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2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025.

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

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

1 I N D E X

2 Opening:

3 Call to order 4

4 Opening ceremonies 4

5 Roll Call 5

6 Introduction of guests 6

7 Reading of the previous minutes 6

8 Officer Greetings:

9 Commander 7

10 1st Vice Commander 9

11 2nd Vice Commander 15

12 Treasurer 18

13 Finance Committee 19

14 Chaplain 27

15 Historian 28

16 NEC 29

17 Alternate NEC 31

18 Judge Advocate 32

19 Parliamentarian 32

20 Adjutant 32

21 Committee/Commission Reports:

22 Americanism 33

23 Baseball 36

24 Convention Corporation 38

25 Children & Youth 40

1	Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	42
2	Veterans Employment & Education	48
3	National Security	49
4	Legislative	51
5	Media, Marketing & Communication	61
6	Sons of The American Legion	63
7	Legion Riders	63
8	Break	75
9	Post Charters/Revocations, suspensions	76
10	Resolutions/Constitutional amendments	79
11	Unfinished business	79
12	Charities, Inc., report	84
13	New Business	119
14	Good of The Legion/Announcements	125
15	Commander's Closing Remarks	131
16	Closing ceremonies	132

17 * * * * *

18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 Saturday, August 16, 2025.

2 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

3 COMMANDER OREN: Hand salute. Two.

4 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

5 Good morning, everybody.

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

7 COMMANDER OREN: How are we doing this great
8 morning?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Fine.

10 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, uncover.

11 Sharon, would you please lead us in prayer.

12 ASST CHAPLAIN McCLAIN: Today, lay down your
13 burdens you carry. Let go of the fears of the
14 future. God has already given you everything you
15 need, the strength for today, the grace for this
16 moment, and the peace for now. He knows your needs
17 even before you speak. You do not need to carry.

18 Let us pray to our Heavenly Father. Let us
19 thank You for giving us this day to our work of The
20 American Legion for this great State of Ohio. Help
21 our leaders to lead us in the right path for this
22 organization. Give each of us the wisdom and
23 knowledge to perform our works and tasks to help
24 those veterans that need our service. Help us to
25 carry out our work.

1 And let us pray for those that are still
2 suffering from their wounds of any of the wars.
3 Give them the ability to seek You for love and
4 guidance through You.

5 Pray for The American Legion staff, so that
6 they can pass on to us the information we need to
7 carry on the American programs, our Legion programs.

8 You know, God, that we all need to go out to
9 seek new members in order that we can, and will,
10 continue for The American Legion, to continue
11 serving our veterans.

12 We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Gary will lead us in the
15 Pledge of Allegiance.

16 . . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . .
17 Holly.

18 . . . RESOLUTION 288 READ BY 2VC LEWIS . . .

19 COMMANDER OREN: Cover.

20 Gary, will you lead us in the preamble.

21 . . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Morning, everybody.

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

24 . . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . .

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, you have a

1 quorum to conduct business.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, sir.

3 Okay, my opening remarks.

4 Oh, introduction of guests, I'm sorry.

5 Mark.

6 Thank you.

7 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS MAHLMAN: We've got some big
8 guests out there.

9 Robert Klostermeier, Past Department Commander;
10 and Jeff Hess, the 1st District 2nd Vice.

11 I believe that's everybody. Right?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS MAHLMAN: All right, thank
14 you.

15 COMMANDER OREN: The reading of previous
16 minutes.

17 NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, Chapman, NEC. I move
18 to accept the minutes as printed, and were provided
19 by e-mails.

20 PDC WHATLEY: Past Commander Whatley, second.

21 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

23 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed.

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

1 Well, welcome everybody. Thank you all for
2 taking time out of your day to come down here to
3 work on our business. There's a lot of stuff going
4 on right now, and we need a lot of help on getting
5 our --

6 2VC LEWIS: Just say getting our shit together.

7 COMMANDER OREN: -- raising money so we won't
8 have to raise dues, buying blankets.

9 We need to get out and talk about the vet stuff
10 and things like this. Get it out to our members. I
11 don't hear many people talk about it. We haven't
12 had much activity in either one of these. I think
13 we've sold one blanket, two. So let's try not to
14 raise our dues.

15 I don't think our Posts probably know about it.
16 We just need to get information out to our Posts.
17 Too often we hold our meetings here and then we
18 don't go back and tell anybody. So I'm asking you
19 all to please work with me this year and get this
20 information back to our people.

21 The other thing I'd like to bring up is my
22 Commander's project, which I did put one flyer out.
23 I can get you one if you need one. It's Challenge
24 Champions. They work with veterans. Yes, it's
25 horses again. And they work with gifted children, a

1 lot of gifted children.

2 I don't know, you know, some of you have
3 probably heard me, but my granddaughter has been
4 going there for about 15 years. I had to take her
5 out there back in April. We walked into the place
6 and she said something. And you could hear this
7 horse, clear over in the stable, whinnying.
8 Everybody started laughing. I said, "What's going
9 on?"

10 They said, "That's her horse, wanting to get
11 over here."

12 So they called over there, "Turn that horse
13 loose." And here come Buddy, racing right up to the
14 arena, right to the door.

15 It's a great big horse. And my granddaughter
16 is about yea big (indicating). You know, it tore me
17 up. So that's how my project got started.

18 My homecoming is coming up on October 25th, in
19 Continental. I do have some extra flyers here if
20 you guys need some.

21 And we had a good membership training last
22 week. It was over in Indianapolis and we had a good
23 turnout. I think things went very well. Gary will
24 discuss that a little more, I believe.

25 And I think that's all I'm going to say right

1 now. We'll turn it over --

2 Two things.

3 If you want to speak in the back of the room,
4 come up to the microphone.

5 The other thing, if you want to speak, stand
6 up, give your name, District, or I get in trouble
7 over here (indicating). I don't want that beating.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause).

10 1VC COX, JR.: Morning.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

12 1VC COX, JR.: O-H.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: I-O.

14 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Go blue.

15 1VC COX, JR.: Man, that sounded a lot better
16 there, Bob. You've already got a \$30 million fine.
17 I don't think we need to add to it.

18 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Money is nothing. You
19 know, we've got plenty of it.

20 1VC COX, JR.: Good morning again.

21 All right, a few things I wanted to talk about.

22 Stan hit on it the membership workshop. By a
23 show of hands, how many attended?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

25 1VC COX, JR.: What do you all think, pretty

1 good?

2 You've got some 2nd Vices coming up that you're
3 going to be looking at going to it next year. Make
4 sure that information trickles down.

5 Our number, 70,535, given to us by Dan Wiley.
6 That's about a thousand less than what our actual
7 quota was, or the actual number that we had this
8 past year, which I believe we finished at 69,616.
9 Just going off what we did last year and a little
10 bit of a push, we should nail that. But I don't
11 want to just nail that. I want to go above it. All
12 of you should be striving to go above. All of you.
13 Every time.

14 We're keeping it at quota plus one for all the
15 Posts. That was something that was discussed but we
16 never really got into. I hope all your Districts
17 have a box outside that the Department wanted me to
18 let you guys know about.

19 Also, you should have the Department Membership
20 Challenge, all you 1st Vices. That's my challenge.
21 My challenge is "Bite the Bulleit." I'm offering a
22 bottle of Bulleit to each District. So I'm offering
23 a bottle of Bulleit for the challenge that you guys
24 do when it comes to me. What do you guys want,
25 highest percentage of how you finish, Little Brown

1 Jug? You tell me what your challenge is. The
2 opposite, you've to buy pop worth that bottle for
3 me, because I don't drink. I don't need a bottle of
4 Bulleit.

5 FROM THE FLOOR: Mountain Dew.

6 1VC COX, JR.: I'll take Mountain Dew. I'd
7 like to see a big old stack back here (indicating).
8 I think it would be hilarious. But, boy, my kidney
9 stone, that might hurt a little bit.

10 We also have the Districts' responsibility.
11 You guys should have seen the membership that just
12 came out this past Wednesday. Sherry busts her butt
13 with that, with the help of myself and Miss Holly.
14 We need to make sure that you guys are looking at
15 that.

16 And the one that's really pushing right now is
17 the cleared list. Look on that per your Districts.

18 And District Commanders, you have Post
19 inspections that are going to be due this year. Hit
20 those Posts that haven't done their paperwork yet
21 first. Get those in order.

22 If you have a large area District, divide it
23 up. You've got Past District Commanders, you've got
24 1st Vices, you've got 2nd Vices. Don't try to take
25 it all upon yourself.

1 Case in point. When I was a 6th District
2 Commander, there were 31 Posts at that time. Nine
3 of them had a meeting on the second Tuesday of the
4 month. There ain't no way in the world I'm going to
5 get nine Posts on the second Tuesday of the month.
6 It's going to take me nine months.

7 Divide it up. Figure out who's in that area
8 that you can rely on. Send them and get your Post
9 inspections done.

10 For the Commanders that are looking at the
11 cleared list for those who haven't cleared, you
12 should take that on yourself.

13 You know, that also falls under the Sons. Even
14 though the Sons is a program of us, we still are
15 responsible for it. So look at that one too.

16 Three Posts have already made quota this year:
17 Toledo Post 18, Winchester Post 242, and East
18 Fultonham 726. I'm proud of those guys.

19 There's also a paper on your thing that says
20 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 5:00
21 to 6:00, or 6:00 to 7:00. I want you to pick a day
22 and circle that. Because when we get to September,
23 I will look and see who's the majority of. That way
24 we can have that meeting for us 1st Vices. Because
25 we need to get that started. We're going to do that

1 in September. And there is going to be an e-mail
2 sent out once I get all those back.

3 JD also reminded me that also goes to the Post
4 1st Vices too. I forgot to mention that.

5 Is anybody here in the 10th District?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 1VC COX, JR.: They're both gone, aren't they?

8 2VC LEWIS: No, he's here. He's back there
9 (indicating).

10 1VC COX, JR.: Okay.

11 Also, lantern exchange. Do we have them both
12 here?

13 I see the one. Is the green one here?

14 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Well, that's money.

15 1VC COX, JR.: Yeah.

16 I believe the 10th District finished with it.

17 COMMANDER OREN: That's money to the
18 Commander's project.

19 1VC COX, JR.: It is money to the Commander's
20 project.

21 Not to throw you into a spot, but you guys have
22 the green lantern and that needs to be brought to
23 the 2nd District. You need to make sure they get
24 that as soon as possible.

25 So the 2nd District is our new No. 1 right now,

1 according to that, with 53.74 percent.

2 (Applause).

3 Are you going to hold it?

4 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: We're going to try.

5 1VC COX, JR.: For a week?

6 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: No. We'll get the

7 Brown Jug though.

8 1VC COX, JR.: All right. Is that going to be

9 your bet to me?

10 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: That's up to him.

11 1VC COX, JR.: All right.

12 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District

13 Commander.

14 1VC COX, JR.: All right, now the red lantern.

15 4th District, you want to keep that one?

16 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BAUMANN: No.

17 1VC COX, JR.: No?

18 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BAUMANN: No.

19 1VC COX, JR.: How about you give it to the 7th

20 District?

21 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BAUMANN: I'll give it to the

22 7th.

23 1VC COX, JR.: All right.

24 John Conley.

25 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: Doug Boyd.

1 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BAUMANN: Steve Baumann, 4th
2 District.

3 1VC COX, JR.: Who do we got back there?

4 7TH DISTRICT 1VC BOYD: Doug Boyd.

5 I got a railroad pension 20 years ago. I
6 didn't think I'd ever see one of these again, let
7 alone have to hold it.

8 1VC COX, JR.: Well you are now responsible for
9 it, sir. Make sure you bring it until you,
10 hopefully, have to give it up. That should be your
11 goal, to now get rid of that.

12 Tim, it's your goal to keep yours.

13 All right, I don't believe I have anything
14 else, unless any of my 1st Vices or Commanders have
15 anything for me.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 1VC COX, JR.: All right.

18 Commander, thank you for your time.

19 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Holly. Holly.

20 2VC LEWIS: Good morning, everyone.

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

22 2VC LEWIS: Wow, this thing is pretty high.

23 The membership workshop was really great. I
24 would love to hear, afterwards, what you got out of
25 it.

1 I think one of the things for me was we're
2 really probably not doing a great job at long-range
3 planning. So I'm going to talk about that in a
4 little bit.

5 The baseball tournament was great, other than
6 the rain. I wanted to thank the staff. They did an
7 amazing job at that tournament, and Christie and
8 everyone who was there. It was really, really good,
9 other than the rain, pouring down rain.

10 There's a couple of things coming up that I
11 want to remind you of.

12 And before I do that, how many of you, by a
13 show of hands, have access to your Ohio Legion
14 e-mail?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

16 2VC LEWIS: That's not everyone in the room.

17 So we sent out, I believe, instructions on how
18 to get access to your Ohio Legion e-mail. You need
19 to be checking that on a frequent basis, because we
20 do send out these flyers and information, the
21 membership report goes there for the District
22 Commanders. So please be checking your e-mail.

23 If you have issues getting in or you want help
24 setting it up on your phone, just see me after.
25 I'll help you set it up. Okay?

1 All right, so in September, we have the trap
2 shoot tournament. That is going to be at Post 754,
3 754 Johnsville. Registration starts at 9:00
4 o'clock. The trap shoot actually starts at 10:00
5 AM.

6 And let's see. I'm trying to go in order.

7 February is going to be the Department Bowling
8 Tournament. The dates are the 14th through the
9 15th, the 21st through the 22nd, and the 26th
10 through the 28th. And it's going to be hosted by
11 Miamisburg Post 165, and it's going to be at
12 Poelking Lanes in Dayton. So look for more
13 information on that. It's also on the website. But
14 we'll get you some more information.

15 In March, there's a Department Cornhole
16 Tournament at Post 282, in Orrville, in the 10th
17 District. We have a flyer, so that will be getting
18 sent out. So that's on March 28th.

19 The Department Pool Tournament is in April,
20 April 17th through the 19th, at the Zanesville Post
21 29. So more information will be coming out about
22 that one.

23 And then the Department Euchre Tournament is on
24 May 9th, and it starts at noon, at Warren L.
25 McIntire Post 262.

1 If any of you have activities going on for the
2 District, or even a Post, that you would like any of
3 us to be at, please e-mail us and let us know,
4 because I'm more than willing to travel and go to
5 activities.

6 And that is my report, thank you.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

8 Dean will give a report.

9 CHRMN BOYERS: Good morning.

10 Obviously I'm not Ken LaVoy. He is traveling
11 around the world. So I will go ahead and give his
12 report.

13 The investments. The investments are doing
14 quite well, actually. I'll go over those real
15 quick.

16 Between the two Buckeye Boys State Accounts, we
17 have \$553,502. The general account has \$547,174.
18 The Gifts for Yanks Account has 882,293. The Life
19 Membership Fund has \$1,622,535. The Special
20 Olympics account has \$134,708. The rehab fund has
21 829,687. The reserve fund has 1,813 728. And the
22 Scholarship Fund has \$1,457,205. For a grand total
23 in our investment accounts of 7,840,412, and that
24 was as of Wednesday, August 14th.

25 Are there any questions on our investments?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 CHRMN BOYERS: Commander, I'm just going to go
3 ahead and move on and give the Finance Committee
4 report.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Go ahead.

6 CHRMN BOYERS: So everybody received a copy of
7 the Finance Committee meeting minutes. We've met
8 twice since our last DEC meeting.

9 The first meeting that we had was on Tuesday,
10 July 23rd. Does anybody have any questions or
11 comments on the July 23rd meeting minutes?

12 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC, just a couple
13 things.

14 You had a couple typos in there that needed to
15 be corrected, obviously. Holly Lewis is not the
16 Treasurer.

17 CHRMN BOYERS: Correct. I noticed that on both
18 of the meeting minutes, that that needs corrected.

19 NEC CHAPMAN: And I guess these were done by
20 phone. So I guess it's possible, then, that
21 everyone was there by phone, right?

22 CHRMN BOYERS: Yes.

23 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, so that's good.

24 The only other thing in the minutes, and you'll
25 probably talk about this in a few minutes when you

1 talk about the budget, I'm sure.

2 CHRMN BOYERS: Correct.

3 NEC CHAPMAN: We were told all last year that
4 we were going to see actuals and budgeted amounts.
5 Now I understand this is the first one. So you
6 don't have any actuals there, really, at this time.
7 But there should be another column on there.

8 But probably what should have been done on this
9 one, so that we could see where adjustments were
10 made and for any discussions about why they were
11 made, we should have had last year's actual totals
12 in a column.

13 If you'll look at the SAL's budget, they did
14 that.

15 CHRMN BOYERS: Okay.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: You see what their budget was
17 last year and what they finished up with. We should
18 be able to get the same thing here.

19 CHRMN BOYERS: Understandable.

20 NEC CHAPMAN: And that way, if someone has a
21 question about one of the line items, then they can
22 always set that section aside and you can discuss
23 that and probably give your answer to that.

24 CHRMN BOYERS: Okay.

25 NEC CHAPMAN: Thank you.

1 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Can I speak on that?

2 COMMANDER OREN: Certainly.

3 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Adjutant Robinson.

4 To answer your question, Chappy, on why it's
5 not on there, we were still closing the year out,
6 trying to get the budget approved. So giving you
7 numbers right now would have been false numbers
8 because they wouldn't have been completely accurate
9 because we hadn't gotten the year end closed out
10 quite yet. We could have looked at the numbers
11 that --

12 NEC CHAPMAN: Either direction, to date.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Okay. We can do that next
14 year.

15 So just so I understand, you want, next year
16 you want to see what --

17 NEC CHAPMAN: At the start, at the start, yes.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Right. So let's say our
19 2025 budgeted in comparison to our 2026 budget?

20 NEC CHAPMAN: Sure.

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And what adjustments we've
22 made?

23 NEC CHAPMAN: Yeah.

24 We've got a good crew there. And you're doing
25 the right things. That's just something that I

1 would like to see.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Okay, okay. That sounds
3 like it would be a fairly simple fix.

4 NEC CHAPMAN: Good.

5 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Mr. Chairman.

6 CHRMN BOYERS: Yes, sir.

7 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Robert Schmitt,
8 Alternate NEC.

9 It says that fixing the flagpole with the
10 halyard inside, the cable, was going to be \$800.
11 That was supposed to be a fixed price. And in
12 August, I see it cost \$900.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It was not a fixed price.
14 The quote was \$1500.

15 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Excuse me. It says the
16 American flag cable broke and the only available
17 company that was going to fix it would charge \$800
18 to replace the cable, which is inside.

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The quote we have sitting
20 on my desk was \$1500. I don't know why it says 800
21 in the minutes. I apologize.

22 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: That's one question.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: A missed typo? I don't
24 know.

25 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: So if it was 15 and it

1 only cost us nine, that's okay.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

3 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: But when it's 800, and
4 it's supposed to be a fixed price, and we got
5 charged nine --

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No. The quote was 1500,
7 originally.

8 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: So the minutes we're
9 being provided are not necessarily accurate?

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: In that instance, that
11 number was off, yes.

12 CHRMN BOYERS: And which minutes were you
13 looking at that, Bob? I'm trying find to find
14 the --

15 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: The July, on building
16 maintenance issues.

17 CHRMN BOYERS: The July 23rd meeting?

18 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Yeah.

19 It says the cable will be charged \$800, to
20 replace it. And on the August it says nine. And
21 then it says, while replacement and additional pole
22 are estimated 15,000, which I'm not sure about that
23 because it says adding the new flagpole would cost
24 100,000 in the July, and the August says 15,000.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Those are two way different

1 things.

2 Adjutant Robinson.

3 For clarification, adding just that pole is
4 going to be \$15,000. That's not counting what the
5 concrete cost and all the labor of taking out the
6 old concrete, resetting all the poles. That's why
7 you have such a disparity from going from just
8 putting the pole up to actually doing it the correct
9 way.

10 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Right. I can
11 understand that. You know, I can even understand
12 the fact that it's going to cost 100,000. But in
13 July it says the flagpole itself would cost \$3,000,
14 but the 100,000 is estimated for the whole project.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Those are very old quotes
16 that I was working off of for the 100,000.

17 The new 15,000 for the current flagpole came
18 from the people that actually just went out to fix
19 the flagpole so we could put our American flag back
20 up.

21 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Yeah, I don't see
22 anything in the August minutes about the doors.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We've not fixed the doors
24 yet.

25 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Okay.

1 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We're waiting on the budget
2 to be approved.

3 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Have you got an
4 estimate of what the budget is going to be for the
5 doors?

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Eight thousand.

7 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Eight thousand.

8 That was in the July minutes?

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

10 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Okay. I'll let it go
11 at that.

12 CHRMN BOYERS: The door issue has been an
13 ongoing issue --

14 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Yes, I know.

15 CHRMN BOYERS: -- that we've been kicking
16 around, trying to figure out exactly where the money
17 is going to come from to make the necessary repairs
18 to the doors. So --

19 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: And I don't know about
20 anybody else, but, you know, I'd like to use that
21 handicap button that don't work. But at one point
22 in time we were putting batteries in it, to fix it
23 temporarily.

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Well, it got hit by, you
25 know, an electrical charge and the boards burnt up.

1 And they don't make these boards anymore.

2 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Okay. Of course not,
3 25 years later.

4 CHRMN BOYERS: Any other questions on the 23rd
5 meeting minutes?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 CHRMN BOYERS: Moving on to the August 13th
8 meeting minutes, are there any questions on the
9 August 13th meeting minutes?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 CHRMN BOYERS: And although those just came
12 out, obviously, yeah, they came out since we just
13 had that meeting on Wednesday, so we didn't waste a
14 lot of time getting the meeting minutes out, any
15 questions on the August 13th meeting minutes?

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 CHRMN BOYERS: Hearing none, Commander, on the
18 August 13th meeting minutes, the Finance Committee
19 did approve the 2026 budget. Is that something we
20 want to jump into at this time or do we want to hold
21 that off for the scheduled agenda under unfinished
22 business?

23 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

24 I think we probably need to approve your budget
25 so that we can operate for the year.

1 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It's under unfinished
2 business.

3 NEC CHAPMAN: And a budget, it can always be
4 adjusted throughout the year to meet the needs if
5 something is short and we think we want to move some
6 funds over.

7 I move to accept the budget as printed.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

9 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Jake Marx, 14th
10 District 1st Vice Commander, seconds.

11 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

13 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, the same.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER OREN: The motion carries.

16 CHRMN BOYERS: Thank you.

17 Do we need a motion to approve the committee
18 report?

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No.

20 NEC CHAPMAN: It's information only.

21 CHRMN BOYERS: All right, sounds good.

22 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Yes, Sharon.

23 ASST CHAPLAIN McCLAIN: Commander, I did not
24 receive anything from anybody. So I have no report.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

1 ASST CHAPLAIN McCLAIN: Thank you.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Just to pass it on, Gary
3 Cox's partner Sarah lost her grandmother. So please
4 keep Sarah and Gary and their family in your
5 prayers.

6 2VC LEWIS: JD.

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Thank you, Holly. I knew
8 there was another one. I couldn't think of it.

9 Past District Commander Dick Houpp, out of the
10 10th, had a severe stroke on both sides of his
11 brain, and he is unable to move any extremities at
12 this time. We will keep you updated as we find any
13 information out.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, JD.

15 Bob Schmitt, NEC (sic).

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Alternate.

17 NEC CHAPMAN: Not yet. He's not yet.

18 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: No, you've got to call
19 the NEC first.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Boy, I just jumped way down
21 there.

22 Kevin Motter, would you please present your
23 report.

24 HISTORIAN MOTTER: Thank you, sir.

25 A shout out to the 1st District, Commander Dean

1 Boyers, 1st Vice Bernie Rau, 2nd Vice Jeff Hess way
2 back there in the back.

3 The Historian's report of the Department of
4 Ohio American Legion for 2025-2026, by yours truly,
5 Kevin Motter.

6 Page one, paragraph one: History is being made
7 within The American Legion Department of Ohio and is
8 being documented.

9 I wish to thank Al and Dayna Beyer for their
10 assistance and guidance.

11 If you have any questions, I'll be available
12 after the meeting to make up some crap that sounds
13 reasonably believable.

14 That's the end of my report.

15 (Applause).

16 COMMANDER OREN: You did well, Kevin.

17 HISTORIAN MOTTER: Thank you, sir.

18 COMMANDER OREN: Now let's try Ron Chapman.

19 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, Ron Chapman, NEC.

20 First of all, I'm looking forward to the new
21 year, working with our new officers.
22 Congratulations on your elections, all of you
23 officers out here, too.

24 I'm looking forward to seeing everybody in
25 Tampa. I'm looking forward to my first NEC meeting

1 in Tampa this year, and the pre-NEC and the
2 follow-up NEC. And then hopefully the fall meetings
3 is going to be when we get some business done.

4 I will report, though, it's good to see the
5 responses that Ohio is giving to the grassroots
6 program to our legislation, because Congress is
7 passing some things that are favorable to veterans.

8 And the support that we give when you make
9 those -- all you've got to do is look at your phone
10 and hit the "Yes" button, basically, and it's going
11 to send the letters out to your congressman and your
12 senators. And they will reply back to you, letting
13 you know they got those. But that shows the
14 support.

15 And I think we had like 120 last month. So
16 that's not bad. So we need to get that higher. If
17 we've got a DEC in here with 36 members, voting
18 members, we should be able to get that done five or
19 six times a year. So let's work on that.

20 And be sure to familiarize yourself with the
21 Commander's program.

22 And of course we know that our incoming
23 National Commander's project is, once again, "Be the
24 One" theme, along with his project, whatever that
25 is.

1 Keep all that in mind. Thank you.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Chappy.

3 Bob Schmitt.

4 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: I really don't have
5 much of a report. The NEC gave most of the report.
6 I don't know of anything else to give, other than
7 the fact that I didn't follow under the Chaplain.

8 We're going to the National Convention in
9 Tampa. And maybe I shouldn't say this, but be very
10 careful. Hopefully nobody has to go to the hospital
11 for anything, because the closest hospital is Tampa
12 General. And I just lost my brother in May at Tampa
13 General. He wasn't at Tampa General when he died,
14 but he was there for over 70 days, and had brain
15 surgery at another hospital. But anyways, he ended
16 up there, on a ventilator in ICU. He ended up
17 getting what's known as pseudomonas. It's a form of
18 pneumonia and it's incurable. And it comes from
19 ventilation tubes and ICUs, long stays. And all I
20 can say is be very careful if you have to go there.
21 My opinion is I'm going to go someplace else,
22 St. Joe's or St. Joe's South, but not Tampa General.
23 But anyways, just be very careful. Okay?

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Other than that, have
25 fun in Tampa.

1 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Yeah, enjoy your time
2 down there.

3 COMMANDER OREN: Thanks for depressing us.

4 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: He was an SAL member,
5 one of our SAL members.

6 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Bob, or I should
7 say Robert.

8 Jason Rue.

9 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Nothing to report at this
10 time, Commander.

11 COMMANDER OREN: Gary Minadeo.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: No report, Commander.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Well trained, aren't they?

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It doesn't matter to
15 say I'm busy as hell. So --

16 COMMANDER OREN: JD.

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Morning everybody.

18 I have just a couple of quick ones for you.
19 They are put on the table for you.

20 One is the Board directive for not only this
21 Board, but your District Board and your Post Board.
22 This applies to everybody in the state.

23 The other one, I've been hearing a lot about
24 501(c)(19)'s giving to other 501(c)(19)'s. Yes,
25 that is legal, but if you're trying to do it out of

1 the Charities's money, call the AG's office. Those
2 regulations change faster than Stan changes his
3 underwear. So just call the AG's office to get
4 clarification.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: How do you know how
6 fast Stan changes his underwear?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Ruth told me.

8 That is my report this morning, Commander. I
9 just wanted to go over those two things. Thank you.

10 COMMANDER OREN: All right. Okay, report on
11 Americanism, and much, much more.

12 COORDINATOR WHITE: Good morning.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

14 COORDINATOR WHITE: A quick change on the
15 Americanism events because I got called out this
16 morning. We met on August 2, 2025, not 2024. My
17 bad.

18 Americanism met on August 2, 2025, at 10:00 AM,
19 in person. The chairman opened the meeting at
20 10:00.

21 It was moved and seconded to approve the
22 minutes from the last meeting.

23 It was motioned and seconded to approve the
24 rules of the committee, which everybody should have
25 received copies of.

1 Discussion was had about reimbursement number
2 three, adding "Per Commander's approval" for lodging
3 allowance.

4 For the A&G testing dates, they will be October
5 27th through October 31st. The make-up dates will
6 be November 3rd through November 7th. It was
7 motioned and seconded to approve those testing
8 dates.

9 The dates for the A&G Trip will be March 2nd
10 through the 6th, 2026. The secondary date would be
11 March 9th through the 13th, 2026. It was motioned
12 and seconded to approve the trip dates pending the
13 availability for a wreath laying on Tomb of the
14 Unknown Soldiers.

15 The commission selected the essay question. It
16 was motioned to approve the essay question as
17 written: "Envision yourself over 18 and able to
18 vote. Which of the constitutional amendments is the
19 most impactful to you? Please explain your answer."
20 So that will be the essay question on the A&G test.

21 Envision yourself over 18. Way back when.

22 So the Alice Friedman Memorial Award was
23 discussed. The Mickeal J. Golato Memorial Award was
24 discussed.

25 The A&G trip was also discussed, because the

1 SAL wants to join. So it was motioned and seconded
2 to add the SAL to the A&G trip with the following
3 criteria: The Detachment 1st Vice Commander and one
4 guest may join the trip; The Legion, Auxiliary and
5 SAL will sponsor the test; the SAL has to
6 participate in administering the test and promotion
7 of the test; SAL will need to help grade the test at
8 Post level; the SAL will need to contribute
9 one-third of the cost of the total trip; and pending
10 approval of the SAL DEC before Department Finance
11 and DEC ratification.

12 The meeting adjourned at 11:18 AM. There were
13 11 members present. And the total for travel
14 reimbursement was \$804.60.

15 That is my Americanism report.

16 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a motion to accept?

17 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
18 District Commander, makes the motion to accept.

19 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th
20 District, seconds.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say

1 aye.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

3 COORDINATOR WHITE: Okay, just a little

4 Baseball update.

5 2025 marks the 100th year for American Legion

6 Baseball.

7 This year's senior baseball tournament kicked

8 off on July 25th, at Beavers Field in Lancaster.

9 Department Commander Stan Oren threw out the first
10 pitch.

11 The Department Senior Tournament was a
12 six-team, double-elimination, tournament. The
13 winners of the four region tournaments automatically
14 qualified for the state tournaments. The winner
15 from each region tournament advanced to the state
16 tournament to play one of the other region
17 runner-ups in a single elimination game. We changed
18 the way that it happened this year. The two winners
19 of each game complete the six-team bracket for the
20 tournament.

21 The six teams that played in the senior
22 tournament were:

23 Region 1, Ottawa Post 63; Region 1 runner-up,
24 Pemberville Post 183.

25 Region 2, Sidney Post 217; Region 2 runner-up,

1 Greenville Post 140.

2 Region 3 was Yeager-Benson Post 199, and Region
3 4 was Beverly/Lowell Posts 389/750.

4 The final game of the tournament was on Monday,
5 July 28th, with Yeager-Benson Post 199 and
6 Beverly/Lowell Posts 389/750 facing off in the final
7 game, with both teams having one loss prior to the
8 championship game. Beverly Lowell Posts 389/750
9 defeated Yeager-Benson Post 199 six to four.

10 So Beverly/Lowell moved to the Great Lakes
11 Regional Tournament, which was held in Carol Stream,
12 Illinois. Unfortunately, they did not make it to
13 The American Legion World Series.

14 That's my Baseball report.

15 1VC COX, JR.: Gary Cox, Jr., Department 1st
16 Vice.

17 Beverly/Lowell won with a three-run home run
18 shot in a walk-off in the bottom of the seventh, if
19 I'm not mistaken. It was a very, very well-played
20 game for both of those teams.

21 COORDINATOR WHITE: With two outs. It was
22 insane.

23 1VC COX, JR.: With two outs, yes.

24 So if none of you have been to the baseball
25 events, you all are definitely missing out.

1 COORDINATOR WHITE: Yeah, it gets your blood
2 pressure all crazy.

3 Okay, so the Convention Corp Committee. I know
4 the minutes were sent out yesterday because the
5 meeting happened yesterday at 5:00.

6 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Sharonville.

7 COORDINATOR WHITE: So the Convention Corp met
8 yesterday at 5:00, virtually.

9 We reviewed bids. I notified the commission
10 that there was a spreadsheet of the cost breakdown
11 for each year from the hotel that was e-mailed to
12 them prior to the Teams meeting. So you all should
13 have received that attachment as well.

14 2028 was discussed. Sharonville sent in a bid
15 for July 5th through July 9th.

16 The reason it says July 5th is because staff
17 arrive early. I don't want you guys to think that
18 convention is now a five-day thing.

19 The hotels that submitted the bid were Hyatt,
20 LivInn and Delta, as well as the Sharonville
21 Convention Center.

22 It was motioned and seconded to go to
23 Sharonville for the 2028 Department Convention.

24 The 2029 Department Convention was also
25 discussed. Sharonville, again, was the only bid

1 that was submitted. Their dates were July 11th
2 through July 15th, 2029, the same hotels, Hyatt,
3 LivInn and Delta, as well as the Sharonville
4 Convention Center.

5 It was motioned and seconded to approve
6 Sharonville for the 2029 Department Convention.

7 There was no new business.

8 There was a reminder that Toledo will be the
9 Department Convention location for '26 and '27.

10 And the meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM.

11 COMMANDER OREN: Do I have a motion?

12 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC, makes the motion to
13 approve the minutes.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Do I have a second?

15 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
16 District Commander, seconds the motion.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
24 aye.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

1 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

2 Thank you, Christie.

3 COORDINATOR WHITE: Okay, my last one, for now,
4 is Children and Youth Commission.

5 They met virtually on August 2nd, at 11:30.

6 Joyce Hannum was named to be chairman for this
7 meeting due to the absence of the appointed
8 Department Chairman.

9 It was motioned and seconded to accept the
10 minutes from the last meeting.

11 It was motioned and seconded to approve the
12 rules of the commission.

13 2025 and 2026 donations were discussed.

14 The Commander's project, Challenge Champions,
15 in Putnam County, it was motioned and seconded to
16 support the Commander's project and raise money for
17 it from the Children and Youth Commission.

18 It was motioned and seconded to also support
19 "Santa's Hideaway Hollow," and share any money
20 received from the Children and Youth Commission
21 50/50 between both organizations, pending
22 verification of the 501(c)(3) status of "Santa's
23 Hideaway Hollow."

24 Child Welfare Worker of the Year was discussed.
25 Applications need to be sent to District by August

1 15th, and Department needs to receive them by
2 September 15th.

3 Our Country Flag Program. It was motioned and
4 seconded to change all paperwork to reflect the
5 2025-2026 dates.

6 And the meeting adjourned at 12:13 PM.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a motion to accept?

8 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC,
9 makes the motion to accept.

10 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller,
11 District 12. I second that motion.

12 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
19 aye.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

22 Thank you, Christie.

23 Okay, Bill.

24 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: All right, good morning.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

1 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: All right, so I'm here
2 to report on the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
3 meeting. This was a non-quorum. So this is for
4 informational purposes only.

5 The Department Veterans Affairs and
6 Rehabilitation Committee met September (sic) 2nd, at
7 1:00 PM, virtually. As I said, we had six members
8 present so we did not meet the quorum.

9 Guests were myself and James Cobb of the 14th
10 District.

11 We had the reading of previous minutes. Motion
12 by Darell Bishop to accept, seconded by Jerry Perry.

13 We did our District reports.

14 The 4th District, September 13th, is holding a
15 carnival at the Georgetown Veterans Home. There
16 will be food and games. September 20th, SAL taking
17 15 vets and five chaperones on a riverboat cruise.
18 August 23rd, they're having a vet day in Cincinnati,
19 live music and drinks, with VSOs on site to file
20 paperwork from Hamilton County.

21 And then September 5th (sic) is their annual
22 car show. I'm sorry, the annual car show is on the
23 27th of September.

24 The 5th District reported that September 6th is
25 a vet appreciation day at the Lorain Clinic, at

1 10:00 AM. Gifts for Yanks is supplying the food for
2 the event.

3 The 6th District had a picnic that following
4 week after our meeting. That was last weekend.

5 The 14th District went to Summit County
6 Fairgrounds, talked with VSOs in attendance.
7 Attendance was good, pointed 12 people toward the
8 building office for assistance.

9 Under Unfinished Business: Veterans Treatment
10 Court, no requests at this time for funds.

11 Bishop of District 5 asked if we could give out
12 challenge coins to each court. It was stated it
13 would be the same for all if we did. No action was
14 taken as no quorum was present.

15 Our Chairman, David Cook, stated Union County
16 is looking to start up a Veterans Treatment Court.
17 again, no details, as the court is still looking
18 into it with a committee.

19 And then myself went over how the court works
20 for the new members of the committee. Funds can be
21 used for supplies that are needed but not for the
22 court costs itself.

23 Under New Business: Myself introduced the
24 bills for the new congressional year. A lot of them
25 you guys are familiar with. They were dead in last

1 year's Congress, they did not pass.

2 There's a few new ones. HR-71, the Healthcare
3 Freedom Act; HR-333, which is the Disabled Veterans
4 Tax Termination Act; HR-303, Retired Pay Restoration
5 Act; HR-2164 which requires the VA secure land in
6 Montgomery County for the expansion of the Dayton
7 National Cemetery; and then the one we've all been
8 tracking for a while, HR-2102, the Major Richard
9 Star Act.

10 We discussed our awards, to start looking for
11 nominations for VA&R awards. Myself gave a review
12 on the awards. No nominations were presented. We
13 asked the committee to push this, as there must be
14 someone out there to be nominated.

15 Darell Bishop gave the Gifts for Yanks Report.
16 New year started. They got 289,000 last year. It
17 has been divided up between the various hospitals
18 and veteran homes. Perry of District 4 asked how to
19 get funds when needed.

20 And myself gave a DSO report, which I'll give
21 that very last there.

22 But last we had resolutions. There was a
23 resolution that was presented to us, "Resolution
24 26-01, Military Service in Honduras: American Legion
25 urges Congress to authorize an Armed Forces

1 Expeditionary or similar award to veterans who
2 served in Honduras between 1981 and 1992." This was
3 tabled due to no quorum.

4 Review of the minutes from VA&R was completed.

5 Committeeman David Cook, our Chairman, went
6 over the possible creation of an award, which I will
7 leave up to Jacob to talk about that next.

8 And the good of The Legion: District 4, Jerry
9 Perry, thanked Darell Bishop of the 5th District for
10 food for the pantry at their facilities.

11 In our DSO report, all DSOs who are required to
12 take our advanced training 202 through Bergmann and
13 Moore have taken and completed those courses.

14 The Cleveland VA Regional Office is still open
15 Monday through Friday, with five full-time DSOs and
16 one office admin. I personally spoke with the
17 Cleveland VA Regional Office Director, Ms. Dowdy,
18 and her Assistant Director, Todd Weber, regarding
19 the closing of the Anthony J. Celebreeze Federal
20 Building. If you haven't heard about it, they are
21 planning to close that facility within the next
22 three years. Cleveland is still on the chopping
23 block. When I talked to the VA, they are looking
24 for facilities in the greater Cleveland area and
25 their intent is to take all DSOs with them. So we

1 should have an office, somewhere in the future,
2 downtown.

3 So, since it's the government, so that will
4 probably change 16 more times. But it is what it is
5 for now.

6 Wade Park: One part-time DSO Monday through
7 Thursday.

8 There is new information for the 13th District
9 or 5th District that utilizes Wade Park. The county
10 veterans service office that is located on Prospect
11 is closing. Well, it's permanently closed now.
12 They are moving to 3950 Chester Avenue, in
13 Cleveland. The expected time for that is somewhere
14 in December, but they are still seeing patients and
15 veterans at Wade Park and Parma VA Medical Centers
16 to take care of those.

17 Chillicothe is open Monday through Friday. We
18 hired a new DSO there, for those of you who haven't
19 met him, Troy Elliott. A fast learner, excellent,
20 older gentleman. I know JD has dealt with him. The
21 guy is phenomenal. We got lucky with him.

22 The Dayton VA Medical Center is open Monday
23 through Friday. Gary continues to be a huge asset.
24 He's one of those that comes out and does DSO work
25 at our conventions and Mid-Winters.

1 And Cincinnati is currently still vacant. JD
2 and I are in discussion on that.

3 DSO Production: VBA Coordinator is actively
4 tracking BVA award amounts. And since 2017, I am
5 proud to say that our service officer team has
6 provided \$38,292,305.14 for the veterans we have
7 represented since 2017, and the VBA staffs.

8 (Applause).

9 We weren't going to advertise him, but Jacob
10 Brault, our Legislative Coordinator, is fully
11 accredited now. We do ask not to overload him
12 because he's got other tasks, but he is here to
13 help, at Department level, with service officer
14 work. So we did add him on.

15 So we don't need a vote. Like I said, it was
16 just information purposes only.

17 Are there any questions anybody has for me?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Commander.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, sir.

21 Jacob.

22 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Good morning everybody.

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

24 COORDINATOR BRAULT: I'll try and keep this as
25 painless as possible for you.

1 So the first one is our Education and
2 Employment Committee. We met August 1st, 2025, at
3 6:00 PM. The chairman opened that at 6:00 PM.

4 Approval of subcommittee rules. We went
5 through line by line and kind of figured out what we
6 liked, what we didn't like. The only thing that we
7 changed was Thom Stan, 11th District, motioned,
8 seconded by Dennis Dickey, 3rd District, to accept
9 the committee rules with the change of highlighting
10 "Approved" under the reimbursement portion, to make
11 aware that overnight stays must be authorized by
12 Department Commander for reimbursement, and change
13 the specific DEC months to say "Prior to the
14 quarterly DEC meetings." That way, if DEC's change,
15 we don't have to worry about it saying the wrong
16 ones. That motion passed.

17 The committee discussed how National has a VE&E
18 Award that may not be a complete fit for our
19 Department, and they decided to use a modified
20 version that still applies to certain National
21 awards.

22 So, Cook, from the 6th District, motioned,
23 seconded by Sarah Mast, from the 1st District, to
24 have the committee create a Department VE&E Award
25 for Veterans Employment in a private business or

1 non-profit in three categories, small, medium, and
2 large, that mimick National's criteria, with the
3 exception of a point system to eliminate the need
4 for a debate on who a specific winner could be.
5 That motion passed.

6 Then Thom Stan, 11th District, motioned,
7 seconded by Dennis Dickey, 3rd District, to amend
8 the motion to withhold the award creation until the
9 fall meeting, when the resolution is completed and
10 can be presented to the DEC and the applicable
11 committees that it has to go through to get
12 approved.

13 That meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

14 Any questions on that one?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER OREN: Do you need a motion?

17 COORDINATOR BRAULT: No.

18 COMMANDER OREN: No? Okay.

19 COORDINATOR BRAULT: National Security. We met
20 August 2nd, 2025, at 10:00 AM, virtually, through
21 Teams.

22 Chairman Beatty opened that one at 10:00 AM.
23 The previous minutes did not need to be approved.
24 They were read though.

25 Discussion on of-the-year came back up again.

1 Richard LaValley, 7th District, motioned,
2 seconded by Al Buxton, 4th District, to accept the
3 criteria for the Dispatcher of the Year Award.

4 Al Buxton, 4th District, then recommended we
5 submit the resolution to National for potential
6 adoption. I let them know that would be up to this
7 body, whether we do that or not. And then the
8 criteria must go through Finance and IA to determine
9 if it's going to be pushed forward.

10 New Business: Al Buxton, 4th District,
11 seconded by Tom Leach, 11th District, to approve
12 commission rules. That motion passed.

13 Ham radio program information. Myself and Al
14 Buxton gave a little bit of the known information on
15 the amateur ham radio program that we had in the
16 past. Not very much is known about that. National
17 kind of dropped that program in 2019, I believe. So
18 it's all on the Department. So Chairman Beatty
19 requested that I find out as much information as I
20 can, and then requested that all District Chairs
21 reach out to Posts to find out if they had any
22 information on the creation of a specific program
23 for each Post.

24 Of-the-year awards. The commission was given
25 information on how to complete the of-the-year award

1 forms, with deadlines to District being August 1st,
2 and Department being September 15th.

3 Chairman Beatty requested that the DEC reach
4 out to Posts who give similar awards in their
5 Districts and encourage them to forward their
6 winners to the District level, getting more
7 nominations.

8 That meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM.

9 COMMANDER OREN: Do we need a motion for that
10 one?

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No.

12 2VC LEWIS: It's just a receive and record.

13 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Legislative. We met on
14 August 2nd, 2025, at 11:30 AM, virtually. Chairman
15 Heller opened the meeting at 11:30.

16 Approval of previous minutes, we did not need
17 to do that.

18 Unfinished Business. The commission had
19 discussion on convention committee awards that we
20 previously discussed last year. The Legislator of
21 the Year Award due date came up. Chairman Heller
22 reintroduced the prior year and new submission date
23 to Department Headquarters to be 30 days prior to
24 Department Convention, and it would be voted on and
25 ratified by the Legislative Convention Committee,

1 and then recognized at the Mid-Winter Banquet,
2 starting in the '26-'27 year.

3 Richard Smathers, 11th District, motioned,
4 seconded Kurt Emans, 2nd District, to go forward
5 with changing the criteria for the voting of the
6 Legislator of the Year to the convention committee
7 and changing the date of submission for the
8 Legislative Commission to 30 days after Department
9 Convention, starting in the '26-'27 year.

10 I did make a typo. That needs to say "prior,"
11 if anyone would be willing to help me out with that.

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah, Suzette
13 Heller. I make a motion that we amend the minutes
14 to say, "Submission of the nomination to the
15 Department Adjutant 30 days prior to Department
16 Convention."

17 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

18 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Commander, Dean
19 Boyers, Commander, 1st District Commander, seconds
20 that motion.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Any further discussion?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
3 aye.

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

6 COORDINATOR BRAULT: During the any discussion
7 portion, Jacob Marx did note that if the convention
8 committee votes on the award, there's no guarantee
9 that the members will be our Legislative Commission
10 members, and they might not be well adapted to vote
11 on that Legislator of the Year.

12 That motion passed though.

13 I did let everyone know the award change will
14 be sent to the applicable committees to be approved
15 and then sent to this body to approve that award
16 change after that is done.

17 Under new business, approval of commission
18 rules, we had a good chunk of changes: To change
19 the "Responsibility" section to say "prior to annual
20 budget approval," instead of "15 days;" to change
21 "Authorized meetings" to state "Standing commission
22 meeting to stay at Department discretion for the
23 first meeting; to change fall meeting to remove
24 "October" and replace with "May meet in the fall,
25 either online or in person, dependent on budget; to

1 change "Spring meeting" to say the same; under
2 "Other authorization," change specific months to
3 say, "At all DEC meetings and annually at Department
4 Convention, when appropriate;" change "chairperson
5 to submit budget after final commission meeting."

6 That was motioned by Kurt Emans, 2nd District,
7 and seconded by Richard Smathers, 11th District, to
8 approve the commission rules with changes. That was
9 passed.

10 Then we went over a couple of House bills and
11 Senate bills that are currently going through.

12 Senate Bill 117, and House Bill 344, allowing
13 virtual lottery terminals in any location that is an
14 authorized lottery retailer. That's the slot
15 machine bill that you all probably heard about.
16 We're not too worried about it at this moment. It's
17 in very preliminary stages. A lot can change,
18 especially with them being on summer break. They're
19 lobbying to the people, trying to get votes. While
20 they're doing that, literally anything can change.
21 It's all speculation as to what could happen. And
22 we won't know more until October, when we go into
23 the committee meetings.

24 House Bills 204, 292, 293, 297, I'll talk more
25 about those in a minute, but the Chair encouraged

1 the commission members to look over them and kind of
2 see how they're feeling about it.

3 Veterans First Act, that is from the Federal
4 side, it's using funding from USAID that is no
5 longer needed and building more state veterans homes
6 across the country. It's kind of a little list that
7 they currently have.

8 The Chair gave the commission information on
9 how our Districts correspond with Federal
10 legislative districts, to kind of get a good
11 understanding of how we line up.

12 Good of the Legion. Senate Bill 39, that is
13 the creation and display of veterans benefits and
14 service posters in workplaces and veterans areas.

15 That meeting was adjourned at 2:48.

16 COMMANDER OREN: Need a motion.

17 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller,
18 District 12, I motion that we accept those minutes,
19 because there are things in there that do need
20 approval by Internal Affairs Commission and Finance
21 Commission.

22 COMMANDER OREN: Second?

23 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th
24 District Commander, second.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

1 JOHN.

2 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
3 District Commander.

4 I'm wondering why are we having Department
5 Convention Committee who is not even being made of
6 the regular standing committees choose your
7 of-the-year awards, other than having your
8 of-the-year chosen at July's meeting, or your
9 Mid-Winter meeting that's not until January.

10 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: I'd be happy to
11 answer that, Commander, as the Legislative Chairman
12 and somebody who also has given those legislative,
13 those convention committees things to do.

14 Because how many people here have served on
15 convention committees and have shown up on their own
16 time, gone to convention, and said, "Why am I here?
17 What are we doing?" And the purpose of you being
18 there, you had no purpose of actually being there.
19 You select an award but you had no criteria to
20 actually choose the award. There was really no
21 purpose to the award being chosen. How many people
22 have done that? Lots of people have done that.

23 But not only that, but it's good to have an
24 outside body take a look at the nominations that
25 have been submitted, because all of us in the

1 Legislative Committee will have submitted those
2 nominations as well. We're all kind of biased on
3 who we submit in the Legislative Commission, on who
4 we would like to see. So it's good to have an
5 outside, neutral party for those appointed to the
6 Legislative Convention Committee.

7 They're equipped to read. They can read and
8 they can make decisions on who should. And they're
9 all somebody who's chosen from each different
10 District and they can make decisions on who they
11 think, based on the nomination, would be the best
12 fit to be chosen and selected for an award for
13 Legislator of the Year.

14 I think it's fair. That leaves all of us from
15 the Legislative Commission out of the selection
16 process while we are encouraging the nominations.
17 So it's kind of a neutral body that gets to select
18 who they think would be the best fit. So that's
19 what the committee, the commission decided. I think
20 it makes sense.

21 I know, Dean, if you have anything you want to
22 comment on that as well, for discussion.

23 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: No, I have no
24 comment for you.

25 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Through the

1 Commander, if you want to.

2 That's all I have. Thank you.

3 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Yes, Commander, Dean
4 Boyers, 1st District Commander.

5 I sat on the Legislative Commission when all
6 this was discussed. It's actually been in the works
7 for the last, probably, couple of years. And we've
8 had a lot of discussion on what would be the best
9 way to go with the Legislator of the Year
10 nomination, and this is what kind of made the most
11 sense to us.

12 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Dean.

13 Did you have something you wanted to say, Gary?

14 1VC COX, JR.: No.

15 COMMANDER OREN: Did that answer your question,
16 John?

17 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: It kind of -- John
18 Life, 14th District Commander.

19 It kind of does. But for my rebuttal on it, I
20 still don't agree with it. I understand it.

21 Your selections for all the of-the-years
22 doesn't come from that chairperson. It comes from
23 your Districts. The Districts are supposed to
24 nominate and send it to that chairperson. That
25 chairperson takes it to their committees.

1 So, to be saying it's just biased because it's
2 that chairperson, I don't understand that saying. I
3 think all the other years, we've stayed with it all
4 the other years, your committees for a Department
5 Convention should be that for the Department
6 Convention.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Any other discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
10 aye.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

12 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, nay.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Nay.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Ayes have it. Motion carries.

15 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Legislative updates.

16 On the state side, we have House Concurrent
17 Resolution 7. That recognizes Buckeye Boys and
18 Girls State as the premier educational leadership
19 program in the state. That is currently in the
20 Senate Education Committee.

21 Senate Bill 39, creation and display of
22 veterans benefits and services, that one has passed
23 and rolled.

24 House Bill 339, allowing a surviving spouse of
25 a Purple Heart recipient to retain the specialty

1 plate after the veteran's passing. That one has
2 been introduced.

3 Senate Bill 223 establishes a discount program
4 for rentals sold by the Department of Natural
5 Resources to veterans and their families. That has
6 been introduced. Rentals.

7 House Bill 344 allows video lottery terminals
8 in lottery retail establishments. That one's been
9 introduced.

10 Senate Bill 197 allows on-line gambling.
11 Introduced.

12 House Bill 316 designates a portion of
13 Chillicothe Lancaster Road, in Fairfield County, as
14 the "Master Sergeant Norman Michael Kilbarger
15 Memorial Highway." That one has been introduced.

16 For the lottery terminals, we, myself and the
17 Adjutant, went to the OFDCC meeting last week. Both
18 House Bill 344 and Senate Bill 197 were discussed,
19 along with possibilities as to why these bills were
20 introduced, all of which were currently speculation,
21 like I said, and cannot be considered as true,
22 false, indifferent. OFDCC, as a collective group,
23 decided to come out with a statement to show
24 solidarity as a united front until more information
25 comes available to us.

1 Do you have any questions on those bills that
2 are currently going through the House?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COORDINATOR BRAULT: That's everything from me,
5 Commander.

6 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Thank you, Jacob.

7 COMMANDER OREN: John.

8 COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: Good morning everyone.

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

10 COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: Chairman Shallon Smith,
11 District 6, called the meeting of the Department
12 Media, Marketing and Communications Commission to
13 order at 2:31, on August the 2nd. Roll call
14 produced eight members, three subcommission members,
15 as well as guest Adjutant Robinson.

16 No motionable items were held during the
17 meeting. However, Adjutant Robinson gave a thorough
18 review of our new affiliate partnerships with
19 Department to design a master affiliate QR code file
20 that the commission members can distribute at the
21 District level. And we will be getting that out.
22 It's a big priority.

23 Review of "Operation Stay Connected," this was
24 to update our member e-mails to have better
25 communication reach. It's off to a slow start with

1 this campaign with only 73 updates so far.
2 Suggestions of incentivizing the program were given.
3 And we will continue to publicize that. And please
4 push that to your own Posts and Districts.

5 Next, liaison Vulgamore gave his quarterly
6 Legion News, website, social media, publications,
7 mailings, and IT reports. Suggestions on an OLN
8 survey were given. And the Legion family Facebook
9 page, which Dayna Beyer primarily runs, is also
10 going to promote our new partnerships as well.

11 Next, Holly Lewis, District 10, gave her report
12 from the National spring meeting of the Media
13 Commission, promoting primarily the "America 250"
14 campaign coming up.

15 Adjutant Robinson mentioned the money that was
16 raised at convention for the Texas flood victims.
17 And I believe Charities was going to match that.

18 Also, Chair Smith, District 6, added a
19 possibility with a partnership with the Army
20 National Guard readiness NCO for some of their
21 family day events, to try to cross-pollinate those
22 kinds of events and recruit new members and whatnot.

23 The meeting was adjourned at 3:53.

24 That concludes my report, Commander.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, sir.

1 Mr. JD.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's still morning.

3 The minutes for the SAL and the budget for the
4 SAL were sent out. Is there questions over those
5 minutes?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'll ask the Commander to
8 entertain a motion --

9 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC. I move to accept
10 the minutes and the budget proposal of the SAL.

11 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

12 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC,
13 seconds.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
19 aye.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The other report I'm giving
23 is for the Legion Riders. I sent out what the
24 director sent me.

25 We've had issues throughout the Districts of

1 the appointees the Commanders of this body have put
2 in place not responding and not doing the jobs that
3 they're asked to do. So please go back and look at
4 who you have in that position and make sure they are
5 doing the job that you need them to do.

6 It is the fastest growing program in the
7 Department. So if you don't have somebody that can
8 carry that mail on, your District will lag behind
9 the others.

10 So please look at who you have. And if it
11 needs changed, I know sometimes change is hard, but
12 please look at making that change to somebody that
13 can do the job.

14 This is information only.

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander, may I say
16 something under Sons of The American Legion?

17 COMMANDER OREN: Uh-huh.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Minadeo,
19 Parliamentarian.

20 It's coming up all too often now and I don't
21 know why, but I'm getting, because I'm the
22 Parliamentarian for the SAL now, probably that's
23 why, we're getting a certain animosity between
24 Legion and SAL, in that the SAL feels like second
25 class citizens because The Legions are now saying,

1 hey, we control all your money, you're not allowed
2 to spend it any way you want.

3 You know, some Legions say we don't want the
4 SAL anymore because they're doing too much and
5 they're taking over The Legion, to which, you know,
6 I try to bring peace to those situations. I said if
7 they're doing too much and you get rid of them,
8 which you can get rid of them, there's a process,
9 though, you have to not just vote in your meeting
10 that you get rid of them, you have to make a
11 proposal to the SAL, to the DEC, and all that stuff,
12 because we're shutting them down. But if they're
13 doing too much and they're not there, who will do?
14 Well, we're not sure, but we're just tired of them.

15 So, I mean, you may need to just be aware, when
16 doing your Post inspections, if a Post does have an
17 SAL, have both of them there, because that is a
18 committee of The Legion and there should be at least
19 one representative. By the bylaws, there should be
20 three representatives on the SAL interface
21 committee. But there should be one advisor that
22 sits in on their meetings from The Legion to help
23 them through their decisions and to do the
24 coordination on the events that happen.

25 I only mention it because it's just coming up

1 too much. All right? Plus, the sin of covetousness
2 in cheating everybody out of their money, it's just
3 crazy what we have to deal with with issues in the
4 Post.

5 So just be aware of that. Try to make sure
6 that those two are working together. And it's not
7 just, it's not as simple as saying we don't want the
8 SAL anymore, leave. We can't do that.

9 The other thing is on discipline. The SAL, the
10 Sons of The American Legion, is on under the same
11 Article V, Section 2, procedures of discipline
12 through the code. Okay? The same one. So they
13 just can't bring them up on charges and say you're
14 now not allowed to come here anymore. Okay?

15 To include the Auxiliary, it's not a committee,
16 but we do have the same procedures to say you just
17 can't tell an Auxiliary member that, you know,
18 you're no longer a member of the Auxiliary, leave
19 our Post.

20 So just be aware of some of those things when
21 you go out there.

22 I'm just concerned about the SAL and the idea
23 of you're not really veterans, you don't have any
24 rights. That's not true. It's just not true.

25 Thank you, Commander.

1 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Gary.

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Joseph Woodrum,
3 12th District 1st Vice Commander. I'm also Post
4 Commander of 164.

5 The problems we've had, and it's across the
6 board with our Auxiliary as well, is they use our
7 facilities, they use our kitchen, they use our gas,
8 our electric, they have their bake sales and they
9 have their steak fries, they collect money, we get
10 nothing. The Legion does not get a dime of that
11 money, but yet we're supposed to pay the bills. So
12 there is where the biggest contention is between The
13 Legion and the SAL and the Auxiliary.

14 And the Auxiliary has their own EIN. So,
15 therefore, we do not control their funding.

16 The SAL doesn't. They operate under our EIN.
17 We're responsible for reporting their accounts and
18 their taxes on ours, the 990s.

19 Again, you're going to find that in the Post,
20 that's where the contention lies. We get nothing
21 from them, even their funds for membership. We
22 don't get anything when they have a steak fry or a
23 fish fry or whatever it is they have. So if you
24 want to know where the contention is, it's right
25 there. I'm just saying.

1 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: According to the
2 Bylaws of the Department and The Legion, the SAL is
3 a committee. So just like when your Veterans Day
4 Dinner Committee meets for The Legion, you don't
5 charge the committee for rent. So we typically see
6 them as a committee, and to be helpful to us.

7 Like in ours, they just make donations at a
8 Veterans Day ceremony. So there is coordination
9 there, where they need to be helping the Post.

10 But there's no mandatory we can charge them,
11 just like with the Auxiliary. They are part of the
12 family. So we just don't charge the family because
13 the family does activities within the Post.

14 So that's just something you need to keep
15 working with them on and say can you help us with
16 this, can you help us with that. And they should be
17 willing to help. That's why having a liaison with
18 them that says, hey, guys, you know, we have this
19 coming up, can you donate something to it? But
20 mandating it, we can't do.

21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: No, it's not about
22 mandating it. It's just that's where the contention
23 lies.

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And I would get the
25 SAL District Commander to help out with them. Say,

1 hey, guys, you know, let's work here. Let's be a
2 team.

3 And that is where it normally arises over is
4 the money they raise.

5 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

6 Gary, first of all, well said, what you said
7 before about the SAL and the Auxiliary.

8 Look at your shirt. What's it say on there?
9 "Family." Right? That explains it.

10 I mean, you know, any Post that has an active
11 Auxiliary and an active SAL Squadron should know
12 that a lot of the stuff that gets done around the
13 Post, whether it's lawn mowing, painting, cleaning
14 up the outside area, doing so many of the projects,
15 making donations -- heck, a lot of our Posts
16 wouldn't exist any longer if it wasn't for our SAL
17 Units our SAL Squadrons and our Auxiliary units.

18 We don't tell them what they have to do with
19 the money at my Post, but they are generous enough
20 to contribute. When they do their fish fries, we
21 don't ask them for their money because we know that
22 down the road, when we want to send a young man, an
23 extra young man, to Boys State, or two, oh, we'll do
24 that, you know, and they do it.

25 It's all about sharing and the unity. Invite

1 your Auxiliary to come to your, you can have them
2 sit in on your executive board meetings, and you
3 should have a Sons representative there too. And by
4 the same token, you should have your advisers to
5 those groups to sit in too. And the Auxiliary would
6 always welcome somebody to sit in and listen to
7 theirs. Go sit in and listen, and you'll have the
8 opportunity, they'll give you the opportunity to
9 speak.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yeah. Just diligence
11 on some common ground, that's all I can tell you.

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: In answer to his
13 particular thing, our board has, we've actually made
14 both the SAL Commander, Squadron Commander, and the
15 Auxiliary President, ex officios for the executive
16 board. So on our board, executive board at our
17 Post, we have instituted that the SAL Squadron
18 Commander and the Auxilliary President our ex
19 officios of our executive board. So they attend the
20 meeting. Now we just instituted that a few months
21 ago.

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Good. That's great.
23 You've got to be diligent with it.

24 COMMANDER OREN: Yeah, we've got to remind you
25 to stand up when you're speaking.

1 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: I'm sorry.

2 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Richard Smathers,
3 District 11 1st Vice.

4 One of the things that I've found is it's not
5 telling your SAL. It's communications with asking.
6 Same with your Auxiliary. It's an ask, it's not a
7 tell.

8 And also, communicating the goals of your Post,
9 what you're trying to achieve, how you're trying to
10 achieve it. Let them understand what your means
11 are. Too often I've seen Commanders of different
12 Posts, when they dictate to their people what
13 they're going to do, that's not the way to get their
14 cooperation. You've got to communicate with these
15 groups. They're part of your family. It's just
16 like your children. They're not your stepchildren,
17 they're not your evil stepchildren, but your
18 children. You have to communicate in a way so they
19 understand your goals and what you're trying to
20 achieve in the Post. I think if you do that, get
21 them involved and communicate with them, then your
22 cooperation gets much better.

23 Thank you.

24 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC.

25 In relation to what's going on, the best thing

1 is is most of us are probably qualified to be SAL
2 members, dual membership. Okay? And if you're a
3 dual member, you should go to the SAL meetings and
4 participate with them in their meetings. That turns
5 around and helps gel things together.

6 Now, as far as the SAL's money is concerned,
7 they have to come to the Post and ask, or tell them
8 this is what we plan on doing. And the Post,
9 typically, if there's a good working relationship,
10 will approve it. Only on rare circumstances
11 they're, no, we don't approve what you want to do
12 with the money. But for the most part, the Post has
13 to approve what the SAL does with that money.
14 Because it actually is Legion money.

15 Now, the issue with the Auxiliary, if you have
16 a really bad relationship with the Auxiliary, you
17 can actually tell the Auxiliary we do not recognize
18 you. You can no longer meet here.

19 Correct, Gary?

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: I guess you --

21 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: You don't want to
22 answer that one.

23 As I said, under extreme circumstances. The
24 Auxiliary is a separate organization. And if they
25 don't want to work with you, period, then you have

1 the right to tell them, sorry, you cannot utilize
2 this facility anymore. You go someplace else.

3 You can't disband them. They're still the
4 Auxiliary of your Post. You can just tell them they
5 can't meet in your facility because they're not
6 working with you.

7 But if you've got a good working relationship,
8 it should work out.

9 So, anyways, those are the things I've used in
10 the past.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander.

12 COMMANDER OREN: Okay.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Now we're just
14 probably getting too much into the weeds. But if in
15 your bylaws you have recognized them as a part of
16 the family, under the bylaws in that section where
17 we recognize the Auxiliaries and we put the Riders
18 underneath there, then you're working on, you know,
19 some uneven ground to say they can leave. Now if
20 you want to take them out of there, you don't
21 recognize them anymore, now you're probably in
22 violation of National recognizing an Auxiliary.

23 So, again, it's just one of those things that
24 you've got to work with them and say hey. I would
25 bring some other people in. I've been on some of

1 those negotiations. Normally it's because the guys
2 used the Auxiliary's pans and didn't clean them up.

3 Yeah, that's where the District Commander
4 really needs to have a sense to go in and bring some
5 peace to it and say, come on, let's sit down and
6 work this out.

7 2VC LEWIS: Holly lewis 2nd Vice Commander.

8 Get more female Legionnaires who are dual
9 members. Things go much better.

10 I'm just saying, I'm the treasurer of our unit
11 and the Adjutant at the Post. It works great.

12 COMMANDER OREN: Being a dual member myself, I
13 find that, like you said, they come in and do
14 cookouts and stuff, aren't they bringing people in?
15 And aren't you getting some membership from that?

16 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: I mean, they do
17 bring people in, but --

18 Joe Woodrum, 1st Vice, 12th District.

19 We have them. I've actually recruited for
20 them. We have euchre on Monday night. Of course we
21 have people from the community. And I actually
22 talked to the women at the euchre night, and I've
23 actually recruited four members for them in one
24 night.

25 COMMANDER OREN: That's what we should do, too.

1 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: And that's what
2 I've been doing. But what I'm saying is there's no
3 reciprocal actions here. So, those are issues.

4 2VC LEWIS: Get more female Legionnaires.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. You know what the
6 Indian does when his horse dies?

7 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Get off the horse.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Yeah.

9 Okay, now where am I at?

10 1VC COX, JR.: I have something before the
11 break, Commander.

12 COMMANDER OREN: Go ahead.

13 1VC COX, JR.: Okay, cool.

14 Listen up real quick. 1st Vices, that paper I
15 gave you, if you could go ahead and fill that out
16 and hand it to me while we're on this break, I would
17 really appreciate it.

18 And that is all I have.

19 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, we'll be back at ten to
20 12:00. Thank you.

21 (THEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS STOOD IN RECESS).

22 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

23 COMMANDER OREN: JD.

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: One thing that I did not
25 mention yet, you do have the Commander's pins on

1 your -- for each District. We do have more if you
2 need them. It is \$100 for that bag. So either your
3 District can send us \$100, or we can take it out of
4 your activities fund, but we want our money.

5 I saw over the years where you take them and
6 then don't sell them then bring them back to us. We
7 don't want them back. You get to keep them. We
8 just want our money.

9 The first thing is Post 504.

10 There's no closures, suspensions or new
11 charters at this time.

12 A Post 504 update. Josh and I filled out the
13 affidavits this week. He submitted it to the judge,
14 or is submitting it to the judge on Monday. We are
15 trying to take control of the Post so we can go in
16 and finish what was started there.

17 It's a little lengthier of a process than what
18 we normally go through, but we are making strides,
19 finally, on it.

20 Ms. Yockey wanted me to pass along that there
21 are boxes out there for each District with
22 information, awards, and all kinds of other happy
23 stuff that we stuck in there. So please make sure
24 you take your boxes with you. We don't want them
25 either.

1 So all of you got a copy sitting there of this
2 (indicating), and you have no idea what this is
3 (indicating). And I purposely did not put a title
4 on it. Because you're looking at it going, wow,
5 that's my District. What's wrong with that Post?

6 So, in my spare time the other night, when I
7 was sitting there with my lovely wife, watching some
8 TV, I got on my handy, dandy computer and I went
9 back for three years and looked at our membership
10 CPR turn-ins. These Posts have not turned a CPR in
11 in three years.

12 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: That's not true. I turned
13 one in for Deshler, 316, when I was Department
14 Commander.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It did not show up on my
16 report. I can only tell you what I have on my
17 report.

18 Jason Rue said that Deshler, they turned one in
19 for Deshler three years ago.

20 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Two years ago.

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Two years ago.

22 I know Argonne, we are working on closing them.
23 It's just not there quite yet.

24 Kingston, 291, has contacted me. They are
25 closing this year.

1 But please go out and check these Posts. If
2 they're not turning their CPRs in their, their
3 officer certification forms in, more than likely
4 they're not doing the work of The American Legion.
5 And that's what we need them to do.

6 I did see a hand raised back there
7 (indicating).

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Do you want us to acquire the
9 past three years and have them turned in or just the
10 current year?

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Current year. Past years
12 do me no good. Just current year.

13 But I want you guys to want to know why your
14 Posts in your District aren't doing the work that
15 they're supposed to. These are required forms from
16 our charter from Congress so we can turn in accurate
17 information. There is absolutely no reason why
18 we're not 100 percent on these.

19 We were about 84 percent this year. That's
20 unacceptable.

21 So just pay attention. And if you need help
22 going through them, or if you find I was wrong, if
23 they have them, please let me know, because I'd like
24 to update this list. But that's all I've got on
25 that.

1 Commander.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, JD.

3 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We can skip that resolution
4 because it did not pass.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Well, we're down to
6 unfinished business.

7 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Commander.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Yes, sir.

9 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC.
10 There are two resolutions that came down from
11 National. You're not aware of them?

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I did not receive them.

13 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Well, they came down.
14 And Chappy got it and I got it.

15 Anyways, they pertain to, it came out of the
16 Constitutional Amendments Committee, okay, and these
17 resolutions, the first resolution, it would be 11,
18 and that is in relation to terminology used in the
19 Constitution of The American Legion pertaining to
20 The American Legion is absolutely nonpolitical.
21 Okay? Terminology nonpolitical when we turn around
22 and use political methods to support legislative
23 agendas and priorities in support of the four
24 pillars of The American Legion, and we use political
25 activities in relation to chairmen, District, and so

1 on, for our political work towards our interests.

2 So what the resolution says, this is resolution
3 No. 11, they want to change it from being absolutely
4 nonpolitical to being absolutely nonpartisan,
5 eliminate that political part.

6 So I don't know how that's going to fly at
7 National, but it is a resolution they sent down to
8 us.

9 The second resolution they sent to us is
10 Resolution 19. And this is in relation to Article
11 IV, Section 2, a Post may suspend or expel a Post
12 member from The American Legion only after providing
13 the member due process and a proper showing of
14 cause. No member in good standing should lose, I'm
15 not reading the whole whereas, but no member in good
16 standing shall lose their membership until given a
17 fair trial by the Post or Department in such manner
18 and form as the Post or Department bylaws.

19 And also part of the whereas, another whereas
20 is, a member can silently transfer from one Post to
21 another while under a formally initiated
22 disciplinary action, effectively avoiding such
23 action due to the lack of jurisdiction resulting
24 from the transfer from one Post to another or from
25 one Department to another.

1 So this resolution is wanting to change and put
2 in there any Post, any local Post that has initiated
3 disciplinary action against an offending member of
4 Article IV, Section 2, will maintain jurisdiction of
5 that member's disciplinary process until the cause
6 of such action is resolved, and that the member
7 shall not transfer to any other Post or Department
8 during the process until approved by both losing and
9 gaining Post.

10 That is the two resolutions.

11 Now there was a third one that I asked you
12 about that you said you had no knowledge of. And
13 I'm not sure where this is actually going to go.
14 This came out of the Department of Florida, and this
15 is in regards to creating a red star banner.

16 We know what a blue star banner is and a red
17 star banner. The Department of Florida has passed
18 this in the Department of Florida in regards to
19 creating the red star banner, which will be used for
20 a veteran who commits suicide. They feel the family
21 should be able to be recognized if they lost one of
22 their sons or daughters to suicide because of their
23 service to our country. And that's what the red
24 star banner is.

25 And I'm not going to read the whole thing. I'm

1 just giving you the heads-up on it.

2 JD has not received them, for whatever reason,
3 but I got it.

4 And this is written by the twelfth Sergeant
5 Major of the Marine Corps.

6 Anyways, I verified he was the twelfth Sergeant
7 Major of the Marine Corps.

8 So, like I said, Florida passed it. But I
9 don't know where it's going to go from there.

10 But these may come up at the National
11 Convention.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Bob, if you could get me a
13 copy, or let me make copies of those, so I can put
14 those on the caucus agenda for convention, I'd
15 greatly appreciate it.

16 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Okay.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Yes.

18 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Commander, Joe
19 Woodrum, 1st Vice, 12th District.

20 The resolution I've been trying to figure out
21 is how to get in to The American Legion. We have
22 got several people that have come into our Post and
23 actually donated money. These are parents of
24 veterans. They can't join The American Legion.
25 There is no way they can join.

1 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Mothers can, not fathers.

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Mothers can because
3 their son or daughter --

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's right.

5 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: I'm sorry, what
6 about fathers? What are we doing for the fathers?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's in the works but it's
8 not -- Adjutant Robinson -- it's in the works but
9 the resolution has not made it through the Auxiliary
10 yet.

11 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Because what I'm
12 trying to figure out is: How can we put together a
13 blue star? We have the Auxiliary.

14 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We have a blue star. The
15 SAL has the blue star.

16 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: That don't help the
17 fathers, though. And I'm just trying to figure out
18 what we can do. Because these people are really --

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Fathers and brothers have
20 no place.

21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Yes.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And that is being addressed
23 by the Auxiliary.

24 12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Okay. All right,
25 as long as somebody is looking at it.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

3 Jason Rue.

4 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: I'm going to give the
5 Charities update.

6 As you can see, you have two papers. One of
7 them has the bank statement, the other one doesn't.

8 We handed out almost \$500,000 at our
9 convention.

10 You can pass those out.

11 Okay. So we handed out almost \$500,000 at
12 convention. They went to the Alpha 11 Veterans
13 Logistics Corporation; The American Department of
14 Ohio; Buckeye Girls State; Camp Lazarus; Chillicothe
15 VA; the Clermont Housing Corporation; Coldwater Boy
16 Scouts, their supplies for training; an Eagle Scout
17 project, a memorial for Colonel Gordon Roberts;
18 Federal City Associates; Irreverent Warriors;
19 Lutheran Social Services; the Mercer County Fair;
20 Jessica Lynch, POW; Mom's Food Pantry; Ohio Veterans
21 Hall of Fame; Ohio Veterans Memorial Park; Butler
22 County YMCA; Richland County 2025 Honor Bus Trip;
23 Toledo-Lucas County Memorial Day Association; the
24 Vet Ohio Expo; and Veterans First Initiative.

25 There were also 12 Posts who applied and

1 received. Now there was a hangup on getting that
2 money out. So if you had Posts who did apply for
3 it, those checks were either recently cut or are
4 getting cut this next week.

5 But there is a delay in the program from here
6 on out, until we meet with the lawyer. That was
7 supposed to be today but he couldn't make it this
8 afternoon. So we're doing a virtual meeting with
9 him sometime in September. That date has not
10 officially been set yet. But just know the Posts
11 requesting money and getting money back is on hold
12 for right now.

13 But anybody who put in leading up to
14 convention, we voted on, and have pending, but they
15 are now getting paid if they had an invite for
16 Department Convention.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Minadeo,
18 Parliamentarian.

19 What's the request like? What's the criteria
20 for that? Is it just once, at convention?

21 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: They usually give them at
22 Mid-Winter and convention.

23 And if something is really urgent -- like we
24 just had one go out for, it was for the disabled
25 veterans golf. The Columbus VA, they had a pickup

1 at the Columbus VA and the Dayton VA. And they take
2 disabled veterans to Iowa, where they give them a
3 clinic and everything, for a week, for golf. They
4 teach them how to golf, all that stuff. They ask us
5 for \$9,100 to cover the cost of bus to be able to
6 take them and Charities did. So we are providing
7 the bus for them to go. And that was just sent out
8 and voted on yesterday. So that's another \$9,100
9 that we just spent for disabled veterans.

10 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: I have a question.
11 Suzette Heller, 12th District.

12 What's the purpose of meeting with the
13 attorney?

14 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: To go -- because questions
15 were raised whether or not we can, being Charities'
16 money, if we can give that to a (c)19.

17 If you can read there, it's yes, but no. So
18 we're meeting with an attorney to figure all that
19 stuff out, to see if, literally, we are allowed to
20 do this anymore.

21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: If the 501(c)(3) can
22 give to the 501(c)(19)?

23 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Yes.

24 NEC CHAPMAN: I think that comes down to tax
25 problems for Charities. Because what I read on

1 501(c)(3)'s, a 501(c)(3) can give their money to
2 whoever they want to give it to. But I think it
3 comes down to a tax issue is why you need to
4 probably contact your attorney.

5 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Yeah. We just want to
6 make sure we're legal now, that we're doing
7 everything right. We don't want to get hit with
8 anything and close the whole thing down.

9 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Was there something
10 that red-flagged that?

11 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Well, we have people who
12 have called the IRS about it and talked to them.
13 And they tell us we can't do it.

14 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: So it's for
15 clarification?

16 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: We want clarification.
17 Are we legal doing this or not, helping the Posts
18 themselves?

19 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Have you consulted
20 with the CPA, or anybody who's filing the 990 or
21 the --

22 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: I have not. I don't know
23 if anyone has.

24 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

25 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: I just he's got a meeting

1 set up with the attorney to go over everything.

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

3 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: And I'm guessing that they
4 do have some type of familiarity with the accounting
5 process and stuff like that.

6 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Thank you.

7 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate.
8 NEC.

9 When we started, when this subject came up in a
10 PDC meeting at a state convention, we talked about
11 it, because we hadn't been doing anything like that.
12 National gives money out to the Posts from their
13 monies for the National Emergency Fund and things
14 like that. And I'm sure that National Emergency
15 Fund is a 501(c)(3).

16 NEC CHAPMAN: It is.

17 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: And they give that
18 money out to the Post to get the Post going, back up
19 and running again.

20 So that's what this whole thought process was,
21 that we should be able to do the same thing at the
22 Department level that National does at the National
23 level.

24 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: I know that's the original
25 thinking behind everything, but we also have to

1 follow the Ohio law too, with the attorney general,
2 who may interpret something a little different. So
3 we have to make sure that, both nationally and
4 locally, we are good.

5 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: I understand that, but
6 that's where the whole thought process comes in.

7 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Yeah.

8 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: What is National doing
9 different than we are doing?

10 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: They're not in our state.

11 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: They're no doing
12 anything different.

13 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: They're not in our state,
14 for one.

15 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Bob.

16 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: We have to follow our
17 attorney general.

18 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: National is all over
19 it.

20 NEC CHAPMAN: Our attorney general can tell us
21 we're wrong.

22 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th
23 District.

24 I will add to that is that they have a detailed
25 outline of their program. That is a, not a grant

1 program, but it's detailed. So they have guidelines
2 and they have like this is how you apply for this
3 program and this is what that money is for. And
4 then they have an application process. So, it's
5 detailed, like this is what that money is for, this
6 is how you apply for it, and this is the parameters,
7 the boundaries, this is how we give this money away.
8 So they have it detailed in that application
9 process.

10 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: It's a lot bigger,
11 lengthy, application than what we have to put in.

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

13 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: You've got to put in a lot
14 more information.

15 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: So my suggestions is
16 that maybe Charities considers detailing that
17 program. And maybe it's called a Post whatever, a
18 Post something fund program, or a District something
19 fund program. And it's detailed and you say like
20 what you are to use those funds for, keeping within
21 the charitable guidelines. And that there is some
22 kind of application process for that so it's not
23 just you write an e-mail saying, "Can I have my
24 \$5,000 that you said you'd give me?" Right? So
25 it's a little more structured.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: Detailed.

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Right.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Minadeo,

4 Parliamentarian. May I speak?

5 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: I'm sensing the
7 question is not from them about whether I send in
8 for my District I want \$5,000, we're going to give
9 so much to this school, so much to this program, but
10 they're questioning gambling that we give. We send
11 the money in, you send 90,000 back to a 501(c(19)).
12 I think that's where the focus may be is: How do
13 you do that, that we send \$100 in to you and then
14 you automatically give \$90 back? I have a hunch
15 that's where that focus is going to be.

16 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: No. The focus is on you
17 saying you need a new AC unit, it's going to cost
18 \$140,000, you put in a request for \$10,000 for it.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right.

20 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: In the past, we've always
21 said we were never, they always said we were never
22 allowed to do that and now we're doing it. So now
23 we're going back and actually checking, are we
24 legally allowed to do this?

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Because we used to

1 get a letter. We used to have to sign a letter for
2 Charities that when you made a deposit or when you
3 sent us the check, we had to say we're only going to
4 spend this for charitable purposes.

5 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Yeah. We still do.
6 That's your contract.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: No. We had a letter
8 every month that we signed.

9 All right, I was just wondering. Because, boy,
10 I hope they don't --

11 8TH DISTRICT CMDR CONN: Scott Conn, Commander,
12 8th District.

13 Regarding this \$5,000 funds, and what I heard
14 Suzette say was that we should have a more detailed
15 request, following the convention, I called Shirley
16 in your office and asked her about the \$5,000, what
17 I needed to do to apply for it. And her
18 instructions were to send her an e-mail explaining,
19 requesting the money and explaining what charitable
20 cause we were going to use that for. So I did that
21 immediately and I've heard nothing back. And I
22 called and left voicemails. I've heard nothing
23 back. So some communication would probably go a
24 long way, I think, in this process as well.

25 But I think what I'm hearing you say is that

1 money is on hold for now?

2 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Not your 5,000, no. The
3 money to the Posts, not to the Districts.

4 8TH DISTRICT CMDR CONN: Gotcha, okay.

5 So we're still waiting. I don't know if I need
6 to do other paperwork or if the e-mail suffices or
7 what.

8 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: My e-mail is on there. Go
9 ahead and forward that to me.

10 8TH DISTRICT CMDR CONN: Okay.

11 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: And I've got a few others
12 I'm checking on too.

13 8TH DISTRICT CMDR CONN: Great. Thank you.

14 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Any other questions?
15 Chappy.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: Old business for you. Were you
17 able to have a Charities meeting with your board
18 members to elect a new chairman?

19 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: No. It was supposed to be
20 today, because we were meeting with the lawyer and
21 everything was supposed to be today, but we're doing
22 it virtually in September now.

23 NEC CHAPMAN: So everyone has been notified
24 properly then?

25 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: That we were having a

1 meeting?

2 NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

3 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Well, they haven't picked
4 a date yet, but the e-mail was sent out.

5 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay. So what I'm getting at is:
6 Are you still running into resistance?

7 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Well, I'll tell you what I
8 do have today is I do have a copy of our bank
9 statement from July, which we've never had before.

10 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, that's good. That's good.

11 But my concern here is, I know you want to have
12 that meeting so you can elect your chairman. And my
13 suggestion was going to be, if you're still having
14 problems, just notify everyone by certified letter,
15 all your members, so that it's documented that you
16 are having this meeting on that certain date.

17 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: I can't call the meeting.
18 I'm not the one in charge of the committee, in
19 charge of the board.

20 NEC CHAPMAN: We are, the DEC.

21 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Well --

22 NEC CHAPMAN: We are.

23 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: But Glenn is our appointed
24 member in charge of it and he's the one that can
25 call the meeting, just like our Commander. You

1 can't call a meeting for the DEC, the Commander has
2 to. So the head of our board has to call it too,
3 which was voted on.

4 NEC CHAPMAN: Well, you're beating down a bad
5 path there. So I think you should try that and tell
6 them we're going to meet. And you can have a
7 majority vote and elect your new chairman.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Procedural,
9 Commander.

10 Charities is a subcommittee of this DEC,
11 because the DEC are all the official --

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Board members.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: -- board members. So
14 this DEC could direct that they meet. And it's sent
15 out from the Commander, through the Adjutant. So
16 we're not overcoming anybody's authority, we're just
17 saying, hey, this needs to happen.

18 The DEC could vote today if someone put a
19 motion on the floor that the Commander, through the
20 Adjutant, ordered, through certified mail, that the
21 Charities Committee meet and elect their board
22 member.

23 Is there an opening spot now?

24 NEC CHAPMAN: I'm talking about their --

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Their board.

1 NEC CHAPMAN: -- their board of directors,
2 which we've already, they're elected.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right. So Glenn
4 would still be on the board as of right now.

5 NEC CHAPMAN: They need to elect a chairman so
6 that they can do business.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So this committee can
8 direct that, Commander, because this is their board.

9 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah, I make a
10 motion that -- Suzette Heller, 12th District.

11 Because, technically, you're in violation of
12 your bylaws, because you have not elected a
13 chairman, and you have not formerly met. So I make
14 a motion that you send out a certified letter to
15 have a meeting.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: Through the Adjutant.

17 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: That the Adjutant --
18 how did that go, Gary?

19 Commander, please tell the Adjutant to send a
20 letter to the Charities Chairman that, yes, that
21 they have a meeting.

22 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

23 NEC CHAPMAN: Well, I think you should amend
24 that, just for documentation purposes.

25 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

1 NEC CHAPMAN: You know, it's going to cost a
2 little more to do it, but send it to each member.
3 That way, each member has a documented letter
4 stating that this was done, each member has that.

5 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

6 COMMANDER OREN: And we're going to make it in
7 September. It has to be done in September. I
8 wanted that added.

9 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay, that that
10 meeting be done in September.

11 By September what? I say you pick a date.

12 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: By the end of September
13 that meeting has to happen.

14 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'd say you set a date.

15 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah, I say you set
16 a date too.

17 2VC LEWIS: It doesn't matter. Set a date.

18 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The 18th?

20 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: And pick an
21 alternate date.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: By September 18?

23 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Pick an alternate
24 date.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Yes, that's the day date I

1 meet my heart doctor. Yes, by the 18th.

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

3 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay.

4 COMMANDER OREN: I've got a motion on the
5 floor.

6 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Richard Smathers,
7 District 11 1st Vice, second, with the amendment
8 that it be mailed to each individual.

9 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Any discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
16 aye.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

18 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

21 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
22 District Commander.

23 To carry on with what Chappy discussed, old
24 business, back in July, we, as the DEC, requested a
25 detailed P&L. And we were also told we were

1 supposed to have an updated bylaws by this meeting.

2 Do we have that? And why not if we do not?

3 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: So, like I said, we were
4 supposed to meet with the lawyer today to get that
5 done. That's another reason we were meeting with
6 the lawyer, to update our constitution, or actually
7 rewrite a constitution and bylaws, not really update
8 it. So when we meet in September, that will be done
9 then too, with the lawyer. That's what I was told.

10 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
11 District.

12 I'm sorry for you being the one to get hit by
13 this bus, --

14 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Me too.

15 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: -- but we were told
16 that it was supposed to be done by this meeting, not
17 meeting today.

18 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Originally, it was
19 supposed to be done by this meeting. Because we
20 were going to meet earlier and then it got pushed
21 back to today. And then the lawyer couldn't make it
22 today. So now, because that e-mail went out this
23 week, to us, to Charities, we're not meeting today.
24 We're going to meet virtually in September, with the
25 lawyer and who all.

1 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: I would like to say
2 that, as a member of this body, that is
3 unacceptable. And we cannot continue to operate
4 like this. We've stated this, again, in the past.
5 What happens in September if this happens again?
6 And it continues happening, just as it has continued
7 to happen in the past. I know that's the reason why
8 we put you on this body, so we could try to help
9 change this. We have to make a change.

10 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Yeah, I agree. At the
11 September date, we'll push that forward.

12 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Commander, Dean
13 Boyers, 1st District Commander.

14 I concur with what John said. You know, the
15 deadline has been set multiple times now. This is a
16 can that's been getting kicked down the road for
17 probably the last couple of years. We set a
18 deadline for Department Convention. The
19 documentation was not provided for us at Department
20 Convention. So we, then again, changed it to today.
21 We don't have that documentation in hand. And I
22 agree with John. What are going to be the
23 repercussions, if any, if say come September we
24 still are not provided with that documentation?

25 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Well, as of September, he

1 gets removed from being the head of the board and we
2 automatically have to vote to replace him. And I
3 believe that's what would be the practice.

4 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th
5 District Commander.

6 I make a motion that, as of today, the Chairman
7 of Charities, Inc., is in dereliction of duty.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander. I --

9 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: And he should be
10 removed.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: I would suggest you
12 go into executive session for this.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

14 Okay, we are going to executive session.

15 FROM THE FLOOR: You need a motion for that.

16 COMMANDER OREN: I need a motion to go to
17 executive session.

18 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
19 District, makes a motion we go into executive
20 session.

21 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District
22 Commander, seconds that.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, I would ask that
24 Gary, myself and Jason get to stay here.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

1 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life makes an
2 amendment to the motion to allow the Adjutant and
3 the Parliamentarian and the Department Judge
4 Advocate to stay.

5 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District
6 Commander, seconds that motion.

7 NEC CHAPMAN: It takes a unanimous vote, I
8 believe. Doesn't it, Gary?

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It does take a
10 unanimous vote.

11 NEC CHAPMAN: I'm going to vote no, because
12 they can go into the hallway. If they need them to
13 go in, we can ask them to come in.

14 COMMANDER OREN: All right.

15 Now, any further discussion?

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER OREN: Any further discussion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor use aye.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

21 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER OREN: All right, we'll be back.

24 (THEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS MOVED INTO
25 EXECUTIVE SESSION).

1 NEC CHAPMAN: NEC Chapman makes a motion to
2 come back into regular session.

3 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Rick Smathers,
4 11th District 1st Vice, second.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

11 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th
13 District.

14 Prior to the executive session, there was a
15 motion on the floor that the Chairman of Charities,
16 Inc., is in dereliction of duty and should be
17 removed from his position.

18 I would like to amend that motion, that this
19 body of the Department Executive Committee is
20 insisting upon a detailed profit and loss statement
21 of Charities, Inc., by September 5th of 2025, and
22 that if that is not received by this body, that the
23 Chairman of Charities, Inc., is, in fact, in
24 dereliction of duty, and will be removed from
25 Charities, Inc.

1 2ND DISTRICT 1VC EMANS: Emans, 2nd District,
2 second.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Just a point of order
4 again, clarification.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: If it is not given by
7 September what?

8 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: September 5th.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Then the chairman is
10 immediately removed. He is automatically removed
11 from that office. Is that what you're saying? Or
12 will be at some future point?

13 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Hold on.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: I'm just trying to --

15 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Let me amend this
16 motion.

17 I would like to make a motion that this body
18 receives a detailed profit and loss by September
19 5th.

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: If it says "will be
21 removed," then will be removed by the DEC in a
22 meeting, in an emergency meeting on this date, or is
23 removed and the new chairman will be effective that
24 day. You have to be specific on what's happening.

25 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

1 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What was the intent?

2 That's all I'm asking.

3 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander.

4 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And not to beat up on
6 you, --

7 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: -- we need to know, are you
9 removing the chairman or are you removing the member
10 from the board?

11 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: The chairman.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: So the member is staying on
13 the board and you're replacing them with a new
14 chairman?

15 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Removing the
16 chairman of the board.

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: But that member is staying
18 on the board still?

19 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: No.

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: So you're removing them as
21 a member of the board?

22 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: The chairman as a
23 member of the board, yes.

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And do we know who
25 the chairman is?

1 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Then the chairman
3 should be mentioned.

4 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes, yes.

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And you need to name a
6 replacement for him too.

7 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Well, there will be
8 a vote for a replacement.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander.
10 Minadeo, Parliamentarian.

11 I would ask that you move that this be taken
12 off the books right now. We're not recording this
13 until we get it settled.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Until we get it settled, we're
15 off the record.

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

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Let me read the
19 motion and you state, "I move that statement." That
20 way we've got it right. Okay?

21 First motion: It is moved that Charities,
22 Incorporated, present their P&L to the Adjutant by
23 September 5th.

24 Now state your name on that.

25 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Commander, Jacob Marx,

1 14th District 1st Vice Commander, --

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So moves.

3 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: -- I so move.

4 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

5 2ND DISTRICT 1VC EMANS: Emans, 2nd District,
6 second.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Any more discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER OREN: Any more discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 1ST DISTRICT 1VC RAU: Bernie Rau, 1st
12 District.

13 I'm just thinking, point of order. If we're
14 starting right now from break, right now, there was
15 still a motion on the floor prior to that.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: She already withdrew that.

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: She already withdrew that.

18 1ST DISTRICT 1VC RAU: So if we just struck it
19 back to when we come back from break, there was
20 still a motion on the floor.

21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th
22 District Commander.

23 I withdraw my motion that Glenn Hickman was in
24 dereliction of duty and to have him removed as the
25 Chairman of Charities.

1 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

2 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th

3 District Commander, second.

4 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

5 All in favor say aye.

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Now, Gary.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay. First motion

9 on the floor: It is moved that Charities,

10 Incorporated, present a P&L to the Adjutant by

11 September 5th.

12 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Jake Marx, 14th

13 District 1st Vice Commander, so moves.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

15 2ND DISTRICT 1VC EMANS: Second. Emans, 2nd

16 District.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say

22 aye.

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

24 COMMANDER OREN: And all opposed?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay. The second
3 motion: It is moved that current Charities Board
4 Chairman Glenn Hickman be removed as chairman, to be
5 immediately replaced by Past Department Commander
6 Charles Stennis.

7 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Jake Marx, 14th
8 District 1st Vice Commander, so moves.

9 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

10 3RD DISTRICT 1VC WHITE: Mike White, 1st Vice,
11 3rd District, seconds.

12 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All right. It is
15 moved that --

16 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Wait. Finish that
17 motion.

18 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

19 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Any discussion?

20 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Any discussion?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The third motion:

1 Signatures on the Charities account will be
2 transitioned immediately to Charles Stennis, the
3 Department Adjutant, and Past Department Commander
4 Roger Friend.

5 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Jake Marx, 14th
6 District 1st Vice Commander, so moves.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Do I here a second?

8 2ND DISTRICT 1VC EMANS: Emans, 2nd District,
9 second.

10 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

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

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

19 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, same.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER OREN: Okay.

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It is moved that
23 Charities, Incorporated, agent of record be changed
24 to the Adjutant.

25 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Jake Marx, 14th

1 District 1st Vice Commander, so moves.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

3 7TH DISTRICT 1VC BOYD: Doug Boyd, 7th District
4 1st Vice Commander, I second.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
12 aye.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The last one: It is
16 moved that a Charities, Incorporated, audit be
17 conducted and a report provided to the November 16th
18 DEC.

19 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Jake Marx, 14th
20 District 1st Vice Commander, so moves.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

22 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th
23 District, I second.

24 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
6 aye.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

9 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th
10 District.

11 I make a motion that we remove Glenn Hickman as
12 a Board member of Charities, Inc.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

14 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District
15 Commander, seconds the motion.

16 COMMANDER OREN: Discussion?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

19 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Commander, Dean
20 Boyers, 1st District.

21 If this motion goes through, will we then have
22 to appoint today?

23 COMMANDER OREN: Uh-huh.

24 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Okay.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Any further discussion?

1 John.

2 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
3 District Commander.

4 I was going to say, if you think about it, who
5 will we appoint today to fill one year? And let's
6 be honest. You know, I'm not happy with everything,
7 but we've got just one year. Why not keep Glenn on
8 there? Because he has done many years of service.
9 Let's not take that away from him. He's also one of
10 the ones who has created Charities, Inc. Let's
11 remember that as well.

12 COMMANDER OREN: Any more discussion?

13 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

14 I agree with John there. You know how I feel
15 about that. He has given some good service to this
16 organization.

17 I think this also gives him the opportunity to
18 resign if he needs to. I think that option should
19 be there.

20 So I would say leave him on the board, since
21 the board would still have a majority vote if he
22 voted against something or should happen not to show
23 at a meeting, they would have a majority vote to
24 carry issues.

25 COMMANDER OREN: Any more discussion?

1 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

2 I don't think that we would have to fill that
3 position today. Because even if he's not active in
4 the board, if he's not even showing up, he's an
5 inactive member anyway. So there really isn't
6 anybody making any decisions anyway.

7 So, do we have to appoint somebody today? Why
8 can't we put a message out to the members --

9 COMMANDER OREN: We're going to have to put
10 this motion through first.

11 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: I get it.

12 But I don't think it really matters. Either
13 way, he's an absent member, whether he's on the
14 board or he's not on the board. So, I do think that
15 we'd be doing him a favor by removing him from the
16 board.

17 And I think that we could, in fact, say thank
18 you, thank you for serving, and we could do this
19 graciously. This isn't like a mean thing. This is
20 just us doing our due diligence.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Any further discussion?

22 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: Commander, Jake Marx,
23 14th District.

24 I would ask that this vote be conducted by a
25 show of hands.

1 COMMANDER OREN: Okay.

2 NEC CHAPMAN: I think you should make it a
3 standing vote. That way it's more clear for you to
4 count.

5 COMMANDER OREN: All right, we'll have a
6 standing vote on this. And the motion is to remove
7 Glenn.

8 And all in favor, stand.

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

10 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. All not in favor,
11 against.

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

13 COMMANDER OREN: The motion fails.

14 Thank you for your discussion.

15 Okay. Yes, sir.

16 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Commander, would a
17 motion be appropriate -- Rick Smathers, 11th
18 District 1st Vice.

19 Would a motion be appropriate to send a letter
20 to Glenn, advising him to turn over all records,
21 immediately, to the new chairman?

22 COMMANDER OREN: Do we need a motion for that?

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: No.

24 COMMANDER OREN: We take care of that. That
25 should be taken care of. But thank you.

1 Okay, now that we have all the easy stuff done,
2 Jason, finish up.

3 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: So, as I said before, or I
4 was starting to go into before, I do not have the
5 P&L, but I do have a copy of a bank statement,
6 finally. So I can tell you money in and money out
7 for the last month.

8 For July 1st through the 31st, our beginning
9 balance was \$1,399,586.19. We had deposits of
10 \$1,296,033.43. We had checks paid out, \$431,116.45.
11 We had ECHs, electronic withdrawals, \$985,631.05.
12 Other withdraws, we had one for \$35,964, with an
13 ending balance of \$1,242,908.12.

14 And that's the Charities report.

15 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Jason.

16 Okay, JD, Charities report?

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No, we did that one.

18 COMMANDER OREN: National Convention
19 reimbursements.

20 2VC LEWIS: I got it.

21 COMMANDER OREN: You got it.

22 2VC LEWIS: All right, all, I got a couple
23 things. We'll make it quick, hopefully.

24 In the constitution, Article XI, under "Dues,"
25 there is a section that says, and I'm just going to

1 read it to you, "The amount of such annual
2 Department dues beginning January 1, 2004, shall be
3 \$9.00 per member, of which each year at least, at
4 least, \$1.20 shall be allocated to publish and
5 distribute to the membership a Department newspaper;
6 at least 15 cents shall be allocated for Department
7 Convention operations; and at least 30 cents shall
8 be allocated to aid delegates to the National
9 Convention." And that was amended in 2003.

10 We do not spend \$1.20 on the Ohio Legion News
11 any longer. We used to spend \$120,000 a year on the
12 Ohio Legion News, to mail it out, all the things.

13 So, during the Finance Commission, both this
14 time and last time, when I was still a member, we
15 had discussed raising the 30 cent delegate fee to 60
16 cents, in order to help people go to National
17 Convention. Because we feel like that is holding
18 some people back because they maybe don't have the
19 money to go.

20 So, we would like to, I would like to make a
21 motion that we raise that to 60 cents.

22 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: Point of order. That's a
23 constitutional amendment so --

24 2VC LEWIS: No, it's not. It says "at least."
25 It says "at least." The DEC can decide.

1 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
2 District Commander, seconds that motion.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay, just a point of
4 order.

5 You're not changing the constitution, --

6 2VC LEWIS: No.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: -- you're just making
8 that decision.

9 2VC LEWIS: Yeah.

10 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, we've got a first and a
11 second. How about discussion?

12 NEC CHAPMAN: Yep, here I am.

13 Yeah, that's a good motion. And it's very
14 clear all you have to do is read your minutes from
15 August 23rd. It explains it there.

16 And for those of you who haven't looked at
17 those minutes, for those of you who are going to be
18 on this board for a couple years, keep in mind that
19 can change. It at least makes that negotiable each
20 year. So depending on where that convention is, you
21 know, you can take that into consideration.

22 You know, like, for instance, here in Ohio, if
23 you want to reduce that when we come back to Ohio,
24 that's fine. But, you know, if you go to Kansas
25 City, you want to keep it the 60 cents, or maybe you

1 adjust it down or up. That's going to be up to this
2 board to do.

3 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say
10 aye.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

12 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, the same.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

15 2VC LEWIS: Awesome.

16 Okay, I have a couple of other things, if
17 that's okay, Commander.

18 COMMANDER OREN: Yes, go ahead.

19 2VC LEWIS: All right. So you guys all heard,
20 during the Media and Communications report, that
21 "America 250" is a very important thing. We do not
22 have a committee to actually do something about
23 that. So I would like to make a motion that the
24 Commander be directed to create an ad hoc committee
25 for Ohio 250.

1 COMMANDER OREN: We have a motion on the floor.

2 Do I have a second?

3 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th

4 District Commander, seconds the motion.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor,

12 aye.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

14 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, the same.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

17 2VC LEWIS: All right. Also, during Membership

18 Workshop, for those of you who were there, there was

19 a lot of discussion about having a five-year

20 strategic plan for membership. We don't have that

21 either. So I would like to make a motion to direct

22 the Commander to create an ad hoc committee for

23 strategy, to create a five-year strategy.

24 COMMANDER OREN: I hear my workload loading.

25 Do I hear a second?

1 3RD DISTRICT 1VC WHITE: Commander, Michael
2 White, 3rd District 1st Vice, seconds the motion.

3 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

4 Discussion?

5 NEC CHAPMAN: Point of order.

6 I think our constitution and bylaws gives the
7 Commander the authority to appoint ad hoc committees
8 as needed. So I think that's all you really need to
9 do, is have discussions with the Commander and have
10 those appointed.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: He does, but
12 eventually he has to come back and say here's the ad
13 hoc committee and here's who's on it.

14 NEC CHAPMAN: Well you've got to approve the
15 members, I guess.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So, I mean, it's just
17 a formality. Plus, it put her in front of the
18 microphone. So --

19 2VC LEWIS: Look who's talking over here.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

3 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Do not give Holly the gavel.

5 2VC LEWIS: Good Lord. Rough crowd.

6 All right, I'd also like to make a motion that
7 the Commander be directed to create a revitalization
8 ad hoc committee based on four regions in Ohio,
9 split down the middle and across.

10 COMMANDER OREN: That would be more to send
11 people out to help revitalize?

12 2VC LEWIS: Yeah.

13 COMMANDER OREN: But the motion is on the
14 floor.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, can I talk on
16 that, so they kind of understand what we're looking
17 for?

18 COMMANDER OREN: Well, I've got to get a
19 second.

20 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Commander, Dean
21 Boyers, 1st District Commander, I second that
22 motion.

23 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Dean.

24 Now, discussion.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The way we were looking at

1 this -- Adjutant Robinson.

2 The way we were looking at this is one chairman
3 in each quadrant, but they get to put people
4 underneath them to go out to the Posts, especially
5 like this list that I created, to go out to those
6 Posts, with the District Commanders, helping the
7 District Commanders reach them and figure out what's
8 wrong with these Posts that aren't conforming to the
9 desired goals that we set.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: A point of order.

11 Each of these, Commander, once you get them
12 together, has to go before the Internal Affairs
13 Committee and Finance, to see if it's within the
14 budget, outside the budget. So there is a process
15 to it.

16 COMMANDER OREN: Yeah.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: She has increased
18 your workload.

19 2VC LEWIS: I'll help you.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24 COMMANDER OREN: Anymore discussion?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

3 COMMANDER OREN: Nay.

4 Motion carried.

5 2VC LEWIS: Okay, last one, I swear. And this
6 is not more work for the Commander. It's more work
7 for the Adjutant.

8 So I'd like to make a motion that the District
9 1st Vices be put on MyLegion accounts for the
10 District with the first DEC of every year.

11 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th
12 District Commander, seconds that motion.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

21 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 (Motion carried).

24 COMMANDER OREN: We have a question in the
25 back. Yes, sir.

1 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Just one question.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Who are you?

3 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Rick Smathers, 1st
4 Vice, 11th District.

5 We voted on changing the National Convention.

6 Are we doing Department also? Because it was in
7 this report.

8 2VC LEWIS: So we're not going to do that right
9 now. I'm going to meet with the constitutions
10 people to see what we need to change about that
11 amendment for convention. I'll write a resolution
12 if we need to change something.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

14 Okay. For the good of The Legion,
15 announcements.

16 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Commander.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

18 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller,
19 District 12.

20 I just want to add one thing that, you know, we
21 just talked about duty and character, duty and
22 loyalty, duty and compliance, and duty to maintain
23 accounts, that I just want to remind everybody that
24 in the constitution and bylaws, under Article II,
25 Section 5, there is this part about finance that

1 talks about to sell securities is only by the
2 authority of the Department Executive Committee.

3 And I know that in the past couple years, we've
4 had to move monies around within our investments
5 that we put into our budget. And so sometimes those
6 things have, and I know it's all good intent, this
7 is not make wrong for anybody, it's all good intent,
8 but those things have occurred without necessarily
9 the authority of the DEC. It's been an after fact.
10 You know what I mean? There has been no real
11 discussion about it prior to with the Executive
12 Committee.

13 So I would just like to remind, you know,
14 that's our authority. Right? Those investment
15 accounts also is our authority. And so, you know,
16 there needs to be communication about that before
17 those monies get moved around into the general fund,
18 that come out of the investment accounts into the
19 general fund.

20 Secondly is bonding. I just want to also
21 remind the Adjutant that please make sure the surety
22 bonds, like the fiscal officer, all the surety bonds
23 are up to date.

24 And also Charities, like the people working
25 charities, they need to be bonded as well. All

1 those surety bonds also need to be up to date.

2 Listening to the SAL issues, there also,
3 through that AG guide that I was just talking about,
4 like the duties of board members, like that's
5 something that you can get from the Ohio Attorney
6 General's Office that you can give to your SAL
7 members that might actually help build a bridge with
8 the relationships that you might be having with your
9 SAL members. Right? That might help explain why
10 the financial issues, there's such an oversight with
11 the financial issues. Right?

12 Because you, as Legionnaires, right, we do have
13 the duty of those bank accounts. So it's not just
14 about like what are you doing with your money and
15 blah, blah, blah. There is a duty there.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All the SALs received
17 a constitution and bylaws. We sent out a draft
18 constitution and bylaws to all the SALs to say, hey,
19 you guys ought to look at these and fill them out.
20 And their duties are in there.

21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So if they do that,
23 that's going to help them when they go down through
24 the sections.

25 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

1 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: As opposed to sending
2 them to me.

3 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: You're right. They
5 need to --

6 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: But this is from the
7 attorney general's office. And it kind of explains
8 our duties as board members, Post Executive Board
9 members, so, you know, and also SAL Executive Board
10 members.

11 So it's not just The Legion telling the SAL.
12 It's actually a government agency that's saying,
13 hey, as a nonprofit entity, this is what you're
14 mandated to do in the State of Ohio.

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right. I agree.

16 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: That might just help
17 alleviate some of that tension. So I just wanted to
18 share that.

19 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Suzette.

20 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Yes, sir, Chappy.

22 NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, just a point of
23 information for Holly. The five-year strategic
24 plan, that's not something new.

25 Suzette, if you recall, because you were in the

1 offices back when we did it, --

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

3 NEC CHAPMAN: -- we used to be required to have
4 a five-year strategic plan that we presented and
5 reviewed every year when we went to the Membership
6 Workshop with the incoming Commander, when we went
7 over our issues.

8 So it's not something new. This goes back to
9 when we had 101,000 members in Ohio, and they were
10 trying to keep the membership over 3.1 million
11 members nationally at the time.

12 Of course, we know where we are now. Of
13 course, down the road, they figured, after about
14 four years, those failed, and they tried these new
15 things that they've been trying. So I guess they're
16 going to give it another go-around. But it has been
17 done.

18 2VC LEWIS: Oh, yeah, yeah.

19 NEC CHAPMAN: Thank you.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Good of The American
21 Legion, announcements, Christie White.

22 COORDINATOR WHITE: So the 2026 Mid-Winter
23 Conference will be held at the Marriott Columbus
24 Northwest, in Dublin, where it has been the last
25 couple years. The Mid-Winter Conference is Friday,

1 January 16th, till Sunday, January 18th. Rooms are
2 \$131, plus tax, per night. Make sure to reference
3 the American Legion Mid-Winter Conference when you
4 are making your reservations.

5 We will also have a formal awards banquet, the
6 of-the-year awards, again. It's \$40 per person.
7 You can fill it out on-line or we can e-mail you a
8 form. I think John might be doing a Constant
9 Contact mass e-mail with that information.

10 The deadline for your hotel reservation is
11 December 26th. So make your hotel reservation by
12 December 26th. Don't call me three days before
13 Mid-Winter and say, hey, the hotel is sold out, what
14 do I do? I can't create more rooms. So December
15 26th.

16 I also want to mention, as well, if anyone does
17 not have the green Commander shirt, we got another
18 shipment in to us. Just stop by Becky's office and
19 you can buy them from her.

20 That's what I got.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Christie.

22 JD, National Convention.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Everybody that is going to
24 National, I did send out a bulk e-mail on it the
25 other day with all the activities and everything

1 that is going on. If you have questions, please
2 respond to me.

3 We're looking to have a really good time in
4 Tampa. We are quite a ways out. It is a mile.

5 I know I've told you this before. I'll
6 reiterate it. Make sure you're drinking plenty of
7 water. It will be extremely hot.

8 So let's go out and have some fun and make Stan
9 and AJ look good.

10 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, closing remarks. I've
11 only got about a half hour's worth. And that's
12 because of Bob Schmitt. He told me how to speak
13 like this.

14 Thank you for all your patience. We got a lot
15 done today. And I know it's been a long day.

16 I do need 1st Vices to turn in their membership
17 paperwork to Gary.

18 And other than that, what have you got?

19 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS KVOCHICK: Kvochick,
20 Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

21 If you need one of these expense reports
22 (indicating), I'll be in the back of the room at the
23 end of the meeting.

24 Thank you.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Just one quick

1 announcement.

2 From Department Convention, we raised \$2,448.

3 Through one other donation we got in 2500.

4 Charities matched that 2500. A Post sent us \$300.

5 So we sent the Post in Texas \$5300.

6 (Applause).

7 COMMANDER OREN: And Sharon, you're up.

8 Uncover.

9 ASST CHAPLAIN McCLAIN: Thank you, God, for
10 solving all our problems for today. Oh, my Lord
11 God, we give You thanks for the opportunity that we
12 have had of this meeting together as comrades who
13 have served our beloved nation. We thank You for
14 the times of fun and fellowship that You have given
15 us.

16 Now, as we are about to leave one another, we
17 would remember our comrades who are not with us
18 today. Be with those who are in despair, those who
19 are lonely. Comfort and strengthen them with Your
20 presence. Inspire us, oh Lord, to continue to seek
21 peace in our world from the position of strength,
22 justice and compassion. And may we ever be ready to
23 serve our God and our nation.

24 And we make our prayer to Your holy name.

25 Amen.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Cover.

3 Hand salute, two.

4 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

5 Have a great day.

6 (Applause) .

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11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: [6] 71/2 98/6 103/3 115/16 125/1 125/3 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: [64] 38/6 41/10 52/12 55/17 56/10 57/25 61/6 75/7 86/10 86/21 87/9 87/14 87/19 87/24 88/2 88/6 89/15 89/22 90/12 90/15 91/2 95/12 96/9 96/17 96/25 97/5 97/9 97/15 97/18 97/20 97/23 98/2 99/14 101/4 101/9 103/12 104/8 104/13 104/15 104/25 105/7 105/11 105/15 105/19 105/22 106/1 106/4 106/7 107/21 109/16 109/19 111/22 112/9 114/1 114/11 125/16 125/18 127/21 127/25 128/3 128/6 128/16 128/20 129/2	12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: [13] 67/2 68/21 70/12 71/1 74/16 75/1 82/18 83/2 83/5 83/11 83/16 83/21 83/24 14TH DISTRICT 1VC MARX: [9] 27/9 106/25 107/3 108/12 109/7 110/5 110/25 111/19 114/22 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: [14] 35/17 39/15 56/2 58/17 98/21 99/10 99/15 100/1 101/18 102/1 113/2 118/1 120/3 124/11 1ST DISTRICT 1VC RAU: [2] 107/11 107/18 1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: [7] 52/18 57/23 58/3 100/12 112/19 112/24 122/20 1VC COX, JR.: [25] 9/10 9/12 9/15 9/20 9/25 11/6 13/7 13/10 13/15 13/19	14/5 14/8 14/11 14/14 14/17 14/19 14/23 15/3 15/8 15/17 37/15 37/23 58/14 75/10 75/13 2ND DISTRICT 1VC EMANS: [4] 104/1 107/5 108/15 110/8 2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: [7] 14/4 14/6 14/10 14/12 101/21 102/5 112/14 2VC LEWIS: [25] 7/6 13/8 15/20 15/22 16/16 28/6 51/12 74/7 75/4 97/17 116/20 116/22 117/24 118/6 118/9 119/15 119/19 120/17 121/19 122/5 122/12 123/19 124/5 125/8 129/18 3RD DISTRICT 1VC WHITE: [2] 109/10 121/1 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BAUMANN: [4] 14/16 14/18 14/21 15/1
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7TH DISTRICT 1VC BOYD: [2] 15/4 111/3 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: [4] 14/25 35/19 55/23 108/2 8TH DISTRICT CMDR CONN: [4] 92/11 93/4 93/10 93/13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: [60] 5/22 5/25 21/1 21/3 21/13 21/18 21/21 22/2 22/13 22/19 22/23 23/2 23/6 23/10 23/25 24/15 24/23 25/1 25/6 25/9 25/24 27/19 28/2 28/7 32/17 33/7 51/11 63/2 63/7 63/22 75/24 77/15 77/21 78/11 79/3 79/12 82/12 83/1 83/4 83/7 83/14 83/19 83/22 97/14 97/19 97/22 101/23 105/3 105/5 105/8 105/12 105/17 105/20	106/5 107/17 116/17 122/15 122/25 130/23 131/25 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: [39] 9/14 9/18 13/14 22/5 22/7 22/15 22/22 22/25 23/3 23/8 23/15 23/18 24/10 24/21 24/25 25/3 25/7 25/10 25/14 25/19 26/2 28/18 31/4 32/1 32/4 41/8 63/12 71/24 72/21 79/7 79/9 79/13 82/16 88/7 88/17 89/5 89/8 89/11 89/18 ASST CHAPLAIN McCLAIN: [4] 4/12 27/23 28/1 132/9 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS KVOCHICK: [1] 131/19 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS MAHLMAN: [2] 6/7 6/13	CHRMN BOYERS: [20] 18/9 19/2 19/6 19/17 19/22 20/2 20/15 20/19 20/24 22/6 23/12 23/17 25/12 25/15 26/4 26/7 26/11 26/17 27/16 27/21 COMMANDER OREN: [221] COORDINATOR BRAULT: [8] 47/22 47/24 49/17 49/19 51/13 53/6 59/15 61/4 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: [3] 41/24 42/1 47/19 COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: [2] 61/8 61/10 COORDINATOR WHITE: [8] 33/12 33/14 36/3 37/21 38/1 38/7 40/3 129/22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: [112] 4/6 4/9 5/13 5/23 6/12 6/22 6/24 9/11 9/13 9/24 13/6
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FROM THE ASSEMBLY:... [101] 15/16 15/21 16/15 19/1 26/6 26/10 26/16 27/12 27/14 28/16 33/13 35/22 35/24 36/2 39/18 39/20 39/22 39/25 41/13 41/15 41/17 41/20 41/25 47/18 47/23 49/15 52/22 52/24 53/1 53/4 59/8 59/11 59/13 61/3 61/9 63/6 63/15 63/17 63/20 98/10 98/12 98/14 98/17 98/19 102/16 102/18 102/20 102/22 103/6 103/8 103/10 107/8 107/10 108/6 108/18 108/20 108/23 108/25 109/13 109/21 109/23 110/11 110/13 110/15 110/18 110/20 111/6 111/8 111/10 111/13 111/25 112/2 112/4 112/7 112/17 115/9	115/12 119/4 119/6 119/8 119/11 119/13 120/6 120/8 120/10 120/13 120/15 121/21 121/23 121/25 122/2 123/21 123/23 123/25 124/2 124/14 124/16 124/18 124/20 124/22 133/1 FROM THE FLOOR: [5] 11/5 78/8 91/1 101/15 122/4 HISTORIAN MOTTER: [2] 28/24 29/17 JUDGE ADVOCATE RUE: [41] 32/9 77/12 77/20 84/4 85/21 86/14 86/23 87/5 87/11 87/16 87/22 87/25 88/3 88/24 89/7 89/10 89/13 89/16 90/10 90/13 91/16 91/20 92/5 93/2 93/8 93/11 93/14 93/19 93/25 94/3 94/7	94/17 94/21 94/23 97/12 99/3 99/18 100/10 100/25 116/3 117/22 NEC CHAPMAN: [51] 6/17 19/12 19/19 19/23 20/3 20/16 20/20 20/25 21/12 21/17 21/20 21/23 22/4 26/23 27/3 27/20 28/17 29/19 39/12 63/9 69/5 86/24 88/16 89/20 93/16 93/23 94/2 94/5 94/10 94/20 94/22 95/4 95/24 96/1 96/5 96/16 96/23 97/1 98/3 102/7 102/11 103/1 107/16 113/13 115/2 118/12 121/5 121/14 128/22 129/3 129/19 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: [57] 27/1 31/24 32/12 32/14 33/5 64/15 64/18 68/1 68/24 70/10 70/22 72/20 73/11 73/13 85/17 91/3 91/6
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	\$1,622,535 [1] 18/19	22/17 23/19
PARLIAMENTA RIAN	\$1.20 [2] 117/4 117/10	\$804.60 [1] 35/14
MINADEO:... [40]	\$10,000 [1] 91/18	\$9,100 [2] 86/5 86/8
91/19 91/25 92/7	\$100 [3] 76/2 76/3 91/13	\$9.00 [1] 117/3
95/8 95/13 95/25	\$120,000 [1] 117/11	\$90 [1] 91/14
96/3 96/7 101/8	\$131 [1] 130/2	\$900 [1] 22/12
101/11 102/9 104/3	\$134,708 [1] 18/20	\$985,631.05 [1] 116/11
104/6 104/9 104/14	\$140,000 [1] 91/18	'
104/20 105/1	\$15,000 [1] 24/4	'26 [3] 39/9 52/2 52/9
105/24 106/2 106/9	\$1500 [2] 22/14 22/20	'26-'27 [2] 52/2 52/9
106/18 107/2 108/8	\$2,448 [1] 132/2	'27 [3] 39/9 52/2 52/9
109/2 109/14	\$3,000 [1] 24/13	's [3] 32/24 32/24 87/1
109/25 110/22	\$30 [1] 9/16	0
111/15 115/23	\$300 [1] 132/4	01 [1] 44/24
118/3 118/7 121/11	\$35,964 [1] 116/12	1
121/16 123/10	\$38,292,305.14 [1] 47/6	1,813 [1] 18/21
123/17 127/16	\$40 [1] 130/6	10 [1] 62/11
127/22 128/1 128/4	\$431,116.45 [1] 116/10	100 [1] 78/18
128/15	\$5,000 [4] 90/24 91/8 92/13 92/16	100,000 [4] 23/24 24/12 24/14 24/16
PDC WHATLEY:	\$500,000 [2] 84/8 84/11	100th [1] 36/5
[1] 6/20	\$5300 [1] 132/5	101,000 [1] 129/9
\$	\$547,174 [1] 18/17	10:00 [6] 17/4
\$1,242,908.12 [1]	\$553,502 [1] 18/17	33/18 33/20 43/1
116/13	\$800 [3] 22/10	49/20 49/22
\$1,296,033.43 [1]		10:44 [1] 51/8
116/10		
\$1,399,586.19 [1]		
116/9		
\$1,457,205 [1]		
18/22		

1	14th [23] 17/8	1981 [1] 45/2
10th [4] 13/5 13/16	18/24 27/9 35/17	199 [3] 37/2 37/5
17/16 28/10	39/15 42/9 43/5	37/9
11 [6] 35/13 71/3	56/2 58/18 98/21	1992 [1] 45/2
79/17 80/3 84/12	99/10 101/18 107/1	19th [1] 17/20
98/7	108/12 109/7 110/5	1st [42] 2/10 6/10
117 [1] 54/12	110/25 111/19	10/20 11/24 12/24
119 [1] 3/13	113/2 114/23 118/1	13/4 15/14 27/10
11:18 [1] 35/12	120/3 124/11	28/25 29/1 35/3
11:30 [3] 40/5	15 [6] 2/11 8/4	37/15 48/2 48/23
51/14 51/15	22/25 42/17 53/20	51/1 52/19 58/4
11th [9] 39/1 48/7	117/6	67/3 71/3 74/18
49/6 50/11 52/3	15,000 [3] 23/22	75/14 82/19 98/7
54/7 103/4 115/17	23/24 24/17	100/13 103/4 107/1
125/4	1500 [1] 23/6	107/11 108/13
12 [5] 41/11 43/7	15th [5] 17/9 39/2	109/8 109/10 110/6
55/18 84/25 125/19	41/1 41/2 51/2	111/1 111/4 111/20
120 [1] 30/15	16 [3] 1/9 4/1 46/4	112/20 115/18
125 [1] 3/14	164 [1] 67/4	116/8 121/2 122/21
12:00 [1] 75/20	165 [1] 17/11	124/9 125/3 131/16
12:13 [1] 41/6	16th [2] 111/17	2
12th [11] 67/3	130/1	20 [1] 15/5
74/18 82/19 86/11	17th [1] 17/20	2003 [1] 117/9
89/22 96/10 101/4	18 [5] 2/12 12/17	2004 [1] 117/2
103/12 107/21	34/17 34/21 97/22	2017 [2] 47/4 47/7
111/22 112/9	183 [1] 36/24	2019 [1] 50/17
131 [1] 3/15	18th [3] 97/19 98/1	202 [1] 45/12
132 [1] 3/16	130/1	2024 [1] 33/16
13th [7] 26/7 26/9	19 [7] 2/13 32/24	2025 [12] 1/9 4/1
26/15 26/18 34/11	32/24 80/10 86/16	21/19 33/16 33/18
42/14 46/8	86/22 91/11	36/5 40/13 48/2
140 [1] 37/1	197 [2] 60/10 60/18	49/20 51/14 84/22

2	26th [4] 17/9	303 [1] 44/4
2025... [1] 103/21	130/11 130/12	31 [2] 2/17 12/2
2025-2026 [2] 29/4	130/15	316 [2] 60/12 77/13
41/5	27 [1] 2/14	31st [2] 34/5 116/8
2026 [8] 21/19	27th [2] 34/5 42/23	32 [3] 2/18 2/19
26/19 29/4 34/10	28 [1] 2/15	2/20
34/11 40/13 41/5	282 [1] 17/16	33 [1] 2/22
129/22	288 [1] 5/18	333 [1] 44/3
2028 [2] 38/14	289,000 [1] 44/16	339 [1] 59/24
38/23	28th [3] 17/10	344 [3] 54/12 60/7
2029 [3] 38/24 39/2	17/18 37/5	60/18
39/6	29 [2] 2/16 17/21	36 [2] 2/23 30/17
204 [1] 54/24	291 [1] 77/24	38 [1] 2/24
20th [1] 42/16	292 [1] 54/24	389/750 [3] 37/3
2102 [1] 44/8	293 [1] 54/24	37/6 37/8
2164 [1] 44/5	297 [1] 54/24	39 [2] 55/12 59/21
217 [1] 36/25	2:31 [1] 61/13	3950 [1] 46/12
21st [1] 17/9	2:48 [1] 55/15	3:53 [1] 62/23
223 [1] 60/3	2nd [24] 2/11 6/10	3rd [5] 34/6 48/8
22nd [1] 17/9	10/2 11/24 13/23	49/7 109/11 121/2
23rd [6] 19/10	13/25 14/12 29/1	4
19/11 23/17 26/4	34/9 40/5 42/6	40 [1] 2/25
42/18 118/15	49/20 51/14 52/4	42 [1] 3/1
242 [1] 12/17	54/6 61/13 74/7	43015 [1] 1/13
25 [1] 26/3	101/21 102/5 104/1	48 [1] 3/2
250 [3] 62/13	107/5 108/15 110/8	49 [1] 3/3
119/21 119/25	112/14	4th [6] 14/15 15/1
2500 [2] 132/3	2VC [1] 5/18	42/14 50/2 50/4
132/4	3	50/10
25th [2] 8/18 36/8	3.1 [1] 129/10	5
26-01 [1] 44/24	30 [5] 51/23 52/8	5,000 [1] 93/2
262 [1] 17/25	52/15 117/7 117/15	

5	6:42 [1] 49/13	9
50 [1] 40/21	6th [5] 12/1 34/10	90,000 [1] 91/11
50/50 [1] 40/21	42/24 43/3 48/22	990 [1] 87/20
501 [9] 32/24 32/24	7	990s [1] 67/18
40/22 86/21 86/22	7,840,412 [1] 18/23	9:00 [1] 17/3
87/1 87/1 88/15	70 [1] 31/14	9th [3] 17/24 34/11
91/11	70,535 [1] 10/5	38/15
504 [2] 76/9 76/12	71 [1] 44/2	A
51 [1] 3/4	726 [1] 12/18	ability [1] 5/3
513 [2] 1/25 1/25	728 [1] 18/21	able [7] 20/18 30/18
53.74 [1] 14/1	73 [1] 62/1	34/17 81/21 86/5
5:00 [3] 12/20 38/5	75 [1] 3/8	88/21 93/17
38/8	750 [3] 37/3 37/6	about [56] 7/9 7/11
5:13 [1] 39/10	37/8	7/15 8/4 8/16 9/21
5th [11] 38/15	754 [2] 17/2 17/3	10/6 10/18 14/19
38/16 42/21 42/24	76 [1] 3/9	16/3 17/21 19/25
45/9 46/9 103/21	79 [2] 3/10 3/11	20/1 20/10 20/21
104/8 104/19	7:00 [1] 12/21	23/22 24/22 25/19
106/23 108/11	7th [8] 14/19 14/22	32/23 34/1 45/7
6	34/6 35/19 50/1	45/20 48/15 50/16
60 [4] 1/12 117/15	55/23 108/2 111/3	54/15 54/16 54/25
117/21 118/25	8	55/2 66/22 68/21
600-6151 [1] 1/25	800 [2] 22/20 23/3	69/7 69/25 78/19
600-6152 [1] 1/25	829,687 [1] 18/21	81/12 83/6 87/12
61 [1] 3/5	84 [1] 3/12	88/10 91/7 92/16
6151 [1] 1/25	84 percent [1]	95/24 113/4 113/15
6152 [1] 1/25	78/19	118/11 119/22
63 [3] 3/6 3/7 36/23	882,293 [1] 18/18	120/19 125/10
69,616 [1] 10/8	8th [1] 92/12	125/21 125/25
6:00 [4] 12/21		126/1 126/11
12/21 48/3 48/3		126/16 127/3

A	achieve [3] 71/9 71/10 71/20 acquire [1] 78/8 across [3] 55/6 67/5 122/9 Act [5] 44/3 44/4 44/5 44/9 55/3 action [5] 43/13 80/22 80/23 81/3 81/6 actions [1] 75/3 active [3] 69/10 69/11 114/3 actively [1] 47/3 activities [6] 18/1 18/5 68/13 76/4 79/25 130/25 activity [1] 7/12 actual [3] 10/6 10/7 20/11 actually [20] 17/4 18/14 24/8 24/18 56/18 56/20 58/6 70/13 72/14 72/17 74/19 74/21 74/23 81/13 82/23 91/23 99/6 119/22 127/7 128/12 actuals [2] 20/4 20/6 ad [5] 119/24 120/22 121/7	121/12 122/8 adapted [1] 53/10 add [5] 9/17 35/2 47/14 89/24 125/20 added [2] 62/18 97/8 adding [3] 23/23 24/3 34/2 additional [1] 23/21 addressed [1] 83/22 adjourned [7] 35/12 39/10 41/6 49/13 51/8 55/15 62/23 adjust [1] 119/1 adjusted [1] 27/4 adjustments [2] 20/9 21/21 Adjutant [23] 2/20 21/3 24/2 52/15 60/17 61/15 61/17 62/15 74/11 83/8 95/15 95/20 96/16 96/17 96/19 102/2 106/22 108/10 110/3 110/24 123/1 124/7 126/21 admin [1] 45/16 administering [1] 35/6 adoption [1] 50/6
----------	--	--

A	agenda [2] 26/21 82/14 agendas [1] 79/23 agent [1] 110/23 ago [5] 15/5 70/21 77/19 77/20 77/21 agree [5] 58/20 100/10 100/22 113/14 128/15 ahead [7] 18/11 19/3 19/5 75/12 75/15 93/9 119/18 aid [1] 117/8 ain't [1] 12/4 AJ [1] 131/9 AI [5] 29/9 50/2 50/4 50/10 50/13 Alice [1] 34/22 all [134] Allegiance [2] 5/15 5/16 alleviate [1] 128/17 allocated [3] 117/4 117/6 117/8 allow [1] 102/2 allowance [1] 34/3 allowed [5] 65/1 66/14 86/19 91/22 91/24 allowing [2] 54/12 59/24 allows [2] 60/7	60/10 almost [2] 84/8 84/11 alone [1] 15/7 along [3] 30/24 60/19 76/20 Alpha [1] 84/12 already [6] 4/14 9/16 12/16 96/2 107/16 107/17 also [33] 10/19 11/10 12/13 12/19 13/3 13/3 13/11 17/13 34/25 38/24 40/18 56/12 62/9 62/18 67/3 71/8 80/19 84/25 88/25 98/25 113/9 113/17 120/17 122/6 125/6 126/15 126/20 126/24 127/1 127/2 128/9 130/5 130/16 alternate [10] 2/17 22/8 28/16 41/8 63/12 71/24 79/9 88/7 97/21 97/23 although [1] 26/11 always [5] 20/22 27/3 70/6 91/20 91/21 am [12] 17/5 33/18 35/12 43/1 47/4
----------	--	--

A	amounts [2] 20/4 47/4	69/10 69/16 81/2 81/2 81/7 93/14 98/9 98/11 98/13 100/23 102/15 102/17 103/5 103/7 107/7 107/9 108/17 108/19 109/19 109/20 109/22 110/10 110/12 110/14 111/5 111/7 111/9 111/24 112/1 112/3 112/18 112/25 113/12 113/25 114/6 114/21 117/11 119/3 119/5 119/7 120/5 120/7 120/9 121/20 121/22 121/24 123/20 123/22 124/13 124/15 124/17
am... [7] 49/20 49/22 51/8 51/14 56/16 75/9 118/12	animosity [1] 64/23	anybody [10] 7/18 13/5 19/10 25/20 27/24 47/17 85/13 87/20 114/6 126/7
amateur [1] 50/15	announcement [1] 132/1	anybody's [1] 95/16
amazing [1] 16/7	announcements [3] 3/14 125/15 129/21	anymore [8] 26/1 65/4 66/8 66/14 73/2 73/21 86/20 123/24
Amen [4] 5/12 5/13 132/25 133/1	annual [4] 42/21 42/22 53/19 117/1	anyone [3] 52/11
amend [5] 49/7 52/13 96/23 103/18 104/15	annually [1] 54/3	
amended [1] 117/9	another [12] 20/7 28/8 31/15 80/19 80/21 80/24 80/25 86/8 99/5 129/16 130/17 132/16	
amendment [4] 98/7 102/2 117/23 125/11	answer [7] 20/23 21/4 34/19 56/11 58/15 70/12 72/22	
amendments [3] 3/10 34/18 79/16	Anthony [1] 45/19	
America [2] 62/13 119/21	any [89] 5/2 15/14 18/1 18/2 18/25 19/10 20/6 20/10 26/4 26/8 26/14 28/11 28/12 29/11 35/21 35/23 39/17 39/19 39/21 40/19 41/12 41/14 41/16 47/17 49/14 50/21 52/21 52/23 52/25 53/6 54/13 55/25 59/7 61/1 63/14 63/16 65/2 66/23	
AMERICAN [25] 1/1 3/6 4/20 5/5 5/7 5/10 22/16 24/19 29/4 29/7 36/5 37/13 44/24 64/16 66/10 78/4 79/19 79/20 79/24 80/12 82/21 82/24 84/13 129/20 130/3		
Americanism [5] 2/22 33/11 33/15 33/18 35/15		
amount [1] 117/1		

A	appointees [1] 64/1	45/23 46/12 46/14
anyone... [2] 87/23	appreciate [2]	47/2 47/17 54/11
130/16	75/17 82/15	55/19 56/4 56/17
anything [12] 15/13	appreciation [1]	57/16 58/23 61/2
15/15 24/22 27/24	42/25	64/4 64/25 66/6
31/6 31/11 54/20	appropriate [3]	68/11 69/19 71/11
57/21 67/22 87/8	54/4 115/17 115/19	72/1 73/9 74/8 75/3
88/11 89/12	approval [7] 34/2	76/14 76/18 76/21
anyway [2] 114/5	35/10 48/4 51/16	77/22 77/24 78/15
114/6	53/17 53/20 55/20	79/10 82/23 83/6
anyways [5] 31/15	approve [18] 26/19	83/18 85/3 85/15
31/23 73/9 79/15	26/24 27/17 33/21	86/6 86/19 87/17
82/6	33/23 34/7 34/12	89/4 89/9 90/20
apologize [1] 22/21	34/16 39/5 39/13	91/23 94/6 94/16
Applause [6] 9/9	40/11 50/11 53/15	94/20 94/22 95/11
14/2 29/15 47/8	54/8 72/10 72/11	100/22 100/24
132/6 133/6	72/13 121/14	101/14 105/8 105/9
applicable [2]	approved [7] 21/6	118/17 125/2 125/6
49/10 53/14	25/2 48/10 49/12	126/23 127/14
application [4] 90/4	49/23 53/14 81/8	127/20 129/12
90/8 90/11 90/22	April [3] 8/5 17/19	130/1 130/4 131/4
Applications [1]	17/20	132/16 132/17
40/25	April 17th [1]	132/18 132/19
applied [1] 84/25	17/20	area [4] 11/22 12/7
applies [2] 32/22	are [88] 4/7 5/1	45/24 69/14
48/20	11/14 11/19 12/10	areas [1] 55/14
apply [4] 85/2 90/2	12/14 14/3 15/8	aren't [6] 13/7
90/6 92/17	17/8 18/13 18/25	32/13 74/14 74/15
appoint [4] 112/22	23/9 23/22 23/25	78/14 123/8
113/5 114/7 121/7	24/15 26/8 30/7	arena [1] 8/14
appointed [4] 40/7	32/19 37/25 43/21	Argonne [1] 77/22
57/5 94/23 121/10	43/25 45/11 45/20	arises [1] 69/3

A	112/11 113/11	43/7
Armed [1] 44/25	116/3 121/8 126/25	attended [1] 9/23
Arms [1] 131/20	127/12 128/1 128/8	attention [1] 78/21
Army [1] 62/19	128/13 130/16	attorney [9] 86/13
around [8] 18/11	132/12 132/16	86/18 87/4 88/1
25/16 69/12 72/5	as printed [1] 27/7	89/1 89/17 89/20
79/21 126/4 126/17	aside [1] 20/22	127/5 128/7
129/16	ask [11] 5/12 47/11	audit [1] 111/16
arrive [1] 38/17	63/7 69/21 71/6	August [22] 1/9 4/1
Article [5] 66/11	72/7 86/4 101/23	18/24 22/12 23/20
80/10 81/4 116/24	102/13 106/11	23/24 24/22 26/7
125/24	114/24	26/9 26/15 26/18
as [70] 6/18 13/24	asked [6] 43/11	33/16 33/18 40/5
13/24 18/24 27/7	44/13 44/18 64/3	40/25 42/18 48/2
28/12 31/17 32/15	81/11 92/16	49/20 51/1 51/14
34/16 38/13 38/20	asking [3] 7/18	61/13 118/15
38/20 39/3 39/3	71/5 105/2	August 13th [4]
42/7 43/14 43/17	ASSEMBLY [4]	26/7 26/9 26/15
44/13 47/24 47/25	4/4 5/16 5/21 133/4	26/18
50/19 50/19 54/21	asset [1] 46/23	August 2 [2] 33/16
56/11 57/2 57/22	assistance [2] 29/10	33/18
59/18 60/13 60/19	43/8	August 23rd [1]
60/21 60/22 60/24	Assistant [2] 45/18	118/15
61/15 61/15 62/10	131/20	August 2nd [1]
66/7 66/7 67/6 68/6	Associates [1]	40/5
72/6 72/6 72/23	84/18	authority [6] 95/16
73/15 80/18 83/25	Association [1]	121/7 126/2 126/9
83/25 84/6 92/24	84/23	126/14 126/15
96/4 98/24 100/2	attachment [1]	authorization [1]
100/6 100/25 101/6	38/13	54/2
105/20 105/22	attend [1] 70/19	authorize [1] 44/25
107/24 109/4	attendance [2] 43/6	authorized [3]

A		B
authorized... [3] 48/11 53/21 54/14 automatically [4] 36/13 91/14 101/2 104/10 Auxiliaries [1] 73/17 Auxiliary [24] 35/4 66/15 66/17 66/18 67/6 67/13 67/14 68/11 69/7 69/11 69/17 70/1 70/5 70/15 71/6 72/15 72/16 72/17 72/24 73/4 73/22 83/9 83/13 83/23 Auxiliary's [1] 74/2 Auxilliary [1] 70/18 availability [1] 34/13 available [3] 22/16 29/11 60/25 Avenue [1] 46/12 avoiding [1] 80/22 award [18] 34/22 34/23 45/1 45/6 47/4 48/18 48/24 49/8 50/3 50/25 51/21 53/8 53/13 53/15 56/19 56/20	56/21 57/12 awards [11] 44/10 44/11 44/12 48/21 50/24 51/4 51/19 56/7 76/22 130/5 130/6 aware [5] 48/11 65/15 66/5 66/20 79/11 away [2] 90/7 113/9 Awesome [1] 119/15 aye [44] 6/21 6/22 27/11 27/12 36/1 36/2 39/24 39/25 41/19 41/20 53/3 53/4 59/10 59/11 63/19 63/20 98/16 98/17 102/19 102/20 103/9 103/10 108/5 108/6 108/22 108/23 109/12 109/13 110/17 110/18 111/12 111/13 112/6 112/7 119/10 119/11 120/12 120/13 122/1 122/2 124/1 124/2 124/19 124/20 Ayes [1] 59/14	back [40] 7/18 7/20 8/5 9/3 11/7 13/2 13/8 15/3 24/19 29/2 29/2 30/12 34/21 49/25 64/3 75/19 76/6 76/7 77/9 78/6 85/11 88/18 91/11 91/14 91/23 92/21 92/23 98/24 99/21 102/23 103/2 107/19 107/19 117/18 118/23 121/12 124/25 129/1 129/8 131/22 bad [4] 30/16 33/17 72/16 95/4 bag [1] 76/2 bake [1] 67/8 balance [2] 116/9 116/13 bank [4] 84/7 94/8 116/5 127/13 banner [5] 81/15 81/16 81/17 81/19 81/24 banquet [2] 52/1 130/5 baseball [7] 2/23 16/5 36/4 36/6 36/7 37/14 37/24

B	125/6 127/12	believe [10] 6/11
based [2] 57/11	128/25 131/12	8/24 10/8 13/16
122/8	Becky's [1] 130/18	15/13 16/17 50/17
basically [1] 30/10	been [30] 8/3 20/8	62/17 101/3 102/8
basis [1] 16/19	21/7 21/8 25/12	beloved [1] 132/13
batteries [1] 25/22	25/15 32/23 37/24	benefits [2] 55/13
Baumann [1] 15/1	44/7 44/17 56/25	59/22
be [153]	58/6 60/2 60/6 60/8	Benson [3] 37/2
beat [1] 105/5	60/15 73/25 75/2	37/5 37/9
beating [2] 9/7 95/4	82/20 85/10 88/11	Bergmann [1]
Beatty [3] 49/22	93/23 100/15	45/12
50/18 51/3	100/16 126/9	Bernie [2] 29/1
Beavers [1] 36/8	126/10 129/15	107/11
because [58] 11/3	129/16 129/24	best [4] 57/11 57/18
12/22 12/24 16/19	131/15	58/8 71/25
18/4 21/8 21/9	before [12] 4/17	bet [1] 14/9
23/23 30/6 31/11	16/12 35/10 69/7	better [4] 9/15
33/15 34/25 38/4	75/10 94/9 116/3	61/24 71/22 74/9
38/16 47/12 55/19	116/4 123/12	between [6] 18/16
56/14 56/25 59/1	126/16 130/12	40/21 44/17 45/2
64/21 64/25 65/4	131/5	64/23 67/12
65/12 65/17 65/25	beginning [2] 116/8	Beverly [5] 37/3
68/12 69/21 72/14	117/2	37/6 37/8 37/10
73/5 74/1 77/4	behind [2] 64/8	37/17
78/23 79/4 81/22	88/25	Beverly/Lowell [4]
83/2 83/11 83/18	being [17] 23/9	37/3 37/6 37/10
86/14 86/25 88/11	29/6 29/8 51/1 51/2	37/17
91/25 92/9 93/20	54/18 56/5 56/17	Beyer [2] 29/9 62/9
95/11 96/8 96/11	56/18 56/21 74/12	biased [2] 57/2 59/1
96/12 99/19 99/22	80/3 80/4 83/22	bid [3] 38/14 38/19
102/11 113/8 114/3	86/15 99/12 101/1	38/25
117/17 117/18	believable [1] 29/13	bids [1] 38/9

B	95/2 95/12 95/13	bottle [4] 10/22
big [6] 1/12 6/7	95/21 95/25 96/1	10/23 11/2 11/3
8/15 8/16 11/7	96/4 96/8 101/1	bottom [1] 37/18
61/22	105/10 105/13	boundaries [1] 90/7
bigger [1] 90/10	105/16 105/18	Bowling [1] 17/7
biggest [1] 67/12	105/21 105/23	box [1] 10/17
bill [13] 41/23	109/3 112/12	boxes [2] 76/21
54/12 54/12 54/15	113/20 113/21	76/24
55/12 59/21 59/24	114/4 114/14	boy [4] 11/8 28/20
60/3 60/7 60/10	114/14 114/16	84/15 92/9
60/12 60/18 60/18	118/18 119/2 127/4	Boyd [3] 14/25 15/4
bills [7] 43/24 54/10	128/8 128/8 128/9	111/3
54/11 54/24 60/19	boards [2] 25/25	Boyers [6] 29/1
61/1 67/11	26/1	52/19 58/4 100/13
Bishop [4] 42/12	Bob [8] 9/16 23/13	112/20 122/21
43/11 44/15 45/9	28/15 31/3 32/6	Boys [3] 18/16
bit [4] 10/10 11/9	82/12 89/15 131/12	59/17 69/23
16/4 50/14	body [10] 50/7	bracket [1] 36/19
Bite [1] 10/21	53/15 56/24 57/17	brain [2] 28/11
blah [3] 127/15	64/1 100/2 100/8	31/14
127/15 127/15	103/19 103/22	Brault [1] 47/10
blanket [1] 7/13	104/17	break [6] 3/8 54/18
blankets [1] 7/8	bonded [1] 126/25	75/11 75/16 107/14
block [1] 45/23	bonding [1] 126/20	107/19
blood [1] 38/1	bonds [3] 126/22	breakdown [1]
blue [5] 9/14 81/16	126/22 127/1	38/10
83/13 83/14 83/15	books [1] 106/12	bridge [1] 127/7
board [42] 32/20	both [13] 13/7	bring [8] 7/21 15/9
32/21 32/21 32/21	13/11 19/17 28/10	65/6 66/13 73/25
67/6 70/2 70/13	37/7 37/20 40/21	74/4 74/17 76/6
70/16 70/16 70/16	60/17 65/17 70/14	bringing [1] 74/14
70/19 93/17 94/19	81/8 89/3 117/13	broke [1] 22/16

B brother [1] 31/12 brothers [1] 83/19 brought [1] 13/22 Brown [2] 10/25 14/7 Buckeye [3] 18/16 59/17 84/14 Buddy [1] 8/13 budget [19] 20/1 20/13 20/16 21/6 21/19 25/1 25/4 26/19 26/24 27/3 27/7 53/20 53/25 54/5 63/3 63/10 123/14 123/14 126/5 budgeted [2] 20/4 21/19 build [1] 127/7 building [4] 23/15 43/8 45/20 55/5 bulk [1] 130/24 Bulleit [4] 10/21 10/22 10/23 11/4 burdens [1] 4/13 burnt [1] 25/25 bus [4] 84/22 86/5 86/7 99/13 business [18] 3/11 3/13 6/1 7/3 26/22 27/2 30/3 39/7 43/9	43/23 48/25 50/10 51/18 53/17 79/6 93/16 96/6 98/24 busts [1] 11/12 busy [1] 32/15 Butler [1] 84/21 butt [1] 11/12 button [2] 25/21 30/10 Buxton [4] 50/2 50/4 50/10 50/14 buy [2] 11/2 130/19 buying [1] 7/8 BVA [1] 47/4 bylaws [12] 65/19 68/2 73/15 73/16 80/18 96/12 99/1 99/7 121/6 125/24 127/17 127/18 C cable [4] 22/10 22/16 22/18 23/19 call [14] 2/3 2/5 4/2 5/24 28/18 33/1 33/3 61/13 75/22 94/17 94/25 95/1 95/2 130/12 called [7] 8/12 33/15 61/11 87/12 90/17 92/15 92/22 came [11] 11/12 24/17 26/11 26/12	49/25 51/21 79/10 79/13 79/15 81/14 88/9 Camp [1] 84/14 campaign [2] 62/1 62/14 can [76] 5/6 5/9 7/23 12/8 12/24 20/21 20/22 21/1 21/13 24/10 24/11 26/25 27/3 31/20 43/20 49/10 50/20 54/17 54/20 57/7 57/8 57/10 61/20 64/7 64/13 65/8 68/10 68/15 68/16 68/19 70/1 70/11 72/17 72/18 73/4 73/19 76/3 76/3 76/15 77/16 78/16 79/3 80/20 82/13 82/25 83/1 83/2 83/12 83/18 84/6 84/10 86/15 86/16 86/17 86/21 87/1 89/20 90/23 94/12 94/24 95/6 96/6 96/7 100/16 102/12 102/13 116/6 117/25 118/19 118/21 122/15 127/5 127/6 130/7
---	---	---

C	cause [3] 80/14 81/5 92/20 Celebreeze [1] 45/19 Cemetery [1] 44/7 cent [1] 117/15 Center [3] 38/21 39/4 46/22 Centers [1] 46/15 cents [5] 117/6 117/7 117/16 117/21 118/25 ceremonies [2] 2/4 3/16 ceremony [1] 68/8 certain [3] 48/20 64/23 94/16 Certainly [1] 21/2 certification [1] 78/3 certified [3] 94/14 95/20 96/14 Chair [3] 54/25 55/8 62/18 chairman [37] 22/5 33/19 40/6 40/8 43/15 45/5 48/3 49/22 50/18 51/3 51/14 51/21 56/11 61/10 93/18 94/12 95/7 96/5 96/13 96/20 101/6 103/15	103/23 104/9 104/23 105/9 105/11 105/14 105/16 105/22 105/25 106/2 107/25 109/4 109/4 115/21 123/2 chairmen [1] 79/25 chairperson [5] 54/4 58/22 58/24 58/25 59/2 Chairs [1] 50/20 challenge [8] 7/23 10/20 10/20 10/21 10/23 11/1 40/14 43/12 Champions [2] 7/24 40/14 championship [1] 37/8 change [26] 33/2 33/14 41/4 46/4 48/9 48/12 48/14 53/13 53/16 53/18 53/20 53/23 54/1 54/2 54/4 54/17 54/20 64/11 64/12 80/3 81/1 100/9 100/9 118/19 125/10 125/12 changed [5] 36/17 48/7 64/11 100/20
----------	---	--

C	93/17 95/10 95/21	46/17 60/13 84/14
changed... [1]	96/20 99/23 101/7	choose [2] 56/6
110/23	103/15 103/21	56/20
changes [4] 33/2	103/23 103/25	chopping [1] 45/22
33/6 53/18 54/8	106/21 107/25	chosen [4] 56/8
changing [4] 52/5	108/9 109/3 110/1	56/21 57/9 57/12
52/7 118/5 125/5	110/23 111/16	Christie [5] 16/7
chaperones [1]	112/12 113/10	40/2 41/22 129/21
42/17	116/14 116/16	130/21
Chaplain [2] 2/14	126/24 126/25	chunk [1] 53/18
31/7	132/4	Cincinnati [3] 1/24
Chapman [10] 6/17	Charities' [1] 86/15	42/18 47/1
19/12 26/23 29/18	Charities's [1] 33/1	circle [1] 12/22
29/19 39/12 63/9	Charles [2] 109/6	circumstances [2]
69/5 103/1 113/13	110/2	72/10 72/23
Chappy [6] 21/4	charter [1] 78/16	citizens [1] 64/25
31/2 79/14 93/15	charters [2] 3/9	City [2] 84/18
98/23 128/21	76/11	118/25
character [1]	Charters/Revocatio	clarification [5]
125/21	ns [1] 3/9	24/3 33/4 87/15
charge [8] 22/17	cheating [1] 66/2	87/16 104/4
25/25 68/5 68/10	check [2] 78/1 92/3	class [1] 64/25
68/12 94/18 94/19	checking [4] 16/19	clean [1] 74/2
94/24	16/22 91/23 93/12	cleaning [1] 69/13
charged [2] 23/5	checks [2] 85/3	clear [3] 8/7 115/3
23/19	116/10	118/14
charges [1] 66/13	Chester [1] 46/12	cleared [3] 11/17
charitable [3]	Child [1] 40/24	12/11 12/11
90/21 92/4 92/19	children [8] 2/25	Clermont [1] 84/15
charities [31] 3/12	7/25 8/1 40/4 40/17	Cleveland [5] 45/14
62/17 84/5 86/6	40/20 71/16 71/18	45/17 45/22 45/24
86/25 90/16 92/2	Chillicothe [3]	46/13

C	107/19 118/23	98/22 100/12
clinic [2] 42/25 86/3	121/12 126/18	100/13 101/5 101/8
close [2] 45/21 87/8	comes [8] 10/24	101/22 101/23
closed [2] 21/9	31/18 46/24 58/22	102/6 105/3 106/9
46/11	60/25 86/24 87/3	106/25 107/1
closest [1] 31/11	89/6	107/22 108/3
closing [8] 3/15	Comfort [1] 132/19	108/13 109/5 109/8
3/16 21/5 45/19	coming [8] 8/18	110/3 110/6 111/1
46/11 77/22 77/25	10/2 16/10 17/21	111/4 111/20
131/10	62/14 64/20 65/25	112/15 112/19
closures [1] 76/10	68/19	113/3 114/22
Cobb [1] 42/9	Commander [108]	115/16 118/2
code [2] 61/19	2/9 2/10 2/11 5/25	119/17 119/24
66/12	6/9 6/17 6/20 12/2	120/4 120/22 121/1
coins [1] 43/12	14/13 15/18 19/2	121/7 121/9 122/7
Coldwater [1]	26/17 27/10 27/23	122/15 122/20
84/15	28/9 28/25 32/10	122/21 123/11
collect [1] 67/9	32/12 33/8 35/3	124/6 124/12
collective [1] 60/22	35/18 36/9 39/16	125/16 128/22
Colonel [1] 84/17	47/19 48/12 52/18	129/6 130/17
COLORS [2] 4/4	52/19 52/19 55/24	Commander's [10]
133/4	56/3 56/11 58/1	3/15 7/22 13/18
Columbus [3]	58/3 58/4 58/18	13/19 30/21 30/23
85/25 86/1 129/23	61/5 62/24 63/7	34/2 40/14 40/16
column [2] 20/7	64/15 66/25 67/3	75/25
20/12	67/4 68/25 70/14	Commanders [9]
come [20] 7/2 8/13	70/14 70/18 73/11	11/18 11/23 12/10
9/4 25/17 58/22	74/3 74/7 75/11	15/14 16/22 64/1
60/23 66/14 70/1	77/14 79/1 79/7	71/11 123/6 123/7
72/7 74/5 74/13	82/18 92/11 94/25	comment [2] 57/22
82/10 82/22 100/23	95/1 95/9 95/15	57/24
102/13 103/2	95/19 96/8 96/19	comments [1]

C	126/12	125/22
comments... [1]	Committee/Commis	computer [1] 77/8
19/11	ssion [1] 2/21	comrades [2]
commission [28]	Committeeman [1]	132/12 132/17
2/21 34/15 38/9	45/5	concern [1] 94/11
40/4 40/12 40/17	committees [8]	concerned [2]
40/20 50/12 50/24	49/11 53/14 56/6	66/22 72/6
51/18 52/8 53/9	56/13 56/15 58/25	concludes [1] 62/24
53/17 53/21 54/5	59/4 121/7	concrete [2] 24/5
54/8 55/1 55/8	common [1] 70/11	24/6
55/20 55/21 57/3	communicate [3]	concur [1] 100/14
57/15 57/19 58/5	71/14 71/18 71/21	Concurrent [1]
61/12 61/20 62/13	communicating [1]	59/16
117/13	71/8	conduct [1] 6/1
commits [1] 81/20	communication [4]	conducted [3] 5/24
committee [47] 1/3	3/5 61/25 92/23	111/17 114/24
2/13 2/21 19/3 19/7	126/16	Conference [3]
26/18 27/17 33/24	communications [3]	129/23 129/25
38/3 42/6 43/18	61/12 71/5 119/20	130/3
43/20 44/13 48/2	community [1]	conforming [1]
48/9 48/17 48/24	74/21	123/8
51/19 51/25 52/6	company [1] 22/17	Congratulations [1]
53/8 54/23 56/5	comparison [1]	29/22
57/1 57/6 57/19	21/19	Congress [4] 30/6
59/20 65/18 65/21	compassion [1]	44/1 44/25 78/16
66/15 68/3 68/4	132/22	congressional [1]
68/5 68/6 79/16	complete [3] 36/19	43/24
94/18 95/21 96/7	48/18 50/25	congressman [1]
103/19 119/22	completed [3] 45/4	30/11
119/24 120/22	45/13 49/9	Conley [4] 14/24
121/13 122/8	completely [1] 21/8	35/19 55/23 108/2
123/13 126/2	compliance [1]	Conn [1] 92/11

C	continues [2] 46/23	71/14 71/22
Connected [1]	100/6	coordination [2]
61/23	contract [1] 92/6	65/24 68/8
consideration [1]	contribute [2] 35/8	Coordinator [2]
118/21	69/20	47/3 47/10
considered [1]	control [3] 65/1	copies [2] 33/25
60/21	67/15 76/15	82/13
considers [1] 90/16	convention [48]	copy [5] 19/6 77/1
Constant [1] 130/8	2/24 31/8 38/3 38/7	82/13 94/8 116/5
constitution [9]	38/18 38/21 38/23	Cornhole [1] 17/15
79/19 99/6 99/7	38/24 39/4 39/6	Corp [2] 38/3 38/7
116/24 118/5 121/6	39/9 51/19 51/24	Corporation [3]
125/24 127/17	51/25 52/6 52/9	2/24 84/13 84/15
127/18	52/16 53/7 54/4	Corps [2] 82/5 82/7
constitutional [4]	56/5 56/13 56/15	correct [4] 19/17
3/10 34/18 79/16	56/16 57/6 59/5	20/2 24/8 72/19
117/23	59/6 62/16 82/11	corrected [2] 19/15
constitutions [1]	82/14 84/9 84/12	19/18
125/9	85/14 85/16 85/20	correspond [1]
consulted [1] 87/19	85/22 88/10 92/15	55/9
contact [2] 87/4	100/18 100/20	cost [11] 22/12 23/1
130/9	116/18 117/7 117/9	23/23 24/5 24/12
contacted [1] 77/24	117/17 118/20	24/13 35/9 38/10
contention [4]	125/5 125/11	86/5 91/17 97/1
67/12 67/20 67/24	130/22 132/2	costs [1] 43/22
68/22	conventions [1]	could [14] 8/6 20/9
Continental [1]	46/25	21/10 24/19 43/11
8/19	Cook [3] 43/15	49/4 54/21 75/15
continue [5] 5/10	45/5 48/22	82/12 95/14 95/18
5/10 62/3 100/3	cookouts [1] 74/14	100/8 114/17
132/20	cool [1] 75/13	114/18
continued [1] 100/6	cooperation [2]	couldn't [3] 28/8

C	CPR [2] 77/10 77/10 CPRs [1] 78/2 crap [1] 29/12 crazy [2] 38/2 66/3 create [6] 48/24 119/24 120/22 120/23 122/7 130/14 created [2] 113/10 123/5 creating [2] 81/15 81/19 creation [5] 45/6 49/8 50/22 55/13 59/21 crew [1] 21/24 criteria [7] 35/3 49/2 50/3 50/8 52/5 56/19 85/19 cross [1] 62/21 cross-pollinate [1] 62/21 crowd [1] 122/5 cruise [1] 42/17 current [5] 24/17 78/10 78/11 78/12 109/3 currently [6] 47/1 54/11 55/7 59/19 60/20 61/2 cut [2] 85/3 85/4	D Dan [1] 10/5 dandy [1] 77/8 Darell [3] 42/12 44/15 45/9 date [20] 1/9 21/12 34/10 51/21 51/22 52/7 85/9 94/4 94/16 97/11 97/14 97/16 97/17 97/21 97/24 97/25 100/11 104/22 126/23 127/1 dates [8] 17/8 34/4 34/5 34/8 34/9 34/12 39/1 41/5 daughter [1] 83/3 daughters [1] 81/22 David [2] 43/15 45/5 day [15] 4/19 7/2 12/21 38/18 42/18 42/25 62/21 68/3 68/8 84/23 97/25 104/24 130/25 131/15 133/5 Dayna [2] 29/9 62/9 days [6] 31/14 51/23 52/8 52/15 53/20 130/12 Dayton [4] 17/12 44/6 46/22 86/1
----------	---	--

D	57/10 65/23 114/6	110/3 110/3 117/2
dead [1] 43/25	DECs [1] 48/14	117/5 117/6 125/6
deadline [3] 100/15	defeated [1] 37/9	126/2 132/2
100/18 130/10	definitely [1] 37/25	dependent [1]
deadlines [1] 51/1	Delaware [1] 1/13	53/25
deal [1] 66/3	delay [1] 85/5	depending [1]
dealt [1] 46/20	delegate [1] 117/15	118/20
Dean [10] 18/8	delegates [1] 117/8	deposit [1] 92/2
28/25 52/18 57/21	Delta [2] 38/20 39/3	deposits [1] 116/9
58/3 58/12 100/12	Dennis [2] 48/8	depressing [1] 32/3
112/19 122/20	49/7	dereliction [4]
122/23	DEPARTMENT	101/7 103/16
debate [1] 49/4	[68] 1/2 1/3 1/11	103/24 107/24
DEC [22] 19/8	6/9 10/17 10/19	Deshler [3] 77/13
30/17 35/10 35/11	17/7 17/15 17/19	77/18 77/19
48/13 48/14 49/10	17/23 29/3 29/7	design [1] 61/19
51/3 54/3 65/11	35/10 36/9 36/11	designates [1]
94/20 95/1 95/10	37/15 38/23 38/24	60/12
95/11 95/14 95/18	39/6 39/9 40/8 41/1	desired [1] 123/9
98/24 104/21	42/5 47/13 48/12	desk [1] 22/20
111/18 117/25	48/19 48/24 50/18	despair [1] 132/18
124/10 126/9	51/2 51/23 51/24	Detachment [1]
December [4]	52/8 52/15 52/15	35/3
46/14 130/11	53/22 54/3 56/4	detailed [10] 89/24
130/12 130/14	59/4 59/5 60/4	90/1 90/5 90/8
December 26th [2]	61/11 61/19 64/7	90/19 91/1 92/14
130/11 130/12	68/2 77/13 80/17	98/25 103/20
decide [1] 117/25	80/18 80/25 81/7	104/18
decided [3] 48/19	81/14 81/17 81/18	detailing [1] 90/16
57/19 60/23	84/13 85/16 88/22	details [1] 43/17
decision [1] 118/8	100/18 100/19	determine [1] 50/8
decisions [4] 57/8	102/3 103/19 109/5	Dew [2] 11/5 11/6

D		
Dick [1] 28/9	directed [2] 119/24 122/7	63/16 98/9 98/11 98/13 102/15
Dickey [2] 48/8 49/7	direction [1] 21/12	102/17 103/5 103/7
dictate [1] 71/12	directive [1] 32/20	106/16 107/7 107/9
did [33] 7/22 10/9 16/6 20/13 26/19 27/23 29/16 37/12 42/8 42/13 43/13 44/1 47/14 49/23 51/16 52/10 53/7 53/13 58/13 58/15 75/24 77/3 77/15 78/6 79/4 79/12 85/2 86/6 92/20 96/18 116/17 129/1 130/24	director [3] 45/17 45/18 63/24	108/17 108/19 109/19 109/20 109/22 110/10 110/12 110/14 111/5 111/7 111/9 111/24 112/1 112/3 112/16 112/18 112/25 113/12 113/25 114/21 115/14 118/11 119/3 119/5 119/7 120/5 120/7 120/9 120/19 121/4 121/20 121/22 121/24 122/24 123/20 123/22 123/24 124/13 124/15 124/17 126/11
didn't [5] 15/6 26/13 31/7 48/6 74/2	directors [1] 96/1	discussions [2] 20/10 121/9
died [1] 31/13	disabled [4] 44/3 85/24 86/2 86/9	disparity [1] 24/7
dies [1] 75/6	disband [1] 73/3	Dispatcher [1] 50/3
different [6] 23/25 57/9 71/11 89/2 89/9 89/12	disciplinary [3] 80/22 81/3 81/5	display [2] 55/13 59/21
diligence [2] 70/10 114/20	discipline [2] 66/9 66/11	distribute [2] 61/20 117/5
diligent [1] 70/23	discount [1] 60/3	District [130] 6/10
dime [1] 67/10	discretion [1] 53/22	
Dinner [1] 68/4	discuss [2] 8/24 20/22	
direct [3] 95/14 96/8 120/21	discussed [15] 10/15 34/23 34/24 34/25 38/14 38/25 40/13 40/24 44/10 48/17 51/20 58/6 60/18 98/23 117/15	
	discussion [73] 34/1 35/21 35/23 39/17 39/19 39/21 41/12 41/14 41/16 47/2 49/25 51/19 52/21 52/23 52/25 53/6 55/25 57/22 58/8 59/7 63/14	

D		
District... [129] 9/6	101/21 102/5 103/4	50/7 51/9 51/17
10/22 11/18 11/22	103/13 104/1 107/1	52/17 55/19 56/13
11/23 12/1 13/5	107/5 107/12	61/1 63/11 64/3
13/16 13/23 13/25	107/22 108/3	64/5 64/13 65/13
14/12 14/15 14/20	108/13 108/16	65/23 66/8 66/16
15/2 16/21 17/17	109/8 109/11 110/6	67/15 68/20 69/18
18/2 27/10 28/9	110/8 111/1 111/3	69/20 69/23 69/24
28/25 32/21 35/18	111/20 111/23	71/13 71/20 72/11
35/20 39/16 40/25	112/10 112/14	72/17 74/13 74/16
41/11 42/10 42/13	112/20 113/3	74/25 75/25 76/1
42/14 42/24 43/3	114/23 115/18	78/5 78/8 78/12
43/5 43/11 44/18	118/2 120/4 121/2	83/18 86/20 87/13
45/8 45/9 46/8 46/9	122/21 123/6 123/7	88/4 88/21 91/12
48/7 48/8 48/22	124/8 124/10	91/13 91/22 91/24
48/23 49/6 49/7	124/12 125/4	92/5 92/17 93/6
50/1 50/2 50/4	125/19	94/8 94/8 96/6
50/10 50/11 50/20	districts [10] 10/16	96/22 97/2 99/2
51/1 51/6 52/3 52/4	11/17 51/5 55/9	99/2 105/24 107/4
52/19 54/6 54/7	55/10 58/23 58/23	108/1 108/14 109/9
55/18 55/24 56/3	62/4 63/25 93/3	110/7 111/2 111/21
57/10 58/4 58/18	Districts' [1] 11/10	112/13 114/7
61/11 61/21 62/11	divide [2] 11/22	114/14 114/18
62/18 64/8 67/3	12/7	115/22 116/4 116/5
68/25 71/3 74/3	divided [1] 44/17	117/10 118/14
74/18 76/1 76/3	do [106] 4/17 8/19	119/2 119/21
76/21 77/5 78/14	9/25 10/24 10/24	119/22 120/2
79/25 82/19 86/11	12/25 13/11 15/3	120/25 121/9 122/4
89/23 90/18 91/8	16/12 16/20 21/13	125/8 127/12
92/12 96/10 98/7	26/20 27/8 27/17	127/22 128/14
98/22 99/11 100/13	30/9 32/25 33/5	130/14 130/14
101/5 101/19	35/16 39/11 39/14	131/16
	41/7 47/11 49/16	doctor [1] 98/1

D		
documentation [4] 96/24 100/19 100/21 100/24	31/4 31/6 38/17 47/15 48/15 58/20 59/2 64/7 64/20 65/3 66/7 66/23 67/22 68/4 68/12 69/18 69/21 72/11 72/21 72/25 73/20 76/6 76/7 76/24 80/6 82/9 83/16 87/7 87/22 92/10 93/5 100/21 114/2 114/12 117/18 120/20 130/12	Doug [3] 14/25 15/4 111/3
documented [3] 29/8 94/15 97/3		Dowdy [1] 45/17
does [12] 19/10 46/24 58/19 65/16 67/10 68/13 72/13 75/6 88/22 102/9 121/11 130/16		down [22] 4/12 7/2 10/4 16/9 28/20 32/2 65/12 69/22 74/5 79/5 79/10 79/13 80/7 86/24 87/3 87/8 95/4 100/16 119/1 122/9 127/23 129/13
doesn't [6] 32/14 58/22 67/16 84/7 97/17 102/8	donate [1] 68/19	downtown [1] 46/2
doing [33] 4/7 16/2 18/13 21/24 24/8 54/20 56/17 64/2 64/5 65/4 65/7 65/13 65/16 69/14 72/8 75/2 78/4 78/14 83/6 85/8 87/6 87/17 88/11 89/8 89/9 89/11 91/22 93/21 114/15 114/20 125/6 127/14 130/8	donated [1] 82/23	draft [1] 127/17
don't [55] 7/11 7/15 7/18 8/2 9/7 9/17 10/10 11/3 11/3 11/24 15/13 20/6 22/20 22/23 24/21 25/19 25/21 26/1	donation [1] 132/3	Dragon [1] 1/24
	donations [3] 40/13 68/7 69/15	drink [1] 11/3
	done [21] 11/20 12/9 19/19 20/8 30/3 30/18 53/16 56/22 56/22 69/12 97/4 97/7 97/10 99/5 99/8 99/16 99/19 113/8 116/1 129/17 131/15	drinking [1] 131/6
	door [2] 8/14 25/12	drinks [1] 42/19
	doors [4] 24/22 24/23 25/5 25/18	dropped [1] 50/17
	double [1] 36/12	DSO [6] 44/20 45/11 46/6 46/18 46/24 47/3
	double-elimination [1] 36/12	DSOs [3] 45/11 45/15 45/25
		dual [4] 72/2 72/3 74/8 74/12
		Dublin [1] 129/24
		due [7] 11/19 40/7 45/3 51/21 80/13 80/23 114/20
		dues [4] 7/8 7/14 116/24 117/2
		during [6] 53/6

D	early [1] 38/17 East [1] 12/17 easy [1] 116/1 ECHs [1] 116/11 Education [3] 3/2 48/1 59/20 educational [1] 59/18 effective [1] 104/23 effectively [1] 80/22 eight [3] 25/6 25/7 61/14 EIN [2] 67/14 67/16	Elliott [1] 46/19 else [5] 15/14 25/20 31/6 31/21 73/2 Emans [6] 52/4 54/6 104/1 107/5 108/15 110/8 emergency [3] 88/13 88/14 104/22 Employment [3] 3/2 48/2 48/25 encourage [1] 51/5 encouraged [1] 54/25 encouraging [1] 57/16 end [4] 21/9 29/14 97/12 131/23 ended [2] 31/15 31/16 ending [1] 116/13 enjoy [1] 32/1 enough [1] 69/19 entertain [1] 63/8 entity [1] 128/13 Envision [2] 34/17 34/21 equipped [1] 57/7 especially [2] 54/18 123/4 essay [3] 34/15 34/16 34/20 establishes [1] 60/3
E	e-mail [14] 13/1 16/14 16/18 16/22 18/3 90/23 92/18 93/6 93/8 94/4 99/22 130/7 130/9 130/24 e-mailed [1] 38/11 e-mails [2] 6/19 61/24 each [18] 4/22 10/22 36/15 36/19 38/11 43/12 50/23 57/9 76/1 76/21 97/2 97/3 97/4 98/8 117/3 118/19 123/3 123/11 Eagle [1] 84/16 earlier [1] 99/20 either [8] 7/12 21/12 53/25 76/2 76/25 85/3 114/12 120/21 elect [5] 93/18 94/12 95/7 95/21 96/5 elected [2] 96/2 96/12 elections [1] 29/22 electric [1] 67/8 electrical [1] 25/25 electronic [1] 116/11 eliminate [2] 49/3 80/5 elimination [2] 36/12 36/17	

E	88/25 93/21 113/6 130/25 evil [1] 71/17 ex [2] 70/15 70/18 exactly [1] 25/16 excellent [1] 46/19 exception [1] 49/3 exchange [1] 13/11 Excuse [1] 22/15 executive [16] 1/3 70/2 70/15 70/16 70/19 101/12 101/14 101/17 101/19 102/25 103/14 103/19 126/2 126/11 128/8 128/9 exist [1] 69/16 expansion [1] 44/6 expected [1] 46/13 Expeditionary [1] 45/1 expel [1] 80/11 expense [1] 131/21 explain [2] 34/19 127/9 explaining [2] 92/18 92/19 explains [3] 69/9 118/15 128/7 Expo [1] 84/24 extra [2] 8/19 69/23	extreme [1] 72/23 extremely [1] 131/7 extremities [1] 28/11
establishments [1] 60/8 estimate [1] 25/4 estimated [2] 23/22 24/14 euchre [3] 17/23 74/20 74/22 even [8] 4/17 12/13 18/2 24/11 56/5 67/21 114/3 114/4 event [1] 43/2 events [5] 33/15 37/25 62/21 62/22 65/24 eventually [1] 121/12 ever [2] 15/6 132/22 every [4] 10/13 92/8 124/10 129/5 everybody [14] 4/5 5/22 6/11 7/1 8/8 19/6 29/24 32/17 32/22 33/24 47/22 66/2 125/23 130/23 everyone [8] 15/20 16/8 16/16 19/21 53/13 61/8 93/23 94/14 everything [9] 4/14 61/4 86/3 87/7 88/1	F Facebook [1] 62/8 facilities [3] 45/10 45/24 67/7 facility [3] 45/21 73/2 73/5 facing [1] 37/6 fact [5] 24/12 31/7 103/23 114/17 126/9 failed [1] 129/14 fails [1] 115/13 fair [3] 57/14 80/17 84/19 Fairfield [1] 60/13 Fairgrounds [1] 43/6 fairly [1] 22/3 fall [4] 30/2 49/9 53/23 53/24 falls [1] 12/13 false [2] 21/7 60/22 Fame [1] 84/21 familiar [1] 43/25 familiarity [1] 88/4 familiarize [1] 30/20 families [1] 60/5	

F	feeling [1] 55/2	67/19 74/13 78/22
family [10] 28/4	feels [1] 64/24	fine [3] 4/9 9/16
62/8 62/21 68/12	fellowship [1]	118/24
68/12 68/13 69/9	132/14	finish [4] 10/25
71/15 73/16 81/20	female [2] 74/8	76/16 109/16 116/2
far [2] 62/1 72/6	75/4	finished [3] 10/8
fast [2] 33/6 46/19	few [5] 9/21 19/25	13/16 20/17
faster [1] 33/2	44/2 70/20 93/11	first [19] 11/21 19/9
fastest [1] 64/6	Field [1] 36/8	20/5 28/19 29/20
Father [1] 4/18	figure [7] 12/7	29/25 36/9 48/1
fathers [5] 83/1	25/16 82/20 83/12	53/23 55/3 69/6
83/6 83/6 83/17	83/17 86/18 123/7	76/9 79/17 84/24
83/19	figured [2] 48/5	106/21 108/8
favor [25] 6/21	129/13	114/10 118/10
27/11 35/25 39/23	file [2] 42/19 61/19	124/10
41/18 53/2 59/9	filing [1] 87/20	fiscal [1] 126/22
63/18 98/15 102/19	fill [5] 75/15 113/5	fish [2] 67/23 69/20
103/9 108/5 108/21	114/2 127/19 130/7	fit [3] 48/18 57/12
109/12 110/16	filled [1] 76/12	57/18
111/11 112/5	final [3] 37/4 37/6	five [8] 30/18 38/18
114/15 115/8	54/5	42/17 45/15 120/19
115/10 119/9	finally [2] 76/19	120/23 128/23
120/11 122/1 124/1	116/6	129/4
124/19	finance [10] 2/13	five-day [1] 38/18
favorable [1] 30/7	19/3 19/7 26/18	five-year [4] 120/19
fears [1] 4/13	35/10 50/8 55/20	120/23 128/23
February [1] 17/7	117/13 123/13	129/4
Federal [4] 45/19	125/25	fix [4] 22/3 22/17
55/3 55/9 84/18	financial [2] 127/10	24/18 25/22
fee [1] 117/15	127/11	fixed [4] 22/11
feel [3] 81/20	find [8] 23/13 23/13	22/13 23/4 24/23
113/14 117/17	28/12 50/19 50/21	fixing [1] 22/9

F	formality [1] 121/17	fund [11] 18/19 18/20 18/21 18/22 76/4 88/13 88/15 90/18 90/19 126/17 126/19
flag [3] 22/16 24/19 41/3	formally [1] 80/21	funding [2] 55/4 67/15
flagged [1] 87/10	formerly [1] 96/13	funds [7] 27/6 43/10 43/20 44/19 67/21 90/20 92/13
flagpole [5] 22/9 23/23 24/13 24/17 24/19	forms [3] 51/1 78/3 78/15	further [5] 52/21 102/15 102/17 112/25 114/21
flood [1] 62/16	forward [8] 29/20 29/24 29/25 50/9 51/5 52/4 93/9 100/11	future [3] 4/14 46/1 104/12
floor [8] 95/19 98/5 103/15 107/15 107/20 108/9 120/1 122/14	found [1] 71/4	G
Florida [4] 81/14 81/17 81/18 82/8	four [6] 36/13 37/9 74/23 79/23 122/8 129/14	gaining [1] 81/9
fly [1] 80/6	Freedom [1] 44/3	gambling [2] 60/10 91/10
flyer [2] 7/22 17/17	frequent [1] 16/19	game [6] 36/17 36/19 37/4 37/7 37/8 37/20
flyers [2] 8/19 16/20	Friday [5] 12/20 45/15 46/17 46/23 129/25	games [1] 42/16
focus [3] 91/12 91/15 91/16	Friedman [1] 34/22	Gary [17] 5/14 5/20 8/23 28/2 28/4 32/11 37/15 46/23 58/13 67/1 69/6 72/19 96/18 101/24 102/8 108/7 131/17
follow [4] 30/2 31/7 89/1 89/16	Friend [1] 110/4	gas [1] 67/7
follow-up [1] 30/2	fries [2] 67/9 69/20	gave [10] 31/5 44/11 44/15 44/20
following [3] 35/2 43/3 92/15	front [2] 60/24 121/17	
food [4] 42/16 43/1 45/10 84/20	fry [2] 67/22 67/23	
Forces [1] 44/25	full [1] 45/15	
forgot [1] 13/4	full-time [1] 45/15	
form [3] 31/17 80/18 130/8	fully [1] 47/10	
formal [1] 130/5	Fultonham [1] 12/18	
	fun [3] 31/25 131/8 132/14	

G	82/21 87/7 88/18	132/11
gave... [6] 50/14	92/1 99/4 99/12	given [10] 4/14 10/5
55/8 61/17 62/5	101/24 106/13	50/24 56/12 62/2
62/11 75/15	106/14 114/11	62/8 80/16 104/6
gavel [1] 122/4	122/18 123/3	113/15 132/14
gel [1] 72/5	123/11 126/17	gives [3] 88/12
general [10] 18/17	127/5	113/17 121/6
31/12 31/13 31/13	gets [5] 38/1 57/17	giving [6] 4/19 21/6
31/22 89/1 89/17	69/12 71/22 101/1	30/5 32/24 63/22
89/20 126/17	getting [18] 7/4 7/6	82/1
126/19	16/23 17/17 26/14	Glenn [8] 94/23
general's [2] 127/6	31/17 51/6 61/21	96/3 107/23 109/4
128/7	64/21 64/23 73/14	112/11 113/7 115/7
generous [1] 69/19	74/15 85/1 85/4	115/20
gentleman [1]	85/11 85/15 94/5	go [60] 4/13 5/8
46/20	100/16	7/18 9/14 10/11
Georgetown [1]	gifted [2] 7/25 8/1	10/12 17/6 18/4
42/15	Gifts [3] 18/18 43/1	18/11 18/14 19/2
get [58] 7/9 7/10	44/15	19/5 25/10 31/10
7/16 7/19 7/23 8/10	Girls [2] 59/18	31/20 31/21 33/9
9/6 11/21 12/5 12/8	84/14	38/22 49/11 50/8
12/22 12/25 13/2	give [33] 4/22 5/3	52/4 54/22 58/9
13/23 14/6 15/11	9/6 14/19 14/21	64/3 66/21 70/7
16/18 17/14 20/18	15/10 18/8 18/11	72/3 73/2 74/4 74/9
21/6 30/3 30/16	19/3 20/23 30/8	75/12 75/15 76/15
30/18 33/3 44/19	31/6 43/11 44/20	76/18 78/1 81/13
49/11 54/19 55/10	51/4 70/8 84/4	82/9 85/24 86/7
65/7 65/8 65/10	85/21 86/2 86/16	86/14 88/1 92/23
67/9 67/10 67/20	86/22 87/1 87/2	93/8 96/18 101/12
67/22 68/24 71/13	88/17 90/7 90/24	101/16 101/19
71/20 74/8 75/4	91/8 91/10 91/14	102/12 102/13
75/7 76/7 82/12	122/4 127/6 129/16	116/4 117/16

G	84/4 88/18 91/8	Gordon [1] 84/17
go... [9] 117/19	91/15 91/17 91/23	got [55] 6/7 8/17
118/24 119/18	92/3 92/20 94/13	9/16 9/19 10/2
123/4 123/5 123/12	95/6 97/1 97/6	10/16 11/23 11/23
127/23 129/16	99/20 99/24 100/22	11/24 15/3 15/5
131/8	101/14 102/11	15/24 21/24 23/4
go-around [1]	113/4 114/9 116/25	25/3 25/24 28/18
129/16	118/17 119/1 125/8	30/9 30/13 30/17
goal [2] 15/11 15/12	125/9 127/23	33/15 44/16 46/21
goals [3] 71/8 71/19	129/16 130/23	47/12 70/23 70/24
123/9	131/1	71/14 73/7 73/24
God [5] 4/14 5/8	Golato [1] 34/23	77/1 77/8 78/24
132/9 132/11	golf [3] 85/25 86/3	79/14 79/14 82/3
132/23	86/4	82/22 87/25 90/13
goes [4] 13/3 16/21	gone [2] 13/7 56/16	93/11 98/4 99/20
112/21 129/8	good [49] 3/14 4/5	106/20 113/7
going [77] 7/3 8/4	4/6 8/21 8/22 9/20	116/20 116/21
8/8 8/25 10/3 10/3	10/1 15/20 15/21	116/22 118/10
10/9 11/19 12/4	16/8 18/9 19/23	121/14 122/18
12/6 12/25 13/1	21/24 22/4 27/21	130/17 130/20
14/3 14/4 14/8 16/3	30/4 33/12 33/13	131/11 131/14
17/2 17/7 17/10	41/24 41/25 43/7	131/18 132/3
17/11 18/1 19/2	45/8 47/22 47/23	Gotcha [1] 93/4
20/4 22/10 22/17	53/18 55/10 55/12	gotten [1] 21/9
24/4 24/7 24/12	56/23 57/4 61/8	government [2]
25/4 25/17 30/3	61/9 70/22 72/9	46/3 128/12
30/10 31/8 31/21	73/7 78/12 80/14	grace [1] 4/15
47/9 50/9 54/11	80/15 89/4 94/10	graciously [1]
61/2 62/10 62/17	94/10 113/15	114/19
67/19 71/13 71/25	118/13 122/5	grade [1] 35/7
77/4 78/22 80/6	125/14 126/6 126/7	grand [1] 18/22
81/13 81/25 82/9	129/20 131/3 131/9	granddaughter [2]

G granddaughter... [2] 8/3 8/15 grandmother [1] 28/3 grant [1] 89/25 grassroots [1] 30/5 great [11] 4/7 4/20 8/15 15/23 16/2 16/5 37/10 70/22 74/11 93/13 133/5 greater [1] 45/24 greatly [1] 82/15 green [3] 13/13 13/22 130/17 Greenville [1] 37/1 Greetings [1] 2/8 ground [2] 70/11 73/19 group [1] 60/22 groups [2] 70/5 71/15 growing [1] 64/6 guarantee [1] 53/8 Guard [1] 62/20 guess [5] 19/19 19/20 72/20 121/15 129/15 guessing [1] 88/3 guest [2] 35/4 61/15 guests [4] 2/6 6/4 6/8 42/9	guidance [2] 5/4 29/10 guide [1] 127/3 guidelines [2] 90/1 90/21 guy [1] 46/21 guys [16] 8/20 10/18 10/23 10/24 11/11 11/14 12/18 13/21 38/17 43/25 68/18 69/1 74/1 78/13 119/19 127/19 H had [43] 7/12 8/4 8/21 8/22 10/7 12/3 19/9 19/14 20/11 26/13 28/10 30/15 31/14 34/1 42/7 42/11 43/3 44/22 50/15 50/21 51/18 53/18 56/18 56/19 58/8 63/25 67/5 81/12 85/2 85/15 85/24 85/25 92/3 92/7 94/9 116/9 116/10 116/11 116/12 117/15 126/4 129/9 132/12 hadn't [2] 21/9 88/11 half [1] 131/11	Hall [1] 84/21 hallway [1] 102/12 halyard [1] 22/10 ham [2] 50/13 50/15 Hamilton [1] 42/20 hand [5] 4/3 75/16 78/6 100/21 133/3 handed [2] 84/8 84/11 handicap [1] 25/21 hands [3] 9/23 16/13 114/25 handy [1] 77/8 hangup [1] 85/1 Hannum [1] 40/6 happen [6] 54/21 65/24 95/17 97/13 100/7 113/22 happened [2] 36/18 38/5 happening [2] 100/6 104/24 happens [2] 100/5 100/5 happy [3] 56/10 76/22 113/6 hard [1] 64/11 has [55] 4/14 8/3 18/17 18/18 18/19 18/20 18/20 18/21 18/22 20/20 25/12
--	--	---

H		
has... [44] 31/10 35/5 44/17 46/20 47/5 47/17 48/17 49/11 56/12 59/22 60/1 60/5 60/15 67/14 69/10 70/13 72/12 77/24 81/2 81/17 82/2 83/9 83/15 84/7 85/9 87/23 93/23 95/1 95/2 97/3 97/4 97/7 97/13 100/6 100/15 113/8 113/10 113/15 121/12 123/12 123/17 126/10 129/16 129/24	113/15 113/18 113/21 121/11 121/12 131/12 he's [14] 13/8 13/8 28/17 46/24 47/12 87/25 94/24 113/9 114/3 114/4 114/4 114/13 114/13 114/14 head [2] 95/2 101/1 Headquarters [2] 1/11 51/23 heads [1] 82/1 heads-up [1] 82/1 Healthcare [1] 44/2 hear [18] 7/11 8/6 15/24 27/8 35/16 41/7 52/17 63/11 96/22 107/4 108/1 108/14 109/9 111/2 111/21 112/13 120/24 120/25 heard [7] 8/3 45/20 54/15 92/13 92/21 92/22 119/19 hearing [16] 26/17 32/23 35/25 39/23 41/18 53/2 59/9 63/18 92/25 98/15 108/21 110/16 111/11 112/5 119/9 120/11	heart [2] 59/25 98/1 Heavenly [1] 4/18 heck [1] 69/15 held [4] 37/11 61/16 106/17 129/23 hell [1] 32/15 Heller [14] 41/10 51/15 51/21 52/13 55/17 86/11 89/22 96/10 101/4 103/12 107/21 111/22 112/9 125/18 help [25] 4/20 4/23 4/24 7/4 11/13 16/23 16/25 35/7 47/13 52/11 65/22 68/15 68/16 68/17 68/25 78/21 83/16 100/8 117/16 122/11 123/19 127/7 127/9 127/23 128/16 helpful [1] 68/6 helping [3] 68/9 87/17 123/6 helps [1] 72/5 her [11] 8/4 8/10 11/12 28/3 45/18 62/11 92/16 92/17 92/18 121/17 130/19

H	46/19 46/20 46/21	holy [2] 5/12
here [29] 7/2 7/17	47/9 47/11 47/14	132/24
8/11 8/13 8/19 9/7	85/9 101/2 106/6	home [2] 37/17
11/7 13/5 13/8	107/24 113/9	42/15
13/12 13/13 20/18	113/17 113/20	homecoming [1]
29/23 30/17 42/1	114/15 114/15	8/18
47/12 56/14 56/16	115/20	homes [2] 44/18
66/14 69/1 72/18	hired [1] 46/18	55/5
75/3 85/5 94/11	his [9] 18/11 28/10	Honduras [2] 44/24
101/24 110/7	30/24 33/2 33/6	45/2
118/12 118/22	62/5 70/12 75/6	honest [1] 113/6
121/19	103/17	Honor [1] 84/22
here's [2] 121/12	Historian [1] 2/15	hope [2] 10/16
121/13	Historian's [1] 29/3	92/10
Hess [2] 6/10 29/1	History [1] 29/6	hopefully [4] 15/10
hey [8] 65/1 68/18	hit [6] 9/22 11/19	30/2 31/10 116/23
69/1 73/24 95/17	25/24 30/10 87/7	horse [6] 8/7 8/10
127/18 128/13	99/12	8/12 8/15 75/6 75/7
130/13	hoc [5] 119/24	horses [1] 7/25
Hickman [3]	120/22 121/7	hospital [3] 31/10
107/23 109/4	121/13 122/8	31/11 31/15
112/11	hold [7] 7/17 14/3	hospitals [1] 44/17
Hideaway [2] 40/19	15/7 26/20 85/11	hosted [1] 17/10
40/23	93/1 104/13	hot [1] 131/7
high [1] 15/22	holding [2] 42/14	hotel [4] 38/11
higher [1] 30/16	117/17	130/10 130/11
highest [1] 10/25	Hollow [2] 40/19	130/13
highlighting [1]	40/23	hotels [2] 38/19
48/9	Holly [10] 5/17	39/2
Highway [1] 60/15	11/13 15/19 15/19	Houp [1] 28/9
hilarious [1] 11/8	19/15 28/7 62/11	hour's [1] 131/11
him [17] 14/10	74/7 122/4 128/23	House [9] 54/10

H	I	I've [17] 32/23 71/4
House... [8] 54/12	I'd [10] 7/21 11/6	71/11 73/9 73/25
54/24 59/16 59/24	15/6 25/20 56/10	74/19 74/22 75/2
60/7 60/12 60/18	78/23 82/14 97/14	78/24 82/20 92/21
61/2	122/6 124/8	92/22 93/11 98/4
Housing [1] 84/15	I'll [15] 11/6 14/21	122/18 131/5
how [31] 4/7 8/17	16/25 18/14 25/10	131/10
9/23 10/25 14/19	29/11 44/20 47/24	I-O [1] 9/13
16/12 16/17 33/5	54/24 63/7 94/7	IA [1] 50/8
33/5 43/19 44/18	123/19 125/11	ICU [1] 31/16
48/17 50/25 55/2	131/5 131/22	ICUs [1] 31/19
55/9 55/11 56/14	I'm [58] 6/4 7/18	idea [2] 66/22 77/2
56/21 71/9 80/6	8/25 10/21 10/22	II [1] 125/24
82/21 83/12 86/4	12/4 12/18 16/3	Illinois [1] 37/12
90/2 90/6 90/7	17/6 18/4 18/10	immediately [5]
91/12 96/18 113/14	19/2 20/1 23/13	92/21 104/10 109/5
118/11 131/12	23/22 29/20 29/24	110/2 115/21
However [1] 61/17	29/25 31/21 32/15	impactful [1] 34/19
HR [5] 44/2 44/3	37/19 42/1 42/22	important [1]
44/4 44/5 44/8	56/4 63/22 64/21	119/21
HR-2102 [1] 44/8	64/21 66/22 67/3	inactive [1] 114/5
HR-2164 [1] 44/5	67/25 71/1 74/10	Inc [8] 3/12 101/7
HR-303 [1] 44/4	74/10 75/2 80/14	103/16 103/21
HR-333 [1] 44/3	81/13 81/25 81/25	103/23 103/25
HR-71 [1] 44/2	83/5 83/11 83/17	112/12 113/10
huge [1] 46/23	84/4 88/3 88/14	incentivizing [1]
huh [2] 64/17	91/6 92/25 93/12	62/2
112/23	94/5 94/18 95/24	include [1] 66/15
hunch [1] 91/14	99/12 102/11	incoming [2] 30/22
hurt [1] 11/9	104/14 105/2	129/6
Hyatt [2] 38/19	107/13 113/6	Incorporated [4]
39/2	116/25 125/9	106/22 108/10

I	insane [1] 37/22	126/4
Incorporated... [2]	inside [2] 22/10	invite [2] 69/25
110/23 111/16	22/18	85/15
increased [1]	insisting [1] 103/20	involved [1] 71/21
123/17	inspections [3]	Iowa [1] 86/2
incurable [1] 31/18	11/19 12/9 65/16	Irreverent [1]
Indian [1] 75/6	Inspire [1] 132/20	84/18
Indianapolis [1]	instance [2] 23/10	IRS [1] 87/12
8/22	118/22	is [220]
indicating [12] 8/16	instead [1] 53/20	isn't [2] 114/5
9/7 9/24 11/7 13/9	instituted [2] 70/17	114/19
16/15 77/2 77/3	70/20	issue [4] 25/12
78/7 115/9 115/12	instructions [2]	25/13 72/15 87/3
131/22	16/17 92/18	issues [10] 16/23
indifferent [1]	intent [4] 45/25	23/16 63/25 66/3
60/22	105/1 126/6 126/7	75/3 113/24 127/2
individual [1] 98/8	interests [1] 80/1	127/10 127/11
information [25]	interface [1] 65/20	129/7
5/6 7/16 7/20 10/4	Internal [2] 55/20	it [226]
16/20 17/13 17/14	123/12	it's [92] 7/23 7/24
17/21 27/20 28/13	interpret [1] 89/2	8/15 12/6 15/12
46/8 47/16 50/13	introduced [7]	17/10 17/11 17/13
50/14 50/19 50/22	43/23 60/2 60/6	19/20 21/4 23/3
50/25 55/8 60/24	60/9 60/11 60/15	23/4 24/12 27/1
64/14 76/22 78/17	60/20	27/20 30/4 30/10
90/14 128/23 130/9	introduction [2]	31/17 31/18 46/3
informational [1]	2/6 6/4	46/11 50/9 50/18
42/4	investment [3]	51/12 54/16 54/21
initiated [2] 80/21	18/23 126/14	55/4 55/6 56/23
81/2	126/18	57/4 57/14 57/17
Initiative [1] 84/24	investments [4]	58/6 59/1 59/1
ins [1] 77/10	18/13 18/13 18/25	61/22 61/25 63/2

I	110/25 111/19 114/22 James [1] 42/9 January [4] 56/9 117/2 130/1 130/1 January 16th [1] 130/1 January 18th [1] 130/1 Jason [6] 32/8 77/18 84/3 101/24 116/2 116/15 JD [12] 13/3 28/6 28/14 32/16 46/20 47/1 63/1 75/23 79/2 82/2 116/16 130/22 Jeff [2] 6/10 29/1 Jerry [2] 42/12 45/8 Jessica [1] 84/20 job [4] 16/2 16/7 64/5 64/13 jobs [1] 64/2 Joe [2] 74/18 82/18 Joe's [2] 31/22 31/22 John [24] 14/24 35/17 35/19 39/15 55/23 56/1 56/2 58/16 58/17 61/7 98/21 99/10 100/14	100/22 101/18 102/1 108/2 113/1 113/2 113/14 118/1 120/3 124/11 130/8 Johnsville [1] 17/3 join [4] 35/1 35/4 82/24 82/25 Joseph [1] 67/2 Josh [1] 76/12 Joyce [1] 40/6 Jr [1] 37/15 judge [4] 2/18 76/13 76/14 102/3 Jug [2] 11/1 14/7 July [17] 19/10 19/11 23/15 23/17 23/24 24/13 25/8 36/8 37/5 38/15 38/15 38/16 39/1 39/2 94/9 98/24 116/8 July 11th [1] 39/1 July 15th [1] 39/2 July 23rd [3] 19/10 19/11 23/17 July 25th [1] 36/8 July's [1] 56/8 jump [1] 26/20 jumped [1] 28/20 jurisdiction [2] 80/23 81/4 just [97] 7/6 7/16
it's... [54] 64/20 65/25 66/2 66/6 66/7 66/15 66/24 67/5 67/24 68/21 68/22 69/13 69/25 71/4 71/5 71/6 71/6 71/15 73/23 74/1 76/17 77/23 82/9 83/7 83/7 83/8 86/17 87/14 90/1 90/4 90/10 90/17 90/19 90/22 90/25 91/17 94/15 95/14 97/1 115/3 117/24 118/13 121/16 123/13 124/6 126/6 126/7 126/9 127/13 128/11 128/12 129/8 130/6 131/15 items [2] 20/21 61/16 itself [2] 24/13 43/22 IV [2] 80/11 81/4		
J		
Jacob [6] 45/7 47/9 47/21 53/7 61/6 106/25 Jake [7] 27/9 108/12 109/7 110/5		

J	126/20 127/3	Klostermeier [1]
just... [95] 10/9	127/13 128/11	6/9
10/11 11/11 16/24	128/16 128/17	knew [1] 28/7
19/2 19/12 21/15	128/22 130/18	know [71] 5/8 7/15
21/25 24/3 24/7	131/25	8/2 8/2 8/16 9/19
24/18 26/11 26/12	justice [1] 132/22	10/18 12/13 18/3
28/2 28/20 31/12	K	22/20 22/24 24/11
31/23 32/18 33/3	Kansas [1] 118/24	25/14 25/19 25/20
33/9 36/3 47/16	keep [12] 14/15	25/25 30/13 30/22
51/12 59/1 65/9	15/12 28/4 28/12	31/6 33/5 38/3
65/14 65/15 65/25	31/1 47/24 68/14	46/20 50/6 53/13
66/2 66/5 66/7	76/7 113/7 118/18	54/22 57/21 64/11
66/13 66/16 66/20	118/25 129/10	64/21 65/3 65/5
66/22 66/24 67/25	keeping [2] 10/14	66/17 67/24 68/18
68/3 68/7 68/11	90/20	69/1 69/10 69/11
68/12 68/14 68/22	Ken [1] 18/10	69/21 69/24 73/18
70/10 70/20 71/15	Kevin [3] 28/22	75/5 77/22 78/13
73/4 73/13 73/23	29/5 29/16	78/23 80/6 81/16
74/10 76/8 77/23	kicked [2] 36/7	82/9 85/10 87/22
78/9 78/12 78/21	100/16	88/24 93/5 94/11
82/1 83/17 85/10	kicking [1] 25/15	97/1 100/7 100/14
85/20 85/24 86/7	kidney [1] 11/8	105/8 105/24 113/6
86/9 87/5 87/25	Kilbarger [1] 60/14	113/14 118/21
90/23 92/9 94/14	kind [13] 48/5	118/22 118/24
94/25 95/16 96/24	50/17 55/1 55/6	125/20 126/3 126/6
100/6 104/3 104/14	55/10 57/2 57/17	126/10 126/13
107/13 107/18	58/10 58/17 58/19	126/15 128/9
113/7 114/20	90/22 122/16 128/7	129/12 131/5
116/25 118/3 118/7	kinds [2] 62/22	131/15
121/16 125/1	76/22	knowledge [2] 4/23
125/20 125/21	Kingston [1] 77/24	81/12
125/23 126/13	kitchen [1] 67/7	known [3] 31/17

K	laughing [1] 8/8	3/6 3/7 3/14 4/20
known... [2] 50/14	LaValley [1] 50/1	5/5 5/7 5/10 16/13
50/16	LaVoy [1] 18/10	16/18 29/4 29/7
knows [1] 4/16	law [1] 89/1	35/4 36/5 37/13
Kurt [2] 52/4 54/6	lawn [1] 69/13	44/24 45/8 55/12
Kvochick [1]	lawyer [7] 85/6	62/6 62/8 63/23
131/19	93/20 99/4 99/6	64/16 64/24 65/5
L	99/9 99/21 99/25	65/18 65/22 66/10
l:00 [1] 42/7	lay [1] 4/12	67/10 67/13 68/2
labor [1] 24/5	laying [1] 34/13	68/4 72/14 78/4
lack [1] 80/23	Lazarus [1] 84/14	79/19 79/20 79/24
lag [1] 64/8	Leach [1] 50/11	80/12 82/21 82/24
Lakes [1] 37/10	lead [4] 4/11 4/21	117/10 117/12
Lancaster [2] 36/8	5/14 5/20	125/14 128/11
60/13	leaders [1] 4/21	129/21 130/3
land [1] 44/5	leadership [1]	Legion/Announcem
Lanes [1] 17/12	59/18	ents [1] 3/14
lantern [3] 13/11	leading [1] 85/13	Legionnaires [3]
13/22 14/14	learner [1] 46/19	74/8 75/4 127/12
large [2] 11/22 49/2	least [8] 65/18	Legions [2] 64/25
last [24] 8/21 10/9	117/3 117/4 117/6	65/3
19/8 20/3 20/11	117/7 117/24	legislation [1] 30/6
20/17 30/15 33/22	117/25 118/19	legislative [16] 3/4
40/3 40/10 43/4	leave [6] 45/7 66/8	47/10 51/13 51/25
43/25 44/16 44/21	66/18 73/19 113/20	52/8 53/9 55/10
44/22 51/20 58/7	132/16	56/11 56/12 57/1
60/17 100/17	leaves [1] 57/14	57/3 57/6 57/15
111/15 116/7	left [1] 92/22	58/5 59/15 79/22
117/14 124/5	legal [3] 32/25 87/6	Legislator [5]
129/24	87/17	51/20 52/6 53/11
later [1] 26/3	legally [1] 91/24	57/13 58/9
	LEGION [45] 1/1	lengthier [1] 76/17

L	like [51] 7/10 7/21	10/25 11/9 16/4
lengthy [1] 90/11	11/7 18/2 22/1 22/3	36/3 50/14 55/6
less [1] 10/6	25/20 30/15 47/15	76/17 89/2 90/25
let [15] 4/13 4/18	48/6 57/4 60/21	97/2
4/18 5/1 10/18 15/6	64/24 68/3 68/7	live [1] 42/19
18/3 25/10 50/6	68/11 71/16 74/13	LivInn [2] 38/20
53/13 71/10 78/23	78/23 82/8 85/19	39/3
82/13 104/15	85/23 88/5 88/11	loading [1] 120/24
106/18	88/14 90/2 90/5	lobbying [1] 54/19
let's [12] 7/13 17/6	90/19 94/25 99/3	local [1] 81/2
21/18 29/18 30/19	100/1 100/4 103/18	locally [1] 89/4
69/1 69/1 74/5	104/17 114/19	located [1] 46/10
113/5 113/9 113/10	117/17 117/20	location [3] 1/11
131/8	117/20 118/22	39/9 54/13
letter [8] 92/1 92/1	119/23 120/21	lodging [1] 34/2
92/7 94/14 96/14	122/6 123/5 124/8	Logistics [1] 84/13
96/20 97/3 115/19	126/13 126/22	lonely [1] 132/19
letters [1] 30/11	126/24 127/4 127/4	long [5] 16/2 31/19
letting [1] 30/12	127/14 131/13	83/25 92/24 131/15
level [6] 35/8 47/13	liked [1] 48/6	long-range [1] 16/2
51/6 61/21 88/22	likely [1] 78/3	longer [5] 55/5
88/23	line [6] 20/21 48/5	66/18 69/16 72/18
lewis [4] 5/18 19/15	48/5 55/11 60/10	117/11
62/11 74/7	130/7	look [15] 11/17
liaison [2] 62/5	list [5] 11/17 12/11	12/15 12/23 17/12
68/17	55/6 78/24 123/5	20/13 30/9 55/1
lies [2] 67/20 68/23	listen [3] 70/6 70/7	56/24 64/3 64/10
Life [13] 18/18	75/14	64/12 69/8 121/19
35/17 39/15 56/2	Listening [1] 127/2	127/19 131/9
58/18 98/21 99/10	literally [2] 54/20	looked [3] 21/10
101/18 102/1 113/2	86/19	77/9 118/16
118/1 120/3 124/11	little [12] 8/24 10/9	looking [17] 10/3

L	37/17	11/14 13/23 15/9
looking... [16]	loyalty [1] 125/22	25/17 26/1 29/12
11/14 12/10 23/13	Lucas [1] 84/23	30/8 34/5 37/12
29/20 29/24 29/25	lucky [1] 46/21	48/10 52/10 52/13
43/16 43/17 44/10	Lutheran [1] 84/19	57/8 57/10 64/4
45/23 77/4 83/25	Lynch [1] 84/20	65/10 66/5 68/7
122/16 122/25	M	76/23 82/13 85/7
123/2 131/3	machine [1] 54/15	87/6 89/3 96/9
loose [1] 8/13	made [10] 12/16	96/13 97/6 99/21
Lorain [1] 42/25	20/10 20/11 21/22	100/9 101/6 104/17
Lord [3] 122/5	29/6 56/5 58/10	112/11 115/2
132/10 132/20	70/13 83/9 92/2	116/23 117/20
lose [2] 80/14 80/16	mail [17] 13/1	119/23 120/21
losing [1] 81/8	16/14 16/18 16/22	122/6 124/8 126/7
loss [3] 37/7 103/20	18/3 64/8 90/23	126/21 130/2
104/18	92/18 93/6 93/8	130/11 131/6 131/8
lost [3] 28/3 31/12	94/4 95/20 99/22	132/24
81/21	117/12 130/7 130/9	make-up [1] 34/5
lot [15] 7/3 7/4 8/1	130/24	makes [8] 35/18
9/15 26/14 32/23	mailed [2] 38/11	39/12 41/9 57/20
43/24 54/17 58/8	98/8	101/19 102/1 103/1
69/12 69/15 90/10	mailings [1] 62/7	118/19
90/13 120/19	mails [2] 6/19 61/24	making [6] 64/12
131/14	maintain [2] 81/4	69/15 76/18 114/6
Lots [1] 56/22	125/22	118/7 130/4
lottery [5] 54/13	maintenance [1]	man [3] 9/15 69/22
54/14 60/7 60/8	23/16	69/23
60/16	Major [3] 44/8 82/5	mandated [1]
love [2] 5/3 15/24	82/7	128/14
lovely [1] 77/7	majority [4] 12/23	mandating [2]
Lowell [5] 37/3	95/7 113/21 113/23	68/20 68/22
37/6 37/8 37/10	make [46] 10/3	mandatory [1]

M		
mandatory... [1] 68/10	may [13] 17/24 31/12 35/4 48/18 53/24 64/15 65/15 80/11 82/10 89/2 91/4 91/12 132/22	meet [15] 27/4 42/8 53/24 72/18 73/5 85/6 95/6 95/14 95/21 98/1 99/4 99/8 99/20 99/24 125/9
manner [1] 80/17	May 9th [1] 17/24	meeting [76] 1/3 12/3 12/24 19/7 19/8 19/9 19/11 19/18 23/17 26/5 26/8 26/9 26/13 26/14 26/15 26/18 29/12 29/25 33/19 33/22 35/12 38/5 38/12 39/10 40/7 40/10 41/6 42/3 43/4 49/9 49/13 51/8 51/15 53/22 53/23 53/23 54/1 54/5 55/15 56/8 56/9 60/17 61/11 61/17 62/12 62/23 65/9 70/20 85/8 86/12 86/18 87/25 88/10 93/17 93/20 94/1 94/12 94/16 94/17 94/25 95/1 96/15 96/21 97/10 97/13 99/1 99/5 99/16 99/17 99/19 99/23 104/22 104/22 113/23
many [7] 7/11 9/23 16/12 56/14 56/21 69/14 113/8	maybe [5] 31/9 90/16 90/17 117/18 118/25	
March [4] 17/15 17/18 34/9 34/11	McIntire [1] 17/25	
March 28th [1] 17/18	me [35] 7/19 8/3 8/16 10/17 10/24 11/1 11/3 12/6 13/3 14/9 15/15 16/1 16/24 22/15 33/7 47/17 52/11 61/4 63/24 75/16 76/20 77/24 78/12 78/23 82/12 82/13 90/24 93/9 99/14 104/15 106/18 128/2 130/12 131/2 131/12	
March 2nd [1] 34/9	mean [6] 65/15 69/10 74/16 114/19 121/16 126/10	
Marine [2] 82/5 82/7	means [1] 71/10	
Mark [1] 6/5	media [5] 3/5 61/12 62/6 62/12 119/20	
Marketing [2] 3/5 61/12	Medical [2] 46/15 46/22	
marks [1] 36/5	medium [1] 49/1	
Marriott [1] 129/23		
Marx [9] 27/9 53/7 106/25 108/12 109/7 110/5 110/25 111/19 114/22		
mass [1] 130/9		
Mast [1] 48/23		
master [2] 60/14 61/19		
match [1] 62/17		
matched [1] 132/4		
matter [2] 32/14 97/17		
matters [1] 114/12		

M	129/11	129/25 130/3
meeting... [2]	membership [18]	130/13
131/23 132/12	8/21 9/22 10/19	Mid-Winter [7]
meetings [10] 7/17	11/11 15/23 16/21	52/1 56/9 85/22
30/2 48/14 53/21	18/19 67/21 72/2	129/22 129/25
54/3 54/23 65/22	74/15 77/9 80/16	130/3 130/13
70/2 72/3 72/4	117/5 120/17	Mid-Winters [1]
meets [1] 68/4	120/20 129/5	46/25
member [29] 32/4	129/10 131/16	middle [1] 122/9
61/24 66/17 66/18	memorial [6] 34/22	might [7] 11/9
72/3 74/12 80/12	34/23 60/15 84/17	53/10 127/7 127/8
80/13 80/14 80/15	84/21 84/23	127/9 128/16 130/8
80/20 81/3 81/6	mention [4] 13/4	Mike [1] 109/10
94/24 95/22 97/2	65/25 75/25 130/16	mile [1] 131/4
97/3 97/4 100/2	mentioned [2]	Military [1] 44/24
105/9 105/12	62/15 106/3	million [2] 9/16
105/17 105/21	Mercer [1] 84/19	129/10
105/23 112/12	message [1] 114/8	mimmick [1] 49/2
114/5 114/13 117/3	met [11] 19/7 33/16	Minadeo [5] 32/11
117/14	33/18 38/7 40/5	64/18 85/17 91/3
member's [1] 81/5	42/6 46/19 48/2	106/10
members [32] 5/9	49/19 51/13 96/13	mind [2] 31/1
7/10 30/17 30/18	methods [1] 79/22	118/18
32/5 35/13 42/7	Miamisburg [1]	minute [1] 54/25
43/20 53/9 53/10	17/11	minutes [34] 2/7
55/1 61/14 61/14	Michael [2] 60/14	6/16 6/18 19/7
61/20 62/22 72/2	121/1	19/11 19/18 19/24
74/9 74/23 93/18	Mickeal [1] 34/23	19/25 22/21 23/8
94/15 95/12 95/13	microphone [2] 9/4	23/12 24/22 25/8
114/8 121/15 127/4	121/18	26/5 26/8 26/9
127/7 127/9 128/8	Mid [8] 46/25 52/1	26/14 26/15 26/18
128/9 128/10 129/9	56/9 85/22 129/22	33/22 38/4 39/13

M	93/3 116/6 116/6	Mothers [2] 83/1
minutes... [12]	117/19 127/14	83/2
40/10 42/11 45/4	monies [3] 88/13	motion [87] 6/25
49/23 51/16 52/13	126/4 126/17	27/15 27/17 35/16
55/18 63/3 63/5	Montgomery [1]	35/18 39/11 39/12
63/10 118/14	44/6	39/16 40/1 41/7
118/17	month [5] 12/4 12/5	41/9 41/11 41/21
Miss [1] 11/13	30/15 92/8 116/7	42/11 48/16 49/5
missed [1] 22/23	months [4] 12/6	49/8 49/16 50/12
missing [1] 37/25	48/13 54/2 70/20	51/9 52/13 52/20
mistaken [1] 37/19	Moore [1] 45/13	53/5 53/12 55/16
modified [1] 48/19	more [29] 8/24	55/18 59/14 63/8
Mom's [1] 84/20	17/12 17/14 17/21	63/21 95/19 96/10
moment [2] 4/16	18/4 33/11 46/4	96/14 98/4 98/20
54/16	51/6 54/22 54/24	101/6 101/15
Monday [8] 12/20	55/5 60/24 74/8	101/16 101/19
37/4 45/15 46/6	75/4 76/1 78/3	102/2 102/6 103/1
46/17 46/22 74/20	90/14 90/25 92/14	103/11 103/15
76/14	97/2 107/7 107/9	103/18 104/16
money [42] 7/7	113/12 113/25	104/17 106/19
9/18 13/14 13/17	115/3 122/10 124/6	106/21 107/15
13/19 25/16 33/1	124/6 130/14	107/20 107/23
40/16 40/19 62/15	morning [23] 4/5	108/8 109/1 109/3
65/1 66/2 67/9	4/6 4/8 5/22 5/23	109/17 109/18
67/11 69/4 69/19	9/10 9/11 9/20	109/24 109/25
69/21 72/6 72/12	15/20 15/21 18/9	111/14 112/8
72/13 72/14 76/4	32/17 33/8 33/12	112/11 112/15
76/8 82/23 85/2	33/13 33/16 41/24	112/21 114/10
85/11 85/11 86/16	41/25 47/22 47/23	115/6 115/13
87/1 88/12 88/18	61/8 61/9 63/2	115/17 115/19
90/3 90/5 90/7	most [5] 31/5 34/19	115/22 117/21
91/11 92/19 93/1	58/10 72/1 72/12	118/2 118/13

M	111/1 111/20 moving [2] 26/7 46/12 mowing [1] 69/13 Mr [2] 22/5 63/1 Ms [2] 45/17 76/20 much [15] 7/12 31/5 33/11 33/11 50/16 50/19 65/4 65/7 65/13 66/1 71/22 73/14 74/9 91/9 91/9 multiple [1] 100/15 music [1] 42/19 must [3] 44/13 48/11 50/8 my [40] 6/3 7/21 8/3 8/15 8/17 8/18 10/20 10/21 11/8 15/14 18/6 22/20 29/14 29/25 31/12 31/21 33/8 33/16 35/15 37/14 40/3 58/19 62/24 69/19 77/5 77/6 77/7 77/8 77/15 77/16 90/15 90/23 91/8 93/8 94/11 94/12 98/1 107/23 120/24 132/10 MyLegion [1] 124/9	myself [10] 11/13 42/9 43/19 43/23 44/11 44/20 50/13 60/16 74/12 101/24
motion... [15] 119/14 119/23 120/1 120/4 120/16 120/21 121/2 122/3 122/6 122/13 122/22 124/4 124/8 124/12 124/23 motionable [1] 61/16 motioned [18] 33/23 34/7 34/11 34/16 35/1 38/22 39/5 40/9 40/11 40/15 40/18 41/3 48/7 48/22 49/6 50/1 52/3 54/6 Motter [2] 28/22 29/5 Mountain [2] 11/5 11/6 move [10] 6/17 19/3 27/5 27/7 28/11 63/9 106/11 106/19 107/3 126/4 moved [10] 33/21 37/10 102/24 106/21 108/9 109/3 109/15 110/22 111/16 126/17 moves [6] 107/2 108/13 109/8 110/6	N nail [2] 10/10 10/11 name [5] 5/12 9/6 106/5 106/24 132/24 named [1] 40/6 nation [2] 132/13 132/23 National [28] 3/3 30/23 31/8 44/7 48/17 48/20 49/19 50/5 50/16 62/12 62/20 73/22 79/11 80/7 82/10 88/12 88/13 88/14 88/22 88/22 89/8 89/18 116/18 117/8 117/16 125/5 130/22 130/24 National's [1] 49/2 nationally [2] 89/3 129/11 Natural [1] 60/4 nay [3] 59/12 59/13 124/3 NCO [1] 62/20 NEC [23] 2/16 2/17 6/17 19/12 22/8	

N	92/17 121/8	62/5 62/11 85/4
NEC... [18] 26/23	needs [11] 4/16	night [5] 74/20
28/15 28/19 29/19	13/22 19/18 27/4	74/22 74/24 77/6
29/25 30/1 30/2	41/1 52/10 64/11	130/2
31/5 39/12 41/8	74/4 95/17 113/18	nine [6] 12/2 12/5
63/9 63/12 69/5	126/16	12/6 23/1 23/5
71/24 79/9 88/8	negotiable [1]	23/20
103/1 113/13	118/19	no [132] 6/12 6/24
necessarily [2] 23/9	negotiations [1]	12/4 13/6 13/8
126/8	74/1	13/25 14/6 14/16
necessary [1] 25/17	neutral [2] 57/5	14/17 14/18 15/16
need [55] 4/15 4/17	57/17	19/1 23/6 26/6
4/24 5/6 5/8 7/4 7/9	never [4] 10/16	26/10 26/16 27/14
7/16 7/23 8/20 9/17	91/21 91/21 94/9	27/19 27/24 28/18
11/3 11/14 12/25	new [31] 3/13 5/9	32/12 35/22 35/24
13/23 16/18 26/24	13/25 23/23 24/17	39/7 39/18 39/20
27/17 30/16 35/7	29/20 29/21 39/7	39/22 41/13 41/15
35/8 40/25 47/15	43/20 43/23 43/24	41/17 43/10 43/13
49/3 49/16 49/23	44/2 44/16 46/8	43/14 43/17 44/12
51/9 51/16 55/16	46/18 50/10 51/22	45/3 47/18 49/15
55/19 64/5 65/15	53/17 61/18 62/10	49/17 49/18 51/11
68/9 68/14 76/2	62/22 76/10 91/17	52/22 52/24 53/1
78/5 78/21 87/3	93/18 95/7 104/23	53/8 55/4 56/18
91/17 93/5 96/5	105/13 115/21	56/19 56/20 57/23
101/15 101/16	128/24 129/8	57/23 58/14 59/8
102/12 105/8 106/5	129/14	61/3 61/16 63/6
115/22 121/8	News [3] 62/6	63/15 63/17 66/18
125/10 125/12	117/10 117/12	68/10 68/21 72/11
126/25 127/1 128/5	newspaper [1]	72/18 75/2 76/10
131/16 131/21	117/5	77/2 78/12 78/17
needed [6] 19/14	next [8] 10/3 21/13	80/3 80/14 80/15
43/21 44/19 55/5	21/15 45/7 45/21	81/12 82/25 83/20

N		
no... [58] 86/17	nominations [6]	33/16 37/12 37/19
89/11 91/16 92/7	44/11 44/12 51/7	42/8 43/21 44/1
93/2 93/19 98/10	56/24 57/2 57/16	47/11 48/18 49/23
98/12 98/14 98/19	non [2] 42/3 49/1	50/7 50/16 51/16
102/11 102/16	non-profit [1] 49/1	53/10 54/16 56/5
102/18 102/22	non-quorum [1]	56/9 56/23 64/2
103/6 103/8 105/19	42/3	64/2 65/1 65/9
107/8 107/10	none [15] 26/17	65/13 65/14 66/6
108/18 108/20	35/25 37/24 39/23	66/7 66/14 66/15
108/25 109/21	41/18 53/2 59/9	66/23 66/24 66/24
109/23 110/11	63/18 98/15 108/21	67/10 67/15 68/21
110/13 110/15	110/16 111/11	71/4 71/6 71/13
110/20 111/6 111/8	112/5 119/9 120/11	71/16 71/17 72/17
111/10 111/25	nonpartisan [1]	73/5 75/24 77/3
112/2 112/4 112/17	80/4	77/10 77/12 77/15
115/23 116/17	nonpolitical [3]	77/23 78/2 78/4
117/24 118/6 119/4	79/20 79/21 80/4	78/18 79/4 79/11
119/6 119/8 119/13	nonprofit [1]	79/12 80/15 81/7
120/6 120/8 120/10	128/13	81/13 81/25 82/2
120/15 121/21	noon [1] 17/24	83/1 83/8 83/9 85/9
121/23 121/25	normally [3] 69/3	86/15 87/17 87/22
123/21 123/23	74/1 76/18	89/10 89/13 89/25
123/25 124/14	Norman [1] 60/14	90/22 91/7 93/2
124/16 124/18	Northwest [1]	93/3 94/18 95/16
124/22 126/10	129/24	96/12 96/13 99/2
nobody [1] 31/10	not [129] 4/17 7/13	99/2 99/7 99/16
nominate [1] 58/24	13/21 16/2 16/16	99/23 100/19
nominated [1]	18/10 19/15 21/5	100/24 103/22
44/14	22/13 23/9 23/22	104/6 105/5 106/12
nomination [3]	24/4 24/23 26/2	113/6 113/7 113/9
52/14 57/11 58/10	27/23 28/17 28/17	113/22 114/3 114/4
	30/16 31/22 32/20	114/14 115/10

N	73/13 73/19 73/21 75/9 81/11 85/1 85/12 85/15 87/6 91/22 91/22 93/1 93/22 95/23 96/4 99/22 100/15 102/15 106/12 106/24 107/14 107/14 108/7 116/1 122/24 125/9 129/12 132/16 number [4] 10/5 10/7 23/11 34/1 numbers [3] 21/7 21/7 21/10	offering [2] 10/21 10/22 office [13] 33/1 33/3 43/8 45/14 45/16 45/17 46/1 46/10 92/16 104/11 127/6 128/7 130/18 officer [5] 2/8 47/5 47/13 78/3 126/22 officers [2] 29/21 29/23 offices [1] 129/1 official [1] 95/11 officially [1] 85/10 officios [2] 70/15 70/19 often [3] 7/17 64/20 71/11 oh [5] 6/4 69/23 129/18 132/10 132/20 OHIO [23] 1/2 1/13 1/24 4/20 16/13 16/18 29/4 29/7 30/5 84/14 84/20 84/21 84/24 89/1 117/10 117/12 118/22 118/23 119/25 122/8 127/5 128/14 129/9 okay [70] 4/10 6/3 13/10 15/19 16/25
not... [15] 116/4 117/10 117/24 118/5 119/21 122/4 124/6 125/8 126/7 127/13 128/11 128/24 129/8 130/17 132/17 note [1] 53/7 nothing [6] 9/18 32/9 67/10 67/20 92/21 92/22 noticed [1] 19/17 notified [2] 38/9 93/23 notify [1] 94/14 November [3] 34/6 34/6 111/17 November 16th [1] 111/17 November 3rd [1] 34/6 November 7th [1] 34/6 now [51] 4/16 7/4 9/1 11/16 13/25 14/14 15/8 15/11 20/5 21/7 29/18 38/18 40/3 46/5 46/11 47/11 64/20 64/22 64/25 66/14 70/20 72/6 72/15	O o'clock [1] 17/4 O-H [1] 9/12 obviously [3] 18/10 19/15 26/12 occurred [1] 126/8 October [5] 8/18 34/4 34/5 53/24 54/22 OFDCC [2] 60/17 60/22 off [12] 10/9 23/11 24/16 26/21 36/8 37/6 37/18 61/25 75/7 106/12 106/15 106/16 offending [1] 81/3	

O	85/20 123/11	48/16 113/10
okay... [65] 19/23	one [78] 7/12 7/13	ongoing [1] 25/13
20/15 20/24 21/13	7/22 7/23 7/23	online [1] 53/25
22/2 22/2 23/1	10/14 11/16 12/15	only [19] 19/24
24/25 25/10 26/2	13/13 13/13 14/15	22/16 23/1 27/20
27/22 29/19 31/23	15/6 16/1 17/22	32/20 38/25 42/4
33/10 36/3 38/3	20/5 20/9 20/21	47/16 48/6 56/23
40/3 41/23 49/18	22/22 25/21 28/8	62/1 64/14 65/25
59/7 66/12 66/14	29/6 29/6 30/24	72/10 77/16 80/12
72/2 73/12 75/5	32/5 32/20 32/23	92/3 126/1 131/11
75/9 75/13 75/19	35/3 35/9 36/16	open [3] 45/14
79/5 79/16 79/21	37/7 40/3 44/7	46/17 46/22
82/16 82/17 83/24	45/16 46/6 46/24	opened [4] 33/19
84/11 87/24 88/2	48/1 49/14 49/22	48/3 49/22 51/15
93/4 93/10 94/5	51/10 59/22 60/1	opening [4] 2/2 2/4
94/10 97/9 98/2	60/15 65/19 65/21	6/3 95/23
98/3 98/9 101/14	66/12 71/4 72/22	operate [3] 26/25
106/20 108/8 109/2	73/23 74/23 75/24	67/16 100/3
109/20 110/21	77/13 77/18 80/20	Operation [1]
112/24 115/1	80/24 80/25 81/11	61/23
115/10 115/15	81/21 84/6 84/7	operations [1]
116/1 116/16 118/3	85/24 89/14 94/18	117/7
118/10 119/16	94/24 99/12 111/15	opinion [1] 31/21
119/17 124/5	113/5 113/7 113/9	opportunity [4]
125/14 129/20	116/12 116/17	70/8 70/8 113/17
131/10	123/2 124/5 125/1	132/11
old [5] 11/7 24/6	125/20 131/21	opposed [11] 6/23
24/15 93/16 98/23	131/25 132/3	27/13 59/12 98/18
older [1] 46/20	132/16	102/21 108/24
OLN [1] 62/7	one's [1] 60/8	110/19 119/12
Olympics [1] 18/20	one-third [1] 35/9	120/14 124/21
once [4] 13/2 30/23	ones [4] 32/18 44/2	128/1

O	130/25 131/18	114/20 116/8 121/6
opposite [1] 11/2	132/3	126/4 126/5 126/14
option [1] 113/18	others [2] 64/9	126/15 128/8 129/7
order [14] 2/3 4/2	93/11	132/10 132/13
5/9 11/21 17/6	Ottawa [1] 36/23	132/17 132/21
61/13 75/22 104/3	ought [1] 127/19	132/23 132/23
107/13 117/16	our [99] 4/18 4/19	132/24
117/22 118/4 121/5	4/21 4/23 4/24 4/25	ours [2] 67/18 68/7
123/10	5/7 5/11 7/3 7/5 7/6	out [95] 4/25 5/8
ordered [1] 95/20	7/10 7/14 7/15 7/16	6/8 7/2 7/9 7/10
Oren [1] 36/9	7/17 7/20 10/5 10/6	7/16 7/22 8/5 11/12
organization [3]	13/25 18/23 18/25	12/7 13/2 15/24
4/22 72/24 113/16	19/8 21/18 21/19	16/17 16/20 17/18
organizations [1]	24/19 29/21 30/6	17/21 21/5 21/9
40/21	30/22 32/5 41/3	24/5 24/18 25/16
original [1] 88/24	42/13 43/4 43/15	26/12 26/12 26/14
originally [2] 23/7	44/10 45/5 45/11	28/9 28/13 28/25
99/18	45/12 46/25 47/5	29/23 30/11 32/25
Orrville [1] 17/16	47/10 48/1 48/18	33/15 36/9 37/25
other [38] 7/21 9/5	53/9 55/9 61/18	38/4 43/11 44/14
16/5 16/9 19/24	61/24 62/10 66/19	46/24 48/5 50/19
26/4 31/6 31/24	67/6 67/6 67/7 67/7	50/21 50/21 51/4
32/23 32/24 36/16	67/8 67/16 69/15	52/11 57/15 60/23
47/12 54/2 56/7	69/16 69/17 69/17	61/21 63/4 63/23
59/3 59/4 59/7	70/13 70/16 70/16	66/2 66/21 68/25
63/22 66/9 73/25	70/18 70/19 74/10	73/8 73/20 74/6
76/22 77/6 81/7	76/4 76/8 77/9	75/15 76/3 76/12
84/7 93/6 93/14	78/16 80/1 80/1	76/21 78/1 79/15
108/17 108/19	81/23 82/22 84/8	81/14 82/20 83/12
116/12 119/3 119/5	89/10 89/13 89/16	83/17 84/8 84/10
119/7 119/16	89/20 94/8 94/23	84/11 85/2 85/6
123/20 123/22	94/25 95/2 99/6	85/24 86/7 86/19

O	67/14	72/4
out... [22] 88/12 88/18 94/4 95/15 96/14 99/22 114/8 116/6 116/10 117/12 122/11 123/4 123/5 123/7 126/18 127/17 127/19 130/7 130/13 130/24 131/4 131/8 outline [1] 89/25 outs [2] 37/21 37/23 outside [5] 10/17 56/24 57/5 69/14 123/14 over [26] 8/7 8/11 8/12 8/22 9/1 9/7 18/14 27/6 31/14 33/9 34/17 34/21 43/19 45/6 54/10 55/1 63/4 65/5 69/3 76/5 88/1 89/18 115/20 121/19 129/7 129/10 overcoming [1] 95/16 overloud [1] 47/11 overnight [1] 48/11 oversight [1] 127/10 own [3] 56/15 62/4	P page [2] 29/6 62/9 paid [2] 85/15 116/10 painless [1] 47/25 painting [1] 69/13 pans [1] 74/2 pantry [2] 45/10 84/20 paper [2] 12/19 75/14 papers [1] 84/6 paperwork [5] 11/20 41/4 42/20 93/6 131/17 paragraph [1] 29/6 parameters [1] 90/6 parents [1] 82/23 Park [4] 46/6 46/9 46/15 84/21 Parliamentarian [7] 2/19 64/19 64/22 85/18 91/4 102/3 106/10 Parma [1] 46/15 part [8] 46/6 68/11 71/15 72/12 73/15 80/5 80/19 125/25 part-time [1] 46/6 participate [2] 35/6	particular [1] 70/13 partner [1] 28/3 partnership [1] 62/19 partnerships [2] 61/18 62/10 party [1] 57/5 pass [6] 5/6 28/2 44/1 76/20 79/4 84/10 passed [8] 48/16 49/5 50/12 53/12 54/9 59/22 81/17 82/8 passing [2] 30/7 60/1 past [16] 6/9 6/20 10/8 11/12 11/23 28/9 50/16 73/10 78/9 78/11 91/20 100/4 100/7 109/5 110/3 126/3 path [2] 4/21 95/5 patience [1] 131/14 patients [1] 46/14 pay [3] 44/4 67/11 78/21 PDC [1] 88/10 peace [4] 4/16 65/6 74/5 132/21

P	pertaining [1] 79/19	Pledge [2] 5/15 5/16
Pemberville [1] 36/24	phenomenal [1] 46/21	plenty [2] 9/19 131/6
pending [4] 34/12 35/9 40/21 85/14	phone [4] 16/24 19/20 19/21 30/9	plus [4] 10/14 66/1 121/17 130/2
pension [1] 15/5	pick [4] 12/21 97/11 97/20 97/23	PM [6] 39/10 41/6 42/7 48/3 48/3 49/13
people [22] 7/11 7/20 24/18 43/7 54/19 56/14 56/21 56/22 71/12 73/25 74/14 74/17 74/21 82/22 83/18 87/11 117/16 117/18 122/11 123/3 125/10 126/24	picked [1] 94/3 pickup [1] 85/25 picnic [1] 43/3 pillars [1] 79/24 pins [1] 75/25 pitch [1] 36/10 place [3] 8/5 64/2 83/20	pneumonia [1] 31/18 Poelking [1] 17/12 point [11] 12/1 25/21 49/3 104/3 104/12 107/13 117/22 118/3 121/5 123/10 128/22
per [5] 11/17 34/2 117/3 130/2 130/6	plan [4] 72/8 120/20 128/24 129/4	pointed [1] 43/7 pole [3] 23/21 24/3 24/8
percent [3] 14/1 78/18 78/19	planning [2] 16/3 45/21	poles [1] 24/6 political [4] 79/22 79/24 80/1 80/5
percentage [1] 10/25	plate [1] 60/1 play [1] 36/16 played [2] 36/21 37/19	pollinate [1] 62/21 Pool [1] 17/19
perform [1] 4/23 period [1] 72/25 permanently [1] 46/11	please [17] 4/11 7/19 16/22 18/3 28/3 28/22 34/19 62/3 64/3 64/10 64/12 76/23 78/1 78/23 96/19 126/21 131/1	pop [1] 11/2 portion [3] 48/10 53/7 60/12
Perry [3] 42/12 44/18 45/9		position [4] 64/4 103/17 114/3 132/21
person [3] 33/19 53/25 130/6		possibilities [1]
personally [1] 45/16		
pertain [1] 79/15		

P		
possibilities... [1] 60/19	37/6 37/8 50/21 51/4 62/4 69/15 71/12 77/10 78/1 78/14 84/25 85/2 85/10 87/17 88/12 93/3 123/4 123/6 123/8	pretty [2] 9/25 15/22
possibility [1] 62/19		previous [5] 2/7 6/15 42/11 49/23 51/16
possible [4] 13/24 19/20 45/6 47/25		previously [1] 51/20
Post [63] 3/9 11/18 12/8 12/17 12/17 13/3 17/2 17/11 17/16 17/20 17/25 18/2 32/21 35/8 36/23 36/24 36/25 37/1 37/2 37/5 37/9 50/23 65/16 65/16 66/4 66/19 67/3 67/19 68/9 68/13 69/10 69/13 69/19 70/17 71/8 71/20 72/7 72/8 72/12 73/4 74/11 76/9 76/12 76/15 77/5 80/11 80/11 80/17 80/18 80/20 80/24 81/2 81/2 81/7 81/9 82/22 88/18 88/18 90/17 90/18 128/8 132/4 132/5	potential [1] 50/5 pouring [1] 16/9 POW [1] 84/20 practice [1] 101/3 pray [3] 4/18 5/1 5/5 prayer [2] 4/11 132/24 prayers [1] 28/5 pre [1] 30/1 pre-NEC [1] 30/1 preamble [2] 5/20 5/21 preliminary [1] 54/17 premier [1] 59/18 presence [1] 132/20 present [6] 28/22 35/13 42/8 43/14 106/22 108/10 presented [4] 44/12 44/23 49/10 129/4 President [2] 70/15 70/18 pressure [1] 38/2	price [3] 22/11 22/13 23/4 primarily [2] 62/9 62/13 printed [2] 6/18 27/7 prior [11] 37/7 38/12 48/13 51/22 51/23 52/10 52/15 53/19 103/14 107/15 126/11 priorities [1] 79/23 priority [1] 61/22 private [1] 48/25 probably [17] 7/15 8/3 16/2 19/25 20/8 20/23 26/24 46/4 54/15 58/7 64/22 72/1 73/14 73/21 87/4 92/23 100/17 problems [4] 67/5 86/25 94/14 132/10 Procedural [1] 95/8 procedures [2] 66/11 66/16
posts [27] 7/15 7/16 10/15 11/20 12/2 12/5 12/16 37/3		

P PROCEEDINGS [3] 1/6 75/21 102/24 process [14] 57/16 65/8 76/17 80/13 81/5 81/8 88/5 88/20 89/6 90/4 90/9 90/22 92/24 123/14 produced [1] 61/14 Production [1] 47/3 profit [3] 49/1 103/20 104/18 program [20] 12/14 30/6 30/21 41/3 50/13 50/15 50/17 50/22 59/19 60/3 62/2 64/6 85/5 89/25 90/1 90/3 90/17 90/18 90/19 91/9 programs [2] 5/7 5/7 project [10] 7/22 8/17 13/18 13/20 24/14 30/23 30/24 40/14 40/16 84/17 projects [1] 69/14 promote [1] 62/10 promoting [1] 62/13	promotion [1] 35/6 proper [1] 80/13 properly [1] 93/24 proposal [2] 63/10 65/11 Prospect [1] 46/10 proud [2] 12/18 47/5 provided [6] 6/18 23/9 47/6 100/19 100/24 111/17 providing [2] 80/12 86/6 pseudomonas [1] 31/17 publications [1] 62/6 publicize [1] 62/3 publish [1] 117/4 Purple [1] 59/25 purpose [4] 56/17 56/18 56/21 86/12 purposely [1] 77/3 purposes [4] 42/4 47/16 92/4 96/24 push [4] 10/10 44/13 62/4 100/11 pushed [2] 50/9 99/20 pushing [1] 11/16 put [21] 7/22 24/19 32/19 64/1 73/17	77/3 81/1 82/13 83/12 85/13 90/11 90/13 91/18 95/18 100/8 114/8 114/9 121/17 123/3 124/9 126/5 Putnam [1] 40/15 putting [2] 24/8 25/22 Q QR [1] 61/19 quadrant [1] 123/3 qualified [2] 36/14 72/1 quarterly [2] 48/14 62/5 question [11] 20/21 21/4 22/22 34/15 34/16 34/20 58/15 86/10 91/7 124/24 125/1 questioning [1] 91/10 questions [13] 18/25 19/10 26/4 26/8 26/15 29/11 47/17 49/14 61/1 63/4 86/14 93/14 131/1 quick [6] 18/15 32/18 33/14 75/14 116/23 131/25
---	---	--

Q quite [4] 18/14 21/10 77/23 131/4 quorum [5] 6/1 42/3 42/8 43/14 45/3 quota [3] 10/7 10/14 12/16 quote [3] 22/14 22/19 23/6 quotes [1] 24/15	51/3 61/25 123/7 read [10] 5/18 49/24 57/7 57/7 81/25 86/17 86/25 106/18 117/1 118/14 readiness [1] 62/20 reading [4] 2/7 6/15 42/11 80/15 ready [1] 132/22 real [3] 18/14 75/14 126/10 really [20] 10/16 11/16 15/23 16/2 16/8 16/8 20/6 31/4 56/20 66/23 72/16 74/4 75/17 83/18 85/23 99/7 114/5 114/12 121/8 131/3 reason [5] 38/16 78/17 82/2 99/5 100/7 reasonably [1] 29/13 rebuttal [1] 58/19 recall [1] 128/25 receive [4] 27/24 41/1 51/12 79/12 received [8] 19/6 33/25 38/13 40/20 82/2 85/1 103/22 127/16	receives [1] 104/18 recently [1] 85/3 RECESS [1] 75/21 recipient [1] 59/25 reciprocal [1] 75/3 recognize [3] 72/17 73/17 73/21 recognized [3] 52/1 73/15 81/21 recognizes [1] 59/17 recognizing [1] 73/22 recommended [1] 50/4 record [4] 51/12 106/15 106/16 110/23 recording [1] 106/12 records [1] 115/20 recruit [1] 62/22 recruited [2] 74/19 74/23 red [6] 14/14 81/15 81/16 81/19 81/23 87/10 red-flagged [1] 87/10 reduce [1] 118/23 reference [1] 130/2 reflect [1] 41/4
R racing [1] 8/13 radio [2] 50/13 50/15 railroad [1] 15/5 rain [3] 16/6 16/9 16/9 raise [5] 7/8 7/14 40/16 69/4 117/21 raised [4] 62/16 78/6 86/15 132/2 raising [2] 7/7 117/15 range [1] 16/2 rare [1] 72/10 ratification [1] 35/11 ratified [1] 51/25 Rau [2] 29/1 107/11 reach [4] 50/21		

R		
regarding [2] 45/18 92/13	relationships [1] 127/8	replacement [3] 23/21 106/6 106/8
regards [2] 81/15 81/18	rely [1] 12/8	replacing [1] 105/13
region [9] 36/13 36/15 36/16 36/23 36/23 36/25 36/25 37/2 37/2	remarks [3] 3/15 6/3 131/10	reply [1] 30/12
Regional [3] 37/11 45/14 45/17	remember [2] 113/11 132/17	report [34] 3/12 16/21 18/6 18/8 18/12 19/4 27/18 27/24 28/23 29/3 29/14 30/4 31/5 31/5 32/9 32/12 33/8 33/10 35/15 37/14 42/2 44/15 44/20 45/11 62/11 62/24 63/22 77/16 77/17 111/17 116/14 116/16 119/20 125/7
regions [1] 122/8	remind [5] 16/11 70/24 125/23 126/13 126/21	reported [1] 42/24
Registration [1] 17/3	reminded [1] 13/3	reporting [2] 1/24 67/17
regular [2] 56/6 103/2	reminder [1] 39/8	reports [4] 2/21 42/13 62/7 131/21
regulations [1] 33/2	remove [3] 53/23 112/11 115/6	representative [2] 65/19 70/3
rehab [1] 18/20	removed [11] 101/1 101/10 103/17 103/24 104/10 104/10 104/21 104/21 104/23 107/24 109/4	representatives [1] 65/20
Rehabilitation [3] 3/1 42/2 42/6	removing [5] 105/9 105/9 105/15 105/20 114/15	represented [1] 47/7
reimbursement [4] 34/1 35/14 48/10 48/12	rent [1] 68/5	request [3] 85/19 91/18 92/15
reimbursements [1] 116/19	rentals [2] 60/4 60/6	requested [4] 50/19
reintroduced [1] 51/22	repairs [1] 25/17	
reiterate [1] 131/6	repercussions [1] 100/23	
relation [4] 71/25 79/18 79/25 80/10	replace [4] 22/18 23/20 53/24 101/2	
relationship [3] 72/9 72/16 73/7	replaced [1] 109/5	

R	responding [1] 64/2	11/10 53/19
requested... [3]	response [72] 6/12	responsible [3]
50/20 51/3 98/24	6/24 13/6 15/16	12/15 15/8 67/17
requesting [2]	19/1 26/6 26/10	Restoration [1]
85/11 92/19	26/16 27/14 35/22	44/4
requests [1] 43/10	35/24 39/18 39/20	resulting [1] 80/23
required [3] 45/11	39/22 41/13 41/15	retail [1] 60/8
78/15 129/3	41/17 47/18 49/15	retailer [1] 54/14
requires [1] 44/5	52/22 52/24 53/1	retain [1] 59/25
reservation [2]	59/8 61/3 63/6	Retired [1] 44/4
130/10 130/11	63/15 63/17 98/10	review [4] 44/11
reservations [1]	98/12 98/14 98/19	45/4 61/18 61/23
130/4	102/16 102/18	reviewed [2] 38/9
reserve [1] 18/21	102/22 103/6 103/8	129/5
resetting [1] 24/6	107/8 107/10	revitalization [1]
resign [1] 113/18	108/18 108/20	122/7
resistance [1] 94/6	108/25 109/21	revitalize [1]
resolution [17] 5/18	109/23 110/11	122/11
44/23 44/23 49/9	110/13 110/15	Revocations [1] 3/9
50/5 59/17 79/3	110/20 111/6 111/8	rewrite [1] 99/7
79/17 80/2 80/2	111/10 111/25	Richard [6] 44/8
80/7 80/9 80/10	112/2 112/4 112/17	50/1 52/3 54/7 71/2
81/1 82/20 83/9	119/4 119/6 119/8	98/6
125/11	119/13 120/6 120/8	Richland [1] 84/22
resolutions [5] 3/10	120/10 120/15	Rick [3] 103/3
44/22 79/10 79/17	121/21 121/23	115/17 125/3
81/10	121/25 123/21	rid [4] 15/11 65/7
Resolutions/Constit	123/23 123/25	65/8 65/10
utional [1] 3/10	124/14 124/16	Riders [3] 3/7
resolved [1] 81/6	124/18 124/22	63/23 73/17
Resources [1] 60/5	responses [1] 30/5	right [59] 4/21 6/11
respond [1] 131/2	responsibility [2]	6/13 7/4 8/13 8/14

R	62/15 83/8 123/1	69/6 69/6 72/23
right... [53] 8/25	Roger [1] 110/4	74/13 77/18 81/12
9/21 11/16 13/25	Roll [3] 2/5 5/24	82/8 90/24 91/21
14/8 14/11 14/14	61/13	91/21 99/3 100/14
14/23 15/13 15/17	rolled [1] 59/23	116/3
17/1 19/21 21/7	Ron [2] 29/18 29/19	SAL [43] 32/4 32/5
21/18 21/25 24/10	room [3] 9/3 16/16	35/1 35/2 35/5 35/5
27/21 33/10 41/24	131/22	35/7 35/8 35/10
42/1 66/1 67/24	rooms [2] 130/1	42/16 63/3 63/4
69/9 73/1 83/4	130/14	63/10 64/22 64/24
83/24 85/12 87/7	Rough [1] 122/5	64/24 65/4 65/11
90/24 91/2 91/19	Rue [3] 32/8 77/18	65/17 65/20 66/8
92/9 96/3 96/4	84/3	66/9 66/22 67/13
102/14 102/23	rules [7] 33/24	67/16 68/2 68/25
106/12 106/20	40/12 48/4 48/9	69/7 69/11 69/16
107/14 107/14	50/12 53/18 54/8	69/17 70/14 70/17
109/14 115/5	run [3] 1/12 37/17	71/5 72/1 72/3
116/22 119/19	37/17	72/13 83/15 127/2
120/17 122/6 125/8	runner [3] 36/17	127/6 127/9 128/9
126/14 127/9	36/23 36/25	128/11
127/11 127/12	runner-up [2]	SAL's [2] 20/13
128/4 128/15	36/23 36/25	72/6
rights [1] 66/24	runner-ups [1]	sales [1] 67/8
riverboat [1] 42/17	36/17	SALs [2] 127/16
road [5] 1/12 60/13	running [2] 88/19	127/18
69/22 100/16	94/6	salute [4] 4/3 4/4
129/13	runs [1] 62/9	133/3 133/4
Robert [3] 6/9 22/7	Ruth [1] 33/7	same [14] 20/18
32/7	S	27/13 39/2 43/13
Roberts [1] 84/17	said [21] 8/6 8/8	54/1 66/10 66/12
Robinson [7] 21/3	8/10 42/7 47/15	66/16 70/4 71/6
24/2 61/15 61/17	56/16 60/21 65/6	88/21 110/19

S	127/18 130/13	108/3 108/14
same... [2] 119/12	saying [13] 48/15	108/15 109/2 109/9
120/14	59/1 59/2 64/25	110/7 110/9 111/2
Santa's [2] 40/19	66/7 67/25 74/10	111/4 111/21
40/22	75/2 90/23 91/17	111/23 112/13
Sarah [3] 28/3 28/4	95/17 104/11	118/11 120/2
48/23	128/12	120/25 122/19
sat [1] 58/5	says [17] 12/19 22/9	122/21
Saturday [2] 1/9	22/15 22/20 23/19	secondary [1]
3/19	23/20 23/21 23/23	34/10
saw [1] 76/5	23/24 24/13 38/16	seconded [20]
say [60] 6/21 7/6	68/18 80/2 104/20	33/21 33/23 34/7
8/25 21/18 27/11	116/25 117/24	34/12 35/1 38/22
31/9 31/20 32/7	117/25	39/5 40/9 40/11
32/15 35/25 39/23	scheduled [1] 26/21	40/15 40/18 41/4
41/18 47/5 48/13	Schmitt [9] 22/7	42/12 48/8 48/23
52/10 52/14 53/2	28/15 31/3 41/8	49/7 50/2 50/11
53/19 54/1 54/3	63/12 71/24 79/9	52/4 54/7
58/13 59/9 63/18	88/7 131/12	Secondly [1]
64/15 65/3 66/13	Scholarship [1]	126/20
66/16 68/15 68/25	18/22	seconds [13] 27/10
69/8 73/19 73/24	school [1] 91/9	35/20 39/16 52/19
74/5 90/19 92/3	Scott [1] 92/11	63/13 101/22 102/6
92/14 92/25 97/11	Scout [1] 84/16	109/11 112/15
97/14 97/15 98/15	Scouts [1] 84/16	118/2 120/4 121/2
100/1 100/23 103/9	second [36] 6/20	124/12
108/5 108/21	12/3 12/5 27/8	section [8] 20/22
109/12 110/16	39/14 41/11 52/17	53/19 66/11 73/16
111/11 112/5 113/4	55/22 55/24 63/11	80/11 81/4 116/25
113/20 114/17	64/24 80/9 96/22	125/25
119/9 121/12 122/1	98/7 103/4 104/2	sections [1] 127/24
124/1 124/19	107/4 107/6 108/1	secure [1] 44/5

S	69/22 76/3 91/7	September 18 [1]
securities [1] 126/1	91/10 91/11 91/13	97/22
Security [2] 3/3	92/18 96/14 96/19	September what [1]
49/19	97/2 115/19 122/10	104/7
see [22] 11/7 12/23	130/24	Sergeant [4] 60/14
13/13 15/6 16/24	sending [1] 128/1	82/4 82/6 131/20
17/6 20/4 20/9	senior [3] 36/7	Series [1] 37/13
20/16 21/16 22/1	36/11 36/21	serve [1] 132/23
22/12 24/21 30/4	sense [3] 57/20	served [3] 45/2
55/2 57/4 68/5 78/6	58/11 74/4	56/14 132/13
84/6 86/19 123/13	sensing [1] 91/6	service [10] 1/24
125/10	sent [20] 13/2 16/17	4/24 44/24 46/10
seeing [2] 29/24	17/18 38/4 38/14	47/5 47/13 55/14
46/14	40/25 53/14 53/15	81/23 113/8 113/15
seek [3] 5/3 5/9	63/4 63/23 63/24	services [2] 59/22
132/20	80/7 80/9 86/7 92/3	84/19
seen [2] 11/11	94/4 95/14 127/17	serving [2] 5/11
71/11	132/4 132/5	114/18
select [2] 56/19	separate [1] 72/24	session [7] 101/12
57/17	September [31]	101/14 101/17
selected [2] 34/15	12/22 13/1 17/1	101/20 102/25
57/12	41/2 42/6 42/14	103/2 103/14
selection [1] 57/15	42/16 42/21 42/23	set [10] 16/25 20/22
selections [1] 58/21	42/24 51/2 85/9	85/10 88/1 97/14
sell [2] 76/6 126/1	93/22 97/7 97/7	97/15 97/17 100/15
Senate [8] 54/11	97/10 97/11 97/12	100/17 123/9
54/12 55/12 59/20	97/22 99/8 99/24	setting [1] 16/24
59/21 60/3 60/10	100/5 100/11	settled [2] 106/13
60/18	100/23 100/25	106/14
senators [1] 30/12	103/21 104/7 104/8	seventh [1] 37/18
send [17] 12/8	104/18 106/23	several [1] 82/22
16/20 30/11 58/24	108/11	severe [1] 28/10

S	20/8 20/11 20/17	silently [1] 80/20
shall [6] 80/16 81/7	30/18 32/6 33/24	similar [2] 45/1
117/2 117/4 117/6	38/12 46/1 57/8	51/4
117/7	59/5 65/18 65/19	simple [2] 22/3 66/7
Shallon [1] 61/10	65/21 68/16 69/11	sin [1] 66/1
share [2] 40/19	70/3 70/4 72/3 73/8	since [6] 19/8 26/12
128/18	74/25 80/14 81/21	46/3 47/4 47/7
sharing [1] 69/25	88/21 92/14 95/5	113/20
Sharon [3] 4/11	96/23 101/9 103/16	single [1] 36/17
27/22 132/7	106/3 113/18	sir [11] 6/2 15/9
Sharonville [7]	113/22 115/2	22/6 28/24 29/17
38/6 38/14 38/20	115/25	47/20 62/25 79/8
38/23 38/25 39/3	shouldn't [1] 31/9	115/15 124/25
39/6	shout [1] 28/25	128/21
Shaw [4] 14/12	show [8] 9/23 16/13	sit [5] 70/2 70/5
101/21 102/5	42/22 42/22 60/23	70/6 70/7 74/5
112/14	77/15 113/22	site [1] 42/19
she [4] 8/6 107/16	114/25	sits [1] 65/22
107/17 123/17	showing [2] 80/13	sitting [3] 22/19
Sherry [1] 11/12	114/4	77/1 77/7
shipment [1]	shown [1] 56/15	situations [1] 65/6
130/18	shows [1] 30/13	six [6] 30/19 36/12
Shirley [1] 92/15	shutting [1] 65/12	36/19 36/21 37/9
shirt [2] 69/8	sic [3] 28/15 42/6	42/7
130/17	42/21	six-team [2] 36/12
shit [1] 7/6	side [2] 55/4 59/16	36/19
shoot [2] 17/2 17/4	sides [1] 28/10	skip [1] 79/3
short [1] 27/5	Sidney [1] 36/25	slot [1] 54/14
shot [1] 37/18	sign [1] 92/1	slow [1] 61/25
should [40] 10/10	Signatures [1]	small [1] 49/1
10/12 10/19 11/11	110/1	Smathers [7] 52/3
12/12 15/10 20/7	signed [1] 92/8	54/7 71/2 98/6

S		
Smathers... [3]	10/15 21/25 26/19	49/4 50/22 54/2
103/3 115/17 125/3	27/5 58/13 64/16	104/24
Smith [2] 61/10	68/14 68/19 75/10	speculation [2]
62/18	85/23 87/9 89/2	54/21 60/20
so [183]	90/18 90/18 113/22	spend [4] 65/2 92/4
social [2] 62/6	119/22 125/12	117/10 117/11
84/19	127/5 128/24 129/8	spent [1] 86/9
sold [3] 7/13 60/4	sometime [1] 85/9	split [1] 122/9
130/13	sometimes [2]	spoke [1] 45/16
Soldiers [1] 34/14	64/11 126/5	sponsor [1] 35/5
solidarity [1] 60/24	somewhere [2] 46/1	spot [2] 13/21 95/23
solving [1] 132/10	46/13	spouse [1] 59/24
some [28] 6/7 8/2	son [1] 83/3	spreadsheet [1]
8/19 8/20 10/2	sons [7] 3/6 12/13	38/10
17/14 27/5 29/12	12/14 64/16 66/10	spring [2] 54/1
30/3 30/7 62/20	70/3 81/22	62/12
65/3 66/20 70/11	soon [1] 13/24	Squadron [3] 69/11
73/19 73/25 73/25	sorry [6] 6/4 42/22	70/14 70/17
74/4 74/15 77/7	71/1 73/1 83/5	Squadrons [1]
88/4 90/21 92/23	99/12	69/17
104/12 113/15	sounded [1] 9/15	St [1] 31/22
117/18 128/17	sounds [3] 22/2	St. [1] 31/22
131/8	27/21 29/12	St. Joe's [1] 31/22
somebody [7] 56/12	South [1] 31/22	stable [1] 8/7
57/9 64/7 64/12	spare [1] 77/6	stack [1] 11/7
70/6 83/25 114/7	speak [7] 4/17 9/3	staff [3] 5/5 16/6
someone [3] 20/20	9/5 21/1 70/9 91/4	38/16
44/14 95/18	131/12	staffs [1] 47/7
someplace [2]	speaking [1] 70/25	stages [1] 54/17
31/21 73/2	Special [1] 18/19	Stan [7] 9/22 33/2
something [21] 8/6	specialty [1] 59/25	33/6 36/9 48/7 49/6
	specific [5] 48/13	131/8

S		
stand [3] 9/5 70/25 115/8	stating [1] 97/4	strength [2] 4/15 132/21
standing [6] 53/21 56/6 80/14 80/16 115/3 115/6	status [1] 40/22	strengthen [1] 132/19
star [9] 44/9 81/15 81/16 81/17 81/19 81/24 83/13 83/14 83/15	stay [4] 53/22 61/23 101/24 102/4	strides [1] 76/18
start [5] 21/17 21/17 43/16 44/10 61/25	stayed [1] 59/3	striving [1] 10/12
started [6] 8/8 8/17 12/25 44/16 76/16 88/9	staying [2] 105/12 105/17	stroke [1] 28/10
starting [4] 52/2 52/9 107/14 116/4	stays [2] 31/19 48/11	struck [1] 107/18
starts [3] 17/3 17/4 17/24	steak [2] 67/9 67/22	structured [1] 90/25
state [18] 4/20 18/16 32/22 36/14 36/15 53/21 55/5 59/16 59/18 59/19 69/23 84/14 88/10 89/10 89/13 106/19 106/24 128/14	Stennis [2] 109/6 110/2	stuck [1] 76/23
stated [3] 43/12 43/15 100/4	stepchildren [2] 71/16 71/17	stuff [10] 7/3 7/9 65/11 69/12 74/14 76/23 86/4 86/19 88/5 116/1
statement [6] 60/23 84/7 94/9 103/20 106/19 116/5	Steve [1] 15/1	subcommission [1] 61/14
	still [23] 5/1 12/14 21/5 43/17 45/14 45/22 46/14 47/1 48/20 58/20 63/2 73/3 92/5 93/5 94/6 94/13 96/4 100/24 105/18 107/15 107/20 113/21 117/14	subcommittee [2] 48/4 95/10
	stone [1] 11/9	subject [1] 88/9
	STOOD [1] 75/21	submission [3] 51/22 52/7 52/14
	stop [1] 130/18	submit [3] 50/5 54/5 57/3
	strategic [3] 120/20 128/23 129/4	submitted [5] 38/19 39/1 56/25 57/1 76/13
	strategy [2] 120/23 120/23	submitting [1] 76/14
	Stream [1] 37/11	such [6] 24/7 80/17 80/22 81/6 117/1 127/10

S	126/22 127/1	taking [4] 7/2 24/5
suffering [1] 5/2	surgery [1] 31/15	42/16 65/5
suffices [1] 93/6	survey [1] 62/8	talk [9] 7/9 7/11
suggest [1] 101/11	surviving [1] 59/24	9/21 16/3 19/25
suggestion [1]	suspend [1] 80/11	20/1 45/7 54/24
94/13	suspensions [2] 3/9	122/15
suggestions [3]	76/10	talked [6] 43/6
62/2 62/7 90/15	Suzette [15] 41/10	45/23 74/22 87/12
suicide [2] 81/20	52/12 55/17 86/11	88/10 125/21
81/22	89/22 92/14 96/10	talking [3] 95/24
summer [1] 54/18	101/4 103/12	121/19 127/3
Summit [1] 43/5	107/21 111/22	talks [1] 126/1
Sunday [1] 130/1	112/9 125/18	Tampa [9] 29/25
supplies [2] 43/21	128/19 128/25	30/1 31/9 31/11
84/16	swear [1] 124/5	31/12 31/13 31/22
supplying [1] 43/1	system [1] 49/3	31/25 131/4
support [6] 30/8	T	tasks [2] 4/23 47/12
30/14 40/16 40/18	table [1] 32/19	tax [4] 44/4 86/24
79/22 79/23	tabled [1] 45/3	87/3 130/2
supposed [12]	take [20] 8/4 11/6	taxes [1] 67/18
22/11 23/4 58/23	11/24 12/6 12/12	teach [1] 86/4
67/11 78/15 85/7	45/12 45/25 46/16	team [4] 36/12
93/19 93/21 99/1	56/24 73/20 76/3	36/19 47/5 69/2
99/4 99/16 99/19	76/5 76/15 76/24	teams [5] 36/21
sure [19] 10/4	86/1 86/6 102/9	37/7 37/20 38/12
11/14 13/23 15/9	113/9 115/24	49/21
20/1 21/20 23/22	118/21	technically [1]
30/20 64/4 65/14	taken [4] 43/14	96/11
66/5 76/23 81/13	45/13 106/11	tell [17] 7/18 11/1
87/6 88/14 89/3	115/25	66/17 69/18 70/11
126/21 130/2 131/6	takes [2] 58/25	71/7 72/7 72/17
surety [3] 126/21	102/7	73/1 73/4 77/16

T	28/14 28/24 29/9	74/3 74/25 75/1
tell... [6] 87/13	29/17 31/1 31/2	77/5 77/12 78/5
89/20 94/7 95/5	32/6 33/9 40/2	78/19 78/24 80/6
96/19 116/6	41/22 47/20 58/2	81/23 83/4 86/8
telling [2] 71/5	58/12 61/6 62/25	88/20 88/24 89/6
128/11	66/25 67/1 71/23	91/12 91/15 92/6
temporarily [1]	75/20 79/2 84/1	94/10 94/10 97/25
25/23	84/2 88/6 93/13	99/5 99/9 100/7
ten [1] 75/19	108/4 114/17	100/16 101/3 105/2
tension [1] 128/17	114/18 115/14	116/14 117/22
terminals [3] 54/13	115/25 116/15	118/13 118/24
60/7 60/16	121/3 122/23	119/1 119/17 121/8
Termination [1]	125/13 128/19	126/14 127/4
44/4	129/19 130/21	127/23 128/12
terminology [2]	131/14 131/24	128/24 130/20
79/18 79/21	132/9 132/13	131/11
test [5] 34/20 35/5	thanked [1] 45/9	their [49] 5/2 11/20
35/6 35/7 35/7	thanks [2] 32/3	20/16 28/4 29/9
testing [2] 34/4	132/11	39/1 42/21 45/10
34/7	that [471]	45/25 51/4 51/5
Texas [2] 62/16	that's [76] 6/11	56/15 58/25 60/5
132/5	8/10 8/17 8/25 10/6	62/20 65/22 65/23
than [13] 10/6 16/5	10/20 11/16 13/14	66/2 67/8 67/9
16/9 18/4 31/6	13/17 14/10 16/16	67/14 67/15 67/17
31/24 33/2 56/7	17/18 19/23 21/25	67/18 67/21 69/20
76/17 78/3 89/9	22/22 23/1 24/4	69/21 71/12 71/13
90/11 131/18	24/6 29/14 30/16	72/4 78/2 78/2 78/2
thank [55] 4/19 6/2	37/14 54/14 56/9	80/16 81/22 81/22
6/6 6/13 7/1 9/8	57/18 58/2 61/4	83/3 84/16 87/1
15/18 16/6 18/6	64/22 66/24 67/20	88/12 89/25 95/21
18/7 20/25 27/16	68/14 68/17 68/22	95/24 95/25 96/1
27/25 28/1 28/7	70/11 70/22 71/13	96/8 106/22 127/20

T	themselves [1]	68/9 69/8 70/3
their... [1] 131/16	87/18	73/18 73/20 76/16
theirs [1] 70/7	then [32] 7/17	76/20 76/21 76/23
them [82] 5/3 12/3	17/23 19/20 20/21	77/1 77/7 77/23
12/8 13/11 38/12	23/21 30/2 42/21	78/6 78/17 79/10
41/1 43/24 45/25	43/19 44/7 49/6	81/2 81/11 82/9
50/6 51/5 54/18	50/4 50/7 50/20	82/25 84/25 85/1
55/1 64/5 65/7 65/8	52/1 53/15 54/10	85/5 86/17 87/9
65/10 65/12 65/14	71/21 72/25 73/18	90/21 93/8 95/5
65/17 65/23 66/13	76/6 76/6 90/4	95/23 103/14 106/7
67/21 68/6 68/10	91/13 93/24 99/9	107/14 107/19
68/15 68/18 68/25	99/20 99/21 100/20	113/8 113/14
69/18 69/21 70/1	104/9 104/21 106/2	113/19 114/5
71/10 71/21 71/21	112/21	116/25 118/15
72/4 72/7 73/1 73/3	there [103] 6/8 8/4	120/18 120/18
73/4 73/15 73/20	8/5 8/12 9/16 12/2	123/14 125/25
73/21 73/24 74/2	12/4 13/1 13/8 15/3	126/10 126/16
74/19 74/20 74/23	16/8 16/21 18/25	127/2 127/15
76/2 76/5 76/6 76/6	19/14 19/21 20/6	127/15 127/20
76/7 76/7 76/24	20/7 20/7 21/5	there's [12] 7/3
77/22 78/5 78/9	21/24 26/8 28/8	12/19 16/10 17/15
78/22 78/23 79/11	28/21 29/2 31/14	44/2 53/8 65/8
79/12 82/2 84/7	31/16 31/20 32/2	68/10 72/9 75/2
85/21 86/2 86/4	35/12 38/10 39/7	76/10 127/10
86/6 86/7 87/12	39/8 42/15 44/13	therefore [1] 67/15
91/7 95/6 102/12	44/14 44/21 44/22	THEREUPON [3]
102/13 105/13	46/8 46/18 47/17	75/21 102/24
105/20 123/4 123/7	55/19 55/19 56/18	106/16
123/11 127/19	56/18 56/20 63/4	these [20] 7/12 15/6
127/23 128/2	65/13 65/17 65/18	16/20 19/19 26/1
130/19 132/19	65/19 65/21 66/21	60/19 71/14 77/10
theme [1] 30/24	67/12 67/25 68/8	78/1 78/15 78/18

T	82/24 82/25 84/12	87/8 88/21 114/19
these... [9] 79/16	85/14 85/15 85/21	119/21 125/20
82/10 82/23 83/18	85/25 86/1 86/2	things [26] 7/10
123/8 123/11	86/3 86/4 87/2	8/23 9/2 9/21 16/1
127/19 129/14	87/13 88/3 88/17	16/10 19/13 21/25
131/21	89/24 90/1 90/2	24/1 30/7 33/9
they [119] 5/6 7/24	90/4 90/8 91/21	55/19 56/13 66/20
7/25 8/10 8/12 13/7	92/10 94/3 95/14	71/4 72/5 73/9
13/23 16/6 20/10	96/5 96/6 96/21	73/23 74/9 88/13
20/13 20/17 20/21	102/12 102/12	116/23 117/12
21/8 26/1 26/12	113/23 117/18	119/16 126/6 126/8
30/12 30/13 32/13	122/16 123/3	129/15
32/19 34/4 37/12	126/25 127/22	think [38] 7/12
40/5 43/25 44/1	127/23 128/4 129/9	7/15 8/23 8/25 9/17
44/16 45/20 45/23	129/13 129/14	9/25 11/8 15/6 16/1
46/12 46/14 48/19	they'll [1] 70/8	26/24 27/5 28/8
49/24 50/21 53/10	they're [29] 13/7	30/15 38/17 57/11
55/7 57/7 57/8	42/18 54/18 54/20	57/14 57/18 57/19
57/10 57/10 57/18	55/2 57/7 57/8 64/3	59/3 71/20 86/24
64/4 66/12 67/6	65/4 65/5 65/7	87/2 91/12 92/24
67/7 67/7 67/8 67/8	65/12 65/13 71/13	92/25 95/5 96/23
67/9 67/16 67/22	71/15 71/16 71/17	113/4 113/17
67/23 68/7 68/9	72/11 73/3 73/5	113/18 114/2
68/11 68/16 69/4	78/2 78/4 78/15	114/12 114/14
69/18 69/19 69/20	89/10 89/11 89/13	114/17 115/2 121/6
69/24 70/19 71/12	91/10 96/2 129/15	121/8 130/8
71/18 72/7 72/24	they've [1] 129/15	thinking [2] 88/25
73/4 73/19 74/13	thing [19] 7/21 9/5	107/13
74/14 74/16 77/18	12/19 15/22 19/24	third [3] 35/9 81/11
77/24 78/23 79/13	20/18 38/18 48/6	109/25
79/15 80/3 80/7	66/9 70/13 71/25	this [139]
80/9 81/20 81/21	75/24 76/9 81/25	this is [1] 123/2

T	three [12] 12/16	25/22 26/14 26/20
Thom [2] 48/7 49/6	34/2 37/17 45/22	28/12 32/1 32/10
thorough [1] 61/17	49/1 61/14 65/20	43/10 45/15 46/6
those [58] 4/24 5/1	77/9 77/11 77/19	46/13 56/16 76/11
11/20 11/21 12/11	78/9 130/12	77/6 117/14 117/14
12/18 13/2 18/14	three-run [1] 37/17	129/11 131/3
23/25 24/15 26/11	threw [1] 36/9	times [4] 30/19 46/4
30/9 30/13 33/1	through [38] 5/4	100/15 132/14
33/9 34/7 37/20	17/8 17/9 17/10	tired [1] 65/14
45/13 46/16 46/18	17/20 34/5 34/6	title [1] 77/3
46/24 54/25 55/18	34/10 34/11 38/15	today [21] 4/12
56/12 56/13 57/1	39/2 45/12 45/15	4/15 85/7 93/20
57/5 61/1 62/21	46/6 46/17 46/23	93/21 94/8 95/18
63/4 65/6 66/6	48/5 49/11 49/20	99/4 99/17 99/21
66/20 70/5 73/9	50/8 54/11 57/25	99/22 99/23 100/20
73/23 74/1 75/3	61/2 65/23 66/12	101/6 112/22 113/5
82/13 82/14 84/10	76/18 78/22 83/9	114/3 114/7 131/15
85/3 90/20 118/16	95/15 95/19 95/20	132/10 132/18
118/17 118/17	96/16 112/21	Todd [1] 45/18
120/18 121/10	114/10 116/8 127/3	together [6] 7/6
123/5 126/5 126/8	127/23 132/3	66/6 72/5 83/12
126/14 126/17	throughout [2]	123/12 132/12
127/1 127/13	27/4 63/25	token [1] 70/4
129/14 132/18	throw [1] 13/21	told [7] 20/3 33/7
132/18	Thursday [2] 12/20	98/25 99/9 99/15
though [7] 12/14	46/7	131/5 131/12
14/7 30/4 49/24	till [1] 130/1	Toledo [3] 12/17
53/12 65/9 83/17	Tim [5] 14/12 15/12	39/8 84/23
thought [2] 88/20	101/21 102/5	Toledo-Lucas [1]
89/6	112/14	84/23
thousand [3] 10/6	time [22] 7/2 10/13	Tom [1] 50/11
25/6 25/7	12/2 15/18 20/6	Tomb [1] 34/13

T	transitioned [1] 110/2	tubes [1] 31/19
too [21] 7/17 12/15 13/4 29/23 64/20 65/4 65/7 65/13 66/1 70/3 70/5 71/11 73/14 74/25 89/1 93/12 95/2 97/16 99/9 99/14 106/6	trap [2] 17/1 17/4	Tuesday [4] 12/3 12/5 12/20 19/9
tore [1] 8/16	travel [2] 18/4 35/13	turn [7] 8/12 9/1 77/10 78/16 79/21 115/20 131/16
total [3] 18/22 35/9 35/13	traveling [1] 18/10	turn-ins [1] 77/10
totals [1] 20/11	treasurer [3] 2/12 19/16 74/10	turned [4] 77/10 77/12 77/18 78/9
tournament [16] 16/5 16/7 17/2 17/8 17/16 17/19 17/23 36/7 36/11 36/12 36/15 36/16 36/20 36/22 37/4 37/11	Treatment [2] 43/9 43/16	turning [1] 78/2
tournaments [2] 36/13 36/14	trial [1] 80/17	turnout [1] 8/23
toward [1] 43/7	trickles [1] 10/4	turns [1] 72/4
towards [1] 80/1	tried [1] 129/14	TV [1] 77/8
tracking [2] 44/8 47/4	trip [7] 34/9 34/12 34/25 35/2 35/4 35/9 84/22	twelfth [2] 82/4 82/6
trained [1] 32/13	trouble [1] 9/6	twice [1] 19/8
training [3] 8/21 45/12 84/16	Troy [1] 46/19	two [17] 4/3 7/13 9/2 18/16 23/25 33/9 36/18 37/21 37/23 66/6 69/23 77/20 77/21 79/10 81/10 84/6 133/3
TRANSCRIPT [1] 1/6	true [4] 60/21 66/24 66/24 77/12	type [1] 88/4
transfer [3] 80/20 80/24 81/7	truly [1] 29/4	typically [2] 68/5 72/9
	try [10] 7/13 11/24 14/4 29/18 47/24 62/21 65/6 66/5 95/5 100/8	typo [2] 22/23 52/10
	trying [16] 17/6 21/6 23/13 25/16 32/25 54/19 71/9 71/9 71/19 76/15 82/20 83/12 83/17 104/14 129/10 129/15	typos [1] 19/14
		U
		Uh [2] 64/17 112/23
		Uh-huh [2] 64/17 112/23

U	Unfortunately [1] 37/12	126/23 127/1 132/7
unable [1] 28/11	Union [1] 43/15	update [7] 36/4
unacceptable [2] 78/20 100/3	unit [2] 74/10 91/17	61/24 76/12 78/24
unanimous [2] 102/7 102/10	united [1] 60/24	84/5 99/6 99/7
uncover [2] 4/10 132/8	units [2] 69/17 69/17	updated [2] 28/12 99/1
under [17] 12/13 26/21 27/1 31/7	unity [1] 69/25	updates [2] 59/15 62/1
43/9 43/23 48/10	Unknown [1] 34/14	upon [2] 11/25 103/20
53/17 54/1 64/16	unless [1] 15/14	ups [1] 36/17
66/10 67/16 72/23	until [11] 15/9 49/8 54/22 56/9 60/24	urgent [1] 85/23
73/16 80/21 116/24 125/24	80/16 81/5 81/8	urges [1] 44/25
underneath [2] 73/18 123/4	85/6 106/13 106/14	us [45] 4/11 4/18 4/18 4/19 4/21 4/22
understand [10] 20/5 21/15 24/11	up [57] 7/21 8/13 8/17 8/18 9/4 9/6	4/24 5/1 5/6 5/14 5/20 10/5 12/14
24/11 58/20 59/2	10/2 11/23 12/7	12/24 18/3 18/3
71/10 71/19 89/5 122/16	14/10 15/10 16/10	18/3 23/1 32/3
Understandable [1] 20/19	16/24 16/25 20/17	44/23 56/25 57/14
understanding [1] 55/11	24/8 24/20 25/25	58/11 60/25 68/6
underwear [2] 33/3 33/6	29/12 30/2 31/16	68/15 68/16 72/1
uneven [1] 73/19	31/16 34/5 36/23	76/3 76/6 78/8 80/8
unfinished [6] 3/11 26/21 27/1 43/9	36/25 43/16 44/17	80/9 86/4 87/13
51/18 79/6	45/7 49/25 50/6	89/20 92/3 99/23
	51/21 55/11 56/15	100/19 114/20
	62/14 64/20 65/25	130/18 132/4
	66/13 68/19 69/14	132/15 132/17
	70/25 74/2 75/14	132/20
	77/15 82/1 82/10	USAID [1] 55/4
	85/13 88/1 88/9	use [10] 25/20
	88/18 105/5 114/4	48/19 67/6 67/7
	116/2 119/1 119/1	

U use... [6] 67/7 79/22 79/24 90/20 92/20 102/19 used [9] 43/21 73/9 74/2 79/18 81/19 91/25 92/1 117/11 129/3 using [1] 55/4 usually [1] 85/21 utilize [1] 73/1 utilizes [1] 46/9	31/23 37/19 37/19 44/21 50/16 54/17 118/13 119/21 vet [4] 7/9 42/18 42/25 84/24 veteran [2] 44/18 81/20 veteran's [1] 60/1 veterans [34] 3/1 3/2 4/24 5/11 7/24 30/7 42/2 42/5 42/15 43/9 43/16 44/3 45/1 46/10 46/15 47/6 48/25 55/3 55/5 55/13 55/14 59/22 60/5 66/23 68/3 68/8 82/24 84/12 84/20 84/21 84/24 85/25 86/2 86/9 vets [1] 42/17 Vice [26] 2/10 2/11 6/10 27/10 29/1 29/1 35/3 37/16 67/3 71/3 74/7 74/18 82/19 98/7 103/4 107/1 108/13 109/8 109/10 110/6 111/1 111/4 111/20 115/18 121/2 125/4 Vices [10] 10/2 10/20 11/24 11/24	12/24 13/4 15/14 75/14 124/9 131/16 victims [1] 62/16 video [1] 60/7 violation [2] 73/22 96/11 virtual [2] 54/13 85/8 virtually [7] 38/8 40/5 42/7 49/20 51/14 93/22 99/24 voicemails [1] 92/22 vote [16] 34/18 47/15 53/10 65/9 95/7 95/18 101/2 102/7 102/10 102/11 106/8 113/21 113/23 114/24 115/3 115/6 voted [6] 51/24 85/14 86/8 95/3 113/22 125/5 votes [2] 53/8 54/19 voting [2] 30/17 52/5 VSOs [2] 42/19 43/6 Vulgamore [1] 62/5
V VA [12] 44/5 44/11 45/4 45/14 45/17 45/23 46/15 46/22 84/15 85/25 86/1 86/1 vacant [1] 47/1 various [1] 44/17 VBA [2] 47/3 47/7 VE [2] 48/17 48/24 ventilation [1] 31/19 ventilator [1] 31/16 verification [1] 40/22 verified [1] 82/6 version [1] 48/20 very [12] 8/23 24/15 31/9 31/20		W Wade [3] 46/6 46/9 46/15

W	Warriors [1] 84/18	82/6 85/1 85/6
Wait [1] 109/16	wars [1] 5/2	85/24 86/7 87/9
waiting [2] 25/1	was [123] 8/22 10/7	88/20 92/9 92/14
93/5	10/15 10/15 12/1	93/19 93/21 94/4
walk [1] 37/18	15/23 16/1 16/5	94/13 95/3 97/4
walk-off [1] 37/18	16/8 16/8 18/24	99/9 99/16 99/18
walked [1] 8/5	19/9 19/21 20/16	100/19 103/14
want [47] 9/3 9/5	22/10 22/11 22/13	105/1 106/17
9/7 10/11 10/11	22/14 22/17 22/20	107/14 107/19
10/24 12/21 14/15	22/25 23/6 23/11	107/23 113/4 116/4
16/11 16/23 21/15	24/16 25/8 28/8	116/9 117/9 117/14
21/16 26/20 26/20	31/14 32/4 33/21	120/18 125/6 127/3
27/5 38/17 57/21	33/23 34/1 34/6	wasn't [2] 31/13
58/1 65/2 65/3 66/7	34/11 34/16 34/22	69/16
67/24 69/22 72/11	34/23 34/25 35/1	waste [1] 26/13
72/21 72/25 73/20	35/14 36/11 37/2	watching [1] 77/7
76/4 76/7 76/8	37/3 37/4 37/11	water [1] 131/7
76/24 78/8 78/13	37/19 37/21 38/10	way [22] 12/4 12/23
78/13 80/3 87/2	38/11 38/14 38/22	20/20 23/25 24/9
87/5 87/7 87/16	38/24 38/25 39/1	28/20 29/1 34/21
91/8 94/11 118/23	39/5 39/7 39/8 40/6	36/18 48/14 58/9
118/25 125/20	40/9 40/11 40/15	65/2 71/13 71/18
125/23 126/20	40/18 40/24 41/3	82/25 92/24 97/3
130/16	42/3 43/4 43/7	106/20 114/13
wanted [8] 9/21	43/12 43/13 43/14	115/3 122/25 123/2
10/17 16/6 33/9	44/22 44/23 45/2	ways [1] 131/4
58/13 76/20 97/8	45/4 47/15 48/7	we [304]
128/17	50/24 54/6 54/8	we'd [1] 114/15
wanting [2] 8/10	55/15 56/20 58/6	we'll [9] 9/1 14/6
81/1	61/23 62/15 62/17	17/14 69/23 75/19
wants [1] 35/1	62/23 76/16 77/7	100/11 102/23
Warren [1] 17/24	77/13 78/22 81/11	115/5 116/23

W	weeds [1] 73/14	23/12 25/22 35/12
we're [43] 10/14	week [8] 8/22 14/5	36/22 38/4 38/19
12/25 14/4 16/1	43/4 60/17 76/13	39/1 40/13 42/9
23/8 25/1 31/8	85/4 86/3 99/23	43/25 44/12 49/24
54/16 57/2 64/23	weekend [1] 43/4	60/18 60/19 60/20
65/12 65/14 65/14	welcome [2] 7/1	61/16 62/2 62/8
67/11 67/17 73/13	70/6	63/4 78/19 84/25
75/16 78/18 79/5	Welfare [1] 40/24	85/3 86/15 91/21
85/8 86/18 87/6	well [37] 7/1 8/23	91/21 92/18 92/20
87/6 89/21 91/8	13/14 15/8 18/14	93/16 93/20 93/25
91/22 91/23 92/3	25/24 29/16 32/13	98/25 98/25 99/3
93/5 93/21 95/6	37/19 38/13 38/20	99/5 99/15 99/20
95/16 95/16 97/6	39/3 46/11 53/10	120/18 122/25
99/23 99/24 106/12	57/2 57/22 61/15	123/2 128/25 129/9
106/14 107/13	62/10 65/14 67/6	weren't [1] 47/9
114/9 122/16 125/8	69/6 79/5 79/13	what [80] 9/25 10/6
131/3	87/11 92/24 94/3	10/9 10/24 11/1
we've [24] 6/7 7/13	94/7 94/21 95/4	15/24 20/8 20/16
9/19 19/7 21/21	96/23 100/25 106/7	20/17 21/16 21/21
21/24 24/23 25/15	113/11 121/14	24/4 25/4 46/4 48/5
30/17 44/7 58/7	122/18 126/25	48/6 54/21 56/17
59/3 63/25 67/5	130/16	57/19 58/8 58/10
70/13 70/24 91/20	well-played [1]	63/23 66/3 69/6
94/9 96/2 100/4	37/19	69/18 71/9 71/10
106/20 113/7	went [13] 8/23	71/12 71/19 72/8
118/10 126/3	24/18 43/5 43/19	72/11 72/13 74/25
Weber [1] 45/18	45/5 48/4 54/10	75/1 75/2 75/5
website [2] 17/13	60/17 77/8 84/12	76/16 76/17 77/2
62/6	99/22 129/5 129/6	77/16 78/5 80/2
Wednesday [4]	were [49] 6/18 12/2	81/16 81/23 83/5
11/12 12/20 18/24	19/19 20/3 20/4	83/6 83/11 83/18
26/13	20/9 20/10 21/5	86/25 88/20 89/8

W	107/19 117/14	15/3 16/8 45/1
what... [29] 90/3	118/23 127/23	45/11 46/18 49/4
90/5 90/11 90/20	129/1 129/5 129/6	51/4 56/5 56/12
92/13 92/16 92/19	129/9 130/3	57/3 57/3 57/8
92/25 93/7 94/5	where [21] 20/9	57/10 57/18 64/4
94/7 97/11 98/23	25/16 67/12 67/20	64/10 65/13 74/8
99/9 100/5 100/14	67/24 68/9 68/22	81/20 84/25 85/2
100/22 101/3 104/7	69/3 73/16 74/3	85/13 87/11 89/2
104/11 105/1	75/9 76/5 81/13	99/25 105/24 113/4
122/16 125/10	82/9 86/2 89/6	113/10 118/16
126/10 127/14	91/12 91/15 118/20	118/17 120/18
128/13 130/13	129/12 129/24	125/2 132/12
130/20 131/18	whereas [3] 80/15	132/17 132/18
what's [10] 8/8	80/19 80/19	132/18
31/17 69/8 71/25	whether [5] 50/7	who's [6] 12/7
77/5 85/19 85/19	69/13 86/15 91/7	12/23 57/9 87/20
86/12 104/24 123/7	114/13	121/13 121/19
whatever [4] 30/24	which [21] 7/22	whoever [1] 87/2
67/23 82/2 90/17	10/8 22/18 23/12	whole [6] 24/14
Whatley [1] 6/20	23/22 33/24 34/18	80/15 81/25 87/8
whatnot [1] 62/22	37/11 44/3 44/5	88/20 89/6
when [41] 10/24	44/20 45/6 60/20	why [18] 20/10
12/1 12/22 19/25	62/9 65/5 65/8	21/4 22/20 24/6
23/3 30/3 30/8	81/19 94/9 95/3	56/4 56/16 60/19
31/13 34/21 44/19	96/2 117/3	64/21 64/23 68/17
45/23 49/9 54/4	while [6] 23/21	78/13 78/17 87/3
54/22 58/5 65/15	44/8 54/19 57/16	99/2 100/7 113/7
66/20 67/22 68/3	75/16 80/21	114/7 127/9
69/20 69/22 70/25	whinnying [1] 8/7	wife [1] 77/7
71/12 75/6 77/6	White [3] 109/10	Wiley [1] 10/5
77/13 79/21 88/9	121/2 129/21	will [48] 5/9 5/14
88/9 92/2 92/2 99/8	who [37] 12/11	5/20 8/23 12/23

W	withdraw [1] 107/23	workload [2] 120/24 123/18
will... [43] 17/17 17/21 18/8 18/11 23/19 28/12 30/4 30/12 34/4 34/5 34/9 34/20 35/5 35/7 35/8 39/8 42/16 45/6 46/3 53/9 53/13 57/1 61/21 62/3 64/8 65/13 72/10 81/4 81/19 89/24 99/8 103/24 104/12 104/20 104/21 104/23 106/7 110/1 112/21 113/5 129/23 130/5 131/7	withdrawals [1] 116/11	workplaces [1] 55/14
willing [3] 18/4 52/11 68/17	withdraws [1] 116/12	works [6] 4/23 43/19 58/6 74/11 83/7 83/8
Winchester [1] 12/17	withdrew [2] 107/16 107/17	workshop [4] 9/22 15/23 120/18 129/6
winner [2] 36/14 49/4	withhold [1] 49/8	world [4] 12/4 18/11 37/13 132/21
winners [3] 36/13 36/18 51/6	within [6] 29/7 45/21 68/13 90/20 123/13 126/4	worried [1] 54/16
Winter [7] 52/1 56/9 85/22 129/22 129/25 130/3 130/13	without [1] 126/8	worry [1] 48/15
Winters [1] 46/25	women [1] 74/22	worth [2] 11/2 131/11
wisdom [1] 4/22	won [1] 37/17	would [48] 4/11 11/8 15/24 18/2 21/7 22/1 22/3 22/17 23/23 24/13 28/22 34/10 43/13 50/6 51/24 52/11 57/4 57/11 57/18 58/8 68/24 70/5 73/24 75/16 79/17 92/23 96/4 100/1 101/3 101/11 101/23 103/18 104/17 106/11 113/20 113/21 113/23 114/2 114/24 115/16 115/19 117/20
wish [1] 29/9	won't [2] 7/7 54/22	
	wondering [2] 56/4 92/9	
	Woodrum [3] 67/2 74/18 82/19	
	work [20] 4/19 4/25 7/3 7/19 7/24 7/25 25/21 30/19 46/24 47/14 69/1 72/25 73/8 73/24 74/6 78/4 78/14 80/1 124/6 124/6	
	Worker [1] 40/24	
	working [10] 24/16 29/21 66/6 68/15 72/9 73/6 73/7 73/18 77/22 126/24	

W	74/3 75/8 87/5 89/7	26/3 45/22 58/7
would... [6] 117/20	92/5 96/9 96/25	58/21 59/3 59/4
119/23 120/21	97/15 100/10	76/5 77/9 77/11
122/10 126/13	104/25 105/7 118/9	77/19 77/20 77/21
132/17	118/13 122/12	78/9 78/11 100/17
wouldn't [2] 21/8	123/16 127/21	113/8 118/18 126/3
69/16	127/25 128/3	129/14 129/25
wounds [1] 5/2	128/20 129/2	Yep [1] 118/12
wow [2] 15/22 77/4	129/18 129/18	yes [40] 7/24 19/22
wreath [1] 34/13	year [56] 7/19 10/3	21/17 22/6 23/2
write [2] 90/23	10/8 10/9 11/19	23/11 25/9 25/14
125/11	12/16 20/3 20/17	27/22 30/10 32/24
written [2] 34/17	21/5 21/9 21/14	37/23 58/3 79/8
82/4	21/15 26/25 27/4	82/17 83/21 86/17
wrong [6] 48/15	29/21 30/1 30/19	86/23 90/12 91/5
77/5 78/22 89/21	36/5 36/18 38/11	94/2 96/20 97/5
123/8 126/7	40/24 43/24 44/16	97/18 97/25 98/1
X	44/16 49/25 50/3	101/13 101/25
XI [1] 116/24	50/24 50/25 51/20	104/5 105/4 105/23
Y	51/21 51/22 52/2	106/1 106/4 106/4
Yanks [3] 18/18	52/6 52/9 53/11	114/1 115/15
43/1 44/15	56/7 56/8 57/13	119/18 124/25
yea [1] 8/16	58/9 77/25 78/10	125/17 128/21
Yeager [3] 37/2	78/11 78/12 78/19	yesterday [4] 38/4
37/5 37/9	113/5 113/7 117/3	38/5 38/8 86/8
Yeager-Benson [3]	117/11 118/20	yet [11] 11/20 21/10
37/2 37/5 37/9	120/19 120/23	24/24 28/17 28/17
yeah [32] 13/15	124/10 128/23	67/11 75/25 77/23
21/23 23/18 24/21	129/4 129/5 130/6	83/10 85/10 94/4
26/12 32/1 38/1	year's [3] 20/11	YMCA [1] 84/22
52/12 70/10 70/24	36/7 44/1	Yockey [1] 76/20
	years [22] 8/4 15/5	you [339]

Y		Z
you'd [1] 90/24 you'll [3] 19/24 20/13 70/7 you're [29] 10/2 21/24 32/25 65/1 66/13 66/18 66/23 67/19 70/25 71/9 71/9 71/19 72/2 73/18 73/21 77/4 79/11 94/13 95/4 96/11 104/11 105/13 105/20 118/5 118/7 128/4 128/13 131/6 132/7 you've [14] 9/16 10/2 11/2 11/23 11/23 11/24 28/18 30/9 70/23 71/14 73/7 73/24 90/13 121/14 young [2] 69/22 69/23 your [92] 4/12 4/16 5/12 7/2 9/6 10/16 11/1 11/17 12/8 12/19 14/9 15/10 15/12 15/18 16/13 16/18 16/22 16/24 20/23 21/4 26/24 28/4 28/22 29/22 30/9 30/11 30/11	32/1 32/21 32/21 34/19 38/1 56/6 56/7 56/8 58/15 58/21 58/23 59/4 62/4 64/8 65/1 65/9 65/16 68/3 69/8 70/1 70/1 70/2 70/4 71/5 71/6 71/8 71/10 71/15 71/16 71/16 71/17 71/17 71/19 71/21 73/4 73/5 73/15 76/1 76/2 76/4 76/24 78/13 78/14 87/4 92/6 92/16 93/2 93/17 94/12 94/15 95/7 96/12 106/24 115/14 118/14 123/18 127/6 127/8 127/14 130/4 130/10 130/11 131/14 132/19 132/24 yours [2] 15/12 29/4 yourself [5] 11/25 12/12 30/20 34/17 34/21 Youth [4] 2/25 40/4 40/17 40/20	Zanesville [1] 17/20