

Resolution No. 1

Title: Western Caucus National Vice Commander Nomination Process

Origin: NVC Rotation Subcommittee

WHEREAS, The American Legion annually elects a National Commander and five (5) Vice Commanders, one of which represents the Western Region; and

WHEREAS, The Western Caucus has the opportunity and responsibility to annually nominate an individual from the Western Region to serve as National Vice Commander; and

WHEREAS, for many years the Western Caucus has had an agreement to use a rotational system defined in our By-Laws giving 13 of the 15 Departments the opportunity to endorse an individual from their Department to serve as National Vice Commander from the Western Region; and

WHEREAS, this rotational system has served The American Legion successfully over the years, but because Departments had to wait 13 years for their turn to endorse an individual, some potential leaders were denied the opportunity to serve as National Vice Commander; and

WHEREAS, at the Western Caucus Annual meeting held during the 2018 National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a NVC Rotation Subcommittee was appointed to study the rotation system used to select nominations for National Vice Commander and make recommendations to the Western Caucus at our meeting held during the 2018 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the NVC Rotation Subcommittee did meet and reported to the Western Caucus a recommended change to divide the Western Caucus Departments into a rotational system consisting of three (3) groups with all Departments within each group having an opportunity to endorse an individual to be considered for National Vice Commander from the Western Region; and

WHEREAS, the NVC Rotation Subcommittee recommended a Selection Committee be established to review the endorsements and select a nominee to be referred to the National Team for their review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the NVC Rotation Subcommittee recommendations were reviewed at both the Western Caucus meetings held during the 2018 Fall Meetings and 2019 Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, with positive responses from the Departments represented in those meetings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the Western Caucus of The American Legion, in Annual Meeting assembled during the 2019 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 27, 28 and 29, 2019, That the By-Laws of the Western Caucus of The American Legion adopted October 10, 2001 in Indianapolis, Indiana, be revised as follows:

Change from:

“Article III – National Vice Commander

Section 1. To assist the National Organization in obtaining qualified candidates for the office of National Vice Commander, each Department in the Western Caucus shall have the opportunity to present a qualified candidate for National Vice Commander from the Western Caucus in the following order of succession beginning in August 2000: Montana, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Alaska, Oregon, Hawaii, Idaho, California and Washington.”

Change To:

“Article III – National Vice Commander

Section 1. To assist the National Organization in obtaining qualified candidates for the office of National Vice Commander, each Department in the Western Caucus shall have the opportunity to present a qualified candidate for National Vice Commander from the Western Region using the following procedures:

1. The Western Caucus Departments shall be divided into the following three (3) groups:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
California	Arizona	Alaska
Hawaii	Colorado	New Mexico
Idaho	Mexico	Oregon
Montana	Nevada	Philippines
Washington	Wyoming	Utah

2. Beginning with the 2020 National Convention the National Vice Commander candidate will be selected from Group 1 followed for succeeding National Conventions from Group 2 then Group 3 and in following years continue the rotation of Groups in numerical order.
3. Each Department in the Group will be permitted to endorse one (1) individual from that Department to be considered as the National Vice Commander candidate for that particular National Convention. Individuals not selected to be nominated for National Vice Commander may be endorsed by that Department in their subsequent rotation.
4. The first endorsed individuals from Group 1 are to be presented to the Western Caucus meeting during the October 2019 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, to be reviewed

by a Selection Committee. The individual chosen by the Selection Committee to be the Western Region candidate for National Vice Commander will be final. His/her packet will be submitted to the National Leadership for their review and approval. Final endorsement of the candidate by the Western Caucus will be by vote at the Annual Meeting during the 2020 National Convention.

5. In succeeding years the nominee packets from the Departments in the Group endorsing individuals will be submitted at the Annual Meeting during the previous National Convention. The Chairman will appoint a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will meet during the Fall Meetings and will report their selection to the Western Caucus. That individual's packet will be submitted to the National Leadership for their review and approval. Final endorsement of the candidate by the Western Caucus will be by vote at the Annual Meeting during the next National Convention.

Section 2. National Vice Commander Endorsement Packet Requirements

1. Endorsement packets for Group 1 (nominations for 2020 National Convention) are to be submitted prior to the 2019 October Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana. Subsequent Group endorsement packets (beginning with the 2021 National Convention) are to be submitted prior to the Annual Meetings during the 2020 National Convention, with the process to continue for the conventions in following years.
2. Departments submitting individuals for National Vice Commander will provide a packet of information on their endorsement that includes: (1) Resolution of endorsement from the Department Convention or Letter of Endorsement signed by the Department Commander and Adjutant, (2) Copy of the endorsed individual's DD-214 Discharge, (3) Endorsed individual's BIO, (4) Updated endorsed individual's "Prominent Legionnaire Form", and (5) Photograph of the endorsed individual. This information shall be delivered to the Western Caucus Chairman in digital format for reproduction.

Section 3. National Vice Commander Selection Committee

1. The Selection Committee will be appointed by the Western Caucus Chairman at the Annual Meeting during the National Convention with the approval of Departments present. The Selection Committee will consist of at least the following members from the Western Region: one (1) Past National Commander (if available), one (1) Past National Vice Commander, one (1) National Executive Committeeman, one (1) Department Adjutant and (1) Blue Cap Legionnaire all of which must not be members of any Department in the Group submitting endorsements.
2. The Selection Committee will serve for only one (1) year with a new Selection Committee appointed at each succeeding Annual Meeting, fulfilling the requirements in Section 3, paragraph 1 above."