8 look forward to working with each of you again on the NEC.
9 One of your major responsibilities of the National Executive
10 Committee is financial oversight. You will begin receiving
11 regular reports from the finance division showing our income
12 and expenses as the year progresses. Details reflect
13 investment balances and growth within our portfolio which
14 also will be shared.

15 Another report will show you how our actual
16 expenses and income compare with our budget projections.
17 When you start receiving these reports, take some time to
18 review them. If you're unfamiliar with them and have any
19 questions or would just like a little insight into
20 interpreting what is presented, I'd be happy to assist.
21 Just reach out.

22 The national finance staff is also very, very
23 helpful. They're also very, very busy, but they are helpful
24 and they're always there to lend a hand.

25 My experience previously was in department finance
26 which gave me a basis to learn this job, but it took time
27 and effort to fully understand the scope and depth of the

1 national finances. So don't feel embarrassed if you're just
2 not sure what you're looking at.

3 Today you will be reviewing and establishing the
4 actual budget that we will operate under the 2023-2024
5 administration as presented by the Vice Chairman of the
6 Finance Committee, Sharon Conatser.

7 The budget preparation process is detailed and
8 comprehensive. It seems like it goes on for six months to
9 make a budget for the next year, but not quite that long.
10 Please know that all involved take their responsibility very
11 seriously. There's no rubber stamp or indiscriminate
12 thoughts given to any income or expense item. All are
13 explained, vetted, and approved. Everyone involved from the
14 finance division, national -- the finance committee, the
15 staff and I take great care to make sure we're making
16 prudent decisions to present on behalf of the organization
17 and to strengthen our overall finances so that we can
18 continue to fulfill the American Legion Auxiliary's mission.

19 I look forward to serving with each of you during
20 this coming administration along with you, Madam President.
21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you, Mary Beth.

23 (Applause.)

24 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you. Now we'll have
25 our Finance Vice Chairman, Sharon Conatser, present the
26 budget for 2024.

27 MS. CONATSER: Thank you, Madam President.

1 Chairman Nicole Clapp had to go home due to illness. So she
2 said oh, you can give that report tomorrow. So here we are.

3 I have a great team. The finance committee, the
4 Treasurer, and our staff are all here to help answer
5 questions. And she had asked that I ask all members of the
6 '23-'24 finance committee to please stand and be recognized.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. CONATSER: You all received the budget
9 narrative and the budget before you arrived here. Just a
10 couple of things I'd like to bring to your attention. We're
11 excited about some new things and we want to say thank you
12 for your help in passing the dues increase last year.

13 For the first time in several years, we have a
14 positive budget. Yay.

15 (Cheering and applause.)

16 MS. CONATSER: So we are looking at some exciting
17 things in different divisions at headquarters. Our
18 development division is looking to utilize Feather, a non-
19 profit marketing software, to create and execute digital
20 fundraising campaigns in this fiscal year. Of course, we
21 still face the same budget challenges with decreasing
22 membership. So excited to hear the membership report this
23 year that we have cut that deficit down a little, but we
24 have to keep at it. It doesn't come to us. We have to keep
25 at it.

26 Sixty-six unit charters -- well, counting the two
27 this morning, 68 unit charters were canceled. Fifty-four

1 were chartered or rechartered. Let's try to save some of
2 those before we cancel them. Maybe that would help a little,
3 too.

4 As you know, we own our own building. That
5 presents challenges of its own, but we are owners of that
6 building. You heard yesterday, when President Lisa
7 presented, we are increasing the funding for our
8 scholarships. So that is a good thing too. We need to look
9 out and support our kids. They're not **all** -- they're
10 children, but they're kids. So let's -- you know, let's
11 support them.

12 Any questions on the narrative or on the numbers
13 that you have in front of you? You have the reserve funds
14 and you also have the budget, are the numbers that you
15 received. Does anyone have any questions? I know Sam's
16 trying to help me scroll over here, so.

17 MS. MORRIS: Good morning.

18 MS. CONATSER: Good morning, Glynis.

19 MS. MORRIS: Glynis Morris, department of Nevada.
20 I do have a question because I'm -- like a lot of people,
21 I'm not really that great at understanding budgets and
22 reserves and all of that stuff.

23 MS. CONATSER: Uh-huh.

24 MS. MORRIS: So I did write down a couple of
25 questions. Am I understanding it correctly -- I got to put
26 glasses back on. Hold on.

27 MS. CONATSER: Which one are you on, Glynis, the

1 reserves or the budget?

2 MS. MORRIS: Well, that's where the question comes
3 in.

4 MS. CONATSER: Okay.

5 MS. MORRIS: I wanted -- I was asking whether or
6 not in -- let's go to general operating expense,
7 (indiscernible) supplies, telephone, insurance, IT,
8 software, blah, blah, blah in the budget. On the proposed
9 designated building reserves, it shows \$250,000. Is that
10 money included in the number that's on the budget part?
11 That's where I'm getting confused.

12 MS. CONATSER: Okay.

13 MS. MORRIS: Can you explain quick the difference
14 between the reserve monies -- do we use the reserve monies
15 in this budget?

16 MS. CONATSER: Hang on, I'm -- I didn't write -- I
17 didn't write my report and we're --

18 MS. MORRIS: I'm trying to figure out if I'm
19 wording this correctly.

20 MS. CONATSER: I think I know the answer, but I
21 don't want to give wrong information.

22 MS. MORRIS: Okay. I just didn't know if I was
23 wording the question correctly.

24 MS. CONATSER: Garrett -- Sara, Gary, Mary Beth?

25 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Please go to the
26 microphone, Gary.

27 MS. CONATSER: Come to the microphone, Gary,

1 please. Thank you.

2 MR. WARD: So yes, the reserves are included to
3 offset some of the building expenses. So the building
4 expenses are built in. The reserves reduce that back down,
5 and Tamara can speak to some of the things we're doing in
6 the building, but we have some issues that we need to take
7 care of that are going to be a little bit expensive over the
8 next two years.

9 MS. MORRIS: That part I understood. It wasn't
10 I just wasn't sure whether or not when I looked at the
11 reserve list, if the amount -- because the reserve listed is
12 \$250,000 in the general building, and then when you look at
13 the budget for 2024 --

14 MS. CONATSER: Uh-huh.

15 MS. MORRIS: -- it totals \$749,000 --

16 MS. CONATSER: Yes.

17 MS. MORRIS: -- and I wanted to know if that
18 250,000 is included in that 749.

19 MR. WARD: Yes.

20 MS. CONATSER: It is? Okay.

21 MS. MORRIS: Thank you.

22 MS. CONATSER: Thank you, Gary.

23 MR. WARD: Well --

24 MS. MORRIS: That answers my follow-up question.

25 MS. CONATSER: All right. Thank you. Oh, wait,
26 Sara has a clarifying

27 MR. WARD: I don't have that in front of me.

1 MS. RIEGEL: The 749 is operations.

2 MS. CONATSER: Would you come to the microphone
3 please, Sara?

4 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Yes, come to the
5 microphone, Sara.

6 MS. RIEGEL: Yes. Thank you.

7 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Okay. Thank you.

8 MS. RIEGEL: So the 749 that you're referencing,
9 that is with regard to operations. That is systems, making
10 sure the electricity is on, things like that. The one above
11 it, the 596, is what you're referring to --

12 MS. CONATSER: Right.

13 MR. WARD: Okay.

14 MS. RIEGEL: -- with regard to building. So let's
15 kind of back up -- and Linda Boone actually -- when Linda
16 came and we got the building, and bless you that you didn't
17 run, we had a lot of things to address, and one of the key
18 things that we did do -- and I'm sorry, I have my glasses on
19 -- one of the key things that we did do is we went to our
20 auditors, at that time it was the Alerting CPA Group, and we
21 said let's create a schedule of improvements because we know
22 we're going to have to replace the roof, da, da, da, da, da.
23 So a standard amount that you keep in reserves should you
24 exceed your already budgeted -- okay -- expenses, you set
25 aside \$250,000 as a schedule.

26 So if -- I'm -- the reason why I'm saying to
27 Tamara, if Tamara comes to me and says hey, there's a sale

1 on Pella windows and we have delayed, you know, replacing
2 the rest of the windows, we don't necessarily have to come
3 back and ask you. You have already told us by the
4 definition of the reserves the use of reserves. Does that
5 help?

6 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: That does. Thank you.

7 MS. RIEGEL: Okay.

8 MS. MORRIS: Yes, thank you.

9 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thanks, Glynis, for the
10 question. I appreciate it.

11 MS. MORRIS: I know, you get nervous when I get
12 up.

13 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Not really.

14 MS. LYONS: Deborah Lyons, Department of Mass. I
15 have a question. It's nothing material. It's just in the
16 fiscal year 2023, net operating before interest dividends,
17 it should have brackets. The bottom line's correct, it just
18 looks like it's in the positive, the one million nine. It
19 should be negative. When I was running through my ratios, I
20 came across it.

21 MS. CONATSER: Are you on the budget?

22 MS. LYONS: Way down fiscal year 2023 before it's
23 1,952,858?

24 MS. CONATSER: Uh-huh.

25 MS. MORRIS: Yep, it needed brackets.

26 MS. LYONS: It needs brackets.

27 MS. CONATSER: It needs brackets.

1 MS. MORRIS: Okay.

2 MS. LYONS: That's all.

3 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Did you get that? Did you
4 get the brackets on the 1.952 million?

5 MS. LYONS: Yeah, the bottom line's fine. It's
6 just that.

7 MS. CONATSER: Thank you.

8 MS. GUNTHER: Madam Chair, Debbie Gunther,
9 Department of Delaware. So what Sara said, 250,000 is
10 going to be set aside. Is it every year from now on so I
11 don't have to ask in the future every year?

12 MS. CONATSER: Yes.

13 MS. GUNTHER: Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. CONATSER: Yes. Just like owning your home,
15 you know, you have to set aside funds to do upkeep. That's
16 kind of the easy answer for that. Are there any other
17 questions? I do appreciate the questions because I can
18 remember when coming up -- and I'm sure many of you can
19 the NECs just set their limit. Whatever they say is fine,
20 I'm not going to ask questions. So I do enjoy the
21 questions. Even though I can't always answer them. That's
22 why I have a team. That's why Nicole and the committee have
23 a team. All right. Are there any other questions?

24 MS. KNICKERBOCKER: Deborah Knickerbocker,
25 Department of Connecticut. I have a question that kind of
26 goes the other way. Under other, your actual and your
27 budget for last year was kind of high, and this year it's

1 kind of low. Is there a reason for that? Under other

2 MS. CONATSER: I have to look at the notes. I
3 don't have the notes with me because I didn't think I was
4 reporting, so -- does anyone -- Gary, do you have the notes?
5 You got Mary Beth, thank you.

6 MS. REVOIR: I think a simple answer --

7 MS. CONATSER: Okay.

8 MS. REVOIR: I think a simple answer to that is
9 every year we try to refine -- other is just an all-
10 encompassing figure, so we try to refine the things that are
11 in there and charge them out to exactly where they go. So
12 that as they come, if they're going to come repeatedly, then
13 they should be charged, whether it's to a program, whether
14 it's to a department, and those kind of things. So that's
15 kind of a catch-all of unexpected, you know, things that we
16 try to put in there or might be one term things.

17 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: That's right. In the last
18 year or two, we've been trying to do a better job of putting
19 those expenses in the program where they belong.

20 MS. REVOIR: Right, costing them out to the proper
21 department or division or whatever.

22 MS. CONATSER: Okay.

23 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Go to the microphone.

24 MS. CONATSER: There is no credit card
25 distributions anymore to the departments from USAA.

26 MS. REVOIR: Departments, and that's where they
27 came out of.

1 MS. CONATSER: That's where that came out of, Deb.
2 USAA no longer is -- there's no distribution out to the
3 departments and we're not getting the distribution to
4 distribute there. So we're not keeping your money. Any
5 other questions? Good questions. If not, on behalf of the
6 finance committee, Madam President, I move that we adopt the
7 budget with the correction of the 1.952 million should be in
8 brackets.

9 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Since the motion comes from
10 a committee, a second is not required. The question is on
11 the approval of the proposed fiscal year 2024 budget as
12 presented. Is there any discussion? Are you ready for the
13 question?

14 ALL: Yes.

15 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: The question is on the
16 approval of the fiscal year '24 budget as presented with
17 that one amendment. All those in favor, say aye.

18 ALL: Aye.

19 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Any opposed? The motion to
20 adopt the budget has passed. Yay. Great job.

21 We now will welcome American Legion Auxiliary
22 Foundation president, Kathleen McGinnis, to present the
23 proposed '24 budget for the American Legion Auxiliary
24 Foundation. If you would please?

25 Kathy, the floor is yours.

26 MS. MCGINNIS: Thank you very much. You have in
27 your packets the Auxiliary Foundation budget. I would tell

1 you that we are excited this year to be presenting a
2 positive budget. The last two years, our budget presented
3 was a deficit, and this is not.

4 We have been as frugal as possible. We have
5 reduced some staff expense and are working to make sure that
6 we raise lots of money for the Foundation and thank you all
7 because I believe we raised just over 25,000 at this
8 convention for the mission endowment fund.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. MCGINNIS: Oh, sorry, wild applause. Are
11 there any questions about the Foundation budget? Okay.
12 Hearing none, by direction of the board of directors of the
13 American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, I move for the
14 ratification of our budget.

15 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: The Chair assumes a motion
16 to adopt the fiscal year '24 American Legion Auxiliary
17 Foundation budget as presented. Is there any discussion?
18 Are you ready for the question? The question is on the
19 approval of the proposed fiscal year '24 ALA Foundation
20 budget as presented. All those in favor, say aye.

21 ALL: Aye.

22 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Any opposed, say no. The
23 motion to adopt the budget has passed.

24 MS. MCGINNIS: And, Madam President, if I may, for
25 the past national presidents, several who have asked this
26 question, Carley will be reaching out to you to let you know
27 who the winners are and who your contact people will be at

1 the winning bidders. So it's coming for those who bought
2 the national presidents.

3 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: So the Chair now calls on
4 the National Risk and Compliance Committee chairman, Carol
5 Westergreen -- there she is -- for her report.

6 Carol?

7 (Pause.)

8 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Carol?

9 MS. WESTERGREEN: Yes.

10 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: The floor is yours.

11 MS. WESTERGREEN: Thank you. Good morning.

12 ALL: Good morning.

13 MS. WESTERGREEN: Look at all those smiling
14 beautiful faces out there. National President Lisa, risk
15 and compliance is ready to go. So for those of you who are
16 new, risk and compliance, we are the -- I call us the quiet
17 committee. We sit in the background. We work on your
18 policies and procedures. We work with national headquarters
19 staff to make sure that things at the national headquarters
20 office is going as planned to -- as planned.

21 I want to thank right now Sara Riegel. On top of
22 many things, Sara is our liaison because she has nothing
23 else to do with her days. And Ms. Tamara back there. So my
24 grandfather once told me early to bed, early to rise makes a
25 man healthy, wealthy, and wise. So if you call me after 7
26 o'clock, I'm not going to answer because I'm in bed, but I'm
27 up by 4:00, so Ms. Tamara and Ms. Sara get emails from me

1 at 4 o'clock in the morning. They don't always answer me at
2 4 o'clock in the morning I will say, but yeah, so that's
3 kind of our joke because I think the first thing they do is
4 check the emails to see who -- what I've emailed them in the
5 morning.

6 This year, we have already started working. We
7 met in July by Zoom. Your risk and compliance, we meet by
8 Zoom. We met by Zoom and we have met with our auditors and
9 we are ready to go. We are ready to proceed with our audit.
10 We have set up a timeline so that we can assure you that
11 your income the income tax and the 990s, 990s, will be
12 filed in a timely manner. I say that because even though it
13 is not our responsibility at national headquarters or the
14 risk and compliance, please make sure that your departments
15 and your units are filing their 990s just like your national
16 headquarters does.

17 We will meet in person. We do meet one time a
18 year in person. We call it our roundtable discussion. If
19 you walk into that meeting which, will be on October the
20 8th, you will assume that we are getting nothing done, but
21 we do. We accomplish a lot that day. If there is something
22 that you feel that risk and compliance needs to handle --
23 and I have some people that have already emailed me some
24 questions -- we will bring it up that day. We're going to
25 meet in conjunction with Fall conference for the Legion and
26 we will have -- Mary Beth will be there with us and I think
27 our national president will possibly be there and we -- the

1 national secretary is invited to attend with us and we will
2 sit and we will discuss things that we will need to do for
3 the upcoming year. One of the things that we will be doing
4 is working with Constitution and Bylaws and we're excited
5 about that. I talked to Michele a little bit last night at
6 the State's Dinner. Yes, we had a good time, but we also
7 worked. And some things that we would like to see added to
8 Constitution and Bylaws.

9 I'm very excited for this year. Risk and
10 Compliance is an excit- -- it can be very exciting for those
11 of you who are DL&C. It is not probably the most exciting
12 thing for most folks. For me, this is what I do for a
13 living. When I'm not working for the -- not doing things
14 for the ALA, I'm working for risk and compliance.

15 I do want to thank everybody here. We've -- we
16 are ready to start this year and we're ready to go. And I
17 know that National President Lisa will have some exciting
18 things for us to work on this coming year. She's already
19 kind of tasked us with a couple of things and we're going to
20 dig into those for her. I do want to say a big thank you
21 because we do have two liaisons that work with us from the
22 finance. We're not finance. We don't cross that line. I
23 don't tell finance how to run their -- how to run finance.
24 They don't tell me how to run risk and compliance, but we do
25 have a liaison from them, and this year again, it will be
26 past National President Virginia Hobbs which I'm very
27 excited. And then we do have a liaison from the Foundation,

1 and it will be Carey Davenport. And my other two members
2 are Helen Wranglingler and Paulette Carden (phonetic) and
3 together, we will continue on and we're very excited about
4 this. Thank you.

5 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much, Carol.
6 Next, we're going to hear about some C&B items that we need
7 to take care of. Michele, if you'd come behind the
8 behind here at the podium, we would appreciate it.

9 MS. DEGENNARO: Good morning. Thank you, Madam
10 President. The amendment to the Bylaws, Article IX, Unit
11 Organization, Section 2, this passed by the 2023 national
12 convention delegation, already provides clarification
13 regarding the requirements of ten senior members needed to
14 charter an ALA unit.

15 There is language in the standing rules pertaining
16 to Bylaws, Article XI, Section 2 that was redundant, but now
17 because the bylaws amendment passed at this convention, the
18 standing rules in conflict and the best solution is to
19 strike National Standing Rule 11, excuse me, Units
20 Subsection 3.

21 Madam President, on behalf of the Constitution and
22 Bylaws Committee, I move for the adoption of the standing
23 rules amendment to strike ALA National Standing Rule 11
24 Units Subsection 3.

25 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: You received a copy of the
26 consequential amendment in advance in your NEC packet. If
27 there are no objections, we won't read the amendment.

1 Because this comes from a committee, we do not need a
2 second.

3 The question is on the adoption of the amendment
4 to strike ALA National Standing Rule Units, Subsection 3.
5 Is there any discussion? All those in favor of adopting
6 this amendment, please say aye.

7 ALL: Aye.

8 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Any opposed, no? The
9 motion has carried.

10 MS. DEGENNARO: Thank you, Madam President.

11 PRESIDENT WILLIAMSON: Thank you very much,
12 Michele. Is there any new business to come before the NEC
13 today? Hearing none, we will move on to the next item. If
14 there is no objection, we will go into executive session.
15 The Chair would like to include the following guests in
16 executive session: all the past national presidents,
17 Executive Director Sara Riegel, Deputy Executive Director
18 Tamara Shumate, Professional Registered Parliamentarian
19 Chris Dickey, Carol Westergreen as the risk and compliance
20 chair, Beverly Neel -- sorry -- Coral Grout and any national
21 headquarters team members that are needed.

22 There being no objections, we will go into
23 executive session first.

Whereupon, the National Executive Committee went into executive session at 10:15 a.m.

<u>Minutes Approval Committee</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>
Barbara White (AZ)	11/19/2023
Sharon Spiker (KS)	11/15/2023
Vicki Ozenbaugh (NE)	11/14/2023