



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**

OFFICIAL MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
of the
2026 ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

June 25–28, 2026
Crowne Plaza Resort Phoenix–Chandler Golf Resort
Chandler, Arizona

*Compiled by the Department Adjutant
Submitted to the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee
for review and approval as the official record of the convention*

Gary Vaughan, Department Commander, Presiding through Installation of Officers
Ross Bergstresser, Department Commander, Presiding for the Remaining Business of the Closing Session
Matthew Kritzer, Department Adjutant · Frank Hirrill, Acting Department Adjutant

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Note: Addendum B reproduces all thirteen committee and commission reports in full — nine written, four oral and transcribed from the session recording — so this volume is a complete, self-contained record of the convention.

FOREWORD

This volume has been prepared for the information of the members, posts, and districts of the American Legion, Department of Arizona. It is the official Summary of Proceedings of the 2026 Annual Department Convention, held June 25–28, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Phoenix–Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona.

It is a comprehensive record of the business conducted at the Convention: the actions of the Thursday Opening Session, the Friday committee and commission meetings, the Saturday Reconvened Business Session, and the Sunday Closing Session, together with the full text of all resolutions adopted, all committee and commission reports (written and oral), the governing Standing Convention Rules and Rules of Election, and the detailed roll-call and election vote records.

A Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 25, 2026, prior to the Opening Session, under the chairmanship of Scott Miller. This record includes a summary of that meeting and of the Department's most recent independent financial review, at the Finance Committee entry in the Thursday session and at Addendum G, so that this volume stands as a complete annual record in the manner of the National Convention Proceedings.

These proceedings were compiled from the official audio recordings of the convention, written committee reports, Credentials Committee records, vote tally sheets, and official convention documents. Where oral reports were delivered without accompanying written submissions, summaries have been prepared from the recordings to preserve a complete and continuous record of the convention.

Every effort has been made to accurately reflect the actions taken by the Convention. Any factual error identified after certification shall be addressed only through the errata procedure described herein and shall not alter the certified record.

This record is subject to the review and approval of the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee — Matthew Kritzer, Frank Hirrill, and David Roland — appointed by the Department Commander pursuant to the motion adopted at the Sunday, June 28, 2026 session. Upon that Committee's approval and signature, this record stands as the official record of the 2026 Annual Department Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona.

Matthew Kritzer

Department Adjutant, American Legion, Department of Arizona

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 — OPENING SESSION

6:00 p.m., San Marcos Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Resort Phoenix–Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met at 2:00 p.m., San Marcos Crowne Plaza Hotel, Chandler, Arizona, under Chairman Scott Miller. Voting members present: Scott Miller, Joe Melhorn, Al Young, Ken Queen, and Ernie Farris; also present in a non-voting capacity were Department Adjutant Matthew Kritzer, Finance Officer David Roland, and Assistant Finance Officer Jarvis Reddick. A quorum was established, and the minutes of the April 17, 2026 meeting were approved.

Merrill Lynch representatives provided an investment update on the Department's invested assets, reported at approximately \$2.8 million in the Department's most recently filed IRS Form 990, with favorable performance. Chairman Miller presented the Department's independent 2025 Financial Review Report (prepared by Absolute Tax and Financial Solutions), which found the Department in a financially stable position with strong internal controls, while recommending certain additional controls over expenditures and oversight; a condensed summary of that review is at Addendum G. The Adjutant reported that roughly 90% of the review's prior recommendations have been completed or are in progress.

The Committee approved a \$5,000 donation to Arizona Girls State and \$14,000 in Junior ROTC travel assistance funding, and approved a request to permit the Sons of The American Legion to resume operation of its annual Campout through a Campout Committee and Campout Chairman structure within its approved budget. The Committee also addressed certain facilities, security, and post-account matters in executive session, which are recorded in the Finance Committee's own minutes rather than in this convention record.

The Finance Officer presented the Department's financial position and a proposed FY 2026–2027 budget, which the Committee recommended for forwarding to the Department Executive Committee. That budget has not yet been acted upon by the Department Executive Committee, and will be published to the membership upon adoption; see Addendum G for the Department's most recent completed-year actuals. Per Standing Convention Rule 10, no financial motion may be entertained on the convention floor until the Finance Committee's report has been presented.

Call to Order

Department Commander Gary Vaughan called the 2026 Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, to order and welcomed the delegates, alternates, and guests in attendance.

Advancement of Colors, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance

The Color Guard advanced the colors under the direction of Department Sergeant-at-Arms Glenn White. Department Chaplain Ron DiBiasio offered the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to Convention

Department Adjutant Matthew Kritzer read the official Call to Convention, convening the 2026 Annual Department Convention for the period of June 25 through June 28, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Phoenix–Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona, for the purpose of conducting all business properly

coming before the body, including the adoption of resolutions, consideration of constitutional amendments, and the receipt of committee and commission reports.

Standing Convention Rules

Adjutant Kritzer read the Standing Convention Rules for the 2026 Annual Department Convention, adopted pursuant to Article IX, Section 2 of the Arizona Constitution and Bylaws. The rules established, among other matters: Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as the parliamentary authority except as modified by the standing rules; a quorum of one-third of the posts of the Department, cleared by the Credentials Committee; procedures for recognition, debate, and voting; the 30-day advance filing deadline for resolutions; the roll call and election order applicable to even-numbered-year conventions; procedures for area caucuses and proxies; and rules of decorum, appeal, and suspension of the rules.

Adjutant Kritzer further reported the designation of Frank Hirrill as Acting Department Adjutant, authorized to perform the duties of the Department Adjutant — including keeping the record of proceedings, calling the roll, and serving as secretary of the convention and of any Department Executive Committee meeting held in connection with the convention — during any period in which the Department Adjutant is absent or otherwise unable to act. The standing rules provide that adoption of this report constitutes the convention's appointment and ratification of this designation, and that it does not create a vacancy in the office of Department Adjutant under Article XI, Section 2 of the Department Constitution.

Roll Call

Adjutant Kritzer called the roll by post, from the lowest numbered post to the highest, followed by district commanders, past department commanders in order of service, and department vice commanders, in accordance with the standing rules for even-numbered-year conventions. The preliminary roll call was submitted to the Credentials Committee for verification.

Adoption of the Standing Convention Rules

MOTION: Joe Melhorn moved to adopt the Standing Convention Rules as read.

SECOND: Gerard Brinkmann, District Commander.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote.

Recognitions, Greetings, and Awards

The convention recognized the 2026 Eagle Scout of the Year, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, and Firefighter of the Year. Greetings were extended to the convention on behalf of the Mayor of Chandler, by the Chandler Chief of Police, and representatives of the Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the American Legion Riders, the 20 & 4, the 40 et 8, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, and the Veterans Benefits Administration. Department Commander Vaughan also recognized individual Legionnaires and posts for outstanding service during the 2025–2026 term.

Announcements

Adjutant Kritzer reviewed the Friday schedule of committee and commission meetings, the Membership Breakfast, the S.A.L. PDC meeting, the GNUTS Luncheon, the Commander's Homecoming Dinner and

Show, and a schedule change moving the American Legion Riders session to 2:00 p.m. Saturday. Delegates were reminded that registration and credentials would remain open in the foyer, and that a Department Executive Committee meeting to consider exceptions to the pre-convention voting-strength filing deadline was scheduled for Saturday at 3:30 p.m.

Recess

The Opening Session recessed. The Department Executive Committee convened immediately following adjournment, per the standing agenda.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026 — COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

No general session of the convention was held Friday. In accordance with the adopted convention schedule, the following commissions and their subordinate committees met throughout the day to prepare reports and resolutions for presentation to the reconvened session on Saturday, June 27:

Commission	Chair	Time
Americanism Commission	David Isham	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Internal Affairs Commission / PEAR Committee	Ross Bergstresser	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Bingo Committee	Charlie Lang	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Arizona American Legion College	Dr. Bobbie Kimelton	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Trophies and Awards Committee	Thomas “Woodie” Woodward	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Constitution and Bylaws Committee	Ron Arrigoni	9:00–11:30 a.m.
Children & Youth Commission	Jonell Sullivan	9:00–11:30 a.m.
S.A.L. PDC Meeting	Detachment Commander Manwell	11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
VA and Rehabilitation Commission	Paul Johnson	1:00–4:00 p.m.
National Security Commission	Roosevelt McKnight	1:00–4:00 p.m.
Legislative Commission / AZ Legislative Council	Jose “Mo” Maldonado	1:00–4:00 p.m.
Media & Communication / Marketing Commission	Frank Hirrill	1:00–4:00 p.m.
Convention and Conference Commission	Steve Sperl	1:00–4:00 p.m.

The full text of each committee and commission report is reproduced at Addendum B.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2026 — RECONVENED BUSINESS SESSION

9:00 a.m., San Marcos Ballroom A.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Department Commander Vaughan reconvened the convention. Adjutant Kritzer called the roll by post, from the lowest numbered post to the highest.

Credentials Report

Credentials Committee Chair Michelle Long reported that 81 active posts of the Department had been credentialed and cleared for participation in the convention, satisfying the one-third quorum requirement. The Credentials Report was received, a quorum was declared present, and the convention proceeded to business.

Convention and Conference Commission Report

Commission Chair Steve Sperl reported on convention registration and introduced the Department's new 100% Membership Plaque award, to be presented to posts achieving 100% or greater membership. Post 27 presented a \$25,000 donation to the Be the One program. The report was received.

Commission and Committee Reports

The Department Commander called in turn upon each commission chair to report on the committees within that commission's oversight. Following each report, the floor was opened for motions, amendments, and discussion. The full text of each report is reproduced at Addendum B; actions of the body on each report are recorded below.

AMERICANISM REPORT

David Isham, Chairman

Chairman Isham reported orally on behalf of the Americanism Commission. The report was received; there was no further discussion.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REPORT

Ross Bergstresser, Chairman

Chairman Bergstresser reported on the eight standing committees under Internal Affairs oversight, including the PEAR (Protocol, Ethics and Rules) Committee, which reported no requests for investigation during the term. The report was received; there was no further discussion.

CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS & RESOLUTIONS REPORT

Ron Arrigoni, Chairman

Chairman Arrigoni reported that the Committee had reviewed all resolutions submitted in advance of the 30-day filing deadline, disposing of a duplicate submission and referring one resolution concerning awards and trophies to the Trophies and Awards Committee for further processing. Four resolutions were forwarded to the floor for action, described below.

Motion to Read Resolve Clauses

Brad Heck spoke in favor of allowing the membership time to review the resolutions before voting.

MOTION: Upon motion duly made and seconded, the body voted to direct the Department Adjutant to read the resolve clauses of each pending resolution, so that delegates would have the full text in hand before voting.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote.

Resolution 26-001 — Ratification of the Department Constitution and Bylaws

RESOLVED, that the Annual Department Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, hereby ratifies and confirms the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department as revised on June 26, 2022, as the duly adopted governing documents of the Department, effective as of that date; that all actions, elections, appointments, and proceedings taken in reliance on the 2022 Constitution and Bylaws are confirmed and declared valid; that the Department Adjutant is authorized to incorporate all duly adopted amendments into an integrated text, to make non-substantive editorial corrections, and to reconcile any conflict with superior governing authority; and that the Department Commander and Department Adjutant shall certify the integrated document and file it with Department Headquarters and National Headquarters, and that the Department Adjutant shall prepare and file an integrated Constitution and Bylaws document within 30 days of the close of each future annual convention.

MOTION: A motion to adopt Resolution 26-001 was made by Billy Tinnin (Post 25) and seconded.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote. Resolution 26-001 was adopted.

Resolution 26-002 — American Legion Auxiliary Eligibility (National Constitutional Amendment)

RESOLVED, by American Legion Wayne V. McMartin Post 91, Chandler, Arizona, that Article VIII, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion be amended to change the eligibility language governing the American Legion Auxiliary from “mother” and “sisters” to “parents” and “siblings,” thereby extending eligibility to qualifying male relatives. This resolution, adopted at the post level on March 15, 2026, carries the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and, upon adoption, is to be forwarded to National Headquarters for consideration.

MOTION: Franklin Banaszewski (Post 39) moved to accept Resolution 26-002, with a recommendation to refer the resolution to National and seconded.

DISCUSSION: Several delegates, including the Commander of Post 86, spoke in support of the resolution.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote. Resolution 26-002 was adopted and directed to be forwarded to National Headquarters.

Resolution 26-003 — Support for Voter Identification Requirements

RESOLVED, that The American Legion supports the requirement that individuals provide valid proof of identity and United States citizenship when registering to vote and/or casting a ballot in federal elections; that any such requirement must not infringe upon or unlawfully restrict the constitutional right of eligible citizens to vote; that any identification requirement must include free and timely access to the necessary

documents so that no citizen is prevented from voting due to financial hardship; and that state and federal governments should ensure clear, accessible, and efficient processes for citizens to obtain, update, or correct required identification well in advance of Election Day.

MOTION: A motion was made by David Dunn (Post 26) and seconded to adopt Resolution 26-003.

DISCUSSION: Delegates raised and discussed questions concerning the respective roles of state and federal authority over election administration and the resolution's relationship to pending federal legislation. Following discussion, the question was called.

VOTE: A voice vote was taken; a roll-call vote was then requested and conducted. Not every Post or every authorized delegate present elected to cast a vote, and some delegates were temporarily absent from the floor during the roll call. Accordingly, the recorded vote reflects only those votes actually cast. Result: 40 yea, 13 nay, 1 abstention (54 delegate votes recorded). The motion carried. Resolution 26-003 was adopted. This recorded total is lower than the 849 certified voting strength; see Addendum D for a note on this gap.

Chairman Arrigoni's report, as supplemented by Resolutions 26-001 through 26-003, was received.

Resolution 26-004 — Endorsement of Candidacy, National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion

Unlike Resolutions 26-001 through 26-003, Resolution 26-004 did not originate with, or pass through, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee; it was introduced directly to the convention floor by the Department Adjutant as a procedural resolution, since a candidacy endorsement of this kind requires only the body's approval and not committee review.

RESOLVED, by Wayne V. McMartin Squadron 91, that the Department endorses and supports Christopher Brian Balsley as a candidate for the office of National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, and that this endorsement be forwarded to the appropriate detachment, department, and national levels as formal notice.

MOTION: Dave Dunn (Post 26) moved to adopt Resolution 26-004.

SECOND: Seconded from the floor.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote. Resolution 26-004 was adopted.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

Jose “Mo” Maldonado, Chairman

Chairman Maldonado reported on the joint meeting of the Department Legislative Committee and Congressional Council held Friday, June 26, 2026, attended by 23 Legion members and two guests, including a state legislator and a representative of the Arizona National Guard. The report addressed advocacy priorities, engagement with the state legislature, and opposition to the Arizona “claim shark” bill. The report was received.

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION REPORT

Roosevelt McKnight, Chairman

The National Security Commission report, covering border security, emergency response resources, and the law enforcement and firefighter of the year award process, was received.

MEDIA, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Frank Hirrill, Chairman

Chairman Hirrill reported on department website usage, online form activity, and a \$35,000 marketing budget for radio, digital billboard, and print advertising, subject to approval by the Department Executive Committee's finance process. The report was received.

Area Caucuses

Because the Saturday business session extended beyond its scheduled conclusion, the Area caucuses were convened immediately following adjournment of the business session rather than at their originally scheduled time.

Announcements and Recess

Area caucuses for the nomination of incoming department vice commanders were convened following the session: Area A (La Ventana, presided by Jose “Mo” Maldonado), Area B (Ballroom A, presided by Gerard “VooDoo” Valle), and Area C (Chandler Theater, presided by Ron Arrigoni). The Department Executive Committee was scheduled to meet at 3:30 p.m. The session recessed to reconvene Sunday, June 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., following the 8:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service.

SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026 — CLOSING SESSION

8:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service, conducted by Department Chaplain Ron DiBiasio and Auxiliary Chaplain Debra “DeDe” Dexter. 10:00 a.m., San Marcos Ballroom.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Department Commander Vaughan called the session to order. Adjutant Kritzer called the roll by post.

Final Credentials Report

Credentials Committee Chair Michelle Long reported that 84 active posts had been credentialed and cleared for participation in the convention, satisfying the one-third quorum requirement, and certified a voting strength of 849 for purposes of the election of department officers. The report was received and the certified voting strength accepted.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, ARIZONA DETACHMENT — REPORT

Bruce Callaghan

The Detachment Executive Committee met with no business before it. At the General Meeting, Squadron awards were presented (the inaugural Roland Mattson Award to Squadron 105; the Lorton and Kepler Awards to Squadron 91; the Son of the Year award to Phillip Coleman, Squadron 27). Nominations and elections for the 2026–2027 Detachment term were conducted, with the following results: Commander, Lance Bymers (Squadron 36); Area A Vice Commander, Chas Bird (Squadron 109); Area B Vice Commander, Charlie Sullivan (Squadron 105); Area C Vice Commander, no nominee; Chaplain, Jim Borgman (Squadron 61); NEC, Chris Balsley (Squadron 91); Alternate NEC, Gary Manwell (Squadron 27); Adjutant, Steven Vandez (Squadron 2); Finance Officer, Phillip Coleman (Squadron 27); Membership, Ed Cleary (Squadron 2). Donations totaling \$105,807.92 were received for ALLECA, the CHAMP Foundation, the CWF, Boys State, and COTA. The report was received.

American Legion Riders Report

The convention received the annual report of the American Legion Riders. The report summarized the Riders' activities during the 2025–2026 administrative year and recognized the continued support provided by Rider chapters throughout the Department. The report was received without objection.

Final Convention and Conference Report

Chairman Steve Sperl reported final convention attendance of 962 registered Legion family members, announced the Fall Conference for November 6–8, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Tucson–Reid Park in Tucson, and reported the Commission's recommendation that the 2027 Annual Department Convention return to the San Marcos Crowne Plaza Resort, Chandler, Arizona, Chandler, Arizona, June 24–27, 2027. The report was received.

Designation of the 2027 Convention Site

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to designate Chandler, Arizona, as the site of the 2027 Annual Department Convention on the dates recommended by the Commission.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote, with no dissent recorded. Chandler, Arizona, was designated as the site of the 2027 Annual Department Convention.

Election of Department Officers

Acting Adjutant Frank Hirrill read the Rules of Election governing the nomination, election, and ratification of department officers at the 2026 Annual Department Convention, adopted pursuant to Article IX, Section 2 of the Arizona Constitution and Bylaws (reproduced in full at Addendum C). The order of election was: Department Commander; Department Vice Commander, Area A; Department Vice Commander, Area B; Department Vice Commander, Area C; National Executive Committeeman; and Alternate National Executive Committeeman (the latter two offices being elected in even-numbered years for two-year terms). The certified voting strength for these elections was 849 (see Final Credentials Report, above).

Department Commander

Nominees: Bruce Callaghan and Ross Bergstresser. No further nominations were made from the floor; nominations were declared closed. A roll-call vote was conducted by post. The session recessed for five minutes to tally the vote (motion by Barry Lowery, seconded by Billy Ellis, carried).

RESULT: Ross Bergstresser, 442 votes; Bruce Callaghan, 305 votes; 747 votes cast. Ross Bergstresser, having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Department Commander of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, for the 2026–2027 term. (The two independent tally sheets differed by a single vote between the candidates — 442/305 and 441/306 — both cast totaling 747; the discrepancy did not affect the outcome and is noted at Addendum D.)

Department Vice Commander, Area A

Nominee (from the Area A caucus): Al Young. No further nominations were made from the floor.

MOTION: A motion to ratify Al Young as Department Vice Commander, Area A, was made and seconded.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote. Al Young was declared duly ratified.

Department Vice Commander, Area B

Nominee (from the Area B caucus): Paul Johnson. No further nominations were made from the floor.

MOTION: Lyndon Jungen moved to ratify Paul Johnson as Department Vice Commander, Area B.

SECOND: Barry Lowery, District 11 Commander.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote. Paul Johnson was declared duly ratified.

Department Vice Commander, Area C

Nominee (from the Area C caucus): Catherine Ford. No further nominations were made from the floor.

MOTION: A motion to ratify Catherine Ford as Department Vice Commander, Area C, was made.

SECOND: Seconded by the Commander of Post 93.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote. Catherine Ford was declared duly ratified.

National Executive Committeeman (Two-Year Term)

Nominees: Ken Queen and Andy Jaime. No further nominations were made from the floor; nominations were declared closed. A roll-call vote was conducted by post, followed by a five-minute recess to tally the vote.

RESULT: Ken Queen, 412 votes; Andy Jaime, 335 votes; 747 votes cast. Ken Queen, having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected National Executive Committeeman for the American Legion, Department of Arizona, for a two-year term.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman (Two-Year Term)

Nominees: Manny Beltran and Steve Sperl. No further nominations were made from the floor; nominations were declared closed. A roll-call vote was conducted by post, followed by a five-minute recess to tally the vote (motion by Billy Ellis, seconded by Gerard Brinkmann, District Commander, carried).

RESULT: Manny Beltran, 459 votes; Steve Sperl, 281 votes; 740 votes cast. Manny Beltran, having received a majority of the votes cast, was declared duly elected Alternate National Executive Committeeman for a two-year term.

Ken Queen (NEC) is a member of Post 27; Manny Beltran (Alternate NEC) is a member of Post 68. The two offices are accordingly held by members of different Posts, as required. Post-by-post roll-call vote records for the Department Commander, NEC, and Alternate NEC elections are compiled at Addendum D. The Resolution 26-003 roll-call vote was also conducted on delegate voting strength, consistent with Standing Convention Rule 7, but is presented at Addendum D only as an aggregate tally, since no post-by-post breakdown was preserved for that vote (see Addendum D for explanation).

Installation of Officers

The Department Commander conducted the combined installation of the officers of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, and the Sons of The American Legion, Arizona Detachment, in the following order: Department Commander; Department Vice Commanders, Areas A, B, and C; District Commanders; Detachment Commander; Detachment Vice Commanders, Areas A, B, and C; Detachment Adjutant; Detachment Finance Officer; and Detachment Chaplain. The oath of office was administered to all incoming officers, who were thereupon installed for the 2026–2027 term.

Outgoing Department Commander Gary Vaughan presided over the convention through the administration of the oath of office. Upon Commander Bergstresser's installation, presiding authority for the balance of the session passed to him, and he presided over the remaining business recorded below, including the motion establishing the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee. The Rules of Election's provision that officers "take office immediately upon adjournment" (Addendum C) fixes the formal start of the 2026–2027 term of office for administrative purposes; it is longstanding Convention practice, consistent with that provision, for a newly installed officer to assume the chair for the remainder of the same session in which installation occurs.

Establishment of the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee

MOTION: Billy Tinnin moved: "That a committee of three be appointed by the Department Commander to approve the minutes of this convention, and that the minutes as approved by the committee stand as the official record of the 2026 Annual Department Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona."

SECOND: Seconded from the floor.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: The motion carried by voice vote.

Pursuant to the adopted motion, Department Commander Bergstresser appointed the following three members to the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee: Matthew Kritzer, Frank Hirrill, and David Roland. The names of the appointees were recorded by the Acting Adjutant.

Declarations of Candidacy for 2027–2028 Department Office

The floor was opened for declarations of candidacy for department office for the 2027–2028 term. Gary Vaughan was announced as a candidate for Department Commander (nominated by Dr. Bobbie Kimelton). Jose “Mo” Maldonado was announced as a candidate for Department Commander (nominated by Michael Simon). Lyndon Jungen was announced as a candidate for Department Vice Commander, Area B. No further declarations were made; the period for declarations of candidacy was declared closed. These declarations are recorded for the information of the membership and constitute no action of the convention.

Unfinished Business and New Business

There was no unfinished business carried over from a prior session, and no new business was raised other than that recorded above.

Final Announcements

Acting Adjutant Hirrill announced that the official minutes and proceedings of the convention would be compiled by the Department Adjutant and submitted to the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee, and that the minutes, as approved by the Committee, would stand as the official record of the 2026 Annual Department Convention. The PDC Luncheon was announced for 2:00 p.m. at Post 91.

Benediction, Retirement of Colors, and Adjournment

Department Chaplain Ron DiBiasio offered the benediction. The Colors were retired under the direction of Department Sergeant-at-Arms Glenn White. There being no further business, the 2026 Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, was declared adjourned.

The Department Executive Committee (DEC) — a separate governing body of the Department — convened immediately following adjournment, after a ten-minute recess, in the San Marcos Ballroom, presided over by the newly elected Department Commander, and met on two other occasions during convention week (Thursday following the Opening Session, and Saturday at 3:30 p.m.). The DEC's proceedings are recorded in its own minutes and are not part of the convention record set out in this volume.

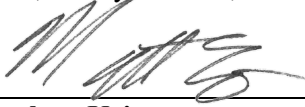
CERTIFICATION

Minutes and Digest Approval Committee

Pursuant to the motion duly adopted by the 2026 Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, on June 28, 2026 (see Sunday, June 28, 2026 — Closing Session, “Establishment of the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee,” above), the undersigned were appointed by the Department Commander as the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee, for the purpose of reviewing and approving the official minutes and proceedings of the convention.

We, the undersigned members of the Minutes and Digest Approval Committee, do hereby certify that we have reviewed the foregoing minutes and proceedings of the 2026 Annual Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona — comprising the Thursday Opening Session, the Friday committee and commission meetings, the Saturday Reconvened Business Session, and the Sunday Closing Session, together with Addenda A through G — and that we approve the same as a true, complete, and accurate record of the actions taken.

By our signatures below, these minutes, as approved, stand as the official record of the 2026 Annual Department Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department.



Matthew Kritzer
Member, Minutes and Digest Approval Committee

7/9/2026

Date



Frank Hirrill
Member, Minutes and Digest Approval Committee

9 July 2026

Date

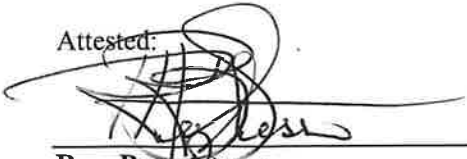
David Roland

David Roland
Member, Minutes and Digest Approval Committee

07/09/2026

Date

Attested:



Ross Bergstresser

Department Commander, American Legion, Department of Arizona

7/18/26

Date



Matthew Kritzer

Department Adjutant, American Legion, Department of Arizona

7/18/26

Date

Distribution and Filing: Upon execution of this Certification, the signed original shall be filed at Department Headquarters as the permanent record of the 2026 Annual Department Convention. Copies shall be made available to districts and posts upon request.

Corrections: Any factual error identified in this record after the Committee's signature shall not be corrected by altering the certified text above. Instead, it shall be logged in a signed errata memorandum referencing the specific page and passage affected, appended to the filed original, and reported to the membership at the next Department Convention or Department Executive Committee meeting.

ADDENDUM A

Resolutions Adopted by the 2026 Annual Convention

Resolution 26-001 — Ratification of the Department Constitution and Bylaws

Originating Source: Constitution, Bylaws & Resolutions Committee. Action: Adopted, Saturday, June 27, 2026, by voice vote.

RESOLVED, that the Annual Department Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, assembled in Chandler, Arizona, hereby ratifies and confirms the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, as revised on June 26, 2022, as the duly adopted governing documents of this Department, with full force and effect from and after June 26, 2022, as though properly executed and signed on that date; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all actions, elections, appointments, proceedings, and decisions of the Department, its officers, its Executive Committee, its districts, and its posts, taken in reliance upon the 2022 Constitution and Bylaws from June 26, 2022 to present, are hereby confirmed and declared valid in all respects; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Department Adjutant is authorized and directed to incorporate into the official Constitution and Bylaws text all amendments duly adopted by the membership at this and any prior convention for which no updated integrated text was produced, and to make such editorial, grammatical, and formatting corrections as necessary to accurately reflect the intent of the amendments adopted, without substantive change; and be it further

RESOLVED, that if any provision is found to conflict with superior governing authority, including the National Constitution and Bylaws, the Department Adjutant shall revise the text only to the extent necessary to conform to such authority and shall report the revision to the membership at the next Department Convention or Executive Committee meeting; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the Department Commander and Department Adjutant shall each execute a certification that the attached document constitutes the Constitution and Bylaws of the Department as ratified by the Annual Convention on June 27, 2026, to be filed at Department Headquarters, provided to National Headquarters, and posted on the Department's official website; and that the Department Adjutant shall, within 30 days following the adjournment of each future annual convention, prepare, execute, and file a signed and dated integrated Constitution and Bylaws document reflecting all amendments adopted at that convention.

Resolution 26-002 — American Legion Auxiliary Eligibility

Originating Source: American Legion Wayne V. McMartin Post 91, Chandler, Arizona (adopted at the post level March 15, 2026); recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Action: Adopted, Saturday, June 27, 2026, by voice vote; forwarded to National Headquarters.

RESOLVED, by American Legion Wayne V. McMartin Post 91, Chandler, Arizona, in regular meeting assembled on the 15th day of March, 2026, that Article VIII, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The

American Legion be amended to read as follows: Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to (1) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted male and female descendants of members of The American Legion; and (2) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted male and female descendants of all men and women who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the eligibility periods of April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918, or any time after December 7, 1941, and who died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and those women who are eligible for membership in The American Legion in their own right.

Resolution 26-003 — Support for Voter Identification Requirements

Originating Source: Constitution, Bylaws & Resolutions Committee. Action: Adopted, Saturday, June 27, 2026, by roll-call vote, 40 yea – 13 nay – 1 abstention.

RESOLVED, that The American Legion supports the requirement that individuals provide valid proof of identity and United States citizenship when registering to vote and/or casting a ballot in federal elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such requirements must be implemented in a manner that does not infringe upon or unlawfully restrict the constitutional right of eligible United States citizens to vote; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any federal or state requirement for proof of identity or citizenship to vote must include free and timely access to the necessary documents, including but not limited to state-issued identification cards, driver's licenses, and certified copies of birth certificates, so that no American citizen is prevented from voting due to financial hardship; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that states and the federal government should ensure clear, accessible, and efficient processes for United States citizens to obtain, update, or correct required identification documents well in advance of Election Day.

Resolution 26-004 — Endorsement of Candidacy, National Vice Commander, Sons of The American Legion

Originating Source: Wayne V. McMartin Squadron 91. Action: Adopted, Saturday, June 27, 2026, by voice vote.

RESOLVED, by Wayne V. McMartin Squadron 91 that this body endorses and supports Christopher Brian Balsley as a candidate for the office of National Vice Commander of the Sons of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this endorsement reflects the confidence of Wayne V. McMartin Squadron 91 in his ability to serve with integrity, dedication, and fidelity to the mission of the Sons of The American Legion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate squadron, post, detachment, department, and national levels as formal notice of this endorsement.

ADDENDUM B

Committee and Commission Reports

The following thirteen reports were presented to the 2026 Annual Convention: nine submitted in writing, and four delivered orally and transcribed from the Saturday, June 27, 2026 session recording, as noted on each. They are reproduced here in full so that this volume stands as a complete, self-contained record of the convention.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION REPORT

Ross Bergstresser, Chairman

Given: June 27, 2026 — Arizona Legion Convention, San Marcos Crowne Plaza Resort, Chandler, Arizona, Chandler, Arizona.

The Internal Affairs Commission provides oversight for eight standing committees. Each committee delivered its report to the Commission on the date and at the location shown below (most during the Friday, June 26 committee meetings, with others reporting Thursday, Saturday, or Sunday per the convention schedule):

Committee	Report Given	Location
Arizona Legion College *	Friday, 9:00 a.m.	Ballroom B
Constitution, Bylaws & Resolutions	Friday, 9:00 a.m.	Chandler Theater
Bingo Committee	Friday, 9:00 a.m.	La Ventana Room
Finance Committee *	Thursday, 2:00 p.m.	Chandler Theater
IT Committee	Friday, 9:00 a.m.	Agua Vista Room
Membership *	Saturday, 10:00 a.m.	Palo Verde Room
Trophies and Awards	Sunday morning session	—
Protocol, Ethics and Rules (PEAR)	Standing / as requested	—

** Denotes a committee currently performing above expectations. The remaining five committees are currently meeting expectations.*

Protocol, Ethics and Rules (PEAR)

The PEAR Committee reports that there have been no requests for investigation of any protocol, ethics, or rules violations during the reporting period. The Committee stands ready to act on any request referred by the Department Executive Committee (DEC) or the Department Commander.

Committee Development

All committees under Internal Affairs oversight were challenged this year to prepare a Vision and Mission Statement, along with a written description of their duties and responsibilities.

The founder and previous chair of the Commission, now serving as its advisor in the role of Department Commander, was asked to provide a written Policy and Procedures document to assist the current chair in performing the duties of the office. To date, no such document has been provided.

Summary

No committee under Internal Affairs oversight reported any violations of protocol, ethics, or rules during the reporting period. Three committees are currently performing above expectations, and the remaining five are meeting expectations.

Ross Bergstresser

Internal Affairs Commission Chair

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION REPORT

Frank Hirrill, Chairman

Annual Report — July 1, 2025 to June 26, 2026.

The Media & Communications Commission continued its mission of expanding the Department's digital presence while providing modern communication tools and online services to Posts, Districts, committees, programs, and members throughout Arizona.

During the past year, the Department website continued to serve as the central communication hub for the organization, providing information, online registrations, reporting forms, membership resources, and event communications.

Website Performance

The Department website recorded approximately 44,100 visitor sessions during the reporting period, with over 30,700 engaged sessions, demonstrating consistent statewide usage and strong member interaction with Department resources. Traffic remained steady throughout the year with noticeable increases during conference registration, Boys State registration, convention preparation, and annual reporting periods.

Traffic sources included:

- 22,300 direct visits
- 20,900 organic search visits
- 635 email-generated visits
- 304 referral visits (44,139 total)

These numbers demonstrate that members continue to rely on the Department website as their primary source of information and services, while search engine visibility continues to improve.

Online Forms and Digital Services

The Department continues expanding online services to reduce paperwork and improve efficiency. During this reporting period:

- Department forms generated 11,215 total form impressions across the website.
- 2,235 successful form submissions were completed.
- Overall submission rate averaged approximately 19.9% of form impressions, indicating strong utilization of online services.

Most Utilized Department Services

- Department Conference Registration
- Department Convention Registration
- Arizona Boys State Registration
- Boys State School Registration
- Boys State Medical Forms
- Boys State School Nominations
- Post Officers Report Forms

- Service Officer Report Forms
- Department Travel Voucher submissions
- New Member Applications
- Contact Us requests
- ALR Officer Directory updates

These services significantly reduced manual paperwork while improving accuracy and response time.

Communications Support

- Department-wide email communications
- Convention registration and information
- Boys State online registration system
- Event promotion, committee support, and online application development
- Website news updates and calendar maintenance
- Department contact directories and digital document distribution

Technology Improvements

- Continued expansion of online registration capabilities
- Enhanced mobile compatibility for smartphones and tablets
- Improved online reporting tools for Posts and Districts
- Increased automation of Department forms and workflows
- Ongoing website security updates and maintenance
- Search engine optimization improvements

Looking Forward

- Expanding online services for Department committees
- Increasing website accessibility and member engagement
- Continuing modernization of Department communications
- Expanding electronic registration opportunities
- Continuing to reduce paper-based administrative processes where practical

Appreciation

I would like to thank the Department Commander, Department Officers, Committee Chairmen, District leadership, and Post leadership for their continued support and cooperation throughout the year.

Frank Hirrill

Chairman, Media & Communications Commission
The American Legion, Department of Arizona

INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION — IT DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT

April 29, 2026

Vision

To modernize the operational infrastructure of the Department, ensuring that all Legionnaires — regardless of location or financial constraints — have seamless access to training, resources, and convention participation through robust and innovative technology.

Mission

The IT Director provides specialized technical support to the Internal Affairs Commission by managing digital platforms, optimizing registration workflows, and expanding the reach of American Legion programs through virtual accessibility and secure data management.

Key Achievements (Past Year)

Implementation of Virtual Training: the introduction of the first-ever virtual training session at the last conference was a milestone for Department accessibility, engaging a broader demographic — specifically younger veterans who may face professional or financial barriers to travel.

- Impact: received widespread commendation for inclusivity and modernizing the Legion's educational outreach.

Virtual Training Attendance:

Session	Attendance
Media/Marketing	128
MyLegion	106
Post Ops Intro	129
Anti-Harassment	133
Be The One	206
American Legion College	206
JAG	134
Total Attendance	1,042

IT Director

Internal Affairs Commission
The American Legion, Department of Arizona

PSA, PRINT & BILLBOARD MEDIA CAMPAIGN
Budget Request to the Finance Committee

To: Finance Committee From: Marketing Commission Date: June 8, 2026

Executive Summary

This request outlines a multi-channel public service announcement (PSA) media campaign designed to maximize statewide outreach across Arizona. By leveraging non-profit and public education program structures, the Commission can turn a \$35,000 cash investment into an estimated \$150,000+ in actual media value — a 4-to-1 return through industry-matched airtime and steep regional discounts.

Proposed Budget Allocation

Media Channel	Provider / Partner	Budget	Est. Media Value
Broadcast Radio	Arizona Media Association (PEP Grant)	\$10,000	\$50,000+
Digital Billboards	Clear Channel / Outfront Media	\$15,000	\$60,000+
The Arizona Republic	LocaliQ Portal	\$7,500	\$30,000+
Production & Setup	Creative formatting & compliance	\$2,500	—
TOTAL REQUEST		\$35,000	\$140,000– \$150,000+

Line-Item Breakdown & Strategy

Broadcast Radio (\$10,000): executed through the Arizona Media Association's Public Education Program (PEP). The Department's funding acts as a sponsoring grant; in return, the AMA matches the investment and distributes the Department's 30- and 60-second spots to over 100 radio stations statewide.

Digital Billboards (\$15,000): funds an 8-week digital outdoor campaign targeting freeway corridors in Maricopa County and high-traffic commuter routes in Pima County, securing 1/4 slot rotations on standard 14' × 48' digital bulletins.

The Arizona Republic (\$7,500): print and digital placements determined dynamically around the Department's program schedule, favoring multiple quarter-page ads over fewer large formats, plus targeted digital impressions to online subscribers.

Creative Production & Setup (\$2,500): audio mastering for radio, digital graphic formatting across billboard pixel layouts, and compliance with state legal and disclosure guidelines.

Tracking and Reporting

- Radio Broadcast Logs — official AMA reports tracking time stamps, frequencies, and station call signs for every spot aired.
- Billboard Circulation Reports — verified traffic data confirming daily impressions at selected digital locations.
- Digital News Analytics — impressions and engagement rates from online news placements.

The Marketing Commission requests approval for this \$35,000 allocation to establish this statewide outreach framework.

Frank Hirrill

Chairman, Marketing Commission
The American Legion, Department of Arizona

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION REPORT

Jonell Sullivan

Meeting held: Friday, June 26, 2026 — Crowne Plaza Resort, Chandler, Arizona.

The Children and Youth Commission met on Friday, June 26, 2026. Four posts were represented.

Committee Discussion

One post shared the success of its reading program, noting that building relationships within schools has helped identify community needs while growing membership, and has created opportunities for the honor guard to teach flag etiquette to older students.

All posts reported providing scholarships ranging from \$50 to \$500 for various needs. JROTC partnerships were highlighted as a valuable resource, and partnerships with Scouting organizations were discussed, including efforts to fund summer camp programs for youth in need.

A rural post shared challenges related to food access for children and described a breakfast program and weekly meal service hosted at the post. Holiday events were also discussed — one post hosts a Christmas brunch and raffles bicycles for children — along with Halloween safety initiatives at community events.

The group discussed creating more opportunities to identify financial needs and provide mentorship to youth. The Education Committee proposed a Teacher of the Year award, which received full support; next steps include completing the approval process and finalizing the proposed monetary award.

Although the group was small, the discussion highlighted the meaningful impact posts are making to support children and families, and reinforced the importance of continued collaboration and community engagement.

Jonell Sullivan

Children & Youth Commission

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Jose “Mo” Maldonado, Chairman

Meeting held: Friday, June 26, 2026 — San Marcos Crowne Plaza Resort, Chandler, Arizona, Chandler, Arizona — 1300 hrs.

The Department Legislative Committee and the Congressional Council met Friday, June 26, 2026. There were 23 Legion members and two guests in attendance: Representative Stacey Travers from District 12, and a representative of the Arizona National Guard Military and Family Programs.

The session began with an overview of the American Legion's priorities and instructions on how to locate them on the national website. The Committee emphasized the importance of meeting with state and federal elected officials and encouraged members to review the “Know Before You Go” guidelines prior to those meetings. The Committee also discussed its advocacy activities during the March 2026 trip to Washington, D.C.

Following the discussion on national priorities, the Committee reviewed veteran-related bills from the recent session at the Arizona Capitol, and highlighted the Department's engagement with state representatives and senators to support veteran legislation and oppose the Arizona Claim Shark Bill. Commander Gary Vaughan was pivotal in leading joint efforts with the DAV and VFW to oppose that bill.

The meeting concluded with a call to action on building relationships with elected officials, utilizing email communication, and registering for the Request to Speak (RTS) system. Attendees were reminded that the American Legion is a non-partisan veteran organization and must remain neutral, and were encouraged to visit americanlegion.org/action and americanlegion.org/grassroots to sign up for push notifications. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hrs.

Jose “Mo” Maldonado

Arizona Legislative Chair, National Legislative Council
The American Legion, Department of Arizona

BINGO COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Charlie Lang, Chairman

To: Ross Bergstresser, Chairman, Internal Affairs Commission. Meeting held: Friday, June 26, 2026, 0900 hrs — San Marcos Hotel, Chandler, Arizona.

The Bingo Committee meeting was chaired by Charlie Lang. No other Committee members were in attendance. Twenty-four Legion members representing twenty different Posts across the Department were present.

Topics Discussed

- Bingo quarterly taxes
- Bingo licensing
- How to hold various types of bingo games
- Department of Revenue reporting

Guest Speaker

Don Fiecher of Bonanza Bingo presented information on the services offered by Bonanza Bingo.

Note

The Department of Arizona does not endorse any bingo vendor and does not instruct individual Posts on how to run bingo. The Department's role is limited to providing available information so that each Post can make the decisions that are right for its operation.

Charlie Lang

Bingo Committee Chairman

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

TROPHIES & AWARDS COMMITTEE — FINAL REPORT

2026

This report was held in strict confidence, per the Committee's original request, until each award was announced to the convention: the Bieri Award was announced Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 1400 hrs, and the Legionnaire of the Year was announced during the Sunday, June 28, 2026 session. The results known from the convention record are noted below.

Meeting held: Friday, June 26, 2026, 0900 hrs — La Vaca Room, Crowne Plaza San Marcos, Chandler, Arizona.

The Trophies & Awards Committee met with four members and two guests in attendance; Department Commander Vaughan abstained due to other commitments.

Uncontested Awards

- Outstanding Color Guard — Categories 1–135, 2–133, 3–94, 4–27
- Outstanding Honor Guard — Categories 1–135, 2–133, 3 (no entry), 4–27
- Commander's Community Service Award — Category 3–94 (only entry received)
- Garland Wood Service Officer of the Year — no entries

Judged Awards

- Bieri Award — 3 entries received, including Unit 62 (the other participating Posts are recorded in the Committee's working papers, not reproduced here)
- Legionnaire of the Year — 4 entries received: Post 36 (Al Young), Post 52 (Bobby Wise), Post 68 (Manny Beltran), and Post 126 (Max Spalding)

History book entries (Posts 62, 113, 132, and 135) were forwarded to the Department Historian for judging. One SAL history book (Squadron 132) was turned in and forwarded to the Detachment for further action.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1030 hrs. The Bieri Award winner was Unit 62 and announced by Commander Vaughan and the Committee Chairman on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 1400 hrs. The Legionnaire of the Year was announced during the Sunday, June 28, 2026 session: Al Young, Post 36, selected from among the four nominees listed above by a panel of past Legionnaires of the Year.

Woodie Woodward

Trophies & Awards Chairman
The American Legion, Department of Arizona

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION — ARIZONA DETACHMENT REPORT
Bruce Callaghan

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee meeting began at 8:04 a.m. There was no business before the Committee, and the meeting ended at 8:14 a.m.

General Meeting

The General Meeting followed. There were no resolutions to be acted on for this session. Squadron awards were presented: the inaugural Roland Mattson Award (Boys State contributions) went to Squadron 105; the Lorton and Kepler Awards went to Squadron 91. The Son of the Year award concluded the presentations and was awarded to Phillip Coleman of Squadron 27.

The meeting was suspended to complete nominations and elections for 2026–2027. Nomination forms and recommendation letters were received for all members seeking office.

Nominations (from the April Campout Meeting)

Office	Nominee	Squadron
Commander	Lance Byrers	36
Area A Vice Commander	No nominations (see note below)	—
Area B Vice Commander	Charlie Sullivan	105
Area C Vice Commander	No nominations	—
Chaplain	Jim Borgman	61
NEC	Chris Balsley	91
Alternate NEC	Gary Manwell	27
Adjutant	Steven Vandez	2
Finance Officer	Phillip Coleman	27
Membership	Ed Cleary	2

No candidate was nominated for Area A Vice Commander at the April Campout Meeting. Chas Bird (Squadron 109) was nominated from the floor at the General Meeting and was elected to that office, as reflected below.

Donations Received

Fund	Amount
ALLECA	\$5,510.82
CHAMP Foundation	\$1,526.00
CWF	\$3,828.82
Boys State	\$7,710.81
COTA	\$87,231.47
Total Donations Received for the Session	\$105,807.92

There was no other business before the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Bruce Callaghan

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

AMERICANISM COMMISSION REPORT

David Isham, Chairman

Oral Report — delivered Saturday, June 27, 2026 · no written report submitted. Committee meeting: Friday, June 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

David Isham stepped in as Americanism Chair this year after the previous chair relocated out of state, and delivered the Committee's report on its behalf. Six of the Commission's seven programs reported in at Friday's meeting.

ALLECA

The ALLECA program reported 35 students and 17 law enforcement professionals participating this year, marking its 45th anniversary and its first year running a competitive challenge component. The program is targeting growth toward roughly 60 cadets for 2027 to help balance costs, at an estimated \$1,000 per cadet.

American Legion Baseball

The senior league expanded from 14 to 15 teams and the junior league from 10 to 12 teams. Area playoffs and the state championship were scheduled for July at Sunset Park in Wickenburg, with the state champion advancing to regionals in Fairfield, California, August 5–9. The Committee also discussed possibly expanding the program to include softball for young women.

Boys State

Boys State reported 228 cadets and 45 staff this year, continuing a trend of growing enrollment. Attendees this year also witnessed a naturalization ceremony, described as a motivational experience for the cadets.

Junior Shooting Sports

The Committee is exploring ways to use technology to simplify range logistics and registration for air rifle teams, from the post level up through the Department.

Oratorical

Oratorical remains the Commission's lowest-cost program at an estimated \$17,500 and had a strong year. The Committee is standardizing an SOP packet to make it easier for posts to recruit participants and run the program.

Scouting

The Scouting program's budget is planned to remain level between 2026 and 2027.

Chairman Isham reported that Americanism programs are active and expanding across the Department, noting that Americanism programs, including baseball, have engaged roughly 1,000 youth across the Department this summer.

David Isham

Americanism Committee Chair

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

(Oral report — summarized from the convention recording; no signature on file)

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ron Arrigoni, Chairman

Oral Report — delivered Friday–Saturday, June 26–27, 2026 · no written report submitted. Committee meeting: Friday, June 26, 2026, 9:00 a.m., Chandler Theater.

The Committee met Friday to review resolutions submitted ahead of the 30-day pre-convention cutoff. Of the resolutions received, two were duplicates of one another — one was discarded and the other processed. A separate resolution was returned to the submitting post due to outstanding issues, and a resolution concerning awards, pins, and trophies was forwarded to the Trophies and Awards Committee, with likely follow-up needed from the Finance Committee to establish a budget.

Three resolutions were brought to the floor for membership action (see Addendum A for full text):

- Ratification of the Department Constitution & Bylaws (Resolution 26-001).
- American Legion Auxiliary eligibility (Resolution 26-002).
- Support for voter identification requirements (Resolution 26-003).

Following the Committee's report, the body approved a floor motion directing the Department Adjutant to read the resolve clauses of each resolution aloud, so that members would have the full text in hand before voting.

A fourth resolution, Resolution 26-004 (endorsement of a Sons of The American Legion national candidacy), was brought to the convention floor separately by the Department Adjutant as a procedural resolution requiring only the body's approval; it did not pass through the Constitution & Bylaws Committee's review process described above and is not included in this report. See Saturday, June 27, 2026, "Resolution 26-004," above, and Addendum A.

Ron Arrigoni

Constitution & Bylaws Committee Chairman

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

(Oral report — summarized from the convention recording; no signature on file)

VA & REHABILITATION COMMISSION REPORT

Paul Johnson, Chairman

Oral Report — delivered Saturday, June 27, 2026 · no written report submitted. Committee meeting: Friday, June 26, 2026, 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnson reported on an extended Friday committee session — roughly three hours, which he described as the longest VA discussion held at a Department convention in his experience. He recognized committee members Steve Palmer and Raphael Garcia for their support throughout the year.

The Commission credited Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center Director Elijah Ditter with the facility's high satisfaction ratings, attributing the results to his willingness to let the Department's Veteran Service Officers raise problems directly so they can be addressed. The Commission is also developing a website to give area, district, and post commanders centralized, ongoing access to VA and claims information.

The Committee also met with Amanda French, Acting Director of the Veterans Benefits Administration, along with staff from Arizona's congressional delegation, to discuss veterans' health care and claims benefits. Recent changes to claims rules were discussed, and members were encouraged to re-file previously denied claims in light of those changes.

Chairman Johnson closed by thanking members for their support throughout the year and reaffirming the Commission's commitment to veterans' benefits and health care.

Paul Johnson

VA & Rehabilitation Commission Chair

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

*(Oral report — summarized from the **convention** recording; no signature on file)*

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION REPORT

Roosevelt McKnight, Chairman

Oral Report — delivered Saturday, June 27, 2026 · no written report submitted. Committee meeting: Friday, June 26, 2026.

Chairman McKnight opened by thanking Gerard Brinkmann for covering Friday's committee meeting after a family emergency required McKnight to return to Tucson.

McKnight spoke to Southern Arizona's role as a border region on the front line of national security, balancing enforcement against drug trafficking, human smuggling, and transnational criminal activity with support for trade, tourism, and strong community partnerships. He emphasized that effective security depends on resourcing border communities, supporting first responders, investing in technology, and fostering cooperation across federal, state, local, and tribal governments.

Turning to the Committee's Friday meeting, McKnight reported 55 members in attendance. Subcommittee chair Lynn Solace briefed the group on the Department's emergency response trailers — their capabilities and purpose — and on free online training available through FEMA. The Committee also discussed the Law Enforcement and Firefighter of the Year award submission packages and selection process, and received a border security briefing.

Roosevelt McKnight

National Security Commission Chair

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

(Oral report — summarized from the convention recording; no signature on file)

American Legion Riders Report

Tracy Lindsey, Chairman

Oral Report — Delivered Sunday, June 28, 2026 · No Written Report Submitted. ALR meeting: Saturday, June 27, 2026, 2:00–4:00 p.m

Chairman Lindsey reported on a strong and successful year for the American Legion Riders, marked by increased participation, successful events, and continued support of veteran and Legion family programs.

The Fourth Annual Legacy Ride was highlighted as a key success, raising approximately \$4,000 in support of the Veterans & Children Foundation. The Department also hosted its first inaugural gala, which was well attended and positively received by participants. The American Legion Riders National Chairman and spouse were present for the gala weekend, further underscoring the significance of the event.

Combined fundraising efforts from the Legacy Ride, the inaugural gala, and additional donations resulted in approximately \$35,000 raised in support of the Veterans & Children Foundation.

Chairman Lindsey noted strong enthusiasm among Riders to continue the gala as an annual event and to expand participation and fundraising opportunities in the coming year.

The report emphasized the Riders' continued impact through collaboration across the American Legion Family, including Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, and Auxiliary members, demonstrating the effectiveness of coordinated efforts in supporting veterans, children, and families in need.

In closing, Chairman Lindsey recognized the dedication of Riders leadership, members, volunteers, and supporters whose efforts contributed to the success of the year's programs and events.

Tracy Lindsey

American Legion Riders Department Chairman

The American Legion, Department of Arizona

(Oral report — summarized from the convention recording; no signature on file)

ADDENDUM C
Standing Convention Rules and Rules of Election (Verbatim)

The Standing Convention Rules and the Rules of Election governing the 2026 Annual Department Convention are reproduced below in full, as adopted, so that this volume stands as a complete record of the rules under which the convention's business — including the roll call and all elections — was conducted.

Standing Convention Rules of the 2026 Annual Department Convention

Adopted pursuant to Article IX, Section 2 of the Arizona Constitution and Bylaws, and consistent with the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Uniform Code of Procedure.

RULE 1 — AGENDA: The program of the Convention shall be in accordance with the agenda of the Department Commander. Deviation from the agenda may be made if there is no objection. If objection is made, a majority vote of the accredited voting strength of the Convention shall be required to change the order of business.

RULE 2 — PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY: Except as modified by these Standing Convention Rules, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Convention.

RULE 3 — QUORUM: A quorum shall exist when delegates from one-third of the Posts of the Department of Arizona are present. No vote shall be taken unless one-third of Posts have been cleared by the Credentials Committee. Each Post must have paid all Department and District fees and assessments in order to be cleared and authorized to vote.

RULE 4 — SECURING THE FLOOR: To be recognized, a delegate must state his or her name, the name and number of his or her Post, and any official capacity currently held in The American Legion. Military titles shall not be used.

RULE 5 — DEBATE LIMITS: No individual delegate shall be permitted the floor more than twice on any subject, and is limited to three minutes each time, except by consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention. Committee Chairpersons may speak as frequently as necessary in connection with reports of their committees.

RULE 6 — RESOLUTIONS: All Resolutions to be presented to the Annual Convention must be typewritten in triplicate and forwarded to Department Headquarters no later than thirty days prior to the opening of the Convention so that they may be numbered, recorded, and assigned to the proper Convention Committee. Resolutions originating in a Convention Committee may be presented to the floor. Resolutions may be presented from the floor if unanimous consent is given; or, in case of objection, a two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting is required for consideration.

RULE 7 — VOTING UNITS: Delegations shall vote in terms of full units and not as fractional parts of a vote. They may arrive at their vote in any manner they see fit; the unit rule shall not control the vote of a delegation.

RULE 8 — MAJORITY REQUIRED: A majority of the votes cast is necessary for the election or ratification of any officer or for the designation of a Conference City.

RULE 9 — ELIMINATION BALLOTING: In the event there are more than two nominees for any office and no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, the nominee receiving the least number of votes shall be dropped and the roll called again. This procedure shall be repeated until one nominee receives a majority. Any nominee for Department office must be present at the Convention meeting when nominated.

RULE 10 — FINANCIAL MOTIONS: Motions or resolutions involving expenditures of money or the incurrence of financial obligations by the Department shall not be in order until a report has been presented by the Department Finance Committee.

RULE 11 — ROLL CALL ORDER: Because 2026 is an even-numbered year, the roll shall be called by Post starting with the LOWEST-numbered Post and ending with the HIGHEST-numbered Post, followed by District Commanders, then Past Department Commanders in order of their service, Department Vice Commanders, and the Department Commander, in the order named.

RULE 12 — INDEFINITELY POSTPONED MATTERS: When a question presented to the Convention for its consideration has been indefinitely postponed, its subject matter shall not be presented again in any form earlier than the next Annual Convention.

RULE 13 — ELECTION ORDER: The election and ratification of Department Officers shall be conducted in the following order: Department Commander; Department Vice Commander Area A; Department Vice Commander Area B; Department Vice Commander Area C; National Executive Committeeman; Alternate National Executive Committeeman. The National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman are elected only in even-numbered years.

RULE 14 — AREA CAUCUS: Each Area shall nominate one Department Vice Commander from among its member Districts at an Area Caucus held the day before the election of officers. Each Post shall have one vote, cast by the currently elected Post Commander or authorized designee, in writing, prior to the caucus. After two votes, if a tie remains, the tied nominees shall each draw a card from a standard deck of playing cards; the nominee drawing the LOWEST card is declared the nominee. The nominees so selected shall be presented to the floor for ratification.

RULE 15 — CREDENTIALS AND PROXIES: Proxies must be in writing and recognized only when presented by members in good standing of the Post they represent. A Post's voting strength is assessed thirty days prior to Convention: three delegate votes per Post, plus one additional vote per fifty members (or major fraction) paid at least thirty days prior. A Post must also have paid all Department and District dues and assessments at least thirty days prior to be cleared. Failure to meet these obligations may result in denial of voting rights, subject to appeal to the Department Executive Committee.

RULE 16 — DECORUM: All persons recognized by the presiding officer are entitled to a respectful hearing. The presiding officer may restore order, clear the gallery, or direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove anyone creating a disturbance.

RULE 17 — APPEALS FROM THE CHAIR: Decisions on rules of parliamentary order by the presiding officer may be appealed by any two delegates under a point of order, taking precedence over any pending question, decided forthwith on the question: Shall the Chair be sustained?

RULE 18 — FLOOR AMENDMENTS: Any amendment to a resolution or report originating on the floor shall be presented in writing and transmitted to the presiding officer at the time of introduction.

RULE 19 — SUSPENSION OF RULES: The consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention is necessary for the suspension of any of these Standing Convention Rules.

RULE 20 — NON-POLITICAL CONDUCT: The American Legion is absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No discussions of a partisan political nature shall be permitted on the Convention floor.

RULE 21 — DESIGNATION OF ACTING DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT: Department Adjutant Matthew Kritzer shall serve as Adjutant of this Convention while present and able to act. In the event he is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office, Frank Hirrill is designated Acting Department Adjutant and shall, without further motion, assume and perform all duties of the Department Adjutant for the duration of such absence — including keeping the record of proceedings, calling the roll, serving as secretary of the Convention and of any DEC session held in connection with it, and signing and authenticating documents jointly with the Department Commander. Adoption of this report constitutes the Convention's appointment and ratification of this designation; it does not create a vacancy in the office of Department Adjutant. The Department Adjutant of record is authorized to make technical corrections to the minutes without changing their intent.

Rules of Election — 2026 Annual Department Convention

Even-Numbered Year | Adopted pursuant to AZ C&BL Bylaws Article IX, Section 2 | Consistent with the National Constitution & Bylaws and the Uniform Code of Procedure.

Offices to Be Elected (2026), in Order

- Department Commander
- Department Vice Commander — Area A
- Department Vice Commander — Area B
- Department Vice Commander — Area C
- National Executive Committeeman (NEC) — even years only, two-year term
- Alternate National Executive Committeeman (Alt-NEC) — even years only, two-year term

Candidacy and Eligibility

- Any nominee for a Department office must be present at the Convention meeting at which nominated.
- No elective Department Officer shall be eligible for election to succeed himself or herself, unless no candidate for Area Vice Commander has announced (AZ C&BL Art. VI, §1a).
- A member elected NEC or Alt-NEC is eligible to succeed himself or herself. The NEC and Alt-NEC shall not be members of the same Post.
- A person holding an executive office (Commander or Vice Commander) at the Department, District, or Post level may not hold any other executive office at the same time.
- Area Vice Commander candidates must notify the Area Vice Commander and each Post in the Area, in writing, no later than 100 days before the Convention opens.
- The Department Commander, Area Vice Commanders, and District Commanders must complete the Department of Arizona American Legion College at the next offering after announcing candidacy, unless previously completed.

Area Caucuses

- Held the day before the election of officers; the sitting Area Vice Commander presides.
- Each Post has one vote, cast by its elected Commander (or written designee).
- After two ballots, a remaining tie is broken by a card draw — lowest card wins the nomination.
- Caucus nominees are presented to the floor for ratification at the normal time and place.

Credentials, Quorum, and Voting Strength

- Quorum: delegates from one-third of active Posts, cleared by the Credentials Committee.
- Each Post must be current on Department and District fees/assessments (30 days prior) to be cleared to vote.
- Voting strength: 3 Delegates per Post plus 1 per 50 members (or major fraction), as of 30 days prior.
- Ex-officio delegates — each Past Department Commander in good standing, the Department Commander, each Department Vice Commander, the Department Finance Officer, and each District Commander — hold one full vote each, with no power of proxy.
- Proxies must be in writing and recognized only for members in good standing of the Post represented; denial of voting rights for unmet financial obligations is appealable to the DEC.

Voting Procedure

- A majority of votes cast is necessary for election or ratification of any officer.
- Delegations vote in full units, not fractional parts; the unit rule does not control.
- Roll call (even year): lowest-numbered Post to highest, then District Commanders, Past Department Commanders in order of service, Department Vice Commanders, and the Department Commander.
- Elimination balloting applies when more than two nominees stand and no nominee has a majority: the lowest-vote nominee is dropped and the roll is called again, repeating until one nominee has a majority.

National Executive Committeeman — Special Provisions

- The NEC and Alt-NEC serve two-year terms.
- If the NEC office becomes vacant, the Alt-NEC succeeds for the unexpired term. A vacancy in the Alt-NEC office is filled by Department Commander appointment with DEC consent, until a successor is elected.

Conduct of the Election

- The Department Commander presides and may restore order, clear the gallery, or direct the Sergeant-at-Arms to remove anyone interfering with orderly procedure.
- A presiding officer's ruling on a point of order may be appealed by any two delegates and is decided forthwith on the question, "Shall the Chair be sustained?"
- The American Legion is absolutely non-political; no partisan discussion or candidate promotion for public office is permitted on the floor.
- Suspension of any of these Rules of Election requires the consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention.

Any conflict between these rules and the National Constitution or Bylaws is resolved in favor of the National documents. All Department Officers elected at the Convention take office immediately upon adjournment.

ADDENDUM D

Election and Roll-Call Vote Detail

The tallies below were compiled from the independent tally sheets kept during the roll-call votes of the 2026 Annual Convention (Sunday, June 28, 2026, elections; Saturday, June 27, 2026, Resolution 26-003), cross-checked among the vote-counting team.

Resolution 26-003 — Support for Voter Identification Requirements (Saturday, June 27)

Voted on delegate voting strength, per Standing Convention Rule 7, the same basis used for the elections below (not one-Post, one-vote — that basis applies only to Area Caucus nominations and District elections).

Result	Delegate Votes
Yea	40
Nay	13
Abstain	1
Total Recorded	54

This recorded total (54) is well below the Sunday elections' 747–849 range. The roll call was taken as a division of the house following a voice vote and captured only the Posts whose delegates responded audibly or by show of card, rather than a full canvass of every Post's delegate strength. The Department Adjutant reconciled this figure against the Credentials Committee's working papers as one vote per post that met credentials and cast a vote.

Department Commander (Sunday, June 28)

Certified voting strength: 849.

Candidate	Tally Sheet 1	Tally Sheet 2
Ross Bergstresser	442	441
Bruce Callaghan	305	306
Total Votes Cast	747	747

The two independently kept tally sheets agreed on the total votes cast (747) but differed by a single vote between the two candidates. The discrepancy did not affect the outcome; Ross Bergstresser was declared elected by majority either way.

National Executive Committeeman (Sunday, June 28)

Candidate	Votes
Ken Queen	412
Andy Jaime	335
Total Votes Cast	747

Alternate National Executive Committeeman (Sunday, June 28)

Candidate	Votes
Manny Beltran	459
Steve Sperl	281
Total Votes Cast	740

Department Vice Commander ratifications (Areas A, B, and C) were adopted by voice vote following unopposed Area Caucus nominations; no roll-call tally was taken for those offices.

Post-by-post roll-call detail for the Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman, and Alternate National Executive Committeeman elections follows below. Resolution 26-003 was voted on the same delegate-weighted basis, consistent with Standing Convention Rule 7, but no post-by-post breakdown was preserved for that roll call, only the aggregate tally shown above.

Department Commander — Post-by-Post Roll-Call Record

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Bergstresser	Callaghan
1	Frank Luke Jr John C Greenway	10	10	
3	Mark A Moore	8	8	
5	Southern Meadows	4	4	
6	Ernest A Love	15	15	
8	Fred A Humphreys	8		
9	Mc Clellan-Parsons	8		
11	Fred Hilburn	7	7	
12	Kellis-Draper	10	10	
13	Cordova	5	5	
14	Swaskegame	9		9
16	L A Engle, Jr	6		
19	H H Donkersley	15		15
22	Golden Valley	7		
23	Ridge-Igo	4		4
24	Roy Fourr	17		17
25	Verde Valley	11	11	
26	Pablo J Cortez	9	1	8
27	Apache	53	53	
29	Earl E Mitchell	15		15
30	John H Slaughter	6	6	
32	Swift-Murphy	7		7
34	Frank W Wright	14		14
35	Mathew B Juan	15	15	
36	John P Burns	22		22
39	Merrell-Mitchell	25		25
40	Bobby Bisjak	8		
41	Tony F Soza Ray Martinez	14	14	
42	John Ivens	5		
43	Hazel Morton	3	3	
44	Sipe-Peterson	16		
45	Vicente Manzo	5		
46	Chic Chisholm	5	5	
52	Bill Carmichael	18		18
53	Hazelton-Butler	5	5	
54	William David Hood	5		5
56	Floyd George Jefferson	5	5	
59	Cocio-Estrada	8	8	
61	Crandall-Palmer	16		16
62	John J Morris	37	37	
64	Ahwatukee Inc	5		5
65	Travis L. Williams	11	11	
66	Green Valley	26		26
68	William D Aviles-Sahuaro	7	7	
69	Tonto Rim	7	7	
70	Freeman H Sharp	4		
73	Casas Adobes	4		

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Bergstresser	Callaghan
78	Fred Yam Cavalliere	7	7	
79	Taylor-Keehner	6	6	
81	Robert A Eckert	22	22	
86	John D Wibby	13	13	
87	Mohave Valley Inc	10	10	
90	Black Canyon City	5		
91	Wayne V. McMartin, Inc.	13		13
93	David C Johnson	5	5	
94	Mary Ellen Piotrowski	10	10	
96	Joseph Q Johnson	6		6
97	Joe Foss	6		6
101	John H Harries	4		
102	Tucson Mountains	4		
105	Christopher J Lapka	12	12	
107	Irving B Selmer	10	10	
108	Gary Streeter	5	5	
109	Mc Culloch-Wagner	24		24
112	Curtis Huskon	3	3	
113	Quartzsite	4	4	
115	Daniel Guajardo Fernandez	7	7	
117	Pat Tillman Inc	10		10
123	Forrest C. Longwell	4	4	
124	Conrado Francisco Bilducia	5		
125	Yoem	3	3	
126	Snowflake-Taylor	5	5	
128	Daisy Mountain	4		
129	Duane Ellsworth	9	9	
130	Cpl Joe McCarthy Llc	4	4	
131	Madera	19	19	
132	Oro Valley	12	6	6
133	Bernie G Crouse	7		7
135	Donald C Thompson	4	4	
138	James Witkowski	8		8
143	Thomas D. Rabjohn	5	5	
145	Eugene C. Yount	10	10	
147	John Wilson Owen	5	5	
148	Marana	4		4
150	Milton James Raschen	3		3
PDC	Larry Cox	1		
PDC	Thomas Cosgrove	1		
PDC	Henry Branch	1		1
PDC	George Cushing	1		
PDC	Judith Beischel	1		
PDC	Andres Jaime	1	1	
PDC	Billy Ellis	1		1
PDC	Steve Aguirre	1		1
PDC	Kenneth Queen	1		1
PDC	Benjamin Headen	1		

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Bergstresser	Callaghan
PDC	Michael Simon	1		1
PDC	Steve Sperl	1		1
PDC	Manuel Beltran	1	1	
Commander	Gary Vaughan	1		
Area Vice	Jose Maldonado	1		1
Area Vice	Gerald Valle	1		
Area Vice	Ron Arrigoni	1	1	
Finance Officer	David Roland	1		1
District CDR	Linden Jungen	1	1	
District CDR	Al Young	1		1
District CDR	Gerard Brinkmannn	1		1
District CDR	John Meyer	1		1
District CDR	Jackie Graves	1		1
District CDR	John Chizmar	1	1	
District CDR	Ross Bergstresser	1	1	
District CDR	Kathryn Foor	1		
District CDR	Barry Laughery	1		
District CDR	Jaclyn Kulfan	1		1

National Executive Committeeman — Post-by-Post Roll-Call Record

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Ken Queen	Andy Jaime
1	Frank Luke Jr John C Greenway	10	10	
3	Mark A Moore	8		8
5	Southern Meadows	4		4
6	Ernest A Love	15		15
8	Fred A Humphreys	0		
9	Mc Clellan-Parsons	0		
11	Fred Hilburn	7		7
12	Kellis-Draper	10	5	5
13	Cordova	5		5
14	Swaskegame	9		9
16	L A Engle, Jr	0		
19	H H Donkersley	15	15	
22	Golden Valley	0		
23	Ridge-Igo	4		4
24	Roy Fourr	17	17	
25	Verde Valley	11	11	
26	Pablo J Cortez	9	8	1
27	Apache	53	53	
29	Earl E Mitchell	15	15	
30	John H Slaughter	6	6	
32	Swift-Murphy	7	7	
34	Frank W Wright	14	14	
35	Mathew B Juan	15	15	
36	John P Burns	22	22	
39	Merrell-Mitchell	25	25	
40	Bobby Bisjak	0		
41	Tony F Soza Ray Martinez	14		14
42	John Ivens	0		
43	Hazel Morton	3		3
44	Sipe-Peterson	0		
45	Vicente Manzo	5		5
46	Chic Chisholm	5		
52	Bill Carmichael	18	18	
53	Hazelton-Butler	5	5	
54	William David Hood	5	5	
56	Floyd George Jefferson	5		5
59	Cocio-Estrada	8		8
61	Crandall-Palmer	16		16
62	John J Morris	37		37
64	Ahwatukee Inc	5		5
65	Travis L. Williams	11	6	5
66	Green Valley	26	26	
68	William D Aviles-Sahuaro	7		7
69	Tonto Rim	7		7
70	Freeman H Sharp	4		
73	Casas Adobes	4		
78	Fred Yam Cavalliere	7	3	4

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Ken Queen	Andy Jaime
79	Taylor-Keehner	6		6
81	Robert A Eckert	22	11	11
86	John D Wibby	13	13	
87	Mohave Valley Inc	10		10
90	Black Canyon City	5		
91	Wayne V. McMartin, Inc.	13	13	
93	David C Johnson	5	5	
94	Mary Ellen Piotrowski	10	5	5
96	Joseph Q Johnson	6	6	
97	Joe Foss	6	6	
101	John H Harries	4		
102	Tucson Mountains	4		
105	Christopher J Lapka	12	6	6
107	Irving B Selmer	10		10
108	Gary Streeter	5		5
109	Mc Culloch-Wagner	24		24
112	Curtis Huskon	3		3
113	Quartzsite	4		4
115	Daniel Guajardo Fernandez	7		7
117	Pat Tillman Inc	10	10	
123	Forrest C. Longwell	4		4
124	Conrado Francisco Bilducia	5		
125	Yoem	3		3
126	Snowflake-Taylor	5		5
128	Daisy Mountain	4		
129	Duane Ellsworth	9		9
130	Cpl Joe McCarthy Llc	4		4
131	Madera	19	19	
132	Oro Valley	12	12	
133	Bernie G Crouse	7		7
135	Donald C Thompson	4		4
138	James Witkowski	8		8
143	Thomas D. Rabjohn	5		5
145	Eugene C. Yount	10		10
147	John Wilson Owen	5		5
148	Marana	4	4	
150	Milton James Raschen	3		3
PDC	Larry Cox	1		
PDC	Thomas Cosgrove	1		
PDC	Henry Branch	1		
PDC	George Cushing	1		
PDC	Judith Beischel	1		
PDC	Andres Jaime	1		1
PDC	Billy Ellis	1	1	
PDC	Steve Aguirre	1	1	
PDC	Kenneth Queen	1	1	
PDC	Benjamin Headen	1		
PDC	Michael Simon	1	1	

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Ken Queen	Andy Jaime
PDC	Steve Sperl	1	1	
PDC	Manuel Beltran	1		
Commander	Gary Vaughan	1		
Area Vice	Jose Maldonado	1	1	
Area Vice	Gerald Valle	1	1	
Area Vice	Ron Arrigoni	1	1	
Finance Officer	David Roland	1	1	
District CDR	Linden Jungen	1		1
District CDR	Al Young	1	1	
District CDR	Gerard Brinkmannn	1	1	
District CDR	John Meyer	1	1	
District CDR	Jackie Graves	1	1	
District CDR	John Chizmar	1		1
District CDR	Ross Bergstresser	1		
District CDR	Kathryn Foor	1	1	
District CDR	Barry Laughery	1	1	
District CDR	Jaclyn Kulfan	1	1	

Alternate National Executive Committeeman — Post-by-Post Roll-Call Record

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Sperl	Beltran
1	Frank Luke Jr John C Greenway	10		10
3	Mark A Moore	8	4	4
5	Southern Meadows	4		4
6	Ernest A Love	15		15
8	Fred A Humphreys	8		
9	Mc Clellan-Parsons	8		
11	Fred Hilburn	7		7
12	Kellis-Draper	10	5	5
13	Cordova	5		5
14	Swaskegame	9		9
16	L A Engle, Jr	6		
19	H H Donkersley	15		15
22	Golden Valley	7		
23	Ridge-Igo	4		4
24	Roy Fourr	17	17	
25	Verde Valley	11		11
26	Pablo J Cortez	9	5	4
27	Apache	53		53
29	Earl E Mitchell	15	15	
30	John H Slaughter	6	6	
32	Swift-Murphy	7	7	
34	Frank W Wright	14	14	
35	Mathew B Juan	15		15
36	John P Burns	22	22	
39	Merrell-Mitchell	25		25
40	Bobby Bisjak	8		
41	Tony F Soza Ray Martinez	14		14
42	John Ivens	5		
43	Hazel Morton	3		3
44	Sipe-Peterson	16		
45	Vicente Manzo	5		5
46	Chic Chisholm	5		
52	Bill Carmichael	18	18	
53	Hazelton-Butler	5		5
54	William David Hood	5	5	
56	Floyd George Jefferson	5	5	
59	Cocio-Estrada	8		8
61	Crandall-Palmer	16	16	
62	John J Morris	37		37
64	Ahwatukee Inc	5	5	
65	Travis L. Williams	11		11
66	Green Valley	26	26	
68	William D Aviles-Sahuaro	7		7
69	Tonto Rim	7		7
70	Freeman H Sharp	4		
73	Casas Adobes	4		
78	Fred Yam Cavalliere	7		7

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Sperl	Beltran
79	Taylor-Keehner	6		
81	Robert A Eckert	22		22
86	John D Wibby	13	13	
87	Mohave Valley Inc	10	10	
90	Black Canyon City	5		
91	Wayne V. McMartin, Inc.	13	13	
93	David C Johnson	5		5
94	Mary Ellen Piotrowski	10	5	5
96	Joseph Q Johnson	6		6
97	Joe Foss	6	6	
101	John H Harries	4		
102	Tucson Mountains	4		
105	Christopher J Lapka	12	6	6
107	Irving B Selmer	10		10
108	Gary Streeter	5		5
109	Mc Culloch-Wagner	24		24
112	Curtis Huskon	3		3
113	Quartzsite	4	2	2
115	Daniel Guajardo Fernandez	7	3	4
117	Pat Tillman Inc	10	10	
123	Forrest C. Longwell	4		4
124	Conrado Francisco Bilducia	5		
125	Yoem	3		3
126	Snowflake-Taylor	5		5
128	Daisy Mountain	4		
129	Duane Ellsworth	9	9	
130	Cpl Joe McCarthy Llc	4	4	
131	Madera	19		19
132	Oro Valley	12	12	
133	Bernie G Crouse	7	7	
135	Donald C Thompson	4		4
138	James Witkowski	8		8
143	Thomas D. Rabjohn	5		5
145	Eugene C. Yount	10		10
147	John Wilson Owen	5		5
148	Marana	4		4
150	Milton James Raschen	3		3
PDC	Larry Cox	1		
PDC	Thomas Cosgrove	1		
PDC	Henry Branch	1		
PDC	George Cushing	1		
PDC	Judith Beischel	1		
PDC	Andres Jaime	1		1
PDC	Billy Ellis	1		
PDC	Steve Aguirre	1	1	
PDC	Kenneth Queen	1	1	
PDC	Benjamin Headen	1		
PDC	Michael Simon	1	1	

Post	Post Name	Del. Str.	Sperl	Beltran
PDC	Steve Sperl	1	1	
PDC	Manuel Beltran	1		1
Commander	Gary Vaughan	1		
Area Vice	Jose Maldonado	1	1	
Area Vice	Gerald Valle	1	1	
Area Vice	Ron Arrigoni	1		1
Finance Officer	David Roland	1	1	
District CDR	Linden Jungen	1		
District CDR	Al Young	1	1	
District CDR	Gerard Brinkmannn	1	1	
District CDR	John Meyer	1		
District CDR	Jackie Graves	1	1	
District CDR	John Chizmar	1		1
District CDR	Ross Bergstresser	1		1
District CDR	Kathryn Foor	1		1
District CDR	Barry Laughery	1		1
District CDR	Jaclyn Kulfan	1	1	

ADDENDUM E

Roll Call and Attendance Record by Post

The table below records, for each Post, whether a delegate or authorized proxy was marked present on the working roll-call sheet maintained during each day of the 2026 Annual Convention (“Y” = marked present). Ex-officio delegates (Past Department Commanders, the Department Commander, Vice Commanders, the Finance Officer, and District Commanders) are not Post-affiliated and are omitted from this table; their attendance is reflected in the Credentials Committee reports recorded in the Saturday and Sunday sessions, above.

Reconciliation — Working Roll Call vs. Certified Credentials: A programmatic count of this table shows 38 Posts marked present Thursday, 60 Saturday, and 70 Sunday. These figures are lower than, and measure something different from, the Credentials Committee's certified figures of 81 Posts cleared Saturday and 84 cleared Sunday (see the Saturday and Sunday Credentials Reports, above). “Cleared” reflects the Credentials Committee's verification that a Post's dues, assessments, and delegate paperwork were in order and that it was entitled to vote; the working roll-call sheet reflects which Posts were affirmatively marked as answering the roll at the time it was recorded, and may not capture every cleared Post's delegate — for example, where a delegate registered through the credentials desk after the roll was called, or where the sheet was not updated in real time for every Post in the hall. The Credentials Committee's certified figures are the official quorum and voting-strength determinations of record and control over this table in the event of any discrepancy; quorum was in any case satisfied even on the lower figures shown here, since one-third of the Department's 113 active Posts is approximately 38.

Reconciliation — DEC Voting Exceptions: Of the 25 Posts listed below as requiring a Department Executive Committee exception for late payment of dues or assessments (see following page), 16 are recorded as present on Saturday, June 27 — the same day the DEC did not formally act on exceptions until its 3:30 p.m. meeting, after the morning business session (including the Resolution 26-003 roll-call vote) had concluded. Those Posts — 1, 26, 30, 41, 45, 46, 61, 64, 78, 96, 109, 113, 125, 130, 138, and 143 — were provisionally seated and permitted to participate in the morning session on the strength of the Credentials Committee's preliminary clearance, subject to ratification by the DEC that afternoon; this is consistent with ordinary Credentials Committee practice of clearing routine late-payment matters administratively in advance of the formal DEC exception vote. The remaining nine exception Posts — 3, 9, 43, 44, 54, 90, 95, 101, and 128 — include six (9, 44, 90, 95, 101, and 128) that are not recorded as present on any day of the roll call in this table. For those six, the DEC exception made them eligible to vote if their delegates appeared, but no delegate from those Posts is recorded as having answered the roll on any day; the exception accordingly had no effect on the outcome of any vote recorded in this volume.

The attendance record in Addendum E reflects roll-call participation during individual sessions and should not be interpreted as a complete record of credentialed Posts present throughout the day.

Post	Post Name	Thu 6/25	Fri 6/26	Sat 6/27	Sun 6/28
1	Frank Luke Jr John C Greenway	Y		Y	Y
2	William Bloys				
3	Mark A Moore				Y
4	Henry Berry				
5	Southern Meadows			Y	Y
6	Ernest A Love			Y	Y
7	Morgan Mc Dermott				
8	Fred A Humphreys				
9	Mc Clellan-Parsons				
10	Organ Pipe				
11	Fred Hilburn	Y		Y	Y
12	Kellis-Draper	Y			Y
13	Cordova			Y	Y
14	Swaskegame			Y	Y
15	Frank Perkins				
16	L A Engle, Jr			Y	
19	H H Donkersley	Y		Y	Y
22	Golden Valley				
23	Ridge-Igo			Y	Y
24	Roy Fourr	Y		Y	Y
25	Verde Valley			Y	Y
26	Pablo J Cortez	Y		Y	Y
27	Apache	Y		Y	Y
28	Lloyd C Hill				
29	Earl E Mitchell	Y		Y	Y
30	John H Slaughter			Y	Y
31	Greer De Witt				
32	Swift-Murphy			Y	Y
34	Frank W Wright	Y		Y	Y
35	Mathew B Juan	Y		Y	Y
36	John P Burns	Y		Y	Y
37	Navajo				
39	Merrell-Mitchell			Y	Y
40	Bobby Bisjak	Y		Y	
41	Tony F Soza Ray Martinez	Y		Y	Y
42	John Ivens	Y		Y	
43	Hazel Morton	Y			Y
44	Sipe-Peterson				
45	Vicente Manzo			Y	Y
46	Chic Chisholm			Y	Y
49	M C Culloch-Mc Nair				
50	Thomas Tang				
51	Haskell Osife Antone				
52	Bill Carmichael				Y
53	Hazelton-Butler			Y	Y
54	William David Hood	Y			Y
56	Floyd George Jefferson				Y
57	Robert Fulton				

The attendance record in Addendum E reflects roll-call participation during individual sessions and should not be interpreted as a complete record of credentialed Posts present throughout the day.

Post	Post Name	Thu 6/25	Fri 6/26	Sat 6/27	Sun 6/28
58	Fountain Hills				
59	Cocio-Estrada				Y
60	Oliver-Declay				
61	Crandall-Palmer	Y		Y	Y
62	John J Morris	Y		Y	Y
64	Ahwatukee Inc	Y		Y	Y
65	Travis L. Williams			Y	Y
66	Green Valley			Y	Y
68	William D Aviles-Sahuarro	Y		Y	Y
69	Tonto Rim	Y		Y	Y
70	Freeman H Sharp				
72	Dwight Eisenhower				
73	Casas Adobes				
76	White Mountain William House				
78	Fred Yam Cavalliere	Y		Y	Y
79	Taylor-Keehner				Y
81	Robert A Eckert			Y	Y
84	Ira H Hayes				
86	John D Wibby			Y	Y
87	Mohave Valley Inc			Y	Y
88	Dolan Springs				
90	Black Canyon City				
91	Wayne V. McMartin, Inc.			Y	Y
93	David C Johnson	Y		Y	Y
94	Mary Ellen Piotrowski	Y		Y	Y
95	Lopez-Hernandez				
96	Joseph Q Johnson	Y		Y	Y
97	Joe Foss			Y	Y
101	John H Harries				
102	Tucson Mountains			Y	
103	Meadview				
105	Christopher J Lapka	Y		Y	Y
107	Irving B Selmer			Y	Y
108	Gary Streeter			Y	Y
109	Mc Culloch-Wagner	Y		Y	Y
112	Curtis Huskon	Y			Y
113	Quartzsite	Y		Y	Y
114	Bushmasters				
115	Daniel Guajardo Fernandez	Y		Y	Y
117	Pat Tillman Inc				Y
123	Forrest C. Longwell				Y
124	Conrado Francisco Bilducia				
125	Yoem			Y	Y
126	Snowflake-Taylor			Y	Y
128	Daisy Mountain				
129	Duane Ellsworth	Y		Y	Y
130	Cpl Joe McCarthy Llc	Y		Y	Y
131	Madera	Y		Y	Y

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Post	Post Name	Thu 6/25	Fri 6/26	Sat 6/27	Sun 6/28
132	Oro Valley				Y
133	Bernie G Crouse			Y	Y
134	Laveen Cavalry				
135	Donald C Thompson	Y			Y
136	Yucca				
137	Isaiah Mays-Bill Mauldin				
138	James Witkowski	Y		Y	Y
141	Cochise Stronghold				
143	Thomas D. Rabjohn			Y	Y
145	Eugene C. Yount	Y		Y	Y
147	John Wilson Owen			Y	Y
148	Marana	Y			Y
149	Camp Redemption Whetstone				
150	Milton James Raschen	Y		Y	Y
2019	Cornfields				
2022	Pinetop-Lakeside				
2023	Robles Junction				

The attendance record in Addendum E reflects roll-call participation during individual sessions and should not be interpreted as a complete record of credentialed Posts present throughout the day.

Posts Requiring a Department Executive Committee Voting Exception

Per Standing Convention Rule 15, the following Posts required a DEC exception to be cleared to vote, having paid Department and District dues and assessments after the 30-day pre-convention deadline but before the close of registration (see Saturday, June 27, 2026, DEC meeting, referenced under Thursday's Announcements, above). This list is drawn from the Credentials Committee's working papers. See the reconciliation above regarding the timing of these Posts' participation relative to the DEC's afternoon action.

Posts: 1, 3, 9, 26, 30, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 54, 61, 64, 78, 90, 95, 96, 101, 109, 113, 125, 128, 130, 138, 143.

The attendance record in Addendum E reflects roll-call participation during individual sessions and should not be interpreted as a complete record of credentialed Posts present throughout the day.

ADDENDUM F

Official Convention Schedule

As adopted and followed for the 2026 Annual Convention, June 25–28, 2026, Crowne Plaza Resort Phoenix–Chandler Golf Resort, Chandler, Arizona.

Thursday, June 25, 2026

- 2:00 p.m. — Finance Committee (Scott Miller, Chairman) — Chandler Theater
- 4:00 p.m. — Rules Committee (Matthew Kritzer, Department Adjutant) — Chandler Theater
- 6:00 p.m. — Opening Session — San Marcos Ballroom
- Department Executive Committee meeting immediately following adjournment

Friday, June 26, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. — Membership Breakfast — Post 91
- 9:00–11:30 a.m. — Commission and committee meetings (Americanism, Internal Affairs/PEAR, Bingo, AZ Legion College, Trophies & Awards, Constitution & Bylaws, Children & Youth)
- 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. — S.A.L. PDC Meeting — Post 91
- 1:00–4:00 p.m. — Commission meetings (VA & Rehabilitation, National Security, Legislative, Media/Marketing/Communications, Convention & Conference)
- 4:30 p.m. — 40 et 8 — La Ventana

Saturday, June 27, 2026

- 9:00 a.m. — Convention Reconvenes — Ballroom A
- 10:00–11:30 a.m. — Area A, B, and C Caucuses; Membership & Post Activities
- 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. — Lunch; GNUTS Luncheon — Post 35
- 1:00–2:00 p.m. — S.A.L. Convention Reconvenes — Ballroom B
- 2:00–4:00 p.m. — American Legion Riders Session — Ballroom A
- 3:30 p.m. — Department Executive Committee Meeting — La Ventana
- 4:30 p.m. — Commander's Homecoming Dinner & Show — Post 35

Sunday, June 28, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. — Joint Memorial Service — San Marcos Ballroom
- 10:00 a.m. — Convention Reconvenes: Roll Call, Final Credentials Report, S.A.L. Report, Legion Riders Report, Final Convention Report, Elections, Farewell Speech, Installation of Department Officers, Acceptance Speech, Announcements, Benediction, Retirement of Colors — San Marcos Ballroom
- Department Executive Committee Meeting immediately following adjournment, after a 10-minute recess
- 2:00 p.m. — PDC Luncheon — Post 91

ADDENDUM G

Finance and Budget Summary

The Department's complete financial detail, including its most recently filed IRS Form 990, is publicly available to the membership at azlegion.org. This addendum summarizes that information for the convenience of members.

This addendum condenses the Department's most recent independent financial review and the Finance Committee's Thursday, June 25, 2026 meeting for the information of the membership. Matters addressed by the Finance Committee in executive session — including facility security matters and individual post account follow-ups — are recorded in the Committee's own minutes and are not reproduced here.

2025 Financial Review Report (Independent, Non-Audit)

Prepared by Absolute Tax and Financial Solutions for the twelve-month period ended May 31, 2026; dated June 18, 2026. This was a financial review, not an audit conducted under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards, and no audit opinion is expressed.

Metric	2025	2024	Change
Total Revenue	\$747,723	\$930,284	-19.6%
Net Operating Result	(\$213,823)	(\$306,758)	+30.3% improvement
Net Result	(\$178,999)	(\$185,124)	+3.3% improvement
Total Assets	\$3,385,743	—	—
Total Liabilities	\$443,853	—	—
Net Assets	~\$2.94 million	—	—

Membership revenue (\$403,822, down 35.6%) and unrestricted donations (\$63,832, down 65.2%) declined substantially, together accounting for over \$342,000 of the Department's revenue decrease, partially offset by a 28.1% increase in restricted donations. Management responded with substantial reductions in discretionary spending — travel (–74.8%), conferences and meetings (–59.0%), fundraising (–67.9%), and program services (–79.5%) — which improved the operating result despite the revenue decline.

The Department's balance sheet reflects a conservative debt position (liabilities approximately 13.1% of assets), strong liquidity (approximately \$1.79 in cash for every \$1.00 of liabilities), and substantial invested assets — as reported in the Department's IRS Form 990, approximately \$2.52 million, or roughly 75% of total assets. The review recommended continued attention to \$149,489 in notes receivable from Posts and to accumulated depreciation on fixed assets, and recommended strengthening internal controls — principally dual-signature requirements for large disbursements and independent review of credit card statements and Adjutant reimbursements. The review's overall conclusion was that the Department is financially stable and operating from a position of financial strength.

Finance Committee Meeting — June 25, 2026 (Summary)

Chairman Scott Miller presided; a quorum of voting members was established. The Committee received a Merrill Lynch investment update on the Department's invested assets (reported at approximately \$2.8 million in the Department's most recently filed IRS Form 990), received the Financial Review Report summarized above, and approved a \$5,000 donation to Arizona Girls State and \$14,000 in Junior ROTC travel assistance funding. The Committee also approved a framework for the Sons of The American Legion

to resume its annual Campout under a Campout Committee and Campout Chairman, within its approved budget.

A request from the Arizona American Legion Riders to increase its annual operating budget from \$7,500 to \$10,000, and a related \$40,000 loan proposal for a fundraising apparel project, were deferred pending a formal loan package, financial projections, and a repayment schedule.

FY 2026–2027 Budget

Following the change in Department Commander and Finance Officer at the close of the Convention, a new proposed budget is being prepared for formal review and approval by the Department Executive Committee. For the information of the membership in the interim, the Department's most recent completed-year actuals are summarized in the 2025 Financial Review Report above. The approved FY 2026–2027 budget will be published to the membership, and posted at azlegion.org, once formally adopted by the Department Executive Committee.