

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **The American Legion National Vice Commander**

According to The American Legion National Constitution and Bylaws:

“The National Convention shall elect ... five National Vice Commanders who shall serve without seniority. No two Vice Commanders shall be chosen from the same Department. No persons shall be eligible for reelection to the office of ... National Vice Commander.” (National Constitution: Article VI, Section 1)

“The National Vice Commanders shall act as representatives of the National Commander on all matters referred to them by him, and shall, on his request, preside over the meetings of the National Convention or National Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.” (Bylaws: Article II, Section 2)

Accordingly, the high office of The American Legion National Vice Commander demands a person who has the poise, the demeanor, and the experience to represent, with dignity, the National Commander, The American Legion and, indeed, all of America’s veterans and their families at events ranging from Veterans Day parades to wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery.

A person nominated for this high office should be one who has exhibited good judgment and initiative in positions of responsibility both within and outside of The American Legion. Ideally this person should be active in his/her community, known as a person of character and integrity, and experienced in a multitude of responsibilities within The American Legion.

A person being considered for this office shall not have in his/her past any record of conduct which would bring disrepute upon the office of National Vice Commander or upon The American Legion.

This person should be a mentor to many within the Legion and recognized as a leader within his/her Department. He should be someone that others look to for advice, guidance and wisdom. He/She should have completed the educational opportunities offered within his/her Department including, but certainly not limited to, completion of The American Legion Extension Institute course.

He/she should have successfully held offices at the Post, District and Department levels and enhanced those offices through his/her leadership. Ideally, the candidate should have also held offices at the National level and have a demonstrated track record of success, that is, membership targets have been met; veterans have been served; program objectives have been accomplished.

A person nominated for this office should be conversant on the current issues affecting veterans and their families and should be able (indeed, experienced) in relating The American Legion positions on such issues to the media and other audiences. Additionally, this person should exhibit poise and confidence when engaged in public speaking and should display equal confidence whether speaking to a small group or to hundreds.

A person nominated for the high office of National Vice Commander should be one that is equally qualified to hold the office of National Commander and, if called upon to do so, would be willing and able to assume that responsibility.

He or she, ideally, shall have had experience at the National level of the organization so as to be able to speak with knowledge and authority on National matters.

Any person seeking the office of National Vice Commander should have made their desire to serve known to their Department officers well in advance of the period of service desired. Ideally, this person shall have the formal endorsement of his/her Department DEC or Convention at least a year in advance of the period of contemplated service.

A person nominated for the office of National Vice Commander will be expected to travel; therefore, he/she should be physically fit enough, with or without accommodation as required, to withstand the extensive travel required of the office. Expected travel includes:

- Serving as the National Commander's representative in every Department in the assigned region, making at least two trips to each of the designated states.
- Immediately after being elected at the National Convention, meeting with the National Commander and other National Vice Commanders for nearly two weeks in both Indianapolis and Washington to set the year's agenda toward accomplishing the National Convention's and NEC's goals.
- Attending the National Commander's testimony before Congress in September.
- As a member of National Executive Committee, the candidate must be available to attend National Executive Committee meetings in May and October, along with the entire and full National Convention during both their year of election, and their year of service as NVC.

If employed, their employer must understand the demands to be made upon the candidate's time during the year of service. If married, the nominee should have the full support of his or her family.

In short, the person nominated for the office of National Vice Commander must be a knowledgeable, respected, honorable, and experienced Legionnaire who has the full support of his family, his employer and his Department so that he can devote as much time and effort as necessary to fulfill his/her commitment for a period of one year.