

Department of New Hampshire
The American Legion
2026 Annual Convention
Concord Post 21
Meeting February 21, 2026

Attendees: Robert St.Pierre-Chair; Paula Ross-Vice Chair; Wayne Perra-Commander, Thomas Wiley-Historian, Maurice Anderson-Alt. NEC, Dan Beliveau-DVC, Sandy Silvagni-Nashua Rep, Jean Drew-ALA President, Joyce Flanders-ALA Secretary, Cathy Perra-ALA 1st VP, Tom Ross, Verna Perry-Beliveau.

Meeting opened at 11:00 with Pledge led by PDC Robert S. Pierre

Bob explained the purpose of this meeting was to make the decisions on the banquet meal, gun raffle, prices and raffle tickets.

The first item under discussion was the banquet meal. It was decided to have a plated dinner which will include an appetizer, choice of 2 entrees and a dessert. After reviewing the menu, the decision was:

Appetizer: Garden Baby Green (salad)

Entrees: Pork Loin or Pasta Primavera

Dessert: New York Cheesecake with berry sauce*

*This decision involved a coin toss with the Red Velvet Cake!

The ticket price will be \$45. Payments will be available through TAL Website which does allow credit card payments. Deadline will be May 1st.

Wayne indicated he would be responsible for printing the tickets. We would like 150+ people to attend the dinner.

The number of rooms available each night by contract is 200. Wayne has reduced this to 180 by terms of contract with a 10% variation. It is anticipated that more people will attend the conference as it is in the southern part of the State which is more populated. People may attend the conference but not spend the night.

Past Dept Commanders & President's Dinner:

It was suggested that this be held on site at the Hotel rather than offsite as this will help meet the minimum banquet food and beverage charge of \$9000. Joyce Flanders explained that the ALA does pay for this dinner and generally there are 35-40 people in attendance. It was also suggested to have the meal be: The Garden Baby Green salad; choice of chicken dinner & risotto and NY Cheesecake. The decision will be made at the ALA E-Board meeting in March, and they will advise the committee accordingly.

It appears that anytime coffee and/or pastries are served, it can be counted towards the minimum food charge.

The next item on the agenda for discussion was the raffles, starting with the gun raffle. After discussion, it was agreed to have a long gun rather than a pistol, due to circumstances in the recent news. After reviewing the various prices of the rifles, the Big Boy Brass American Legion Tribute Edition .44 Magnum with a price of \$1,090. was selected. **The price of the raffle tickets will be \$20.** Again, the TAL Website will be able to process payment with credit cards.

The option will be to take the Rifle or \$1,000 in cash. The drawing will be held at the Convention Banquet and tickets will be sold up to the drawing. One does not have to be present to win. All Legion Family members will be encouraged to sell the raffle tickets.

There will also be a 50/50 raffle at the Convention Banquet with much discussion on how best to handle this raffle. Decisions were to possibly have one day for each Family: TAL, SAL and ALA. It was also discussed if there was more than one raffle, the jackpot may not be as high, but there would be more winners. One might buy tickets the first day, and if they win will turn around and buy more the next day. It was finally agreed to have two (2) drawings: Friday at 4:00 PM at the end of the business meetings and Saturday at the start of the Convention Banquet. **Price will be \$5 a ticket; or 3 for \$10.** Again, one does not have to be present to win.

Vendor Spaces: Vendors will only be limited to the space available, and the Hotel has agreed to provide tables as needed. Bob and Commander will handle all vendor requests. Currently PDC St.Pierre will have a table for maple syrup, and the Auxiliary a 'Red White & Blue basket'; Girls State; and VA&R etc. Outside organizations, that are Veteran driven, may also want to have a table set up in the space which is fine.

Sandy from the Nashua Post was next to the agenda and indicated that the transportation is being narrowed down. There will be 2 Vans for all 3 nights for people to go from the Hotel to the Post. The Post is only a block away from the downtown area so people can venture down there as well. The Vans are probably not handicapped accessible. The main lounge at the Post is handicapped accessible.

On Friday night there will be live entertainers both upstairs and down. On Saturday night it will be a DJ downstairs. Two food trucks will be available, as the Post does not have a kitchen. "Liquid Therapy" across the street is another option for food.

The Midnight Toast on Saturday night was the next item discussed. Bob indicated this would need to be discussed with the Hotel so an appropriate place can be found to hold this event. This event raises substantial funds.

Tom Wiley explained that the ads for the Program booklet are gaining interest with Tri-State taking the full back coverage page. Grover Gaming has also expressed interest in the inside back color cover page at a cost of \$750.

Once all finances are completed with the Hotel charges; Convention program ads and raffle proceeds - any deficit will be shared with the Legion Family. In turn, any profit will be split as well between the three legion organizations, (TAL, ALA, SAL)

Wayne once again indicated he would be printing the tickets for the banquet and raffles. Joyce will provide names of ALA members. Wayne will work with The Sons of American Legion to get their member addresses.

Next year's convention is being considered with options of Lincoln, Manchester, and other areas. Bob indicated he would submit the location to the convention committee prior to the DEC meeting in April.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully - Paula Ross, Vice Chair