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THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
AMERICAN LEGION CHARITIES, INC.  
ANNUAL MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Date: Thursday, July 11, 2024.

Location: Holiday Inn Cleveland South  
6001 Rockside Road  
Independence, Ohio 44131

*Dragon Reporting Service  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
(513) 600-6151 or (513) 600-6152*

1 Thursday, July 11, 2024.

2 PDC HICKMAN: I now declare the meeting of  
3 the Department Charities, Inc., to order.

4 First thing on the agenda, we'll talk  
5 about the election there, of new members to the  
6 board.

7 According to Article 3, "Elections,  
8 Elections shall be held annually at the summer  
9 convention during the Charities, Inc., meeting.  
10 It shall be for voting members only, to include  
11 the Department Commander, Department 1st Vice  
12 Commander, Department 2nd Vice Commander,  
13 Treasurer, NECman, Alternate NEC, and the  
14 Immediate Past Department Commander. All 14  
15 District Commanders and all 14 District 1st  
16 Vice Commanders are members of this committee."

17 Also, there is four current directors of  
18 Charities to be voting.

19 Like I say, we had a little mix-up last  
20 year. We didn't cover that there. So we want  
21 to make sure everyone understands the voting  
22 people.

23 Charities' team members for 2024: Jerry  
24 Wilson was the interim for Art Lustig; 2025,  
25 Jim Morris; 2026, Glenn Hickman; 2027, Roger

1 Friend; then a one-year term, the Immediate  
2 Past Department Commander, which this year is  
3 Charles.

4 Charities' contracts to date: We have 200  
5 Legion Posts, 11 other veterans organizations,  
6 the Army, Navy, AMVETS, VFW. Fraternal  
7 organizations, we have the Eagles, Elks and  
8 Catholic War Veterans.

9 This past year we received 10,715,000  
10 during the period, this period, through June  
11 '24. And we returned to the Posts and veterans  
12 organizations and fraternal organizations  
13 involved, 90 percent.

14 So it doesn't look like we have as much  
15 money as we did. And that ten million there I  
16 would like to have, but we only get 10 percent  
17 of that.

18 We also started a Post improvement  
19 incentive there, where we granted a \$10,000  
20 grant to help Posts' needs for improvements,  
21 upgrades, etc. To date we have over 91 Posts  
22 that have participated, for a total of  
23 \$910,000, which they received.

24 Charities also gave monies to the  
25 Districts, for the use of their own charitable

1 organizations. The Legion, SAL and Auxiliary  
2 also received funding. The District had to  
3 request the funds and state their charity, what  
4 the charity was for.

5 I'm a little slow, so excuse me. Also, my  
6 fingers aren't too good.

7 Other donations: We gave Save A Warrior  
8 \$70,000; Children's Hospitals throughout the  
9 state, 25,000; Fisher House, 20,000; Civil Air  
10 Patrol, 10,000; Cleveland American Veterans  
11 Association, 10,000.

12 National programs, we donated 10,000 for  
13 Child Welfare, National Emergency Relief,  
14 Legacy Scholarship and Operation Comfort  
15 Warriors.

16 And Harper Village, the Commander's  
17 project, got \$10,000.

18 The total of money given to Department  
19 Headquarters was \$140,000, for the programs of  
20 The American Legion, group health insurance and  
21 other expenses.

22 At this time I would open the floor up for  
23 the new trustee.

24 I want to first, before we do that, I want  
25 to thank Jerry Wilson there, who helped out

1           there this past year. He's traveling around,  
2           promoting the Charities, Inc., to the folks.

3                     At this time I would open the floor up for  
4           the new trustee.

5                     NEC MASOWICK: Is that for a one-year term  
6           or a four?

7                     PDC HICKMAN: That's a four-year term?

8                     NEC MASOWICK: And it's one, so you get  
9           four years.

10                    COMMANDER RUE: And who is that for? Who  
11           does it replace?

12                    PDC HICKMAN: It's a replacement of Art.

13                    COMMANDER RUE: Art.

14                    PDC HICKMAN: Which Jerry took the bulk of  
15           Art's for this past year.

16                    And like I said, Jerry did an excellent  
17           job. I really appreciate it.

18                    PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander, a  
19           point of order.

20                    COMMANDER RUE: Yeah.

21                    PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: I thank you for  
22           sending your constitution and bylaws and  
23           proceedings. One page. Typically, there's a  
24           little more than that.

25                    But who voted on this and the new

1 procedure for voting? Because this is the DEC.  
2 They would have to approve --

3 PDC HICKMAN: The proceedings was formed  
4 back in 2003.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: But all it says  
6 on here is a motion by James Morris, duly  
7 seconded. It has no signature. It doesn't say  
8 what DEC approved any of it. And the DEC is  
9 the ruling body. You're just the board for the  
10 DEC, because their names are on the 990. So I  
11 don't know what order this is.

12 Secondly, as a point of order, was a call  
13 put out to the DEC for nominations to this  
14 position, explaining what it is?

15 COMMANDER RUE: No. It was announced  
16 earlier at a DEC that this would be happening  
17 at this meeting because Jerry was an interim to  
18 replace him for the remainder of his term for  
19 this year. So it was put out back in December.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yeah. Yeah.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So all the  
22 Districts had an opportunity to do this?

23 COMMANDER RUE: It was put out back in  
24 December, at our December DEC meeting.

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah, I know it was

1 mentioned at our last DEC.

2 COMMANDER RUE: Both of them, yes.

3 All right, we're open for nominations for  
4 the position.

5 9TH DISTRICT CMDR DITTEBRAND: Dittebrand,  
6 9th District. I nominate Charles Stennis.

7 4TH DISTRICT CMDR BUXTON: Buxton,  
8 Commander of the 4th District, I nominate Jerry  
9 Wilson. He does an excellent job with this  
10 committee.

11 COMMANDER RUE: Is there any other  
12 nominations?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER RUE: Are there any other  
15 nominations?

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER RUE: Are there any other  
18 nominations?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER RUE: Hearing none, I'll  
21 entertain a motion to close the nominations.

22 NEC MASOWICK: Will they accept?

23 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Ask them if they  
24 accept it.

25 Charles, would you accept?

1 PDC STENNIS: Sure.

2 COMMANDER RUE: Jerry, would you accept?

3 PDC JERRY WILSON: Yes, sir.

4 COMMANDER RUE: All right, they both  
5 would.

6 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate  
7 NEC, moves to chose the nominations.

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

10 COMMANDER RUE: All right. Having a  
11 motion, is there any discussion on that?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER RUE: All those in favor signify  
14 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 Nominations are closed.

20 PDC HICKMAN: The voting members there are  
21 the Commander, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Treasurer,  
22 NECman, Immediate Past Department Commander,  
23 and all the 14 District Commanders and 14  
24 District 1st Vices, and the trustees.

25 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Ask everyone to



1 step out that --

2 COMMANDER RUE: All nonvoting members  
3 please step out of the room. You will be told  
4 when you can come back in.

5 And Sergeant-at-Arms and assistants, will  
6 you guys please guard the doors for that.

7 NEC MASOWICK: And maybe since we have a  
8 candidate there to, we should --

9 COMMANDER RUE: He has a vote.

10 FROM THE FLOOR: He has a vote.

11 NEC MASOWICK: Well you can vote by proxy.

12 COMMANDER RUE: He actually has a vote.

13 NEC MASOWICK: I didn't think of it that  
14 way. I didn't know the Past Department  
15 Commander had a vote.

16 COMMANDER RUE: He's on the DEC.

17 NEC MASOWICK: Okay.

18 PDC STENNIS: No, I'll step out.

19 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: He gets to stay.  
20 He's on the board.

21 COMMANDER RUE: He's choosing to leave.  
22 He's recusing himself from the vote.

23 PDC STENNIS: It's okay.

24 (THEREUPON, THE NONVOTING MEMBERS AND PDC  
25 STENNIS LEFT THE ROOM).

1           COMMANDER RUE: Have all nonvoting members  
2 left?

3           FROM THE FLOOR: Does Jerry have a vote?

4           COMMANDER RUE: Yes. He's currently on  
5 the board, --

6           FROM THE FLOOR: Okay.

7           COMMANDER RUE: -- on an interim position.  
8 So, yes, until this vote is done, he is a board  
9 member.

10           All right, we're going to try this  
11 civilized first.

12           All those in favor of Charles Stennis  
13 signify by saying aye.

14           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

15           COMMANDER RUE: All those for Jerry Wilson  
16 say aye.

17           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

18           COMMANDER RUE: Okay, we're going to do  
19 please stand up.

20           All those for Charles Stennis please  
21 stand.

22           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

23           SGT-AT-ARMS BOYERS: Twenty-one.

24           COMMANDER RUE: All those for Jerry Wilson  
25 please stand.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

2 PDC JERRY WILSON: Tell him

3 congratulations, Commander.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Let's get a count.

5 We don't need it.

6 COMMANDER RUE: No, we don't need it.

7 We're way over.

8 If they want to return, they can.

9 Everybody can come back in.

10 (THEREUPON, NONVOTING MEMBERS AND PDC  
11 STENNIS RETURNED TO THE ROOM) .

12 PDC HICKMAN: The results of the election  
13 there, Charles Stennis got elected there as a  
14 four-year trustee.

15 (Applause) .

16 And I want to thank Jerry Wilson for as  
17 much as he's done for Charities, Inc., there.

18 (Applause) .

19 I now declare our annual meeting closed.

20 \* \* \* \* \*

21 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)

22 \* \* \* \* \*

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<b>\$</b>	Art [3] 2/24 5/12 5/13 Art's [1] 5/15 Article [1] 2/7 as [6] 3/14 3/15 6/12 11/13 11/16 11/17 Ask [2] 7/23 8/25 assistants [1] 9/5 Association [1] 4/11 Auxiliary [1] 4/1 ave [6] 8/14 8/15 10/13 10/14 10/16 10/17	8/24 Districts [2] 3/25 6/22 Dittebrand [1] 7/5 do [3] 4/24 6/22 10/18 does [3] 5/11 7/9 10/3 doesn't [2] 3/14 6/7 don't [3] 6/11 11/5 11/6 donated [1] 4/12 donations [1] 4/7 done [2] 10/8 11/17 doors [1] 9/6 Dragon [1] 1/24 duly [1] 6/6 during [2] 2/9 3/10
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**Y**

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