

1  
2 THE AMERICAN LEGION  
3 DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
5  
6

7 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
8  
9

10 Held: Saturday, December 3, 2022.  
11

12 Location: Department Headquarters  
13 60 Big Run Road  
14 Delaware, Ohio 43015-8007  
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24 DRAGON REPORTING SERVICE  
25 Cincinnati, Ohio  
(513) 600-6151

I N D E X

Saturday, December 3, 2022.

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1 Saturday, December 3, 2022.

2 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

3 COMMANDER STENNIS: Uncover.

4 Colors being in place, hand salute. One,  
5 two.

6 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

7 Uncover.

8 We'll have Chaplain Fast give us the  
9 invocation.

10 CHAPLAIN FAST: Heavenly Father, creator and  
11 sustainer of all things, we gather this morning  
12 asking for Your guidance and direction for this  
13 meeting of The American Legion Department of Ohio.

14 We receive the wisdom that You have promised  
15 to us when we consider Your ways. Truly let the  
16 meditations of our hearts and the words of our  
17 mouth be acceptable unto You, our God, strength  
18 and redeemer.

19 Let brotherly love vow in the Department,  
20 Districts, and Posts around the State of Ohio.  
21 And let Your compassion be ministered through us  
22 to those who are hurting and feel the pain and  
23 loss and hopelessness.

24 Lord, let us be known as peacemakers in these  
25 troubled times, not giving in to the thoughts and

1 ways of the chaos of the world, but taking on the  
2 ways and things of You, that we may show Your love  
3 and be known as Your children.

4 You said that a man who has friends lets  
5 himself be friendly. Let the whole American  
6 Legion be friendly, and let there be a new feeling  
7 of brotherhood and comradeship sweep through all  
8 of our meetings and the membership, bringing back  
9 the social kinship that our shared military  
10 experiences that the Legion was founded and  
11 fostered on. Let Your grace and peace reign, and  
12 it all be done decently and in order.

13 In the name of the Father and the Son and the  
14 Holy Spirit, amen.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

16 COMMANDER STENNIS: Now we will have 1st Vice  
17 Jason Rue lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

18 . . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

19 Recover.

20 Now we will have 2nd Vice Whatley lead us in  
21 the Preamble.

22 . . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

23 COMMANDER STENNIS: At this time we'll have  
24 the POW/MIA recognition by 1st Vice Rue.

25 1VC RUE: Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th

1 National Convention, calls for designating an  
2 empty chair placed at all official meetings of The  
3 American Legion as a physical symbol of the  
4 thousands of American POW-MIAs still unaccounted  
5 for from all wars and conflicts involving the  
6 United States of America. This is a reminder for  
7 all of us to spare no effort to secure the release  
8 of any American prisoner from captivity, the  
9 repatriation of the remains of those who died  
10 bravely in defense of liberty, and a full  
11 accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate  
12 ourselves to this vital endeavor.

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: You can be seated.

14 Good morning.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

16 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. At this time  
17 can we have a roll call, Department Adjutant?

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

19 . . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . .

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, you have a  
21 quorum.

22 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you. Thank you.

23 Sergeant-at-Arms, can we have an introduction  
24 of guests?

25 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS PETROCHELLO: Commander, I

1 have Robert Schmitt.

2 PDC SCHMITT: Go blue.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS PETROCHELLO: Robert  
4 Schmitt, Past Department Commander; Robert  
5 Klostermeier, Past Department Commander; Jim  
6 Koppin, Director of Buckeye Boys State; Marv  
7 Shamhart, Department Baseball Chairman; Chris  
8 Emmons, MM&C Chairman; Robert Mason, 5th District  
9 2nd Vice Commander; Jose Rivera, Finance Chairman;  
10 John Looker, Department Oratorical Chairman;  
11 Suzette Heller, Past Department Adjutant; Dayna  
12 Beyer, Auxiliary Department Historian; Al Beyer,  
13 Department Historian; Larry Sullivan, 2nd Vice  
14 Commander, 8th District; and Cindy Masowick,  
15 Department President, Auxiliary.

16 That's it.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Gary. Thank  
18 you.

19 All right, before we get started, just a few  
20 ground rules.

21 One: When you're speaking, please state your  
22 name clearly, and your Post, or I'm sorry, your  
23 District, so it can be annotated by the recorders.

24 Also, I have been told, from the last meeting  
25 minutes, there were a lot of conversations going



1 on at the same time in which someone was either  
2 speaking or someone was presenting something. I  
3 want to keep that at a minimum. We need to keep  
4 that at a minimum, not only just for the  
5 recorders, but so we can maintain a level of  
6 decorum and order here.

7 The second thing, before we get started, if  
8 you see your name is on the agenda and you're  
9 right behind the person that is speaking, make  
10 sure you're ready to come up. I am a, when I run  
11 meetings, I'm a go-getter. And what I mean by  
12 go-getter is let's do this, let's do this, let's  
13 do this, which means I'd like everybody to pay  
14 attention and stay focused.

15 And once these ground rules are set, we are  
16 all set and ready to go.

17 With that being said, that brings up our next  
18 officer, Jason Rue.

19 1VC RUE: Good morning, everyone.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

21 1VC RUE: Does anybody have membership to  
22 turn in today?

23 We've got the jug up here if anybody wants to  
24 turn membership in.

25 . . . MEMBERSHIP CARDS TURNED IN . . .

1           1VC RUE:   And we'll get those tabulated and  
2 added up for my membership report coming later.

3           4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY:   Jerry Perry, 4th  
4 District.   I put all my on-line transmittals in  
5 there, sir.

6           COMMANDER STENNIS:   Sergeant-at-Arms, I  
7 already see we're going to have a problem right  
8 here in front (indicating).

9           All right, 2nd Vice AJ Whatley.

10          2VC WHATLEY:   Good morning, everyone.

11          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:   Good morning.

12          2VC WHATLEY:   The only thing we have going on  
13 right now, and you're going to hear a little bit  
14 more about it later on, is the bowling tournament  
15 is coming up in February.   Our new activity chair  
16 will give you a little bit more information on  
17 that.   So I wish not to cover anything that he's  
18 going to cover twice.   So I yield the rest of the  
19 time to him.

20          Thank you, Commander.

21          COMMANDER STENNIS:   Thank you.

22          Our Treasurer, Harold Savage.

23          TREASURER SAVAGE:   Okay, I'm going to try and  
24 keep this a little shorter than last meeting.

25          Our Chairman for the Finance Committee, Jose

1 Rivera, is here. He's going to do the minutes  
2 when it's time to do those.

3 So, basically, our investments, right now, we  
4 are up \$227,800, for our investments. That's  
5 through four periods. That's through the end of  
6 October.

7 And then the profit and loss came out. We've  
8 got a lot of stuff out there that makes it a lot  
9 simpler. There's still a few things I have to  
10 pull out, but we're working on that with our  
11 accountants.

12 Things are getting a little better right now.  
13 We're showing \$276,151 to the good. That's  
14 because a lot of membership came in. It's going  
15 to slow down over the year.

16 But at this point we're looking pretty good  
17 on both of those.

18 That's about all I have to cover right now.

19 Any questions on anything?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 TREASURER SAVAGE: All right, thank you.

22 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Harold. That  
23 has to be a record.

24 Next, Chaplain Fast.

25 CHAPLAIN FAST: I'll be doing some more

1 during the report on the Religious Emphasis.

2 But what I did do, in September, I went to  
3 Post 330, for Chaplain duties. And I was on the  
4 honor guard for Fire Chief Alan McClintock.

5 Anybody been on a fireman's honor guard?

6 They did the last call. They had the fire  
7 trucks there, and the radio came on, and they gave  
8 him his last call. So that was quite interesting.

9 In October, I did the Post 330 Chaplain's  
10 duties, done an honor guard for Roger Kantner, and  
11 honor guard for Kenneth Redman. They were both  
12 Legion members. I did the 2nd District Conference  
13 Chaplain's duties, and I did the Religious  
14 Emphasis Committee meeting October 22nd.

15 In November, I volunteered with the Osceola  
16 County, Florida EMA, and went to help out with the  
17 hurricane. And we got down there and then the  
18 cold come through. So I guess it was the right  
19 place at the right time. But the cold turned out  
20 to be a dud, thank goodness. So the power never  
21 went off. And that's when the problems start,  
22 when the power goes out.

23 So while I was there, an interesting thing.  
24 Now you notice when I prayed, I asked that we be  
25 friends with people. So at the condo we was

1 staying at, there was another car from Ohio there.  
2 And this couple happened to be around the pool  
3 when we went out there. And I sat down. And of  
4 course I thought maybe I could recruit one. So I  
5 asked if he was a veteran.

6 He said, "No." He said, "I'm a retired  
7 police officer." He said, "But I've known some  
8 people in The American Legion."

9 And his wife said, "Yeah, one of our  
10 ex-brother-in-laws was a big poobah" -- that's the  
11 word she used, "poobah" -- "in the American  
12 Legion".

13 I said, "Well, who would that be? Because I  
14 know a few people."

15 She said, "Do you know anybody from Canton?"

16 I said, "Yeah, one or two."

17 She says, "Well, Brad Teis."

18 I said, "Really?"

19 She said, "Yeah."

20 And this was his first wife, evidently, from  
21 many, many years ago. But they was well  
22 acquainted with the family. And we had some  
23 pictures on our cell phone, between my wife and I,  
24 different ones of Brad, and they wanted them right  
25 away. So we just sent the pictures over to them.

1 And I had a chance to pray with them and give them  
2 some message, you know.

3 And that scripture, if you're going to have a  
4 lot of friends, you've got to be friendly. You  
5 know, if you want to be a recruiter, you've got to  
6 talk The American Legion every once in a while,  
7 you know. So it can be wrapped up with whatever  
8 we do, wherever we're at. Who would have ever  
9 thought that down in there in Kissimmee, Florida,  
10 in a condo, that we would have run into somebody  
11 from Cleveland, Ohio, that was well known with  
12 Brad. So we need to be more outgoing, not just in  
13 our personal life but for The American Legion. I  
14 mean that's why we're here this morning, to work  
15 for The American Legion.

16 and While I'm here, I'll give the report on  
17 some passings from the Marengo Royal Post 710.  
18 They lost Ray Dietz and a 71-year member, Wilbur  
19 Matson.

20 I done one for 60 years a couple months ago  
21 and I was impressed with the fellow. And 71  
22 years, that's a long time to be an American Legion  
23 member. And I think we ought to give him a little  
24 clap in remembrance for that.

25 (Applause).

1           And we also lost Robert Ray, a Past  
2 Department Commander.

3           So that's all I have for this time,  
4 Commander.

5           COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Chaplain Fast.  
6 Thank you.

7           Okay, next up is a man who's -- Al Beyer, our  
8 Historian.

9           I'll stand back here.

10          HISTORIAN BEYER: Good morning, Commander  
11 Stennis, the Executive Committee and officers and  
12 guests. Good morning out there.

13          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

14          HISTORIAN BEYER: In October, I attended the  
15 National Association of Department Historians of  
16 The American Legion in Indianapolis.

17          Our new National Historian for this year is a  
18 gal named Deborah Davis. She's from Colorado.

19          And the National Association of Department  
20 Historians of The American Legion President is  
21 Charemon Dunham of South Dakota.

22          There are no changes to the rules of the  
23 Posts' and Department History Book Contest. The  
24 Post contest deadline will be announced after I  
25 receive the National Historian Davis' annual

1 letter and President Dunham's newsletter for any  
2 updates.

3 As a lot of you know, I was unable to attend  
4 almost the entire month of November events due to  
5 car issues and an unexpected late night date with  
6 a deer.

7 I want to thank Commander Stennis and JD for  
8 being patient, as well as those who have covered  
9 the events by taking photos and sending them to me  
10 and my wife Dayna.

11 We're both now back in the saddle, so to  
12 speak, and should be able to attend events as we  
13 get them on the calendar.

14 And if you'll bear with me here, I would to  
15 present, at this time I'd like to present to  
16 Commander Stennis the challenge coin from the  
17 Department of Hawaii's Commander James Hussey, and  
18 also The American Legion Riders pin of the big  
19 island of Hawaii. And from Past Department  
20 Commander and NEC Fran Riddell, which my wife had  
21 received when she presented to them the Ohio  
22 Commander's pin while on her trip in October to  
23 Hawaii.

24 You've heard the saying, "Happy wife, happy  
25 life." It's true. Believe me.



1           The work of collecting, recording and  
2 preserving the activities of The American Legion  
3 is an important endeavor and demands much detail  
4 work. I ask each of you to make sure your  
5 individual Posts keep a history record for all its  
6 members to enjoy. I'm sure they will find it as  
7 inspiring and rewarding as I have.

8           It is my honor to be able to continue as  
9 Historian with Commander Stennis, along with my  
10 Assistant Historian Keith Whiddon of Post 139, in  
11 District 10.

12           I want to thank Keith and my wife Dayna, the  
13 Department of Ohio Auxiliary Historian, for their  
14 continued support and assistance to highlight the  
15 best of Ohio, our American Legion.

16           Thank you.

17           (Applause).

18           COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Al.

19           NEC Masowick.

20           NEC MASOWICK: It took me four years and I'm  
21 ready to roll here.

22           Jim Troiola, the National Commander, sent us  
23 a letter:

24           "To my fellow Legionnaires in Ohio, The  
25 American Legion achieved an enormous victory in

1 the 117th Congress. Thanks to the hard work and  
2 advocacy of Legionnaires from around the globe,  
3 the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring  
4 Our PACT Act is now the law of the land. It  
5 passed because elected officials heard from the  
6 members of the Department who understood the  
7 harmful effects that environmental hazards and  
8 burn pits can have on veterans. Like any  
9 legislation" --

10 I got new bifocals. So I'm going to have to  
11 hold on to this.

12 "Like any legislation of this scope,  
13 implementation will be a challenge. On the  
14 national level, we will continue to lobby the  
15 administration, Congress, and the Department of  
16 Veterans Affairs, to do right by America's  
17 veterans. On a local level, we will continue to  
18 rely on our excellent service officers to ensure  
19 that veterans and their families are able to  
20 access their benefits."

21 And one more paragraph:

22 "No issue is more important to our American  
23 Legion Family than preventing veteran suicide. I  
24 am asking all of you to 'Be the One' to save one.  
25 Through buddy checks, outreach and dialogue, we

1 can destigmatize the issue. Veterans value  
2 courage and it takes courage to seek help. If we  
3 each focus on saving one life, we will  
4 collectively save thousands."

5 National Commander Jim Troiola.

6 A couple of things from the NEC that was  
7 brought up.

8 First off, emblem sales. They budgeted so  
9 much money that they were going to profit from.  
10 Well, they exceeded their budget by \$36,000. So  
11 that was a good start to the meeting.

12 Camp Lejeune. You heard all the ambulance  
13 chasers on television; right?

14 FROM THE FLOOR: Uh-huh.

15 NEC MASOWICK: You've got to be careful when  
16 you file that Camp Lejeune report, because they  
17 could take money out of your Social Security, your  
18 VA benefits. It will offset that. The lawyers  
19 are going to get 40 to 50 percent.

20 The American Legion recommends, if you do  
21 file, use Bergmann & Moore. Okay? Did you all  
22 get that?

23 FROM THE FLOOR: Are they the official  
24 representative?

25 NEC MASOWICK: No. They just recommend them.

1           These folks seem to be veterans and they seem  
2 to be -- you've all seen the commercials. Who do  
3 you believe?

4           Resolutions 1 and 2, I'll go through them in  
5 a matter of just a few minutes, because this is  
6 what we have. And anybody that's been on the NEC  
7 knows what the resolutions are.

8           Resolution 1.

9           And both 1 and 2, have to do with the Chip  
10 Ganassi Racing Car.

11          The resolution: "Resolved, that The American  
12 Legion be authorized to spend \$4.5 million per  
13 year in contractual fees payable to the Ganassi  
14 Organization; and be it finally.

15          "Resolved, that the National Commander, after  
16 review and approval by the National Judge  
17 Advocate, be and is hereby authorized and directed  
18 to execute said agreement, and the National  
19 Adjutant be and is hereby authorized and directed  
20 to attest the same."

21          That was approved by the NEC. So we are  
22 going to continue with Ganassi Racing.

23          And the second resolution has to do with  
24 baseball. Why baseball comes to mind, I don't  
25 know.

1 But those of you who have baseball teams,  
2 there's going to be an increase. The 2024 will be  
3 an increase of \$75 for juniors and \$100 per senior  
4 team. Regional tournaments in The American Legion  
5 Baseball Program will be a one-year or a two-year,  
6 consecutive years, based on really if it's a  
7 central location, and determined by open bid.

8 What they're saying is that, instead of  
9 having it one year, you can do it for two years  
10 now.

11 So when is the last time Ohio had the  
12 tournament? We haven't had one in quite awhile,  
13 have we? Where's our Baseball Chairman? I think  
14 we haven't had one in awhile. Have we?

15 FROM THE FLOOR: That's a good question.

16 NEC MASOWICK: To sponsor the area --

17 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: You mean the regional?

18 NEC MASOWICK: Yeah.

19 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: We had one in --

20 FROM THE FLOOR: The last one I remember was  
21 in Cincinnati.

22 Cincinnati is the last one, or Toledo.

23 COMMANDER STENNIS: One person speak at a  
24 time, please.

25 NEC MASOWICK: Well, thank you.

1           So maybe we can work on that.

2           CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: They bid those out. If  
3 you want to hold a regional tournament, you have  
4 to pay for two years and there's X number of  
5 dollars you have to put up front.

6           And they're on the National Baseball site.  
7 There's some open right now.

8           The Great Lakes Region, we have our regional  
9 tournament set for two years. And it's in  
10 Midland, Michigan.

11          NEC MASOWICK: Midland, Michigan?

12          CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Yeah.

13          NEC MASOWICK: Thank you.

14          Now, for a sad note, there will be a possible  
15 increase in 2024 and 2025 for dues. That's the  
16 National side. And when we pay the dues, they  
17 take that money first.

18          Two long-time fellows worth speaking about  
19 are Ralph Bozella, Chairman of the VA&R, he  
20 retired. A good man. We're going to miss him.

21          Richard Anderson, Americanism Chairman, he's  
22 been on it for a long time. He retired.

23          So those will be two chairs that they're  
24 going to be filling up here directly.

25          I have the resolutions with me. If anybody

1 would like to go over them or talk about them  
2 after the meeting, you can surely see me or even  
3 Suzette. Suzette has all that stuff.

4 So, Commander --

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Let's see if we've got  
6 questions.

7 NEC MASOWICK: Okay.

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Adjutant Robinson. Did  
9 they say how much they were looking at increasing  
10 the dues?

11 NEC MASOWICK: Possibly \$10. They were just  
12 throwing it around.

13 Thank you, Commander.

14 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, next up,  
15 Alternate NEC Chapman.

16 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Ditto on everything  
17 that Steve just said, especially the "Be the One"  
18 campaign, The American Legion's "Be the One"  
19 Campaign. It has the potential to not only change  
20 lives but save lives. The initial aim is to  
21 provide education and resources to anyone, a  
22 veteran, a service member or civilian, so that  
23 they can take appropriate action to intervene when  
24 a veteran's life may be at risk to suicide. So  
25 work that program when you're working your buddy

1 check program.

2 The only other thing that I'm going to have,  
3 and you heard about all the resolutions that were  
4 presented at the NEC, is just a reminder that  
5 there were 26 resolutions passed at the National  
6 Convention. And those are now available for all  
7 of you to read on the digital archives. And I  
8 recommend that you do that, especially Resolution  
9 No. 1, because that deals with membership and it's  
10 talking about multiple year memberships, and  
11 that's going effect the way we do our awards and a  
12 few other things down the road. It doesn't change  
13 anything at this point. This just gives the NEC  
14 the ability to look into possible ways to  
15 implement a multiple year. And this is a  
16 constitutional amendment bylaw, so be sure you  
17 look at that one.

18 And also, while you're looking at those,  
19 especially if you're sitting on a committee out  
20 here at Department level or National level, look  
21 at the resolutions that pertain to your  
22 committees, because those resolutions are going to  
23 be topics that you can use when you go to  
24 Washington DC to talk to your representatives, or  
25 even here locally in Ohio. So be sure you check



1 that out. And we'll go out and see if we can  
2 make, or continue to make, an impact on our  
3 Congress and some of the decisions that they make.

4 The one resolution that Steve was talking  
5 about, about Camp Lejeune, and I just saw  
6 yesterday, and some of you on the Legislative  
7 Council may have seen that, that it's going to the  
8 floor this week pertaining to capping the salaries  
9 of those lawyers that are seeking customers  
10 through the Camp Lejeune lawsuits.

11 So use that digital archive. Use some of the  
12 resources that are available to you.

13 Thank you, Commander.

14 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you. Thank you.

15 Next is PDC Wilson.

16 PDC JEAN WILSON: Thank you, Commander.

17 First of all, I'm very happy to be here today  
18 with all of you.

19 At the National Convention, for the  
20 Department of Ohio, Commander Paul Dillard  
21 presented me with a beautiful medallion for our  
22 great year in membership.

23 I've had a plaque made that says, "In memory  
24 of Bradley A. Teis, Sr., '21-'22", and I'd like to  
25 have this displayed in the library.

1           COMMANDER STENNIS:  Yes.

2           PDC JEAN WILSON:  I know that both the NEC  
3 and the Alternate NEC spoke about the Camp Lejeune  
4 lawsuit.  But I can tell you, it was a very hot  
5 topic at the Ohio Veteran Service Commissioners'  
6 meeting a couple weeks ago.  And I just can  
7 caution you to be very cautious if you're getting  
8 any of this money.  Because if you receive a VA  
9 pension or Medicare, it can effect that.

10           So I'm not telling you not to do it.  I'm  
11 just telling you to be cautious and to talk to  
12 someone very seriously before you pursue this.  I  
13 know that it's just crazy.  You wouldn't think it  
14 would affect anything, but it actually does.

15           And the other thing that I'd like to say a  
16 few words about, you know, being a member of the  
17 Ohio Veterans Service Commission, is this:  In  
18 every county, and most of you know this, but every  
19 county has a veterans service commission.  And  
20 it's comprised of people from The American Legion,  
21 the VFW, the AMVETS, the DAV, sometimes there's  
22 Purple Hearts, sometimes Catholic War Veterans,  
23 depending on your county.  But be cautious.

24           Because there's people out there that would like  
25 to change the face of the Ohio Veterans Service

1 Commission. They want to.

2 There's a young representative in the Ohio  
3 Assembly that wants to mandate that all Veterans  
4 Service Commissioners must be post 9/11 to be a  
5 commissioner. And he is adamant that he's going  
6 to get this changed.

7 And you would say, well, that might be a good  
8 thing. Well, in all actuality, I don't think it  
9 would be.

10 All us Veterans Service Commissioners are  
11 dedicated to serving all veterans, regardless of  
12 when they served, or where they served, or what  
13 branch of the military they served in.

14 I don't believe that we need to change the  
15 law. It's a very long process to be on the  
16 Veterans Service Commission. It's an honor. And  
17 we serve all veterans.

18 So if you hear of this, if the bill is going  
19 to be renumbered, I think this year it's Bill 791,  
20 but next year it will be renumbered. So try to  
21 follow that. And then try to make sure that the  
22 voices are heard that we serve everyone.

23 And the thing of it is, age takes care of  
24 everything. You know, most World War II veterans  
25 that served on there, I don't think there's any

1 World War II veterans that still serve on the  
2 commission. There are a few Korean. Most of the  
3 veterans that serve on the commission are actually  
4 Vietnam era veterans. But it goes on and on.  
5 And, you know, as people get older, the younger  
6 people are going to be doing it. So, just food  
7 for thought.

8 Yes, Joyce.

9 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
10 District Commander. I got a question for you.

11 If there's a widow, with children, of a  
12 veteran who died from a presumptive cause from  
13 Camp Lejeune, can they apply for it?

14 PDC JEAN WILSON: They can. But they also  
15 have to be careful. Because if they're getting  
16 their spousal veteran's pension, they could be  
17 affected.

18 So I'm just trying to tell people to go  
19 cautiously. Do your research before accepting any  
20 money.

21 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: If they weren't  
22 getting a pension for that --

23 PDC JEAN WILSON: I'm sorry?

24 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: If they were not  
25 getting a pension for that, --

1 PDC JEAN WILSON: Yes.

2 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: -- can they then  
3 apply after the death?

4 PDC JEAN WILSON: I believe so, yes, uh-huh.  
5 Yes, Al.

6 HISTORIAN BEYER: Al Beyer, 5th District.

7 Could you please clarify what this guy wants  
8 to do with the Veterans Service Commission again?

9 PDC JEAN WILSON: This gentleman, and you'll  
10 have to excuse me because I can't remember his  
11 last name right now, I have it in my phone but I  
12 don't have it up here, but he wants to make sure  
13 that all Veterans Service Commissioners are all  
14 post 9/11. So you wouldn't be able to be on the  
15 Veterans Service Commission if you hadn't served  
16 after 9/11.

17 And those people are still working. They  
18 still have responsibilities that, you know,  
19 they're not going to be able to come to all the  
20 meetings that we have, you know, work in the  
21 office like we do, making sure that, you know, no  
22 veteran is turned away that is in need.

23 HISTORIAN BEYER: Well is there anything  
24 being done to stop him?

25 PDC JEAN WILSON: Oh, absolutely.

1 Absolutely.

2 HISTORIAN BEYER: Because that's absurd.

3 PDC JEAN WILSON: Oh, absolutely.

4 What I'm saying is, we're laying the  
5 groundwork now to be talking about it so people  
6 are informed. We don't want, all of a sudden,  
7 someone saying, "Well how the hell did that  
8 happen?" Well, it happened because we don't keep  
9 people informed of what's going on.

10 I don't really see it going very far. But  
11 then again, you never know.

12 HISTORIAN BEYER: That's right.

13 PDC JEAN WILSON: Andy.

14 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: Andy Atkins, 10th District,  
15 as a member of the Veterans Board for many years,  
16 I'm not anymore, but we have to be careful. We  
17 all need to be aware that they like opening up  
18 that can of worms every time they can. They'd  
19 like to change where the money goes. And they've  
20 tried it several times. But every time it's  
21 opened up, like it might be opened up, that might  
22 even be just the start, that might be just the  
23 reason that somebody wants to open it up. And  
24 once it's opened up, anything can happen. We  
25 could lose a lot of the benefits. We could lose

1 the whole thing.

2 PDC JEAN WILSON: Like I say, just be  
3 careful. Be very cautious of what you're doing.

4 And if you have a friend that you know is  
5 going to be applying, just caution them and make  
6 sure that they know all the information and how it  
7 could affect them if they do accept a settlement  
8 from them.

9 And lastly, I'd just like to wish everyone a  
10 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

11 (Applause).

12 COMMANDER STENNIS: Judge Advocate Whitney.

13 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Well, it's good to  
14 be back with you again. It's a little bit of a  
15 sad and bittersweet experience to have to fill in  
16 for our good friend, Bob Ray, as your Department  
17 Judge Advocate. But I've been happy to accept the  
18 Commander's invitation to do that.

19 We are fortunate to have Doug Russell  
20 continuing as your Assistant Department Judge  
21 Advocate, reviewing the Post Constitutions and  
22 Bylaws, as well as the District Constitutions and  
23 Bylaws, except for the 3rd District.

24 And the reason for that is because one of the  
25 things that I had to do in order to accept this

1 calling was to, I felt, since I'd already made a  
2 commitment to serve as Judge Advocate to the 3rd  
3 District, I'm going to try to continue to do both  
4 jobs. So it's fortunate we have Doug Russell to  
5 do the rest. So I will try to take care of the  
6 3rd District Constitution and Bylaws.

7 If for some reason a conflict of interest  
8 should arise, we'll deal with that. I don't think  
9 that's likely to happen, but we are aware of that  
10 possibility at least.

11 A couple of things.

12 We've been fortunate enough to have some time  
13 allocated at Mid-Winter Conference, about 30  
14 minutes, to talk about some Legion legal matters  
15 to the attendees in training. So I advise you to  
16 invite your Post and District Judge Advocates to  
17 attend that. We'll be talking about the new  
18 disciplinary procedures, constitution and bylaws,  
19 in that timeframe.

20 As you do your Post visits this year, and you  
21 check their constitution and bylaws to make sure  
22 that they have been updated and reviewed. It  
23 shouldn't be more than five years old. They ought  
24 to have the new preamble and the new membership  
25 criteria in there.



1           The membership criteria doesn't need to be  
2 specific. All it has to say is membership is as  
3 set forth in the National Constitution and Bylaws.  
4 You don't need to have specific dates or anything  
5 else in there. Just refer to the National  
6 Constitution and Bylaws. That way, if things  
7 change, you don't have to change your constitution  
8 and bylaws.

9           Another thing to check, if you can, is the  
10 corporate status of your Post and your Districts.  
11 Every Post should certainly be incorporated as a  
12 nonprofit corporation in the State of Ohio.

13           Some Posts have membership criteria in the  
14 articles of incorporation and it's way out of  
15 date. They may have changed their constitution  
16 and bylaws but they haven't changed their  
17 corporate membership criteria in their articles of  
18 incorporation. You don't have to have it in your  
19 articles. But if you do, it needs to agree with  
20 your constitution and bylaws.

21           Your Post name needs to agree with the  
22 constitution and bylaws. And your registered  
23 agent, the person or individual who receives  
24 service of process for formal legal notices, needs  
25 to be up to date. Failure to keep that up to date

1 is a punishable offense by a fine against the  
2 Post.

3 The certificate of the chain of existence  
4 needs to be timely filed with the secretary of  
5 state's office. Otherwise, your corporate status  
6 is remanded, suspended and revoked, and your Post  
7 officers and your District officers are no longer  
8 protected from personal liability that is given to  
9 them by the corporate status. So that's important  
10 to review. And we'll be doing that, trying to do  
11 that at a Post level. But you, as you make your  
12 visits to the Post and your District Judge  
13 Advocates could be doing that as well and save us  
14 some time.

15 With that, I think that completes my report.

16 Again, just happy to be with you again.

17 Anyone have a question?

18 One thing is that you have to talk real loud  
19 because I'm still wearing two hearing aids that  
20 don't work very good after 20 years in the field  
21 artillery.

22 Yes, sir.

23 12TH DISTRICT CMDR BEATTY: Brad Beatty, 12th  
24 District.

25 At the Mid-Winter meeting, when you do the

1 training, what just talked about, will you also  
2 have that like in a bullet point for us or will  
3 the training be in a bullet point presentation?

4 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: I didn't get that  
5 question.

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: He wants to know, when we  
7 train at Mid-Winter, will it be in a bullet  
8 point --

9 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: What's that?

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Will the training be in a  
11 bullet point presentation so they can walk away  
12 with something?

13 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Yeah.

14 Commander Blackwell, can you answer that  
15 question?

16 3RD DISTRICT CMDR BLACKWELL: Yeah.

17 Mike Blackwell, 3rd District Commander, BLC  
18 Chair.

19 Yes, sir, we will have bullet points for all  
20 the topics this year.

21 12TH DISTRICT CMDR BEATTY: Okay. Thank you.

22 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Thank you.

23 Any further questions?

24 In the way back.

25 PDC SCHMITT: Yes, Bob Schmitt, Past

1 Department Commander, and also District Judge  
2 Advocate for the 1st District.

3 I did a study on our continuance of our Post  
4 being incorporated and found out how quite  
5 surprising some of them are. I mean, I've got a  
6 Post that expired 1974, and they're still with us  
7 today.

8 And, you know, incorporation is very  
9 important for your membership not to be involved  
10 in a lawsuit, or anything else, pertaining to your  
11 Post. Every member of the Post is responsible if  
12 you're not incorporated. And people don't  
13 understand that they're jeopardizing your whole  
14 membership with having to pay bills or if a  
15 lawsuit develops or anything else if you're not  
16 incorporated.

17 It only costs you \$25 to incorporate it. And  
18 it's good for five years. And it's as simple as  
19 heck to keep it up to date.

20 But it's amazing how many, I sent a whole  
21 complete list, and it was amazing how many are  
22 expired or are soon to expire.

23 Typically, they'll send you out, about three  
24 or four months in advance, that your continuance  
25 is expiring and you need to get on it and you need

1 to send it back.

2 I don't know how this will play out with the  
3 gaming laws now that they have. Is it a  
4 possibility that if you're not up to date that  
5 they do not renew your gaming license?

6 I talked to the attorney general this week  
7 and there's a number of things that can affect  
8 that. So I'm not saying that it does, but you  
9 never know if it may start affecting your renewal.

10 So your renewals for gaming are due up at the  
11 end of December for 2023. And if you're not up to  
12 date on a lot of things, then they don't have to  
13 renew your gaming license until all that stuff is  
14 up to date.

15 But, yes, everybody needs to be incorporated.  
16 It's so simple and it doesn't cost anything and it  
17 protects a hell of a lot of members.

18 Thank you.

19 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Thank you, Commander  
20 Schmitt.

21 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, through  
22 you, just to add to what Bob said, I just finished  
23 our application to renew our application. That is  
24 one of the questions that they ask. And they  
25 won't complete your application unless you

1 download a copy of the continued existence. And  
2 if you need a copy, it only costs \$5 for that.

3 Thank you.

4 JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Thank you,  
5 Commander.

6 One other thing, your constitution and bylaws  
7 should not be sent directly to me or to Doug  
8 Russell. They need to go to Department  
9 Headquarters, to the Adjutant's office, so they  
10 can keep track of them.

11 They will give them to us. We'll review  
12 them. We'll respond to the Adjutant on our  
13 findings, and the Adjutant will then notify you  
14 whether they're approved, or whether or not they  
15 need to be changed.

16 So make sure your Posts are aware of that  
17 procedure. Otherwise, we don't have a method of  
18 tracking them at Department level.

19 Thank you very much, Commander.

20 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you.

21 Next up, Parliamentarian Gary Minadeo.

22 (Applause).

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Hey, everybody.

24 Thank you for the opportunity of serving.

25 They called me up and said be at the meeting.

1 It's at 10:00. Obviously they didn't tell me what  
2 the uniform was. So I'm ready for a marriage or a  
3 burial, whatever we've got to do here.

4 It's good to be back. I had some very  
5 specific training in the few years that I've been  
6 gone. Specifically, I've been teaching math to  
7 seventh and eighth graders. So I think I can  
8 really do well in helping the DEC.

9 Again, the Parliamentarian is just a  
10 Commander whisperer. I just sit there. Really,  
11 the Judge is responsible for what's going on in  
12 the meetings. And then he'll turn to me if it  
13 specifically deals with the order or procedures of  
14 Robert's Rules of Order, which you know I love.

15 And so I will sit there and whisper, you  
16 know, until the Commander makes a mistake and  
17 gives me the microphone. You know how that goes  
18 once I get a microphone.

19 My joy, when I was serving before, was  
20 helping the Districts and Posts. And I didn't get  
21 any calls from people, no.

22 The disciplinary procedures are really  
23 whacking people out. How do we go through all  
24 this, especially when you can't even get four  
25 people to come to a meeting? How are we going to

1 get seven people on a jury?

2 So I'm going to get with JD and get my  
3 information on the web. Anybody, at any time, can  
4 call me. I will not sit there and say I'm too  
5 busy to handle a Post that just wants to know how  
6 to run a meeting, or this happened in our meeting.

7 I got a call the other day, in our meeting  
8 the other day, someone put in a motion that we're  
9 going to smoke again and we passed it.

10 And I said, well, it's nice you got a quorum,  
11 but it's a law.

12 Wait a minute. We're a private club.

13 So I like to laugh a lot when I tell this,  
14 but you can't vote to not follow the law.

15 But I think a lot of this is just some simple  
16 training. So if the Districts do want me to come  
17 down, maybe, and do some simple training, or send  
18 you a PowerPoint, I have a number of classes that  
19 I wrote the last time that haven't actually been  
20 in the newsletter that people can see. So I'm  
21 willing to help anybody at any time on just how to  
22 simply run a meeting.

23 Always remember the rule. All the Robert's  
24 Rules, and the rules for our meetings, whether  
25 it's here or at the convention, are to allow



1 everyone to say their piece, in order, per the  
2 rules, to the question on the floor, one at a  
3 time. It's as simple as that. It's not a matter  
4 of keeping people from speaking. It's made to get  
5 everybody to speak in order. And that just sounds  
6 right for a veterans organization, that we all  
7 should have the opportunity to speak. Because we  
8 know damn well that our country is not allowing us  
9 to speak.

10 So we need to make sure we train our members,  
11 especially the younger guys coming in. It's not  
12 just a case where the old-timers are saying, "This  
13 is how we've always done it." And you know when  
14 that's said, that's probably not the way it should  
15 be done.

16 So I thank you, Commander, for giving me the  
17 opportunity to serve. I'm going to enjoy it.  
18 I'll let you decide if you enjoy it.

19 And God bless you all.

20 (Applause).

21 COMMANDER STENNIS: I'm going to endure a few  
22 more months of harassment.

23 All right, Adjutant Robinson.

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Morning, everybody.

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Good morning.

1           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We've been busy.

2           A couple of weeks ago, the Commander and I  
3 and Past Department Commander Schmitt started up  
4 in Perrysburg, Ohio, with the Medal of Honor  
5 Highway Flag. My wife and I took it all the way  
6 to the Indiana line on Friday night, brought it  
7 back, and started in Perrysburg the first thing in  
8 the morning. And then Commander and I and another  
9 person drove all the way from Perrysburg to  
10 Conneaut, and then to the state line and back  
11 home. It was a long day.

12           But the Medal of Honor Highway was dedicated  
13 this summer, in session, through our state  
14 legislature.

15           And we do have a video that we'll be getting  
16 out. We had a videographer that lives in Ohio.  
17 He graciously volunteered to come out and he spent  
18 the day with us. There's some really cool shots  
19 he got. He put a very nice video together. I saw  
20 a couple of the early stages of it.

21           But that was a really fun trip. Really  
22 nicely -- we had a really good turnout at  
23 Conneaut. We had a couple of the state  
24 legislators and national legislators speak to us,  
25 Marcy Kaptur and --

1 PDC SCHMITT: Haras Ghanbari.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: -- yeah, Haras Ghanbari.

3 Thank you, Bob.

4 Theresa Gavarone sent a video message. She  
5 unfortunately had other plans that morning so she  
6 couldn't attend.

7 But it was a very nice ceremony. And any of  
8 you that came out, I appreciate it. And we will  
9 get out more information on it as soon as we have  
10 that.

11 The next big thing we have is the Columbus  
12 CVB is looking at hosting the 2028 National  
13 Convention. So we will be having a little  
14 get-together of several Legionnaires that have  
15 experience with National Conventions, as far as  
16 bringing it into Ohio. We're going to have a  
17 meeting with the CVB to help them go over it. And  
18 hopefully we can win National over this year.  
19 Their site tour is the last week of January. We  
20 will be in contact with several of you.

21 Hopefully, we can make this happen this year.

22 Because last year we seemed to be a little  
23 unprepared for it. I'm not sure what we're doing.

24 We've been contacted by several people this year  
25 that shed a lot more light on what we need to do

1 and how we need to do it.

2 Commander, that's all I have at this time.

3 PDC SCHMITT: Commander, through the Chair,  
4 PDC Schmitt.

5 Mr. Adjutant, it would be nice if everybody  
6 could see that Medal of Honor Flag. So if we  
7 could have the staff bring it in so they can view  
8 it, as well as the signs that go on the car, just  
9 so they know what it's all about, you know, and  
10 have an opportunity to see it.

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Okay. I'll bring it up  
12 after lunch.

13 PDC SCHMITT: Thank you.

14 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Anybody else?

15 11TH DISTRICT 1VC STAN: Yeah, I have a quick  
16 question.

17 Thom Stan, 1st Vice, District 11.

18 Is that Route 2?

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Route 20.

20 11TH DISTRICT 1VC STAN: Twenty?

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Twenty, yeah.

22 PDC SCHMITT: Point of information. Route 20  
23 is 3,365 miles long. It starts in Portland,  
24 Oregon, and goes to Boston, Mass.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It goes through what, 12

1 different states?

2 PDC SCHMITT: Yeah.

3 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It runs through 12  
4 different states and it makes up 65 percent of all  
5 Medal of Honor winners.

6 Thank you, Commander.

7 COMMANDER STENNIS: And just one more thing  
8 to add to that. Our NEC, Steve Masowick, was with  
9 us at Post 151 in Conneaut and gave a rivetting  
10 speech. I sat back into my chair and was just  
11 like, wow. I laughed, I cried, and then I laughed  
12 again. So we had a good time. That was a long  
13 day. That was a long day.

14 But I want to also give thanks to Marcy  
15 Kaptur, who came and spoke. And she gave us a  
16 very nice speech also. And PDC Schmitt, all of  
17 the 1st District, did an outstanding job. Harold  
18 was there. And it was a good, memorable time by  
19 all, by all.

20 At this time now I would like to bring up  
21 Jason Rue, our 1st Vice, with membership.

22 1VC RUE: That flag, every state that US 20  
23 goes through has adopted that except for  
24 Massachusetts so far. And then once that gets  
25 done, they're going to put forward, through the

1 national legislature, to make it a national  
2 memorial highway. So if anybody knows anybody  
3 from Massachusetts, get on them.

4 As everybody knows, our last lap we missed.  
5 We did not make our goal for the last lap of  
6 65 percent.

7 We did have one Brown Jug qualifier and  
8 winner. Everybody congratulate the 4th District.

9 (Applause).

10 Good work, guys.

11 But as it stands right now, we're at 67.63  
12 percent.

13 We only had one District qualify for the  
14 Brown Jug. That's pretty sad. In years past, I  
15 know when I was a District Commander we had four  
16 qualify for the three, and all three were handed  
17 out.

18 So we're lagging on getting out there and  
19 getting membership in our Posts. And part of that  
20 stems from the fact that the first phone meeting  
21 we had, Zoom meeting, there were five Posts (sic)  
22 that showed up for that on the call, or five  
23 Districts that showed up for that one call.

24 We had an activities and membership meeting  
25 here at Department in October. Again, five

1 Districts showed up to attend that.

2 We had another one last month and there were  
3 seven Districts on there, which is just reaching  
4 half.

5 Now, we've taken the initiative to go out and  
6 get these positions to go out and do a job. It's  
7 our job to make sure that we go out and fulfill  
8 that job with the obligations that were put in  
9 front of you. So I hope that when we have one the  
10 next time we get a lot more participation in these  
11 things that are going on.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, thank you,  
14 Jason.

15 Next up is our 2nd Vice, AJ Whatley.

16 2VC WHATLEY: Thank you.

17 As promised before, we're going to bring the  
18 Activities Coordinator up, Hunter Woods.

19 COORDINATOR WOODS: Good morning.

20 For those of you that don't know me, I am a  
21 new coordinator on the team here for the  
22 Department staff. I'm Hunter Woods. I am the  
23 Fundraising and Post Activities Coordinator.

24 Just some notes on what's going on with the  
25 bowling. We had a committee meeting in November,

1 on the 6th. It was held via Zoom, at 1:30 PM. We  
2 discussed the flyer that was sent out to the  
3 Districts and the Posts. It was approved by the  
4 committee.

5 During that time, we also discussed the  
6 hotel. It was established the hotel would be the  
7 Holiday Inn Express and Suites.

8 And then Peggy Gross will be coming to the  
9 Department on December 7th, to go through people  
10 and registrations. So if anybody has any Posts  
11 that have not been able to get in any of their  
12 registrations yet, if you could get them to the  
13 Department before then we will still accept them.

14 We currently have about 31 teams registered.

15 And that's about all I have to say for the  
16 Bowling Committee.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Whoa, whoa, whoa, Mr.  
18 Woods. Introduce yourself, where you're from. As  
19 the newest member at the Department of Ohio, we'd  
20 like to know who you are.

21 COORDINATOR WOODS: Yes.

22 So, again, I'm Hunter Woods. I'm from  
23 St. Marys, Ohio. I currently live in Bowling  
24 Green. I'm finishing up a criminal justice degree  
25 there for a bachelor's. I am currently serving as



1 a Sergeant in the Army National Guard. I'm on the  
2 promotion board for staff sergeant currently. And  
3 I am a horizontal construction engineer, which, in  
4 layman's terms, I run heavy equipment for fun.

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Give him a round of  
6 applause. Welcome aboard.

7 (Applause).

8 Thank you, thank you.

9 Next up, Americanism Coordinator Christie  
10 White.

11 COORDINATOR WHITE: Good morning, everyone.

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

13 COORDINATOR WHITE: So, the Americanism  
14 Commission met on October 1st, at 2:00 o'clock,  
15 here at Department Headquarters. Everybody from  
16 each District was present except for one. The  
17 reading of the previous minutes were passed and  
18 approved.

19 The trip dates for the Americanism and  
20 Government Trip, they will be March 5th through  
21 March 10th. There will be a wreath laying at  
22 Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, March  
23 8th, at 11:15. So we will do Facebook Live of  
24 that, like we do every year.

25 The County Commanders, they should currently

1 have the test and are grading them. They need to  
2 go through District Chairmen by December 16th.

3 All District winners need to be in to Department  
4 by January 6th. We will not accept it a day late.

5 The Educator of the Year was selected as  
6 Chris Lyons. He's from the 1st District. He will  
7 be awarded at Mid-Winter.

8 Because this year's an odd judging year for  
9 the A&G testing, the judging Districts will be  
10 Districts 7, 9, 11, and 13. Alternate Districts  
11 will be 5, 1 and 3. So those Districts will be  
12 judging the A&G test, as well as the Auxiliary  
13 Americanism Chairwoman and the SAL Americanism  
14 Chairman.

15 The Americanism Commission also voted to  
16 allow, because this is an odd year, Commander  
17 Stennis to attend the A&G trip, if he wishes, as  
18 well as the 1st Vice Commander, because they  
19 generally go on the trip anyway. So the  
20 invitation is out there from the Americanism  
21 Commission for those who wish to attend.

22 The meeting adjourned at 2:40.

23 Commander, that concludes my report.

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you.

25 COORDINATOR WHITE: Any questions?

1 Yes.

2 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
3 District Commander.

4 This is not directed at you.

5 However, when we get all these minutes, if  
6 they're not read exactly word for word, I believe  
7 we should submit a copy of it to the court  
8 reporters to include in the DEC meeting. If we're  
9 only getting part of it, it might be easier, if  
10 they don't understand some of the words that we  
11 say, if it's written down and it's a little bit  
12 clearer for them.

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay, thank you.

14 Thank you, Christie.

15 Mr. Koppin, Buckeye Boys State.

16 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: Good morning.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

18 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: The information you're  
19 about to receive is what has happened at Buckeye  
20 Boys State. And it's not only at the program but  
21 at our fall meeting.

22 On a positive note, delegate attends for the  
23 2022 American Legion Buckeye Boys State Program  
24 was an improvement over the numbers of 2021. We  
25 had 595 delegates in 2021, and 640 delegates in

1 2022.

2 We are working on a number of ways to  
3 increase our delegate strength in 2023. And one  
4 of those involve a partnership with the Ohio State  
5 Highway Patrol. Through the efforts of one of our  
6 senior counselors/consultants, John Garvey, we  
7 have held meetings and shared information with the  
8 Ohio State Highway Patrol in regards to the Ohio  
9 State Highway Patrol talking about American Legion  
10 Buckeye Boys State when they are at our local high  
11 schools recruiting for the Ohio State Highway  
12 Patrol.

13 Along with this, Lieutenant Colonel Josh  
14 Swindell has proposed adding two more troopers to  
15 The American Legion Buckeye Boys State staff, a  
16 detail that will bring our total up to five  
17 troopers that we'd have.

18 For anyone who would like to attend and learn  
19 more about being a part of our program, there is  
20 the spring meeting. It will be April the 15th,  
21 2023, here at Department Headquarters.

22 And the 2023 program, held at Miami  
23 University, will be from June the 11th through  
24 June the 18th.

25 Due to the fact that we have signed a

1 ten-year contract with Miami University to host  
2 our program, part of that agreement was to keep  
3 the cost of our delegate fee at the Post level  
4 from increasing. At the fall meeting, a motion  
5 was made and voted on to keep the enrollment fee,  
6 per delegate, \$300. And we have the joint  
7 committee with Miami University to explore ways to  
8 obtain additional funding to offset the cost of  
9 operating our program.

10 On September 23rd, 24th and 25, myself;  
11 Christie White, as program director; and Mark  
12 Weldon, as secretary; Dave Ridenour, our  
13 president; Melissa Fowle, our 1st vice president;  
14 Steve Masowick, 2nd vice president; Bob Schmitt,  
15 section head of government; and Richard Schuck,  
16 section head of the city section, attended the  
17 National Americanism Conference in Indianapolis.  
18 We came away with many new ideas that we can  
19 incorporate into our program. We all agree that  
20 Ohio's program has already faced many of the other  
21 states' problems, and that Ohio's program is on  
22 pretty solid ground when it comes to the quality  
23 of our staff and the logistics that we provide.

24 Each year at The American Legion Buckeye Boys  
25 State program, we conduct a blood drive in

1 conjunction with the local chapter of the American  
2 Red Cross. At the 2022 program, they collected  
3 167 pints of blood on the day of the draw. We  
4 have been told that that blood draw by American  
5 Legion Buckeye Boys State is one of the biggest  
6 blood draws in that area.

7 Christie, did I miss anything?

8 COORDINATOR WHITE: No, sir.

9 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: Are there any questions  
10 about Buckeye Boys State?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: That concludes the business  
13 report. But, Mr. Commander, with your permission,  
14 I'd like a moment.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Sure.

16 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: When I started out my  
17 career in The American Legion, I remember my  
18 senior members at my Post, county and District  
19 meetings referring to the members in attendance as  
20 "key Legionnaires." I learned what that meant,  
21 that if you had the interest and the time to  
22 attend these meetings, that you were going to be  
23 the key people to get things done.

24 At this time I would like all members in this  
25 room who are on The American Legion Buckeye Boys

1 State staff to stand and be recognized.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

3 (Applause).

4 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: Please remain standing for  
5 a little bit. I ain't done with you.

6 As you can see, they find the time and the  
7 energy, not only to contribute to all levels of  
8 The American Legion, but also be on the staff of  
9 The American Legion Buckeye Boys State.

10 So with that being said, I want to challenge  
11 those standing to look around the room to those  
12 that are sitting and find someone you can recruit  
13 to join our staff and to build The American Legion  
14 Buckeye Boys State into the future.

15 Doug, you've got your hands full up there.

16 All right, thank you. You can all be seated.

17 So next time I give this report, there should  
18 be twice as many standing. Christie's got  
19 applications.

20 Mr. Commander, that concludes my report. And  
21 thank you for allowing time for my promotion.

22 COMMANDER STENNIS: No problem. Thank you.

23 Baseball.

24 Yes.

25 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th

1 District.

2 I love your report, but that's not what we  
3 were sent. And do we not approve these reports?

4 COMMANDER STENNIS: What we can do is approve  
5 them all at one time. Then we're not constantly  
6 stopping back and forth. I think that's what we  
7 will probably do.

8 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Well I would not  
9 have approved that report based on what I was  
10 sent.

11 DIRECTOR KOPPIN: If I may, the report you  
12 have in your hand are the minutes from our fall  
13 meeting.

14 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: That we should  
15 vote and approve at the DEC. The minutes have to  
16 be approved.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes. Yes, we will  
18 approve those minutes. We will approve those  
19 minutes.

20 Go ahead.

21 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Most of these reports  
22 are for informational purposes only. And I don't  
23 think they need a motion and a second. The only  
24 time they need a motion and a second is if there  
25 is a voting issue in that report. Am I right?



1           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yes, or if it's an  
2 action that has to be approved by the DEC.

3           The DEC is supposed to approve as recognition  
4 that it's been received. So if the minutes are  
5 out, then the Commander should say, or the  
6 committee chairman should say, "The minutes from  
7 the meeting have been disbursed for your disposal  
8 and reading. If there are no issues, I would ask  
9 that it be entered in the record." That's all it  
10 is. Unless there was a money disbursement, or you  
11 ask the committee to come back for some specific  
12 action, or if one of the members, voting members,  
13 says, I have an issue with this action that they  
14 did, and then it can be entered on the floor for  
15 discussion and vote.

16           But he's right. It should probably be  
17 written that the committee members say, "My report  
18 is for information only," just like you do with  
19 your minutes, or something needs to be voted on  
20 and you make that point.

21           But she's right. If the minutes are out,  
22 then they need that opportunity to talk to the  
23 minutes. The report can be shortened, but there  
24 should be, "Is there any questions, since the  
25 minutes have been disbursed?"

1 Chappy, you taught me well.

2 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: I'm still learning  
3 from you.

4 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Thank you, Commander.

5 DEC and guests, I have a presentation here  
6 before my report.

7 Commander.

8 Okay, I gave the Commander a 50-year bottle  
9 of spirits. And it was purchased back on the  
10 50th-year anniversary of The American Legion by a  
11 member of our Post. And when he passed away, his  
12 son gave me a few of the bottles. I think there's  
13 a couple out in the hall, in the trophy cabinet.  
14 But I wanted to give the Commander that one.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Marv.

16 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Thank you.

17 Okay, short and sweet. This is for  
18 information only.

19 Okay, we had our meeting October 23rd, at  
20 10:00 AM, in the library. We had seven  
21 commissioners, five District Chairmen, and two  
22 guests.

23 The junior state tournament will be held  
24 July 13th through the 16th, of 2023, at Beavers  
25 Field in Lancaster. The Senior Department

1 Tournament will be held the 24th, July 24th,  
2 through the 28th, 2023, at Beavers Field in  
3 Lancaster. The banquet will be July 23rd, at  
4 Crossroads in Lancaster.

5 We had moved to approve the fee set for the  
6 teams at 500 for the junior teams, 600 for a  
7 senior team. And these fees have been the same  
8 for five years, at least.

9 And so we had a discussion about trying to  
10 save money through the Baseball program. And we  
11 kicked this around for a good bit and thought  
12 about it and come up with a team sponsoring a Post  
13 within a 60-mile radius of the tournament site,  
14 accommodations will not be provided by the  
15 Department. All teams sponsored by a Post outside  
16 of the 60-mile radius will have accommodations  
17 until they're eliminated. After each team is  
18 eliminated, they will not be provided  
19 accommodations unless it is a 7:00 o'clock game  
20 and the sponsoring Post is outside of the 60-mile  
21 radius. If the sponsoring Post is outside of the  
22 60-mile radius, they and the coach will be given  
23 the option to accept accommodations or not. And  
24 we will talk to him, I will and Christie White,  
25 before the game, so he can make that decision.

1 And if he wants to stay, the whole team stays.

2 We have found, a few times, at Beavers in  
3 Lancaster, that some teams will, we had an  
4 automatic stay for the 7:00 o'clock game because  
5 sometimes it's not over until 9:30, quarter till  
6 10:00. But we find out that sometimes half the  
7 team is already gone. So we've paid for a night  
8 that we didn't have to. So that was part of this  
9 reasoning.

10 And if he decides that he wants to stay,  
11 because maybe they have to drive too far,  
12 somewhere a long way off, Ashtabula, those areas,  
13 then that whole team has to stay, the entire team.  
14 If any team members check out and we are told  
15 about that from the hotel, the Posts will have to  
16 pay for those teams, those rooms.

17 We thought this was about the fairest way to  
18 do it. We tried this a few years back. It didn't  
19 have these stipulations in it, so it didn't work  
20 back then. So that's the best we thought we could  
21 come up with. Because we knew we had to come up  
22 with something to cut expenditures and we hope  
23 this will help.

24 The regional tournament dates, they must be  
25 completed by July 20.

1 Background checks and abuse awareness  
2 training are required by National. I do probably  
3 300, 300 background checks plus an equal number of  
4 sexual awareness trainings required of all people  
5 that's in the dugout permanently. Now if you've  
6 got a member who wants to go down and congratulate  
7 a team or cheer them on before the game, say hi,  
8 how you doing, that's fine. They're not staying  
9 in there.

10 There's two reasons. One is a regulation and  
11 one is insurance. If you're not covered because  
12 you don't he have a Form 2 medical form, then if  
13 you get hurt or anything, we'll be stuck, we're  
14 told.

15 And the other thing: No patch, no play.  
16 That's a National rule. The baseball patch must  
17 be on the uniform shirt, here or here  
18 (indicating). And we stressed that at our  
19 February meeting when all the commissioners came  
20 in here.

21 Steve Thorp resigned as District Baseball  
22 Chairman from District 6. And Mel Cantrell was  
23 motioned and approved to take over District 6  
24 Baseball Chairmanship, pending approval from the  
25 6th District Commander, if he's here somewhere.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: He got approved.

2 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Okay. I thought so.

3 Jeff Vrabel, Sr., was motioned and approved  
4 to take over the Region 4 Baseball Commissioner's  
5 position, pending approval of the Commander.

6 And we're bringing on another District  
7 Chairman on District 3.

8 And the National would like more baseball  
9 scholarships applications. We didn't get any in  
10 Ohio last time. We need these teams, and you as  
11 Commanders and officers, to stress the Baseball  
12 program. Say, hey, there's an application out  
13 there that you might be able to send a kid to  
14 college, or at least help him. And it's all done  
15 on-line now.

16 Let's see, the Department Baseball senior  
17 state winner needs to be to the National by  
18 July 29th, and the National Regional Tournaments  
19 are August 2nd to August 6th. The World Series is  
20 August 10th to the 15th, in Shelby, North  
21 Carolina.

22 Chris Emmons was contacted by an individual  
23 about creating a national junior regional  
24 tournament with Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan  
25 and Illinois. He will be contacting the National

1 Baseball Chairman with me to see if they will  
2 approve it. And if they do approve it, it will be  
3 a pilot program.

4 You know, these things cost money. So we'll  
5 have to see if it would work.

6 Because after the junior state tournament,  
7 the winner, there's nowhere for them to go after  
8 that.

9 It's in the works. We've talked to National  
10 about it. They move kind of slow. So we just  
11 thought if these people want to try it, we'll see  
12 what kind of interest there is.

13 Ohio Yeager-Benson Post 199 took second place  
14 in the Great Lakes Regional V National Tournament.  
15 That was held in Midland, Michigan. It went down  
16 to the last couple outs. So they were in the  
17 game. It was a good game. And our area, our  
18 state, took them down to the wire.

19 And this is another thing, and I'll end it  
20 after this.

21 As Department Baseball Chairman, I asked my  
22 commissioners if anyone was interested in becoming  
23 the Department Baseball Chairman. Chris Emmons  
24 expressed an interest in becoming the chairman.  
25 And as the chairman, I would like the opportunity

1 to train the next chairman.

2 Now I realize that the chairmen are appointed  
3 by the Commander. So my term is up in September  
4 of '23. I hope to get him trained by the end of  
5 that, but this position is far more time consuming  
6 than any other commission chairman at the  
7 Department level.

8 And some of this, like having the baseball  
9 tournament in Lancaster, he's got to be there.  
10 He's got to be right there with me when we make  
11 these decisions. Some of them I have to make like  
12 that (snapping fingers). And I want him there to  
13 learn how to do this.

14 And I talked to the Commander earlier and  
15 he's okay with what we're trying to do. It's kind  
16 of hard.

17 When I took this job, nobody was here to  
18 train me, nobody here to help me. The prior  
19 Baseball Chairman resigned and took off. And he  
20 didn't want to deal with it because he knew what  
21 was coming. You know, I had to do many, many  
22 things on-line and train myself a lot about that.

23 But there is a lot of other stuff. You know,  
24 there's rules that change every year. You'll have  
25 coaches calling you. I bet you I get -- I keep



1 all the texts for one season. And there was over  
2 100 from these guys. And some of them might be  
3 the same guy two or three times. And, you know,  
4 they're trying to get it right, and it's my job to  
5 help them along.

6 But, because it's so demanding, there's a  
7 considerable amount of computer work, which he's  
8 very versed in that. He's taught coaches on the  
9 National application rules and so forth.

10 I don't know, some of you might know, but I  
11 had bladder cancer. I'm being treated with chemo.  
12 And it takes a, it takes a lot of stamina out of  
13 you.

14 And last year, at our baseball tournament, I  
15 asked the doctor if I could maybe take off like  
16 two months, July and August, so I could do that.  
17 Because there's no way I could do it going to  
18 treatment and coming back. So that's simply an  
19 explanation.

20 And so the thing that I've learned over the  
21 years, I found out it's a ten or eleven-month job.

22 I got a call just the other day from a fellow  
23 that wants to start another team. So, you know,  
24 we're working all the time.

25 And that's pretty much my report, sir.

1 Is there any questions on Baseball?

2 Yes, ma'am.

3 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: You know there is.

4 Joyce Hannum, 9th District.

5 We're going to support the Baseball by The  
6 American Legion license plates. What's the status  
7 of that?

8 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: I don't know anything  
9 about it. I know about the license plates,  
10 believe me, but I don't know the status of it at  
11 all.

12 PDC JEAN WILSON: It hasn't been approved  
13 yet.

14 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: It hasn't? At the state  
15 level?

16 PDC JEAN WILSON: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Okay. We were told it  
18 was going to be.

19 Yes, sir.

20 NEC MASOWICK: Steve Masowick.

21 I just want to say God bless you and your  
22 fight with cancer.

23 (Applause).

24 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Yes, sir.

25 11TH DISTRICT CMDR WAINWRIGHT: Steve

1 Wainwright, Commander, 11th District.

2 I just want to complement you. And I know,  
3 personally, you and I have never talked, but my  
4 brother is the manager of Post 39's team.

5 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Yes.

6 11TH DISTRICT CMDR WAINWRIGHT: And they've  
7 been in the state finals and have won it, you  
8 know.

9 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Yeah. It's a good  
10 program.

11 11TH DISTRICT CMDR WAINWRIGHT: And he tells  
12 me what a fantastic job you do. He probably is  
13 one of those many, many texts that you get.

14 Also, I noticed that I have avoided him now  
15 as the new 11th District Baseball Chairman. I  
16 didn't hear you say that. But I hope you've got  
17 him on our list, because I damn sure approved him.  
18 He will do you a great job.

19 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: I actually hadn't heard  
20 from you yet, so I didn't want to say anything  
21 until I did.

22 11TH DISTRICT CMDR WAINWRIGHT: I just want  
23 to say again that I just know from what my  
24 brother, who never misses any of the meetings,  
25 what he said about all the work that you do. You

1 should really be getting a big "atta-boy."

2 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: I don't know about that.  
3 Thank you.

4 COMMANDER STENNIS: We have two more  
5 questions for you.

6 Scott, in the back.

7 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Scott Palider,  
8 Legislative Coordinator.

9 This is just an update. I have website  
10 updates on the legislative questions, including  
11 House Bill 729.

12 CHAIRMAN SHAMHART: Okay, good enough.

13 That's all I have, Commander.

14 (Applause).

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, lunch is here,  
16 but I want to take care of two things. One will  
17 be Mr. Looker's report.

18 And the second thing is let us go back, take  
19 a step back, because I want to make sure, one,  
20 that the minutes for the Americanism and Buckeye  
21 Boys State was e-mailed to everyone.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yes.

23 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay. All right. Now,  
24 does anyone have any issues with either of those  
25 minutes?

1           4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: I didn't get them.  
2           Buxton, 4th District 1st Vice.

3           I didn't get them. They came in a zip file.  
4 I got them, but I could not get them to open. So  
5 I don't know what was going on, but I tried two or  
6 three different things and they would not open.

7           COMMANDER STENNIS: Besides that, does anyone  
8 else have any issues with those minutes?

9           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10          COMMANDER STENNIS: So the minutes will be  
11 entered into the record.

12          All right, that being said, Oratorical,  
13 Mr. Looker.

14          And how are you on this fine day?

15          1VC LOOKER: I'm doing all right, Commander.  
16 I have a few family problems. I have a sister  
17 that's sick. So I'm spending a lot of weekends up  
18 there with her. Thank you for asking.

19          The Department Oratorical will be held here  
20 at Department Headquarters at 10:00 o'clock on  
21 March the 5th, 2013 (sic).

22          The National Oratorical Contest will be held  
23 from April 21st through the 23rd, at Wyndham  
24 International Indianapolis West, at 2544 Executive  
25 Drive.

1           There's going to be a couple of changes at  
2 National for this year's contest for the second  
3 and third round of the contest on Saturday,  
4 April the 22nd, 2023, and the final round will be  
5 held April the 23rd, 2023.

6           The first change is that they're going to  
7 allow, and I'm going to have to talk to somebody  
8 afterwards because I'm not sure if this resolution  
9 was passed, but there will be 18 contestants  
10 moving on to the second round. And that is  
11 beginning, instead of 9:00, it will be 10:00 AM.

12           After the second round, there will be nine  
13 contestants moving on to the third round,  
14 beginning at 1:00 PM.

15           The final round, on Sunday, will begin at  
16 10:00 AM, with the final three contestants  
17 competing for the \$25,000 for first prize. Second  
18 place will be \$20,000 -- or I'm sorry, \$22,500.  
19 And third place will be 20,000.

20           This will be broadcast on the National  
21 Legion.org web page under Programs, Oratorical.

22           The second change is we'll be using a new  
23 system for tabulating winners. It's called  
24 "Tabroom." All the judges will be using computers  
25 to tabulate the winners, which will automatically

1 show the winners for each group.

2 In the first round, there are nine groups.  
3 In the second round, there will be three groups.  
4 In the final round, there will only be the one  
5 group.

6 I sat on the National committee and this  
7 worked very well in 2022. And we were able to  
8 turn the winners who passed on to the next round  
9 in minutes, not hours.

10 The Department Oratorical Committee met on  
11 October 29th, 2022, at Department Headquarters, at  
12 1:00 PM. Present were Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8,  
13 9, 10, and 12.

14 The committee still needs some vacant chairs  
15 filled: Districts 5, 7, 8, and 14.

16 Some of the topics that were discussed were  
17 approval of the committee rules. Bill Carpenter,  
18 3rd District Chairman, moved, seconded by Ed Long,  
19 10th District Chairman, to approve the minutes of  
20 the committee rules. That motion was passed.

21 The 2022 contest review: The contest went  
22 well. John Looker, Department Chairman, said  
23 moving to the Department was probably the best  
24 move we've made. Gary, 9th District Chairman,  
25 said it was very and we had enough staff to get

1 the contestants where they needed to be.

2 The edited Department Contest Packet: Roy  
3 Terry, from District 6, made a motion that was  
4 seconded by Bill Carpenter of District 3, to have  
5 the prize money as follows: 1st Place \$2500; 2nd  
6 Place, \$1500; and 3rd Place, \$2500 that will be  
7 divided between the remaining Districts. The  
8 motion was passed.

9 District contests will be finished and to  
10 Department by February 19th, 2023.

11 Gary, District 9 Chairman, discussed having  
12 participating Districts send not only their  
13 District winner as well as their District  
14 runner-up. So all 14 Districts' slots are  
15 represented in the Department Contest. It will  
16 give a chance to have more of the contestants  
17 participate in the Department contest. Motion  
18 passed.

19 Good of The Legion: Gary mentioned that if  
20 there are contests in neighboring Districts that  
21 do not have chairmen, he will work with those  
22 contestants to make sure that they still compete.

23 Malcolm Glasgow mentions that the Oratorical  
24 needs to be promoted at Buckeye Boys State.

25 The committee would like to have an



1 Oratorical brochure like the Americanism and Boys  
2 State has.

3 The meeting was adjourned. Bill Carpenter,  
4 3rd District Chairman, motioned, seconded by Paul  
5 Wiehe, District 2 Chairman, to adjourn the  
6 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 PM.

7 Commander, that's my report.

8 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, John.

9 Alrighty. We're going to take care of one  
10 more thing.

11 Does anyone, I know those minutes were sent  
12 out, does anyone have any issue with the minutes  
13 from the Oratorical Committee?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay. Those minutes will  
16 be entered for the record.

17 Lunch is here.

18 This is what I would like to do. We will go  
19 through with a motion of recess. But what I would  
20 like to do is to come back at probably five after,  
21 five after 12:00.

22 We'll go get lunch. We will resume. And  
23 then we probably have about another hour and a  
24 half.

25 We have some things that we didn't do

1 originally, earlier, that we will be cleaning up.  
2 We will also be swearing in Jason and myself,  
3 because we were not sworn in. All right?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: All right.

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: With that I ask for a  
6 motion for recess.

7 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Al Buxton, 4th  
8 District, so moves.

9 COMMANDER STENNIS: Second?

10 6TH DISTRICT CMDR COX, JR.: Gary Cox, Jr.,  
11 seconds.

12 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

13 (THEREUPON, A SHORT RECESS WAS TAKEN.)

14 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Colors in place, hand  
16 salute. One, two.

17 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

18 You may be seated. We're back in session.

19 All right, now that your bellies are full, I  
20 hope your eyes stay wide open.

21 All right, so let's get back to the agenda.

22 Again, the same rules apply that I asked for  
23 or requested earlier, as we continue on. As the  
24 time gets later, if you need to excuse yourselves,  
25 just do it politely and quietly, and we will

1 continue on.

2 So, with that being said, Religious Emphasis,  
3 the honorable Mr. James Fast.

4 CHAPLAIN FAST: Well, good afternoon.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

6 CHAPLAIN FAST: I'm reading the minutes of  
7 the Religious Emphasis Committee meeting of  
8 October 22nd, 2022, at 10:00 AM, in the Department  
9 Library.

10 It was called to order at 10:00 AM.  
11 Department Chaplain Fast opened the meeting of the  
12 Department Religious Emphasis Committee at 10:00  
13 AM.

14 Salute to the colors.

15 Invocation by Chaplain Fast.

16 Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Fast led  
17 those present in reciting the Pledge of  
18 Allegiance.

19 Appointment of a secretary. Chaplain Fast  
20 requested that Christie White, Americanism and  
21 Children & Youth Coordinator, to take the minutes.

22 Roll call by Christie White, Americanism and  
23 Children & Youth Coordinator. Members present  
24 were: Ron Distel, 1st District Chairman, present;  
25 James Fast, 2nd District Chairman, present;

1 Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chairperson; Richard  
2 Ruzsa, 4th District Chairman, not present; Lenny  
3 White, not present; James Crawford, 6th District  
4 Chairman, not present; District 7 is vacant;  
5 District 8th is vacant; John Turner, 9th District  
6 Chairman, was present; C. David Rhodes, 10th  
7 District Chairman, not present; Bob Welsh, 11th  
8 District Chairman, present; Malcolm Glasgow, 12th  
9 District Chairman, present; John Murphy, 13th  
10 District Chairman was excused; and District 14 is  
11 vacant.

12 Since there were only 11 members listed on  
13 the committee, they only needed six members for a  
14 quorum.

15 Guests present: Christie White, Americanism  
16 and Children & Youth Coordinator.

17 Reading of the Previous Minutes. Melissa  
18 Fowle, 3rd District Chaplain, motioned, seconded  
19 by Ron Distel, 1st District Chaplain, to approve  
20 the discussion of the previous minutes since the  
21 previous meeting did not have enough members for a  
22 quorum. Motion passed.

23 Approval of the committee rules. Melissa  
24 Fowle, 3rd District Chaplain, motioned, seconded  
25 by John Turner, 9th District Chaplain, to approve

1 the rules of the Religious Emphasis Committee.

2 Motion passed.

3 Welcome and opening remarks. Chaplain Fast  
4 welcomed and thanked those that were present.

5 Chaplain Fast wanted to focus on suicide  
6 prevention because it's important to keep it in  
7 people's minds, so that it doesn't go stale.

8 Chaplain Fast asked the committee members if  
9 they are now doing buddy checks within their  
10 Posts. Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chaplain, let  
11 the committee know her Post does buddy checks.

12 Chaplain Fast asked the committee if anyone has  
13 any ideas how to increase buddy checks with their  
14 Posts and communities. Ron Distel, 1st District  
15 Chaplain, mentioned that Posts that have canteens  
16 are pretty active in buddy checks. John Turner,  
17 9th District Chaplain, mentioned that his Post is  
18 having issues getting members to come to the  
19 meetings, so it is hard to increase buddy checks.

20 Chaplain Fast wanted to share a little about  
21 himself to the committee, so he let the committee  
22 know that September 10th, September 10th, 1978,  
23 was the day my life changed forever. That was the  
24 day I met Jesus Christ. So I wanted everybody to  
25 know that that was at the meeting. And it's 44

1 years in September.

2 So, some the things that I've been doing for  
3 the last 44 years is the jail ministry, nursing  
4 home ministries.

5 I was a, for 20 years I was a state, District  
6 and National officer in the Sons of The American  
7 Revolution, holding many positions there, Chaplain  
8 being one of them. And I've been ordained for 35  
9 years.

10 And I originally, it's in here because we  
11 were going to talk about my 888 member, I  
12 originally joined The American Legion in 1960. My  
13 future father-in-law was a 2nd District Commander.  
14 He had me signed up probably before the ink was  
15 dry on my discharge, my separation papers. So  
16 I've been, off and on, a member of The Legion.  
17 And I don't know how many different numbers I've  
18 got if they went back into their system.

19 But I ended up an 888 member. And he got a  
20 call from Wapakoneta, asking him to attend a  
21 meeting. And he felt like he had to attend. When  
22 he got to the Post, the Commander, or not the  
23 Commander, it was the Adjutant, asked him to be  
24 their Chaplain. I accepted. He then became  
25 District Chaplain, and then the Department

1 Chaplain. And I was actually appointed Department  
2 Chaplain. Brad Teis honored me with that  
3 position.

4 Suicide Prevention.

5 Chaplain Fast shared a book he was given  
6 called, "Suicide, The Forever Decision," by Dr.  
7 Paul G. Quinnett. The premise of the book is to  
8 question, persuade and to refer. People that  
9 constantly have suicidal thoughts can eventually  
10 live a long and happy life. Talking openly about  
11 suicide can give people thinking about suicide  
12 someone to talk to, and give them other options  
13 besides taking their own lives.

14 The CDC has information on suicide  
15 prevention, as well as resources in other websites  
16 that you can use.

17 If someone tells you they're going to commit  
18 suicide, you are obligated, as a human being, to  
19 try and help them, not to try not to get involved.

20 CDC statistics say 45,979 people died by  
21 suicide in the United States in one year. That's  
22 one death every 11 minutes. And 12.2 million  
23 adults thought about suicide; 3.2 million adults  
24 made a plan. That's called "ideation." More  
25 women will attempt suicide, but --

1           Let's see here, 3.2 million adults make a  
2 plan; 1.2 million adults attempted suicide.

3           For every suicide death, there are 4  
4 hospitalizations by attempt. More women will  
5 attempt suicide, but more men succeed. Men,  
6 firearms. Women, pills.

7           Firearms amount to 52.8%. That's why men's  
8 suicide rate is higher than women. A gun usually  
9 doesn't forgive.

10          Suffocation and hanging, 27%; poisoning and  
11 overdose, 12%; and other means, 8%.

12          The definition of suicide is death caused by  
13 injuring oneself with the intent to die.

14          Nine out of ten suicides happen at home.  
15 Most suicides happen between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM.  
16 The most popular time of the year is April, May  
17 and June. Per capita, small towns have the  
18 highest suicide rate. High risk groups:  
19 Veterans.

20          Age groups: Age 85-plus, 20%; people ages 75  
21 to 84, 18%; ages 65 to 74, 14%; age 55 to 64, 16%;  
22 age 45-54, 18%; age 35 to 44, 17%; age 25 to 34,  
23 8%; and age 10 to 14, 2%. There's no one not  
24 involved in this.

25          The veterans' suicide rate is 52.3% higher



1 than non-veterans. Suicide ideation is higher in  
2 those with disabilities. And technology has  
3 brought alienation to a lot of people.

4 Old Business.

5 Chaplain Fast shared that it's important to  
6 have awards for people. It makes them feel good  
7 and honors their work.

8 Promoting the Father John Duffy Award.

9 Melissa Fowle, 3rd District Chaplain, told her  
10 District that anyone that wants to be considered  
11 for the award, they need a description letter.  
12 And make sure that they are writing something as  
13 an addition, so people know what they have done.

14 And promote the Chaplain's Award.

15 And I'd add here that the instructions for  
16 the Father John Duffy Award and the Religious  
17 Emphasis part -- I've got too many things on my  
18 mind here -- that's on the Department web page.  
19 That's what I'm looking for.

20 Okay, we want to promote the Chaplain's  
21 Award.

22 You know, unbeknownst to me, I got a couple  
23 of these awards. And it really humbles you. It  
24 really does, to know that people actually are  
25 caring. You know?

1           Sometimes you think, I'm sure, in your  
2 offices, you know, you think sometimes, well, does  
3 anybody know what I'm doing? Somebody knows what  
4 you're doing. They know what you're doing. They  
5 appreciate you. And I think it's important for  
6 awards to be given in all areas of The American  
7 Legion.

8           So, under new business, Sunday Service for  
9 Mid-Winter. Okay, we're going to have some  
10 changes here now.

11           Christie White, Department Americanism and  
12 Children & Youth Coordinator, mentioned that the  
13 Four Chaplains Service at Mid-Winter last year had  
14 a large turnout if the committee would like to do  
15 the same this year, instead of separate Protestant  
16 and Catholic services.

17           Okay, Department has the materials for the  
18 Four Chaplains Service.

19           Malcolm Glasgow, 12th District Chaplain,  
20 mentioned that the hardest part of separate  
21 services is getting a Catholic Priest.

22           Ron Distel, 1st District Chaplain, would like  
23 to make sure the ministers and the priests get a  
24 tip for coming to do the services.

25           Bob Welsh, 11th District Chaplain, suggests

1 putting a basket at the back of the room for each  
2 service that people can put tips in.

3 Malcolm Glasgow, 12th District Chaplain,  
4 suggests that the Districts do the Four Chaplains  
5 Service individually, in their Districts, at their  
6 conferences.

7 The committee wants to have a Catholic  
8 service and a Protestant service. Chaplain Fast  
9 will do the Protestant service, and Malcolm  
10 Glasgow, 12th District Chaplain, will get the  
11 priest for the Catholic service, on Sunday,  
12 January 22nd, at 7:00 AM.

13 Prayer requests/sick call: Chaplain Fast had  
14 Tim Shaw; Christie White had Donna Ray; and  
15 Melissa Fowle had Roxanne Teis.

16 Good of the Legion, Chaplain Fast:

17 The Legion National Dispatch is going digital  
18 in January.

19 Veterans Day week is National Buddy Check  
20 week. And it's at [Legion.org/buddycheck](http://Legion.org/buddycheck).

21 After that, benediction. Department Chaplain  
22 Fast gave a blessing to the Religious Emphasis  
23 Committee. Salute to the colors. And the meeting  
24 was adjourned at 11:44 AM.

25 But we had quite a meeting there, a lot of

1 discussion.

2 And my wife has volunteered to have live  
3 music for us at the church service. And she says  
4 that I need a new piano. So, she's got a new  
5 keyboard, and a new speaker, and a new thing that  
6 holds the piano, and a new stool. So don't break  
7 her heart, please come.

8 She set it up again last night and she said,  
9 "I'm going to play all day today."

10 So my wife is an accomplished pianist. And  
11 she's been playing in churches for 40-some years.

12 I think it's good that we have the church  
13 services. And I'd like to see everybody  
14 participate.

15 And I guarantee you we're on a tight  
16 schedule. So I'm going to take my watch off and  
17 put it up there (indicating). You know what that  
18 is, don't you?

19 FROM THE FLOOR: Time for you to leave.

20 CHAPLAIN FAST: That's an inside preacher  
21 joke.

22 That concludes my report.

23 (Applause).

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: Give another round of  
25 applause for Chaplain Fast, please.

1 (Applause).

2 He's been in The American Legion as long as  
3 I've been alive, so 27 years.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah.

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay, since that report  
6 was mailed out, does anyone have an issue with the  
7 Religious Emphasis report?

8 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
9 District.

10 This is the best report I've ever seen come  
11 out.

12 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, we will  
13 continue. We will continue. Alrighty, we'll move  
14 on.

15 Andy Atkins, Children & Youth.

16 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: Good afternoon, everyone.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

18 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: The committee met on  
19 October 1st. It was a very productive meeting and  
20 we had a very full house. Almost every District  
21 was represented, plus we had two guests. And it  
22 always is, so we always have a good meeting.

23 The commission motioned to approve the  
24 minutes of the previous meeting.

25 And then the commission motioned to support

1 and donate to the Ohio Boys and Girls Club  
2 exclusively for the teen suicide awareness for the  
3 '22-'23 year. And so, in other words, if you send  
4 money in to the Children & Youth and it's  
5 designated for the state, that money is going to  
6 be designated to the Boys and Girls Clubs, and  
7 it's for, can be marked for, teen suicide, because  
8 that's kind of what we care about.

9 The commission is creating a teen suicide  
10 awareness pamphlet. It's in the process of doing  
11 that, but it is going to happen. And we will meet  
12 virtually, after a draft is made up, to review  
13 what we went over and make sure that we have  
14 everything we want in there.

15 Al Buxton gave a great report on the pilot  
16 program regarding flag education for fourth  
17 graders. Al suggested that the commission create  
18 this program and have each Post order the books  
19 and tests from Department, just like the A&G  
20 Tests. The program will be just for fourth  
21 graders and be completed around Veterans Day.

22 The commission motioned to create a  
23 resolution for the Department Flag Education Test  
24 and make it a Department program. John Life and  
25 Jose Rivera offered to create the resolution.

1           If any of you have ever seen the flag book,  
2           it's like a comic book. But it's got all the  
3           information you could possibly want to know about  
4           the flag in there. And they're on sale from the  
5           National.

6           But Al was in another, he went to a state  
7           close to us that does this, and they do a  
8           wonderful job. So he said it's really been good  
9           for the fourth graders. Plus, it's something that  
10          will follow them.

11          The commission also motioned to purchase new  
12          stickers for the Children & Youth cans that are in  
13          the Posts to collect donations. That will say,  
14          "2022-2023 Ohio Boys & Girls Club - Teen Suicide  
15          Prevention," so that's it's designated there. And  
16          that way, if you have a can, we'll get you a  
17          sticker for it.

18          Caternia Pierce was selected as the 2022  
19          Child Welfare Worker of the Year.

20          And Children & Youth T-shirts. We purchased  
21          T-shirts. They are on sale now. They're \$20.  
22          And they'll be sold also at Mid-Winter Conference.  
23          We'll have a table set up and we'll be selling  
24          T-shirts there.

25          We will not have the polos, because we didn't

1 order any polos. They said they wanted us to  
2 order 500, and I didn't want to order 500 polos.

3 But we have to sell these T-shirts first,  
4 before we can order them, because we get our money  
5 from the Finance Committee. So we'll see about  
6 that later.

7 But Becky is selling T-shirts back in her  
8 office after the meeting, if you go back there.  
9 Make a line and get one. We'll see how many  
10 T-shirts we can sell before Mid-Winter.

11 And I just wanted to also mention, I mean the  
12 meeting adjourned at 12:54, but I wanted to also  
13 mention or bring up Special Olympics. We donated  
14 \$25,000 from our members from the last Exec  
15 meeting, out of our funds that we had there.

16 For those that don't know, I'm sure you know,  
17 but they put that committee over to us.

18 So we donated \$25,000 to them. And because  
19 of that amount, we were put down as the main  
20 sponsor of their events that they were having, or  
21 the past three or four that they had. They didn't  
22 tell us this until after the first couple events  
23 had passed.

24 But the last one was a flag football game  
25 tournament up in Canton, Ohio, right across from



1 the Pro Football Hall of Fame. And we had some  
2 10th District people from Canton who were there.  
3 And I'm sure they were well received. But it was  
4 good to have somebody there attending. And so  
5 that's the biggest thing I have on that. And I  
6 thank those people for going.

7 So if anybody's got any questions?

8 Go ahead.

9 5TH DISTRICT 2VC MASON: Mason, 5th District  
10 2nd Vice Commander.

11 You were talking about the fourth grade flag  
12 thing. I had the fortunate experience, my  
13 granddaughter knew that I had done the 13 points  
14 of the flag a few times, so she asked me to come  
15 to her fourth grade class. It's not even in our  
16 District, but I got some volunteers and we went.

17 Well, what I want to say is, flag and emblem  
18 had a real, real good video in there for that, and  
19 a teacher instruction manual for that. And I  
20 ordered two of them and I gave one of them to the  
21 school as we get there.

22 I went back because I would like to see this,  
23 as you said, come to pass. I went back to order  
24 some more of them and they don't have them. And I  
25 really thought that was a very good instructional

1 manual.

2 But if you've never done that, we ended up,  
3 after we'd done it, a week later, our Post got a  
4 stack of letters from those fourth graders, how  
5 appreciative they were. And every question that I  
6 asked, they answered in those letters.

7 So it was a really cool thing and I'm glad to  
8 see that's it's being done. But I wish that they  
9 would still have that, that video and instruction  
10 set. And I hope you're aware of that. That was  
11 amazing. And we actually gave one to the school  
12 and they were going to put it in their fourth  
13 grade curriculum for this year.

14 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: You all know Al, and he's  
15 for this. He had it and he's on the District  
16 list.

17 4TH DISTRICT 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: We had  
18 the pilot program for it, --

19 Al Buxton, 1st Vice.

20 -- the pilot program in our District, to see  
21 how it worked in a District. And I brought the  
22 report back and suggested that we take this on as  
23 a Department program.

24 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: Joyce.

25 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th

1 District Commander.

2 You did have one typo on the second page in  
3 the minutes. You have that he gave a report on  
4 the "piolet" program instead of "pilot."

5 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: "Piolet?"

6 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: "Piolet."

7 THE REPORTER: We can't hear you.

8 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: In the minutes  
9 that he read, there was a typo. Where he said  
10 "pilot," they have "piolet" in there instead.  
11 It's a misspelling on his report.

12 THE REPORTER: We didn't get a speaker  
13 identification in the back either.

14 COMMANDER STENNIS: The gentleman from the  
15 5th District, can we get your name and what Post  
16 you're from?

17 5TH DISTRICT 2VC MASON: Bob Mason, or Robert  
18 Mason, Post 344.

19 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: Al.

21 HISTORIAN BEYER: Al Beyer, 5th District.

22 Andy, is that one of the shirts for the  
23 Children & Youth Program? Is there anything  
24 written on the back of them as well?

25 CHAIRMAN ATKINS: Yes, Al. (Indicating).

1           This is our design. You've probably seen  
2           that design in the papers that we put out. And  
3           anything reported on Children & Youth, this design  
4           is here. It is off of the pins that we sold two  
5           or three years ago. We still have a few left. So  
6           if you want a pin to put on your shirt, you can  
7           get it.

8           Any other questions?

9           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10          CHAIRMAN ATKINS: Okay, I'd ask that you  
11          approve this.

12          COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you.

13          Alrighty, since the Children & Youth report  
14          was e-mailed to everyone, does anyone have any  
15          issues with the Children & Youth report, besides  
16          that one typo? Does anyone have any issues with  
17          that report?

18          Yes.

19          4TH DISTRICT 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Do we  
20          need to vote on it?

21          COMMANDER STENNIS: I believe any money  
22          issues would be in the Finance report that would  
23          be given by Jose.

24          4TH DISTRICT 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: But we  
25          still need to vote on the --

1 I'm sorry, Buxton, 1st Vice, 4th District.

2 We still have to vote on the minutes because  
3 there is a money amount in there and there's --

4 COMMANDER STENNIS: No, they didn't spend  
5 that money.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The money amount  
7 should go to Finance first. The money amount for  
8 that report is just being registered. It isn't  
9 pertinent until Finance has approved it.

10 So if the Finance Committee says we did not  
11 approve this, then it's done, it's not approved.

12 If Finance says we approve this for the DEC  
13 to verify it, then you approve what the Finance  
14 Committee thought.

15 Because you could approve it and then the  
16 Finance Committee says we didn't approve it  
17 because you're out of cycle. The Finance  
18 Committee has to talk through it first.

19 So it's either in budget or out of budget,  
20 that's all we're saying.

21 COMMANDER STENNIS: Correct.

22 I hear what you're saying, Al, but --

23 4TH DISTRICT 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Be caus  
24 e I've been told in the past that if there's  
25 something in the minutes that you've got to spend

1 money on, those minutes have to be approved.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And that's right,  
3 except when the committee goes through the Finance  
4 Committee. They have to make a recommendation.

5 If it's at your Post, or even at convention,  
6 if a motion is made by a committee for something  
7 and it doesn't have a prior approval from anyone  
8 else, then the body has to do it.

9 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay, does anyone have  
10 any issue with the Children & Youth report?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing that,  
13 it will be noted for the record.

14 Next up we have Jose Rivera with the Finance  
15 Committee report.

16 CHAIRMAN RIVERA: Thank you, Commander.

17 Good afternoon. I'm actually going to be  
18 reading two minutes, from September and November.  
19 And the second one we'll have to have a motion for  
20 it to be voted on.

21 Anyway, at our meeting on September 26th,  
22 2022, it was called to order by Harold Savage at  
23 18:00.

24 Members present were: Commander Stennis,  
25 Treasurer Harold Savage, Chairman Jose Rivera,

1 Holly Lewis, and Ken LaVoy.

2 Guests were: J.D. Robinson, Interim  
3 Adjutant; Rebecca Corbin, Fiscal Secretary; and  
4 Ben Antonelli from Rea & Associates.

5 Motion passed to skip the minutes, as they  
6 were sent to each member.

7 Unfinished business:

8 Ben discussed the P&L statement through  
9 August. The committee wants a more detailed  
10 report.

11 Treasurer Savage talked about baseball  
12 revenue and made sure checks for Baseball were  
13 accounted with expenses.

14 Ohio Legion News is also an expense. Special  
15 Olympics falls under Children & Youth and should  
16 be a pass-through.

17 Interim Adjutant Robinson requested a  
18 performance-based review of employee Holly Lewis  
19 and suggested the Commander and Adjutant review  
20 the employee together. They also asked to see the  
21 year-end P&L to help decide.

22 New business:

23 Motion passed to sell the white Legion van.

24 Children & Youth requested 4,000 to buy  
25 shirts. And the money will be paid back once the

1 shirts are sold.

2 Post credits have been sent for April, May,  
3 and June.

4 Good of the Legion: Paid up for life credits  
5 have been sent out.

6 The meeting ended at 18:54.

7 The committee met again on November 15th,  
8 called to order by Harold Savage. All the members  
9 who were at the last one were at this one as well,  
10 including 1st Vice Commander Jason Rue.

11 A motion passed to skip the reading of the  
12 minutes, as they were sent ahead of time.

13 Ben went over the P&L statement. The  
14 committee members discussed what should be on the  
15 P&L and how it should look.

16 Unfinished business:

17 Adjutant Robinson submitted the employee  
18 evaluations. Ken LaVoy suggested a more detailed  
19 form to be used and tabled the topic till the  
20 spring meeting.

21 Commander Stennis reviewed the last year's  
22 P&L and general ledger, showing a profit of  
23 \$170,000, along with \$160,000 from the LIT.

24 Motion passed to use \$30,000 for employee  
25 bonuses.



1           New business:

2           Adjutant Robinson addressed the committee on  
3 unused vacation and asked that the employee be  
4 allowed to sell a week of vacation. Motion made  
5 and passed.

6           Motion passed to fund the resolution for the  
7 Bradley A. Teis, Sr., Race-to-the-Top Award.

8           Motion passed to set a \$1,000 spending limit  
9 for Department items without asking the committee  
10 for approval.

11           Motion passed for the purchase of audio/video  
12 equipment to conduct meetings.

13           Motion passed to purchase 500 POW/MIA pins at  
14 the cost of \$910, to be repaid.

15           Treasurer Savage would like to hire a  
16 Department Finance Administrator, eliminating the  
17 need for Rea & Associates. The salary range would  
18 be about 50 to \$60,000 salary.

19           The meeting ended at 19:46.

20           Commander, I would ask for a motion.

21           COMMANDER STENNIS: Can we get a motion to  
22 accept the Finance reports?

23           ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, Ron  
24 Chapman, Alternate NEC.

25           I move to pass the Finance report with a

1 set-aside of the unfinished business topic of  
2 employee evaluations and bonuses, and also a  
3 set-aside of the last portion where it asks for a  
4 fiscal officer, or speaks of a fiscal officer.  
5 Other than that, with those two set-asides, I  
6 would move that we accept the Finance report.

7 COMMANDER STENNIS: Are there any other  
8 set-asides to the Finance report?

9 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
10 District Commander.

11 Also set aside the paragraph under new  
12 business where he also wants to raise the salary  
13 of our new employee, Hunter Woods.

14 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's already tabled.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

16 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: I retract that.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Are there any more?

18 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Buxton, 1st Vice,  
19 4th District, seconds the motion.

20 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

21 Discussion.

22 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Concerning the first  
23 set-aside, the only question I have would be that  
24 we've had a lot of turnover.

25 COMMANDER STENNIS: Well, we have a motion

1 and a second to approve everything except the  
2 set-asides from the Finance report. All in favor  
3 of approving the Finance report from September and  
4 November, use the sign of aye.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

6 COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

8 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, the report  
9 passed.

10 Go ahead, Chappy.

11 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Okay.

12 Concerning the first set-aside, first of all,  
13 how much did the bonuses end up being? Can you  
14 answer that question at this time? What were the  
15 bonuses?

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I cannot. I would have  
17 to find out.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Don't most people  
19 know about the bonuses?

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They know that that is a  
21 possibility, depending on what this group decides  
22 to do.

23 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, we'll let that  
24 slide. I understand where you're coming from  
25 there.

1           The next thing would be, concerning those  
2 bonuses, we've had a lot of turnover at  
3 Department. So are those bonuses, instead of  
4 being just divided equally, or however, is there  
5 going to be some way to proportion that to time  
6 and grade?

7           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes. It was based upon  
8 evaluations that were done.

9           To be truthful and honest with you, they  
10 should have been done months ago, honestly. The  
11 Finance Committee approved this months ago. And  
12 it is imperative on us to get this done. Because  
13 we approved that back in like March. So we've  
14 been, and I apologize to the staff, dragging our  
15 feet.

16           Yes.

17           PDC JEAN WILSON: Well, Commander, I don't  
18 think it was so much dragging our feet. It was  
19 more of a situation where there was turmoil and  
20 chaos going on, which needed to settle down before  
21 actually you could do that. I don't want the  
22 staff to think that we were dragging our feet.

23           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

24           PDC JEAN WILSON: It wasn't that.

25           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yeah.

1 PDC JEAN WILSON: It was going to come. It  
2 just really had to get at the right time. Things  
3 had to settle down.

4 COMMANDER STENNIS: And Jean, I just want to  
5 take responsibility, that's all, so we can  
6 continue and get this over.

7 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, as far as the  
8 second set aside, if I read this, this is just a  
9 recommendation.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Are we done with  
11 discussion on the first set-aside? Because we  
12 have to handle them one at a time.

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

14 Is there any more discussion on the first  
15 set-aside?

16 Yes.

17 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
18 District Commander.

19 Since this was already done awhile ago, does  
20 this include all new employees also?

21 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: That's kind of the  
22 discussion that we just had about the timing.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It would be all but one  
24 as of right now.

25 COMMANDER STENNIS: It would be all but one

1 as of right now.

2 Because before this was approved -- and let  
3 me just take a step back with this.

4 The Finance Committee approved this back in  
5 March. So it should be for every employee that  
6 was employed with us before, I would say before  
7 the March Finance meeting. Can we agree to that?

8 FROM THE FLOOR: It makes sense.

9 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes. Can we agree to  
10 that? It makes sense.

11 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: You mean if  
12 they're still here?

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes, if they're still  
14 here, correct.

15 All right, are there any more questions on  
16 the first set-aside?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The set aside, it's  
19 part of the report. All we've got to do is vote  
20 on that set-aside.

21 COMMANDER STENNIS: One at a time; correct?

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Yes, on this one  
23 that we just discussed, this one set-aside.

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay.

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And it should be

1 read again, or at least the title, so everybody  
2 knows what we're talking about.

3 So which set-aside title are they looking at?

4 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Under unfinished  
5 business, a set-aside under unfinished business,  
6 doe the committee agree not to -- well, it  
7 concerns the bonuses that are being distributed to  
8 the employees at year end, in lieu of the  
9 increases.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: For the committee  
11 to decide what?

12 CHAIRMAN RIVERA: I'm going to read the whole  
13 thing.

14 Commander Stennis reviewed the last year's  
15 P&L and general ledger, showing a profit of  
16 \$170,000, along with \$160,000 from the LIT.

17 Motion passed to use 30,000 for employee  
18 bonuses.

19 COMMANDER STENNIS: Can I get a motion and a  
20 second?

21 I'm sorry, all in favor of approving the  
22 first set-aside use the sign of aye.

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. For the  
2 second set-aside, Jose, can you read that one more  
3 time, please?

4           CHAIRMAN RIVERA: This is the one for the  
5 financial --

6           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

7           CHAIRMAN RIVERA: Treasurer Savage would like  
8 to hire a Department Finance Administrator,  
9 eliminating the need for Rea & Associates. The  
10 salary range would be about 50,000 to 60,000  
11 salary.

12          COMMANDER STENNIS: And let me put a caveat  
13 to that. That's "fiscal administrator," not  
14 "officer." It's "administrator."

15          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What does it say  
16 "administrator" or "officer"?

17          CHAIRMAN RIVERA: Department Finance  
18 Administrator.

19          COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay.

20          ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Our constitution and  
21 bylaws calls for a fiscal officer. That should be  
22 the title in there that's used. It should be  
23 according to our constitution and bylaws.

24                 However, as I read this, this is a  
25 recommendation and it's not a motion that was



1 approved at the meeting. So I can withdraw that  
2 set-aside, I believe.

3 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay, so what was  
4 the committee looking for with the recommendation?  
5 Were you looking for an affirmation to go and  
6 hire?

7 CHAIRMAN RIVERA: Yes.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay. So they're  
9 recommending, as a --

10 And just so you know, when a committee has  
11 two or more members, that is the motion and that  
12 is the second, from the committee. So you don't  
13 have to ask for it.

14 So now, what this really says is they're  
15 asking for approval to hire that person. So it's  
16 a good clarification.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So, from this, we  
19 move forward with this or we have a motion to move  
20 it to a future meeting for more information.  
21 Because that's the question that's going to come  
22 up.

23 COMMANDER STENNIS: And can I add some  
24 information to it?

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: You need to stand

1     aside and give it to the Adjutant, and then you  
2     can speak to it.

3           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

4           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'll give it to him.

5           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Now you may speak.

6           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

7           Well, ladies and gentlemen, last year we  
8     spent over \$120,000 between Maloney & Novotny and  
9     Rea & Associates. We need to bring that money  
10    home. We need to bring that money home. If we're  
11    going to spend that kind of money, we need to  
12    spend that in house, not outside, spending that  
13    money somewhere else. We can bring someone in to  
14    do a large portion of what Rea & Associates does.  
15    We had planned for this back a little while back  
16    but we haven't been able to execute it. But we  
17    need to do that now.

18           The Finance Committee has due diligence,  
19    especially on aspects of fiduciary  
20    responsibilities of the Department of Ohio. So  
21    they would fail if they did not make this  
22    recommendation.

23           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Now the question  
24    is, and Judge, I'll ask you to either support me  
25    or not, but you do not have authority to hire an

1 administrator. You have to hire a finance  
2 officer. What's the position with that? Is there  
3 something in the Board's mind about why it's not  
4 the finance officer?

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Reading through the  
6 constitution and bylaws, the Treasurer was our  
7 finance officer.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: No. That only satisfies  
9 National.

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: So is it semantics?

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Commander, I would  
12 advise holding this to a later part of the meeting  
13 to conduct business so the Adjutant and I could  
14 confer on exactly what we need to do, and then  
15 we'll bring it up later.

16 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay, we can do that.  
17 Mr. Life.

18 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
19 District.

20 If I remember right, the last time I served  
21 on this Board, four years ago, we did have two  
22 separate. We had the Department Treasurer and we  
23 had a Department Finance Officer, Patrick. I  
24 can't think of his last name.

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Atkinson.

1           14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: They were two  
2 separate positions. One was appointed by the  
3 body. One was hired by us.

4           COMMANDER STENNIS: You are correct. You are  
5 correct.

6           And I'd like to propose to this body we need  
7 to get this done today. We really need to get  
8 this done today.

9           So we will table that.

10          Jose, I appreciate you reading your report.  
11 And we will come back to that today. This needs  
12 to get done.

13          Can I get a motion to table.

14          4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Buxton, 4th  
15 District 1st Vice, I so move.

16          ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate  
17 NEC, seconds.

18          COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. All in favor  
19 of tabling the second set-aside from the Finance  
20 Committee use the sign of aye.

21          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

22          COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor.

23          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24          COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you.

25          Run MMC Chris Emmons with the Media,

1 Marketing and Communications Commission report.

2 CHAIRMAN EMMONS: Thank you, Commander.

3 Almost good evening to everybody out here.

4 I've got to get us back on pace.

5 You all got the minutes e-mailed to you, so  
6 here's a summary.

7 We had a virtual meeting on October 2nd, at  
8 10:00 AM. Only five committee members were there.  
9 So we did not have a quorum.

10 I'll give you a summary of the Ohio Legion  
11 News. The last run, about in July, we spent  
12 \$33,420. That's for 87,000 papers printed, at a  
13 cost of \$.38 per paper. That puts us at 8.39  
14 cents per paper. That's \$7300 over our  
15 constitution and bylaws, with a budget of \$1.20  
16 per active member annually. Digital-only  
17 distribution is currently 2,648, and that's up  
18 from 2,631, at my last report, with only a 1%  
19 increase with the on-line version.

20 We are working on a resolution to get rid of  
21 the word "mail" in our constitution and bylaws, so  
22 we can save ourselves \$30,000 a trimester, but  
23 that resolution is not finished yet.

24 That concludes my report, Commander.

25 (Applause).

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

2           NEC MASOWICK: Let's see if you can beat  
3 that, Ken.

4           COMMANDER STENNIS: Ken LaVoy, Legislative.

5           CHAIRMAN LAVOY: Boy, the pressure is on.

6           Commander Stennis, officers, the Executive  
7 Committee, and guests, as mentioned by Chris  
8 earlier, you already have the minutes in front of  
9 you from our Legislative Standing Commission. So  
10 this will be for information only. So I will  
11 highlight and summarize.

12           We had a meeting here on October 1st, for the  
13 Legislative Standing Commission. We also offered  
14 a virtual option. So we had 10 of 14 of the  
15 Districts represented. We also currently still  
16 have the 13th District as a vacancy.

17           Covering old business, and some of the  
18 business I'll have to summarize because some of it  
19 is now OBE, and that business is.

20           Under old business:

21           The 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
22 that was launched in July of this year was changed  
23 from the 1-800 number, so it's easier to access.

24           Under Ohio House Bill 407, which was spoken  
25 about last year, during the fall meeting,

1 regarding the veterans' homelessness being  
2 combated with the Ohio Division of Veterans  
3 Services, that's been indefinitely postponed.

4 Under new business:

5 The commission was giving a pack to each  
6 District officer containing information in  
7 reference to the PACT Act, and we talked about  
8 this in the past, to take back to their Districts.

9 The PACT Act is also currently under threat  
10 of being revised. And our coordinator, Scott,  
11 here, will probably talk more in-depth on that.  
12 But it is in reference to a meeting that he had  
13 recently with Congressman Mike Carey and ranking  
14 member Bost from Illinois as a guest.

15 We also have a resolution that's in front of  
16 you. And that's 23-01, and that's related to Ohio  
17 Senate Bill 252 and private asbestos claims, which  
18 was drafted and amended by the commission. And  
19 the resolve is there in front of you to read.

20 One other thing, under good of The Legion, we  
21 have two items I want to address: House Bill  
22 4591, and that's the VA Electronic Health Record  
23 Transparency Act of 2021, and that became law in  
24 June of this year, and then the Patient Advocate  
25 Tracker Act, which was House Resolution 5754.

1           The meeting went about an hour, an hour and  
2 two minutes to be exact, and then we concluded.

3           Commander, pending your questions, I will be  
4 followed by our coordinator, Scott.

5           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes, Steve.

6           NEC MASOWICK: A real quick question: Was  
7 the congressman pretty active with you?

8           CHAIRMAN LAVOY: I can't answer that. He's  
9 going to talk about that.

10          Yes, sir.

11          13TH DISTRICT CMDR LOCKYER: Lockyer, 13th.

12          We are not faking. For the fourth time, Mr.  
13 Bert Boyd is our legislator. And I have seen him  
14 there. On May 16th, I found over the e-mail, he  
15 told me to write him back and I told him I'd  
16 follow up with a phone call. And he's told me  
17 again today. Hopefully by June you'll get this.

18          COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay. Thank you, Ken.

19          Scott, are you going to do both Legislative,  
20 National Security and VA&R?

21          COORDINATOR PALIDER: Al will do National  
22 Security.

23          COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

24          COORDINATOR PALIDER: I'm just going to do a  
25 legislative update for everything happening in the



1 statehouse currently, and federally.

2 Since we've had a lot of stuff already about  
3 some of the bills that we want to address, let's  
4 answer your question, Steve.

5 This was at a veterans roundtable held in  
6 Columbus at Legion Post 112, I think, the official  
7 Post down there. It's on High Street.

8 This was at a veterans roundtable. Mike  
9 Carey's office invited me to come. He had ranking  
10 member Mike Bost, who will be the House Veterans  
11 Affairs Chair come January, since Republicans took  
12 control of the House.

13 They stated that some aspects of the PACT Act  
14 may be revised because some things cannot be  
15 connected to service disability, such as their  
16 biggest thing, and it could affect most of the  
17 veterans in this room, in our organization,  
18 Vietnam veterans, is hypertension.

19 They think hypertension should not be  
20 included in the PACT Act since one in four  
21 Americans who have not served in the military  
22 currently suffer from hypertension, so why should  
23 we give it when people who don't serve already  
24 have hypertension. So they're trying to revise  
25 that and take hypertension out of the PACT Act.

1           They're might be a few others on the chopping  
2 block, but hypertension is the one that they have  
3 their eyes on currently.

4           Questions, follow-up, anything?

5           NEC MASOWICK: That's good.

6           1VC RUE: Scott. Through the Chair to Scott.

7           I would challenge them to see what the  
8 percentage is among veterans, use the VA to see  
9 what that is, before they start saying that it  
10 doesn't compare.

11          COORDINATOR PALIDER: I voiced concerns to  
12 them and we kind of just shook our head at them.

13          1VC RUE: Have them go through the VA and  
14 see, well, how many veterans are applying for the  
15 VA, what percentage of them have it compared to  
16 the outside population. Because if it's much  
17 higher then it definitely needs to be looked at.

18          COORDINATOR PALIDER: Any other questions  
19 regarding that?

20          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21          COORDINATOR PALIDER: Okay, I'll dive in.

22          Circling back to what Past Department  
23 Commander Wilson was speaking of earlier, House  
24 Bill 729, regarding Veterans Service Commissions.  
25 It officially states, "to require county Veterans

1 Service Commissions to include two members whose  
2 military service commenced on or after September  
3 11, 2001, and require one of those members of the  
4 commission to be appointed by the county board of  
5 commissioners," instead of by your Common Pleas  
6 Court judges.

7 The reason for this argument is -- and this  
8 is from State Rep Brian Stewart, who's the main  
9 sponsor. He's actually the only sponsor. There  
10 are no co-sponsors on this bill.

11 His argument is that some post-9/11 veterans  
12 are already in their fifties and sixties. And you  
13 look at the data on this, and 2nd District  
14 Commander Shaw actually e-mailed me a letter he  
15 got from -- I'm going to pull out my phone because  
16 I have it on my phone -- the Director of the State  
17 Veterans Service Commissions.

18 So it was a letter that was sent out by  
19 Mr. Brunner, who is, I believe, the President of  
20 the Ohio Department of Veterans Service  
21 Commissions Board of Commissions.

22 PDC JEAN WILSON: Ben Brunner did you say?

23 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Ben Brunner.

24 And they take issue with this. And this was  
25 actually presented to me at the Ohio Department of

1 Veterans Services Advisory Committee back in  
2 October.

3 And the one thing I did hear from a lot of  
4 the veterans in the room was that post-9/11  
5 veterans need to, "Wait their turn. They need to  
6 wait their turn."

7 But then the argument was, from some  
8 veterans, that some post-9/11 veterans are in  
9 their fifties and sixties.

10 Off of data that was out of Mr. Brunner's  
11 letter, currently, 11% of the Veterans Service  
12 Commission seats in the State of Ohio are occupied  
13 by post-9/11 veterans. From the census data, 20%  
14 of the veteran population in the state is  
15 post-9/11 veterans. So you're looking at one  
16 person representing two veterans.

17 Out of the Vietnam era veterans, they make up  
18 about 37% of the state's veteran population. And  
19 you're looking at 65% of the seats are occupied by  
20 Vietnam era veterans.

21 I think there is a representation issue. I  
22 don't think this bill adequate. This bill needs  
23 work, obviously. So I brought this to your  
24 attention.

25 You're looking at two seats being on the

1 Veterans Service Commission by post-9/11 veterans.

2 PDC JEAN WILSON: They're trying to find  
3 people.

4 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Yes, they are trying to  
5 find people. That's correct.

6 PDC JEAN WILSON: All the time.

7 COORDINATOR PALIDER: I think only maybe one  
8 person should be occupying the seat, but not two.  
9 I do agree two is too much, especially for certain  
10 areas of the state that only have, say, 5% of  
11 their veteran population in their county that are  
12 post-9/11 veterans versus 60% Vietnam era  
13 veterans.

14 That has only had one hearing in the House  
15 Veterans Affairs Committee, and that was on the  
16 30th of November. So if nothing passes on the  
17 134th General Assembly, it might get renumbered  
18 and go to the 135th, or it might die in committee.  
19 There is a speaker of the house coming in so it's  
20 going to be interesting.

21 If anyone has any questions or concerns,  
22 please call my office. I am more than willing to  
23 discuss this bill with you guys.

24 Any questions now on House Bill 729?

25 Yes.

1 PDC JEAN WILSON: Well, it's not a question,  
2 but it's going to be renumbered next year.

3 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Yes, we believe it is.

4 PDC JEAN WILSON: So you need to keep in  
5 contact with that bill and you need to let us know  
6 what it's going to be renumbered to.

7 COORDINATOR PALIDER: I will put it in a,  
8 we'll do a social media blast post, we're trying  
9 to put more legislation on social media, as well  
10 as I will put it in the OLN.

11 Okay, moving on, there are two bills in the  
12 Senate. They both are on property tax.

13 Senate Bill 268 is on property tax. And it's  
14 sponsored by Senator Hoagland, who is a Navy SEAL  
15 veteran and a Legionnaire. So he is the voice of  
16 veterans at the statehouse. And it is to exempt  
17 from property tax the homestead of a veteran  
18 discharged under honorable discharge conditions.  
19 It looks to reduce property tax for honorably  
20 discharged vets without making them wait until age  
21 65. That is the current stipulation. We have  
22 veterans who aren't 65 yet who, his argument is,  
23 they've lost limbs, they've suffered deeply in  
24 service to this country and they have to wait  
25 until 65 to get a property tax exemption for a

1 homestead. So they're looking to change that.

2 And that is related to Senate Bill 335,  
3 titled, "Homestead Property Tax." And this bill  
4 was to change homestead tax exemption rates based  
5 to your disability rating. So you would get, say  
6 if you're ten, it would start at 10% minimum rate  
7 for the VA. If you are 10% disabled according to  
8 the VA, you would get ten percent of your tax  
9 exempted. So that bill that is going to the  
10 state.

11 I think it's a fantastic bill, for housing,  
12 for fiscal reasons, and the effect it would have  
13 on the state, counties, townships. But I think it  
14 would be great for the veteran population of the  
15 state, as we will recruit more veterans here to  
16 Ohio.

17 But it's still early. They's had one hearing  
18 in the Senate committees. It will be renumbered  
19 in the next session because they will not pass out  
20 this in the lame duck session here.

21 Moving on to the infamous Senate Bill 252.  
22 That is the same bill. We and other veteran  
23 service organizations have temporarily halted this  
24 bill. It has not had a committee meeting since  
25 March and it is not on the Senate Judiciary

1 Committee's agenda for any foreseeable future  
2 meetings, having spoke with the chair, Senator  
3 Manning, from North Ridgeville.

4 So we have temporarily halted it. It might  
5 come back in session, it might not. Because I  
6 know the main sponsor, Senator Lang, has been not  
7 happy with the pushback on this bill. He was  
8 hoping it would go under the radar. But we did  
9 our job and we fought this bill.

10 Lastly, House Bill 686, The American Legion  
11 License Plate. It has been introduced and it's  
12 already passed out of the committee in the Senate.  
13 It passed out of the Public Safety Committee on  
14 the 15th of November, and it moves forward to the  
15 floor.

16 The funding from that, the breakdown where  
17 it's going to go, they designate that it will go  
18 to American Legion programs. And then, since we  
19 decided it would go to baseball, we can allocate  
20 it to baseball from our programs fund.

21 I'm hoping that gets into an omnibus bill  
22 with a bunch of highway designations, additional  
23 license plates, and passes on the lame duck  
24 session. I haven't heard that yet, but that is  
25 what my idea of that bill passing now would be.



1 Any questions on the state level bills?

2 NEC MASOWICK: Masowick, NEC.

3 What does Senate Bill 252 apply to?

4 COORDINATOR PALIDER: That's the asbestos  
5 claims bill, where Resolution issue 23-01 is  
6 looking at making sure it stops.

7 Because in that bill the language currently  
8 states some of the stipulations would be you have  
9 to name the actual seller of any asbestos-related  
10 product involved in each exposure; specific  
11 location; manner of each exposure; the beginning  
12 and end dates of each exposure; the frequency and  
13 length of each exposure; and the proximity of the  
14 asbestos-containing product to its user. And you  
15 have to do this before discovery. And I guarantee  
16 it is near impossible for a surviving spouse to do  
17 so.

18 And that is why the resolution has come out.  
19 We want to fight this bill.

20 Because if you cannot prove that 50% of  
21 your's is service-related, or your service is  
22 accredited to your asbestos claims, you aren't  
23 covered the way other asbestos-related claims  
24 would be, especially not if it's due to your  
25 service, then you have to do private claims, which

1 it still addresses, and you would be, pardon my  
2 French, shit out of luck.

3 So that's why we have Resolution 23-01. The  
4 Legislative Committee is working on it. But that  
5 is what Senate Bill 252 hoped to do.

6 NEC MASOWICK: Thank you.

7 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Moving on, there's a  
8 couple federal bills that we've watched.

9 The Senate Bill 544, which is the national  
10 legislation on buddy checks. That has been  
11 inserted now as provisional into House Bill 6411,  
12 known as the "STRONG Veterans Act of 2022,"  
13 Support The Resiliency of Our Nation's Great  
14 Veterans Act of 2022. It's a big name.

15 But, yes, the buddy check bill is now in the  
16 House as a provisional. Hopefully the House  
17 Veterans Committee has a meeting before the end of  
18 session. So hopefully it passes out of that. And  
19 then it would go to the floor when the next  
20 Congress starts.

21 There are a couple of other bills regarding  
22 technology and the VA. I've heard a lot of people  
23 at the Columbus VA have issues with the new system  
24 for prescriptions, and some issues with  
25 prescription drugs being halted. And they're

1 looking at how to fix that department in the VA  
2 system.

3 And there's a couple other bills that you  
4 might find you are interested in.

5 There's House Bill 9360, that looks to extend  
6 to certain members of the armed forces eligibility  
7 to transfer unused post-9/11 educational  
8 assistance to family members. So if you have a  
9 kid, you could transfer your educational  
10 assistance to them, if you aren't going to use it  
11 yourself.

12 There's Senate Bill 5143, which looks to  
13 improve the assignments of patient advocates in  
14 medical facilities.

15 And then there's House Bill 8875, and that  
16 looks to extend eligibility of members of the  
17 National Guard for housing loans guaranteed by the  
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

19 I gave you my information. Any questions?

20 1VC RUE: 9360, is that for veterans who had  
21 gotten out before the post-9/11 and served during  
22 that time? Because I transferred mine to my boy  
23 and he didn't use it. So then I went ahead and  
24 used it. Because anybody that has at least two  
25 years left can go ahead and transfer it themselves

1 if they want to.

2 COORDINATOR PALIDER: I'll double check.  
3 This was just introduced. The House Veterans  
4 Affairs Committee hasn't had a committee meeting  
5 yet. And I'll check with the National divisions,  
6 since they do monitor that. I'll see what they  
7 have on it and if it's on their radar. But I'm  
8 not sure about that.

9 1VC RUE: Because my brother never got to  
10 transfer his because he was out before they made  
11 it a law. So he never got to transfer his to his  
12 kids.

13 COORDINATOR PALIDER: I will check that and I  
14 will send out notes with this whole report for all  
15 you guys, just so you have it in writing.

16 And then real quick, the one thing I want to  
17 touch on legislativewise is National Legislative  
18 Commission applications. I mentioned National  
19 Legislative Commission applications to be a part  
20 of --

21 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: National Legislative  
22 Council?

23 COORDINATOR PALIDER: National Legislative  
24 Council. Thank you, Chappy, yes.

25 I have a number of applications, but there

1 are certain districts, congressional districts,  
2 that I have no applications for. I'd like to have  
3 at least one for everybody in the state. I have  
4 the two senators done already.

5 So Congressional District 1, which Greg  
6 Landsman is going to take over because he beat  
7 Steve Chabot this past November, that is in  
8 Cincinnati proper. So that's 4th District only.  
9 Heading up to Lebanon, that's a road trip there.  
10 I need someone to apply for that.

11 District 3, which is Joyce Beatty, here in  
12 the 12th District, you're looking at the New  
13 Albany/Gahanna area. I need somebody to apply for  
14 that. I would greatly appreciate it.

15 The 5th District is Bob Latta. That one is  
16 parts of the 1st District, 2nd District, and 5th  
17 District. You're looking at Elyria, Norwalk,  
18 Tiffin, Findlay, Bowling Green, Celina and Van  
19 Wert. And we'd be interested in you being in  
20 contact with Bob Latta. That would be great.  
21 Because I need someone for that area.

22 FROM THE FLOOR: Where do you get those  
23 updates of that?

24 COORDINATOR PALIDER: They're on-line, on the  
25 National Legislative page. It's an on-line

1 application. Fill it out to them. They send a  
2 copy to me. And JD and I review them and I pick  
3 who is going to be on it. Most of the districts  
4 only have one application so they win by default.

5 But it's something I do have, I'll say, well,  
6 I'll say I sort through the applications to see  
7 who is the best and will do the most for the  
8 Legion's legislative agenda .

9 In district No. 11, Congressional District  
10 No. 11, Shontel Brown, that is the Cuyahoga and  
11 Euclid area. I don't have anybody for that.

12 Congressional District 12, which is Troy  
13 Balderson, you're looking at Newark, Zanesville,  
14 Cambridge, Lancaster, Athens. I need somebody  
15 from that area to represent Troy Balderson.

16 Dave Joyce, you're looking at Mentor,  
17 Painesville, Ashtabula. In that district, I need  
18 somebody for Dave Joyce.

19 And then Congressional District 15, for Mike  
20 Carey, is Hilliard, Grove City, all the way out to  
21 parts of Clark County. So that would be the 6th  
22 District, 3rd District, and 2nd District. If you  
23 guys have anybody there that would want to be in  
24 contact with Mike Carey, that would be greatly  
25 appreciated.

1           That is all I have for Legislative.

2           Any questions?

3           FROM THE ASSEMBLY:   (No response).

4           COORDINATOR PALIDER:  All right.  I'll let Al  
5 go and then I'll be right back.

6           (Applause).

7           CHAIRMAN BUXTON:  I'll make it short and  
8 sweet.

9           COMMANDER STENNIS:  Before you get started,  
10 Al, are there any questions or updates needed for  
11 the Legislative report, since it had been e-mailed  
12 out?

13          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  (No response).

14          COMMANDER STENNIS:  All right, seeing there  
15 is none, it will be added to the record.

16          Gary, could you open that door and keep those  
17 other two doors open?  It's getting a little warm  
18 in here.

19          All right, let's listen to Al's report.

20          4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON:  Good afternoon.

21          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  Good afternoon.

22          CHAIRMAN BUXTON:  Before I forget, Merry  
23 Christmas and a Happy New Year to everybody.

24          The National Security Standing Commission met  
25 October the 1st, 10:00 AM, at Department

1 Headquarters. All of the preliminaries was done.  
2 We had 11 present, two absent, and one vacant.  
3 The 7th District still has no one on my roster  
4 here for this.

5 Introduction of the guests: Commander  
6 Stennis joined the commission to thank the members  
7 for their hard work and dedication to The American  
8 Legion.

9 We went around and did opening remarks from  
10 each one of the members.

11 We reviewed the previous minutes. Leach, out  
12 of the 10th (sic) District, made a motion to  
13 accept the minutes, seconded by Rodgers. It  
14 carried.

15 Then we did some District reports. Each  
16 District gave a report on things they were doing  
17 during the year.

18 The 9th District, Joyce Hannum thinks the  
19 timeframe for awards is difficult and might take  
20 time to adjust so future submissions are in time.

21 The 9th District believes the National should  
22 have a National Civilian Lifesaver of the Year  
23 Award. The commission agreed that a resolution  
24 should be drafted on this as National has a Law  
25 Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards.



1           The 13th District, Richard, nothing coming  
2 forward on awards, even though they have a police  
3 Post and a firefighter Post.

4           Post 703 had a veterans memorial that was  
5 refurbished and cleaned up. They brought copies  
6 of a report concerning the National Guard and  
7 increasing their benefits.

8           John, out of the 14th District, notified the  
9 commission how two Ohio POW/MIAs were identified  
10 and returned.

11          Old business: Pin money from the last  
12 meeting were disbursed. Pin disbursement was  
13 turned in from the Districts.

14          Of-the-year awards: The 1st, 3rd, 5th and  
15 9th Districts were the voting members this year  
16 for the "of-the-year" awards. District 13 stepped  
17 in to vote after District 9 recused herself from  
18 the Law Officer of the Year vote so there was not  
19 a conflict of interest.

20          Firefighter of the Year: The 3rd District  
21 nominee, and I'm sorry, I don't have the names,  
22 but it was rejected due to a lack of  
23 qualifications of the nominee. Motion made by  
24 Rogers of the 5th, second by Leach of the 11th.  
25 Motion passed.

1           The 4th District nominees, the 4th District  
2 did not have a complete nomination form. That  
3 nominee was disqualified.

4           Law Officer of the Year, the 4th District  
5 nominee did not have a complete nomination form,  
6 disqualified.

7           The 9th District nominee, nomination was  
8 accepted from Scott Hildebrand. A motion was made  
9 by Rodgers, seconded by Leach, 11th District.  
10 Motion carried.

11           The Law Officer of the Year is Scott  
12 Hildebrand, from the 9th District.

13           The 10th District nominee did not have a  
14 completed nomination form, so they was also  
15 disqualified.

16           Civilian Lifesaver. Wright, 13th District,  
17 made a motion to go into discussion about a group  
18 of people being nominated for the award. Russell  
19 of the 10th seconded. There was some discussion  
20 on that. Wright withdrew his motion. Russell  
21 withdrew his second.

22           Then Wright from the 13th made a motion to  
23 nominate the five civilians who were nominated for  
24 the Civilian Lifesaver Award be awarded the  
25 Commander's Appreciation Award, and be presented

1 to them at Mid-Winter in the form of a medallion.  
2 Seconded by Russell.

3 And a little information on the medallion.  
4 It's going to be received from emblem sales. And  
5 it will be engraved on the back, Commander's  
6 Appreciation Award.

7 Okay, that motion passed. Motion made by  
8 Russell, out of the 10th, seconded by Weiler of  
9 the 3rd, to accept using emblem sales for the  
10 award. Motion carried.

11 Also, there was a note here. I made myself a  
12 note. I asked that Scott mail out all of the  
13 future nomination forms for these awards, these  
14 nominees, to be mailed out to every Post. My  
15 whole District did not get these. None of my  
16 Posts in the District got them.

17 Unfinished business: The resolution, the  
18 commission was notified that Department Resolution  
19 22-07 passed National Convention. And that was on  
20 the National Guard pay when they get called out to  
21 states for assistance.

22 Good of The Legion: Drafting a resolution to  
23 National for a National Civilian Lifesaver Award  
24 to be established; the 2022 National Veterans  
25 Suicide Prevention Annual Report was talked about;

1 and John from the 14th District was talking about  
2 Sam Vector passing away, who held a previous  
3 Department position of some kind.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Treasurer.

5 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Treasurer, yeah.

6 Okay, that being said, we adjourned at 11:20  
7 AM.

8 I just had one more comment. When we do the  
9 minutes, I think we need to put the names in where  
10 they should be, like on these.

11 So, Mr. Commander, that concludes my report.

12 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Al.

13 4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Commander.

14 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

15 4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Jerry Perry, 4th  
16 District. I got a question about that.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

18 4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Can you explain why  
19 we were disqualified when we put the paperwork in  
20 the year prior? It was never updated. And then  
21 all of sudden this year, when it came back around,  
22 we were disqualified because it didn't say  
23 "'22-'23"?

24 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: There was no  
25 paperwork that said '22-'23, 2021-'22, or any of

1 that.

2 COMMANDER STENNIS: Scott.

3 COORDINATOR PALIDER: When we send these, and  
4 I believe it was October last year when we mailed  
5 those packets, there is a cover sheet that says  
6 what Post nominated, what District, and then  
7 there's a signature for District Commander and  
8 Post Commander. That sheet wasn't in there. It  
9 was nice. It was a nice setup. It just didn't  
10 have that sheet. That was the technicality that  
11 disqualified you both.

12 Are you already sending in for next year?

13 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

14 COORDINATOR PALIDER: So I already have it on  
15 file?

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Are there any questions  
18 on the report from National Security?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing there's  
21 none, it will be noted in the record.

22 All right, VA&R, Scott.

23 COORDINATOR PALIDER: The VA&R Commission met  
24 on October 1st, at 4:00 PM, in the library. We  
25 did not have a quorum, so we continued as a

1 discussion.

2 There are currently vacancies in the 2nd  
3 District due to Chairman Charles Craynon resigning  
4 due to health issues; District 4, due to the  
5 passing of Bob Ray; and District 11 was vacant at  
6 the beginning of the year. So I have three  
7 appointments necessary for that.

8 Additional members were excused after finding  
9 out they would not be able to attend. And that  
10 Darell Bishop and Bob Rhode.

11 We continued discussion. District 1, Kevin  
12 Motter, announced that he met with Senator Sherrod  
13 Brown in reference to the PACT Act, and he wants  
14 to outreach to veterans' homelessness. He also  
15 stated that Wood County Veterans Service  
16 Commission said they could not file a claim for  
17 veterans without a permanent address. That is one  
18 of his veterans issues, to make sure that even  
19 homeless veterans get the care they deserve.

20 Old Business was the 988 National Suicide  
21 Prevention Hotline reminder and the announcement  
22 that Charles Craynon had resigned due to his  
23 health issues.

24 Under new business, we discussed the VA EHR  
25 system. I asked all the members if there was any

1 issues going forward that they had experienced  
2 personally.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: What is it?

4 COORDINATOR PALIDER: It's a new IT system in  
5 the VA system that when your doctors come in and  
6 you're in the room, they can look on their  
7 computer and find out everything, and send that  
8 information to the pharmacy.

9 The pharmacy and what the medical providers  
10 use is a system that doesn't talk to each other.  
11 The new system was having IT issues. So people  
12 who had the same heart medicine for 49 years and  
13 were on old prescriptions weren't getting their  
14 prescriptions anymore because the new systems  
15 didn't talk to each other. So that's why we  
16 discussed if anybody had heard any issues from the  
17 members of the commission or their Districts.  
18 That's a major concern with the Congress  
19 currently.

20 Next we discussed the PACT Act, with the  
21 information sheet handout to the members of the  
22 commission from ODVS.

23 The National Suicide Prevention Annual Report  
24 was dispersed, and we discussed it in the  
25 commission.

1 I informed the commission that Congressional  
2 reps from Ohio stated they are looking to alter VA  
3 language to make sure that individuals who seek  
4 mental health help aren't punished and do not lose  
5 their Second Amendment rights due to seeking  
6 proper medical help for mental health issues.

7 The commission did seem interested in  
8 researching and writing a resolution to present to  
9 Congress to change these laws so veterans do not  
10 refuse mental health care out of fear of losing  
11 their Second Amendment rights.

12 We had no resolutions to discuss.

13 For the good of The Legion, we discussed VA  
14 housing, which I discussed with you guys earlier.  
15 And the VA is on pace to house 38,000 veterans by  
16 the end of 2022. Veterans' homelessness has  
17 declined by 47% between 2010 to 2016. But it has  
18 only declined by 6% since 2016 though.

19 On August 30, the VA achieved 26,554  
20 permanent housing placements, which meant they met  
21 70 percent of their goal for the VA's homeless  
22 program. That is an average of 3,319 placements  
23 each month.

24 To meet the goal by the end of the year, they  
25 need to continue to place 2,862 veterans each



1 month. So that's less than the current pace that  
2 they're on. But the last day is December 31st, so  
3 I'll research it for everybody else.

4 The meeting adjourned at 4:51.

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: You have a question.

6 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
7 District Commander.

8 Are these statistics for the United States as  
9 a whole?

10 COORDINATOR PALIDER: The United States as a  
11 whole.

12 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Do they specify  
13 where they're doing the placements? Mostly in  
14 California or in Florida, you know?

15 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Yeah, mostly in the  
16 large states. They didn't break it down by  
17 states, but I know the report had the top states.  
18 And it was New York, Florida, California, Texas  
19 who were the four states. But they didn't break  
20 it down by state for Ohio versus Michigan versus  
21 Indiana.

22 Any other question?

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Scott.

25 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Good afternoon,

1 Commander, Department officers and DEC members.

2 I am Bill Genochio, the Veterans Benefits  
3 Administrative Coordinator for the State of Ohio.  
4 So I oversee all your Department Service Officers  
5 and the hospital service officers we have. So I  
6 have a quick update on what we're doing as  
7 Department Service Officers.

8 We have hired a new one, Gabe Keogler, at the  
9 Columbus VA Ambulatory Clinic. So he is in the  
10 process of being accredited. He does have  
11 accreditations. He's in the process of getting  
12 into the VA network program and being fully  
13 functional. Hopefully it will be just a month or  
14 two. So we will have representation there.

15 I am still looking for a qualified applicant  
16 for our Cleveland VA Medical Center, Wade Park.  
17 We are currently hiring. It's up to 32 hours.  
18 And that's a difficulty with finding an applicant.  
19 It's up to 32 hours of work at an hourly wage.

20 So if you guys know anybody in the Cleveland  
21 area that's looking for a job doing veterans work,  
22 please have them send a resume to me. I'm not  
23 getting very many qualified applicants. And those  
24 that are don't want to work part time. So if you  
25 have anybody, please send them my way.

1 I've got a quick update on production. So  
2 far 2022, all of our case that have come back from  
3 the board of appeals have been wins. So we're  
4 sitting at a 100% success at 19 for 19.

5 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

6 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Thank you.

7 I have a great team. The Department Service  
8 Officers, they put in a lot of work behind the  
9 scenes. They're real passionate. They love what  
10 they do. And it's fun to listen to them get  
11 excited about a case or something they find in  
12 your record that can tip that win. So it's  
13 exciting to be a part of that.

14 So we have secured \$704,000 so far in 2022.  
15 For 2021, we were 73 for 80, so 91 percent  
16 success, at 2.4 million brought in. And 2021, we  
17 were at 82%, 51 for 62, and another 2.3 million.  
18 Overall, since tracking, I'm proud to say we  
19 brought in \$16.1 million for our Ohio veterans in  
20 cases we won just at the board. That doesn't  
21 include our local claims when you come in and file  
22 them.

23 A then real quick on a couple of things that  
24 Scott said with the homestead and homeless  
25 veterans. Just know, if you have a veteran that's

1 in your Post and he's 100% permanent total, it  
2 does not matter what age he is, he qualifies for  
3 homestead. Okay?

4 The other would be the recommendation of  
5 Bergmann & Moore. The reason National is pushing  
6 that is we already have a partnership with  
7 Bergmann & Moore. So any veteran that goes to the  
8 Board of Veteran Appeals and loses and ops to go  
9 further to the Veterans Court, which are Supreme  
10 Courts, our American Legion Service Officers  
11 cannot represent them. You have to be a bonafide  
12 attorney. So we have that partnership with  
13 Bergmann & Moore already. They will represent our  
14 veterans, our American Legion veterans at the VAC  
15 100 percent free of charge. So we've already got  
16 that partnership together. That's why we're  
17 saying, hey, look at these guys. And then I think  
18 the rest of that was hit pretty well.

19 So, barring any questions about the DSOs, I  
20 will step aside and let someone else give their  
21 report.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Commander.

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Bill.

25 (Applause).

1           COORDINATOR PALIDER: I'm back again for  
2 Gifts for Yanks.

3           The Gifts For Yanks meeting was held  
4 virtually via Teams on November 4th, 6:30 PM. We  
5 did not even come close to a quorum. There was  
6 Darell Bishop, Bill Dittebrand, Holly Lewis and  
7 myself.

8           There are vacancies in the 7th District, 8th  
9 District, and 14th District. I do not know if  
10 they've reached out to the executive assistant,  
11 Tamar Fowler, to update that, because I have three  
12 vacancies.

13           And I do have a change. I already spoke with  
14 District 1 Commander Kevin Motter about that  
15 change.

16           1ST DISTRICT CMDR MOTTER: Kevin Motter,  
17 District 1.

18           Was that Joe Navarre? Joe Navarre just  
19 volunteered prior to this meeting to fill in.

20           COORDINATOR PALIDER: Chet was in.

21           1ST DISTRICT CMDR MOTTER: Okay.

22           COORDINATOR PALIDER: Under new business,  
23 this year, as you all know, we're going gift cards  
24 with a \$25 value. Bulk activation day for the  
25 cards is on December 1st. And that already

1 passed.

2 I did find out that I can activate them  
3 individually. So I went ahead and am taking that  
4 route in order to place these cards so the ones  
5 that are just sitting in a room cannot be used by  
6 somebody if they have sticky fingers.

7 I have also been establishing a spreadsheet  
8 with who, how many, and when the cards are picked  
9 up, so we can track this down to the wire and make  
10 sure the cards aren't misused.

11 And then we can compare this next year, too,  
12 as we sort this out. Since it's the first year,  
13 there's going to be some growing pains.

14 Distribution dates from the committee:

15 December 15th is the distribution for the Sandusky  
16 Veterans Home. They will be doing 200 cards, or  
17 300 cards. No, I'm sorry, 300 cards, 300 cards.

18 We'll sort it out with the VAVS Coordinators  
19 at each major VA center, Cleveland, Cincinnati,  
20 Dayton, about how many they need as well.

21 We did order 2,000. We'll have some sitting  
22 around for, potentially, next year, if we reorder  
23 the cards or stick with the cards.

24 Donations so far, a report was sent out to  
25 you with each District's shares, how much was

1 going into each so far this year.

2 The committee did ask me to break down the  
3 donations by District. So I will start doing that  
4 once that information starts rolling in. And I  
5 will send it out to each chair.

6 Our next meeting is actually going to be in  
7 person at 1:00 PM, on Monday, December 12th.  
8 Since the virtual meeting didn't turn out so well,  
9 we're going to have everyone down before Christmas  
10 to make sure everybody gets their stuff that they  
11 need. So, yeah, that will be at 1:00 o'clock,  
12 Monday, December 12th, here at Department  
13 Headquarters. The committee has been informed.  
14 If you need to remind them, please do.

15 On the agenda of this meeting we will be  
16 discussing the start of a potential name change  
17 for Gifts for Yanks. That was the big question,  
18 will we will be adjusting that in this meeting.

19 Following that, Holly Lewis, Darell Bishop,  
20 and Bill Dittebrand adjourned at 7:36 PM.

21 Any questions about these minutes?

22 Oh, my. Okay.

23 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
24 District Commander.

25 My question is: Okay, if you activate them

1 individually, what's going to stop me, being an  
2 employee at the hospital, taking a couple cards  
3 and saying, giving them John Doe's name? How do  
4 you know who is in the hospital? You can't ask  
5 for a list of them.

6 COORDINATOR PALIDER: The plan for the cards  
7 was, and this is kind of us trying to make sure we  
8 actually get in the VA's now, is each disperser,  
9 so say at the Chillicothe VA, John Tepper is  
10 disbursing them down there on Christmas morning,  
11 he will have ahold of the cards and disburse them  
12 out so he knows which cards are going out. And  
13 then the rest will be returned to Department and  
14 be sitting in a little box for Chillicothe that we  
15 already agreed on, put in the spreadsheet,  
16 backtrack the last four digits of each card in the  
17 spreadsheet, and will be broken down that way.  
18 And that way they don't get separated.

19 And say you give me a phone call or an  
20 e-mail, or you come in person and say, "Hey, I  
21 need more cards," I can give them to you. I make  
22 sure they're all in the file. And then I can  
23 click and activate each card. I can click  
24 "activate" on the website and make sure those are  
25 activated.



1           9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: But you don't  
2 know --

3           COORDINATOR PALIDER: They're not going to be  
4 sitting in a VA center. That was the rule.

5           9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Well, but you're  
6 not going to know who activated the card.

7           COORDINATOR PALIDER: I activate them. I am  
8 the person who is activating them.

9           9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Somebody has to  
10 call and tell you that?

11          COORDINATOR PALIDER: No. All the cards that  
12 go out, again, I'm giving 200 or 300 cards to  
13 Darell Bishop. I will have the four digits, the  
14 last four digits on the cards, and I will activate  
15 each of them before they go out with Darell. So  
16 the idea is, first of all, he has those cards at  
17 one event. So then they aren't given to another  
18 veteran who is elsewhere, and so they aren't going  
19 to be sitting around in a storage room in the  
20 Sandusky Veterans Home. So that's how we're going  
21 to police it.

22          Yes.

23          1ST DISTRICT CMDR MOTTER: Kevin Motter, 1st  
24 District Commander.

25          For the Sandusky home, are we going to be

1 able to go back to pre-COVID, where we can come in  
2 as a group and be able to visit these --

3 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Darell has more  
4 information on that than I do.

5 5TH DISTRICT 1VC BISHOP: Darell Bishop, 5th  
6 District.

7 What was set up this year, we're going to cut  
8 down on the people that are allowed to come in  
9 this year. Hopefully, next year we'll be back to  
10 normal. And there's a good possibility of having  
11 the school back in next year. But this year  
12 everything is cut down.

13 I did talk to a representative from the 1st  
14 District and there will be a few people from the  
15 1st that's going to be there.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Do you have a time on  
17 that?

18 5TH DISTRICT 1VC BISHOP: It will be 10:00  
19 o'clock on Thursday the 15th.

20 COMMANDER STENNIS: Bob.

21 8TH DISTRICT CMDR SCHMOLL: Bob Schmoll,  
22 District 8 Commander.

23 Several years ago, in 2018, 2019, I had a  
24 list of the Posts in District 8, as to what their  
25 quota was, how much they contributed to Gifts For

1 Yanks, et cetera. Who would I see to get such a  
2 list for 2021 and 2022?

3 COORDINATOR PALIDER: That would be me. I  
4 can go through the files I have. But I saw that  
5 list and Tamar gave me that list, a breakdown for  
6 every Post in the District.

7 I don't have what quota would be. I don't  
8 know what they pledged to do and what they  
9 actually gave. But if you have that information,  
10 I would be happy to take it.

11 8TH DISTRICT CMDR SCHMOLL: I was going to  
12 say, if I could have your e-mail, I could send you  
13 a copy of what I'm talking about for back, you  
14 know, three or four years ago. And that way you  
15 could see what I needed updated for this past  
16 year, 2021/'22.

17 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Yes. If you want my  
18 e-mail now, it is spalider, and it's on the  
19 website too, it's spalider -- that's  
20 S-P-A-L-I-D-E-R -- @OhioLegion.com. Again, it's  
21 on the website as well.

22 But, yeah, you can send it to me. On the  
23 e-mail, just put the subject line as "Gifts For  
24 Yanks." Or if it's a legislative question, just  
25 put "legislative" in there. I'll be more than

1 happy to help you.

2 8TH DISTRICT CMDR SCHMOLL: Okay. I'll look  
3 that up and send you an e-mail with it as an  
4 attachment.

5 COORDINATOR PALIDER: Sounds good.

6 8TH DISTRICT CMDR SCHMOLL: Thank you.

7 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. Thank you,  
8 Scott.

9 NEC MASOWICK: Good job, Scott.

10 COMMANDER STENNIS: Next we have Adjutant  
11 Robinson, Sons of The American Legion and Internal  
12 Affairs.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Good afternoon,  
14 everybody.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The SAL met on  
17 October 29th, 2022. They received reports from  
18 all of their commissions and committees.

19 Chuck Castle was appointed the SAL  
20 representative at the Cincinnati VA Medical  
21 Center.

22 The following donations were put forth:  
23 Future Projects Fund was approved at 1,000; the  
24 Central Region Gathering was at 1,000; Child  
25 Welfare Foundation was 1,000; and 166.11 was to go

1 to Buddy Check 2022.

2 The next Detachment Committee meeting will be  
3 at the hotel at Mid-Winter, January the 20th,  
4 2023, in Dublin.

5 The only other part of that was they decided  
6 to host a central region roundup, which is going  
7 to require them to have a hotel contract. Embassy  
8 Suites has been contacted. I do have the  
9 contracts here if anybody would like to look it  
10 over.

11 I need you to approve them to be able to have  
12 the contract. And then once you approve that, I  
13 will send it to Luther to make sure the contract  
14 is in line with our normal contracts that we go  
15 through. So I would need a vote. Well, he has to  
16 call for it.

17 COMMANDER STENNIS: Can I get a motion?

18 NEC MASOWICK: Steve Masowick, NEC, I would  
19 vote with the SAL. I'd make that motion.

20 COMMANDER STENNIS: Can I get a second?

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

23 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. I do have a  
24 motion and a second.

25 All in favor use the sign of aye.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

2 COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor.

3 PDC JEAN WILSON: Can we please have  
4 discussion?

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Discussion, I'm sorry.  
6 Discussion.

7 PDC JEAN WILSON: Commander, I do have a  
8 question for the Adjutant.

9 Maybe you can clarify this for me. They're  
10 going to do a round-up, is that what you said?

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's a central region  
12 round-up, which will be all the states in the  
13 central region will be coming to Columbus to go  
14 over SAL topics.

15 PDC JEAN WILSON: So it's like a roundtable,  
16 not a round-up?

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

18 PDC JEAN WILSON: It's not like bringing in  
19 membership?

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No, no, no.

21 PDC JEAN WILSON: Well, it's funny because  
22 usually --

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I apologize. That's just  
24 how they have it worded. Jeff Vrabel is the one  
25 that's been working with me on this.

1 PDC JEAN WILSON: I'm good. Thank you.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

3 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
4 District.

5 Can we have the motion specifically stated  
6 and what it says, not, oh, yeah, I'll agree and  
7 make a motion to that? I want it put in words.

8 COMMANDER STENNIS: We would like to approve  
9 \$1,000 to the central region gathering.

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We need a motion made to  
11 accept the use of the hotel contract for that, is  
12 what we're asking.

13 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: There's already a  
14 motion on the floor.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: She wants the motion  
16 clarified.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What does Steve  
18 think he may have said for the motion?

19 NEC MASOWICK: I make the motion to allow the  
20 hotel room.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: To allow them to  
22 contract with the hotel?

23 NEC MASOWICK: Yes.

24 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay.

25 All right, we've got a motion and a second.

1 Is there any more discussion?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing there's  
4 none, all in favor of the motion use the sign of  
5 aye.

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

7 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, continue.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: What about the nays?

9 COMMANDER STENNIS: Are there any nays?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The IA Committee met  
13 Saturday, October 1st. The meeting was called to  
14 order by 1st Vice Commander Rue. Interim Adjutant  
15 Robinson did the roll call. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd,  
16 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th,  
17 and 14th were all present. Commander Rue thanked  
18 everybody for coming.

19 The resolution for the Fredrick W. Galbraith  
20 Award was returned to the District for further  
21 clarification of who they wanted the award to go  
22 to.

23 Under new business, Interim Adjutant Robinson  
24 went over the scope of the commission with the new  
25 members.



1           And then the committee met and went over Post  
2   Inspection Forms. Changes to be made will be:  
3   The form is to be turned in December 31st of each  
4   year. Have Post forms turned in, the officer  
5   certification and CPR Annual Data Report, and have  
6   that marked on the form. If the Post has an SAL,  
7   have those forms marked to make sure they have  
8   been turned in. Does the Post have a surety bond  
9   for its members and employees? Does the Post have  
10  rifles, and how many and what type? Has the Post  
11  completed their 990? And then, as of right now,  
12  there is an officers list that would be removed.

13           Under the good of The Legion, 1st Vice  
14  Commander Rue thanked everybody for their remarks  
15  throughout the meeting and for attending.

16           Benediction was given then adjournment.

17           COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay.

18           4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Jerry Perry, 4th  
19  District.

20           Somebody put a capital A next to that S. I'm  
21  just saying.

22           PDC SCHMITT: Through the Chairs, PDC  
23  Schmitt.

24           Commander, in reference to the Fredrick W.  
25  Galbraith Distinguished Service Medal, that

1 information was all provided. And there was a  
2 second resolution recommending who the first  
3 recipient should be. It was Art Lustig as the  
4 first one, because of his previous history and  
5 stuff like that. It was all spelled out in the  
6 resolution. And then the resolutions got lost. I  
7 resubmitted the resolution. And we still have an  
8 issue as to why we can't get around to issuing  
9 that award. I've got a problem with that.

10 1VC RUE: Bob, I will speak to you afterwards  
11 as to why it got turned back. It has nothing to  
12 do with Art Lustig being nominated. I'll talk to  
13 you afterwards.

14 PDC SCHMITT: All right.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. Are there any  
16 more questions on the Internal Affairs report?

17 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
18 District.

19 Why would we want the Post Inspection Forms  
20 to be in on December 31st? We do those and try to  
21 talk to our Posts. Some of these Districts have  
22 70 or 72 Posts. You can't get that Post  
23 inspection done in that amount of time, unless  
24 you're doing it halfway, put it that way. I mean  
25 that's ridiculous. I don't know whose idea it

1 was, but that's ridiculous.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The idea is you should  
3 start at your weakest Posts first, the ones that  
4 haven't turned in the forms from last year, the  
5 ones that are habitual at not getting their forms  
6 turned in. You should be able to divide your  
7 Districts up into regions, enough that this can be  
8 done. Nowhere does it say that just the Commander  
9 and Vice Commander are the two that's doing this.  
10 This should be a team effort and divided out among  
11 the District officers.

12 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, Chapman.

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: The Alternate NEC.

14 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Along those same  
15 lines, you know, we can't get inspection forms in  
16 at 100% using the March deadline.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: Right.

18 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: So there again, how  
19 do we expect to get them by December?

20 You addressed that a little bit. But what  
21 you're doing here, as I look at your attendance,  
22 there's a lot of District Commanders there. So  
23 throw it out to them. So it's going to be their  
24 responsibility to get those people out to do those  
25 inspections.

1           We used to have an incentive here at  
2 Department. I think Jean probably remembers that.  
3 Some of you that have been around for awhile  
4 remember. We used to have a reporting incentive.  
5 If you got your CPR and your Post Inspection  
6 Reports and your data forms, if all of that was in  
7 by March 1st, then you got \$100 check from  
8 Department. So there was an incentive to do it  
9 that way.

10           So I don't know. I just think you're going  
11 to have difficulty getting that done by December  
12 31st. You know, in some Districts, you know, we  
13 don't all operate the same. You know, it's  
14 different. So that's an opinion I'm throwing out  
15 there.

16           COMMANDER STENNIS: Jerry.

17           4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Commander, Jerry  
18 Perry, 4th District.

19           I remember some of the discussion about that.  
20 And the forms are due in at National by March 1st.  
21 So when we were putting it at March 1st, hell,  
22 they weren't turning it in until May. So we  
23 figured if we bring it back to December, we'd make  
24 sure everybody got it by March.

25           ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: If they're in to

1 Department by March 1st, the deadline, the onus is  
2 not on you. Then that comes on to the Department  
3 Adjutant. That's part of his report to National.  
4 And if he has to, he can drive them over there.

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: On the other side of  
6 that, though, Chappy, -- Robinson, Adjutant -- the  
7 reports being turned in by December 31st, we  
8 should have all of them by December 31st,  
9 otherwise they will not have their cards for the  
10 new year's membership. Because we do not release  
11 their cards until we have that form turned in.

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No, no. Wait a minute.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'm sorry, Chappy. I  
14 apologize. I confused my two forms.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: So what is December 31st?

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's when we're trying  
18 to get Post Inspection Forms done, by December  
19 31st.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: When do you need them?

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Our Post Inspection  
22 Forms need to become due by December so you can  
23 send those to National?

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No.

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay, so we've

1 clarified that? There's no due date for those to  
2 National?

3 FROM THE FLOOR: There is.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: For the Post  
5 Inspection Forms?

6 FROM THE FLOOR: There is.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay. So you need  
8 three months.

9 FROM THE FLOOR: That's why it came up.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Okay.

11 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. One of the  
12 things I would say is there will be some more  
13 discussion needed on this.

14 I agree with Chappy, that we do need to  
15 incentivize this. But by the same token, one of  
16 the things that are bothering me, or has bothered  
17 me, and it probably bothered you too, Jean, is the  
18 amount of late Posts that are turning these things  
19 in and we are holding cards until September and  
20 October, which is definitely uncalled for. That's  
21 uncalled for.

22 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, Chapman,  
23 Alternate NEC.

24 There's not a District officer, or District  
25 Commander especially, out here that doesn't pull

1 his hair out on these.

2 COMMANDER STENNIS: I totally agree.

3 Yes.

4 PDC JEAN WILSON: Well, Commander, the Post  
5 Inspection Forms, that's not a prerequisite to get  
6 our cards. Okay? That's a Post certification of  
7 officers and your CPR. Okay? So let's not  
8 confuse people.

9 I don't have any problem. Whenever they're  
10 due, they're due. But I'm just saying let's not  
11 confuse the issue. That doesn't have anything to  
12 do with somebody getting their cards. That has to  
13 do with the Districts supposedly getting their  
14 District activity fund money.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Correct.

16 PDC JEAN WILSON: That used to be tied to it.  
17 I'm not really sure it still is, but that's how it  
18 used to be. You had to have all your post  
19 inspections turned in before you started getting  
20 your District activities.

21 The sooner the better.

22 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

23 All right, are there any more issues with the  
24 Internal Affairs report?

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, that being  
2 noted, it will be noted for the record.

3           Mr. Genochio.

4           9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: First I want to  
5 make sure it's noted for the record but it's not  
6 an approved thing that it has to be turned in by  
7 December 31st. If you're putting that in the  
8 record then that becomes the record.

9           FROM THE FLOOR: Is it a recommendation or is  
10 it going to be --

11          COMMANDER STENNIS: I believe that's a  
12 recommendation. We have not voted on that to  
13 actually happen.

14          9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: But it says, "Form  
15 to be turned in."

16          COMMANDER STENNIS: That's only a  
17 recommendation. We have not etched that in stone.  
18 We have not. No, we have not.

19          Go ahead, Bill.

20          COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Thank you, Commander.

21          So I'll be quick here on The American Legion  
22 Riders. There's not a lot going on with the  
23 winter months coming in.

24          There is a couple of key dates I want to  
25 point out. The tentative dates we're looking for



1 for the Legacy, the Ohio Legacy 2023, is starting  
2 July 11th and commencing, at Kettering Post 598,  
3 on July 14th. That immediately will be followed  
4 by the Ohio Romp, which will start on July 14th,  
5 2023, and go through the weekend of July 15th.  
6 And then leaving the Romp on the morning of the  
7 16th of July and heading to Department  
8 Headquarters to do the final presentation of the  
9 check to the Commander for the Ohio Legacy Ride.  
10 So those are the dates that are important.

11 Other than that, we did have Larry Sullivan,  
12 the new state director, and Mike Lincoln, the  
13 assistant director, here in attendance.  
14 Unfortunately, they had to leave out due to a  
15 Christmas party for their company.

16 Other than that, that is my report,  
17 Commander, on The American Legion Riders.

18 (Applause).

19 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. I need a  
20 motion to take from the table the second set-aside  
21 from the Finance Committee.

22 4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Buxton, 4th  
23 District 1st Vice, so moves on the set-aside.

24 4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Jerry Perry, 4th  
25 District, seconds the motion.

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay.

2           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That needs to be  
3 read by the chairman again and we can discuss what  
4 the issue was.

5           CHAIRMAN RIVERA: Here we go.

6           Treasurer Savage would like to hire a  
7 Department Finance, or a Fiscal Officer, that's  
8 what it's called properly, eliminating the need  
9 for Rea & Associates. The salary range would be  
10 from 50 to 60,000 a year.

11          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The Adjutant has a  
12 clarification on it. Whether it's a fiscal  
13 officer or not, that was the issue.

14          ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: I think whatever our  
15 constitution and bylaws refers to is what it  
16 should be.

17          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Our constitution and  
18 bylaws refers to it as a fiscal officer.

19          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: There is no finance  
20 officer; correct?

21          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

22          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It's a fiscal?

23          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: A fiscal officer.

24          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That was the issue.

25          COMMANDER STENNIS: Is there any more

1 discussion?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER STENNIS: So, going forward, that  
4 will have to be fiscal officer.

5 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate  
6 NEC. I move that the Department Executive  
7 Committee be authorized to hire, or the current  
8 officers, however, whatever committee you appoint,  
9 an ad hoc committee, to do it, I move that the  
10 Department hire a fiscal officer.

11 NEC MASOWICK: Steve Masowick, NEC, seconds.

12 COMMANDER STENNIS: Is there any more  
13 discussion?

14 Yes.

15 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
16 District.

17 Just an important addition on the set-aside.  
18 Do we know what the requirements are going to be  
19 for it? And if you want somebody who's good, I  
20 don't think \$60,000 is going to get you that.

21 COMMANDER STENNIS: Well, let me say this:  
22 If the Finance Committee deems that that's not  
23 enough, it will come back to the DEC and suggest a  
24 higher number.

25 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: I'm just concerned

1 about how you go about it and what you can get.

2 COMMANDER STENNIS: It will come back to the  
3 DEC and we can question more.

4 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Once those guidelines  
5 are set and there's a hire made, that hire still  
6 has to be approved by this Executive Committee.  
7 So it's going to come back here for more  
8 discussion.

9 COMMANDER STENNIS: That's the other thing,  
10 we are not looking for someone who's a CPA.  
11 That's the other thing.

12 So, all right, we have a motion and a second.  
13 Is there any more discussion?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing there's  
16 none, all in favor of the motion, the usual sign  
17 of aye.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

19 COMMANDER STENNIS: Any nays?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, the motion  
22 passes. Thank you. Thank you.

23 All right, the next thing I have on the  
24 agenda is the approval of the minutes from the  
25 previous meeting, the August 6th DEC.

1           NEC MASOWICK: Steve Masowick, NEC. I'll  
2 motion.

3           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right.

4           14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
5 District, seconds that motion.

6           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. Any  
7 discussion?

8           Yes, Joyce.

9           9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Well if you don't  
10 care about being in your position, don't be in it.

11          FROM THE FLOOR: That-a-girl.

12          9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: The only thing is  
13 I would make a suggestion. I didn't find any  
14 errors, except too many people were talking out  
15 loud, giving a hard time to the court reporters.

16          When roll call is conducted, I understand he  
17 puts in we've got a quorum. Should we not put in,  
18 you know, ten out of 15, or put the number in  
19 there? That's telling me we have half the people  
20 here. And there are a lot more people that are  
21 here. Therefore, I suggest we put it in the text.

22          COMMANDER STENNIS: Alrighty. We've got a  
23 motion and a second.

24          Any more discussion?

25          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing there's  
2 none, all in favor of accepting the August 6th  
3 minutes of the DEC use the sign of aye.

4           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

5           COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor.

6           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7           COMMANDER STENNIS: Motion passes.

8           Alrighty, resolutions, constitutional  
9 amendments.

10          FROM THE FLOOR: You skipped one.

11          COMMANDER STENNIS: Oh, Post charters,  
12 revocations and suspensions. There are none.

13          9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: Joyce Hannum, 9th  
14 District.

15          I have been sitting here for a year and a  
16 half, waiting for information on Post 504, which  
17 this body has approved not once but twice, even if  
18 it wasn't documented the first time. I still do  
19 not have the information I need. We still have a  
20 Post out there doing hookers and selling drugs  
21 with our name posted on the front of their  
22 building. I want to get this solved and I'm not  
23 getting help to get it solved.

24          COMMANDER STENNIS: Joyce, we will take care  
25 of it. As you know, I drove by there a little

1 while ago. So we will take care of that.

2 9TH DISTRICT CMDR HANNUM: I want it in the  
3 record. I keep hearing it but I'm not getting  
4 help.

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: We will take care of it.

6 Resolutions, constitutional amendments.

7 Folks, let's stay focused.

8 Resolutions, constitutional amendments.

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I have two resolutions to  
10 read at this time.

11 The first one is 23-02, from the 10th  
12 District. Subject: Bradley A. Teis, Sr., Race to  
13 the Top Membership Award.

14 "Whereas, Department of Ohio Commander  
15 Bradley A. Teis, Sr., was passionate about  
16 increasing membership numbers of the Department of  
17 Ohio; and

18 "Whereas, Department of Ohio Commander  
19 Bradley A. Teis, Sr., was instrumental in District  
20 10 winning Race to the Top for Division V in 2017  
21 and 2018; and

22 "Whereas, as Department of Ohio 1st Vice  
23 Commander, Bradley A. Teis, Sr., was instrumental  
24 in the Department of Ohio achieving quota for the  
25 membership year '21-'22; and

1           "Whereas, Department of Ohio Commander,  
2 Bradley A. Teis, Sr., passed to Post Everlasting  
3 during his term as Commander; now, therefore, be  
4 it

5           "Resolved, by The American Legion Department  
6 of Ohio Executive Committee, assembled at  
7 Department Headquarters on December 3rd, 2022,  
8 that The American Legion Department of Ohio create  
9 a new membership award in the name of Bradley A.  
10 Teis, Sr., for the first District to achieve quota  
11 prior to the last day of March, therefore  
12 qualifying for the National Legion Race to the Top  
13 Award; and be it further

14           "Resolved, that the Department of Ohio  
15 Adjutant will certify that District to achieve  
16 quota prior to the last day of March; and be it  
17 further

18           "Resolved, that the quota District will  
19 receive \$2,500, and a plaque recognizing their  
20 achievement.

21           COMMANDER STENNIS: Can I get a motion to  
22 accept the resolution for the Brad Teis Race to  
23 the Top Award?

24           FROM THE FLOOR: Was that approved by the  
25 Finance Committee?



1           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes, it was approved by  
2 the Finance Committee.

3           4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Commander.

4           COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes.

5           4TH DISTRICT CMDR PERRY: Jerry Perry makes a  
6 motion that we pass this resolution.

7           1ST DISTRICT CMDR MOTTER: Motter, 1st  
8 District, seconds.

9           COMMANDER STENNIS: Not to annoy you, Kevin,  
10 but the young lady behind you was, well, she did  
11 stand up.

12          14TH DISTRICT 1VC MCCLAIN: I love that.

13          COMMANDER STENNIS: Go ahead, Sharon.

14          14TH DISTRICT 1VC MCCLAIN: Sharon McClain,  
15 District 14 1st Vice Commander, I second that  
16 motion.

17          COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. We have a  
18 motion and a second.

19          Any discussion?

20          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21          COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. Seeing  
22 there's none, all in favor of accepting the --

23          NEC MASOWICK: I have a question. Has this  
24 gone through the Finance?

25          Steve Masowick, NEC.

1 Has this gone through the Finance Committee?

2 COMMANDER STENNIS: It has. Yes, it has.

3 NEC MASOWICK: The Finance Committee approved  
4 this?

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes. And the Membership  
6 Committee did also.

7 PDC JEAN WILSON: It's in your minutes.

8 COMMANDER STENNIS: Is there any more  
9 discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing there's  
12 none, all in favor use the sign of aye.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

14 COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, the resolution  
17 passes.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: One more.

19 Resolution 23-01.

20 Origin: Department Legislative Commission.

21 Subject: Veterans Asbestos Exposure and  
22 Private Claims.

23 "Whereas, there are approximately 21 million  
24 veterans living in the United States, totaling 7%  
25 of the total population; and

1           "Whereas, every branch of the United States  
2 military used asbestos products during the 20th  
3 century; and

4           "Whereas, many veterans are not only exposed  
5 to asbestos during their time in the service but  
6 are also exposed to asbestos in post-service  
7 careers they are qualified for once they are out  
8 of the service;

9           "Whereas, in order for a veteran to receive  
10 eligibility for VA Benefits related to  
11 asbestos-related illnesses, the veteran must  
12 provide a written asbestos exposure summary and  
13 additional evidence proving that at least 50% of  
14 their lifetime asbestos exposure occurred while  
15 they were in the military; and

16           "Whereas, illnesses related to asbestos  
17 exposure take 20 to 40 years to develop; and

18           "Whereas, veterans account for 30% of  
19 mesothelioma cases diagnosed each year, and the  
20 10,000 annual deaths from the asbestos-related  
21 disease; and

22           "Whereas, veterans who cannot receive  
23 service-connected disabilities for their asbestos  
24 exposure are still forced to pay out of pocket for  
25 their treatment; and

1           "Whereas, these veterans and/or their  
2 surviving next of kin are entitled to due process  
3 in court for their private asbestos claims; then,  
4 therefore, be it

5           "Resolved, by The American Legion Department  
6 of Ohio Department Executive Committee, assembled  
7 at Department Headquarters on December 3, 2022,  
8 that The American Legion Department of Ohio urges  
9 the Ohio General Assembly to support Ohio veterans  
10 and their right to due process by removing overly  
11 burdensome proof of exposure requirements for  
12 victims of asbestos exposure when it comes to  
13 nonservice-connected asbestos claims."

14           COMMANDER STENNIS: Can I get a motion to  
15 accept Resolution 23-01? Anybody?

16           1ST DISTRICT 1VC LANDIS: Landis, 1st  
17 District, makes the motion.

18           14TH DISTRICT 1VC MCCLAIN: Sharon McClain,  
19 14th District. And I'm standing.

20           COMMANDER STENNIS: I love you, Sharon.

21           14TH DISTRICT 1VC MCCLAIN: I love you too.

22           COMMANDER STENNIS: We have a motion and a  
23 second.

24           Any discussion?

25           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, seeing there's  
2 none, all in favor of accepting Resolution 23-01,  
3 usual sign of aye.

4           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

5           COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor?

6           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

7           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, the resolution  
8 passes.

9           We are at a point in time that is under  
10 unfinished business. And it is the swearing in of  
11 the Department Commander and the Department 1st  
12 Vice. It is not on your schedule but it will be  
13 done now.

14           Can I get a PDC to?

15           Since my Parliamentarian so notably advised  
16 me that, since it's not on the agenda, that we  
17 need a two-thirds vote to swear in the Department  
18 Commander and 1st Vice.

19           Can I get a motion?

20           PDC JEAN WILSON: Past Department Commander  
21 Jean Wilson. I so move.

22           COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you.

23           Can I get a second?

24           4TH DISTRICT 1VC BUXTON: Buxton, 199,  
25 District 4 1st Vice Commander, seconds.

1           COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Al.

2           Any discussion?

3           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4           COMMANDER STENNIS: There better not be any.

5           Seeing there's none, all in favor use the  
6 sign of aye.

7           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

8           COMMANDER STENNIS: All not in favor?

9           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10          COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, would a PDC  
11 volunteer to swear us in?

12          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Steve.

13          NEC MASOWICK: My fellow Legionnaires, you  
14 have been chosen to fill the various offices of  
15 the State of Ohio. I know you will vindicate the  
16 trust that has been placed in you. I know you  
17 will fulfill every obligation required of you.

18          Familiarize yourself with the duties of your  
19 offices, and carry out those duties with the same  
20 spirit from which arose The American Legion. The  
21 welfare and success of this State of Ohio depends  
22 on you, as does the preservation of the integrity  
23 of The American Legion.

24          Protect the good name of The American Legion  
25 with the people of our great nation. Help them to

1 know the Legion's purposes and policies.

2 Remember that tolerance animates us as  
3 members. And remember there is no rank among us,  
4 for we all serve as equals. We are all aiming for  
5 the same goals, the ideals of justice, freedom,  
6 democracy and loyalty.

7 Remember, too, the cardinal principles of The  
8 American Legion are the rehabilitation of all  
9 disabled veterans; the care of the dependents of  
10 those who have answered the final call; the care  
11 of those who now are suffering from wounds,  
12 disease and want; the education of our children;  
13 and service to the community, state and nation.

14 Raise your right hand. As I say my name,  
15 give us yours.

16 I --

17 1VC RUE: Jason Rue.

18 COMMANDER STENNIS: Charles Stennis.

19 NEC MASOWICK: -- do solemnly pledge myself  
20 to perform, faithfully and impartially, the duties  
21 of The American Legion I am about to assume.

22 I further pledge I am not a member of, and do  
23 not subscribe to, the principles of any group  
24 opposed to our form of government.

25 Hands down.

1           Congratulations.

2           (Applause).

3           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right, we only have a  
4 few more things to take care of and we can call  
5 this meeting a day.

6                     . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

7           We have a couple things under new business.  
8           Adjutant Robinson.

9           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The Commander and  
10 Adjutant e-mail addresses we were going to pass  
11 out. We tested them the other day and we found  
12 some loopholes within them. So we are not going  
13 to pass them out until they're all secure. It's  
14 back in the works, drawing board, whatever you  
15 want to call it.

16           We already went over and reviewed the  
17 contract for Embassy Suites. I put it under the  
18 SAL.

19           And now we will have words from Miss Christie  
20 White.

21           (Applause).

22           COORDINATOR WHITE: So, Mid-Winter  
23 Conference, we changed the location this year. If  
24 you go to the Crowne, I wish you luck. We will  
25 not be there. The hotel is going to be the



1 Marriott Columbus Northwest. It is behind a  
2 little mall, a little strip mall. It's a really  
3 nice area, a really nice hotel.

4 Mid-Winter will be Friday, January 20th,  
5 through Sunday, January 22nd. Everyone has this  
6 paper in front of them (indicating). It's a phone  
7 number to make your reservations.

8 Rooms are \$122 a night. The deadline for  
9 hotel reservations is December 20th.

10 This (indicating) should be in front of  
11 everyone. If not, I have extras. Just let me  
12 know. On the back of it is the schedule, the  
13 agenda.

14 BALC will be doing classes on Saturday. So  
15 make sure you check out the BALC classes. They're  
16 switching it up a little bit. It should be a  
17 super good time.

18 On Saturday night we're also doing the  
19 of-the-year awards banquet. We have a couple  
20 of-the-year awards, Commander's Appreciation  
21 Awards. The price is the same, \$40 a person.  
22 Reservation cutoff is January 13th.

23 The form looks like this (indicating). The  
24 options are, as always, chicken, beef, vegetarian,  
25 or salmon. On the back is the actual breakdown of

1 what kind of chicken and what kind of beef. So  
2 that is on the back.

3 I just got this information this week. So  
4 the form on the website is not up to date. This  
5 is the actual info, if you want to know if you'll  
6 have rolls with butter or mashed potatoes or  
7 whatnot.

8 Any questions on Mid-Winter?

9 FROM THE FLOOR: Will there be seats  
10 available for people who don't want the dinner but  
11 they want to see the awards?

12 COORDINATOR WHITE: We have not previously.  
13 We can look into that. We can have an inspection  
14 and see if that's an option. We will get back to  
15 you on that.

16 Any other Mid-Winter questions?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COORDINATOR WHITE: Okay, the last thing I  
19 have: Department Convention 2023 is June 30th  
20 through July 2nd. It is in Dayton.

21 Originally we let you know that the Auxiliary  
22 hotel is the University of Dayton Marriott and our  
23 hotel is a different one. However, on  
24 October 31st, in true Dayton fashion, almost like  
25 Toledo, the hotel closed, apparently for good.

1           So, through negotiation with the Dayton CVB,  
2 we have worked it out so everybody will be housed  
3 at the Marriott University of Dayton. The  
4 Auxiliary will have all of their meetings at that  
5 hotel. We will have all of our meetings at the  
6 convention center.

7           We will have shuttles going back and forth  
8 all day, if nobody wants to drive. If you do want  
9 to drive, that parking garage that is attached is  
10 free. You can park there.

11           We're still working out details. That is  
12 what I have so far for the hotel. The deadline  
13 for registration is May 28th. The phone number is  
14 here (indicating) and it's \$130 a night.

15           Any questions on the convention?

16           NEC MASOWICK: I've got a question. What  
17 made them decide to close after you already --

18           COORDINATOR WHITE: Literally, we went on a  
19 site visit and the very next day they got word  
20 that they were closing.

21           NEC MASOWICK: They couldn't have told you  
22 that?

23           COORDINATOR WHITE: They had no idea.

24           So it's been a fun time trying to figure that  
25 out, but we're working on it.

1 Any other convention questions?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COORDINATOR WHITE: That is my report,  
4 Commander.

5 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Christy.

6 We will have a membership update report from  
7 1st Vice Rue.

8 1VC RUE: All right, after we got the cards  
9 in, we got a new tabulation, although it really  
10 didn't change much.

11 Where is the green lantern?

12 FROM THE FLOOR: Here (indicating).

13 1VC RUE: All right. If you would, please,  
14 give that to the 4th District.

15 (Applause).

16 Do we have the red lantern? Where's the red  
17 lantern?

18 You can now hand that off to the 14th  
19 District.

20 It was close. It was only by about a half of  
21 a percentage point.

22 Now, at this time, I'd also like to have the  
23 4th District 1st Vice Commander, the 9th District  
24 1st Vice Commander, and the 8th District 1st Vice  
25 Commander come up. It is the handout for the

1 small "1" pins for leading at this time for their  
2 divisions.

3 (Applause).

4 COMMANDER STENNIS: Yes, Mr. Life.

5 14TH DISTRICT CMDR LIFE: John Life, 14th  
6 District Commander. I'd just like to ask what  
7 happened to last year's big No. 1 pins.

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I'll get you yours here  
9 just a second.

10 COMMANDER STENNIS: Just some unfinished  
11 business and the we'll go to the good of The  
12 Legion and then we can skedaddle.

13 First, my homecoming will be April 29th. It  
14 will be at the LaMalfa Party Center. I believe we  
15 have some flyers over there (indicating). Yes,  
16 there are some flyers over there.

17 I believe the deadline date -- what's that  
18 date? Well, the deadline date is on there.

19 There's a couple hotels in the area. And I  
20 believe I meet with the party center folks. There  
21 is a hotel right next to the party center. So we  
22 will probably be getting a discount. I meet with  
23 them on the 20th, just to confirm everything. But  
24 that is that date.

25 Also, my project this year is a Harper

1 Village. It is a female, all female veteran  
2 domicile. It is by the Fisher House in Cleveland.

3 I actually had the opportunity to go to the  
4 grand opening. What is that young lady's name?  
5 The major general who was appointed by the  
6 governor, she was there.

7 FROM THE FLOOR: Major General Ashenhurst.

8 COMMANDER STENNIS: Ashenhurst, she was  
9 there. The Director of the VA Medical Center in  
10 Cleveland was there. It was a big thing.

11 So it is behind the Fisher House. That is my  
12 project. It's an all-female domiciliary. It will  
13 house 12 women. And they already have one that  
14 will be there.

15 If anyone wants to take a tour, please let me  
16 know. I believe next week I'm going to be taking  
17 some folks up there. Just let me know.

18 Again, this thing was private. It cost \$2.1  
19 million. But I believe they're going to work in  
20 partnership with the VA to help these ladies out  
21 with military sexual trauma and PTSD. So that is  
22 my project for this year.

23 (Applause).

24 All right, that being said, the slate is  
25 clear.

1           Does anybody have anything for the good of  
2 The Legion?

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

5           The 14th District does have a \$100 donation  
6 to Buckeye Boys State.

7           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. Thank you.  
8 (Applause).

9           Yes, PDC Wilson.

10          PDC JEAN WILSON: Commander, I would like to  
11 know if we have been in contact with the 7th  
12 District Commander. She has failed to be at any  
13 meeting that we've had yet. And I don't know her  
14 personally, but I think that we need to figure out  
15 what's going on. Because they have no  
16 representation here again. So there's no way the  
17 information is coming out of Department. Are the  
18 members of the 7th District receiving it? And do  
19 the people in the 7th District know that she has  
20 no interest in this DEC?

21          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander.

22          COMMANDER STENNIS: Go ahead.

23          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I have reached out,  
24 between phone calls and e-mails, we've sent  
25 letters through the snail mail to her. She has

1 responded that she is interested until it comes to  
2 today.

3 The 7th District is well aware. And we send  
4 them all the same correspondence that we do to  
5 her. I am in constant contact with their District  
6 Adjutant, Mike Holts. But they still can't find  
7 anybody that wants to step up and take over a  
8 leadership role.

9 PDC JEAN WILSON: I'm sorry, but if she's not  
10 here, she's not doing anything. So, really, in my  
11 opinion, they have no District Commander.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No, they do not.

13 COMMANDER STENNIS: And we will address that.  
14 What I believe is we may need to take a visit to  
15 their next District meeting. If the phone calls  
16 don't work and the mail doesn't work, it's time to  
17 just show up.

18 All right, thank you, Jean.

19 PDC Klostermeier. I saw you standing back  
20 there.

21 PDC KLOSTERMEIER: Past Department Commander  
22 Klostermeier. I would like to ask a question.

23 Are we going to have an ad hoc committee to  
24 hire this new this fiscal officer? And if we do  
25 have an ad hoc committee, I would request that you



1 and Harold Savage both serve on that committee.  
2 Because you have a lot of experience in the  
3 finance part and that would help avoid the bad  
4 people we've been getting.

5       COMMANDER STENNIS: What we will do, Bob, we  
6 will take that into consideration.

7       What I would like to do is consult with the  
8 Finance Committee, because this is a democracy,  
9 not a dictatorship. So we can come up with a  
10 group that would take care of that.

11       PDC SCHMITT: Commander, I was given a note,  
12 and maybe this is of interest to all the Districts  
13 about how to find out about the Posts in your  
14 District. You go to the secretary of state, under  
15 "business search," the best thing to do is type in  
16 "American Legion," just type in "American Legion,"  
17 and it will search and it will bring up every  
18 American Legion Post in the State of Ohio, which  
19 is about 739 listings, including Auxiliaries,  
20 SALs, American Legion Riders. It's all in there.  
21 And this is for umpteen years, decades. Okay?  
22 But anyways, you can search it that way.

23       Some of them will not show up. Some of them,  
24 if their name does not contain "American Legion"  
25 in it, will not show up that way. Then you have

1 to search by the name of the Post and it will come  
2 up.

3 You know, it takes time to do this. But if  
4 you want to find out what's going on in your  
5 District with your Posts, that's under the  
6 secretary of state, business search, American  
7 Legion.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMANDER STENNIS: Thank you, Bob. Thank  
10 you.

11 Alrighty, is there anything else under good  
12 of The Legion?

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I have a couple,  
14 Commander.

15 COMMANDER STENNIS: Okay.

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Real short and sweet,  
17 folks.

18 Just to let everybody know, our NVC, Ken  
19 Hylton, will be at our spring conference.

20 Department will be closed a half a day on  
21 December the 9th, as that is the holiday party and  
22 we will be going as a staff to lunch that day.

23 Tamar Fowler has transitioned to the  
24 executive admin and Sherry Yockey is now  
25 membership administrator.

1           And Department Headquarters will be closed  
2           for the holidays December 23rd and 26th, December  
3           the 30th and January 2nd.

4           COMMANDER STENNIS: All right. I saw one  
5           more hand up for the good of The Legion back in  
6           the back.

7           FROM THE FLOOR: I was just trying to stand  
8           up and salute the colors.

9           COMMANDER STENNIS: Uncover.

10          Chaplain Fast (sic), would you give us the  
11          benediction.

12          ASST. CHAPLAIN BUXTON: As we go to our  
13          homes, we ask you to keep us safe in our travels.  
14          And bless our soldiers and sailors, wherever they  
15          may be in harm's way.

16          Amen.

17          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

18          COMMANDER STENNIS: I'm sorry, Assistant  
19          Chaplain Buxton.

20          At this time, Sergeant-at-Arms, recover the  
21          POW/MIA flag.

22          Recover.

23          Colors being in place, hand salute. One,  
24          two.

25          . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

1 All right, everyone, be safe on you're way  
2 home.

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)

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