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THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Date: Saturday, November 15, 2025.

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

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

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1 Saturday, November 15, 2025.

2 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

3 COMMANDER OREN: Hand salute, two.

4 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS . . .

5 Uncover.

6 Ron.

7 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Morning everyone.

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

9 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Let us pray.

10 Thank you, Lord, for the purpose of our  
11 gathering this morning. We are grateful, Lord, for  
12 the safety of our journey coming here today. Give  
13 us the focus, Lord, to accomplish our mission for  
14 the betterment of our programs and our organization.  
15 Continue to give us Your guidance, Lord, as we  
16 proceed forward. And it's to You that we always  
17 pray. Amen.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

19 COMMANDER OREN: Cover.

20 The Pledge of Allegiance.

21 . . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

22 2VC LEWIS: Resolution 288, adopted at our 67th  
23 National Convention, calls for designating an empty  
24 chair placed at all official meetings of The  
25 American Legion as a physical symbol of the

1 thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for  
2 from all wars and conflicts involving the United  
3 States of America.

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

10 (THEREUPON, THE EMPTY CHAIR WAS PLACED).

11 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Mike.

12 Holly.

13 . . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

14 Roll call.

15 . . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . .

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, you have a  
17 quorum to conduct business.

18 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

19 Okay, Sergeant-at-Arms, introduction of guests,  
20 please.

21 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: Good morning.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

23 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: We have PDC Stanley  
24 Pleasant in the house. Robyn Ladson, she is the 3rd  
25 District 2nd Vice Commander on her way up. Jill

1 Dawson, Post Commander of Post 23. Patricia, I want  
2 to say bill a last glove. I'm sorry, Post  
3 Commander, 296, 3rd District Treasurer. Thomas  
4 Tierney, District 2, 2nd Vice. And Immediate Past  
5 Commander, of course, Mr. AJ Whatley.

6 PDC WHATLEY: Good morning.

7 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: And I guess that's it,  
8 sir. Thank you.

9 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

10 We need approval of the August DEC minutes. I  
11 believe they were sent out to everybody.

12 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
13 District Commander, so moves that we accept the  
14 minutes, since they were e-mailed out.

15 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th  
16 District, seconds.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

18 All in favor say aye.

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

20 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, same.

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

23 Okay, opening remarks by yours truly.

24 Hi. Welcome, everybody. Glad to see all that  
25 could make it and make it safely.

1           Some of the things that's been going on. I was  
2 down to Special Olympics Friday night. We received  
3 a nice award and a very, very nice meeting.

4           Also, the hall of fame for inductees was on  
5 last Wednesday. It was very well attended, brought  
6 in some nice people, officers.

7           And we also held a membership meeting, a Zoom.  
8 Put together a team. I'm putting together a team to  
9 work on membership, 888s, and getting the CPRs all  
10 in. Let's see if we can make 100 percent this year.

11          So I split the state into quarters. And I have  
12 representatives in each quarter. And we're putting  
13 a team together, bringing ideas together. We'll  
14 meet again at Mid-Winter.

15          And for a Post visit, getting their stuff in,  
16 we will be sending somebody to talk to them, to help  
17 them if they need help, whatever is necessary to get  
18 it done. I really believe we can be 100 percent on  
19 CPRs.

20          And at this time, Holly Lewis.

21          2VC LEWIS: All right. I'll be giving the  
22 report for the 1st Vice.

23          So, currently, we're at 68.57 percent, as of  
24 9:00 AM this morning, and we are in 19th place.

25          The Sons are currently at 40.23 percent, and

1 our standing there is 34th.

2 The reason I bring up the Sons is because we  
3 are responsible for them, accountable for their  
4 membership. So don't forget that.

5 I want to say congratulations to the 2nd  
6 District, the second-to-none District, for winning  
7 the Brown Jug with an impressive 77.65 percent.  
8 Great job.

9 (Applause).

10 You'll get the jug at Mid-Winter and the money  
11 at Department Convention.

12 Also, a big shout-out to the 15 Posts that  
13 reached 100 percent membership. And they're going  
14 to split a \$6,000 prize.

15 So I had Sherry just put it together by  
16 Districts, so you could see what's happening there.

17 So the 1st District had one Post that met quota  
18 by the September guideline, two by November, for a  
19 total of three.

20 The 2nd District had two by the September, four  
21 by Veterans Day, for a total of six.

22 The 3rd District had two by Veterans Day, for a  
23 total of two.

24 The 4th District had one in September, one in  
25 November, for two.

1           5th District had one in September, one in  
2 November, for two.

3           The 6th District had no quota Posts.

4           The 7th District had one for November.

5           8th District had none.

6           9th District had two by September, for a total  
7 of two.

8           10th District had four by Veterans Day, for a  
9 total of four.

10          11th District had one in September.

11          12th had one in September.

12          13th had none.

13          14th had none.

14          So good job. Encourage everybody to work their  
15 membership.

16          Our next goal is 75 percent by December 10th.  
17 We fell short last year. So we really need to push  
18 this. And it's our chance to really turn it around.  
19 And let's stay focused and reach out to all the  
20 Posts that are lagging in your District and offer  
21 support to help them cross the line.

22          Like Stan said, there is a -- what are we  
23 calling that?

24          COMMANDER OREN: Ad hoc.

25          2VC LEWIS: Yeah, an ad hoc committee that can

1 help you with that as well. So just let us know.

2 Every renewal and every new member matters.

3 And together, we can really make this happen. I

4 believe in you guys.

5 "Membership Revitalization," that's what we're  
6 calling it.

7 So, at this time we're going to announce the  
8 lanterns. So the 2nd District gets to keep the  
9 green lantern. And the 7th District gets to hand  
10 the red lantern to someone other than John Life,  
11 because he refuses to touch it. So, all right.

12 So, just a quick note on the 888 process. Our  
13 ad hoc committee, membership committee, is looking  
14 to optimize this process. So stay tuned on that.

15 In the meantime, please make sure that you're  
16 working 888s if your Posts have given you permission  
17 to put members in their Post.

18 If they haven't given you permission, encourage  
19 them to run the reports in MyLegion and be looking  
20 to transfer those members into their Post.

21 Most of those members think they're in a Post.  
22 Like 75, 80 percent of those members think they are  
23 in a Post. So make that happen for them.

24 The 1st Vice Commanders' meeting is on  
25 November 18th, at 6:00 PM, with Gary Cox. It's a

1 Teams meeting.

2 And as per our last meeting, all of the  
3 District 1st Vices should now have access to  
4 MyLegion. If you do not, please contact Sherry.  
5 Okay?

6 And then just as a reminder, you should be  
7 accessing your OhioLegion.com e-mail to get your  
8 weekly membership reports and other information.  
9 Instructions were e-mailed out after the last DEC.  
10 If you still don't know how to do it, see one of us  
11 afterwards, John, JD, myself. We can help you get  
12 in there. There are instructions.

13 All right, any questions on membership?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 2VC LEWIS: That is that report.

16 COMMANDER OREN: Keep on going.

17 2VC LEWIS: All right. So, 2nd Vice report.

18 Buddy checks are really, really important,  
19 especially this time of year. Because it's heading  
20 into the holidays and a lot of people don't have a  
21 good holiday experience. They really don't have the  
22 connections with family or friends or whatever. So  
23 it's really important to be doing, and encouraging  
24 your Posts to do, buddy checks.

25 These are not membership calls. These are just

1 reaching out to people to say, "How are you? Is  
2 there anything you need that we can help you with?"  
3 Okay? It's not asking them for their dues or  
4 anything like that. So encourage your Posts to  
5 please do that.

6 There is a tool kit on Legion.org, if you just  
7 search for "buddy check." There is a whole tool kit  
8 on how to do it. It has scripts and everything in  
9 there. So just check that out.

10 The other thing I want to say is really  
11 encourage your Posts to be marketing what they are  
12 doing in the community, whether that means their  
13 newspaper, community Facebook groups, their own  
14 Facebook group, whatever.

15 The one thing I will say that I think is  
16 really, really important, that most of us do not  
17 think about, the pictures that you put on social  
18 media and in the papers needs to be reflective of  
19 the people that we want to join.

20 Here's my story. I didn't join The American  
21 Legion because I never saw a woman, ever, in a  
22 picture. And that is what's happening. So you need  
23 to remember that your pictures need to portray the  
24 people you want to join, women, younger members, all  
25 of that kind of stuff. Okay?

1           Because I don't know if you guys saw the survey  
2 from National, but most people are not joining The  
3 Legion because they think it's an old man's bar.  
4 That was like 80 percent of the response. So we've  
5 got to turn that around. All right?

6           Also, encourage your Posts to reach out to  
7 other VSOs in the community. There's no reason you  
8 cannot be partnering with another Post or, you know,  
9 DAV, AMVETS, VFW, whatever, to collaborate and do a  
10 better job of something together. So really  
11 encourage that.

12           Registration is open for the seventh Annual  
13 Roger M. Hight State Bowling Tournament, which is in  
14 February, for three weekends. And there is a  
15 registration page online, plus I think you got a  
16 flyer in your packet. The registration deadline is  
17 December 1st.

18           We also need a Post to host the 2027 Department  
19 Bowling Tournament. We would like to target the  
20 Cincinnati area. So if you're interested in  
21 hosting, or know a Post that might be, please get in  
22 touch with Sherry.

23           And that is what I have. Thank you.

24           COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Holly.

25           TREASURER LaVOY: Unfortunately, Holly is

1 suffering from the onset of a cold, we think.

2 2VC LEWIS: Yes.

3 TREASURER LaVOY: And you have a speaking  
4 engagement on Tuesday?

5 2VC LEWIS: Yes.

6 TREASURER LaVOY: Yeah, it should be good.

7 Good morning, everyone.

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

9 TREASURER LaVOY: As the Treasurer report, I  
10 want to just pass on a few things. A majority of  
11 what we're going to talk about with regards to  
12 finance, of course, is going to be covered by our  
13 current Chair of the Finance Commission, Dean  
14 Boyers, during his reports. So I don't really want  
15 to steal his thunder, but I do want to hit a couple  
16 things that are important with regards to the  
17 budget.

18 As you know, we made a very concerted effort  
19 this year with regards to budget, to make sure it  
20 actually reflected our expenses and our proposed  
21 income that we were going to receive. We had the  
22 accountant, the bookkeeper, Holly, as the Past  
23 Treasurer, myself, the incoming Commander, staff.  
24 Everybody was a part of the process to go line by  
25 line through the budget to make sure we had a good

1 budget.

2       Unfortunately, as in previous years, our income  
3 is not on pace with our expenses. And this is  
4 basically membership and the income sources that we  
5 had originally, had planned on, are just not keeping  
6 up with it.

7       Every year since I've been on the Finance  
8 Commission, we've had to dip into the reserves. And  
9 we have reserves. The issue is: How long are those  
10 reserves going to last? It's easy to say, well, we  
11 have the money. But if you're spending four to  
12 500,000 a year out of the reserves to go against  
13 that budget, how long is that going to last? I  
14 don't know any banking institution that has an  
15 interest rate that will cover that amount of loss.

16       And so we're going to end up doing that again  
17 this year. And there's various reasons for that.

18       A budget is planned out. Hey, we're going to  
19 spend, let's say, \$8,000 towards hotel expenses.  
20 Last year, say we spent seven. This year it's  
21 eight. Well, and the actual cost comes in, because  
22 the hotels raised their rates, to 14,000. So now  
23 we're 6,000 in arrears. So those are the types of  
24 things that are affecting the budget.

25       I know no one wants to talk about dues

1 increases. No one is a fan of that. But we've  
2 kicked that can down the road so long, since 2004,  
3 that even if we raised what we had originally  
4 proposed, we're still going to be in the red.

5       So we have to look, and be smart at, what we're  
6 doing going forward. Are we going to just raise our  
7 membership five dollars? And as you know, there was  
8 such a push a few years ago, that was unsuccessful,  
9 that Posts, they knew it. The marketing campaign on  
10 that was so good that Posts already raised their  
11 rates. The membership didn't vote for it but the  
12 Posts, the key Posts out there within the state,  
13 have already raised their dues, in anticipation of  
14 us.

15       But even if we raise five dollars, it's not  
16 enough. And it's because the Districts, if you just  
17 look at our Districts, every year, how many of our  
18 Districts are actually reaching quota, or exceeding  
19 quota? You know we praise, hey, you're at  
20 70 percent, but then next year you're at 70 percent  
21 of the 70 percent. So we're in a decline.

22       So with that being said, what we're looking at  
23 also is the discussion needs to start about raising  
24 dues. Whether it's just membership, if we include  
25 SAL, make it a combination of both, how are we going

1 to do it? It's not up for me to decide. It's up  
2 for you to decide. How are we going to do it? But  
3 we need to start that discussion. It needs to be  
4 now because we can't keep operating in the red.

5 I know in the past people said, hey, let's  
6 cancel programs. But it's going to come down to  
7 programs or staff. And if it's staff, we do have a  
8 minimum staff and we're not operating at 100 percent  
9 with our staff, but if we cut staff, then it falls  
10 on you, all the chairs of all these various  
11 programs, to do all their work. And we have full  
12 time staff. So are you going to devote full time to  
13 that? Can you? Because most of you still have  
14 jobs.

15 So I just want to pass that on. As we go  
16 forward, it's time to start that discussion.

17 On a good note, and I think Dean may cover  
18 this, and I'm not going to try and steal his  
19 thunder, we've also asked Charities, for our last  
20 Finance Commission, to join the meeting. And the  
21 Chair did. We're looking at a partnership going  
22 forward.

23 And one of my questions to Charities was:  
24 Every year Charities obviously gives out money. And  
25 they do a great job at that. But is there an actual

1 plan? Do they just sit down each year and go, you  
2 know, this year we're going to give 20,000 to, let's  
3 say, Baseball? But do they have a plan that next  
4 year their going to increase it to 25 to cover costs  
5 or are they just going to look the next year, in  
6 '26, and go, yeah, we gave them this much this year,  
7 let's vote, and we're going to give it to them? Is  
8 there an actual plan for how their spending their  
9 funds?

10 So they're looking at that as well, but they  
11 also want to partner, have a good partnership with  
12 the Finance Commission so we're fiscally responsible  
13 on how the funds are being spent.

14 So that's just my comments. They're just not,  
15 hey, yeah, everything is great. I just want to give  
16 you the no-nonsense, this is where we're at.

17 So, going forward, think about it. We're open  
18 to suggestions. And we can expand on some of the  
19 comments when Dean comes up.

20 Does anybody have any questions?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 TREASURER LaVOY: All right.

23 So I know Dean will have his report and then we  
24 can expand on any of your questions you may have,  
25 because he'll go into a lot more detail.

1 All right, Dean.

2 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Good morning.

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

4 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Well, let's start with the  
5 meetings. I'm going to assume everybody got a copy  
6 of the meeting minutes from our last three meetings  
7 that we had. I'll hit the highlights.

8 And does anybody have any questions at this  
9 point?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Okay, we met on  
12 September 17th.

13 One of the highlights from that meeting was the  
14 50/50 gaming update. The Finance Committee sat down  
15 and met with a representative from the attorney  
16 general's office. And it has been brought to our  
17 attention that what we were doing is technically  
18 illegal, by us selling the raffle tickets online.  
19 That's considered online gambling, which is illegal,  
20 at this time, in the State of Ohio. So we had to  
21 discontinue that program.

22 They did let us know that there might  
23 potentially be some legislation coming up in the  
24 future to change that. So if that happens, we will  
25 obviously take a look at getting that program

1 started.

2 The unfortunate part about that is we budgeted  
3 \$24,000 in income for that program. So that is not  
4 going to happen, one of the many challenges so far  
5 for this year in the world of finance.

6 Moving right along, the other highlight that I  
7 had from that meeting that I wanted to point out to  
8 you is the National Convention budget is showing a  
9 little bit lopsided on there, due to the fact that,  
10 after the budget was already approved, we voted to  
11 change the delegate reimbursement from 30 cents per  
12 member to 60 cents per member, essentially doubling  
13 our cost for the National Convention to support the  
14 delegates. So that threw that portion of the budget  
15 off a little bit. Obviously we will make  
16 corrections in next year's budget to reflect that  
17 increase.

18 Does anybody have any questions about the  
19 September meeting minutes?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Moving right along to the  
22 October 15th meeting, that was a relatively basic  
23 meeting.

24 One of the big topics of discussion in that  
25 meeting was the Commander's travel reimbursement to

1 the National Convention. With the changing of the  
2 Commander's vehicle and it now becoming a  
3 Department-owned vehicle, there's been some  
4 back-and-forth discussion about how the current  
5 Commander is going to be reimbursed for travel, or  
6 if the current Commander is going to be reimbursed  
7 for travel, since the National Convention is  
8 technically the outgoing Commander's convention. So  
9 there was just some things in the SOP for the  
10 Commander's vehicle that I don't think were  
11 initially thought of or addressed. So we are  
12 working to make some adjustments in that SOP to get  
13 that a little bit more clearly defined.

14 Anybody got any questions on the October  
15 meeting minutes?

16 Yes, sir.

17 NEC CHAPMAN: Looking at your October minutes,  
18 the first thing, Baseball, it says the program  
19 expense was \$57,000, exceeding the \$40,000 budget.

20 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Correct.

21 NEC CHAPMAN: The overage is due to Baseball  
22 Committee's decision to pay for hotel rooms for the  
23 junior tournament, --

24 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Yes.

25 NEC CHAPMAN: -- in addition to the senior

1 tournament.

2 My question is: That \$17,000, what were the  
3 room rates down there? Because if the room rates  
4 were \$200, which I doubt, that would be 85 room  
5 nights. And if the room rates were 225, that would  
6 be 75 room nights. How many rooms did you have,  
7 would be my question?

8 And I think you can probably address that when  
9 Christie gives her report.

10 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Okay.

11 NEC CHAPMAN: So, you know, so, I know they're  
12 over budget, but I don't think it's all, it can't be  
13 all hotel rooms. So what other costs were there  
14 that helped create that overage? That would be my  
15 question.

16 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: And I completely understand  
17 that. And that's something that I'm already  
18 currently addressing for this upcoming budget. I  
19 talked to Chris Emmons, the chairman of that  
20 committee, and I've also talked to Christie, both,  
21 so we can kind of get together so we can go through  
22 the expenses from last year so we can put together a  
23 little bit tighter budget for this year, and then  
24 see where the shortfalls were and why we off by  
25 \$17,000 last year, so we can get that a little bit

1 closer this year.

2           NEC CHAPMAN: Well, you know, officers' travel  
3 is included in that. Yeah, I understand they should  
4 be there, but they have their own budgets that they  
5 can use to go to those. That's just something, you  
6 know, to think about.

7           CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Thank you, Chappy.

8           TREASURER LaVOY: One of the things that I want  
9 to caveat on that, that we brought up within the  
10 commission, was when these various commissions say,  
11 hey, we have an excess and we want to include the  
12 juniors, that decisions like that that affect monies  
13 need to come back to the Finance Commission, so  
14 they're not just voting amongst themselves and then  
15 doing it, and then we end up in the Finance  
16 Commission going, "Why are we in the red when we  
17 budgeted accordingly?"

18           CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Thank you.

19           NEC CHAPMAN: Okay. My next question on the  
20 October meeting is: Is there a line item for  
21 building maintenance?

22           CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Yes, there is.

23           NEC CHAPMAN: I know you talk about the water  
24 heater. And of course, until that fails, you'll run  
25 it.

1           Why hasn't the building been power washed? Why  
2 aren't those doors taken care of out front?

3           CHAPLAIN DISTEL: JD.

4           COMMANDER OREN: Be sure to state your name.

5           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: JD Robinson, Department  
6 Adjutant.

7           Chappy, I'm working on the quotes right now.  
8 I've had three handymen in this week to give us  
9 quotes on inside-the-building repairs. We've had  
10 two power washing companies come in. And the door  
11 quotes we have, I'm getting it all put together to  
12 get a package for an e-mail vote to the Finance  
13 Committee. And we're hoping to have all that done  
14 in December.

15          NEC CHAPMAN: And then my last question on the  
16 October minutes would be --

17          COMMANDER OREN: Your name?

18          NEC CHAPMAN: Ron Chapman, NEC.

19          Thank you, Commander.

20          COMMANDER OREN: Sure.

21          NEC CHAPMAN: When the Adjutant confirmed that  
22 the evaluations are not complete, he stated that  
23 there's overkill in the present process. Are you  
24 taking measures to take care of that?

25          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They are completed.

1           NEC CHAPMAN:   Okay, very good.

2           CHAIRMAN BOYERS:   Thank you.

3           ASST SGT-AT-ARMS MASON:   Mason, Post 344,  
4   Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms.

5           If I could ask a question, going back to the  
6   junior hotel coverage. I attended the Baseball  
7   Commission meeting last spring and we were told that  
8   the Department of Ohio, or Detachment of Ohio SAL,  
9   was going to cover 100 percent of the juniors going  
10   to the hotels for the Department Tournament. So we  
11   shouldn't have no \$17,000 additional because they  
12   said they were going to cover that. But that was  
13   told to us in the spring Baseball Commission  
14   meetings here at Department.

15          ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   Robinson, Adjutant.

16          Bob, the motion that went to the SAL, that the  
17   SAL approved, is they would give, I believe it was  
18   \$5,000, to the juniors' tournament for Baseball. It  
19   wasn't 7,000. It was not to cover the cost of up to  
20   whatever the room nights were. That's a misnomer.  
21   Whoever told you that, that's not what the SAL  
22   passed. I was in that meeting.

23          ASST SGT-AT-ARMS MASON:   We were -- is Chris  
24   Emmons here?

25          FROM THE FLOOR:   No.

1 ASST SGT-AT-ARMS MASON: Because they told us  
2 that the reason the juniors was going to the  
3 tournament was because the Detachment was going to  
4 cover that entire bill.

5 COMMANDER OREN: Christie.

6 COORDINATOR WHITE: So I can speak on behalf --

7 COMMANDER OREN: Your name.

8 COORDINATOR WHITE: Christie White,  
9 Coordinator.

10 As the Coordinator for Baseball, the discussion  
11 was had about potentially having the SAL take over  
12 the junior tournament and fund it. However, they  
13 agreed to give \$7,000.

14 The junior tournament, juniors have always gone  
15 to the tournament. They've always been involved in  
16 the state tournament. We just never paid their  
17 hotel rooms before. So the SAL said that they would  
18 help pay for that, but they would not fund the whole  
19 thing. The juniors have always gone.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Go ahead, Mike.

21 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: Mike Kennedy. I'm the  
22 Chairman for the Finance Committee of the SAL.

23 We were hit with this kind of blindsided. We  
24 thought we were doing a yearly donation and all of a  
25 sudden we got hit with they wanted \$25,000. Well

1 there's no room in our budget for that much money.  
2 I mean, we're willing to keep supporting with what  
3 we can do. And maybe the next chairman can find it,  
4 but as the chairman this year, there is no way  
5 there's that much money.

6 Thank you, Commander.

7 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Okay. Any other questions  
8 for the October meeting?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Okay. Hearing none, moving  
11 on to our November meeting.

12 We just met on November the 10th, a little bit  
13 more involved meeting.

14 One of the things that, you know, we've tried  
15 several different things over the last year to  
16 generate some more income. We've started a couple  
17 affiliated partnerships. One of them is with a pet  
18 insurance company. I don't know if anybody has  
19 taken advantage of that. We get a portion of that.  
20 I don't believe we've had a real big turnout on  
21 that.

22 When we take a look at that particular pet  
23 insurance, it's kind of questionable about what you  
24 get for your investment. And if you compare it  
25 with, there's a Spot Pet Insurance that National has

1 advertised on their website and what have you, you  
2 get a little bit more bang for your bucks. So we're  
3 currently kind of talking about whether we want to  
4 continue forward on with that partnership.

5 The other thing is the blankets. I think we've  
6 sold a couple of those blankets. We're kind of  
7 hopeful that once we move into baseball season and  
8 head further into the year, that will pick up a  
9 little bit on those.

10 But these are just ways that we've been trying  
11 to generate some more income. At this point in  
12 time, it's not really working out all that well for  
13 us.

14 We met with, like Ken said, we met with a  
15 representative from Charities, Inc., at our meeting.  
16 We kind of discussed ways that we're going to move  
17 forward with a partnership. I'm looking forward to  
18 that.

19 My question to them was: We'd like to sit down  
20 with them and go over the next budget and kind of  
21 iron out a way that, a firm game plan for that, so  
22 we can budget based on that. We're looking to them  
23 to kind of help us out with some of our programs.

24 Programs seem to be, well, that is one of the  
25 important things that we need to take care of. And

1 if Charities can help us with that, it will be a big  
2 help. But we need to iron out kind of a commitment  
3 from them, moving forward, so we know how to plan  
4 for our budgets.

5 We discussed the Commander's travel a little  
6 bit more in depth. We decided that we wanted to  
7 change the SOP for that.

8 I think the meeting minutes are off slightly.  
9 I think we discussed beginning to look for a new  
10 Commander's vehicle at 60,000 miles.

11 TREASURER LaVOY: We talked about the mileage,  
12 increasing the mileage.

13 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Right. Because the minutes  
14 reflect that we will start shopping at 50,000 miles.  
15 We had that increased to 60,000. I think we changed  
16 that to --

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: From 60 to 65.

18 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: -- begin shopping at 60,000.

19 The main goal is to try to get three years out  
20 of that vehicle. Our hope is to get three years.  
21 Because that's where we're going to find the biggest  
22 savings. With a three-year-old vehicle, with 60 to  
23 70,000 miles on it, Kelly Blue Book shows that  
24 vehicle should still be worth \$20,000-plus. So if  
25 we pay 50,000 for the vehicle and we trade it in for

1 \$20,000, that is \$30,000 that that vehicle cost us.

2 Previously, we were spending \$25,000 a year on  
3 the Department Commander's vehicle, which, over a  
4 three-year time period, obviously it would cost us  
5 \$75,000.

6 So we're hoping to save, over that three-year  
7 time period, roughly between 40 and \$50,000 by doing  
8 it the way that we're doing it now. So that's why  
9 we're kind of hoping to get three years out of that  
10 vehicle. Because I think we would see a bigger  
11 savings by getting that vehicle to last us for three  
12 years.

13 TREASURER LaVOY: Ken LaVoy, Treasurer.

14 When we wrote the SOP and we got this task last  
15 year with the Commander's vehicle, it was focused on  
16 mileage at 50,000.

17 For some reason, a lot of individuals thought  
18 it was actually two years. And they kept coming up  
19 to me and going, "Two years isn't enough." And I  
20 had that by multiple people. So that's why we had a  
21 discussion within the Finance Commission.

22 It is not year based. It's based on mileage.  
23 But we thought increasing from 50,000 to 60,000 was  
24 more realistic, looking at the numbers, and would  
25 save us more money.

1           This is also based on, which it is going to be  
2 approximately three years, but it's based on how  
3 many miles a Commander typically drives per year.  
4 So, I mean, some, sure. Holly will push that to the  
5 limit, getting around the state, but others aren't  
6 aggressive and they're not going to hit that  
7 30,000-mile mark. They may be more like 20,000  
8 miles.

9           So that's why we're increasing it to 60.

10          Thank you.

11          CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Thanks, Ken.

12          The only thing that we added in there was a  
13 maximum mileage of 500 miles per trip, one way. The  
14 big topic of discussion was traveling to conventions  
15 and we put a limit of 500 miles on that.

16          Staff pay increases, that was discussed heavily  
17 at our last meeting. JD has the staff pay increases  
18 all worked out. The action item we decided to just  
19 do a COLA raise with a one-time bonus. We  
20 authorized, well --

21          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No. It was above a COLA  
22 raise, what was authorized.

23          TREASURER LaVOY: Let's skip this and take that  
24 into executive session if we're --

25          CHAIRMAN BOYERS: All right.

1           TREASURER LaVOY:   Okay.

2           CHAIRMAN BOYERS:   So, Commander, eventually,  
3 through the meeting, we're going to have to go into  
4 executive session to discuss the staff pay raises.  
5 We can do that later on in the meeting, at your  
6 discretion.

7           So, moving right along to the elephant in the  
8 room that nobody likes to discuss, and that's a dues  
9 increase. Ken spoke quite a bit about the dues  
10 increase.

11           Last year we were over \$400,000 in the red.  
12 The year before that, we were in the same ballpark.

13           So, you know, we, two years ago, we had a dues  
14 increase on. It failed.

15           We spent the last year trying to cut areas and  
16 increase funding in other areas.

17           Last year's membership was down over 4,000  
18 members. If you multiply that out times nine,  
19 that's almost a \$40,000 loss that we don't have  
20 coming in.

21           If we are lucky enough to hit 95 percent quota,  
22 I'm all on board. I'd love to see us at 105  
23 percent. But if we hit 95 percent, that five  
24 percent loss in our membership is another 4,000  
25 members.

1           So, I'm been looking at the budget for this  
2 year. And in order to -- I don't even know how I'm  
3 going to come close to having a balanced budget.  
4 But without a dues increase, there's going to be  
5 some significant cuts made to our 2026-'27 budget.

6           I don't think, I'll be honest with you, I don't  
7 think you're going to like a lot of the cuts that  
8 we're looking at making. So it's, in my opinion,  
9 it's imperative that we take a look. And we don't  
10 have anything set in stone at this point in time,  
11 but I just want you to know that it's something that  
12 the Finance Committee is looking at, we're talking  
13 about.

14           There's other things that we're talking about.  
15 And like I said, we want to sit down with Charities  
16 and see what kind of support we can get from them to  
17 help us out with our programs.

18           We'd like to sit down with the SAL to see if we  
19 can maybe talk to them about a potential dues  
20 increase on their side. Because right now we get  
21 \$2, \$2 per member, from the SAL. So we'd like to  
22 see if we could potentially increase that.

23           You know, we've done things like we spoke  
24 about. We have made changes in the Commander's  
25 vehicle. We've tried several different ways to

1 stimulate our income without a dues increase. It  
2 seems like every time we go down the road we hit a  
3 dead end on some of these things.

4 I'm open to ideas on what we could do to  
5 generate income. But at this point in time it looks  
6 like the dues increase is something that we're going  
7 to have to take a very serious look at.

8 Ken, is there anything else that you would like  
9 me to add with that?

10 I think Ken touched on a lot of this stuff.

11 So, like I said, it's nothing that we have set  
12 in stone at this point in time, but it's something  
13 that the Finance Committee is, we're crunching the  
14 numbers, taking a look, but it's highly likely that,  
15 if we don't have it this year, it's definitely going  
16 to be a must next year. But I really don't see how  
17 I can put together a budget without it.

18 So, is there any questions on the November  
19 meeting minutes?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Any questions on the November  
22 meeting minutes?

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24 COMMANDER OREN: Dean, before you go, can I get  
25 a motion to go into executive session?

1 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: You want to do that right  
2 now?

3 COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: Okay. All right, then I make  
5 a motion to go into executive session to discuss  
6 payroll.

7 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
8 District Commander, seconds the motion.

9 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, thank you, John.  
10 All in favor say aye.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

12 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

15 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: Please, if you're not a  
16 voting member of the DEC, please leave the room at  
17 this time.

18 (THEREUPON, THE COMMITTEE MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE  
19 SESSION).

20 (THEREUPON, THE COMMITTEE RETURNED TO REGULAR  
21 SESSION).

22 THE COURT: Okay. Dean, we need a motion.

23 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: If we need a motion, I'd like  
24 to have that come from the floor.

25 Do we have a motion from the floor to --

1           14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
2 District Commander, so moves that we accept what was  
3 discussed in the executive session.

4           NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC, seconds.

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 of  
12 what we discussed in executive session and you're  
13 for it say aye.

14          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

15          COMMANDER OREN: All opposed say nay.

16          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Nay.

17          COMMANDER OREN: Okay, motion carries.

18          Okay, moving on, Department Chaplain.

19          CHAPLAIN DISTEL: And I thought I was going to  
20 have the saddest report today, but I got beat.

21          Since our last meeting, I've been notified of a  
22 number of Legion members, along with family and  
23 friends, that were in need of care and comfort. The  
24 ones that I received an address for, I sent cards  
25 out to, whether it was simply cards or get-well

1 cards or what have you. The others I replied by  
2 sending an e-mail on an e-mail that I received.

3 So, please, if you notify me of someone that  
4 needs attention, include an address or some way to  
5 get ahold of the family or whatever. It really  
6 would be good.

7 I received a total of 15 notices since our last  
8 gathering. I'd like to go through those quick here.

9 Past Department Commander Jason Rue had serious  
10 abdominal surgery and he's still recovering. So  
11 keep him in your thoughts.

12 Past Department Commander Ron Chapman, his wife  
13 is going under surgery and she's got some more to  
14 go. She's doing well. Keep her in your thoughts  
15 and prayers too.

16 Tim Shaw, his sister had surgery.

17 Gloria Verbecky, of McClure, Ohio. I think  
18 she's a Past Department President. She was in the  
19 hospital and I tried to get more information on her.  
20 I haven't heard anything. So if anybody knows of  
21 anything, I'd appreciate some information.

22 I also received word that the Poppy Chairperson  
23 was in a car accident. I had no name and no  
24 address. So all I did was respond to the e-mail  
25 that I received.

1           JD, our Adjutant, his mom passed away recently.

2 I responded to that.

3           Heather Spelak, her grandson was in a car  
4 accident. And I had no address for that, so I  
5 responded to the e-mail again.

6           Dave Ridenour, Past Boys State President, he's  
7 currently up in Ann Arbor, he's going through cancer  
8 treatment. He said he probably isn't going to be  
9 out for another seven to eight days. I do stay in  
10 contact with his wife and get as much information as  
11 I can. He went for a routine checkup and it didn't  
12 turn out well, which is really sad.

13           I received word from Department, I think it was  
14 from Hope, that two West Virginia Legionnaires were  
15 in a bad accident in Ohio here. The car rolled  
16 over. One received back surgery, another one had  
17 broken ribs. I had addresses. I sent both of them  
18 get-well cards and that we were thinking of them.

19           I got a message from Past Department Commander  
20 Jean that her sister lost her husband on November  
21 10th. And she also had lost her son in October, in  
22 an automobile accident. So she is going through a  
23 tough time.

24           Through the grapevine, I heard that Darell  
25 Bishop is in a care facility also.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: He's out.

2 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: He's out now.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah.

4 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Very good. Thank you. I'm  
5 glad to hear that.

6 And I received a request from Department to  
7 contact the new Chaplain of Post 421, over in  
8 Brookpark. I got ahold of him. He's never held an  
9 office before. And I walked him through some of the  
10 steps and he was real appreciative. And he's gotten  
11 back with me.

12 So if you know anybody that just needs some  
13 assistance and I can be of assistance to them, just  
14 give me a shout and we'll go on with that.

15 Let's see, since our -- I also received  
16 Department -- oh, I got that one already. I didn't  
17 know I had it on two pages.

18 We had a Religious Emphasis meeting the other  
19 week. I was a big boob in that one. I was not  
20 notified. Somehow, my wrong e-mail address was  
21 notified that we had a Religious Emphasis meeting  
22 and I was not aware. My friend from the 2nd, Jim  
23 Fast, called me on the phone and said, "Ron, are you  
24 going to get on Zoom?"

25 "Well, I would. What for?"

1           So I'm going through my laptop and everything.  
2   And I went through new mail, old mail, spam mail,  
3   junk mail. I couldn't find a thing. Well, it comes  
4   out that they had the wrong address. They had  
5   crosswindacre@outlook.com. My address is  
6   crosswindacre@aol.com. So, therefore, I was not  
7   aware of it.

8           So we had kind of a haphazard Religious  
9   Emphasis meeting. And a lot of you don't know that  
10   I've stuttered all my life. And if I'm not  
11   prepared, I stutter. It was an ugly meeting.  
12   That's all I can say about that. So we got things  
13   pretty well checked out on that. Everything went  
14   pretty well.

15           But when you get back to your Districts, if  
16   your Chaplain was in on that, please let them know  
17   that I'm not inept. I simply didn't know.

18           One more thing. In a couple of weeks, we'll be  
19   gathering with family and friends. Remember to give  
20   thanks for all that you have, and include all of our  
21   brothers and sisters who are keeping us safe at home  
22   at this time.

23           God bless you all. Take care.

24           COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Ron.

25           And I'd like to add one to this. Ken's dad

1 passed away.

2 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Sorry?

3 COMMANDER OREN: Ken's dad passed away.

4 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Oh, I'm sorry. I got that.

5 I did write it down here, too, I promise you. I've  
6 got it on two different papers. I do.

7 Ken LaVoy's dad passed away yesterday. He was  
8 103 years old, and a World War II vet.

9 And Ken, you have our thoughts and prayers.

10 COMMANDER OREN: Yes, all our thoughts and  
11 prayers.

12 Department Historian Kevin Motter.

13 HISTORIAN MOTTER: Good morning.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

15 HISTORIAN MOTTER: It will be afternooon by the  
16 time I'm done here, once I find the right tab.

17 Page two, paragraph one, history is still being  
18 made within The American Legion Department of Ohio,  
19 and is continuing to be documented.

20 The Post, County, District, Department and  
21 National 2026 Historian's Guide is available at:  
22 [https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/patriot/exhi](https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/patriot/exhibits/show/2026entries/2026-contest-and-showcase-info)  
23 [bits/show/2026entries/2026-contest-and-showcase-info](https://legionhistoryshowcase.omeka.net/patriot/exhibits/show/2026entries/2026-contest-and-showcase-info)  
24 or you can pick up this QR code back here, scan the  
25 QR code, it will take you right to the web page and

1 you can download the Historian's Guide there, for  
2 your Historians at your Post, County, and your  
3 District level, or you can wait until the winter  
4 edition of OLN comes out. My friend Jon Vulgamore  
5 is going to put all that stuff in there so you don't  
6 have to write all that horse crap down.

7 I thank all of those who are submitting photos  
8 to me. I'm continually putting them in the file  
9 that I have to make the Commander's History Book.

10 If you have any questions, I'll be available  
11 after the meeting to tell you something that sounds  
12 plausible. It's probably wrong.

13 Thank you, Commander, sir. That is my report.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

15 NEC Ron Chapman.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, just to keep this short and  
17 sweet, we had our fall meetings in Indianapolis.

18 And I have copies here of our morning session and  
19 our afternoon session. These are available for you  
20 to read in the archives now. That's been updated.

21 And all you have to do is go on the National  
22 website, go to the archives, and look for the  
23 National meetings, and you can get this information  
24 and you can see what's discussed there.

25 At the fall meetings, we had 30 resolutions

1 that we reviewed. Of those resolutions, 27 of them  
2 were adopted. A lot of them were just clean-up  
3 stuff.

4 Ohio did not have any resolutions presented.  
5 We had two that were referred back to the VA&R  
6 Committee and one that was referred back to the  
7 Americanism Committee.

8 Once again, those resolutions can be read.  
9 Well, they're here if you want this. These are  
10 available (indicating). They're on the archives at  
11 the National organization.

12 One of the things that I want to ask you to do  
13 is, this National Constitution and Bylaws, it's very  
14 important that you look at this. Gary, I know,  
15 would appreciate you looking at this, too, for when  
16 you do your constitution and bylaws. And he's  
17 probably going to talk about that a little later.  
18 But familiarize yourself with this. Our Department  
19 Bylaws mirror this, up to a certain point. And you  
20 need to know what's in there. At least do it a  
21 one-time read.

22 One of the things that they talked about, and  
23 this was brought up in our last meeting, was the  
24 four basic rules of a program. There's a form here.  
25 And we were all given this form. And it's been

1 e-mailed to all of you I know. So if you just look  
2 at your e-mails and download that, it tells you what  
3 you're responsible to do with these programs and  
4 what they're responsible to do in reporting to you.

5 And there's also a page on the back of that  
6 that asks for a signature of your leaders of those  
7 programs. And what I would like to see, and I won't  
8 make a motion, but what I would like to see is for  
9 our Internal Affairs Commission to look at this and  
10 include this as a check item in your Post  
11 Inspections. That way we know that everybody at  
12 least says they're in compliance. I'd like to see  
13 you do that.

14 I want everybody to please stay involved in the  
15 grassroots efforts to contact your local  
16 congressmen. I'm sure Jacob will have a lot to say  
17 about that when he's up here. But it's very  
18 important that you contact your congressmen and your  
19 senators and let them know what our stances are on a  
20 lot of those programs.

21 And lastly, I want to, Steve Masowick was here  
22 earlier and he asked me to let everyone here know  
23 that at the Mid-Winter there will be a meeting, the  
24 times will be announced, that's for National  
25 call-ins. If you have a National appointment, we

1 would like for you to attend that meeting at the  
2 Mid-Winter Conference.

3 If there are any of you out there, or anyone in  
4 the District who is interested in being a candidate  
5 for a Department office, it's not a requirement but  
6 we'd like to have an interview with you. Sometimes  
7 we can make suggestions to you. We're never going  
8 to tell anybody they can't do something, but  
9 sometimes we can suggest, give you some good  
10 pointers.

11 And those of you who are National appointees,  
12 Steve wanted me to remind you that the fee is \$25  
13 for your National appointment. We'd like to get all  
14 that in by the Mid-Winter Conference.

15 What we do with that is we support the leading  
16 candidate for next year's National Commandership.  
17 We usually present them a check in Washington, D.C.,  
18 with those donations.

19 So with that being said, I'm going to let Bob  
20 say anything that he might have to say.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Chappy.

22 Our Alternate NEC, Mr. Robert Schmitt.

23 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Okay, I just want to  
24 mention a little bit about what NEC Chapman spoke  
25 about, the four rules. Suzette Heller passed this

1 out way back when I was Department Commander, about  
2 the four rules of the programs. Okay?

3 And those four rules are: Rule No. 1 is  
4 leadership; Rule No. 2 is rules; Rule No. 3 is  
5 reports; and Rule No. 4 is controls. And that  
6 information is available.

7 Now how this come about is, at the NEC meeting,  
8 the Judge Advocate also presented us with a legal  
9 opinion, which was also supported by the SAL Judge  
10 Advocate, and regards, basically, you want to know  
11 that Legion Riders and SAL are programs of The  
12 American Legion and they have to follow the rules.  
13 They are not entitled to Legion benefits unless they  
14 are actual Legionnaires. The Sons are not, unless  
15 they're dual members, are not entitled to come and  
16 do whatever they want at the Post without the Post's  
17 approval. Okay? So that's probably the biggest  
18 thing.

19 I guess the biggest thing is when they opened  
20 up the NEC meeting, we had to watch a video on  
21 diversity.

22 And Mr. Adjutant, we should have that video  
23 here so everybody here, at the next DEC, could see  
24 that video on diversity.

25 It talks about how we treat our fellow

1 Legionnaires, our staff, things like that. Comments  
2 that are made, you know, thinking we're making a  
3 joke out of somebody's handicap, you know, like me  
4 wobbling across here, those kinds of things, you  
5 don't know how that's going to affect somebody. And  
6 we need to be more in tune on what we say to people  
7 and how we say it. That's basically it. It was  
8 about a 15-minute video. And then we had to sign a  
9 document at the end that we did view that video.

10       So, anyways, it's very important how we all  
11 talk to each other and treat each other. Treat each  
12 other and say to them what you want said to you. If  
13 you don't want it said to you, don't say it to  
14 somebody else. I guess that's the biggest thing.

15       Otherwise, at the NEC, I'm doing what I'm  
16 supposed to do, keeping my mouth shut and listening.  
17 Here, it's another story.

18       Thank you.

19       COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

20       Okay, the Judge Advocate, he is excused. He's  
21 doing well. I talked to him, or text, and he's  
22 recovering well. But it's going to be a while.

23       Okay, Department Parliamentarian Gary Minadeo.

24       PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: After this you will  
25 not be required to sign anything or look at a video.

1           Whatever Bob just said, I say weekly to my 11,  
2 12 and 13-year-old students. So I guess none of us  
3 really grow up.

4           Guys, constitution and bylaws, it's become  
5 cumbersome for me that I'm not getting back to  
6 everybody as quick as they want, which is they want  
7 me to reply to them the day before I get it from  
8 them. It's not there.

9           So, let's just understand, all this happened  
10 because, in 2013, they had a review committee. Art  
11 Lustig was one of the key members of that committee.  
12 All right? And he felt that he needed to see every  
13 constitution and bylaws that was changed and  
14 approved before it was sent back. So it was one of  
15 13, 13 constitutional changes they made that year.  
16 I don't think I was at that constitution, because I  
17 would not be a Legionnaire after that constitution.  
18 Thirteen changes, okay?

19           And the intent was that any change that was  
20 made, he was going to see it. And he would. And he  
21 would write two or three pages back, as a good  
22 lawyer would.

23           I don't do that. All right?

24           But, since it's there, and it says the Judge  
25 Advocate is supposed to do it, not the

1     Parliamentarian, I stepped up because it wasn't  
2     happening.

3             So here is what I need you to do. I want you  
4     to write this down. Because here's what I'm  
5     finding, and it's consistent. It needs to say "all  
6     wars." All right? Just scratch it out, write "all  
7     wars per National direction." You don't need to  
8     vote the bylaws when it's per National direction.  
9     Okay?

10            Amendments for the constitution and bylaws.  
11     The procedure for amending the constitution should  
12     be the same for the bylaws. They got smart. They  
13     thin out the constitution. They put all the other  
14     stuff in the bylaws and say "Can be approved at any  
15     meeting." No. The same thing, you've got to have a  
16     resolution, or at least a motion, for it, and then  
17     read it. Some people like to read it three times.  
18     Try to read it at least twice. But you need to  
19     notify, ahead of time, that we are going to vote on  
20     the constitution and bylaws.

21            Like my Post, we review, every January and  
22     February, our bylaws. And if we need to change  
23     anything, we work it up and we tell everybody, we're  
24     going to vote on this in December. Every December  
25     we vote on our constitution and bylaws if we have to

1 change it. And people know it's coming.

2 But you don't have to do it that far ahead.

3 Just give them 35 days. Okay? Our constitution and  
4 bylaws says it's got to be a 35-day notification.

5 Some people have a two-day notification.

6 "Well, you know, Gary, with e-mail" --

7 And I say, "Really? The average age is 72  
8 years old. They all don't have e-mail."

9 "But we publish it in the newspaper."

10 Really? There's a newspaper in your town  
11 still?

12 So give it 35.

13 "well, we send it through the Post Office."

14 Oh, they get it to you within two weeks?

15 So try and give it 35 days. Why? Because you  
16 just want people to know about it, have the  
17 opportunity to know about it, and then give input.

18 You could just scratch out "ten days" and put  
19 "35 days per Department direction."

20 Well, why don't we have to vote on that?

21 Because it's in favor of the blue cap. It's in  
22 favor of giving them more of a voice.

23 You really have to vote on your bylaw change if  
24 it's going to restrict the voice or if you're  
25 changing your dates.

1           Now, I recommend not putting dates of meetings,  
2 that we meet on the first Tuesday of the month, you  
3 know, and then you want to change it to the second  
4 Wednesday because that's when everybody can get  
5 there and you can actually get a quorum.

6           So if they want to change it, that they can  
7 vote, they need to meet. All right?

8           So they could scratch that out in a Post  
9 meeting. They could say, okay, we're going to meet  
10 on Wednesdays, and then change the bylaws and say  
11 we're going to meet once a month.

12          Dues. You need to have in your bylaws,  
13 according to National, that you will pay per capita  
14 to who you owe per capita to. So if your County has  
15 per capita, the District has per capita, we've got  
16 the state per capita, okay, and the National, so you  
17 will do that. But to put a price, to put a price  
18 tag in there, we know that damn thing changes every  
19 two years. So, you know, it's going to happen. So  
20 membership is going to go down and we're going to  
21 keep pricing them out of their network. So just  
22 don't put a number in there, because then you do  
23 have to notify everybody to vote on it.

24          Well, when do we vote on it then? You would do  
25 that at a meeting. And what I would do is give it a

1 couple meetings, you know, hey, we're going to  
2 change this and here's why, and have a couple  
3 meetings so enough people hear about it and you can  
4 get input. All right?

5 So that's the 35-day part of it.

6 Now, discipline. We're going one of two ways.  
7 People are keeping their own internal discipline  
8 procedure. All right? You've got your board that  
9 will vote and the head will be cut off two weeks  
10 later. They have all kinds of different, really  
11 weird things that have been in there, all the way to  
12 nothing.

13 Well, why didn't you put anything in there?  
14 Didn't you have this in your old one?

15 "Yeah. Well, it's just become too difficult,  
16 so we have nothing in there."

17 Okay, "nothing" is not the answer.

18 So I just know that all you need is something,  
19 either under membership or its own discipline block,  
20 but typically I simply say, under membership, put  
21 "discipline," and then say the discipline of the  
22 Post, if anyone, if you take the first part of it,  
23 if anyone is going to be reprimanded, expelled, from  
24 The American Legion, we will follow the discipline  
25 code procedures per the Department of Ohio at

1 Article V, Discipline, Section II, of the Department  
2 of Ohio and National. Let it stay at that.

3 Now some people have taken the discipline code  
4 and just copied the whole thing and put it in their  
5 constitution and bylaws. Fine with me. Probably a  
6 little too much.

7 I would just put that in there so if it does  
8 change, you don't have to change your constitution  
9 and bylaws. Okay?

10 Now, here's the deal. Unless someone wants to  
11 fire me, tell your Posts, if they've already had the  
12 vote, vote on it, approve it, send it to me, and  
13 I'll make comments, hey, listen, next time you do  
14 this, you might want to do that, unless they're  
15 totally broke. Okay? Because they're lining it up,  
16 it gets to me, I don't get it back to them in time  
17 and now they're all mad and they don't feel good  
18 about The American Legion anymore and I'm going to  
19 go join the VFW, who definitely has a good process.

20 So, just, let's not get -- let's try to calm  
21 people down. I'm doing the best I can to read  
22 through them. And I will get do it and I will get  
23 to it. But it's just simple comments I'm making on  
24 those three areas all the time.

25 And when I read everything else, I'm not going

1 to comment that you have some different committees  
2 than Bob has in his Post. You could form  
3 committees. I'm just looking for certain  
4 legalities. I'm looking at that quorum part.

5 That's the last thing. On the quorum, don't  
6 use percentage. Okay? Because most people don't  
7 like math.

8 So I've had three instances come up where they  
9 held an election and they voted and then someone  
10 smartly said, "Well, what's the membership on this  
11 date?"

12 Well, we know how that goes. Whose membership  
13 are you going to look at on this date? It's never  
14 good.

15 So I said, well, just look at what your quota  
16 is. Do you have that percentage? And rarely do  
17 they have it.

18 "Well, it's only ten percent."

19 Well, what's ten percent of 200?

20 "It's 20."

21 How many did you have?

22 "Six."

23 That's not 20.

24 So put a member there. I typically recommend  
25 however many voting members of your executive

1 committee, go two over that. I'll say it again.  
2 The voting members of the executive committee, not  
3 all the committee chairs, the voting members of your  
4 executive committee, go two over that.

5 Why? Because that dissuades the executive  
6 committee from saying, "Hey, I vote that we empty  
7 the checking account and put it all into our  
8 personal checking accounts."

9 "Yeah, that's a good idea. Let's do that."

10 And then they go to the next meeting and  
11 they're the only ones who show up because the quorum  
12 is less than the Executive Committee, no other  
13 members there.

14 And legally they could say, "Well, the  
15 executive committee recommended that we empty our  
16 checking account and give it to each one of the  
17 members equally on the executive committee." They  
18 do it and that's it. It's legal. It's not right.  
19 It's not nice. Everybody is going to call us and  
20 complain about it. And JD is going to call me and  
21 go try to figure it out. And I'm going to say, "You  
22 idiots. It's legal." So that's what I normally  
23 tell them.

24 "Well, what if we can't get that many members?"

25 I know. You're just going to have to get

1 people, and say, you know, Chappy, I really just  
2 need you to come. All right? Do you want me to  
3 pick you up? Get some people to those meetings so  
4 they have quorums. Okay?

5 So, sorry I took so long. But I'm working on  
6 it. I'll handle anything I can.

7 I just had District 7, was it, handed me theirs  
8 this morning. I'll try to read along here and go  
9 through it real quick.

10 Districts, Counties, send them up. But it just  
11 takes time and I'm not doing well with it. I'll  
12 just tell you I'm not doing well with getting them  
13 out quickly. So let them know that Gary is not  
14 doing well.

15 Anybody want to take my place?

16 FROM THE FLOOR: No.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That's what the beard  
18 is for. I'm trying to hide.

19 COMMANDER OREN: The Adjutant, JD Robinson.

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Good morning, everybody.

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'm going to elaborate a  
23 little bit on what our NECs were discussing with the  
24 legal opinion from National Judge Advocate Seavey.

25 We have the IRS, now that they're back in

1 business, they're coming out and visiting our Posts.

2 When the IRS comes into our Posts, they're used  
3 to our SALs. They're used to what we do. So they  
4 consider our SALs as members of our Post.

5 The 75/25 rule, we've went past that. We don't  
6 qualify for that anymore.

7 So, in National's wisdom, their way to fix that  
8 is to take the SAL back to what they are, which is a  
9 program of The American Legion. Therefore, they do  
10 not qualify as members.

11 So if the IRS comes into a Post in our  
12 District, your personal Post, and says, "Well, we  
13 need your membership list," you do not provide the  
14 SAL membership list. They are not members. You  
15 don't turn over your Baseball list. You don't turn  
16 over your Oratorical list or your Boys State list.  
17 So, therefore, you do not turn over your SAL list.

18 If they want to argue with it, send me an  
19 e-mail. I will get it over to the National Judge  
20 Advocate and National Adjutant, and they will be  
21 more than happy to work with those IRS agents. I've  
22 already done it once.

23 So that is my report this morning, Commander.

24 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, sir.

25 Who?

1           12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: 1st Vice Commander,  
2 12th District, Commander.

3           John, what about the liquor board?

4           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The what?

5           12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: The liquor board.

6           You're saying the SALs are not members. If  
7 you're talking about a D-4 license, what do you do?

8           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I will give you the correct  
9 answer is: They are guests within your canteen.  
10 They cannot purchase alcohol under a D-4 license  
11 according to the State of Ohio.

12           12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: That's correct.

13           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: So, therefore, somebody  
14 else would have to purchase theirs, licensed with a  
15 club license or a D-4 license.

16           12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: You're making a big  
17 mistake. I'm telling you.

18           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I can't argue with this. I  
19 can only report it. It's not my place to argue.  
20 This is what National is doing. This is how they're  
21 recognizing it. I agree it's a slippery slope, but  
22 that's where we're at at this point.

23           COMMANDER OREN: Okay. And none of us like  
24 that.

25           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Especially the SAL.

1           COMMANDER OREN:  Yes.

2           FROM THE FLOOR:  Now you're telling the SAL  
3 they're not a member.

4           Okay, now, commission reports, Christie White,  
5 Americanism.

6           2VC LEWIS:  And all the rest.

7           COMMANDER OREN:  Yes.

8           COORDINATOR WHITE:  Okay.  So, the Americanism  
9 Commission met virtually on October 4th, at 10:00  
10 AM.

11           It was motioned and seconded to approve the  
12 minutes from the last meeting.

13           The Educator of the Year was discussed.  There  
14 were three candidates that were nominated.  It was  
15 motioned and seconded to select Matt Berman as The  
16 American Legion Educator of the Year.

17           Unfinished business.

18           The A&G trips have officially been set.  They  
19 will be March 2nd through March 6th.  Our wreath  
20 laying will be Tuesday, March 3rd, at 11:15.  I  
21 know, legislatively, everyone will be at D.C.  So  
22 we'll see if maybe our two groups can merge  
23 together.

24           The SAL and the A&G trip, the SAL will not be  
25 joining this year.  They will revisit the idea next

1 year when they do their budget.

2 New business.

3 The Daniel J. O'Connor Award. Ohio has won the  
4 Americanism Award for the second year in the row.  
5 Districts need to congratulate their Posts and let  
6 them know their hard work is paying off.

7 Americanism and Government Test judges for  
8 Mid-Winter were discussed. Since it will be an even  
9 year, the judges will be District 2, 12, 8, and 4,  
10 as well as the Auxiliary Americanism Chairwoman and  
11 SAL Americanism Chairman. The alternates will be  
12 Districts 1, 10 -- no, I'm sorry, the first  
13 alternate is District 10, second alternate is  
14 District 6, and third alternate is District 14. It  
15 was motioned and seconded to approve those judges.

16 The American Legion Square Knot Award. The  
17 commission voted to approve Mark Wexner's  
18 application for the Square Knot Award. It just gets  
19 forwarded to National and they print them a nice  
20 certificate. They returned it and it said  
21 "Department of France" on it. So we will get it  
22 fixed. Everything else was great, except the  
23 Department of France.

24 In good of the Legion, junior shooting sports,  
25 hopefully we will be getting into that very soon.

1 And the meeting adjourned at 10:53 AM.

2 I believe we need a motion for this.

3 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a motion?

4 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC, moves to accept the  
5 Americanism report.

6 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC,  
7 seconds.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

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: Hearing none, all in favor say  
15 aye.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

17 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carried.

20 COORDINATOR WHITE: American Legion Buckeye  
21 Boys State met on October 11th, here at Department  
22 Headquarters.

23 It was motioned and seconded to approve the  
24 minutes from their annual meeting.

25 Personnel reports were given.

1           Bruce Tolle's resignation was accepted.

2           Trustee recommendations: Kenneth Parsons was  
3 moved to the 2029 group; Bryan Holden to the 2028  
4 group; Joseph Ball to the 2028 group; Scott Hunter  
5 to the 2027 group; Judy Johnson, Frank Barnes and  
6 William Genochio and Jacob Marx were moved to the  
7 2026 group. Russell Chapman, it was moved to accept  
8 his application, pending attendance to the program.

9           2025 attendance evaluations for commissioners:  
10 Brad Beatty, Dean Boyers, Mike Kennedy, Bruce Nixon,  
11 Gabriel Ramos, Emily Stilwell, Sylvia Thweatt, Brent  
12 Woerner and William Drexler were accepted as  
13 commissioners.

14           For consultants: Chris Epley, Lily Vrzal, and  
15 Steve funky last name. And Steve Scherer was also  
16 reinstated as a consultant.

17           The Samsung Scholarship Committee was selected,  
18 as well as the Hall of Fame Committee and the Boys  
19 Nation Selection Committee.

20           Dates for 2026 Buckeye Boys State: The spring  
21 meeting will be April 17th and 18th. And that's  
22 open for anybody if they would like to attend.  
23 June 14th through the 21st, 2026, is the 2026 Boys  
24 State program.

25           They established the 2026 enrollment fee still

1 at \$300. We discussed the National Americanism  
2 Conference. The section heads gave their reports.  
3 The Hall of Fame Committee gave their report. And  
4 the meeting adjourned at 12:53 PM.

5 5TH DISTRICT 1VC PARSONS: Ken Parsons makes a  
6 motion to accept.

7 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
8 District Commander, seconds the motion.

9 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, all in favor say  
14 aye.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

16 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

17 Well, if you don't like it --

18 Go ahead.

19 COORDINATOR WHITE: The Athletic Committee met  
20 October 4th, 2025, here at Department Headquarters.

21 Chairman Chris Emmons appointed the following  
22 to the Athletic Committee: Marv Shamhart as the  
23 Assistant Athletic Chairman; Phil Lightfoot as the  
24 Junior Baseball Director; Bryce Agner as the Region  
25 1Baseball Director; Mel Cantrell as the Region 2

1 Baseball Director; Bret Mavis for Region 3; Regis  
2 Kern for Region 4; as well as Jeff Vrabel, Jr., as  
3 the Assistant for Region 4. It was moved and  
4 seconded to approve those appointments.

5 A reading of the previous minutes were moved  
6 and seconded.

7 The 2026 Baseball Yearbook review. There are a  
8 couple new rules.

9 Region and state tournament play, late arrivals  
10 will be at the discretion of the Region and/or State  
11 Director.

12 Pitching eligibility and appearance rules do  
13 not apply to postponed or suspended games.

14 There's a policy for later arrivals.

15 We added pitch count rules to the Ohio  
16 Rulebook, a coin flip for all tournaments until the  
17 championship game.

18 There's also a few changes from National, which  
19 the committee is going to meet virtually next week  
20 to discuss and add to the rulebook.

21 If we are trying to get junior players to join  
22 junior teams, they should still play under The  
23 American Legion Rulebook, not high school rules. It  
24 was motioned and seconded that Legion Regional and  
25 State Tournaments will play by the National Senior

1 Rulebook for all junior and senior teams.

2 Super Regional Tournament dates and locations  
3 were discussed.

4 Junior Regional Tournaments need to be  
5 completed by Sunday, July 11th. Senior Regional  
6 Tournaments need to be completed by Saturday, July  
7 18th.

8 The junior and senior tournament dates:

9 Juniors will be July 16th through July 19th, 2026.

10 Senior will be July 24th through 27th, 2026.

11 Junior team fees are \$500. Senior team fees  
12 are \$600.

13 It was motioned and seconded to create a  
14 certificate of appreciation for Melissa Emmons from  
15 the committee for her help at the tournaments with  
16 the 50/50 raffle.

17 New Business: The next state meeting will be  
18 Sunday, February 22nd, at 10:00 AM, for the  
19 committee, 1:00 PM with coaches and teams, with a  
20 virtual option.

21 And the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 PM.

22 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th  
23 District, right here, moves to accept.

24 5TH DISTRICT CMDR RODGERS: Melissa Rodgers,  
25 5th District Commander, seconds.

1           COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

2           Any discussion?

3           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4           COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

5           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6           COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

7           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

8           COMMANDER OREN: Opposed, the same.

9           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10          COMMANDER OREN: The motion carries.

11          Go ahead, Christie.

12          COORDINATOR WHITE: Okay. Only a few more  
13 left, guys.

14          The Oratorical Committee met on October 12th,  
15 at 11:00 o'clock, virtually.

16          It was motioned and seconded to approve the  
17 minutes from the last meeting.

18          Approval of committee rules, we added "or  
19 virtually" on the authorized meeting section. It  
20 was moved and seconded to approve that with the  
21 changes.

22          Contest dates were discussed. It was motioned  
23 and seconded to have all the District contests  
24 finished by March 16th, and then the Department  
25 contest will be Sunday, March 29th.

1 National contest will be in Hillsdale,  
2 Michigan, May 15th through 17th.

3 Unfinished business: It was mentioned that the  
4 National contest still needs judges and the  
5 Oratorical Committee should consider going to  
6 National. National pays for everything except gas  
7 to get there and back. So it was motioned and  
8 seconded to ask Charities, Inc., to fund a  
9 45-cent-per-mile travel per diem for volunteers to  
10 attend the National Oratorical Contest, round trip,  
11 up to \$2,000 for everybody, total.

12 And the meeting adjourned at 12:18 PM.

13 COMMANDER OREN: We need a motion.

14 6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Will Little, 6th  
15 District, motions to accept.

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

18 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

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

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

25 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, same.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER OREN: The motion carries.

3 COORDINATOR WHITE: Religious Emphasis  
4 Committee met on October 3rd, 5:00 PM, virtually.

5 Reading of previous minutes, it was motioned  
6 and seconded to approve those.

7 Committee rules, motioned and seconded to  
8 approve those as well.

9 There was welcoming and opening remarks from  
10 Chaplain Distel.

11 The Father John Duffy Award and Chaplain of the  
12 Year Award, there were no changes or suggestions for  
13 either award.

14 New business: Sunday service for Mid-Winter,  
15 Chaplain Distel notified the committee that he's  
16 already planning a four chaplains. Department  
17 Convention will have a Protestant service.  
18 Mid-Winter service will be January 18th.

19 We had prayers and sick call.

20 It was asked that Department create generic  
21 get-well cards and condolence cards from The  
22 American Legion, if the District Chaplains would  
23 like to have some sentiments so they can mail them  
24 to sick members or to family of the members that  
25 have passed away.

1           And the meeting adjourned at 5:43 PM.

2           COMMANDER OREN:   Do I hear a motion?

3           CHAPLAIN DISTEL:   Distel, motion, District 1.

4           COMMANDER OREN:   Second?

5           6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE:   Will Little, 6th

6   District, seconds.

7           COMMANDER OREN:   You can't make the motion.

8           One more time.

9           6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE:   Little, 6th

10   District, makes a motion.

11          COMMANDER OREN:   Thank you.

12          11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS:   Rick Smathers, 1st

13   Vice, District 11, seconds.

14          COMMANDER OREN:   Thank you.

15          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:   Same if you're against.

22          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:   (No response).

23          COMMANDER OREN:   Motion carries.

24          COORDINATOR WHITE:   No. 6, last one from me for

25   now.

1           The Children and Youth Commission met on  
2           October 4th, at 11:30, virtually.

3           It was motioned and seconded to accept the  
4           minutes from the last meeting.

5           Special Olympics was discussed, about getting  
6           involved with their local programs.

7           The Columbus Polar Plunge is looking for  
8           volunteers, Saturday, February 7th, and that will be  
9           at the Fortress Obetz. If anyone wants information,  
10          I can get it to you.

11          The Battle of Delaware, our Department and  
12          Delaware plunge that we created last year and we are  
13          continuing this year, will be Friday, March 27th, at  
14          1:00 PM. Anyone is welcome to come out and watch us  
15          be cold.

16          The Child Welfare Worker of the Year was  
17          selected. We had two nominees. It was motioned and  
18          seconded to name William Dieterle as the Department  
19          Child Welfare Worker of the Year.

20          And the meeting was adjourned at 12:13.

21          We need a motion and then I have  
22          another action.

23          COMMANDER OREN: Okay.

24          Do I have a motion?

25          7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th

1 District Commander, motions.

2 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

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

5 COMMANDER OREN: All right. Thank you, Dean.  
6 Any discussion?

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

8 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

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

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Against, same.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

16 COORDINATOR WHITE: I would also like to add,  
17 the Commander mentioned it in his report a little  
18 bit ago, on Friday we were honored to be invited to  
19 the Special Olympics Heroes Banquet. And Department  
20 was awarded the Impact Award from Special Olympics  
21 for our partnership, all the support we give them,  
22 the family that we are creating with them. So --

23 COMMANDER OREN: I would like to pass the hat  
24 to support Special Olympics.

25 COORDINATOR WHITE: Please and thank you.

1           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: While they're passing the  
2 hat, I would like to thank the 5th and the 10th  
3 District for their last year's Polar Plunge. They  
4 both donated the most to our plunge. It was a tie.

5           So if I could see the 5th District Commander  
6 and the 10th District Commander after the meeting to  
7 schedule a time to come and take my pie in the face  
8 at your next District meeting, if possible, or the  
9 one after that.

10          We are probably going to plan to do that again  
11 this year. So if you donate to my Polar Plunge, I  
12 will come to yours. My Polar Plunge. Not hers,  
13 mine. And I will put that in my next report out to  
14 all of you.

15          COMMANDER OREN: I thank all of you for  
16 donating. Everything you do to support us we  
17 appreciate. And the kids are great.

18          Okay. National Security, Jacob.

19          COORDINATOR BRAULT: I will not take as long as  
20 Christie, I promise. I've only got two. She has  
21 like 50.

22          All right, National Security met on October  
23 4th, at 10:00 AM, virtually.

24          Motioned and seconded reading previous minutes.

25          Unfinished business:

1 Amateur Radio Program. I gave what limited  
2 information I had from National. Pretty much they  
3 said each Department can locally produce their own  
4 rules and procedures on how to start a program. We  
5 don't have anything set up as of right now. I'm  
6 going to get with the National and our National  
7 Security Program Commission to kind of set up rules  
8 and regulations for how to do that at our next  
9 meeting. From there it will go through the proper  
10 procedures, IA and to you guys.

11 New business: Law Enforcement Officer of the  
12 Year. It was motioned and seconded to accept Chad  
13 Etzler.

14 Then Firefighter of the Year, it was motioned  
15 and seconded for Lucas Woodward meeting.

16 The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Need a motion.

18 13TH DISTRICT CMDR LOCKYER: Lockyer, 13th  
19 District, so moves.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Second?

21 5TH DISTRICT CMDR RODGERS: Melissa Rodgers,  
22 5th District, seconds.

23 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

24 Any discussion?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1           COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

2           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

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

5           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

6           COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

7           All in favor say aye.

8           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

9           COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, same.

10          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11          COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

12          COORDINATOR BRAULT: Legislative, October 4th,  
13 11:30 AM, virtually.

14          Approval of previous minutes, motioned and  
15 seconded.

16          Legislator of the Year was discussed. It was  
17 motioned and seconded to accept Steve Demetriou as  
18 Legislator of the Year.

19          We had a lobbyist from a cannabis corporation  
20 reach out to me from Trulieve Cannabis. They are a  
21 medical cannabis corporation that has partnered with  
22 the DAV out of Tennessee, Kentucky, Florida,  
23 Arizona, California, and a couple other states.  
24 They've done partnerships with them.

25          And those states are strictly medical only. So

1 they've paid for the medical exams for veterans, a  
2 dollar for every preroll has went to the DAV in that  
3 state.

4 Ohio is a little bit different because we are  
5 recreationally legal. So they're looking at  
6 different ways to partner with us, potentially.  
7 That's a little bit down the road. They just kind  
8 of wanted to pick our brains to see how, from the  
9 legislative standpoint, and the VA&R standpoint,  
10 which Genochio will get to in a little bit.

11 From the legislative standpoint, they all  
12 seemed to be in agreeance that it is a benefit. It  
13 can benefit the mental health aspect. And  
14 legislatively, it is free and clear, and National  
15 supports it by Resolution No. 37. So, as long as it  
16 can pass on other aspects, there is no issue as of  
17 right now.

18 Senate Bill 92. It's 100 percent property tax  
19 relief for disabled veterans. It has not had any  
20 hearings in months, and we would like to have  
21 hearings or traction to make substantial change that  
22 will impact veterans for the better.

23 William Billings, 1st District, motioned,  
24 seconded by Kurt Emans, to have The American Legion  
25 Department of Ohio start a grassroots movement on

1 social media or other means to reach out to Senator  
2 Blessings' office to request that Senate Bill 92  
3 have a hearing on the 100 percent homestead property  
4 tax exemption for disabled veterans. That motion  
5 was passed.

6 The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Need a motion.

8 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman motions to accept.

9 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: I second, Suzette  
10 Heller.

11 COMMANDER OREN: You need to say your name,  
12 Suzette.

13 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: I did.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Oh, did you? I didn't hear  
15 you.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: It got drowned out.

17 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, any discussion.

18 NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

19 I'm not questioning anything about the meeting.

20 Those of you who are National appointees  
21 received a letter from Jacob. That was not a  
22 call-in letter.

23 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Yes, I misspoke on that.

24 NEC CHAPMAN: Yeah.

25 That was not a call-in letter. Because we

1 haven't determined who our call-ins will be for  
2 Mid-Winter yet. That's coming up shortly. We don't  
3 know how many that National is going to give us.  
4 It's usually seven or eight. And then the National  
5 appointees are usually from the VA&R, National  
6 Security -- and what's the other one, Employment and  
7 Education?

8 2VC LEWIS: Yeah.

9 NEC CHAPMAN: And so but that's where our  
10 National appointees will come from.

11 The rest, then, will be selected from Jacob's  
12 office, through the legislative council  
13 participation.

14 So, just a clarification, those weren't call-in  
15 letters.

16 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Thank you.

17 6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Mr. Commander, I  
18 have a question on the "grass roots" on this.

19 We had a speaker in from Grassroots this month.  
20 The problem was, he actually came in and he started  
21 slamming the VA, and then started slamming a whole  
22 lot of other things with the veterans. He said he  
23 was a Grassroots spokesman but he was also still  
24 part of the Air Force. He's saying that he used the  
25 VA system, but his whole purpose was to help

1 legislate for Grassroots.

2 And our understanding was we use Grassroots to  
3 help veteran legislation for the VA and for the  
4 veterans. Now this gentleman just slammed the VA,  
5 slammed all we stood for, in front of myself, in  
6 front of the VSO, and other non-commissioners. So  
7 we had to actually put him in his place pretty hard.

8 On that point, we're just not working with  
9 Grassroots anymore in that area, Ashland County. I  
10 don't know if it's just this guy himself, he don't  
11 know what he's doing so he had kids, but I will not  
12 work with Grassroots, unless you guys say something  
13 else, or if it's just a bad experience with this one  
14 guy or if there's something else going on here.

15 But he represents Grassroots and we brought him  
16 in from Grassroots and there's an issue with that.

17 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Coordinator Brault.

18 By "grassroots movement," we meant either  
19 myself or the Legislative Chairman using social  
20 media to push our involvement in Senate Bill 92, not  
21 working with the Grassroots Movement Corporation, if  
22 that's the question you were asking.

23 6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Yes, this guy was  
24 from Grassroots itself.

25 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Yes, not using the

1 corporation Grassroots, starting a small-time  
2 grassroots movement within our American Legion  
3 Department of Ohio.

4 6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Okay.

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 COORDINATOR BRAULT: I also have a Legislative  
16 update for you guys.

17 House Bill 476, that will allow the online  
18 raffle under charitable gaming law. There have been  
19 multiple sub-bills that came from that original  
20 bill. It is currently having its fifth hearing in  
21 the House Finance Committee.

22 The most up-to-date sub-bill has kind of some,  
23 I feel they are bad changes for our organization.  
24 I've just jotted down the bigger wickets. If you  
25 would like a full list, it's about seven or eight

1 pages of wickets on the sub-bill. I can get them to  
2 you.

3       You have to have either a physical ticket or a  
4 picture of the ticket to provide to the purchaser of  
5 the raffle, a message containing the ticket number  
6 associated with the physical ticket that you would  
7 give to the person purchasing a raffle ticket. You  
8 eliminate the need for the seller to be a licensed  
9 bingo distributor, so anyone can do it, which is a  
10 benefit. You can purchase raffle equipment from  
11 anywhere in the state, anywhere in the country. It  
12 cannot be restricted to only licensed raffle stores.  
13 The drawing must be open to the public and have  
14 invites sent out to raffle purchasers. So,  
15 essentially, it has to be in the State of Ohio. You  
16 cannot outsource to a different state for raffles.  
17 If a raffle item is other than cash, you have to  
18 offer the cash value of the item, which I know we're  
19 only doing cash 50/50 raffles as of now. But if we  
20 were to expand, at the Department level, to  
21 something else, we would have to give cash value.  
22 Those are the biggest ticket items of the small  
23 things in the sub-bills as well.

24       So, for Dean, if you wanted more information, I  
25 can get it for you. I can print it out for you

1 before you leave.

2 CHAIRMAN BOYERS: I'd appreciate that.

3 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Yeah.

4 HCR 7, that is our resolution to support the  
5 work at Boys State and Girls State. It is currently  
6 being held up for a third consideration on the  
7 Senate floor right now. Bob has been working with  
8 me to try and get the federal side to help out a  
9 little bit. They're kind of not wanting to get  
10 involved in state business because it's the federal  
11 side.

12 So what I can request from all of you is if you  
13 can please reach out to your state senators and urge  
14 them to push President McColley to get it for his  
15 third consideration. It's looking like, since there  
16 are only if-needed sessions after this Wednesday, it  
17 is likely going to be the final session for the  
18 Senate this upcoming Wednesday. So on Monday, if  
19 you can please call your state senator's office and  
20 urge them.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: What was it for?

22 COORDINATOR BRAULT: It's urging, it's  
23 recognizing Boys State and Girls State as premier  
24 educational leadership in the State of Ohio.

25 So if you can, please urge your senator to urge

1 President McColley's office to put it on the floor.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Jacob.

3 Adjutant Robinson.

4 Jacob, can we e-mail out that information so  
5 the District officers all see exactly what you want  
6 done?

7 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Yes, I can send it all out  
8 in an e-mail.

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Thank you.

10 COORDINATOR BRAULT: HCR 27, it supports the  
11 use of state land for a new VA National Cemetery in  
12 Chillicothe. So the federal government is looking  
13 for a new VA Cemetery, and Chillicothe is one of  
14 those locations.

15 House Bill 434, it increases the driver's ed  
16 age to 21 in the state. And they have also included  
17 military drivers in that. They put an exemption to  
18 that for military drivers. It is awaiting the  
19 governor's signature. I'll let you know when that  
20 goes through.

21 On property tax exemptions for disabled  
22 veterans, there's a ton of those bills out there  
23 right now. So I didn't want to go through and list  
24 every single one.

25 And then on the federal side, National is

1 really harping on the "Pay Our Troops Act." So even  
2 if there is a government shutdown, the troops will  
3 get paid through the shutdown. That's the biggest  
4 one that National is pushing on.

5 And then Genochio is going to go over a lot  
6 more federal laws and federal things that are going  
7 through right now.

8 Do you have any questions on any bills,  
9 resolutions, anything that I've gone through?

10 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BAUMANN: Steve Baumann, 1st  
11 (sic) District.

12 I asked about the charitable bill that was  
13 supposed to be coming out and he said it was  
14 dropped.

15 COORDINATOR BRAULT: The charitable gaming  
16 bills that both Senator Manning and Representative  
17 Manning have put out earlier in the year, they've  
18 lost interest in pursuing them and they've dropped  
19 them. So they're not going to be pursuing those any  
20 longer.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Jacob.

22 Bill Genochio, VA&R.

23 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: All right, good  
24 afternoon.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

1 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO:

2 All right, so the Veterans Affairs and  
3 Rehabilitation Committee met on Saturday, October  
4 4th, 2025.

5 Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum again.  
6 So, basically, this report is for informational  
7 purposes.

8 David Cook was appointed secretary. Our  
9 meeting, or our conversation, began at 1:10 PM.

10 I'd like to report the 1st District was there,  
11 3rd District was excused, 4th, 5th and 6th were  
12 there, 12 and 14 were there. All other Districts  
13 were either not there, not called in, not excused.  
14 So I don't know what happened.

15 So I urge you to please, as the District  
16 Commanders, get with your chairmen and let them know  
17 that we need them there to conduct business. If  
18 they can't do it, it's your guys' prerogative to  
19 figure that out.

20 But introduction of guests was myself, there as  
21 the coordinator.

22 We did not read the minutes, as they were  
23 published out and there was no quorum.

24 Going forward, no District reports were given.

25 We did have a discussion on unfinished business

1 where I gave a quick overview of bills that are  
2 pending in the House. So I'll get to those in a  
3 second.

4 I did speak with Jerry Perry on if there was  
5 any traction on Veterans Treatment Court in the 4th  
6 District. He is still awaiting further guidance to  
7 try to install that in his District.

8 Veterans Treatment Court, like I said, the last  
9 time we had a meeting, you know, Darell Bishop  
10 brought up the fact of using those funds to purchase  
11 coins to give out to participants who complete the  
12 program. It was mentioned again but we couldn't  
13 really move forward on it. So we will hold it,  
14 hopefully, until the next meeting, where we can vote  
15 a yea or nay.

16 New business.

17 We discussed the Trulieve that Jacob quickly  
18 hit on with the Legislative Committee. We brought  
19 it to the VA&R since it will impact our veterans.  
20 So we wanted to have our input on it. So we briefly  
21 discussed it. I read the e-mail Jacob had. I did  
22 call on Suzette, who sits on the Legislative  
23 Committee and the VA&R Committee, to kind of give  
24 her insight. So she gave a little bit of a report  
25 on what Legislative discussed. But we really

1 couldn't say if we were for or against because we  
2 didn't have our quorum there.

3 Here is the updates on the various bills.  
4 These bills have been introduced in the '25-'26  
5 119th Congress. The ones we are tracking is House  
6 Resolution 71, which is the Health Care Act, which  
7 is still in subcommittee. It's referred to the  
8 Subcommittee on Health and Department of Veterans  
9 Affairs.

10 We talked about House Resolution 333, which is  
11 Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act, which this  
12 bill modifies provisions related to military retired  
13 pay for veterans that receive less than 50 percent  
14 or more disability. Again, that's in Subcommittee  
15 on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

16 House Resolution 303, Retired Pay Restoration  
17 Act, that was referred to Subcommittee on Disability  
18 Assistance and Memorial Affairs. This bill would  
19 allow recipients of both retired military pay and VA  
20 compensation at the same time, if they're over 50  
21 percent without offset, or those under 50 percent  
22 without offset.

23 HR 2165 (sic), referred to the House Committee  
24 on Veterans Affairs, requires the VA to begin the  
25 process of entering into an agreement, I know Jacob

1 was just talking about Chillicothe, but they're  
2 looking at expanding, getting a land bank to expand  
3 the VA Cemetery in Montgomery County. They're  
4 looking for a specific parcel of land in Dayton,  
5 Ohio, to expand the Dayton National Cemetery. So  
6 that one is in the House Committee.

7 And then the big one we all were tracking last  
8 year came back, which is the HR 2102, the Major Star  
9 Act, that was referred to the Subcommittee on  
10 Disability Assistance and Medical (sic) Affairs as  
11 well.

12 Trulieve we already discussed.

13 We stressed the awards. I did make the  
14 recommendation to our Commissioner, David Cook, that  
15 if we don't have any awards commissioned, there's no  
16 point in doing an in-person hearing. So if we have  
17 awards, we'll need to, in person, discuss those and  
18 make sure we put the right candidate forward. If  
19 not, we'll conduct our next meeting virtually this  
20 year for VA&R.

21 On the National Awards, we had no reports  
22 given.

23 I gave a DSO report, letting everybody know  
24 that Troy Elliott, our DSO down there, and I  
25 attended the VA Medical Center Suicide Prevention

1 Stand Down. It was the Friday before last, so about  
2 a month and a half ago.

3 The Federal building was closed, as you're all  
4 aware. When this happened in, I think '19, we were  
5 allowed to stay in the building. For whatever  
6 reason, this year, when the VA closed down and  
7 furloughed, we were told we couldn't use those  
8 spaces.

9 So we've been fully functional, the Cleveland  
10 office. We've been working from home.

11 A good note that is not in your minutes, but it  
12 opened back up on the 13th. I'm putting, my team  
13 will be back in the office starting this Monday, the  
14 17th, fully back and operational to the public. So  
15 that's good.

16 And the budget has been passed, as we've all  
17 seen, for our spending bills, through January. But,  
18 however, the VA has funding guaranteed through  
19 September 30th of '26. So if we have to go through  
20 this rodeo again in January, the VA should be  
21 untouched for your communities.

22 And I'm glad to report that Darell Bishop is  
23 recovered. He is back in the office, doing his four  
24 days a week.

25 So that's basically the DSO report.

1           The only resolution we had, which we really  
2 couldn't discuss, was Resolution 26-01, which is  
3 "Military Service in Honduras," which I'm sure  
4 you're all aware of that.

5           And then there is a concurrent HCR No. 18.  
6 It's a concurrent resolution to urge Congress to  
7 recognize United States troops who served in  
8 Honduras from '81 to '92. That's Representative  
9 Mathew Miller.

10           Then, basically, we closed our discussion at  
11 1:25.

12           Commander, that completes my information  
13 report. I'm free if anybody has any questions.

14           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15           COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Bill.

16           12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Thanks, Bill.

17           COMMANDER OREN: Okay, Media, Marketing,  
18 Communications Commission, Jon Vulgamore.

19           COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: Good afternoon,  
20 everyone.

21           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

22           COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: The Media, Marketing  
23 and Communications Commission met on October 4th,  
24 with a substitute for the Chair position as Holly  
25 Lewis. Chair Smith was excused from the meeting.

1           The roll call produced seven members and three  
2 subcommission members.

3           The only motionable item was to approve and  
4 suspend the reading of the previous meeting minutes.  
5 Steve Ebersole of the 12th so motioned. James  
6 Lockyer, District 13, seconded it. No discussion  
7 was offered. The motion carried.

8           Next was the quarterly Legion News website,  
9 social media publications mailing and IT report.  
10 Some notable discussion points were to isolate our  
11 new partner affiliate QR codes on their own  
12 individual flyers. They're located here  
13 (indicating) at the middle counter at the DEC, if  
14 you want to spread those around your Districts or  
15 jus take them for personal use and get a good look  
16 at them.

17           Next, new laptops and redesignated work  
18 stations have recently been implemented this past  
19 week here at HQ. So, hopefully, our downtime and  
20 production will go up.

21           Also, a statistical analysis review of our  
22 online newsletter reach over the past, I believe  
23 it's a year and a half now that we've been going  
24 solely online. We wanted some trimmed line metrics  
25 on how that's been improved, especially with our

1 digital-only "Operation Stay Connected" campaign,  
2 which is our effort to get all our e-mails from our  
3 members updated.

4 And again, on that middle counter, there is  
5 some business-size cards with QR codes on them.  
6 Please distribute those among your Districts.

7 Another major notable thing is our website is  
8 getting a big facelift. Hopefully everybody uses  
9 that. Kiki Kiana is the web designer. And all the  
10 content migration, actually 90 percent, is done and  
11 given to her. So now it's kind of in her court, how  
12 she can work her magic and give our Department  
13 website a good, new, and fresh look.

14 There was also talk of reintroduction of TikTok  
15 for our social media platform. And also, the fall  
16 mailing was sent this past October, to all Post  
17 Adjutants' home addresses. And again on the middle  
18 counter, there's copies of that mailing if you would  
19 like to take some.

20 Holly Lewis closed the meeting at 3:31, with a  
21 salute to the colors.

22 And that concludes my report, unless there are  
23 any questions.

24 COMMANDER OREN: Go ahead, John.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Just to add on to Jon's

1 report, I don't think he's seen it yet, we've  
2 partnered with iHeart Radio on a membership  
3 campaign, basically. And over the last month, we've  
4 really ramped up our Facebook presence through  
5 iHeart Radio. And last night I was looking at the  
6 metrics and we gained 2500 new followers in the last  
7 month. So just letting you know it is catching on  
8 and it is working.

9 COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: The ads have been very  
10 successful.

11 COMMANDER OREN: Any other questions?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Jon.

14 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Thank you, Jon.

15 COMMANDER OREN: I'm going to put a piece of  
16 information out. If anybody has tried to send me  
17 anything, my e-mail account is dead. It went dead.  
18 I haven't received anything on my Headquarters  
19 e-mail. That's why it's been quiet out there.  
20 Nobody has sent me money.

21 Okay, Mr. Robinson.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'm back. Good morning,  
23 again. Nope, we made it to noon now. Look at us  
24 go.

25 The SAL met at Jeff Vrabel's homecoming. We

1 had the DEC before the homecoming. It was a very  
2 productive DEC. The leading candidate for SAL  
3 National Commander came in. It was his hometown.  
4 Tom, I can't think of his last name. But we had a  
5 very good meeting, very productive meeting.

6 And they spent a little bit of money. Sorry I  
7 didn't get you those exact meeting minutes yet. I  
8 will get them out to you.

9 Everything was standard, as always, with them.  
10 They didn't really go into any great detail.

11 Can you remember anything, Mike?

12 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: Yeah.

13 Through the chairs, the one thing on spending,  
14 what we did was we took a portion of our -- what's  
15 it called?

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Budget?

17 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: No. The funds that we  
18 give away.

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Future projects.

20 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: Future projects money,  
21 okay.

22 We took out \$3,000, and moved it towards a  
23 program to get laptops and briefcases and all that  
24 fun stuff for every District Commander, or, excuse  
25 me, Squadron Commander of the SAL. So Todd Bidlack

1 is backing that program. He's heading it up. We're  
2 very excited about it. We think it will be a great  
3 program. We've just got to get some more money to  
4 give them to everybody.

5 I think we did -- what did we do, half?

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: 1500, yeah.

7 SGT-AT-ARMS KENNEDY: Yeah.

8 But that's the biggest thing.

9 And I did double check, while we're here, Scott  
10 Thornton sent me the updated budget. The budget for  
11 junior baseball is \$3,000.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Thank you.

13 That's my report.

14 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Any questions?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER OREN: Hearing none, go ahead.

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: American Legion Riders.

18 They have not done a lot right now. It's going into  
19 their downtime. They do have their meeting at  
20 Mid-Winter that they will conduct. They don't  
21 conduct business at it, but it's for informational  
22 purposes.

23 But one thing I will say, the Riders do not do  
24 discipline. I will say that again. The Riders  
25 program cannot conduct discipline. If somebody does

1 something wrong, the discipline has to be brought by  
2 the body, either The Legion or the Auxiliary,  
3 period. Not even the SAL. Legion or Auxiliary. So  
4 do not let the Riders overstep and try to discipline  
5 their own members. That's not their place.

6 Commander, that's all I have.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Okay.

8 NEC CHAPMAN: Just a word, JD, about that.

9 Jacob was there last night. I don't know if  
10 you were there. We just did this last night, JD.  
11 You should be getting a report from your Department  
12 director.

13 I invited her to come up here today. She said  
14 she might, but she said she would forward you the  
15 report from last night.

16 But that was made very clear, that they are a  
17 program. They don't bring charges against any  
18 veteran or member of their group. It has to come  
19 through an approved, be approved by the body.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Any objections to  
21 taking a break?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No.

23 Let's take a break, get a little nourishment,  
24 hit the bathrooms, and whatever you need to do.

25 Twenty minutes. We'll be back at 12:50, 23

1 minutes.

2 (THEREUPON, THE COMMITTEE RECESSED FOR A  
3 BREAK).

4 Welcome back from break. Let's keep it rolling  
5 here.

6 New charters, we have none?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: None.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Okay.

9 Suspensions, none?

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No.

11 COMMANDER OREN: Closures, Posts in process.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We have several in process.  
13 We have several Post closings in process. We'll  
14 vote on them at the April DEC. I'll have the whole  
15 packet.

16 I believe right now we're around seven or  
17 eight. Hopefully, I would think, we should be up to  
18 ten, 12, by the time we get to the DEC.

19 Squadrons will follow about the same suit.

20 There are several mergers looking at happening.  
21 We're still ironing all the details out, making sure  
22 the Posts liquidate all the assets, get all the  
23 rifles returned, closing.

24 And if you need help, look around your  
25 District.

1           Can I speak on this for a second, Commander?

2           COMMANDER OREN:   Yes.

3           ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   Look around your Districts.  
4   You know the Posts that are doing Legion work.   Look  
5   around.   And if that Post isn't doing Memorial Day,  
6   isn't doing Veterans Day, they're not contributing  
7   to the betterment of their community.   Do they serve  
8   a purpose?   Just because they're a Legion Post does  
9   not mean that they serve a purpose and they should  
10   be able to keep going.

11           Our numbers are dwindling.   We all know this.  
12   This is not a secret.   But our Posts we keep trying  
13   to revitalize and save.   It's not always the right  
14   call.   Sometimes the right call is letting that Post  
15   merge into another Post, to benefit both sides.

16           Two people that have been in that Post for the  
17   last 30 years, doing all the work, they're wore out,  
18   they're tired, they're beat down.   So if they can  
19   merge with a Post that is thriving, they can get a  
20   renew on what they want to do and they can find new  
21   programs to start working.

22           So, look around your Districts.   If you need  
23   help with it, I know several of them out here have  
24   helped close Posts.   I'm always available.  
25   Mr. Schmitt and I work quite well, hand in hand, on

1 these. So if you need help, let me know.

2 One update on 504. We are working with the  
3 judge right now on being able to sell the property.  
4 And we already have two interested people in  
5 purchasing it. So we are moving away.

6 I've not got the report back. The 9th District  
7 Commander, Sam Swoger, was supposed to go over and  
8 take the two placards down of The American Legion.  
9 I'm not sure. He's not notified me that he's done  
10 it yet.

11 I do have the keys for the building. Sam and I  
12 actually went and did a walk-through of the  
13 building. The upstairs ain't bad. The downstairs  
14 is horrible.

15 But the neighbor would like to purchase it.  
16 And then we've contacted the funeral home across the  
17 road and they would also be interested. So I'll  
18 advise as we go forward with them.

19 Commander.

20 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC,  
21 through the Chair.

22 They've got two parcels of property.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

24 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Both parcels, okay.  
25 Because they're put in two different names.

1           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes. That's 732, 504.

2           ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Yeah.

3           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We're working with all of  
4 that to get it all in one, yes.

5           Thank you.

6           COMMANDER OREN: Next we have no resolutions or  
7 constitutional amendments.

8           Unfinished business.

9           Glenn Hickman.

10          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's me. I'm going to  
11 play the part of Charities today. So please don't  
12 shoot me.

13          I believe everybody got a copy of the Ohio  
14 Charities Bylaws.

15          FROM THE FLOOR: If that's what you call them.

16          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Their committee approved  
17 it. So it has to come before this body to approve.  
18 I'll call on the Commander for that.

19          NEC CHAPMAN: I'll take the podium now. Do  
20 your thing.

21          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Can I sit down?

22          NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

23          Before I make a motion here, I'd like to -- did  
24 all of you read this? How many of you out there  
25 read this? I want to know how many of you actually

1 read this?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

3 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, four or five of you. Well,  
4 six or seven.

5 With that being said, I don't think enough of  
6 us have enough knowledge of this to approve this as  
7 it's written right now. There are a couple of good  
8 things in there, but there's a lot of things that, I  
9 mean, they've changed, they've changed the whole  
10 organization with this. And it's not the same. It  
11 takes all, the way it's worded, it takes all of our  
12 decision making away from us, the way this is  
13 worded.

14 So my motion is going to be to reject this  
15 today, send it back to whoever wrote it -- who did  
16 write this?

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Well, time out. You  
18 can't reject a motion. There has to be a motion.

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: There has not been a motion  
20 made.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yeah, there has to be  
22 a motion to put it on the floor for discussion, and  
23 a second. And then we discuss. And then if there's  
24 no motion to put on the floor, it falls. But if  
25 there is a motion and a second for discussion, we

1 have discussion. And then we vote against it or for  
2 it.

3 NEC CHAPMAN: So that's what I'm doing now is  
4 having this discussion, I guess. Right?

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: You could put a  
6 motion forward for discussion. You're not saying  
7 you're in favor of it, you're just saying a motion  
8 for discussion.

9 NEC CHAPMAN: So that's what I need to do.

10 Okay, so I'll put a motion forward for  
11 discussion on this.

12 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Alternate NEC Schmitt  
13 seconds.

14 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
15 District Commander --

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Wait, wait, wait.  
17 Let's do it right. Duly motioned and seconded, we  
18 now open it up for discussion.

19 COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Were you going to  
20 second it, John?

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No.

22 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: What's the motion?  
23 Because I had a question on --

24 NEC CHAPMAN: The motion is to have discussion  
25 on this (indicating).

1 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: I'll second that.

2 2VC LEWIS: It's already seconded.

3 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: No, no, no.

6 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor of the motion --

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Minadeo,

8 Parliamentarian.

9 We have a motion for discussion. Because all  
10 motions are to discuss, not to approve, just to  
11 discuss, and the second to discuss.

12 We are now discussing the idea of the committee  
13 wants us to approve this. So now we have to discuss  
14 on do we approve them, do we amend them, or do we  
15 refer back to committee for work and discussion for  
16 a future point at the next DEC. So we have to go  
17 through the discussion because everybody needs to  
18 understand.

19 I promise, I'm sorry that I --

20 COMMANDER OREN: No, you're fine. Thank you.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Now I'll sit back and  
22 watch.

23 6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Little, 6th  
24 District.

25 Is this the e-mail that was sent out?

1           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We can pass them out. We  
2 do have copies of them.

3           6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Okay. I was just  
4 asking if this is the e-mail sent out.

5           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

6           6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Okay. So everybody  
7 should have a copy of them?

8           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

9           6TH DISTRICT CMDR LITTLE: Okay.

10          COMMANDER OREN: Yes.

11          Okay, Chappy.

12          NEC CHAPMAN: Everyone needs to look at it.

13          First of all, you have to understand the way we  
14 were set up before is, when they made decisions, we  
15 were the -- this Executive Committee is the Board  
16 for Charities, Inc. And our E-board for Charities,  
17 Inc., consists of five people: Glenn Hickman,  
18 Morris, Stennis, Friend and Jason Rue.

19          This thing says that there are three members  
20 and two at-large members. Well, there's no at-large  
21 members. If there is one, it's the Immediate Past  
22 Commander who comes in and then goes out.

23          But we have four elected people. And the  
24 Commander was put on there to create an odd number,  
25 you know, in case you had a vote. Well, that

1 doesn't address that property in this.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Can I clarify that, Chappy?

3 NEC CHAPMAN: Yeah.

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The way that that document  
5 reads is that all of those board members are still  
6 voted on every year. But what those positions are  
7 are the positions held within that committee, that  
8 board. So there would be a president, a secretary,  
9 and a treasurer elected every year.

10 NEC CHAPMAN: Just like now, where there is a  
11 chairman, a treasurer and a secretary.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes, yes.

13 So that doesn't change anything. They're still  
14 all elected by this body to the board. But you  
15 still end up with two at-large members each year  
16 that aren't in a position.

17 NEC CHAPMAN: No.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander,  
19 Parliamentarian.

20 I would recommend, at this point, that either  
21 you or the Adjutant or myself read each article, see  
22 if there's an issue with it, and move on. We can go  
23 bouncing back and forth on this for hours.

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Sure.

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So does everybody

1 have a copy in front of them?

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They have to be passed out.

3 NEC CHAPMAN: What you said is not true because  
4 the previous articles were amended to put the fourth  
5 person on there. And he is also in the rotation for  
6 three years. This says five years.

7 I think, in all fairness to you, I think this  
8 was just whipped together to get something out here  
9 to us. I don't think there was much time put into  
10 it. And I think it needs to be referred back to the  
11 committee for rewrite and further consideration. I  
12 think there's a lot of minutiae in here. And once  
13 you read it, I think you'll understand what it is.

14 So, anyway, I'll just sit down now.

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander, my point,  
16 as Parliamentarian, is if we don't go article by  
17 article and say what the DEC issues are, then when  
18 it goes back to them you're going to get  
19 something --

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Trash.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: But when I read it,  
22 and I told JD, and someone sent me an e-mail, one of  
23 the District Commanders, so, as the Parliamentarian,  
24 I said here is what I see. There is a distinct  
25 issue: Where does Charities' authority come from

1 and where does the DEC play in it?

2 And I think if we just go through each one and  
3 say, okay, we have no problem with that, we have no  
4 problem with that, we have a problem here.

5 And one of the resolutions is to just let it go  
6 back to the Charities Committee. It goes back to a  
7 Charities Committee and a selection of members from  
8 the DEC come together and conference and agree on  
9 it.

10 I mean, there needs to be a coming together.  
11 And so I would recommend reading each article, one  
12 by one, and saying is there any issue with that,  
13 let's move on.

14 I know some of you have been around for a long  
15 time, dealing with this. I've been around too long  
16 dealing with this. All we've gotten prior to this  
17 was one page, and that's it. So this is not too  
18 bad. And it does somewhat model the VFW's, but it's  
19 not fully that.

20 NEC CHAPMAN: I happened to be on the Board  
21 when Charities, Inc., came into existence in 2003.  
22 I was a 1st Vice Commander. I dug out a copy of the  
23 original and it's more than one page.

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right.

25 NEC CHAPMAN: And it's right back there

1 (indicating).

2 And Suzette has it. She can let you make  
3 copies of it for referral, if you need that.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So, before I start  
5 reading it, here's the issue: If you went online  
6 and pulled up the 990 for Charities, all of the DEC  
7 is on it. The DEC are the board members, according  
8 to the 990. So consider that. All of you are held  
9 responsible if the State of Ohio wants to question  
10 what's going on with Charities.

11 "Article I, American Legion Department of Ohio  
12 Charities, Section 1. This corporation, as  
13 authorized by the Department of Ohio American  
14 Legion, shall be known as the 'American Legion  
15 Department of Ohio Charities, Incorporated,  
16 hereinafter referred to as the ALDOC."

17 Is there an issue with that?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: "Section 2, The  
20 principal office of ALDOC Headquarters shall be  
21 located Delaware, Ohio. The ALDOC may have other  
22 offices, such as field agencies, as the Board of  
23 Directors may determine from time to time."

24 Okay. Now, the question, let's just see how  
25 they define "Board of Directors."

1 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Excuse me.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yes.

3 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah, so, Suzette  
4 Heller, 12th District Commander.

5 Section 2, I don't think that the principal  
6 office -- well, yes, you name it where it is  
7 currently. But I also think that it should be in  
8 conjunction with the Department of Ohio, with The  
9 American Legion Department of Ohio. I think that  
10 needs to be key, because -- or in conjunction with  
11 the American Legion Department of Ohio. Because if  
12 this building ever sells and headquarters is located  
13 in Columbus, Franklin County, now you have to go  
14 through and do that. So I think, in simplicity, it  
15 just needs to be in conjunction, you know, that  
16 needs to be said somewhere in there, just to keep it  
17 simple.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander, could you  
19 ask Suzette if she'd be willing to keep track of the  
20 changes we're making to the document?

21 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: But also, in the  
22 incorporated, it needs to say that it was  
23 incorporated in Franklin County. Right?

24 So this organization was incorporated in  
25 Franklin County, Columbus, Ohio. That's very

1 important. So now you know where this actually came  
2 from. So that's an important thing to state. Where  
3 it actually operates doesn't really matter. It's  
4 where it's incorporated.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Delaware County.

6 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: No, it was  
7 incorporated in Columbus, in Franklin County. It  
8 was originally, I'm almost --

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All right, so change  
10 the location.

11 TREASURER LaVOY: Suzette, did you agree to --

12 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah.

13 TREASURER LaVOY: I don't know if Suzette heard  
14 you asking her to scribe.

15 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yeah, her and JD are  
17 scribing it.

18 TREASURER LaVOY: Okay.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And then under the  
20 "Authority, Section 1, This organization shall at  
21 all times be governed by the articles of corporation  
22 filed with the Secretary of State of Ohio; Ohio  
23 Charter Number 1389565, as amended from time to  
24 time."

25 TREASURER LaVOY: I would say, "Amended as

1 required."

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: "Amended as  
3 required," any issue with that?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All right, "amended  
6 as required."

7 By whom, the board of directors? Amended as  
8 required by the board of directors.

9 Section 2.

10 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: With the approval  
11 of the Department Executive Committee.

12 NEC CHAPMAN: Well, that is the board of  
13 directors.

14 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Rick Smathers, 1st  
15 Vice, District 11.

16 If we're all the board of directors, then the  
17 board, as identified in here, would be incorrect  
18 also.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yeah.

20 So, let's go over to "Article VII, Board of  
21 Directors." I'm trying to see where they say "board  
22 of" --

23 Well, first of all, right above that, "Article  
24 VI, Membership, The ALDOC shall have no members."

25 So, I --

1           2VC LEWIS:  Shouldn't that just say "is not a  
2 membership organization"?

3           Holly Lewis, 2nd Vice.

4           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO:  Yeah, I think,  
5 though, again, one of the questions is, under the  
6 articles of incorporation it says, "members of The  
7 American Legion."

8           FROM THE FLOOR:  Correct.

9           NEC CHAPMAN:  Can't you just strike that  
10 article?

11          FROM THE FLOOR:  Strike the article.

12          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO:  What did it have in  
13 the original one?

14          Suzette, what did it say about membership?

15          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER:  About membership?

16          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO:  Yeah.  Who were the  
17 members of the Department Charities?

18          It didn't say anything?

19          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER:  Well, it just says  
20 "board of trustees," under Articles IV.

21          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO:  Okay, so we have a  
22 conflict.

23          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER:  That's where it  
24 lists who's on the board of trustees.  So they named  
25 it as the "Board of Trustees," which is probably

1 what those three, plus the two appointed, are to be,  
2 the board of trustees.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: But this was the  
4 "Board of Directors."

5 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yes.

6 NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

7 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: That's smaller  
8 then, to be the board of trustees.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Well, let's look  
10 under "Board of Directors" then and see if they  
11 explain it.

12 "Section 1, Powers. All activities and affairs  
13 of the Charities shall be managed and controlled by  
14 the Board of Directors, subject to Ohio law and  
15 Articles of Incorporation."

16 All right, "Duties." Perform duties by law;  
17 direct the Charities to fulfill charitable purposes;  
18 attend meetings, absences may result in removal per  
19 Board policy; maintain current contact information  
20 with headquarters.

21 "Number and Terms. The Board shall consist of  
22 five members."

23 2VC LEWIS: That whole section is wrong.

24 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah, board of  
25 trustees.

1           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So that should be the  
2 "Board of Trustees," not the "Board of Directors."

3           12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah.

4           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All right. So,  
5 again, I don't think we're going to decide on it  
6 exactly, but I think that needs to be discussed in a  
7 commission of both parties.

8           "B. Chairman of the Board: Elected by Board;  
9 may serve up to two consecutive five-year terms."

10          "Presiding over Board meetings."

11          Now, again, they're talking about the Board of  
12 Trustees, right?

13          NEC CHAPMAN: Right.

14          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Does the Board of  
15 Trustees elect its own chairman?

16          NEC CHAPMAN: Yes. They elect their chairman.

17          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay.

18          And then it says, designating one Board member  
19 as secretary, one as Finance Officer, advising  
20 committees and performing other duties assigned by  
21 the Board.

22          "Elections. Directors shall be elected by The  
23 American Legion Department Executive Committee in  
24 good standing."

25          So there is a board of directors. That's what

1 we're talking about here. It's supposed to be the  
2 "Board of Trustees."

3 NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All right.

5 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

6 It's a three-year term, rotating term, not a  
7 five-year rotating term.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: They're making it  
9 five.

10 NEC CHAPMAN: They've changed that, yes.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: All right.

12 "Candidates submit their bio by June 1st."

13 2VC LEWIS: Suzette.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Oh, sorry Suzette.

15 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah, Suzette  
16 Heller, 12th District.

17 I do think that Article VII should imply board  
18 of directors and board of trustees. That should be  
19 clearly defined within that.

20 And maybe we call it something else, Article  
21 VII. Like, you know, who are these people, right?

22 2VC LEWIS: Holly Lewis, 2nd Vice.

23 I also think that that section should move up  
24 in the -- because they're saying "Board of  
25 Directors" all through the first article. So that

1 should be defined as soon as they say that word.

2 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: It should be under  
3 "Authority."

4 2VC LEWIS: Yeah.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right.

6 Yeah, this is, again, I think the boilerplate  
7 for this was the VFW. No comment.

8 Resignations, Section 5. "Resignations  
9 submitted in writing to the Board." Again, we need  
10 to say which board.

11 "Removal requires two-thirds vote of the  
12 Board"... Which board?

13 "Vacancies filled by current Board members."  
14 Well, they're talking about they fill their own  
15 vacancies.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: That is what they're saying.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It's always been the  
18 vacancies have to be filled. The DEC has to have an  
19 opportunity to present --

20 "Directors serve without compensation but may  
21 be reimbursed for reasonable expenses."

22 "Inspection Rights. Directors may inspect  
23 books, records, and properties at reasonable times."

24 "Each Director has one vote. Quorum equals  
25 three members. Majority vote of quorum carries

1 decisions." I don't think that's an issue.

2 "Executive Director," is that --

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

5 My question on this, based on the way it's  
6 written, it says board members, or directors may  
7 inspect the books upon request. Does that move us  
8 out?

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Well, again, they  
10 have a board of directors. They're calling  
11 themselves the board of directors, when they were  
12 always just trustees.

13 NEC CHAPMAN: Trustees.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: But the board of  
15 directors is made up of trustees with authority to  
16 make decisions on such and such and report it back  
17 to us at the DEC.

18 So, when you're reading this, they're treating  
19 this only as themselves.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yeah.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: They've only  
22 chosen -- they haven't split it like it was before.  
23 So they have kind of moved the DEC out.

24 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: We need to define  
25 "board of directors" and "board of trustees," and

1 both parties have the right to inspect. Because I  
2 think we should have the right to inspect the  
3 finances.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Well, the trustees  
5 are the ones creating the documents. So that's  
6 where the board of directors, it should be stated,  
7 can review all that. The trustees create them. So  
8 when they create them, they can review them.

9 So when you hear "directors" in here, you're  
10 really seeing "trustees", as the DEC sees it.

11 Under "Meetings," I didn't see any difference  
12 in that than what it was before.

13 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: But we're still on  
14 like Section VIII.

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yeah. I just was --

16 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: I was showing that  
18 there's three directors. Those are the three that  
19 they're talking about.

20 Okay, the "Executive Director," who is that?  
21 Is that what Shirley's doing?

22 NEC CHAPMAN: No. She's the Treasurer.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What's an "Executive  
24 Director"? We have a president of the board?

25 NEC CHAPMAN: Chairman of the board.

1           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No.

2           NEC CHAPMAN: Or Chairman of the Board of  
3 Trustees is what you have. That's what you're  
4 supposed to have.

5           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The "Executive Director" is  
6 the signatory, the person that signs off on the  
7 checks. Okay? That's what it's been in the past.

8           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What is it right now?  
9 Let's get it there.

10          We have the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

11          NEC CHAPMAN: You have a chairman.

12          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And then who would be  
13 the executive director today?

14          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: There isn't one.

15          NEC CHAPMAN: There isn't one.

16          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: There isn't one.

17          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And the Treasurer  
18 would be Shirley?

19          NEC CHAPMAN: Yes, right now, the way things  
20 operate.

21          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: No, the Treasurer  
22 would be Becky. And Shirley would be the  
23 administrator.

24          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It does not have them  
25 in here.

1           NEC CHAPMAN: And JD is now the signatory.

2           12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Right.

3           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So there's no  
4 executive director now, and they're going to hire  
5 somebody.

6           NEC CHAPMAN: Well, that's what it states.

7           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That's what it states  
8 here.

9           12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: I think that's a  
10 good idea. Because I think if we're looking to  
11 expand Charities or to make Charities more robust, I  
12 think it's very important to have a dedicated person  
13 who can commit anywhere between, you know, 25 and  
14 30-some hours a week to operate Charities.

15          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay.

16          Under that, it says, "Reports to the Board of  
17 Trustees," right?

18          2VC LEWIS: Yes.

19          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: "May be removed by a  
20 majority vote of the Board of Trustees."

21          "Must possess strategic leadership,  
22 communication, and management skills." I wonder who  
23 they've got in mind?

24          "Treasurer duties. Oversees budgeting,  
25 financial policies, reporting, presenting." So

1 that's within the Department, right? Is that what's  
2 happening now?

3 "Works closely with the Executive Director and  
4 Finance Committee." Finance Committee of the DEC,  
5 correct?

6 I think a lot of this, as you make comments, a  
7 lot of this will have to be worked out in  
8 conference.

9 "Committees. Executive Committee: Executive  
10 Director, Secretary, Chairman" --

11 FROM THE FLOOR: Where are you at?

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Under IX, after  
13 "Meetings."

14 "Manages operations between Board meetings and  
15 reviews policies annually."

16 "Finance Committee" is the "Treasurer plus two  
17 Directors." So that's not -- so, under "Treasurer  
18 Duties," working "closely with Executive Director  
19 and Finance Committee," it is the Finance Committee  
20 of the trustees.

21 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Gary, Suzette  
22 Heller, 12th District.

23 I'm going to propose that there be a  
24 subcommittee, like an ad hoc committee, specifically  
25 designated to reviewing both the 2003 Constitution

1 and Bylaws and also developing new Constitution and  
2 Bylaws for Charities that can be worked out by the  
3 next DEC meeting.

4 I think going line by line is great, but I just  
5 don't think that there's enough meat in this. It's  
6 just way too much clarity. We're way above the  
7 two-pizza rule.

8 So I make a motion that there is an ad hoc  
9 committee that includes the Trustees of Charities,  
10 with two or three members of the DEC, to work with  
11 them on getting something else out of it.

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

14 COMMANDER OREN: Anymore discussion?

15 FROM THE FLOOR: We already had a motion on the  
16 floor.

17 NEC CHAPMAN: We have a motion on the floor.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No. You have a previous  
19 motion on the floor.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: That's what I'm talking about.

21 NEC CHAPMAN: That was a discussion, sir.

22 FROM THE FLOOR: Okay.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: But it was never resolved.

24 FROM THE FLOOR: So we have to vote on that  
25 first, right?

1           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: She's made a motion  
2 to defer to an ad hoc committee.

3           NEC CHAPMAN: There you go.

4           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: If we do not approve  
5 the motion to defer to an ad hoc committee, then we  
6 go back to the original motion that was put up.

7           COMMANDER OREN: Okay. And it was seconded by  
8 John Life.

9           Any further discussion?

10          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11          COMMANDER OREN: Any further discussion?

12          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13          COMMANDER OREN: All in favor of it.

14          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

15          COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, the same.

16          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17          COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

18          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Commander.

19 Commander. Suzette Heller, 12th District.

20           I have a Master's in Legal Studies and  
21 Nonprofit Law, and I am happy to be a part of that  
22 ad hoc committee. I'm definitely qualified for  
23 that.

24          NEC CHAPMAN: Good choice.

25          COMMANDER OREN: Well give me some time to

1 think of who they're going to be.

2 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yeah.

3 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Okay, real quick, the net  
4 income for Charities, since October 1st through  
5 October 31, 2025, was 964,260.08.

6 And there's 202 Legion Posts with 18 veterans  
7 and fraternal organizations that have filed their  
8 bingo contracts so far with us.

9 And I do have a printout of where all the  
10 donations that came in, well they're not donations  
11 but they are required, where all the money came in.  
12 So if anybody wants to go over it, please let me  
13 know.

14 That concludes my Charities report.

15 And I'll -- oh, the audit.

16 I've been fighting with Charities on the audit.  
17 I don't know. But anyways, Glenn signed a contract  
18 with an auditing firm. They keep putting us off. I  
19 keep asking. I am going to look request a copy of  
20 the contract. Because if it's not done yet, then I  
21 feel we can go with a different auditing firm.

22 Charles Stennis, which is the president, him  
23 and I have been in constant communication over the  
24 last month regarding Charities and the direction.  
25 He supports going with a different auditor, since,

1 for some reason, that auditor is not getting done  
2 what they want done.

3 So I've reached out to our audit firm. We are  
4 going through three years of audits right now. They  
5 stated that once we get ours done, that they would  
6 be happy to look at doing a Charities audit.

7 COMMANDER OREN: Yeah, we've been looking for a  
8 Charities audit for quite a while now. It's time to  
9 get this cleared up. Okay.

10 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: While we're  
11 waiting, I just want to share something, you guys.

12 I know you guys know that Gary Cox is not here  
13 today, our 1st Vice Commander, that he is  
14 experiencing his 72 hours down at Warrior Village.  
15 So he's been experiencing his 72 hours.

16 I have a link, if anybody would like to write  
17 Gary a letter, letting him know like how much he  
18 means to them. Right? So if you want to express  
19 your friendship and some love to Gary, I have a link  
20 where you can fill that out and submit that by 10:00  
21 o'clock tomorrow morning. The cut-off is 10:00  
22 o'clock. So if you would like to do that, reach out  
23 to me and I'll give you a link for that and you can  
24 send him a letter. It's basically just a love  
25 letter, just sharing what your relationship with him

1 is and what that means to you. Okay?

2 2VC LEWIS: I have the link as well, if anybody  
3 needs it.

4 We're just waiting for them to come back in and  
5 I'm holding the gavel.

6 (THEREUPON, AN OFF THE RECORD DISCUSSION WAS  
7 HELD).

8 All right. Me again. I wanted to bring  
9 something to your attention. So this is under new  
10 business.

11 In our bylaws, the Department's Bylaws, under  
12 Article II, Section 4, it states, "Within 45 days  
13 after a Department Executive Committee meeting,  
14 subcommittee meeting, or any other Department  
15 Committee meeting, the Department Adjutant shall  
16 cause to be published, in the Department newspaper  
17 (Ohio Legion News), a complete resume of the  
18 meeting."

19 So, I looked up what does "complete resume"  
20 mean, because I wasn't sure. And it means a full  
21 summary or a thorough account of everything that  
22 happened in the meeting, why the meeting was held,  
23 major topics, decisions, obstacles and insights, any  
24 actions that were decided, who was responsible, any  
25 final decisions made, votes, conclusions, motions,

1 and any next steps. It is not a transcript. Okay?  
2 Everybody clear on that?

3 So, the problem that we have with this right  
4 now is we are publishing a transcript on  
5 OhioLegion.com. I don't think we should be doing  
6 this.

7 I think we should be publishing minutes, which  
8 is what I said, right, the summary, motions,  
9 whatever. We can keep a transcript for record here  
10 at Department in case there's any questions, but I  
11 do not think we should be publishing a transcript.  
12 I think that opens us up for liability.

13 The other reason is, the transcript, you guys  
14 see the minutes. How many pages were they, 30,  
15 right? Where we could probably do minutes in five,  
16 ten pages, maybe.

17 And also, we are publishing unapproved  
18 transcripts. So if you think about it, the 45 days,  
19 we only meet four times a year. So what's happening  
20 is a transcript is getting put out on Ohio Legion  
21 when we get it that has not been approved by this  
22 body.

23 So, here is my proposed interim process, and  
24 I'll make a motion to this effect: When the  
25 transcript is available, create minutes, send the

1 minutes to the DEC for e-mail approval. Once we  
2 have e-mail approval, publish that to the Ohio  
3 Legion News and the website.

4 I also think we need a bylaws change. This  
5 whole section needs to be looked at, because we're  
6 not publishing minutes of every single committee  
7 meeting, subcommittee meeting. We're not doing  
8 that. And so I think it needs to be looked at to  
9 see what actually does need to be done, and can we  
10 do it as they're approved and not in 45 days.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What section?

12 2VC LEWIS: It is in Bylaws, Article II,  
13 Section 4.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Hmm.

15 2VC LEWIS: Yeah, hmm.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Because I have a  
17 question mark there too.

18 And I looked up "resume". A resume is, a  
19 minimum, the agenda, so they can see what was  
20 covered. There's not a legal you must have this  
21 much. But, plus, I don't even know, in 45 days, can  
22 we put out --

23 2VC LEWIS: We're not even making that.

24 So I think, in the interim, I'd just like to  
25 propose that we do minutes from the transcript,

1 publish the minutes after they've been approved by  
2 this body, and then have some kind of subcommittee  
3 or the Constitution and Bylaws Committee take a look  
4 at this whole section for revision. So I will make  
5 a motion to that effect.

6 COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

7 NEC CHAPMAN: NEC Chapman, second.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: You can't change the  
10 bylaws.

11 2VC LEWIS: I'm saying we need a resolution to  
12 change the bylaws.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay. But we can't  
14 change this right now.

15 2VC LEWIS: No, we can't. No, absolutely not.

16 I am suggesting, and my motion is, that we  
17 change the process right now so that we're  
18 publishing minutes, approved minutes, and that we  
19 have a subcommittee look at a resolution to change  
20 this section.

21 Yes.

22 11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Wouldn't that  
23 require a bylaws change to start with?

24 2VC LEWIS: No.

25 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yes, yes.

1           2VC LEWIS: I'm saying we're out of compliance  
2 with the bylaws right now.

3           COMMANDER OREN: We need your name.

4           11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Rick Smathers,  
5 11th District 1st Vice.

6           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Parliamentarian.

7           She's defined "resume". Right now we define  
8 "resume" as transcripts, which come out well after  
9 45 days. So she's saying take what we have, a rough  
10 transcript, or the Adjutant prints minutes, just  
11 here's the agenda, here's what happened, here's the  
12 agenda, here's what happened. And that's what we're  
13 accepting as "resume" until we can dive in to this  
14 and figure out something else.

15          2VC LEWIS: Yeah.

16          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That's all she's  
17 saying. "Resume," as defined, and it's not  
18 completely defined so we could accept it. And  
19 that's what she's saying. Let's accept this and  
20 then go to get a resolution to change this later on.

21          2VC LEWIS: Yeah, it just needs to be looked  
22 at, this whole section, because I don't think it's  
23 reasonable. So --

24          COMMANDER OREN: Okay. We've got a first and a  
25 second. Any other discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER OREN: Any other discussion?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER OREN: All in favor say aye.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

6 COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, the same.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

8 COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

9 Okay. I'm going to switch gears here a little

10 bit. I'm ready to put together an ad hoc committee

11 for doing The American Legion Department of

12 Charities, Inc., Bylaws.

13 Suzette, would you run it for me?

14 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Yes.

15 COMMANDER OREN: Chairman. Thank you.

16 John Life, would you be on it?

17 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: Yes, sir.

18 COMMANDER OREN: I like your enthusiasm.

19 Ron Chapman.

20 NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

21 COMMANDER OREN: Ken LaVoy.

22 TREASURER LaVOY: Yes.

23 COMMANDER OREN: And Kurt Emans.

24 2ND DISTRICT 1VC EMANS: Yes, sir.

25 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Who else did you

1 say, Commander?

2           COMMANDER OREN: Kurt Emans, Mr. LaVoy, Chappy,  
3 and John Life.

4           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: You'll need a motion  
5 to accept that ad hoc.

6           COMMANDER OREN: Okay, I need a motion.

7           1ST DISTRICT CMDR BOYERS: Commander, Dean  
8 Boyers, 1st District Commander, makes the motion to  
9 accept the members of the ad hoc committee.

10          COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

11          Second?

12          7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th  
13 District Commander, seconds.

14          COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, John.

15          Any further discussion?

16          12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Thank you.

17          COMMANDER OREN: Any further discussion?

18          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

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

21          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

22          COMMANDER OREN: All opposed, the same.

23          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24          COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

25          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That's good business,

1 people. Well done.

2           COMMANDER OREN: Okay. Where was I at? Good  
3 of The Legion.

4           Yes, John.

5           14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
6 District Commander.

7           Before we move on to good of The Legion, we did  
8 have a second issue in executive session we said we  
9 were supposed to come back to. Are we coming back  
10 to that today?

11           COMMANDER OREN: That's right, we did have a  
12 second issue that we needed to go to executive  
13 session on that.

14           Okay, I guess I need a motion.

15           11TH DISTRICT 1VC SMATHERS: Rick Smathers, 1st  
16 Vice, District 11, I move that we go into executive  
17 session for personnel.

18           14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
19 District Commander, seconds the motion.

20           COMMANDER OREN: Okay, thank you.

21           All in favor say aye.

22           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

23           COMMANDER OREN: Any discussion?

24           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25           COMMANDER OREN: Okay, let's go, folks.

1           (THEREUPON, THE COMMITTEE MOVED INTO EXECUTIVE  
2 SESSION) .

3           (THEREUPON, THE COMMITTEE RETURNED TO REGULAR  
4 SESSION) .

5           Go ahead, Tim.

6           2ND DISTRICT CMDR SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd  
7 District.

8           I'd like to motion to do the retention  
9 incentive for the employees, the staff for the  
10 Department of Ohio American Legion.

11          COMMANDER OREN: Do I hear a second?

12          14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
13 District, seconds the motion.

14          COMMANDER SCHMITT: 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: All opposed, same.

22          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response) .

23          COMMANDER OREN: Motion carries.

24          Okay, under the good of The American Legion,  
25 Mid-Winter update, Christie White.

1           COORDINATOR WHITE: Hi, all. Me again.

2           All right, as many of you know, the 2026  
3 Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Marriott  
4 Columbus Northwest in Dublin, as it has been the  
5 last couple years.

6           Dates for Mid-Winter: January 16th through  
7 January 18th. Okay?

8           Please make sure to call the hotel for your  
9 discounted group rate of \$131 plus tax. You have to  
10 do that before December 26th. If it is after that,  
11 I cannot help you. Okay?

12          FROM THE FLOOR: What was that date again?

13          COORDINATOR WHITE: December 26th.

14          FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you.

15          What date?

16          COORDINATOR WHITE: December 26th.

17          Hey, JD. It's December 26th.

18          It's the day after Christmas, also known as  
19 December 26th. Okay?

20          The only reason I say this is every year, a  
21 week before Mid-Winter, hey, I called the hotel, I  
22 can't get reservations. Is it December 26th? No.

23          So you will get the discounted rate of \$131  
24 before December 26th. After December 26th, you may  
25 get a higher rate or you might not have a room.

1 Okay?

2 We are also looking for vendors for Mid-Winter.  
3 If anybody knows of any companies that could  
4 potentially come out and purchase a vendor table, or  
5 if you have contacts at different companies that you  
6 think would be a great addition, please get with  
7 Jacob in the back.

8 Jacob is taking over vendors this year. So we  
9 want them to be seen and we want their money.

10 On Saturday --

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Do you want their  
12 money on December 26th?

13 COORDINATOR WHITE: We would like their money  
14 before December 26th, but the hotel would like your  
15 reservations. Thank you for bringing that up. The  
16 hotel would like your reservations before December  
17 26th.

18 What's that date again?

19 FROM THE FLOOR: December 26th.

20 COORDINATOR WHITE: I'm getting everybody  
21 little stick-on tattoos that will say "December  
22 26th." On the 26th, everyone can go, "Huh, what was  
23 supposed to happen today? I hear Christie in my  
24 mind."

25 2VC LEWIS: Boxing Day.

1           COORDINATOR WHITE: So, at Mid-Winter, we are  
2 also we are doing the of-the-year awards banquet  
3 again. That will be Saturday, January 17th. The  
4 cost is \$40 per person. It is a formal event. The  
5 reservation cutoff to purchase your tickets is  
6 January 12th. You all have copies of the order form  
7 in your little packets. It is also on the website.  
8 You can do it online directly with a credit card if  
9 you would like.

10           Please get those to us sooner rather than  
11 later. That way, I can kind of plan how many  
12 tables, how it's going to be set up, all of that  
13 jazz. So please do it sooner rather than later.

14           FROM THE FLOOR: What is formal?

15           COORDINATOR WHITE: Not jeans.

16           12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Commander, Joseph  
17 Woodrum, 1st Vice, 12th District.

18           What is formal?

19           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Officer uniform or  
20 suit and tie. Right?

21           COORDINATOR WHITE: Yes, officer uniform or  
22 suit and tie.

23           12TH DISTRICT 1VC WOODRUM: Okay.

24           COORDINATOR WHITE: No jeans.

25           12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Or dresses for the

1 ladies.

2 COORDINATOR WHITE: Right.

3 Pants are not optional. You have to wear  
4 pants, or dresses for the ladies.

5 TREASURER LaVOY: It would be called "business  
6 formal".

7 COORDINATOR WHITE: Right.

8 COMMANDER OREN: Let's keep it rolling.

9 COORDINATOR WHITE: Does anyone have any  
10 questions on Mid-Winter?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 2VC LEWIS: What date was that?

13 COORDINATOR WHITE: December 26th.

14 2VC LEWIS: Sorry.

15 COORDINATOR WHITE: Okay. Department  
16 Convention will be held in Toledo this year. It  
17 will be July 10th through July 12th. We will be in  
18 Toledo this year and we will be in Toledo next year.

19 The two hotels we have are the Hilton Garden  
20 Inn Toledo, which is attached to the convention  
21 center, and the Renaissance Toledo Downtown, which  
22 is not even a mile away.

23 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Three-tenths of a mile.

24 COORDINATOR WHITE: Three-tenths of a mile.

25 Hotels are first come, first serve. So it's

1 not a Legion hotel and Auxiliary hotel. Those are  
2 our two hotel options. So you call which one you  
3 would like to stay at.

4 There is transportation from each hotel, or  
5 from, specifically, the Renaissance to the  
6 convention center. Because all of the business will  
7 be conducted in the convention center. The City of  
8 Toledo has little trolleys that go around downtown.  
9 They will set them up at specific times for us, that  
10 work for us, to take the trollies from the hotels to  
11 the convention center, all day running. So there  
12 will be transportation.

13 The Hilton Garden Inn is \$169 a night. The  
14 Renaissance is \$175 a night.

15 The deadline for both hotels is June 6th.

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: What's the deadline?

17 COORDINATOR WHITE: June 6th.

18 Let's not confuse them, December 26th for  
19 Mid-Winter, June 6th for convention. But we will  
20 emphasize June 6th at the next DEC. So make your  
21 reservations for that as well.

22 For anybody in and around the Toledo area, or  
23 anyone that you know that would like to travel and  
24 be a vendor, we have a huge, huge space for vendors.  
25 We have some fun ideas that Jacob and I are kind of

1 working on to switch vendors up a little bit for  
2 convention. If you have any companies or have any  
3 contacts that you think would like to be a vendor at  
4 convention, please bring them up our way. Because,  
5 again, we have a huge space and we want to make it  
6 almost like a fun National Convention member area.

7 Any questions on convention?

8 Yes.

9 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: I would like to  
10 address the fact --

11 COMMANDER OREN: Name.

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

14 I want to address the fact that nonprofit  
15 veteran organization vendors have been being charged  
16 a fee. And I don't think that's fair. I think that  
17 the Department should have a policy that allows  
18 veteran nonprofits to not pay a fee to vendor, since  
19 most them are of service to the warriors there.  
20 Whereas the for-profit corporations, they're the  
21 ones that get to pay the fee. And maybe that's an  
22 increased fee for them so it covers down on any kind  
23 of missed cost for veteran nonprofits. But I just  
24 don't think it's fair to charge the veteran  
25 nonprofits a vendor fee.

1           COMMANDER OREN: Can you look into it?

2           COORDINATOR WHITE: Yes.

3           NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

4           What are the fees for the vendors, roughly?

5           COORDINATOR WHITE: Do you know that off the  
6 top of your head, Jacob?

7           COORDINATOR BRAULT: Yes.

8           Coordinator Brault.

9           The fees start, the lowest 250, 500, 750, 1,000  
10 at platinum, and then the banquet sponsor is 5,000.

11          COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Jacob.

12          Thank you, Christie.

13          Okay, at this time, Ty Bowers, front and  
14 center.

15          BALC DEAN BOWERS: Thank you, Commander.

16          I just wanted to give a quick update on the  
17 Buckeye American Legion College, especially with  
18 regards to the Mid-Winter Conference coming up.

19          We are focusing on programs again this year.

20          It's going to be very similar to the format that we  
21 did last year at Mid-Winter.

22          We're in the process of contacting the  
23 instructors. I've talked to several of them today,  
24 because a lot of them include the Department staff.

25          We are also going to be offering the graduate

1 program, instructed by Holly and Ken this year.

2 And we are also in the process of developing a  
3 new online content. The rough idea is to call it  
4 the "Buckeye American Legion Online Academy". So  
5 it's not going to be a different path to BALC  
6 graduation, but a separate program itself. So we  
7 may develop another pin.

8 But what we would like to do is have ideas for  
9 content be submitted. Some of our initial ideas are  
10 Post officer training, District officer training.

11 These are all going to be pre-recorded and  
12 posted online. So we're going to develop a system  
13 to track enrollees that participate in these classes  
14 and then set a certain number of video hours to earn  
15 your pin.

16 We are also going to focus on adding some  
17 Auxilliary-focused topics and SAL-focused topics.

18 Ideally, we would like to have this fully  
19 implemented so we can advertise it at the National  
20 Convention that we host in '28.

21 So, for right now, any ideas, shoot them our  
22 way so we can start building our online content.

23 Commander, that's all I have.

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Minadeo,  
25 Parliamentarian.

1 How do they sign up for BALC?

2 BALC DEAN BOWERS: For BALC? Just come to --

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Just show up?

4 BALC DEAN BOWERS: Yeah, just show up, give us  
5 your name, e-mail address, contact information.

6 But you can start taking the BALC classes right  
7 away. But to graduate, you have to complete the  
8 basic training online course through the National  
9 website.

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Each class has its own  
11 registration at Mid-Winter.

12 BALC DEAN BOWERS: That's correct.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And summer convention.

14 BALC DEAN BOWERS: Yes, each class has its own  
15 box to check off. So we will get an attendance  
16 sheet at each class.

17 The times are going to be pretty much from  
18 8:00 o'clock to 4:00 o'clock on Saturday of  
19 Mid-Winter. So those are going to be pretty much  
20 the entire day.

21 Any other questions?

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, Ty.

24 TREASURER LaVOY: For good of The Legion, I  
25 just want to mention two items.

1           One, if you noticed, our 3rd District Commander  
2 has left. He has left, Brian Fowle, to go to  
3 National American Legion College, which starts  
4 today. So he's driving to Indianapolis. And then  
5 I'll be there next week as well, as an instructor.  
6 And so he was our designee for Ohio. And so if  
7 you're a BALC graduate, think about that, attending  
8 NALC next year.

9           NALC is changing the way they do it this year.  
10 It's all focused on servant leadership. So if you  
11 think what does that mean, the leadership model with  
12 the Commander at the top, servant leadership flips  
13 the model upside-down. Okay? Because we're all  
14 volunteers. And so it's trying to get volunteers  
15 motivated and stuff. You're not commanding them,  
16 you're motivating them. So that's the direction.  
17 So everything that's focused, communication, growth  
18 of membership, and leadership, it's all servant  
19 driven.

20           On top of that, one other item I want to  
21 mention, Commander, and to the group, is we're  
22 talking about 2028. Ty brought it up. In 2028,  
23 when we have our National Convention here in  
24 Columbus, the next thing that is on the agenda for  
25 us to work towards that goal is JD and myself will

1 be meeting with National, from the Convention  
2 Commission, and we'll be meeting them starting on  
3 Wednesday, and we start signing the contracts for  
4 the hotels.

5 And also, if you are on the committees or a  
6 committee chair, it was mentioned that we had an  
7 online, where everybody says, hey, I want to be on  
8 this committee for the 2028 Convention, well that  
9 was all online. The problem was it was on my laptop  
10 and it was on my OneDrive account. And it filled  
11 up. So, if something happens to me, being on my  
12 account doesn't help. So we moved that over to  
13 Department's OneDrive system and sent out the links  
14 to all those committee chairs.

15 So if you still have vacancies within your  
16 committees, you can access it through your  
17 Department. Make sure you start putting those names  
18 where they need to be.

19 That's all I have, Commander.

20 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you, sir.

21 2VC LEWIS: I just want to mention, Bob Mason  
22 let me know that Post 250, in Sycamore, it wants to  
23 have a summer co-ed softball tournament with the SAL  
24 and Legionnaires. If you're interested in something  
25 like that, can you let me know or let Bob know?

1 Thank you.

2 ASST SGT-AT-ARMS STAN: Thom Stan, I'm the  
3 Alternate (sic) Sergeant-at-Arms here, one of them.

4 So, we, at Department Convention, I always hit  
5 up Posts in our District. Some of them send me 20  
6 bucks, some of them send me 50, some of them send me  
7 500, for the party at Department Convention. We're  
8 thinking of doing something through the Districts  
9 similar to that for National Convention.

10 Those of you that go to the National  
11 Convention, sometimes we have a big blowout and  
12 sometimes we're kind of skimpy with the budget for  
13 these things. It would be a lot easier to have a  
14 big blowout if every District would hit all their  
15 Posts up throughout the year and got contributions.  
16 I would propose an MWR fund just for that purpose.  
17 And if that fund were to grow large enough, it could  
18 fund festivities for Mid-Winter, festivities for  
19 state convention.

20 But definitely start it out as festivities for  
21 next year's National Convention in Louisville.  
22 Because, it being so close, we have an opportunity  
23 to bring members of our Districts to the National  
24 Convention, even if they just come for one night to  
25 party, because it will expose them to that. And we

1 have to have the funding in place to make that  
2 happen.

3 You know, we're not going to drag them down  
4 there and make them spend an arm and a leg feeding  
5 themselves and buying drinks at the bar that are  
6 overpriced and all that. We can do as a hospitality  
7 room for the Department and National Conventions.

8 That's my proposal, Commander. I think  
9 everybody should think about it and then maybe we  
10 can bring this up at the next DEC meeting.

11 Thank you.

12 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: Good idea.

13 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

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

16 Closing remarks, good day.

17 5TH DISTRICT CMDR RODGERS: Melissa Rodgers,  
18 5th District Commander, for the good of The Legion.

19 Unfortunately, the 5th District will not be  
20 able to attend your homecoming. So we brought you  
21 prizes.

22 COMMANDER OREN: Thank you.

23 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
24 District Commander.

25 Due to the hard work that our Department staff

1 does day in and day out to help keep the Department  
2 of Ohio moving along, the 14th District has decided  
3 to donate \$100 to take the staff out to lunch.

4 (Applause).

5 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HELLER: McDonald's it is.

6 COMMANDER OREN: Okay, I want to thank  
7 everybody for coming, for staying around. And it's  
8 been a long day. We've went across a lot of stuff.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It's not supper time  
10 yet.

11 COMMANDER OREN: You're out of order.

12 At this time, benediction, Ron.

13 Uncover.

14 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Let us pray.

15 Lord, today's Executive Board business is done.  
16 We have listened to Your words and we have followed  
17 Your guidance. Tomorrow, we will reflect on today,  
18 and we will rejoice in how we have been directed by  
19 Your love.

20 Give us all safe travels, Lord, and allow us to  
21 gather together again as we attempt to solve the  
22 organization's problems. To You we look, Lord, for  
23 directions, and to You we will continue to pray to.

24 Amen.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

1           COMMANDER OREN:  Cover.

2           By the numbers one, two.

3           . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

4           Adjourned.

5                               \* \* \* \* \*

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**11TH DISTRICT  
1VC SMATHERS:  
[7] 69/12 110/14  
116/3 116/24  
128/22 129/4  
132/15  
12TH DISTRICT  
1VC WOODRUM:  
[6] 58/1 58/5 58/12  
58/16 136/16  
136/23  
12TH DISTRICT  
CMDR HELLER:  
[42] 76/9 76/13  
77/16 89/16 92/14  
102/1 108/1 108/3  
108/21 109/6  
109/12 109/15  
110/10 111/15  
111/19 111/23  
112/5 112/7 112/24  
113/3 114/15 115/2  
117/13 117/16  
118/14 118/16  
118/21 119/2 119/9  
120/21 122/18  
123/2 124/10  
128/25 130/14  
130/25 131/16  
136/25 139/9  
139/12 146/12**

**147/5  
13TH DISTRICT  
CMDR  
LOCKYER: [1]  
73/18  
14TH DISTRICT  
CMDR LIFE: [13]  
6/12 35/7 36/1 63/7  
67/16 101/14  
101/22 121/12  
130/17 132/5  
132/18 133/12  
146/23  
1ST DISTRICT  
CMDR BOYERS:  
[2] 71/3 131/7  
2ND DISTRICT  
1VC EMANS: [1]  
130/24  
2ND DISTRICT  
CMDR SHAW: [1]  
133/6  
2VC LEWIS: [30]  
4/22 7/21 9/25  
11/15 11/17 14/2  
14/5 59/6 77/8  
102/2 111/1 112/23  
114/13 114/22  
115/4 119/18 125/2  
127/12 127/15  
127/23 128/11  
128/15 128/24**

**129/1 129/15  
129/21 135/25  
137/12 137/14  
144/21  
4TH DISTRICT  
1VC BAUMANN:  
[1] 83/10  
5TH DISTRICT  
1VC PARSONS:  
[1] 63/5  
5TH DISTRICT  
CMDR  
RODGERS: [3]  
65/24 73/21 146/17  
6TH DISTRICT  
CMDR LITTLE:  
[10] 67/14 69/5  
69/9 77/17 78/23  
79/4 102/23 103/3  
103/6 103/9  
7TH DISTRICT  
CMDR CONLEY:  
[4] 6/15 65/22  
70/25 131/12  
ADJUTANT  
ROBINSON: [49]  
5/16 24/5 24/25  
25/15 29/17 31/21  
56/20 56/22 58/4  
58/8 58/13 58/18  
72/1 82/2 82/9  
91/25 92/22 93/16**

**ADJUTANT  
ROBINSON:...**  
[31] 93/19 94/6  
94/12 94/17 96/7  
96/10 96/12 97/3  
98/23 99/1 99/3  
99/10 99/16 99/21  
100/19 103/1 103/5  
103/8 104/2 104/4  
104/12 104/24  
105/2 118/1 118/5  
121/18 121/23  
123/3 138/16  
142/10 142/13  
**ALTERNATE  
NEC SCHMITT:**  
[7] 45/23 61/6  
98/20 98/24 99/2  
101/12 137/23  
**ASST  
SGT-AT-ARMS  
MASON: [3] 25/3  
25/23 26/1  
ASST  
SGT-AT-ARMS  
STAN: [1] 145/2  
BALC DEAN  
BOWERS: [5]  
140/15 142/2 142/4  
142/12 142/14  
CHAIRMAN  
BOYERS: [24]**

19/2 19/4 19/11  
20/21 21/20 21/24  
22/10 22/16 23/7  
23/18 23/22 25/2  
27/7 27/10 29/13  
29/18 31/11 31/25  
32/2 34/21 35/1  
35/4 35/23 81/2  
**CHAPLAIN  
DISTEL: [10] 4/7  
4/9 24/3 36/19 39/2  
39/4 41/2 41/4 69/3  
147/14  
COMMANDER  
OREN: [165]  
COMMANDER  
SCHMITT: [1]  
133/14  
COORDINATOR  
BRAULT: [12]  
72/19 74/12 76/23  
78/17 78/25 79/15  
81/3 81/22 82/7  
82/10 83/15 140/7  
COORDINATOR  
GENOCHIO: [2]  
83/23 84/1  
COORDINATOR  
VULGAMORE:  
[3] 89/19 89/22  
92/9  
COORDINATOR  
WHITE: [28] 26/6**

26/8 59/8 61/20  
63/19 66/12 68/3  
69/24 71/16 71/25  
134/1 134/13  
134/16 135/13  
135/20 136/1  
136/15 136/21  
136/24 137/2 137/7  
137/9 137/13  
137/15 137/24  
138/17 140/2 140/5  
**FROM THE  
ASSEMBLY: [88]  
4/8 4/18 5/22 6/19  
6/21 11/14 14/8  
18/21 19/3 19/10  
20/20 27/9 34/20  
34/23 35/11 35/13  
36/6 36/8 36/10  
36/14 36/16 41/14  
56/21 61/9 61/11  
61/13 61/16 61/18  
63/10 63/12 63/15  
66/3 66/5 66/7 66/9  
67/19 67/21 67/24  
68/1 69/16 69/18  
69/20 69/22 71/7  
71/9 71/12 71/14  
73/25 74/2 74/5  
74/8 74/10 79/6  
79/8 79/11 79/13  
83/25 89/14 89/21**

**FROM THE  
ASSEMBLY:...**

**[29] 92/12 94/15  
95/22 100/2 101/21  
102/4 107/18 110/4  
116/20 122/10  
122/12 122/14  
122/16 130/1 130/3  
130/5 130/7 131/18  
131/21 131/23  
132/22 132/24  
133/15 133/17  
133/20 133/22  
137/11 142/22  
147/25**

**FROM THE  
FLOOR: [20]**

**25/25 39/1 39/3  
56/16 59/2 76/16  
81/21 99/15 105/20  
111/8 111/11  
120/11 121/15  
121/20 121/22  
121/24 134/12  
134/14 135/19  
136/14**

**HISTORIAN  
MOTTER: [2]**

**41/13 41/15**

**NEC CHAPMAN:  
[57] 21/17 21/21**

**21/25 22/11 23/2  
23/19 23/23 24/15  
24/18 24/21 25/1  
36/4 42/16 61/4  
76/8 76/18 76/24  
77/9 95/8 99/19  
99/22 100/3 101/3  
101/9 101/24  
103/12 104/3  
104/10 104/17  
105/3 106/20  
106/25 110/12  
111/9 112/6 113/13  
113/16 114/3 114/5  
114/10 115/16  
116/13 117/22  
117/25 118/2  
118/11 118/15  
118/19 119/1 119/6  
121/17 121/21  
122/3 122/24 128/7  
130/20 140/3  
PARLIAMENTA  
RIAN MINADEO:  
[74] 47/24 56/17  
58/25 100/17  
100/21 101/5  
101/16 102/5 102/7  
102/21 104/18  
104/25 105/15  
105/21 106/24  
107/4 107/19 108/2**

**108/18 109/5 109/9  
109/16 109/19  
110/2 110/5 110/19  
111/4 111/12  
111/16 111/21  
112/3 112/9 113/1  
113/4 113/14  
113/17 114/4 114/8  
114/11 114/14  
115/5 115/17 116/9  
116/14 116/21  
117/4 117/15  
117/17 117/23  
118/8 118/12  
118/17 118/24  
119/3 119/7 119/15  
119/19 120/12  
122/1 122/4 127/11  
127/14 127/16  
128/9 128/13 129/6  
129/16 131/4  
131/25 135/11  
136/19 141/24  
142/3 147/9  
PDC WHATLEY:  
[1] 6/6  
SGT-AT-ARMS  
KENNEDY: [9]  
5/21 5/23 6/7 26/21  
35/15 93/12 93/17  
93/20 94/7  
THE COURT: [1]**

	\$3,000 [2] 93/22 94/11	<b>1</b>
<b>THE COURT:...</b> [1] 35/22	\$30,000 [1] 30/1	1,000 [1] 140/9
<b>TREASURER</b>	\$300 [1] 63/1	10 [2] 60/12 60/13
<b>LaVOY: [17]</b>	\$40 [1] 136/4	100 [1] 76/3
13/25 14/3 14/6	\$40,000 [2] 21/19 32/19	100 percent [6] 7/10 7/18 8/13 17/8 25/9 75/18
14/9 18/22 23/8	\$400,000 [1] 32/11	103 [1] 41/8
29/11 30/13 31/23	\$5,000 [1] 25/18	105 [1] 32/22
32/1 109/11 109/13	\$50,000 [1] 30/7	10:00 [5] 59/9 65/18 72/23 124/20 124/21
109/18 109/25	\$500 [1] 65/11	10:38 [1] 73/16
130/22 137/5	\$57,000 [1] 21/19	10:53 [1] 61/1
142/24	\$6,000 [1] 8/14	10th [7] 9/8 9/16 27/12 38/21 72/2 72/6 137/17
<b>\$</b>	\$600 [1] 65/12	11 [6] 2/11 48/1 69/13 110/15 116/4 132/16
<b>\$100 [1] 147/3</b>	\$7,000 [1] 26/13	119th [1] 86/5
<b>\$131 [2] 134/9</b>	\$75,000 [1] 30/5	11:00 o'clock [1] 66/15
<b>134/23</b>	\$8,000 [1] 15/19	11:15 [1] 59/20
<b>\$169 [1] 138/13</b>	'	11:30 [2] 70/2 74/13
<b>\$17,000 [3] 22/2</b>	'19 [1] 88/4	11th [4] 9/10 61/21 65/5 129/5
<b>22/25 25/11</b>	'25 [1] 86/4	12 [4] 48/2 60/9 84/12 96/18
<b>\$175 [1] 138/14</b>	'25-'26 [1] 86/4	125 [1] 3/15
<b>\$2 [2] 33/21 33/21</b>	'26 [3] 18/6 86/4 88/19	12:13 [1] 70/20
<b>\$2,000 [1] 67/11</b>	'27 [1] 33/5	
<b>\$20,000 [2] 29/24</b>	'28 [1] 141/20	
<b>30/1</b>	'81 [1] 89/8	
<b>\$20,000-plus [1]</b>	'92 [1] 89/8	
<b>29/24</b>	'American [1] 107/14	
<b>\$200 [1] 22/4</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>\$24,000 [1] 20/3</b>	<b>01 [1] 89/2</b>	
<b>\$25 [1] 45/12</b>		
<b>\$25,000 [2] 26/25</b>		
<b>30/2</b>		

<b>1</b>	<b>37/7</b>	<b>20,000 [2] 18/2 31/7</b>
<b>12:18 [1] 67/12</b>	<b>15-minute [1] 47/8</b>	<b>200 [1] 54/19</b>
<b>12:30 [1] 76/6</b>	<b>1500 [1] 94/6</b>	<b>2003 [2] 106/21</b>
<b>12:50 [1] 95/25</b>	<b>15th [2] 20/22 67/2</b>	<b>120/25</b>
<b>12:53 [1] 63/4</b>	<b>16th [3] 65/9 66/24</b>	<b>2004 [1] 16/2</b>
<b>12th [12] 9/11 58/2</b>	<b>134/6</b>	<b>2013 [1] 48/10</b>
<b>66/14 90/5 108/4</b>	<b>17th [5] 19/12</b>	<b>202 [1] 123/6</b>
<b>114/16 120/22</b>	<b>62/21 67/2 88/14</b>	<b>2025 [6] 1/9 4/1</b>
<b>122/19 136/6</b>	<b>136/3</b>	<b>62/9 63/20 84/4</b>
<b>136/17 137/17</b>	<b>18 [2] 89/5 123/6</b>	<b>123/5</b>
<b>139/13</b>	<b>18th [5] 10/25</b>	<b>2026 [10] 41/21</b>
<b>13 [3] 48/15 48/15</b>	<b>62/21 65/7 68/18</b>	<b>62/7 62/20 62/23</b>
<b>90/6</b>	<b>134/7</b>	<b>62/23 62/25 64/7</b>
<b>13-year-old [1]</b>	<b>19 [1] 2/13</b>	<b>65/9 65/10 134/2</b>
<b>48/2</b>	<b>19th [2] 7/24 65/9</b>	<b>2026-'27 [1] 33/5</b>
<b>132 [1] 3/16</b>	<b>1:00 [2] 65/19</b>	<b>2027 [2] 13/18 62/5</b>
<b>133 [1] 3/17</b>	<b>70/14</b>	<b>2028 [5] 62/3 62/4</b>
<b>1389565 [1] 109/23</b>	<b>1:10 [1] 84/9</b>	<b>143/22 143/22</b>
<b>13th [3] 9/12 73/18</b>	<b>1:25 [1] 89/11</b>	<b>144/8</b>
<b>88/12</b>	<b>1Baseball [1] 63/25</b>	<b>2029 [1] 62/3</b>
<b>14 [3] 2/12 60/14</b>	<b>1st [22] 2/10 7/22</b>	<b>21 [1] 82/16</b>
<b>84/12</b>	<b>8/17 10/24 11/3</b>	<b>2102 [1] 87/8</b>
<b>14,000 [1] 15/22</b>	<b>13/17 58/1 69/12</b>	<b>2165 [1] 86/23</b>
<b>147 [2] 3/18 3/19</b>	<b>71/3 75/23 83/10</b>	<b>21st [1] 62/23</b>
<b>148 [1] 3/20</b>	<b>84/10 106/22</b>	<b>225 [1] 22/5</b>
<b>14th [14] 6/12 9/13</b>	<b>110/14 114/12</b>	<b>22nd [1] 65/18</b>
<b>35/7 36/1 62/23</b>	<b>116/3 123/4 124/13</b>	<b>23 [2] 6/1 95/25</b>
<b>63/7 67/16 101/14</b>	<b>129/5 131/8 132/15</b>	<b>24th [1] 65/10</b>
<b>121/12 132/5</b>	<b>136/17</b>	<b>25 [3] 18/4 57/5</b>
<b>132/18 133/12</b>	<hr/>	<b>119/13</b>
<b>146/23 147/2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>250 [2] 140/9</b>
<b>15 [4] 1/9 4/1 8/12</b>	<b>20 [3] 54/20 54/23</b>	<b>144/22</b>
	<b>145/5</b>	

**2**  
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