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THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024.

Location: Department Headquarters
60 Big Run Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015

*Dragon Reporting Service
Cincinnati, Ohio
(513) 600-6152*

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1 Saturday, April 6, 2024.

2 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

3 COMMANDER RUE: With the colors of our nation
4 in place, hand salute. Two.

5 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

6 I now call on Chaplain Ron Distel for the
7 invocation.

8 Uncover.

9 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Let us pray.

10 When I walk through the forest, Lord, I hear
11 birds singing and the crackling of twigs beneath my
12 feet, and I'm at peace. When I hear a baby's
13 laughter and I see a mother's reaction, I know that
14 they are at peace. Lord, when I see a veteran
15 talking with another veteran, I know that they know
16 the value of peace.

17 Give our world peace, Lord, so that everyone
18 can see our world as it is meant to be heard.

19 It is to You that we pray. Amen.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

21 COMMANDER RUE: We'll now have the Pledge of
22 Allegiance, led by Department 1st Vice Commander AJ
23 Whatley.

24 . . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

25 We'll now have the POW/MIA recognition, led by

1 Department 1st Vice Commander AJ Whatley.

2 1VC WHATLEY: Resolution 288, adopted at the
3 67th National Convention, calls for designating an
4 empty chair be placed at all official meetings of
5 The American Legion, as a physical symbol of the
6 thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for
7 from all wars and conflicts involving the United
8 States of America.

9 This is a reminder for all of us to spare no
10 effort to secure the release of any American
11 prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the
12 remains of those who died bravely in defense of
13 liberty, and a full accounting of those missing.
14 Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor.

15 COMMANDER RUE: Cover.

16 We'll now recite the preamble, led by
17 Department 2nd Vice Commander Stan Oren.

18 . . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

19 We'll now have roll call, performed by
20 Department Adjutant John Robinson.

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Good morning, everybody.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

23 . . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . .

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, you have a
25 quorum.

1 COMMANDER RUE: Thanks, JD.

2 We'll now have the introduction of guests by

3 Dean Boyers, Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

4 SGT-AT-ARMS BOYERS: Good morning everybody.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

6 SGT-AT-ARMS BOYERS: I'd like to introduce Mark

7 Shreve, our National Vice Commander from the

8 Department of Georgia.

9 (Applause).

10 Gary Cox, Jr., Post 79, Candidate for

11 Department 2nd Vice Commander.

12 (Applause).

13 Holly Lewis, Post 557, Finance Commission

14 Chair.

15 (Applause).

16 Dayna Beyer, Unit 535, American Legion

17 Auxiliary Department Historian.

18 (Applause).

19 Al Beyer, Post 523, Legion Department

20 Historian.

21 (Applause).

22 Jean Wilson, Post 199, Past Department

23 Commander.

24 (Applause).

25 Robert Klostermeier, Post 553, Past Department

1 Commander.

2 (Applause).

3 Robert Schmitt, Post 587, Past Department

4 Commander.

5 (Applause).

6 LeeAnn Stan, Unit 389, District 11 Auxiliary

7 President.

8 (Applause).

9 Tim Shaw, Post 173, Past 2nd District

10 Commander.

11 (Applause).

12 Mel Cantrell, Post 79, Past Post Commander.

13 (Applause).

14 And I believe that's the end of my list. Did I

15 miss anybody?

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER RUE: Thanks, Dean.

18 Now we'll have the reading of the previous

19 minutes by Department Adjutant John Robinson.

20 TREASURER RIVERA: Commander.

21 COMMANDER RUE: Yes.

22 TREASURER RIVERA: I make a motion that we

23 dispense with the reading of the minutes since we

24 all got them by e-mail.

25 COMMANDER RUE: We have a motion. Do we have a

1 second?

2 14TH DISTRICT CMDR McCLAIN: Sharon McClain,
3 14th District, I second that motion.

4 COMMANDER RUE: Thank you.

5 So we have a motion and a second to dispense
6 with the reading of the minutes as they were
7 previously distributed.

8 Is there any discussion?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
13 favor signify by saying aye.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

15 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carries.

18 I'd like to thank everyone for coming out
19 today.

20 It's been a great month for me, as I've done
21 most of my VA visits in the last month. Dean and I
22 have traveled the state pretty well together.

23 And I'll have you know our VAs are making great
24 strides in getting their stuff done, taking care of
25 the women veterans for one. A lot of them have

1 their own separate clinic now, or their own wings on
2 the floors. And it's really great to see some of
3 the stuff that they are doing.

4 At this time we will have AJ Whatley,
5 Department 1st Vice Commander, give a Membership and
6 an Internal Affairs report.

7 1VC WHATLEY: Thank you.

8 Good morning everybody.

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

10 1VC WHATLEY: Membership report.

11 Right now, in the nation, currently, on the
12 year, we're hanging around 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. As
13 of the last report, we got down to 38. It's like we
14 hit a brick wall. I'm not sure what's happening,
15 but I still would like to applaud all of you for the
16 work that you've put in thus far. So 91.46% is
17 where we stand.

18 I also would like to congratulate all the Posts
19 who have exceeded the next target date. We have
20 four Districts that have done that thus far. We
21 have four pretty close. But we're still 6,000
22 members short of our quota. May 31st is the last
23 opportunity.

24 There is no such thing as a "National Buddy
25 Check," in my opinion. I think it should be done at

1 least every other month. I think a good thing that
2 you have would be to pair up with another person in
3 performing your buddy checks. I think, at the end
4 of the year, this will not allow us to hit this
5 block wall.

6 And with that being said, Commander, that
7 concludes my report. Thank you.

8 (Applause).

9 COMMANDER RUE: Thanks, AJ.

10 We'll now have the Post Activities report by
11 our chairman, 2nd Vice Commander Stan Oren.

12 2VC OREN: We have the euchre tournament coming
13 up at the Hamler Post April 13th, starting at noon.

14 We have the pool tournament April 19th to the
15 21st. And it's \$10 for Friday night and \$15 for
16 Sunday.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: (Cell phone noise).

18 COMMANDER RUE: That's a donation to the
19 Commander's project.

20 2VC OREN: The cornhole tournament, we're
21 trying this for the first time, and it will be April
22 20th, at Massillon Post 221.

23 And we have the trap shoot coming September
24 11th, in Marengo, Ohio.

25 That's my report.

1 Yes, sir.

2 6TH DISTRICT 1VC GOODMAN: I'd like to make a
3 correction on that there.

4 COMMANDER RUE: What's your name?

5 6TH DISTRICT 1VC GOODMAN: Dan Goodman, from
6 District 6, 1st Vice.

7 2VC OREN: It's September 11th.

8 6TH DISTRICT 1VC GOODMAN: No, it's September
9 8th.

10 2VC OREN: The 8th, all right. I apologize.

11 6TH DISTRICT 1VC GOODMAN: Well, on the last
12 thing you guys had down here it was wrong too. They
13 had September 10th of '22.

14 2VC OREN: It must be a moving target.

15 And we're still looking for somebody to sponsor
16 the golf tournament and the bowling tournament.
17 Anybody who wants to get in and help out, we'd sure
18 appreciate it.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMANDER RUE: This is a reminder. When you
21 are speaking, please stand to be recognized and
22 announce who you are and what your title is.

23 We'll now have the Department Treasurer's
24 Report from Jose Rivera.

25 (THEREUPON, JOSE RIVERA GAVE THE DEPARTMENT

1 TREASURER'S REPORT) .

2 TREASURER RIVERA: And I, too, am running for
3 2nd Vice.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: That's not the place to do it.

5 COMMANDER RUE: That's a \$20 fine for
6 announcing that. It goes to the Commander's
7 Project.

8 We'll now have the Department Historian report
9 from Al Beyer.

10 I'd like to thank everybody, though. My
11 charity is doing well today. If we can keep that
12 rolling, that's awesome.

13 (THEREUPON, AL BEYER GAVE THE DEPARTMENT
14 HISTORIAN'S REPORT) .

15 Thanks, Al.

16 (Applause) .

17 We'll now have the NEC report from Steve
18 Masowick.

19 NEC MASOWICK: That's a tough act to follow.

20 Spring is here. Baseball is playing. The
21 Guardians are six and two.

22 They always say the Guardians chances of going
23 to the World Series is about once in a blue moon.
24 We have the solar eclipse on Monday. That's our
25 omen.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: That's a black one. That's
2 not a blue one.

3 NEC MASOWICK: We'll take any moon we can get.
4 Just a couple of things. I'll yield my time to
5 National Commander Mark.

6 The spring meetings are May 6th through the
7 9th. Those of you who have been called in for
8 meeting, everybody has made it. Nobody turned it
9 down. So thank you for that.

10 At the Washington Conference, we donated \$2400
11 to Jim LaCoursiere, the leading candidate.

12 And in closing, I want to thank Stan Pleasant,
13 Bob Klostermeier, of course Chappy and Becky, for
14 your help in what we do to get this thing to go for
15 delegates.

16 The delegates are getting less and less. We
17 only had ten to go. And five are automatic. So we
18 only had to choose the five. And we chose some
19 folks who hadn't been there yet.

20 And, Chris, you're on the list. Don't look at
21 me like that.

22 Is there any questions for the NEC?

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24 NEC MASOWICK: All right, thank you.

25 COMMANDER RUE: Thanks, Steve.

1 (Applause) .

2 Ron Chapman, Alternate NEC.

3 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, ditto.

4 And I yield my time.

5 COMMANDER RUE: Thank you.

6 We'll now have Ron Distel with the Department
7 Chaplain's report.

8 (THEREUPON, RON DISTEL GAVE THE DEPARTMENT
9 CHAPLAIN'S REPORT) .

10 Thanks, Ron.

11 I did not mean to skip you, by the way. That
12 was a pure accident.

13 Now we'll have our Department Judge Advocate,
14 Josh Brown.

15 JUDGE ADVOCATE BROWN: Thank you, Commander.

16 (THEREUPON, JOSH BROWN GAVE THE DEPARTMENT
17 JUDGE ADVOCATE'S REPORT) .

18 COMMANDER RUE: Thanks, Josh.

19 We'll now have our Department Parliamentarian,
20 Gary Minadeo.

21 (THEREUPON, GARY MINADEO GAVE THE DEPARTMENT
22 PARLIAMENTARIAN'S REPORT) .

23 Okay, now we'll move on to Department Adjutant
24 John Robinson.

25 (THEREUPON, JOHN ROBINSON GAVE THE DEPARTMENT

1 ADJUTANT'S REPORT).

2 Our next two guests:

3 Jane Ridenour wasn't feeling up to coming in
4 today. She has an event tonight she is going to.
5 And she thought that would be too taxing for her
6 right now. So she is doing that.

7 And Dave Dilts is at the SAL Central Region
8 Extravaganza today because that is their event.

9 So Steve, if you want to introduce our next
10 guest speaker.

11 NEC MASOWICK: Good morning again.

12 Robert "Mark" Shreve.

13 Mark Shreve has been a member of American
14 Legion Post 189, in Pine Mountain Valley, Georgia,
15 since 2007. He is eligible for membership in The
16 American Legion through his service in the United
17 States Army from 1979 to 2001. He served with the
18 Military Police Corps in Europe, Korea, southeast
19 Asia, and various units within the United States.

20 After serving in the military, Mark worked for
21 the Aflac Worldwide Headquarters in Columbus,
22 Georgia.

23 I won't say the Aflac.

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aflac.

25 NEC MASOWICK: You said it. I didn't.

1 Mark is a 2016 National American Legion College
2 graduate, and holds a bachelor's degree from West
3 Virginia University and an associate's degree from
4 Saint Leo University.

5 He served as the Department of Georgia
6 Commander from 2021 to 2022, and is the current
7 Chairman of The American Legion Department of
8 Georgia Medical Research Foundation. Mark also
9 serves as an instructor for the "New District
10 Commander's Course," held annually at The American
11 Legion National convention.

12 Mark has earned the District Commander
13 Race-to-the-Top Award in 2015 and 2016. He is a
14 six-time Gold Brigade recipient for recruiting 50 or
15 more new members.

16 Mark and his wife Robyn enjoy camping and
17 hiking. Robyn serves as the Chairperson for Quilts
18 of Valor for West Georgia.

19 They have two adult sons. Robbie is married to
20 Kristen, and serves as an Army nurse in Hawaii.
21 Mathew is married to Tiffany, and serves as an
22 operations analyst for a Fortune 200 Company in
23 Georgia, Columbus, Georgia. Mark and Robyn are
24 blessed with eight grandchildren.

25 It's my privilege to give you Mark Shreve,

1 National Vice Commander, from Georgia.

2 (Applause).

3 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SHREVE: Please be
4 seated.

5 So the good thing about coming to a new place
6 is they've never heard you speak. When I go to
7 Georgia they always give you a time limit, and so
8 that time limit, if I go over that time limit, I
9 always have to pay them a dollar a minute.

10 So while I'm thinking about that here, to the
11 Commander's project, here's \$20. I'm going to go
12 ahead and pay it up front. Because they only gave
13 me 15 minutes and I know I'm going to go over that.
14 So I'll go ahead and pay my fine.

15 On behalf of the National Commander, Daniel
16 Seehafer, I bring you his greetings. And due to his
17 schedule, he can't be here with us today. But I'm
18 sure he wants to.

19 When I was in Illinois and it was ten degrees
20 below, he was in the Caribbean. And he said,
21 "Thanks, Mark. You have a great time. I'm down
22 here in the Caribbean." He has his things to do and
23 we have ours.

24 So I really wanted to talk to you today about
25 five National priorities. And when I talk about

1 National priorities, these priorities are really
2 centered around quality of life for veterans and
3 their families.

4 And that's our job, isn't it? It's to make
5 sure that we care for veterans and their families.

6 So the first one I want to talk about, and you
7 spoke a little bit about it this morning, is "Be the
8 One."

9 "Be the One" is a National focus. It's a
10 mission. But veterans' suicide is an epidemic.

11 When we were over there yesterday, one of the
12 administrators said that he has not seen this amount
13 of suicides in his VISN ever.

14 We know that veterans are committing suicide.
15 Since 2001, 120,000 veterans have committed suicide.
16 That's more than all the deaths in Vietnam, Iraq,
17 Afghanistan and Desert Storm combined. So we know
18 that there's a problem.

19 And I'm going to tell you this, now this is
20 real talk, nobody is going to solve this. American
21 Legion National Headquarters is not going to solve
22 it. Okay? There is no entity that's going to solve
23 this. It's going to take you. Each and every one
24 of you are responsible for being the one.

25 Because we don't know who you're sitting by.

1 We don't know who you engage with as other veterans.
2 You know that. And you know when they come to you
3 and say, "I'm having a hard time," that there's no
4 national program that is going to run down the road
5 and help you. You're going to have to step in and
6 intervene yourself, as individuals.

7 And it doesn't matter what color hat your wear.
8 It matters that you're a fellow veteran and you've
9 got to step in and say, "Let me help you. Please
10 give me 15 more minutes. Give me 30 more minutes."

11 And then reach out to people. Because we're
12 not experts. But reach out to those people that are
13 going to help you. Pick up the phone, dial 988,
14 extension 1, and work with that person so that they
15 can talk their way through their crisis.

16 It's going to take each and every one of us to
17 solve this problem. There is no magic policy that's
18 going to do that. It's going to take hard work.
19 It's going to take building relationships. And it's
20 going to take understanding the veterans in our
21 community so that we can intervene. That's what "Be
22 the One" is about. That's a National priority, a
23 National mission.

24 The second thing that we're going to have to
25 continue, and this continues at all levels, at the

1 Post level, at the District level, the state level
2 and National level, is legislation. We have to stay
3 on our political leaders to continue to advocate for
4 our veterans and their families. You have to do
5 that locally. And that's from everything from state
6 taxation on veterans' benefits, if it's retirement
7 pay.

8 You know, in Georgia, we border, we have eight,
9 nine installations, and we boarder six states that
10 don't tax their veterans' retirement. But Georgia
11 did fully tax it.

12 And the governor and folks are saying, "Why in
13 the world aren't the veterans staying here? We need
14 these talented people."

15 I said, "Because you tax them. They could move
16 next door to Alabama or go next door to South
17 Carolina." And I said, "Why don't you just stop
18 taxing them." And they passed the bill.

19 We have to be engaged locally in our politics,
20 in our legislation. We have to be engaged at the
21 state level and at the national level.

22 And of course those of you who just came back
23 from D.C., you know what happened when we went up
24 for the Commander's testimony last month. And we've
25 had a lot of positive reaction to that.

1 But how can you help? Again, I'm going to tell
2 you how I think.

3 So I think this is a top-down organization.
4 And when I say "top-down," I look at that pyramid.
5 Okay?

6 At the top of the pyramid is the Post. The
7 Post drives every activity in The American Legion.
8 All this stuff you see that comes through National,
9 guess where it originates? At the Post level.
10 Okay? So when you get these resolutions and you
11 work this legislation, it all started somewhere with
12 the blue caps.

13 And I'm saying this to all the leaders in this
14 room. I see white hats. I see red hats. I see
15 District hats. All of those hats are temporary.
16 They're temporary. At some point in time you're
17 going to take off your red hat, you're going to take
18 off your white hat. And guess what? Your permanent
19 hat is the blue hat. That's where everything begins
20 in this organization.

21 So legislation has to work that way. We have
22 to continue to work locally, as well as at all
23 levels in The American Legion.

24 A couple of the national that came up from the
25 post level, pay the Coast Guard.

1 Any Coast Guard in here?

2 Probably none. That's okay.

3 But you know that in the last shutdown,
4 government shutdown, the Coast Guard wasn't paid.
5 And you know that The American Legion stepped in and
6 gave them over a million dollars so they could pay
7 their bills and buy diapers for their kids.

8 You see, those types of things that we're
9 involved in in The American Legion are to make sure
10 that don't happen again. So we have legislation,
11 and we spoke on the Commander's testimony, to pay
12 the Coast Guard, regardless if you shut down.

13 And if you know why that is, DOD, which is the
14 Army and the Navy and the Marine Corps, the Air
15 Force, the Space Force, but a few years ago, they
16 moved the Coast Guard to Homeland Security. And so
17 Homeland Security doesn't get paid. DOD still does.
18 There's a caveat to that government shutdown. They
19 still get paid. The Coast Guard doesn't. So we
20 need to remedy that. Okay?

21 So the other is we just got a bill passed for
22 toxic exposure.

23 How many of you have seen a Camp Lejeune
24 commercial?

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Every ten minutes.

1 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SHREVE: Guess what?
2 Guess who those folks are? They're predatory
3 claims. They're charging our veterans anywhere from
4 33 percent to 600 percent on the benefits that they
5 earned. There are some people paying, as soon as
6 they get that benefit, they have to turn around and
7 pay that attorney, and continue to pay them because
8 they've entered into a contract with them.

9 We have a bill before Congress. And it says if
10 you're in predatory claims and you're acting outside
11 the rules that the VA establishes, we want you to
12 have a consequence. We want a fine or we want jail
13 time. That's the only way you can get through some
14 of this stuff.

15 Now there are lawyer groups that have
16 accredited claims specialists that are accredited by
17 the VA. That's okay. But they're allowed to charge
18 33 percent. So you just need to know that.

19 Because guess what? How much does your service
20 officers charge?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Nothing.

22 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SHREVE: Nothing.

23 So we need to be out and about. We have
24 legislation to stop that, but we also need local
25 help to let our veterans know that The American

1 Legion is here to provide a free service for them
2 for VA claims and benefits. So legislation is a
3 part of it.

4 If you go to mylegion/action, every day you can
5 go in there and send your congressmen and your
6 senators a little e-mail that says you want them to
7 pass these bills. And when you do that, they don't
8 look at your name. You could do it all week, seven
9 times. They're going to see, you know, if you could
10 take one Post with 100, they're going to see there
11 was 700 responses on pay the Coast Guard, or
12 enhanced VA activities. Whatever our legislation
13 is, that's how you get help.

14 On our third part it is really servant
15 leadership and membership engagement.

16 When I first started this job, I told the
17 Commander that I was never going to talk about
18 membership. Because membership is a number. That's
19 what people relate to. Right?

20 But it's really about engagement. How are you
21 engaging the members of your Post, of your District,
22 of your Department? And so we're responsible for
23 that engagement. We are.

24 I do buddy checks. And I tried to do a few
25 buddy checks within your state before I come here.

1 I did some in Illinois as well. And every once in a
2 while someone will say thank you for your call.

3 I had one guy come up to me and say, "You know,
4 when you called me, you scared me to death. I
5 didn't know what I did wrong. I don't want no
6 National officer calling me."

7 I'm like, "Hey, it's just a buddy check. It's
8 just checking to see how you're doing."

9 It's important that we continue that.

10 But we also have to add value to our community
11 when we talk about membership engagement. We do
12 have programs for that.

13 Think about the Oratorical. Because we do that
14 and we do that every year. But if you just take a
15 step back and think about the impact, those children
16 or those students are practicing that, they're
17 talking with their fellow students, they're talking
18 with their parents. And guess what they're talking
19 about? The Constitution of the United States.
20 They're talking about amendments. They're educating
21 themselves on the constitution. And isn't that what
22 we really want? We want citizens.

23 I heard some people up here that are
24 campaigning and doing all that. That's all fine and
25 good. But what do we stand for? What do we really

1 want our organization to do?

2 And so membership engagement is about taking
3 care of the members and adding value to the
4 community and the state and the nation.

5 So when we talk about the preamble right, does
6 it say, well, we're going to do our community, or
7 we'll just do the state, or maybe just national? It
8 doesn't say any of that. It says, "Community, state
9 and nation." We have a trifold obligation. It's
10 for all three.

11 And sometimes we hear negative comments. We
12 hear these things. It's okay. Our organization can
13 stand self-evaluation. And not only that, we should
14 do self-evaluation on the things that we do well and
15 the things that we don't do well and fix those.

16 But there's three things each of you should
17 know as leaders on the direction this organization
18 is going.

19 So the first thing is commitment. As a leader
20 of this organization, you have to have commitment to
21 the role that you're in. You have to be committed
22 to the time and the effort to perform your duties.

23 The second portion of that is character. If
24 you tell somebody that you're going to do something
25 and you don't do it, they are not going to trust

1 you. That's a character issue. But if you tell
2 somebody you're going to do it, as a leader, you
3 need to go out and fulfill your promise. And once
4 you continue to do that, you build change in your
5 pocket, and you're able to get that reputation and
6 that character you need to lead in this
7 organization.

8 And the last one is confidence. And I always
9 talk about this one, especially in DECs.

10 How many times, I don't know if you've seen
11 this, will a person that does not even know what
12 they're talking about get up and make a motion?
13 Right?

14 I hear some giggles. So some people have seen
15 that.

16 You have to be confident in what you're doing.

17 I always have a rule of thumb. And it kind of
18 goes, it's an old proverb that says, "Even a fool
19 looks wise when they keep their mouth closed." If I
20 don't know what I'm talking about, I'm not talking
21 about it. Right? I may have an opinion on it, but
22 I'm going to do the research first before I bring it
23 up. Does that make sense? We have to be confident
24 in the job that we do.

25 So I want to talk a little bit about social

1 media. I have friends in this room, a couple of
2 them, that I had never met face to face, but we were
3 friends on social media.

4 But then there's a dark side of social media
5 too. It's not an avenue for the disgruntled few.
6 If you're a leader in this organization and you have
7 an evaluation, you have a complaint, you don't do it
8 in public. You don't stand out on the street corner
9 and say The American Legion is horrible, they didn't
10 treat me right. But that's what people do on social
11 media. And you see it every day.

12 But a leader doesn't do that. A leader faces
13 that forward, and they grab somebody and they say,
14 "Hey, let's go talk about this. Let's get this
15 fixed. Let's work this out." And if they can't
16 work it out, at least come to some kind of a
17 compromise. But you don't post it on social media.

18 Our Post does all kinds of things with social
19 media but it is nothing but good things about The
20 American Legion. Because, guess what? That's all I
21 live for.

22 And certain leaders, they go into an
23 organization and they look for everything we do
24 wrong. And then they make it an adjustment in their
25 mind.

1 But a true leader looks for what people are
2 doing right, and then recognizes what people do
3 right. Because when you do that, you multiply that
4 behavior. So if you pat somebody on the back for
5 doing something when you catch them doing something
6 right, they're going to repeat it. And the more
7 they repeat that the better this organization
8 becomes.

9 So we have to be servant leaders. And we have
10 to understand how media, social media, works and how
11 you look at your influence.

12 The American Legion on has a great deal of
13 influence in this country. Congress has never, ever
14 audited us. And they have the right to do that.
15 You know why? Because they trust us. And that,
16 again, is from the Post level up.

17 So you have to understand you have a huge
18 amount of influence. But with influence comes
19 responsibility. And as leaders of this
20 organization, our jobs do not stop when we change
21 the color of our hat. We continue to lead and
22 mentor people and help people.

23 It's great to say The American Legion has
24 conducted, on membership engagement, has conducted
25 over one million buddy checks. That was published

1 about three months ago. Give yourselves a hand.

2 One million buddy checks is a big deal.

3 (Applause).

4 We need to continue to engage our membership.

5 And so guess what? We're also coming to what?

6 Election time, end of the year, all that.

7 How many Ohio State fans do we have up here?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

9 O-H. I-O.

10 Okay. I don't know what that means, but it's
11 good.

12 Do they quit in the fourth quarter?

13 FROM THE FLOOR: No.

14 All we needed was a field goal.

15 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SHREVE: But they
16 didn't just put down their equipment and walk off
17 the field in the fourth quarter.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No.

19 NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER SHREVE: Well neither
20 do we.

21 We're still in the fourth quarter. We still
22 have work to do. So the work doesn't stop, and we
23 need to continue and close out the year and work
24 very hard. Because what you do this year is going
25 to affect what happens next year. So keep the ball

1 rolling. Get in the fourth quarter. Get those
2 expired members back. Do your checks, call, engage
3 with your community, engage with those folks that
4 you don't know what happened to them, you don't know
5 why they haven't renewed. Find that out. Work
6 that. Those Posts that have joined, what is it,
7 your 888, call them and invite. But be engaged and
8 work hard in the fourth quarter, because that's
9 where you're going to win and lose your membership
10 battle. And then when the new leaders come in,
11 they're going to have a great foundation to start
12 with. So keep that in mind, that you're in the
13 fourth quarter and leaders step up in the fourth
14 quarter to create success.

15 The fourth part is the Veterans and Children's
16 Foundation. And we're raising money, \$25 million
17 over a seven-year period, to support that. Of
18 course that gives grants through PFA, but it also
19 provides the training for our service officers. And
20 you know our service officers need that training,
21 because they provide the free service to our
22 veterans.

23 So this all interconnects. Right? We need to
24 do the things we need to do to make sure the quality
25 of life for our veterans is the best that it can be.

1 So the last thing, the last part, is tell your
2 story. So I talked a little bit about social media.
3 But who is telling your story? Is the newspaper
4 telling your story?

5 I saw a Post here in Ohio and the newspaper was
6 telling their story about their officers taking
7 rifles. That's what I see down in Georgia.

8 But you know what? That's not their real
9 story. Their real story is told through the CPR.
10 How many man hours, how much money they've given,
11 how much they've given back to the community, that's
12 the real story.

13 But if you don't tell the story, if you don't
14 fill out that legal form, because it eventually goes
15 to the Library of Congress, if you don't tell that
16 story, nobody is going to tell it for you in a
17 positive way. They're just going to look at the
18 negatives. Word of mouth, newspaper, TV, they're
19 going to talk about what happened at the local
20 American Legion Post.

21 But when you do that CPR and you pull off that
22 report, you can go tell your story to your local
23 county commissioners, your city councils, you can
24 tell it to you state representatives, you can tell
25 it to your congressmen. But when you only have

1 60 percent of the Posts reporting, or telling their
2 story, it makes it difficult to provide that value.

3 When you talk about billions of dollars that
4 The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary,
5 the Riders, and the Sons are putting back into our
6 communities every year, it's huge. And it gives you
7 the ability to share that influence and get things
8 done. So we have a great obligation.

9 How many McDonald's do you all have here?

10 You know you have just a few less Posts.
11 There's like 700 McDonald's and you have 600
12 American Legion Posts in your state. That's the
13 amount of influence you have. And they have
14 workers. They don't have memberships. And they
15 don't have volunteers and they don't have veterans.

16 We have you. And so you have the opportunity
17 to continue to bring this Department to the top.

18 I heard you say it don't matter about the
19 numbers, whether you're 38th or 48th. It matters if
20 you've met all your target dates. And I believe
21 you've met all your target dates, every one of them.
22 So give yourselves a hand for that as well.

23 (Applause).

24 So go out there and continue in the forth
25 quarter.

1 I have a personal trophy that I put together
2 for the fourth quarter. The state with the highest
3 increase in percentage from 1 March until 1 June
4 will win the fourth quarter award. And I hope that
5 I come back to Ohio and give that trophy to you,
6 because it is essential that we finish the job.

7 Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

8 (Applause).

9 COMMANDER RUE: We'll now move on to the
10 commission reports.

11 We'll have Membership, with Department 1st Vice
12 AJ Whatley.

13 1VC WHATLEY: The first order of business from
14 the commission meeting -- we do have minutes.
15 Everybody has the minutes from the last commission
16 meeting, March 16th, correct?

17 The only thing I'm going to go over are things
18 that we passed and voted on during that commission.

19 And the first one is going to be, for your
20 approval, is the Legionnaire of the Year Award and
21 the award manual for 2025.

22 COMMANDER RUE: So this is on the record for
23 the Legionnaire of the Year Award.

24 They have selected Barry Priest, Post number
25 764.

1 At this time I would entertain a motion to
2 accept their nomination for the Legionnaire of the
3 Year Award.

4 1ST DISTRICT CMDR LANDIS: Harold Landis, 1st
5 District Commander.

6 COMMANDER RUE: We have a motion.

7 Do we have a second?

8 10TH DISTRICT CMDR CROTHERS: Wes Crothers,
9 10th District Commander, so seconds.

10 COMMANDER RUE: Seeing we have a proper motion
11 and second for the Legionnaire of the Year Award, is
12 there any discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
17 favor signify by saying aye.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

19 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER RUE: The motion carries.

22 Now you've all seen the Membership Awards
23 Manual for 2025. I would entertain a motion to
24 accept the awards manual for the 2025 membership
25 year.

1 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Commander, Wright,
2 13th District, so moves that we accept the 2025
3 Membership Manual.

4 COMMANDER RUE: We have a motion.
5 Do we have a second?

6 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
7 District Commander, seconds.

8 COMMANDER RUE: We have a proper motion and a
9 second for accepting the 2025 Awards Manual.
10 Is there any discussion?

11 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC.

12 COMMANDER RUE: Chappy.

13 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Just one comment.

14 Everyone should look at page 7 and notice,
15 right under the bold print, where it says, "Distinct
16 size will go off the ... report in May."

17 It's important for you to look at that because
18 there are Three Districts, as I look at this, that
19 are in jeopardy of dropping down if they don't meet
20 certain requirements.

21 So I'm confident that they'll get the numbers
22 that they need, but they need to look at that so
23 they know where they're going.

24 COMMANDER RUE: No, you're correct, Chappy,
25 because the 1st District dropped from a big to

1 medium District last year. But it's after the fact
2 that this was already printed.

3 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Right.

4 COMMANDER RUE: Chris.

5 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 1st
6 Vice, 3rd District.

7 My suggestion would be to make sure to spell
8 check this. The word "recruit" is spelled wrong on
9 the second page.

10 And I had the comment in the Membership meeting
11 that I'm not sure why we do the Brown Jug Award. We
12 give money away for being in first place on the
13 first lap of an eight-lap race. Most of the Brown
14 Jug winners, most of them are down in the bottom of
15 the depths right now. That's my comment. I'm not
16 sure why that award exists for the first lap of an
17 eight-lap race.

18 COMMANDER RUE: Al.

19 4TH DISTRICT CMDR BUXTON: Al Buxton,
20 Commander, 4th District.

21 Looking on page 4, for the January 17th, it
22 says that it will go off of the November 22nd
23 membership. That shouldn't be there. It should be
24 January.

25 COMMANDER RUE: Yes, they said that will be

1 changed.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It will be updated.

3 4TH DISTRICT CMDR BUXTON: Okay.

4 COMMANDER RUE: So Chris, back to your Brown
5 Jug. Are you suggesting we change that, do away
6 with it?

7 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Yes. Yes, I see no
8 reason to give a District money for being the best
9 in the very first part of the year then finishing
10 fourteenth in the state. That doesn't make any
11 sense to me.

12 I brought that up to the Membership too. The
13 Brown Jug Award, that's great. You hit the quota,
14 congratulations. You didn't finish the job.
15 Because you can look at the Brown Jug winners and
16 they're sitting at the bottom of the list in the
17 rankings right now.

18 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC.
19 Through you to Chris.

20 When that was established several years ago,
21 obviously, it was determined that they needed an
22 incentive to get membership in by Veterans Day.

23 COMMANDER RUE: Chappy, he's making a motion.
24 We need to have a second for that before we --

25 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: There was no motion.

1 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: I was under
2 discussion. We had the same discussion at that
3 committee. But I would move that we remove the
4 Brown Jug Award.

5 COMMANDER RUE: Do we have somebody to second
6 that motion?

7 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: We were in the
8 discussion of a motion already.

9 COMMANDER RUE: Do we have a second on Chris'
10 motion to do away with the Brown Jug?

11 1ST DISTRICT CMDR LANDIS: Harold Landis,
12 Commander, 1st District, seconds.

13 COMMANDER RUE: Now we'll open discussion on
14 doing away with the Brown Jug.

15 Chappy.

16 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: The Brown Jug was
17 established to create an incentive to have
18 membership in early, by Veterans Day, to get you off
19 to a good, running start.

20 Now, I know that, yes, my District was a Brown
21 Jug winner this year and we have slipped down in
22 membership. That hasn't happened in the past. Lots
23 of times, as you know, we've won the Race to the Top
24 several times after we've won the Brown Jug too. So
25 it doesn't happen every year, like you're saying.

1 That's not always the case.

2 But that was an incentive to get early
3 membership in by Veterans Day, because a lot of
4 Posts have awards that are given based on Veterans
5 Day turn-ins. And that's why that was created.

6 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other discussion
7 on Chris' motion only?

8 Thom.

9 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Thom Stan, Commander,
10 11th District.

11 At first I was raising my hand to maybe move
12 this to the end of the year. After Chappy said
13 that, maybe we should leave it where it's at.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Possibly we could
15 keep the tradition of awarding the Brown Jug and the
16 money is awarded if you stay in the top ten of the
17 Department.

18 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Yes, very good.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: Top five.

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Top five, top ten,
21 top seven, top half.

22 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: That's the only
23 thing, I want to make sure we reward somebody for
24 doing their job.

25 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Well, Gary, that's not

1 a bad idea. If you win the Brown Jug here, and if
2 you maintain throughout the year, you're going to be
3 awarded that money and you can reduce each turn-in
4 by a certain percentage.

5 COMMANDER RUE: Chris, do you want to change
6 your motion now?

7 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: I'll amend my motion
8 that the Brown Jug still be awarded as an incentive
9 for Veterans Day, but the money portion of that
10 would not be paid unless they finish in the top five
11 of membership at the end of March, by the March 31st
12 turn-in.

13 COMMANDER RUE: Are you still on board with the
14 second for that, Harold Landis?

15 1ST DISTRICT CMDR LANDIS: Yes, I am.

16 COMMANDER RUE: Okay. Is there any discussion
17 about Chris' motion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER RUE: All those in favor of awarding
20 the Brown Jug but not awarding the money for it
21 until finishing in the top five for Department by
22 March 31st, signify by saying aye.

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

24 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carries.

2 All right. Now, back to the awards manual.

3 Is there any other discussion on the awards
4 manual itself?

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 COMMANDER RUE: Is this any other discussion on
7 the awards manual?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER RUE: Any other discussion on the
10 awards manual?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
13 favor of accepting the awards manual as amended
14 signify by saying aye.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

16 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carries.

19 All right, we're off the record.

20 (THEREUPON, DEPARTMENT 1ST VICE COMMANDER AJ
21 WHATLEY GAVE THE MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION REPORT).

22 Now we'll have Stan Oren with the Post
23 Activities Report.

24 (THEREUPON, DEPARTMENT 2ND VICE COMMANDER STAN
25 OREN GAVE THE POST ACTIVITIES REPORT).

1 Next we'll have Christie White with the
2 Americanism Commission, Boys State, Baseball and
3 Oratorical, and Children and Youth and National
4 Security and Legislative Reports.

5 (Applause).

6 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR CHRISTIE WHITE GAVE THE
7 AMERICANISM REPORT).

8 There were two motions in there that were
9 passed that we need to separate out of there and
10 vote on. And we're going to go on the record.

11 The first one was the Eagle Scout of the Year.
12 I would entertain a motion to accept the Eagle Scout
13 of the Year.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander, when a
15 committee of two or more makes a motion like that --

16 COMMANDER RUE: That is the motion?

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That is the motion
18 and it just goes on to discussion.

19 COMMANDER RUE: Okay.

20 Is there any discussion for Eagle Scout of the
21 Year?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in

1 favor of accepting that signify by saying aye.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

3 COMMANDER RUE: Those opposed, nay.

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER RUE: The motion carries.

6 For the change to --

7 COORDINATOR WHITE: The Educator of the Year.

8 COMMANDER RUE: -- the Educator of the Year, is
9 there any discussion on that motion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
14 favor of accepting the change signify by saying aye.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

16 COMMANDER RUE: Those opposed, nay.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER RUE: The motion carries.

19 We're back off the record.

20 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR CHRISTIE WHITE GAVE THE
21 BUCKEYE BOYS STATE.

22 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR CHRISTIE WHITE GAVE THE
23 BASEBALL REPORT).

24 We'll pull that one out for discussion.

25 Is there any discussion, after we pull that one

1 out, on the rest of the minutes?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER RUE: Any discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER RUE: All those in favor of approving
6 the minutes pulling the Region 8 guy out signify by
7 saying aye.

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

9 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER RUE: The motion carries.

12 So, now, is there any further discussion on the
13 Region 8.

14 (THEREUPON, DISCUSSION WAS HELD REGARDING THE
15 REGION 8 BASEBALL COMMISSIONER).

16 Is there any other discussion on the Region 8
17 Commissioner?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
20 favor of accepting the Region 8 Commissioner as a
21 new commissioner signify by saying aye.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

23 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

24 FROM THE FLOOR: Nay.

25 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carried.

1 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR CHRISTIE WHITE GAVE THE
2 ORATORICAL, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND NATIONAL
3 SECURITY REPORTS).

4 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR CHRISTIE WHITE GAVE THE
5 LEGISLATIVE REPORT).

6 There was a couple of motions in there. Is
7 there any discussion on the motions that were
8 mentioned in the report?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER RUE: Any discussion?

11 Chris.

12 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
13 District Commander.

14 On the flag thing that we approved, I do know,
15 I do have some people in other states, and including
16 this state, that's been recognized by those. So I
17 would probably just motion for that.

18 But with that being said, we care about our
19 veterans and their families. So that's something
20 for us to get legislation from our senators and
21 congressmen on that.

22 COMMANDER RUE: Thanks, Chris.

23 Is there any other discussion?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in

1 favor of accepting the report with the motions
2 signify by saying aye.

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

4 COMMANDER RUE: Those opposed, nay.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carried.

7 (THEREUPON, ALL STAFF PRESENT WERE ASKED TO
8 LEAVE THE MEETING).

9 (THEREUPON, CHAIRMAN HOLLY LEWIS GAVE THE
10 FINANCE REPORT FROM THE JANUARY 16, 2024 MEETING).

11 We're going to go back on the record now.

12 The resolution is being voted on later. So
13 we're not going to vote on the resolution in this
14 part of it, but we are going to vote on the motion
15 for Christie White's bonus for taking over National
16 Security, Legislative, and all that.

17 Is there any discussion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 Is there any discussion?

20 Bill.

21 9TH DISTRICT CMDR DITTEBRAND: Okay. About,
22 you know, paying Christie White a bonus of \$10,000,
23 since, you know, she's been doing this since
24 January, I'd like to just maybe bump that up to
25 maybe 15 or 20,000. That's just my personal

1 opinion.

2 CHAIRMAN LEWIS: We can't afford that.

3 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
10 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

12 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carried.

15 Okay, now we're back off the record. Go ahead.

16 (THEREUPON, CHAIRMAN HOLLY LEWIS GAVE THE
17 FINANCE REPORT FROM THE MARCH 27, 2024 MEETING).

18 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR WILLIAM GENOCHIO GAVE
19 THE VA&R REPORT).

20 You had a motion in there. Can you please
21 re-read your motion?

22 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: So it was a review of
23 guidelines for Veterans Treatment Courts, a review
24 of guidelines that were e-mailed out. There was a
25 motion by Darell Bishop of the 5th District, second

1 by Mike Blackwell, to accept the motion as written.

2 I do have, I believe, how it was written here,
3 if you want me to read the actual guidelines. But
4 it was e-mailed out.

5 COMMANDER RUE: Do we have a motion to accept
6 the report with the motion in it?

7 FROM THE FLOOR: We don't need a motion.

8 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion on it?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
13 favor signify by saying aye.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

15 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carried.

18 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR WILLIAM GENOCHIO GAVE A
19 REPORT ON THE AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS).

20 (THEREUPON, COORDINATOR JON VULGAMORE GAVE THE
21 MEDIA, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT).

22 We're going to go back on record for the
23 motions.

24 Is there any discussion on the two motions?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion on the
2 report?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

5 FROM THE FLOOR: Commander, I just want to be
6 clear. This means for the OLN going forward, that
7 being '24-'25. I just want to make sure that
8 everyone in the room knows that.

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Correct. It's not going
10 away. It's going digital.

11 COMMANDER RUE: The printed copy is going away.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The printed copy is going
13 away.

14 FROM THE FLOOR: Along with the \$100,000 it
15 costs.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Believe me, I know how much it
17 costs. I just want to make that clear.

18 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any more discussion?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any more discussion?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER RUE: All those in favor signify by
23 saying aye.

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

25 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carried.

3 (THEREUPON, ADJUTANT JOHN ROBINSON GAVE THE
4 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION REPORT).

5 (THEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS STOOD IN RECESS FOR
6 A LUNCH BREAK).

7 All right, we're going to go back into session
8 now. Go ahead and continue eating, which was the
9 plan.

10 We're are going to now move on to Post
11 Charters, revocations and suspensions, with
12 Department Adjutant John Robinson.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Closing Posts: Post 125,
14 District 3; Post 155, District 3, merging with Post
15 95; Post 352, District 9; Post 378, District 11.

16 Their SAL is not listed, but it will have to
17 close when the Post closes.

18 Post 381, District 2; Post 400, District 1;
19 Post 427, District 4, merging with Post 631 of
20 District 4; Post 461, District 11; Post 544,
21 District 3; Post 684, District 10.

22 Squadrons: Squadron 31, District 10; Squadron
23 82, District 12; Squadron 423, District 10; Squadron
24 773, District 4; Squadron 801, District 14.

25 And there was one more. Here it is, Post 487,

1 District 3, does have an SAL. It will also be
2 closing.

3 All of these Posts that have been presented are
4 either for lack of membership, where they're falling
5 under the 15, nobody wants to step up and help the
6 Post, they're not growing in size.

7 We do have one Post that is a large Post but
8 could not find membership to step up and become
9 officers. Nobody is willing to take on the
10 responsibility of the Post.

11 So at this time I'm turning it over to the
12 Commander.

13 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Sorry, Commander, I
14 have a lot of questions today.

15 Chris Emmons, 3rd District.

16 I noticed that there are Squadrons on here and
17 some of them don't correlate with a Post.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Those are just automatic
19 turn-ins. They're turning their charters in.
20 They're done. We don't have to vote on them.

21 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Okay.

22 COMMANDER RUE: The SAL Squadrons that are
23 listed are Squadrons that the Post is staying alive
24 and the Squadron is dissolving.

25 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Okay, thank you.

1 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's for informational
2 purposes.

3 COMMANDER RUE: I would entertain a motion to
4 accept these Post closures.

5 12TH DISTRICT CMDR BEATTY: Beatty, 12th
6 District, so motions.

7 COMMANDER RUE: Do I have a second?

8 1VC MCCLAIN: Sharon McClain, 14th District
9 Commander, I second the motion.

10 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
17 favor say aye.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

19 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carried.

22 All right, there are no new charters or
23 suspensions to bring forward.

24 At this time we'll move on to resolutions and
25 constitutional amendments.

1 JD.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The first one that is
3 listed is the JROTC. I'm returning this back
4 because there was no changes made to it from when it
5 was referred to the Finance Committee from this body
6 the last time. So there is no reason for you to
7 vote on it until they make their changes, to figure
8 out how they're going to pay for the award.

9 NEC MASOWICK: What's the resolution number on
10 that?

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: 24-02.

12 Revolution 2024-1 is establishing a video game
13 committee for the Department. I would like to just
14 read the resolve clause. I believe these have all
15 been mailed out to everybody.

16 "Resolved, that at The American Legion
17 Department of Ohio Convention assembled in
18 Independence on July 12th through the 14th, 2024,
19 that Department Bylaws Article III be amended to
20 include Section 12.

21 "Section 12, Department Video Gaming Committee:
22 Each year, the Department Commander shall appoint a
23 five-member Department Video Gaming Committee for
24 the purpose of researching and studying the effects
25 of gaming within the organization for social

1 interaction amongst its interested members and the
2 veteran community at large, in regards to veterans'
3 mental health and potential for membership and
4 business enhancement in support of The American
5 Legion Programs; and, be it further

6 "Resolved, that this Committee shall
7 collaborate and establish relationships with other
8 military gaming charities and organizations, and, be
9 it finally

10 "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee make
11 semiannual reports to the Veterans Affairs and
12 Rehabilitation Commission and the Department
13 Executive Committee regarding findings and
14 recommendations."

15 They will host all of their meetings virtually.

16 COMMANDER RUE: This resolution had originally
17 been sent back because of financing for it. And
18 because all the meetings are going to be held
19 virtually, there is no financing needed for it.

20 So I would entertain a motion to accept
21 Resolution 2024-1.

22 TREASURER RIVERA: Jose Rivera, Department
23 Treasurer, so motions.

24 COMMANDER RUE: Is there a second?

25 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th

1 District Commander, seconds.

2 COMMANDER RUE: After a proper motion and
3 second, is there any discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
10 favor signify by saying aye.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

12 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: The motion carries.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The next resolution is
16 24-04, Establishment of the National Ralph Doll
17 Award.

18 "Resolved, by The American Legion Department of
19 Ohio, in regular session assembled in Independence,
20 Ohio, July 12th through the 14th, 2024, that
21 National establish the Ralph Doll Award; and, be it
22 finally

23 "Resolved, that the Ralph Doll Award be given
24 at the National Convention to the Post with the best
25 energy and conservation program throughout all

1 Departments."

2 COMMANDER RUE: I would entertain a motion to
3 accept Resolution 24-04.

4 4TH DISTRICT CMDR BUXTON: Buxton, 4th District
5 Commander, so moves.

6 COMMANDER RUE: Is there a second?

7 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Commander, Wright,
8 13th District, seconds.

9 COMMANDER RUE: Having a proper motion and
10 second to accept Resolution 24-04, is there any
11 discussion?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
18 favor signify by saying aye.

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

20 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER RUE: The motion carries.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Resolution 24-05,
24 Membership and Post Activities Commission, this did
25 not pass the commission. So, therefore, we cannot

1 review it today unless somebody wants to bring it up
2 for review.

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any unfinished
5 business?

6 3RD DISTRICT CMDR LaVOY: Commander, Ken LaVoy,
7 3rd District Commander.

8 I'm referring back. I've got a couple things
9 to discuss.

10 Referring back to the summer of '23 DEC, it was
11 mentioned that, under Commander Stennis, that we
12 should receive a quarterly financial report. And
13 that was also agreed to in the minutes by Past
14 National Vice Commander Hickman. I would ask: Has
15 a quarterly financial report been submitted to this
16 body?

17 COMMANDER RUE: You're talking Charities, Inc.,
18 here, right?

19 3RD DISTRICT CMDR LaVOY: Charities, yes.

20 So I would like to make a motion, for the
21 record, I would like to make a motion that a finance
22 report, quarterly, be submitted to the Finance
23 Committee on a quarterly basis from Charities, Inc.

24 COMMANDER RUE: Is there a second?

25 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd

1 District, seconds.

2 COMMANDER RUE: Having a proper motion and a
3 second, is there any discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER RUE: All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

12 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carries.

15 We're back off the record.

16 (THEREUPON, OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WAS
17 HELD).

18 We'll go back on the record.

19 3RD DISTRICT CMDR LaVOY: And to clarify, it's
20 stated in the minutes that that memo was supposed to
21 go out to notify potential candidates or people that
22 wanted to be nominated for that position.

23 COMMANDER RUE: So at this time do we have any
24 nominations to fill that spot until June, or do we
25 want to vote to keep Jerry on until June?

1 3RD DISTRICT CMDR LaVOY: Right, that's what it
2 comes down to.

3 COMMANDER RUE: Thom.

4 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Thom Stan, 11th
5 District Commander, I make a motion we have Jerry
6 Wilson fill that position.

7 COMMANDER RUE: Al.

8 4TH DISTRICT CMDR BUXTON: Buxton, 4th District
9 Commander, seconds.

10 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other nominations?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other nominations?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, we have a motion
15 and a second to keep Jerry on until the July
16 convention, when it comes up to be voted on.

17 Is there any discussion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER RUE: Any discussion?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
24 favor signify by saying aye.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

1 COMMANDER RUE: Those opposed, nay.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carries.

4 Is there any other unfinished business?

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 Is there any other unfinished business?

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

8 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, is there any new
9 business?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER RUE: I do have some new business.

12 It has been asked by the Department Judge
13 Advocate and the Department Parliamentarian to have
14 an ad hoc committee put together for a review of the
15 constitution and bylaws.

16 I would entertain a motion to put a committee
17 together, starting in July, to go over the
18 constitution and bylaws.

19 3RD DISTRICT 1VC EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
20 District, so moves.

21 COMMANDER RUE: Is there a second?

22 4TH DISTRICT CMDR BUXTON: Buxton, 4th
23 District, seconds.

24 COMMANDER RUE: Having a proper motion and a
25 second, is there any discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any discussion?

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, all those in
7 favor signify by saying aye.

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

9 COMMANDER RUE: All those opposed, nay.

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER RUE: Motion carries.

12 We're off the record here.

13 (THEREUPON, OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WAS
14 HELD) .

15 (THEREUPON, UNDER THE GOOD OF THE LEGION,
16 COORDINATOR CHRISTIE WHITE GAVE INFORMATION ON THE
17 105TH DEPARTMENT CONVENTION AND THE MID-WINTER
18 CONFERENCE) .

19 (THEREUPON, UNDER THE GOOD OF THE LEGION,
20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON GAVE INFORMATION ON THE 2024
21 NATIONAL CONVENTION) .

22 (THEREUPON, OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WAS
23 HELD) .

24 COMMANDER RUE: I'd like to thank everybody for
25 coming today, getting the business done we needed to

1 get done and working through our lunch and
2 everything else.

3 I'd like to thank our National Vice Commander,
4 Mark, for being here today and sharing his words
5 with us.

6 (Applause).

7 At this time we'll have Assistant Chaplin Fast
8 give the benediction.

9 Please uncover.

10 ASST. CHAPLAIN FAST: As we depart one from
11 another, may God bless us and keep us. Into His
12 gracious protection we commit ourselves.

13 Let us hold fast to that which is good, render
14 to no person evil for evil, strengthen the
15 faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and
16 afflicted, and honor all people.

17 The Lord makes His face to shine upon us and be
18 gracious unto us. And the Lord lift the light of
19 His countenance upon us and give us peace, both now
20 and forever more.

21 Amen.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

23 COMMANDER RUE: Cover.

24 The colors of our nation in place, hand salute.

25 Two.

1 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

2 I now declare the DEC adjourned.

3 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)

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