

1 THE AMERICAN LEGION  
2 DEPARTMENT OF OHIO  
3 DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
4  
5  
6 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
7  
8

9 Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024.

10

11 Location: Department Headquarters  
12 60 Big Run Road  
13 Delaware, Ohio 43015  
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25 *Dragon Reporting Service*  
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24                                   \* \* \* \* \*

1 Saturday, December 7, 2024.

2 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Colors of our nation in  
4 place, hand salute. Two.

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

6 Invocation by Chaplain Ron Distel.

7 CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Before I give the invocation,  
8 I'd like to remind everyone today is December 7th.  
9 Eighty-three years ago today, at 07:55 hours, our  
10 Naval Pacific Fleet was surprisingly attacked. The  
11 attack lasted until 09:52, resulting in 2,341  
12 servicemen aboard eight vessels, which sunk, were  
13 killed. This attack marked the beginning of the  
14 United States' involvement in World War II.

15 The day following the attack, Eleanor Roosevelt  
16 wrote this poem. She carried this poem in her  
17 wallet throughout the entire World War II: "Dear  
18 Lord, lest I continue my complacent way, help me to  
19 remember somehow, out there, a man died for me  
20 today. As long as there be war, I must ask and I  
21 must answer: Am I worth dying for?"

22 Let us pray.

23 We gather here today, remembering, Lord, the  
24 days of our past, when we protected this great land.  
25 As we reflect on our past duty, we pray to You,

1 Lord, for those that are doing what we did, what we  
2 have done. Give them Your guidance. Keep them  
3 safe, Lord, and return them to their loved ones that  
4 miss them dearly.

5 And it is to You that we pray, Lord.

6 Amen.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Pledge of Allegiance by 1st  
9 Vice Commander Stan Oren.

10 . . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

11 The POW/MIA, also by 1st Vice Commander Stan  
12 Oren.

13 1VC OREN: Resolution 288, at the 67th National  
14 Convention, called for a designating an empty chair  
15 placed at all official meetings of The American  
16 Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of  
17 American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all  
18 wars and conflicts involving the United States of  
19 America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare  
20 no effort to secure the release of any American POW  
21 from captivity, repatriation of the remains of those  
22 who have died bravely in defense of liberty, and a  
23 full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate  
24 ourselves to this vital endeavor.

25 PDC RUE: Cover.

1 Preamble by 2nd Vice Commander Gary Cox, Jr.

2 . . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Roll call, by Adjutant  
4 Robinson.

5 . . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . .

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, you have a  
7 quorum.

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

9 Introduction of guests by Department  
10 Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Blackwell.

11 SGT-AT-ARMS BLACKWELL: Good morning.

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

13 SGT-AT-ARMS BLACKWELL: We have Bob  
14 Klostermeier, Past NEC, here with us; Tom Tierney,  
15 Past 2nd District Commander; Kaylynn Cox, Gary Cox,  
16 Jr.'s, daughter; Harold Savage, Past Department  
17 Treasurer; Mike Homan, 2nd District 2nd Vice; Keith  
18 Smigle, 6th District 2nd Vice; and Terry Veach from  
19 Post 523.

20 That's it, Commander.

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

22 Reading of the minutes from the previous  
23 meeting.

24 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th  
25 District, makes a motion that we suspend the reading

1 of the minutes since it was sent to us in an e-mail.

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 1st  
3 Vice, 12th District, I second that.

4 PDC RUE: A motion has been properly made and  
5 seconded that we suspend the reading of our last  
6 meeting.

7 Discussion?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all those for  
12 it by using the usual sign.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
15 right.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion carries.

18 I would like to thank all of you for being here  
19 today. I know it's the time of the season where  
20 everybody is busy and you're trying to do things for  
21 the holidays. I really appreciate you being here.

22 I do have a couple awards. I would like to go  
23 ahead and get those out of the way at this moment.

24 The first award is for the Excellence Award for  
25 the Department of Ohio. It's for Child Welfare and

1 it reads as follows: "The Board of Directors  
2 graciously recognize your outstanding support of the  
3 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Service  
4 to the critical needs of American children is made  
5 possible through your caring and generosity.  
6 Presented to The American Legion Department of  
7 Ohio."

8 And we also have a plaque that goes with that.

9 Also, the National Historian Contest, we did  
10 receive an award in that. And it is presented to  
11 the Department of Ohio, participation, digital  
12 Department history, compiled by Al Beyer, August 24,  
13 2024.

14 (Applause).

15 I also have a plaque here for the National  
16 Historian Contest presented to Newton Post No. 137,  
17 third place.

18 Do we have anyone here from District 9 (sic)?

19 FROM THE FLOOR: That's District 1.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: That's what it says here.

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yeah, I think they wrote  
22 that wrong.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Anybody here for Post 137?

24 FROM THE FLOOR: That's the 1st District.

25 (Applause).



1           We'll now have 1st Vice Commander Stan Oren  
2       with the Membership and Internal Affairs reports.

3           1VC OREN: Good morning, everybody. Welcome.  
4       Glad to see all your smiling faces out there.

5           Thank you for all the help with membership, but  
6       we need more. We're lacking about 3,000 from  
7       meeting our goal for this month, and we have four  
8       days to do it. So start hitting the phones, please.

9           Other than that, I'll give the rest of my  
10      report as it comes up. Thank you.

11          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Gary Cox, Jr., activities,  
12      greetings.

13          2VC COX, JR.: Good morning.

14          That's all I'm going to say.

15          PDC RUE: Holly Lewis, Department Treasurer.

16          TREASURER LEWIS: Morning, everybody.

17          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

18          TREASURER LEWIS: How are you?

19          FROM THE FLOOR: Good.

20          TREASURER LEWIS: Good to see you all.

21          All right, the Treasurer's report.

22          So the investments, as of 10/31/24, our total  
23      investments equal \$7,553,659.49. And the breakdown  
24      is as follows.

25          You don't have this, by the way. I'm telling

1     you this. You have the next thing I'm going to talk  
2     about.

3             So I just want to make sure you know what's in  
4     each account. So the Buckeye Boys State Money  
5     Market has \$59,579.83. The Buckeye Boys State  
6     Investment has \$458,096.16. The Scholarship Fund  
7     has \$1.345 million-ish. Special Olympics has  
8     \$153,902. Gifts for Yanks has \$639,544. Ohio Life  
9     Members' Fund has \$1.550. The reserve fund has  
10    \$2,084,362. The rehabilitation, which is the  
11    Building Fund, has \$763,443. And the General Fund  
12    has \$498,023.

13            Some of those are restricted funds, others are  
14    not. But that's where we stand right now.

15            The budget versus actual. You all got that in  
16    an e-mail. Everybody got it, right?

17            FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18            TREASURER LEWIS: Okay.

19            So I'm going to just hit the highlights. And  
20    then if you have any questions, I'm happy to take  
21    those, or we could take them offline. Any of the  
22    Finance Committee/Commission members can answer  
23    these questions.

24            So we're currently at 51.47 percent to our  
25    revenue projection, five months into the year.

1           What we're keeping an eye on right now is the  
2   888 renewals, which is line 41110 on the budget  
3   versus actual in the revenue section.

4           And the Legionnaires' Trust money, just so you  
5   know, that comes in later in the fiscal year.

6           So those are the two big things that are kind  
7   of lacking right now on the revenue side of the  
8   budget versus actual. Okay?

9           And then we are currently at 36.63 percent of  
10   our budgeted expense.

11          So here are some items of note. So anything  
12   that was way over budget, I'm going to explain  
13   what's happening with those. And then if you have  
14   additional questions, I'm happy to take them.

15          So, National Convention, which is line 61601,  
16   what happened there is we paid for the riverboat  
17   cruise for National Convention. And we were  
18   reimbursed by Iowa and Michigan for their portions  
19   of it. So it looks like we're over budget. We're  
20   not over budget. But it looks like we are because  
21   we wrote a check for the whole amount. Okay?

22          Baseball, line 61907, we've met with the  
23   Athletic Chair.

24          That's the right name for the commission,  
25   right, the Athletic Commission?

1           So we've met. We met with Chris on Thursday  
2 regarding the financials for baseball.

3           So what is happening, what's not reflected in  
4 this budget versus actual, is the fact that baseball  
5 registration money comes in February and March,  
6 which is the previous fiscal year. So we're seeing  
7 a discrepancy in the numbers between the fiscal  
8 years. The expense occurs in the current fiscal  
9 year. So we're going to consult our accountant for  
10 the best way to kind of handle this.

11           But in the meantime, Chris has a balanced  
12 budget available for review by request. So he went  
13 through that with us and it is a balanced budget for  
14 both junior and senior teams. So I'm sure he'd be  
15 happy to share that with you if you ask.

16           Building Grounds and Maintenance, this is line  
17 62352. So the money for this actually gets taken  
18 out of the Rehabilitation Fund. It doesn't come out  
19 of the budgeted revenue for the year.

20           Americanism Commission Meetings, 66019. So  
21 there was a mistake made on this. The employee  
22 travel, Christie went to National for the  
23 Americanism meeting and it got mistakenly put in  
24 this line item. It just needs to be moved and then  
25 they will be under budget for their travel as well.

1           Okay, that is what I have.

2           Like I said, if you need more time to look at  
3   it, feel free to send me an e-mail,  
4   treasurer@ohiolegion.com. If you want to grab me  
5   during lunch and ask me a question, that's fine.

6           Anybody have any questions on the financials?

7           ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Schmitt, Alternate NEC.  
8   My budget is \$500. Is that \$500 over?

9           TREASURER LEWIS: No. It doesn't have an  
10   actual number, right? So that means nothing has  
11   been spent.

12          ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Okay. Right, I haven't  
13   spent a dime.

14          TREASURER LEWIS: Right, uh-huh.  
15   Suzette?

16          12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes, Suzette Heller,  
17   12th District 1st Vice.

18          You said you're keeping an eye on the Post 888  
19   membership renewals.

20          TREASURER LEWIS: Uh-huh. They're not  
21   renewing.

22          12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

23          So, regarding membership, so how is that being  
24   communicated?

25          TREASURER LEWIS: What? That they're not

1     renewing?

2             12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   Yes.

3             TREASURER LEWIS:   You want to answer that?

4             12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   How is that being  
5     communicated to us, like the urgency to renew these  
6     888s?

7             ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   Robinson, Adjutant.

8             Sherry's been putting that out in her weekly  
9     e-mails, --

10            12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   Okay.

11            ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   -- to keep an eye on it and  
12     to work the ones that are in your area.

13            12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   Yeah.

14            ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   I know it's been in the  
15     last two when I've looked at them.

16            12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   So is this the 888  
17     members who --

18            ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   All 888 members.

19            12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   Okay, got it.

20            ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   Especially the ones that  
21     are renewing.

22            Kind of what's happened with it this year, we  
23     upped the dues for the 888s, trying to help you guys  
24     get them easier into your Posts.   But on the  
25     backside of that, it's hurting the Department

1 because it's cutting our revenue down because we're  
2 not getting as many.

3 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: So did you raise the  
4 888 fee to \$50?

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

6 TREASURER LEWIS: We did.

7 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay. So to  
8 incentivize them to --

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Go into Posts.

10 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Got it. Okay.

11 TREASURER LEWIS: Uh-huh, yep.

12 So that's what's happening there. So we may  
13 need to, you know, we'll probably discuss this at  
14 our next Finance Commission meeting too, to see if  
15 there's something that we can actively do, like do  
16 we want to call it 888s, you know, what do we want  
17 to do?

18 But we do need you guys to move as many of them  
19 as possible, yeah.

20 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: When will they get  
21 notified that their dues have been increased the  
22 \$50? So is that --

23 TREASURER LEWIS: It was last year.

24 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay, got it.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It started July 1st.

1           TREASURER LEWIS: Yeah.

2           12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

3           TREASURER LEWIS: Yeah, it was last year. We  
4 approved that in the Finance Commission last year.  
5 And so basically, as of July 1st, that was their  
6 dues.

7           Okay, anybody else have any questions about the  
8 budget versus actual?

9           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10          TREASURER LEWIS: I feel like we're in pretty  
11 good shape directionally. Like I said, we've got to  
12 keep an eye on a couple things. But I think  
13 everybody is doing a good job trying to stay in  
14 budget.

15          All right, thank you. I think that's it.

16          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, Holly.

17          As you can see, we're trying to make -- when  
18 they gave out the financial report, it seemed  
19 complicated. But as you can see, we're trying to  
20 make this as transparent as possible, per your  
21 request. So just give us a little time and we'll  
22 get there.

23          Let's see here, Ron Distel, Chaplain.

24          CHAPLAIN DISTEL: Good morning, again.

25          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning .



1           CHAPLAIN DISTEL: First I'd like to thank you,  
2 Commander, for having me as your Chaplain again this  
3 year.

4           I would also like to thank our Assistant  
5 Chaplain for filling in for me at the August E  
6 Board. At the Department Convention, the E Board  
7 was announced for August and my wife had planned a  
8 getaway for our entire family down in southern Ohio  
9 on the exact same day. I like you guys a lot, but I  
10 have to keep her happy.

11          Sick call.

12          We have Mike Kennedy, who has been going  
13 through some serious issues. He's been in and out  
14 of the hospital. He's home now. I understand he's  
15 doing rather well. And I've been keeping in contact  
16 with him through e-mail. So that's really nice.

17          Since I was with you last, 1st Vice Commander  
18 Stan Oren's mother has been hospitalized. I have  
19 learned that she is doing well. And I did send her  
20 a get-well card out there.

21          I also sent a get-well card to Past 1st  
22 District Commander Harold Landis, whose wife was  
23 having a heart problem and she had surgery. And I  
24 heard she had more issues after that. And I  
25 understand there was a stroke involved and she's in

1    rehab now.  So keep them in your thoughts and  
2    prayers.

3           I sent a get-well card to Past Commander Jean  
4    Wilson, who was in the hospital.  I do not know for  
5    what.  But I did send her a get-well card.

6           I sent a sympathy card to the family of Larry  
7    Sullivan.  He passed due to cancer, I do believe.

8           And I sent a sympathy card to Carol T. Robinson  
9    for the loss of her brother.

10          I sent a get-well card to Ron Chapman, who was  
11   hospitalized for a heart condition.

12          I also sent a get-well card to Al Beyer, who  
13   was out and about and got stung by a honey bee.  And  
14   he had an allergic reaction to it.  And that was  
15   quite a time for him.

16          And we're glad to see you up and around.  It's  
17   nice to see his walking around.

18          Back in the 1990s, they had found a bottle of  
19   honey in a pyramid in Egypt that was from a couple  
20   thousand years ago.  And it never spoiled.  It was  
21   still good.

22          So you might live forever.

23          Finally, I've been in contact with Past  
24   Department Jean regarding Jerry's condition.  He  
25   fell and broke some ribs.  But in the testing, they

1 found that he had a tumor on his brain. They did  
2 open him up the middle of last week. They did  
3 remove the tumor. And I got an e-mail yesterday.  
4 He's home. So that is really, really good news.

5 Again, if anyone knows of anyone that needs  
6 comfort or a card, or anything at all, you need to  
7 contact me. I don't have a magic wand or a globe  
8 that I can look in and see what's going on. So you  
9 all need to keep me informed.

10 Thank you, Commander.

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, Chaplain Ron.

12 We have next up the honey man, Al Beyer.

13 HISTORIAN BEYER: I'll never live this down.

14 If it was a honey bee, I don't know if I'd like  
15 to live forever.

16 Anyway, it was a yellow jacket, and at the last  
17 bite of my brat at the tractor pull. And just 15  
18 minutes later, I'm in an ambulance on my way to  
19 Medcentral. And four days later, I woke up. And  
20 had a couple of weeks of therapy after that, and  
21 what have you.

22 Thank God for the VA, man, I'll tell you.  
23 Because I'd be in the poorhouse today.

24 Anyway, and I've got to tell you, I got a lot  
25 of cards, calls, everything. And a really heartfelt

1    thank you to each and every one of you for all your  
2    thoughts and prayers. I really appreciate it. It  
3    really helps.

4           So if you know somebody out there that's on the  
5    health watch list of some sort, please contact them  
6    somehow. Because it does make a difference when  
7    you're trying to recuperate.

8           Anyway, Commander, if I can get to it now.

9           COMMANDER WHATLEY: You may.

10          HISTORIAN BEYER: Thank you.

11          On September 14th and 15th of this year, the  
12    Ohio Department held their Annual Golf Outing, with  
13    two teams and taking first place awarded to Post  
14    389, of Beverly, with Micky Lockhart, Brad Webb,  
15    Jarod Kasun, Dan Ginther, and last but not least --  
16    these guys are ringers -- our 1st Vice Stan Oren and  
17    2nd Vice Gary Cox.

18          I think they're ringers in the golfing ranks.

19          Anyway, they then turned in their winnings back  
20    to the Post, which deserves a round of applause of  
21    gratitude, really.

22          (Applause).

23          The Golf Committee was spearheaded and managed  
24    by the valued and honored Thom Stan. And from what  
25    feedback I got, he did a fantastic job, and then

1     some.

2           We have a flag program in the Americanism  
3     Committee. Two students tested their knowledge.  
4     This is Martin's Ferry. Two students tested their  
5     knowledge about the American flag and won first  
6     place in a flag program contest. Now these are  
7     fourth graders.

8           Richard Smathers, from the American Legion Post  
9     228, in Powhatan Point, presented the 2024 Flag  
10    Program to the fourth grade at St. Mary's Central  
11    School and Powhatan, which participated in the  
12    program that included the history of the American  
13    flag.

14          The program was to teach the students about the  
15    history of the flag and proper display, for students  
16    to start thinking about the freedoms they have in  
17    America, and what was given to insure those  
18    freedoms. Today is a real good day to start  
19    remembering them, or thinking about it.

20          Students prepared for approximately one month  
21    by reading and studying a comic book illustration  
22    that told the story of four individuals and why the  
23    flag is important to them. The students took a quiz  
24    with 20 questions and answered an essay question,  
25    just in case there was a tie.

1           Fourth grade student Amanda Murray won first  
2 place for the girls' division and fellow fourth  
3 grader Wade Spears won first place for the boys'  
4 division. Both students received a plaque for their  
5 achievement.

6           The students will advance to the next level,  
7 called the "Post Competition."

8           After the Post Competition, the highest scoring  
9 winner from the girls' and boys' division will  
10 advance to the district level to be judged.

11          "I am really grateful to have had the  
12 opportunity to serve as the chairman of the program  
13 this year," Smathers said. "I've met so many  
14 students eager to learn."

15          Boy is that good to hear.

16          Smathers also presented Theresa Young with an  
17 American flag and a monetary gift. He believes that  
18 students must still be educated on the history of  
19 America to keep America great, because it already is  
20 because of the characters of the American people.

21          Smathers also said, "Our forefathers showed us  
22 great courage to keep us free and we must always  
23 strive to follow in their footsteps."

24          The flag program was introduced to the Children  
25 and Youth group by Al Buxton a couple of years ago

1 and I'm glad to see it's starting to finally get  
2 some recognition and get moving.

3 And with all the other crap being introduced to  
4 our children, God only knows how much we need these  
5 things in our schools.

6 And if you'd like to keep these young minds and  
7 keep our country great, in an area near you, please  
8 contact the leader of our Americanism Committee,  
9 Christie White.

10 Also, I've got something on membership. I must  
11 also mention one Post amongst the many that are  
12 really making historic moments in Ohio's history,  
13 and that's Post 572, in Parma. Their Commander is  
14 Eric Pflaidermahn. They've added 21 new members  
15 and four transfers this year, in addition to having  
16 donated \$25,754 to charities listed herein.

17 If you want a list of those charities, send me  
18 an email and I'll give it to you.

19 I ask each of you that if you're having trouble  
20 with membership or raising funds, please don't  
21 hesitate in speaking with this Post and its  
22 Commander. Membership is a responsibility and duty  
23 to our comrades of each and every one of us, not  
24 just Stan.

25 I don't know if you're aware of it, but this

1 year's Army/Navy game will be, for the first time,  
2 co-sponsored by The American Legion. Yeah, it's  
3 really something.

4 And if you go on the Army/Navy game website,  
5 punch on the logo, American Legion, our great  
6 finance officer, Holly Lewis, her picture is right  
7 there.

8 (Applause).

9 You know, that's worldwide, in fact.

10 I'd ask that each of you to get all that you  
11 know, and possible members, and watch this important  
12 historic moment in football. Even if you don't like  
13 football, you might see an advertisement to your  
14 interest that are associated with The American  
15 Legion.

16 The game will be reported on by one of our own,  
17 Bob White, of Parma. He's got the credentials and  
18 press pass to do it. He's been going to the game  
19 the last three or four years. He will be taking  
20 lots of pictures. So if you would like a picture of  
21 something or someone in the game, give him a call.  
22 He just might have it.

23 The American Legion competed in the regatta  
24 under the Operation Comfort Warriors program, in  
25 association with the Western Reserve Rowing



1 Association.

2 The American Legion family visiting the regatta  
3 included, from Kansas, the leading candidate, Dan  
4 Wiley, NEC Ron Chapman, Alternate NEC Robert  
5 Schmitt, and other numerous Department officers.

6 Having The American Legion tent near the finish  
7 line not only enabled Legionnaires, Auxiliary and  
8 Sons to share information about the Operation  
9 Comfort program, but to enthusiastically cheer on  
10 our team in the event of 33 mixed veterans to  
11 clinching first place, with an official time of  
12 27:44.911.

13 All working together, the collective energy  
14 which embodied the spirit of camaraderie and support  
15 that The American Legion fosters were extraordinary.

16 And then in event 571, again another first  
17 place winner, a team of mixed veterans with an  
18 outstanding time of 23:27:188.

19 The American Legion tent became a focus point,  
20 with bells ringing and yelling and clapping.

21 Dan Wiley, NEC Chapman and Alternate NEC  
22 Schmitt presented individual awards and the coveted  
23 OCW, Operation Comfort Warriors, Trophy to the  
24 winning team in a very heartfelt ceremony.

25 Attendance in this regatta has grown from 3,000

1 in 2023 to over 5,000 this year. That's a big  
2 increase. Even the Canadians expressed an interest  
3 in entering next year.

4 The festivities concluded with our next  
5 candidate for National Commander, Dan Wiley, our own  
6 esteemed Commander, A.J. Whatley, and NEC Ron  
7 Chapman, Alternate NEC Bob Schmitt, and Department  
8 Adjutant John "JD" Robinson, to a pork roast at  
9 Brook Park Post 610, where hundreds of Legion family  
10 members gathered to celebrate a day with  
11 achievement, recruitment, and shared purpose.

12 Boy have I missed out on a lot this fall. As  
13 much as I would have liked to have been at these  
14 events, it just wasn't meant to be.

15 But I did have some great help from my  
16 assistant, Kevin Motter, who did a great job with  
17 taking pictures and getting names, a job which my  
18 Polynesian baby, or wife, Dayna, usually does. And  
19 she does a fabulous job at it. So make sure that  
20 you tell her I said that. Okay?

21 And of course a big thank you goes out to Jon  
22 Vulgamore, for putting up with my being late at  
23 times and constant phone calls.

24 Anyway, Commander, this concludes my report.  
25 Thank you.

1           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

2           (Applause) .

3           Next up we have NECman Ron Chapman.

4           You can do it right there, sir, if you'd like.

5           NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, the fall meetings of the  
6   National Executive Committee were held on Wednesday,  
7   October the 9th, and Thursday, October the 10th, at  
8   the National Headquarters building in the  
9   newly-named J.P. Corner Executive Committee Room.

10          Commander LaCoursiere called the meetings to  
11   order at 9:00 AM each morning, and reports were  
12   given by the Marketing Commission, National Security  
13   Commission, Media and Communications Commission,  
14   Conventions Commission, Americanism Commissions,  
15   Internal Affairs Commissions, and Membership and  
16   Post Activities.

17          We had 32 resolutions that were approved as  
18   recommended by these commissions. Two were  
19   Americanism, one was from the Convention Committee,  
20   eight from Internal Affairs, one from Marketing,  
21   five from National Security, 12 from VA&R, and three  
22   from the Veterans Employment and Education.

23          My job that I been assigned to is a liaison to  
24   the Internal Affairs Commission. And in that  
25   committee, of the eight resolutions that we

1 reviewed, three were approved endorsements,  
2 administrative-type things. One other endorsement  
3 was approved. Two were rejected.

4 Those rejected, let me think here for a minute,  
5 one was about the gender cap. And they were  
6 referred to a 1965 resolution that outlines how, you  
7 know, the proper wearing of the Legion cap. And  
8 that's also in your Officer's Manual, I believe.  
9 And the other was to rename the service officer to  
10 resource officer. Those were rejected.

11 Two were reviewed and returned to the  
12 Department of California. And what they were about,  
13 and the reason I'm going to bring this up is because  
14 I think we're going to have some discussions here in  
15 a little bit about gaming, right, the two that were  
16 returned to California were about E Sport, creating  
17 an E Sport Commission. Those were sent back,  
18 referred back to California. We never took any real  
19 action. We didn't want to discourage anything about  
20 what was going on with those because there are  
21 several Departments that are now implementing this.  
22 And it was determined that this is a departmental  
23 program, and it would probably be assigned later on.  
24 It should be assigned to like Americanism or VA&R,  
25 whichever, however your Department is using that

1 gaming system. So, once there are a majority of  
2 Departments that have the gaming, which would be 26,  
3 I believe, Departments would be the majority. Is  
4 that right?

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes, it is.

6 NEC CHAPMAN: Then they would consider creating  
7 maybe a National committee. But it's not likely  
8 that there would ever be a National commission,  
9 because it's either going to fall under VA&R or --

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Chappy, as of right now,  
11 they're pushing it under VA&R.

12 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay.

13 And I know that's the way we were kind of  
14 leaning here. And I think that was where the  
15 majority of the people in that room, that's where  
16 they thought it would land. But no decisions have  
17 been made yet.

18 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Ron, if I may  
19 interrupt, Howard Marotto, District 10 Commander, it  
20 was VA&R or what else?

21 NEC CHAPMAN: Americanism.

22 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Americanism.  
23 Thank you.

24 Either way, it's going to be, it's going to be  
25 considered a program of a Department.

1           If you'd like to review the resolutions that we  
2   considered at the National Executive Committee, go  
3   to the National website, where you'll see Holly's  
4   picture, or just type in "archive," small caps,  
5   a-r-c-h-i-v-e.legion.org. Go to the "Information  
6   Center," then the "Library & Museum," then to the  
7   digital archives. And if you click on recent  
8   meetings, it will take you right to all the  
9   resolutions that our Executive Board, or Executive  
10   Committee considered at the National. They are also  
11   there for the convention if you missed any of those.

12           Don't forget the National Commander's project  
13   this year is Veterans and Children's Foundation and  
14   the National Emergency Fund.

15           And be sure to familiarize yourself with the  
16   Washington Conferences coming up, those of you who  
17   may be in attendance there. Familiarize yourself  
18   with The American Legion Legislative Agenda so that  
19   we're prepared when we go to the Washington  
20   Conference in February.

21           That's all I have, Commander.

22           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, Commander Ron  
23   Chapman.

24           (Applause) .

25           NECman Robert Schmitt, do you have anything?

1           ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: Commander, I'm going to  
2 do it from here.

3           COMMANDER WHATLEY: You may.

4           ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: NEC Chapman covered it  
5 all pretty well.

6           As an Alternate NEC, one thing I've learned,  
7 this is my first time being an official member of  
8 the NEC, you go there, you keep your mouth shut, you  
9 listen and you learn. Some people need to learn  
10 that.

11          Humility will go a long way. Because when  
12 things don't go your way, you don't have to take as  
13 much crap. You can just have a big smile.

14          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

15          (Applause).

16          Next up we have Josh Brown, Department Judge  
17 Advocate.

18          JUDGE ADVOCATE BROWN: Thank you,  
19 Mr. President. And thanks again for choosing to  
20 give me this opportunity again, for the second time.

21          When I took this job about a year and a half  
22 ago, we had three or four big issues that I was  
23 dealing with.

24          And fortunately, today we only have really one  
25 big issue I'm dealing with. We have a lawsuit in

1     Fayette County that I'm still managing and it's  
2     going pretty well. So as of right now, the less I  
3     have to report the better. So I only have that one  
4     thing to report to you.

5             So thank you very much.

6             And I always like to make sure I give everybody  
7     my phone number, because I want to make myself  
8     available to everybody in case you need me for  
9     anything. I'm the Department's lawyer. It's  
10    (614)284-4394.

11            Thank you.

12            COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

13            Is Gary Minadeo here today?

14            PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right here.

15            COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, sir.

16            PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: What the hell was  
17    that about?

18            It's going really good with the constitution  
19    and bylaws. We're over 200 of them we've done in  
20    the past year and a half. I'm now caught up.

21            A couple issues.

22            Some people are calling in to Cassie or to me  
23    saying, "We sent ours in three years ago. We don't  
24    know what's happened with it."

25            Well, okay, send it again, down to the



1 Adjutant, to Cassie. Okay? That's one.

2 Two. It seems that bylaws are the rules. And  
3 typically it has meeting dates, quorums, what you  
4 could spend and what you can't spend. And people  
5 are starting to write bylaws so, they're written so  
6 if you want to amend the bylaws you can bring that  
7 up in this meeting and then we'll vote on it at the  
8 next meeting, with no notification of the  
9 membership. I don't know why that's happening but  
10 it's come up in the past probably ten that I've  
11 done.

12 So I've had to call a lot and say, "Listen,  
13 here's the constitution amendments and the same  
14 thing for the bylaws. You need to give notification  
15 to the Post."

16 Because what they're doing is setting up that  
17 they want to make a change to something and they do  
18 it real quick. And basically, the Executive  
19 Committee is changing it. So just pay attention to  
20 that.

21 I've also had some blowback on, a lot of Posts  
22 are saying they will notify everybody, a minimum of  
23 ten days notification. Well, that's ridiculous. So  
24 I say it needs to be 35.

25 Why 35? Because the constitution for the

1 Department is 35 days notification. That at least  
2 puts you one meeting away and it gives you time to  
3 have discussion on it. That's what I tell them.  
4 Just notify how you notify, through e-mail, mail,  
5 posting it in the canteen, reading it at your  
6 meetings. But there needs to be some notification  
7 to the Posts.

8 The third thing that happens now is Posts are  
9 getting upset that, gee, we did all this, we  
10 approved them, we send them to you and now you're  
11 changing them.

12 And I said, well, that's okay. I get that.  
13 Because most of my changes are directed by National,  
14 like "all the wars" instead of "great wars," or I  
15 say change ten days to 35 days on a notification, or  
16 insert this on how you do an amendment, or I find  
17 problems with spelling, or the discipline part of  
18 it.

19 People are still referencing discipline  
20 procedures of the Department from 1942. I had one  
21 that was signed in 1919. So that's when I gently  
22 call them up and say, "Did you read this? The  
23 people that approved this, it's in 1919. Did you  
24 look at it lately?"

25 So I put in there, "Approved for comment."

1    When I get it, I'll say, "Approved with comment."  
2    And then in my comments I say change this to this,  
3    change this, just scratch it out, write it in, per  
4    direction of the Parliamentarian and the Department  
5    of Ohio. Those changes can be made without having  
6    to vote because that's something we direct you to  
7    do.

8           So they don't need to get upset. They don't  
9    need to have another vote and 35 days notification.  
10   They just need to scratch out the changes and then  
11   the Commander annotates changes made. Send it back  
12   to us and we'll put it on file.

13           And then I've had, some Commanders like to, you  
14   know, call me up. And they at least recognize that  
15   I'm on the phone, and like to use certain names on  
16   who the hell am I. And so I, you know, check my ID.  
17   But I try to tell them just calm down. You're okay.  
18   We can get through this.

19           Something about constitution and bylaws, when  
20   you're looking at them, makes people nervous.  
21   That's all right, just call me up. If they've  
22   already approved it, that's fine. We'll say okay,  
23   we'll scratch this out, scratch this out, and then  
24   we'll file it.

25           So we're doing really good. I mean, over a

1 year and a half we got about 200 done.

2 So as you're going out there, just take a look  
3 at them and say, "Hey, we need to update these."  
4 About every five years, you need to take a look at  
5 it, or every year after elections just pull it out  
6 and have the officers read through it again.

7 And if there's any changes, have them call me.  
8 I'd give you my number, but it seems everybody has  
9 it, and my e-mail. So keep them coming. I'll take  
10 the questions.

11 But overall, Commander and Vices, I think we're  
12 doing really good and getting a good look at the  
13 constitution and bylaws and lining everything up.

14 So thank you for what you've done. It's  
15 definitely made my life exciting.

16 So, Commander, --

17 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: -- just to let you  
19 know, I'm right there (indicating).

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All right.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: But it's going to be  
22 empty because I've got to go use the men's room.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

24 (Applause).

25 Thank you.

1           We have up next, John Robinson, Department  
2 Adjutant.

3           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Morning everybody.

4           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

5           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: One of the things you have  
6 I put out for you are four rules of an American  
7 Legion Program, just a nice little page for you.  
8 Please review those. We get questioned on these all  
9 the time. This is what it takes to keep a program  
10 going. This is your operating instructions. If you  
11 don't have all four, it's not going to be a program.

12           Now something I want to touch base with, just  
13 so you guys know what's coming, is we have a new  
14 policy for the Department. It's not done yet.  
15 That's why you're not voting on it yet. But I want  
16 to let you know that I will be e-mailing it out once  
17 we get the corrections made. I just got it a couple  
18 weeks ago. I'm still digging down through it. But  
19 once all the corrections are made, we will e-mail it  
20 out.

21           Are you -- well, I guess the Commander has to  
22 ask this, but I would want to know whether you want  
23 to do a town hall meeting or just do an e-mail vote  
24 on it once it's through to you. So I'm sure you can  
25 let the Commander know what we need to do to satisfy

1     that requirement.

2           But I'm hoping to have it out to you before  
3     January.  So maybe we can have it voted on by  
4     Mid-Winter, so then I can report at Mid-Winter that  
5     it's taken care of.

6           Thank you all.

7           Commander, thank you.

8           COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Thank you.

9           Now we are into the Commission Reports.

10          We'll have Membership, 1st Vice Commander Stan  
11     Oren, again.

12          1VC OREN:  Still.

13          Good morning again.

14          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  Good morning.

15          1VC OREN:  Well, we're doing fairly well.

16          I want to bring up the Brown Jug.  The 12th won  
17     the small District.  The 2nd won the medium  
18     District.  Congratulations.  Good job.

19          But as you've seen Bob Schmitt walk in with  
20     that cap that had the yellow on it, they happen to  
21     be leading us by a few tenths.  We need to get ahead  
22     of them.  They only need one victory on Ohio.  We  
23     need membership to get back ahead of those guys.

24          Nothing personal, Bob.

25          ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT:  When I was Department

1 Commander, we were ahead of them.

2 1VC OREN: We are just a few tenths under them  
3 right now.

4 And with that, we have -- when do we do the  
5 lantern change?

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Whenever you want, sir.  
7 You can do it now, but there's no change.

8 1VC OREN: There's no change? The same people  
9 hold the same lantern?

10 Whoever has got that red lantern, let's get to  
11 work.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: At least that's what Sherry  
13 told me. We discussed it in depth yesterday.

14 1VC OREN: Okay.

15 So that would be the 14th District.

16 ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: They do have the  
17 lanterns with them?

18 1VC OREN: I see the green one sitting here  
19 with the 12th District, who is in first place.

20 Thank you, Suzette.

21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: And Mike.

22 1VC OREN: And Mike, excuse me.

23 So I have not seen the red one. The 7th  
24 District is in possession of it, but I don't see it  
25 here.

1           ALTERNATE NEC SCHMITT: That's a fine if they  
2 don't have it.

3           1VC OREN: Who's got the red one? John?

4           14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: I'm not in possession  
5 of it. Not yet at least.

6           John Life.

7           1VC OREN: John Life, excuse me.

8           COMMANDER WHATLEY: When you speak, stand up  
9 and say your name and what District you're from,  
10 please, so they can record it.

11          1VC OREN: Because right now I show on my  
12 paperwork the 14th District is in last place.

13          14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th  
14 District.

15          We are in last place, per the last e-mail I  
16 got. But the last I knew, the 7th District held  
17 that lantern. So we are supposed to exchange it  
18 today, if they have it.

19          1VC OREN: Well, then I guess you lucked out,  
20 John. Because if they didn't want to give it up --  
21 Go ahead. State your name and --

22          7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th  
23 District Commander.

24          I turned that red lantern over at convention to  
25 District 4.



1           1VC OREN:   Okay, District 4.

2           4TH DISTRICT CMDR WILSON:   Robert Wilson,  
3   District 4 Commander.

4           My 1st Vice was planning to come here but he  
5   got called up.   He's in the Reserves.   So I didn't  
6   have time to go get the lantern.

7           1VC OREN:   We'll excuse you, Robert.   I know  
8   the 14th really wants that bad.

9           All right, moving on.   Like I said, Ohio is in  
10   tenth place now.   And we're about 2.28 behind  
11   Michigan.   So we're at almost 72 percent.

12           We need 75 by Wednesday.   So can you guys hit  
13   the phones and start calling?   I need your help.   I  
14   appreciate it.

15           Now for the Internal Affairs.

16           We held a meeting October 5th, at 8:00 AM, and  
17   went we over Resolution 24-05, standing commission  
18   meeting, Dean Boyers, 1st District 1st Vice  
19   Commander, scheduling the standing commission  
20   meetings.

21           The current bylaw mandates that standing  
22   commission meetings will be held two weeks after the  
23   convention.   Still, flexibility is needed due to the  
24   potential conflict with other events, such as a DEC  
25   and workshops, membership workshops.   A motion is

1 needed to change the bylaws to allow flexibility in  
2 the scheduling of the standing commission.

3 12th District 1st Vice Suzette Heller motioned,  
4 seconded by 14th District 2nd Vice Jacob Marks, to  
5 approve the Resolution 25-05. Discussion: Send a  
6 resolution to the Internal Affairs and Finance  
7 Commission, and the Adjutant and the Commanders, for  
8 the approval of a new number. It will then go to  
9 the DEC.

10 So how we doing on that?

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I have not received it.

12 1VC OREN: Okay.

13 And then the motion carried, passed.

14 Next, the Department purchasing of the early  
15 bird stamps. That costs the Department five to  
16 \$6,000 every year or two. And the resolution is to  
17 do away with the early bird stamp because a lot of  
18 Posts don't use it. It seems like, you know, it's a  
19 waste of money. And we're trying to save money.

20 The first proposal was to purchase a stamp for  
21 every Post. After further discussion, it was  
22 determined that not every Post uses them. Why would  
23 we buy a stamp for every Post?

24 So, through the discussion, we decided that  
25 every Post, if they want to do the early bird stamp,

1    they buy their own stamp.  They can get that through  
2    Emblem Sales.  And they can use it and save us  
3    money.

4           Tim Shaw, 2nd District 1st Vice, motioned the  
5    Department to no longer supply early bird stickers  
6    and turn it over to the Posts, seconded by William  
7    Little, 6th District.  Motion passed.

8           Comments?

9           Yes, Al.

10          HISTORIAN BEYER:  Al Beyer, Post 523.

11          Could you clarify the purpose of the early  
12   stamp to begin with?  I mean, what is the benefit?

13          1VC OREN:  Some people just like to have the  
14   stamp that they paid early, and it shows that you  
15   paid early and stuff.  That's really what it is, as  
16   far as I know.

17          Chappy.

18          NEC CHAPMAN:  Commander, Alternate Executive  
19   Committeeman Chapman.

20          To answer your question, first of all, the  
21   early bird stamps were used as an incentive.  And  
22   many Posts still do use that as a dinner invitation.  
23   They'll offer a banquet or a recognition dinner.  
24   And if you have an early bird stamp on your card,  
25   they let you into that dinner at no charge.

1     Otherwise, they charge you your dues at the door.

2             You know, it was used to drive membership.

3     That's the way it was established and that's why it  
4     was there for so many years. And that's just  
5     another tradition that's kind of fallen away. And  
6     it's something that we should be teaching, but we're  
7     not.

8             My next question concerning the early bird  
9     stickers is: Has the Department of Ohio depleted  
10    the overstock that we had in those?

11            We had thousands of them in the back for years.  
12    Because the color doesn't matter. I think at one  
13    time we were distributing those regardless of color.  
14    So are those depleted?

15            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We are down to a, maybe a  
16    year's supply of what we've had. We were going to  
17    have to order more after this coming year. So we  
18    have probably 5,000.

19            NEC CHAPMAN: I think we should use those until  
20    they're depleted. Maybe since all Posts don't do  
21    it, you could do it on request. I think we should  
22    use those as an option too. And that will give us  
23    some shelf space back there.

24            1VC OREN: Okay. Thank you, Chappy.

25            And further on that, a rubber stamp is about

1     \$20, or a self-inking one \$25.

2             So, that motion did pass.

3             11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN:  Commander.

4             1VC OREN:  Yes, Thom.

5             11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN:  Thom Stan, 11th  
6     District Commander.

7             I think a five dollar discounted membership  
8     before Veterans Day goes a long, long way to get  
9     membership cards in.

10            1VC OREN:  Any other discussion?

11            10TH DISTTRICT CMDR MAROTTO:  1st Vice  
12     Commander, 10th District Commander Howard Marotto.

13            I don't know, but it seems to me that certain  
14     Posts do that every year.

15            1VC OREN:  Yeah, they do.

16            10TH DISTTRICT CMDR MAROTTO:  So, I don't know,  
17     it just a tradition that, you know, that I guess if  
18     you guys do the five dollars off it's an incentive.  
19     Anytime that you can induce somebody to sign their  
20     membership early, with a \$5 discount or whatever  
21     they're willing to take, and the Post keeps the cost  
22     of it, it's a small, minor deal.

23            So I know that a lot of Posts that have gaming,  
24     they do have a little bit of money in their kitty.  
25     So they can cover those kinds of costs.  I know that

1 for smaller Posts that don't have the gaming it  
2 might be a little difficult.

3 So is that going to be brought before the DEC  
4 to be voted on or not?

5 1VC OREN: Yes.

6 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They need to vote on that  
7 now, --

8 1VC OREN: Okay.

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: -- to approve the report.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Point of order.

11 1VC OREN: Yes. Yes, Gary.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So this motion that  
13 you're making to the DEC for the DEC's approval is  
14 not doing away with an early bird program.

15 1VC OREN: No.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: It's just doing away  
17 with the stamps, which is kind of good because like  
18 we only get 50. And so now, if I have my own stamp,  
19 I can make it 100. I can make it everybody.

20 So I think, and sorry, I'm putting too much  
21 into it, but point of order, for clarification, this  
22 is not doing away with it?

23 1VC OREN: No. It's just giving it to the  
24 Posts to take care of.

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right.

1           So then it's got to be moved by the committee  
2   to accept.

3           ADJUTANT ROBINSON:  It's been approved by the  
4   committee.

5           1VC OREN:  I need a motion.

6           Oh, the Commander takes care of that.

7           Commander, I'll put it to you.

8           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO:  You made the motion.  
9   We need a second on that.

10          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  The motion has been  
11   properly -- we need a second for getting rid of the  
12   early bird sticker and buying rubber stamps.

13          5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS:  Melissa Rodgers,  
14   Post 12, District 5, seconds the motion.

15          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  The motion has been  
16   properly made and --

17          ADJUTANT ROBINSON:  We are not buying rubber  
18   stamps.

19          TREASURER LEWIS:  We're not buying them.

20          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Correct.

21          The motion has been properly made and seconded  
22   that Department do not purchase any more of the  
23   early bird stickers, that each Post buy their own  
24   rubber sticker to put on the early bird membership.

25          Discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Discussion?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all vote for  
5 it by using the usual sign.

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
8 right.

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

11 1VC OREN: Thank you for your time. Thank you  
12 for your hard work. And keep the membership coming.  
13 Thank you.

14 Commander.

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

16 Okay, Gary Cox, Jr., 2nd Vice Commander,  
17 Activities.

18 2VC COX, JR.: Good morning.

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Morning.

20 2VC COX, JR.: We having fun yet?

21 FROM THE FLOOR: Oh yeah.

22 2VC COX, JR.: I want to make sure I wake you  
23 guys up.

24 Well, there's not a lot coming up. We've got  
25 Mid-Winter here in January.



1           But while we are at Mid-Winter, I was told that  
2   we need to definitely hit this up. There is a  
3   Department Golf Committee that is meeting there  
4   Saturday, June (sic) 18th, at 11:00 AM. So if you  
5   guys want to know more information about the  
6   upcoming Department Golf Tournament, I would ask  
7   that you be there, especially if you want to host or  
8   be one of the hosts for that.

9           FROM THE FLOOR: Do you mean January?

10          2VC COX, JR.: That's what I said, January.

11          FROM THE FLOOR: You said "June."

12          2VC COX, JR.: Oh, June? I stand corrected.

13   Thank you. I read "January," I said "June." I was  
14   thinking about my birthday. I've got June on the  
15   mind. It's too cold.

16          The Department Bowling Tournament -- yes,  
17   Harold (sic).

18          10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Howard Marotto,  
19   10th District Commander.

20          Could you repeat the date again? June 6th did  
21   you say?

22          2VC COX<sup>2</sup> JR.: January 18th is the meeting at  
23   Mid-Winter.

24          10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Okay.

25          2VC COX, JR.: We don't have the Department, I

1 don't believe we have the golf tournament yet,  
2 figured up for next year. That's what we're going  
3 to discuss. But it will probably be --

4 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: You're going to  
5 set the dates and the costs and all that?

6 2VC COX, JR.: Yep, get all that squared away.

7 It would behoove you to be there, especially if  
8 you want to host it. Hint, hint.

9 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Thank you.

10 2VC COX, JR.: Yes, sir.

11 Anything else on the Department Golf Tournament  
12 or the committee?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 2VC COX, JR.: In February we do have the  
15 bowling tournament. That's up in Toledo, Maumee  
16 Post 320. And right now we already have 50 teams  
17 registered. That's pretty good for a three-weekend  
18 event, but we still need more.

19 In case you guys haven't ever done it before,  
20 go out and have a little bit of fun, I would highly  
21 suggest it.

22 Other than that, that's pretty much what I have  
23 when it comes to what's coming up. There is still  
24 the events in April.

25 What's up, Al?

1 HISTORIAN BEYER: Al Beyer, Post 523.

2 Where is the bowling tournament going to be  
3 this coming year?

4 2VC COX, JR.: Bowlero, Toledo, Ohio, February  
5 8th and 9th, 15th and 16th, 21 through 23.

6 HISTORIAN BEYER: I'm sorry.

7 2VC COX, JR.: Toledo, Ohio.

8 HISTORIAN BEYER: Toledo.

9 2VC COX, JR.: Maumee Post 320 is hosting it.

10 FROM THE FLOOR: What bowling alley?

11 2VC COX, JR.: Bowlero.

12 HISTORIAN BEYER: Thank you.

13 2VC COX, JR.: Sir.

14 NEC CHAPMAN: NEC Chapman.

15 Would you let them know what the cut-off date  
16 is for that or have we already reached that?

17 2VC COX, JR.: I don't believe we've reached  
18 it. I think you can go all the way up until showing  
19 up. I've had people show up when we've had it the  
20 past two years.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: If we have room.

22 2VC COX, JR.: Yes, if we have room. You're  
23 absolutely correct.

24 The dates are February 8th and 9th, 15th and  
25 16th, 21st through the 23rd. It's three weekends in

1 February. So you have three different dates that  
2 you can choose from to go.

3 Any other questions about the Department  
4 Bowling -- yes, sir.

5 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Howard Marotto,  
6 District 10.

7 Is that going to be posted on the Department's  
8 Facebook?

9 2VC COX<sup>2</sup> JR.: It should be on the Department's  
10 Facebook. It is on the Department page, under  
11 "Events, Post Activities."

12 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Thank you.

13 2VC COX, JR.: Any other questions about the  
14 Department Bowling Tournament?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 2VC COX, JR.: All right, carry on. Thank you  
17 all for your time.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

19 Next up we have Christie White for Americanism,  
20 Buckeye Boys State, Athletic Commission, Oratorical,  
21 Religious Emphasis, and Children and Youth  
22 Commission Coordinator.

23 COORDINATOR WHITE: I'll be quick, I promise.  
24 For this DEC, you have two less reports from me  
25 because I don't have Legislative and National

1 Security.

2 The Americanism Commission met on October 5,  
3 virtually.

4 It was moved and seconded to approve the  
5 minutes of the last meeting.

6 It was moved and seconded to accept Eric Higgs  
7 from the 9th District as the Department Educator of  
8 the Year.

9 The CPR Awards packet was discussed. It was  
10 motioned and seconded to accept the Alice Friedman  
11 and Mickael Golato sections of the new CPR Awards  
12 Packet.

13 It was motioned and seconded to approve  
14 Districts 3, 9, 11, and 5, the Auxiliary Americanism  
15 Chairwoman and the SAL Americanism Chairman to judge  
16 the A&G tests at Mid-Winter. Districts 1, 13, and 7  
17 will be the alternates for the judging.

18 The judging for A&G will be January 17th, at  
19 5:00 PM. That's that first day at Mid-Winter  
20 Conference.

21 The A&G Trip dates are March 3rd through March  
22 7th. The wreath laying for Arlington National  
23 Cemetery will be Wednesday, March 5th, at 12:15.

24 The Americanism Commission discussed the Daniel  
25 J. O'Connor Award because we won the National award.

1           And the meeting adjourned at 10:30.

2           Any questions on the Americanism minutes?

3           FROM THE ASSEMBLY:   (No response).

4           COORDINATOR WHITE:   Buckeye Boys State met  
5   October 12, 2024.

6           There was a personnel report that was given.

7   Trustee recommendations were Joe Navarre, Andrew  
8   Klingler and Al Buxton.   Those were approved by the  
9   Board of Trustees.

10          Commissioner applications were John Betterson,  
11   Brendan Tisher, Dean Boyers and Brent Worner.   Those  
12   were approved by the Board of Trustees.

13          There were program attendance evaluations for  
14   Joe Ball, William Lindsay, Jerry Perry, Alex Rowen,  
15   William Drexler, Sharon McClain, Alfred Stark, Bruce  
16   Nixon and Bill Jackson.   There were all approved by  
17   the Board of Trustees.

18          Consultant applications were Matthew Old and  
19   Nicholas Hoessle.   Those were approved by the Board  
20   of Trustees, as well as Tyler Rowen and Matthew  
21   Chamberlain.

22          They appointed the Samsung Scholarship  
23   Committee, the Hall of Fame Committee, and the Boys  
24   Nation Selection Committee.

25          The dates for Boys State 2025:   The spring

1 meeting will be April 11th and 12th. Buckeye Boys  
2 State will be June 8th through the 15th, at Miami.

3 There was a director's report. We discussed  
4 the National Americanism Conference, had a 2024  
5 program critique, the section heads gave all of  
6 their reports, and the meeting adjourned at 1:18.

7 I'm going quickly because everyone got a copy.  
8 Any questions?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COORDINATOR WHITE: The Athletic Committee met  
11 October 27th, at 9:00 AM, virtual.

12 It was motioned and seconded to accept the  
13 minutes from the previous meeting.

14 Approval of the committee rules. It was  
15 motioned and seconded to accept the committee rules.

16 Super Regional Tournament dates and Junior and  
17 Senior Tournament dates were discussed.

18 On Sunday, February 16th, the Athletic  
19 Committee and coaches will meet and have a bracket  
20 draw. That will be in person and virtual.

21 Tuesday, June 3rd, at 6:00 PM, a Teams call  
22 with Athletic Committee to seed all brackets.

23 Junior Regionals will be the week of July 7th.  
24 The Senior Regionals will be the week of July 14th.  
25 The State Junior Tournament will be July 17th

1 through 20th, in Lancaster. The State Senior  
2 Tournament will be July 25th through 28th, in  
3 Lancaster.

4 The Junior Regional winners need to be sent to  
5 Department by Sunday, July 13th. And the Senior  
6 Regional Winners need to be sent to Department by  
7 July 20th.

8 Team Fees: Juniors' is \$500. Seniors' is  
9 \$600.

10 Background checks and abuse awareness training,  
11 nothing has changed.

12 National Updates: Rules updated for extra  
13 innings. There is also a marketing kit for the  
14 100th anniversary.

15 We're going to work this year on getting a  
16 proclamation from Governor DeWine for our 100th year  
17 for baseball. And we are encouraging all the  
18 regional tournament directors to get proclamations  
19 from their local mayors.

20 State Tournament Review: We asked the SAL if  
21 they can help sponsor a Junior Baseball Tournament.

22 We are also going to work on locating former  
23 Legion and major league baseball players to come to  
24 our 100th anniversary games.

25 New Business: We're having a community fun day



1 once again. That was a big hit last year for  
2 baseball. So we're trying to make it even bigger  
3 for our 100th year.

4 Friday games. The runner-up from each region  
5 will play Friday, and the winner of either game will  
6 compete in the six-team bracket.

7 Regis Kern and Jeff Vrabel, Jr., will work  
8 together on the Region 4 Super Regional Tournament.  
9 That was motioned and seconded.

10 And the meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

11 Any questions on baseball?

12 TREASURER LEWIS: Lewis, Department Treasurer.

13 Can you just verify what the fees are for the  
14 teams, junior and senior, again?

15 COORDINATOR WHITE: Junior is \$500. Senior is  
16 \$600.

17 TREASURER LEWIS: Okay.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: We clear?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay.

21 COORDINATOR WHITE: The Oratorical Committee  
22 met on October 19th, virtually.

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

25 It was motioned and seconded to approve the

1 committee rules.

2 They did a 2024 contest review. Each District  
3 discussed their contest date, which is in the  
4 minutes. It's also on our website.

5 It was motioned and seconded to have all the  
6 District contests finished by March 17th, and all  
7 District winners need to be sent in to Department by  
8 March 17th.

9 The Department Oratorical Contest will be March  
10 30th. We are looking for volunteers. So if anyone  
11 wants to volunteer and you haven't done so, it's  
12 really a cool thing to watch. So let me know.

13 National's contest is May 16th through the  
14 18th, in Hillsdale, Michigan.

15 They discussed and edited the Department  
16 contest packet, which you all should have a copy of  
17 that as well.

18 Prize money was discussed. First place,  
19 \$4,000; second place, \$2,000; and the remainder of  
20 the contestants will receive \$3,000 divided. They  
21 are hoping that they will increase participation  
22 that way.

23 It was motioned and seconded to have the prize  
24 money increased to 4,000, 2,000 and 3,000 divided  
25 between the remainder of the contestants.

1           And it was also motioned and seconded to accept  
2   the oratorical packet with the changes of the  
3   scholarship money and new dates.

4           So they voted that the money, the prize money,  
5   will be a scholarship and not just cash.

6           And then the meeting adjourned at 12:13.

7           COMMANDER WHATLEY: There's money involved. So  
8   I think this require a motion. Is that correct?

9           FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

10          6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th  
11   District Commander, makes a motion to accept the  
12   awards as read by Christie White.

13          PDC RUE: Jason Rue, Immediate Past Department  
14   Commander, seconds.

15          COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been made,  
16   properly, that we accept the increase as far as  
17   scholarships.

18          Can you repeat those again?

19          COORDINATOR WHITE: The scholarship, it's now a  
20   scholarship, and it's first place, \$4,000; second  
21   place, \$2,000; and \$3,000 divided amongst the  
22   remainder of the contestants.

23          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

24          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all those for  
3 it by using the usual sign.

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Those against have the same  
6 right.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

9 COORDINATOR WHITE: The Religious Emphasis  
10 Committee met on September 21st, in the Department  
11 Library.

12 It was motioned and seconded to approve the  
13 minutes from the previous meeting.

14 It was motioned and seconded to approve the  
15 rules of the committee.

16 There was welcoming and opening remarks from  
17 Chaplain Distel.

18 The Father Duffy Award and Chaplain of the Year  
19 Award: The committee started discussing how to get  
20 nominations for each of those awards. It was  
21 motioned and seconded to include the Father Duffy  
22 Award and the Chaplain of the Year in the new CPR  
23 Awards packet.

24 Sunday service for Mid-Winter: Chaplain Distel  
25 notified the committee that he is already planning a

1 Four Chaplains. Department Convention will have a  
2 Catholic service and Protestant service.

3 I believe we have enough volunteers for  
4 Mid-Winter for the Four Chaplains.

5 FROM THE FLOOR: Not yet.

6 COORDINATOR WHITE: Not yet.

7 So if anyone wants to volunteer to help the  
8 Four chaplains, the Department Chaplain would love  
9 to have you.

10 Prayer requests and sick call was discussed,  
11 and the good of The Legion.

12 And the meeting adjourned at 12:34.

13 Any questions on Religious Emphasis?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, let's move.

16 COORDINATOR WHITE: All right, my last one.

17 The Children and Youth Commission met on  
18 October 5th, here at Department Headquarters.

19 It was moved and seconded to approve the  
20 minutes of the last meeting.

21 The 2024-2025 donations for Special Olympics  
22 were discussed, or for Children and Youth were  
23 discussed. They talked about the Special Olympics  
24 Law Enforcement Torch Run. It was motioned and  
25 seconded to accept the Special Olympics Law

1 Enforcement Torch Run as the '24-'25 Children and  
2 Youth Commission selection for donations.

3 Discussion was had on the Flag Program  
4 paperwork, that new fourth grade program that we  
5 started. With it being the first year, there are  
6 some kinks that have to be worked out, some dates  
7 that have to be worked out. So it was motioned and  
8 seconded to change the District winner being  
9 selected by June 1st. It was moved to modify the  
10 motion and seconded to change the date of the  
11 District winners being selected to May 1st.

12 It was motioned and seconded that Post winners  
13 need to be submitted to the Department Chairman by  
14 April 1st.

15 Comic books and tests can be ordered between  
16 when schools in your area start until March 15th.

17 So all of the paperwork is updated and will be  
18 on the website also with these dates.

19 There was also discussion of having a letter  
20 from the Department Commander endorsing the Fourth  
21 Grade Flag Program and sending it to each Post, that  
22 they can use to send to their schools. We created a  
23 sample letter that should have been attached with  
24 the minutes also.

25 It was motioned and seconded to move the

1 deadline for the Child Welfare Worker of the Year  
2 for this past year to October 1st, because there  
3 were no submissions. We still didn't have any  
4 submissions though.

5 Special Olympics was discussed. It was  
6 mentioned to the commission that there is a Special  
7 Olympics page on our website, with all their events  
8 linked. Special Olympics needs volunteers. So  
9 please share the information with your Districts.

10 The Greater Cleveland Young Marines were also  
11 discussed. The commission asked, a member of the  
12 commission asked the commission to support the Young  
13 Marines. We suggested that they go to Charities,  
14 Inc.

15 The meeting adjourned at 12:46.

16 Any questions on the Children and Youth report?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you. Thank you. Job  
19 well done.

20 Let me add this while Jacob is coming up,  
21 especially for the Children and Youth, Americanism  
22 and Oratorical. Those programs is lacking  
23 participation. If we don't get participation and  
24 you show it, some of those funds are probably going  
25 to be cut in the near future. So each District

1     should be able to have three or four different  
2     contestants apply to show that these programs are  
3     actually working.

4             Thank you.

5             Jacob.

6             COORDINATOR BRAULT: Good morning, everybody.

7             For those of you I have not met personally yet,  
8     I'm Jacob Brault. I'm the new Legislative, National  
9     Security and VE&E Coordinator. Sorry, a mouthful.

10            For the National Security minutes I'm about to  
11     do, I was not employed yet for those. If you have  
12     any questions, I'll try my best to answer them. If  
13     I cannot answer them, I can ask Christie and then  
14     get it to you guys.

15            So, for the National Security Commission,  
16     October 5, 2024, at 1:00 PM, in the library.

17            Reading of previous minutes was moved and  
18     seconded to approve the minutes of the last meeting.

19            District reports: Nothing really new.

20            Unfinished business: The Ralph Doll Award  
21     information, Chairman Buxton still has no  
22     information on who Ralph Doll was. The resolution  
23     will still be tabled until the commission finds out  
24     more information. If the commission is not able to  
25     find out more information on who he was, they will



1 probably end up changing the name of the award. It  
2 was motioned and seconded to table the resolution  
3 until the next meeting.

4 CPR Awards packet: It was motioned and  
5 seconded to approve National Security sections of  
6 the CPR Packet, as well as adding the Ralph Doll  
7 Environmental Award criteria.

8 New Business: The 911 Dispatcher of the Year  
9 Resolution, it was a motioned and seconded to amend  
10 the resolution to say, "Whereas, the National  
11 Security Commission commits to finance the award  
12 from their budget."

13 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. It was  
14 motioned and seconded to allow the entire commission  
15 to vote on the of-the-year awards. Each District  
16 cannot vote for their own submission.

17 The commission discussed all the Law Officer of  
18 the Year applications, and it was motioned and  
19 seconded to accept David Handschumacher as the Law  
20 Enforcement Officer of the Year.

21 For Firefighter of the Year, it was motioned  
22 and seconded to accept Daric Homan as the  
23 Firefighter of the Year.

24 Civilian Lifesaver of the Year. It was  
25 motioned and seconded to accept Akelius, Lotoya and

1 Chayce as Civilian Lifesaver of the Year.

2 That meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.

3 Any questions for that one?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Next is the Legislative  
6 Commission meeting of October 12, 2024, at 3:00 PM,  
7 in the Department Headquarters. I was here for that  
8 one if you have questions.

9 Give me a second.

10 So, for approval of previous minutes, motioned  
11 and seconded to approve those minutes of the  
12 previous meeting.

13 Unfinished Business: The Legislator of the  
14 Year was discussed. It was motioned and seconded to  
15 accept the nomination presented for Marcy Kaptur to  
16 be nominated for The American Legion Department of  
17 Ohio Federal Legislator of the Year. Then that  
18 motion was amended and seconded to unanimously vote  
19 for Marcy Kaptur to be nominated for the National  
20 Legislator of the Year Award.

21 Then it was motioned and seconded to create a  
22 proclamation for Marcy Kaptur to be The American  
23 Legion Department of Ohio Federal Legislator of the  
24 Year.

25 Then it was also motioned and seconded to order

1 the same award as previous years for Marcy Kaptur.

2 There were discussions about the criteria for  
3 Legislator of the Year Awards, with locations either  
4 being Washington, D.C., or within their own district  
5 locations.

6 More discussions about the James Cunningham  
7 Award. It was motioned and seconded to accept the  
8 James Cunningham Award in the newly-created CPR  
9 convention awards packet.

10 There is an amended, motioned and seconded, to  
11 accept the James Cunningham Award in the  
12 newly-created CPR convention awards packet with an  
13 instruction page on each award, explaining that the  
14 Post needs to fill it out and then send it to their  
15 District Chair, and the District Chairs will then  
16 select their District winner, with the deadline  
17 attached.

18 That meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.

19 Any questions?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: You're done. Thank you,  
22 Jacob. Great job, great job.

23 (Applause).

24 Ken LaVoy, Finance Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: Good morning.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

2 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: Our last in-person Finance  
3 Commission minutes have been sent out for you to  
4 review prior to this DEC.

5 The Finance Commission continues to meet  
6 virtually on a monthly basis.

7 Since our last year's extensive budget  
8 revision, the commission agreed that it was best to  
9 hold an in-person meeting at the Department to go  
10 over the budget versus actuals, and to also discuss  
11 other financial matters in person. The commission  
12 agreed that this in-person meeting should be done at  
13 least twice a year.

14 After review of our current budget, it was  
15 evident that a couple of areas needed to be  
16 addressed when looking at income versus the money  
17 spent in the various programs. Holly already spoke  
18 to you about Baseball and A&G in her opening  
19 comments. Other areas of concern that were able to  
20 be refined were done by simply insuring that the  
21 expenditures were carried in the correct columns.  
22 And this is going to be, of course, ongoing as we  
23 continue to refine our detailed budget.

24 The commission continues to look at areas to  
25 insure future cost savings and additional revenue

1 streams. As mentioned in the minutes, we are  
2 looking at higher yield CDs in the coming months.  
3 And a couple of simple items that were addressed and  
4 passed by the Finance Commission are referenced in  
5 the minutes. And this is in regards to our 1st Vice  
6 and 2nd Vice District caps.

7 Right now, if you're not aware and haven't  
8 ordered caps personally, the cost has significantly  
9 increased, once you start adding all this additional  
10 stitching on the side for the position. So we're  
11 looking instead at getting rid of the 1st/2nd Vice  
12 cap and going to just "Vice Commander." I know the  
13 3rd District and a couple of other Districts have  
14 done that.

15 In addition to that, as you can see by our  
16 attire, no one is really wearing a coat and tie,  
17 except for our Historian. So, in doing that, we're  
18 looking at getting rid of the every year Commander  
19 ties, and using those ties that everybody has  
20 already received and then rotating them out. So  
21 that should also help with cutting some of our  
22 additional costs that we spend.

23 In addition to this, the commission began  
24 reviewing various Department Commander's vehicle  
25 policies following our past National Convention.

1 The reason for this is multiple.

2 The current cost of the vehicle that is  
3 representative of the Department Commander far  
4 exceeds the \$25,000 allotment that we currently give  
5 to our Commander. The \$25,000 expenditure to the  
6 Department has no return on investment. The end of  
7 the year paperwork that is required by our staff  
8 also is time consuming. There's no guarantee that  
9 an incoming Commander has adequate excess funds to  
10 pay for the difference for the required vehicle.

11 This would further limit the pool of qualified  
12 candidates that may simply not have the funds to pay  
13 for a vehicle that is representative of a Commander.

14 Any increase to the monies awarded to an  
15 incoming Commander for a vehicle purchase would only  
16 increase and be temporary over time, because, as we  
17 all know, the costs have continually increased in  
18 purchasing a vehicle.

19 For those Departments that did respond to our  
20 inquiry, no Department paid monies towards a vehicle  
21 to their Commander or purchased a vehicle outright  
22 for them. Ohio is unique in this approach.

23 Based on all input received, the commission  
24 looked at various options for recommendation to the  
25 DEC and recommended the best solution for

1 consideration being the Department purchases a  
2 vehicle that is American made or named, and it be an  
3 SUV which would be supportive of escorting a  
4 National Commander or other individual visiting  
5 Ohio. The vehicle would be on a two-year rotation  
6 basis for approximately 60,000 miles. This would  
7 help insure a maximum trade-in value. Magnetized  
8 signage would be used versus having the vehicle  
9 wrapped, which would also further save on costs.

10 Since this, I was told, requires a change to  
11 the current Constitution and Bylaws, the Finance  
12 Commission is providing this information to the DEC  
13 for consideration and a future vote. We're not  
14 asking you to vote now because this is something  
15 that needs to be discussed.

16 In closing, last year's Finance Commission  
17 presented, before this Committee, the need to make  
18 several staff salaries more competitive and within  
19 the guidelines of the federal and state regulations.  
20 The effort was agreed to by the DEC and set to take  
21 place over a two-year period. In addition, any  
22 cost-of-living adjustments that are required, or  
23 other salary increases, also need to be discussed.

24 I would like to ask the Commander that we move  
25 into executive session, either before lunch or

1 immediately following lunch, to discuss this as a  
2 DEC.

3 And this is pending any questions that the DEC  
4 may have.

5 Thank you, Commander. That concludes my  
6 report.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

8 At this time we will go into executive session.

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

11 Did you look at leasing for two years?

12 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: We did look at leasing  
13 options.

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Let me do this. Let's go  
15 ahead and accept his report.

16 I need a motion and a second.

17 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th  
18 District 1st Vice, I motion to accept the report.

19 2ND DISTRICT 1VC SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District  
20 1st Vice, seconds the motion.

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All right, the motion has  
22 been properly made and seconded.

23 Any discussion?

24 NEC CHAPMAN: Yes.

25 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay.



1           NEC CHAPMAN: National Executive Committeeman  
2 Chapman.

3           You stated that that was constitutional.

4           CHAIRMAN LaVOY: That's what I was informed.

5           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's a bylaw.

6           NEC CHAPMAN: It's in the bylaws?

7           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I know it's in the bylaws.  
8 I just don't know exactly where.

9           Robinson, Adjutant.

10          NEC CHAPMAN: I don't ever recall seeing it. I  
11 don't think it's in there. It's not part of the  
12 bylaws and the constitution, I'm pretty sure.

13          12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: It's not.

14          CHAIRMAN LaVOY: I was told it was.

15          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I misspoke.

16          NEC CHAPMAN: Yeah. And it's irrelevant, but  
17 Gary --

18          CHAIRMAN LaVOY: But whether it is or it  
19 isn't --

20          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Past Commander.

21          PDC KLOSTERMEIER: When is the executive  
22 session?

23          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Not yet. We're in  
24 discussion right now.

25          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: In the report, you're

1 asking the DEC to approve this car amendment?

2 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: No. I'm saying I'm just  
3 leaving it to the DEC. It's information only right  
4 now for the DEC. I'm not asking for a --

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: By approving this  
6 report, we're not really approving any change at  
7 all?

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Exactly.

9 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: Other than the cap and the  
10 tie.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The cap and the tie.

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: No other questions.

13 All for it by using the usual sign.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
16 right.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

19 We will now go into executive session.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: John Life had his hand up.

21 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th  
22 District 1st Vice Commander.

23 I do believe we actually have to have a motion  
24 and a second to go into the executive session. You  
25 can't just --

1           COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Okay.

2           FROM THE FLOOR:  Correct.

3           COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Thank you.  Thank you.

4           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO:  So the motion has  
5   been made by the Committee Chairman to go into  
6   executive session.  We need a second.

7           COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Yes, I need a second.

8           6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER:  Chris Miller, 6th  
9   District Commander, seconds.

10          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  A motion has been properly  
11   made and seconded.

12          Any discussion?

13          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  (No response).

14          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Any discussion?

15          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  (No response).

16          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Hearing none, all for it by  
17   using the usual sign.

18          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  Aye.

19          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  All against have the same  
20   right.

21          FROM THE ASSEMBLY:  (No response).

22          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Motion carries.

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

25          We need a motion to reconvene the DEC.

1           NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC, makes a motion to  
2 reconvene.

3           6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: 6th District  
4 Commander seconds.

5           COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly  
6 made to reconvene the DEC.

7           Any discussion?

8           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

10          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all those for  
12 it by using the usual sign.

13          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

14          COMMANDER WHATLEY: All those against have the  
15 same right.

16          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

18          TREASURER LEWIS: Lewis, Department Treasurer,  
19 I make a motion to approve the employee raises  
20 discussed in the executive session.

21          3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd  
22 District Commander, seconds.

23          COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been  
24 properly made and seconded that we approve the  
25 raises for our staff.

1 Any discussion?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, those for it  
6 by using the usual sign.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
9 right.

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion carries. Thank  
12 you.

13 Geno.

14 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Genochio.

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: How you doing? Genochio.

16 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Hey, call me whatever,  
17 I'll answer. It's all good.

18 Good morning. It's still morning here.

19 The Department of Veteran Affairs and  
20 Rehabilitation Committee meeting was called to order  
21 on Saturday, October 5th of 2024, virtually, at 2:00  
22 PM, by the Chairman, David Cook of the 6th District.  
23 We had a quorum set up. So we had enough to conduct  
24 business.

25 There was a reading of the previous minutes.

1     There was a motion and a second to accept them as  
2     e-mailed out.

3             District reports:

4             We had no report for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd  
5     District.

6             The 4th District, Jerry Perry gave an overview  
7     of the VAVS meeting attended at the Cincinnati VA  
8     Medical Center.

9             The 5th District, Darell Bishop reported on the  
10    need to take photos with dignitaries you are meeting  
11    with and note what you talked about and their stand  
12    on it.

13            6th District, no report.

14            At the time of this meeting, the 7th and 8th  
15    was vacant. We have now filled the 8th District, I  
16    believe.

17            9th District, William Dittbrand held a  
18    veterans appreciation event. They held a bingo at  
19    the VA.

20            10th District, Bob Rhodes assessed getting food  
21    for the needy and coats for the kids.

22            11th was no report.

23            12th District, George Mussi will hold a  
24    standdown on September 10th.

25            13th District, Leroy Brinkhoff did a VAVS, no

1 report. They will be going to the hospital on  
2 Friday, October 11th.

3 14th District, Bob Carson held a standdown  
4 September 10th, with approximately 418 veterans that  
5 attended. The best one they've held.

6 We had unfinished business.

7 Veterans Treatment Court, there was no report  
8 or request for money at that time.

9 We gave an update on bills. Myself went over  
10 the following: House Bill 69, which was still in  
11 Committee; House Resolution 1282, the Major Star  
12 Act, is still in Committee; HR 303, the bill to  
13 allow veterans to retire and receive both VA with no  
14 offset, is still in committee.

15 And then does anybody need a brief overview of  
16 those bills? They're all on the minutes of what  
17 they are.

18 We had new business.

19 I gave a DSO report. In Cincinnati, we have  
20 hired a DSO. That is now in question. I will  
21 follow up as I know more.

22 And Gary Felver stepped forward and helped  
23 offer training. I did the initial training of the  
24 DSO. Gary provided us some secondary training due  
25 to the locality. So it made it definitely a lot

1 easier on myself.

2 We are currently looking for a DSO for the  
3 Chillicothe VA Medical Center. The information is  
4 out on Indeed. I've been looking at applications.  
5 And after the 1st of the year, it will get hot and  
6 heavy. We'll try to get someone in there as fast as  
7 possible.

8 There was a new bill that was brought up, or a  
9 House Resolution. So I gave a brief overview of  
10 House Resolution 333, which is the Disabled Veterans  
11 Tax Termination Act. It is in a subcommittee. This  
12 is to modify military retired pay to allow those  
13 with less than 50 percent disability to receive both  
14 military retirement pay as well as VA disability  
15 pay.

16 And then Project 25 we've all heard about. We  
17 just touched on it as the VA is looking to  
18 reconstruct the disability rating system. That was  
19 for informational purposes only.

20 Again, I gave a DSO report to the committee,  
21 which we have found somebody for Cincinnati. Again,  
22 there's some question marks on that. So I will get  
23 that information out to our Department Adjutant once  
24 we actually, 100 percent, solidify that.

25 The Gifts for Yanks Report, Darell Bishop of



1 the 5th District stated he has not received any  
2 reports from the Department at the time.

3 Awards. Myself gave a brief review of the  
4 awards. We noted that our spring meeting is to be  
5 planned in person, to make the judging and voting on  
6 it for a better process. Genochio stated most are  
7 National awards.

8 The Department Awards are the Veterans Affairs  
9 Award and the Al Shaefer.

10 The VAVS National Volunteer of the Year, VA  
11 Physician of the Year, VA Healthcare Worker of the  
12 Year, and certificates of appreciation for our  
13 outstanding VA officials, and the William F. Lenker  
14 Award are all National Awards. So we'll be putting  
15 the package together.

16 We had no resolutions.

17 For the good of the Legion we had nothing to  
18 report.

19 Closing prayer was conducted by Darell Bishop  
20 of the 5th District. We saluted the colors and we  
21 adjourned the meeting at 2:25 PM.

22 That is my report, Commander.

23 And I do have just one brief announcement on  
24 the Legion Riders, but I'll yield that until we have  
25 a vote or whatever you need on this.

1           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any questions?

2           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any questions?

4           FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, you may  
6 proceed.

7           COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Okay.

8           Just a quick update on the Legion Riders. As  
9 we go into the winter season, there's not a lot of  
10 riding being done.

11          But I did want to point out to you, to take  
12 back to your Districts, at Mid-Winter, on January  
13 18th, at 12:30 to 1:30, in the Westerville Room,  
14 there will be doing an American Legion Riders  
15 District Directors meeting.

16          Following that, later on in the afternoon,  
17 January 18th, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, in Dublin 3 and 4,  
18 will be the ALR meeting for the entire Legion Rider  
19 body.

20          Again that concludes my report, Commander.

21          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you. Job well done.

22          We have next Jon Vulgamore.

23          COORDINATOR VULGAMORE: Good afternoon, DEC  
24 body.

25          The Media, Marketing and Communications

1 Commission held their virtual meeting on Tuesday,  
2 October 15th. It was called to order at 6:02 PM.  
3 There were nine members present, three  
4 subcommissioners present, two members absent, two  
5 members excused, and one member vacancy remains with  
6 the 4th District.

7 Due to previous meeting minutes being read from  
8 July 23rd, being e-mailed to the commission for  
9 review, a motion was entertained to approve to  
10 approve and suspend the reading of minutes. Steve  
11 Ebersole, District 12, so motioned and Bob Mason,  
12 District 5, seconded the motion. No discussion was  
13 offered. And the commission oral vote unanimously  
14 passed approving the minutes as presented.

15 Next, Staff Liaison Vulgamore gave his MMC  
16 report to the commission. During this report, Chris  
17 Emmons, District 3, moved to entertain a motion to  
18 present the interactive newsletter full version  
19 software annual expense of \$168 a year for the DEC  
20 approval. Bob White, District 13, so motioned. Al  
21 Beyer, District 5, seconded the motion. The  
22 commission oral vote also unanimously passed for  
23 this.

24 Continuing on, we had a discussion about  
25 running ads in the newsletter. After some

1 discussion, the consensus was reached to research  
2 similar publications to ours and gauge the pricing  
3 and comparisons to ascertain how to redo the size  
4 and pricing for the ads or to discontinue this work  
5 process.

6 So, after that, I'll get back to the commission  
7 and we may have a motion presented to change the ad  
8 distribution in the publication.

9 After this, some additional good of the  
10 commission announcements were made and the meeting  
11 was adjourned at 6:58.

12 Also, after the meeting this past week, a  
13 currently active motion on the table is an  
14 additional MMC Commission decision e-mail vote,  
15 which is in progress.

16 Chair Emmons, District 3, moved to entertain a  
17 motion to support Bob White's travel to the  
18 Army-Navy game in the form of \$400, out of the  
19 untouched \$1500 yearly budget, with the stipulation  
20 that he provides back his pictures and report to the  
21 commission at the next meeting. Holly Lewis,  
22 District 10, so motioned. Al Beyer, District 5,  
23 seconded the motion. And currently we have eight  
24 yeas on the e-mail vote, which puts it enough for a  
25 majority. I don't have everyone's response as of

1 today. During this meeting there were a few more.

2 So this concludes my report.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: I need a motion to accept  
4 this report.

5 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd  
6 District, so moves.

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

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly  
10 made and seconded that we accept this report and the  
11 said funds.

12 Any discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all vote for  
17 it by the using the usual sign.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
20 right.

21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

22 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

23 Thank you, Jon.

24 Adjutant Robinson will be doing the next two  
25 reports, which are the Sons of The American Legion

1 report and Internal Affairs.

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Thank you, Commander.

3 Afternoon, again, everybody.

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Afternoon.

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The SAL report is going to  
6 be really short. I did not attend the meeting, as  
7 my daughter got married that day. And Scott  
8 Thornton or Skip Craun, either one, sent a report  
9 in, as they normally would. So I don't have a lot  
10 to report, other than they had a very successful  
11 meeting. But I can't tell you who they actually  
12 donated to. But I did talk to them afterwards. And  
13 they said it was a very good meeting.

14 I attended Tim Conway's homecoming shortly  
15 after that meeting. And everything, they said it  
16 was copacetic, as normal. Everything was normal.

17 So I haven't saw the list of donations.  
18 Normally they donate about \$5,000 this time of year.

19 Any questions on SAL?

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I can get the list to you  
22 and send it out so you can review it.

23 Next up is Internal Affairs Committee.

24 Stan Oren called the meeting to order at 6:00  
25 PM. We had barely enough for our quorum, but we

1     made it.

2             The first issue that we took care of was 50/50  
3     Fanthom Gaming. We discussed this last year about  
4     this time. Everybody wanted some more information  
5     on it, so we started digging down into it.

6             The contract -- for those that don't know what  
7     this is, it's a statewide 50/50. You have to be  
8     within the boundaries of Ohio to be able to play it.  
9     It runs through a website that would be linked to  
10    our website. It's a standalone website.

11            As they play it, there is one winner. We can  
12    set whether we want to do it every week, every two  
13    weeks, once a month, however we determine.

14            That's where we're headed right now. But first  
15    we have to say whether we can do it or not.

16            I lost my train of thought.

17            The way this would break down is: The winner  
18    would get 50 percent, we would pay ten percent for  
19    processing, 20 percent would go back to Posts that  
20    play, and the other 20 percent would come to the  
21    Department.

22            In the discussion, I related that Florida had  
23    made about \$86,000 off of this in their state last  
24    year. There's no reason we can't do the same for  
25    our Department. We have just about as many people

1 who definitely like gambling. Just saying.

2 The IA voted to pass this. There is a one-year  
3 out if we do not like it.

4 And the contract, if we don't feel like it's  
5 doing what we need it to do, we can cancel it. It's  
6 a three-year contract, but we can cancel it after a  
7 year if we deem it's not working the way we think it  
8 should.

9 Do we have questions on this?

10 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd  
11 District.

12 Are we going to have a one-sheeter about Posts  
13 participating in it?

14 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes. Yeah, we'll have --  
15 I'm targeting Mid-Winter for our first drawing.

16 But I will have all that information out once  
17 you guys give me permission to do it. It's kind of  
18 pointless to get all that energy put into it and  
19 then you say no.

20 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons. I  
21 motion we go forward with this program.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I can't ask for a vote,  
23 Commander.

24 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Was that a motion?

25 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: That's a motion.



1           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Then we need a second.

2           11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Commander, Thom Stan,  
3 11th District Commander, I'll second that motion.

4           COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been  
5 properly made and seconded that we go ahead with the  
6 video gaming.

7           Any discussion?

8           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No, that's 50/50.

9           COMMANDER WHATLEY: I'm sorry, the 50/50.

10          Any discussion?

11          5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS: Melissa Rodgers, 5th  
12 District 1st Vice.

13          Will this be open to any Legion member, i.e.,  
14 the Auxiliary?

15          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's open to the public.  
16 Anybody can play.

17          5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS: Okay.

18          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: As long as they can get on  
19 a website, which you can do off most people's phones  
20 this day and age, anybody can play it.

21          5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS: As long as you're  
22 within the State of Ohio?

23          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yep, as long as you're  
24 within our borders. It's a geographical raffle.

25          5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS: So even people who

1 are up here just visiting the State of Ohio?

2 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

3 5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS: Okay, thank you.

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Chappy.

5 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

6 Okay, you said that Florida made what, \$86,000?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes, sir.

8 NEC CHAPMAN: In what period of time, a year?

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: About, I think that was  
10 about ten months that they had been doing it.

11 NEC CHAPMAN: Okay, okay.

12 And it's based on, that 86,000 was based on --  
13 it's distributed to the Posts?

14 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They're set up similar to  
15 how we would be set up.

16 NEC CHAPMAN: How does it benefit a Post who  
17 participates?

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The way the Post will make  
19 money off of this is they have to advertise it. So  
20 when I get on my phone or I get on the computer at  
21 the Post to play, I can pick my Post, or I can even  
22 pick your Post if I want to donate money to your  
23 Post. Maybe I hang out at your Post more than I  
24 like my own Post. So whatever Post they pick as  
25 their location, they track how much was spent and

1     you'll get a percentage back to you at that Post.

2           NEC CHAPMAN:   Okay.   So even if it was an even  
3     split, at \$86,000, and if you had 200 Posts  
4     involved, you'd only make \$430?   I don't see --

5           FROM THE FLOOR:   But none of us would have  
6     anything to do for it.

7           But there's no cost to it.

8           ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   No.

9           NEC CHAPMAN:   Still --

10          ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   There's a website set up.  
11     As long as the Post already has a computer, or they  
12     can use a bar code or a QR code, you can scan it.  
13     People can log in off their phones.   As long as the  
14     Post is promoting it, they will make money back.

15          NEC CHAPMAN:   And they can designate the Post  
16     that they want?

17          ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   Yes.   As long as the Post  
18     is active in getting the people to designate them as  
19     their source, that Post will make money.

20          NEC CHAPMAN:   Okay.

21          ADJUTANT ROBINSON:   That's 86,000 to the  
22     Department.

23          PDC KLOSTERMEYER:   PDC Bob Klostermeier.

24          I think we ought to check with the attorney  
25     general's office --

1 FROM THE FLOOR: We already have.

2 PDC KLOSTERMEYER: -- because the 50/50 raffles  
3 that we have at our Posts, the Attorney General's  
4 office, you can pay the 50 percent to whoever wins,  
5 but then they want 25 percent of your 50 percent.  
6 And it came back to haunt at our Posts, along with  
7 e-bingo too.

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I've asked this question  
9 ten different times to the AG's office. And as long  
10 as the raffle is conducted as a raffle, with stubs,  
11 it is legal and you do not have to pay anything on  
12 it.

13 PDC KLOSTERMEYER: I'm just telling you what  
14 they told us.

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Suzette.

16 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah, that's a  
17 raffle. It's not --

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yeah.

19 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: What's the name of  
20 this company?

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Fanthom, F-A-N-T-H-O-M.

22 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: F-A-N-T-H-O-M.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They're out of  
24 Massachusetts.

25 FROM THE FLOOR: It's on your agenda.

1 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Well, thank you.

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Chris.

3 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd  
4 District.

5 One question: If they don't choose a Post when  
6 they gamble, does it default to the Department?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

8 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Okay.

9 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Howard Marotto,  
10 10th District Commander.

11 You're anticipating on rolling this out at  
12 Mid-Winter?

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They told me they can have  
14 it up and running within a month. That's pushing it  
15 very tightly, but yes.

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other questions?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: No?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All for it by using the  
21 usual sign.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
24 right.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

1           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

2           With that being said --

3           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Hold on. I ain't done yet,  
4   Commander. I still have a couple more to go but I  
5   wanted to get that motion in so we could get this  
6   going.

7           At this time, I would, with the Commander's  
8   permission, ask for NEC Chapman to go over Ken  
9   LaVoy's --

10          NEC CHAPMAN: Endorsement?

11          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yeah. That way we can get  
12   it done before lunch.

13          NEC CHAPMAN: Okay.

14          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Through the Commander.

15          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes, absolutely. The more  
16   we do now, the less we have to do later.

17          NEC CHAPMAN: Okay. I'm going to read a  
18   Resolution.

19          Origin: Post 598, Kettering, Thundering 3rd  
20   District.

21          Subject: Endorsement for National Commander.

22          "Whereas, Colonel Kenneth LaVoy, retired,  
23   earned his eligibility for membership in The  
24   American Legion with over 30 consecutive years of  
25   honorable service as a member of the United States

1 Army and the United States Army Reserve from  
2 September 1986 until July 2017; and,

3 "Whereas, he is an experienced, proven leader,  
4 with combat and garrison commands, where he served  
5 with honor in the Army as an infantry and Special  
6 Operations Civil Affairs officer; and,

7 "Whereas, he has lead, managed and directed a  
8 division within the United States Special Operations  
9 Command consisting of four branches and a counter  
10 terrorism fusion cell with military, civilian and  
11 contractor staff, responsible for developing,  
12 coordinating and effectively executing the  
13 classified exercise programs to all geographical  
14 combatant commands, theater special operations  
15 commands, special operations force battle staffs,  
16 and special operations components; and,

17 "Whereas, he has served as an operational  
18 analyst, site lead, the Center for Counterterrorism  
19 Studies for the Joint Special Operations Command  
20 responsible for the global collection, analysis,  
21 resolution, development and insights and lessons  
22 learned for specific operational studies and  
23 facilitated issue resolution at all levels of the  
24 command; and,

25 "Whereas, he has served as a Special Operations

1 Company Commander in direct support of Combined  
2 Joint Special Operations Task Force, Afghanistan,  
3 where his unit was designated as the main effort of  
4 all special operations leading up to the first  
5 presidential election, and received Meritorious Unit  
6 Citation for his unit's achievements; and,

7 "Whereas, Kenneth J. LaVoy currently serves as  
8 the Director of Civil-Military Operations, Adjunct  
9 Faculty and Senior Instructor with Joint Special  
10 Operations University, MacDill Air Force Base,  
11 Florida, and is a strong national security and  
12 military professional with extensive global,  
13 overseas experience in austere environments; and,

14 "Whereas, he is skilled and instructs to the  
15 highest levels of foreign military in civil-military  
16 Operations, counterinsurgency, counterterrorism,  
17 reliance and resistance, information sharing and  
18 collaboration, team building, interagency, senior  
19 staff development, operational and strategic  
20 planning and national strategy; and,

21 "Whereas, Kenneth J. LaVoy is a 30-year paid-up  
22 member for life of the Kettering American Legion  
23 Post 598, in the Department of Ohio; and,

24 "Whereas, he has served The American Legion as  
25 a District Commander, and was the only District to



1 meet 100 percent quota within the Department of  
2 Ohio, accountable for over 8,000 Legionnaires, and  
3 recognized as the only District to achieve and  
4 exceed quota for the 2023-2024 membership year; and,

5 "Whereas, he is a graduate of the National  
6 American Legion College in 2018, founding member and  
7 current Dean of Education for the Buckeye American  
8 Legion College, 2023 to present, where he is  
9 responsible for all academic guidance and instructor  
10 selection and curriculum development of the college;  
11 and,

12 "Whereas, Kenneth J. LaVoy serves as a member  
13 of the National Convention Commission, and is  
14 designated as the National Convention Chairman for  
15 the 2028 National American Legion Convention in  
16 Columbus, Ohio in 2028,

17 "Whereas, he currently serves as the Chairman  
18 of the Department Finance Committee, and served as a  
19 member of the National Employment and Education  
20 Commission, the Department Chairman of the  
21 Legislation Commission, and the Department Executive  
22 Committee; and,

23 "Whereas, he is the current candidate for  
24 Treasurer in The American Legion Department of Ohio  
25 for 2025-2026; and,

1           "Whereas, Kenneth J. LaVoy is a proven  
2 professional speaker as a past producer/host of a  
3 local television show for four years, placed on the  
4 top 20 speakers list for local organizations; and,

5           "Whereas, Kenneth J. LaVoy has, through his  
6 many years of dedication, hard work and experience,  
7 served as a respected and loyal Legionnaire, who has  
8 demonstrated that he has the qualifications required  
9 to serve as the National Commander; now, therefore,  
10 be it

11           "Resolved, that The American Legion Department  
12 of Ohio, at the Department Executive Committee  
13 assembled in Delaware, Ohio on December 7th, 2024,  
14 hereby endorses Kenneth J. LaVoy for the high office  
15 of National Commander of The American Legion; and be  
16 it

17           "Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be  
18 transmitted to the National Headquarters of The  
19 American Legion."

20           I make a motion as a member of this Executive  
21 Committee to approve this endorsement.

22           3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd  
23 District, seconds.

24           COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly  
25 made that we approve this endorsement for National

1 Commander of Ken LaVoy.

2 Any discussion?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all for it by  
7 using the usual sign.

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
10 right.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

13 (Applause).

14 PDC MASOWICK: Gentlemen, with all due respect,  
15 Steve Masowick, Past PDC, can we have some comments  
16 from the incoming National Commander, hopefully?

17 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: I'm going to make this very  
18 brief.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, good job.

20 (Applause).

21 CHAIRMAN LaVOY: First and foremost, thank you.

22 But I will keep it brief, because I know lunch  
23 is around the corner.

24 I just want to thank you. It's an honor to  
25 be -- it's a big honor. And I want to thank you for

1 the trust you've placed in me as your candidate for  
2 National Commander.

3 I look forward to representing the Department  
4 of Ohio American Legion. And I want to thank  
5 everyone for the advice and support you've shown me  
6 this last year, as I begin this journey.

7 This is just one little, small step. There's  
8 many, many more to go.

9 And again, thank you very much.

10 (Applause).

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, our IA meeting  
12 concluded with all customs and courtesies.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you. Thank you.

14 Is anybody hungry?

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yeah.

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: I would like to suspend the  
17 DEC for lunch, to reconvene in 30 minutes.

18 (THEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS STOOD IN RECESS).

19 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The DEC is reconvened.

21 Post Charters and suspensions, JD Robinson.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Nice and easy today.

23 Post Charters and revocations, we have two  
24 Squadrons that have applied for inclusion, Squadron  
25 640 and Squadron 710.

1           No. 710 is a reinstatement. They had one about  
2 15 years ago. They had done away with it. The Post  
3 is doing quite well. They would like to start an  
4 SAL Unit Squadron. I've helped them with that.

5           On 640, all I received was their application  
6 and submitted it through.

7           At this time we have no suspensions.

8           At this time there is no closing Posts on  
9 record. We do have several that we're working on.  
10 And I do know of a couple of them that are working  
11 on selling their building, but they are still going  
12 to stay as a viable Post for the foreseeable future.  
13 But I will keep those updates to you as I get them.

14           And there are no closing Squadrons at this  
15 time. We've taken care of all of them.

16           Commander.

17           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Resolutions and  
18 constitutional amendments.

19           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: All right, welcome back.

20           All right, so these are going to get kind of  
21 confusing. But with Gary's help, we'll get through  
22 these.

23           FROM THE FLOOR: Is he here?

24           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: He's over there  
25 (indicating).

1           The video gaming has been presented before.

2    You guys have approved it before. But it was not  
3    done correctly. So it needs your guys' blessing.

4           It will be put under VA&R as a subcommittee of  
5    VA&R.

6           Do you want me to read it? You guys have it.  
7    You've looked at it.

8           FROM THE FLOOR: Read the resolving.

9           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: "Resolved, that the  
10   American Legion Department Executive Committee,  
11   assembled in Delaware, Ohio on August 3rd, 2024,  
12   approves the formation of the Video Gaming  
13   Subcommittee of VA&R; and it be further

14          "Resolved, that each year the Department  
15   Commander shall appoint a five-member Video Gaming  
16   Committee to research and study the effects of  
17   gaming within the Department for social interaction  
18   among its interested members and the veteran  
19   community at large, with regard to veterans' mental  
20   health and potential for membership and business  
21   enhancement, in the support of The American Legion  
22   programs; and, be it further

23          "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee  
24   shall collaborate and establish relationships with  
25   other military gaming charities and organizations;

1 and, be it further

2 "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee make  
3 semiannual reports to the VA&R Committee and the  
4 Department Executive Committee regarding findings  
5 and recommendations; and, be it finally

6 "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee will  
7 meet digitally, to incur no cost, when they meet at  
8 least quarterly to discuss any business of the  
9 committee or whenever called upon by the Department  
10 Commander."

11 IA, Internal Affairs, has approved and Finance  
12 has approved.

13 So now it's up to you guys.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So that's a motion  
15 from --

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We need a motion.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: -- the VA&R  
18 Committee.

19 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th  
20 District 1st Vice commander, makes a motion that we  
21 accept the resolution.

22 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th  
23 District Commander, seconds.

24 COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly  
25 made and seconded that we accept this resolution for

1 the Video Gaming.

2 Any discussion?

3 NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, NEC.

4 Do we have to amend the acceptance, the dates?

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes. We will get it all in  
6 order.

7 NEC CHAPMAN: So you'll amend your motion with  
8 administrative changes or whatever?

9 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th  
10 District 1st Vice commander, makes a motion to amend  
11 with the corrected dates.

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

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been amended  
15 that we change the dates to the correct date.

16 Is there still anymore discussion?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Anymore discussion?

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all for it by  
21 using the usual sign.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
24 right.

25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).



1           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

2           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: All right.

3           This one you guys did not receive, but we have  
4 talked about it under Stan's report earlier. This  
5 is the Membership and Post Activities Commission for  
6 the year. Their standing commission changed.

7           The resolve: "Resolved, by The American Legion  
8 Department of Ohio Executive Committee in a regular  
9 meeting in Columbus, Ohio on December 7, 2024, the  
10 following section of bylaws, Section VIII,  
11 Membership and Post Activities Commission.

12           "The Membership and Post Activities Commission  
13 shall consist of Department 1st and 2nd Vice  
14 Commanders and District Commanders. The Department  
15 1st Vice Commander shall serve as Chair, and  
16 Department 2nd Vice as Vice Chair.

17           "The Membership and Post Activities Commission  
18 shall meet at the beginning of each membership year,  
19 14 days upon the close of the Department Convention,  
20 to strategize and plan membership and Post  
21 activities.

22           "The authority of the commission shall be given  
23 by the Internal Affairs and Finance Commission, with  
24 the Department Executive Committee having final  
25 authority."

1           Be changed to: "Section VIII, Membership and  
2 Post Activities Commission.

3           "The Membership and Post Activities Commission  
4 shall consist of Department 1st and 2nd Vice  
5 Commanders and District Commanders. The Department  
6 1st Vice Commander shall serve as Chair and  
7 Department 2nd Vice Commander as Vice Chair.

8           "The Membership and Post Activities Commission  
9 shall meet at the beginning of each membership year,  
10 to strategize and plan Post activities.

11          "The authority of this commission shall be  
12 given by the Department Internal Affairs and Finance  
13 Commissions, with the Department Executive Committee  
14 having a final authority."

15          I'm asking for a clarification.

16          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: No other commission  
17 has anything referenced as to when they meet. In  
18 their policies, it said they must meet to present  
19 their report before the first DEC of the year.

20          My recommendation is we just say we strike that  
21 "14 days" out. Because when you say "at the  
22 beginning of the year," the question is: Well, when  
23 in the beginning of the year?" So it becomes more  
24 nebulous than 14 days.

25          So I recommend that a motion be given to amend

1 the resolution to just strike that line out of it  
2 and they meet, based on procedure, before the first  
3 DEC.

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And if you vote on that  
5 today, then we will have the resolution rewrote,  
6 bring it back to the April DEC, so it can be  
7 presented on the floor to the body at convention.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: This needs to be a  
9 DEC motion to change the constitution. So all  
10 you're approving today is the action of what the  
11 staff needs to do to reformat as a constitutional  
12 change.

13 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: I have a question.  
14 Is it question time or --

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: We need a motion, I  
16 believe.

17 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: We need a motion to  
19 amend the resolution where the line --

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Actually, you just need a  
21 second.

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: -- is stricken.  
23 You and I can't make a motion.

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yeah.

25 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So we need a motion

1 to strike the line "beginning of each membership  
2 year."

3 12TH DISTRICT CMDR HIGGINS: Commander,  
4 Higgins, 12th District Commander, so moves.

5 1ST DISTRICT 1VC BOYERS: Dean Boyers, 1st  
6 District, seconds.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been  
8 properly made that we amend the constitution to  
9 remove one line, stating --

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: We're amending the  
11 resolution.

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: To amend the resolution.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: And then we'll have  
14 to vote on the resolution. So this is just to amend  
15 the resolution.

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Discussion?

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Discussion?

19 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay, Suzette  
20 Heller, 12th District 1st Vice. I just want to get  
21 a little bit of clarity here.

22 The way it's written now is previous to the  
23 whole constitution and bylaw change. The  
24 constitution and bylaw previously, how it was  
25 written, it was in there like that. For whatever

1     reason, the standing commissions were to meet two  
2     weeks after the close of the Department Convention.  
3     I don't know why, but that was left in there when it  
4     was redrafted, when a lot of the committees went to  
5     commissions. So it was just left in there that way.

6             In thinking about meeting prior to the first  
7     DEC, now, if we meet in -- if our Department  
8     Convention isn't sometimes until the middle of July,  
9     our DEC is always that first Saturday in August.  
10    That could still very well be like two weeks. So  
11    that really doesn't give us the flexibility of time  
12    because we go right into membership workshop.

13            So if what we were looking for was that  
14    flexibility of time for those later Department  
15    Conventions --

16            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Can I speak on that?

17            COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

18            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Adjutant Robinson.

19            We are looking at moving the DEC farther back  
20    into August, to give us more time with this.

21            12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

22            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: So that way it all works  
23    together. So that way we can have our Membership  
24    Committee meeting after we go to Indianapolis for  
25    Membership Workshop. So when we come back, we can

1 take those tools and pass them along to everybody  
2 else.

3 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The old constitution  
5 had, before the commissions, when we talked about  
6 all the standing committees, it said they must meet  
7 at this time.

8 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Fourteen days after  
9 the close of --

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right. That was in  
11 general, for all of them.

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: They changed it  
14 somehow. All the subcommittees dropped that off  
15 except for this subcommittee. No other subcommittee  
16 has the 14-day requirement. So I think we just kind  
17 of missed it. Because all the other subcommittees  
18 have no time they have to meet.

19 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: It was only the  
20 Membership.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Right.

22 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That's what I said.  
24 Somehow it was kept for membership.

25 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

1           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: So that's why I say  
2 just strike it. Now we're in line with all the  
3 other commissions, by direction of the Commander and  
4 Adjutant on when their first report is due for  
5 whenever the DEC is.

6           12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah.

7           PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: That's why we did  
8 that.

9           COMMANDER WHATLEY: All minds clear on this?

10          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11          COMMANDER WHATLEY: All minds clear?

12          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: The first vote is  
14 just to strike it as an amendment to the resolution.

15          COMMANDER WHATLEY: No more discussion?

16          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

17          COMMANDER WHATLEY: All vote for it by using  
18 the usual sign.

19          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

20          COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
21 right.

22          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

24          PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Now we have to vote  
25 on the resolution itself. We just approved the

1 amendment. So now we're approving the resolution  
2 with the amendment.

3 It's already been seconded, so you just need to  
4 have discussion, any further discussion on the  
5 resolution.

6 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any further discussion on  
7 the resolution itself?

8 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all vote for  
14 it by using the usual sign.

15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
17 right.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I can go into unfinished --

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We'll continue into  
23 unfinished business.

24 Post 472, I do have some updates. Their  
25 Commander that went through the trial, was elected



1 after the trial and all the shenanigans that went on  
2 with that, has stepped down, as he is being  
3 criminally charged with sexual harassment. He is no  
4 longer at that Post.

5 The Interim Commander that they had in place,  
6 the 1st Vice that moved up, has recently passed. So  
7 now they are looking for another Commander.

8 They've had several issues, canteen-type  
9 issues. Nothing that would warrant us going in to  
10 close them yet.

11 FROM THE FLOOR: Yet.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yet.

13 They have turned all their paperwork in. They  
14 do continually send in new officers updates as they  
15 fill the positions. It's quite exhaustive this  
16 year. I think they've sent in seven officers'  
17 certification forms so far.

18 Their insurances are all up to date. I do have  
19 them all, if anybody would like to go through their  
20 paperwork. I have it pulled out, sitting here with  
21 me today.

22 But overall, the Post is functioning how a Post  
23 is supposed to function and they are doing the  
24 things within the community that they normally would  
25 do.

1           Is there any questions of myself?

2           I did, Commander Oren and I did take a trip  
3 over there, out of the blue, and surprised them one  
4 day. And the Post was running as a normal Post  
5 would, to my best recollection.

6           Any questions?

7           10TH DISTTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: 10th District  
8 Commander Howard Marotto.

9           So what is their status going to be at this  
10 point? Are they on observation?

11          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: They were on a six-month  
12 probation. And that probation should be over now.  
13 So it would be up to this body to end that.

14          10TH DISTTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Okay. So the  
15 watching period is over?

16          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

17          10TH DISTTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: So they're back  
18 to a normal status?

19          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: If you guys approve that.

20          FROM THE FLOOR: Are you recommending that?

21          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I recommend that they are  
22 because they've capitulated with all aspects that  
23 we've given them. We've had two outside Districts  
24 go in to meet with them. The reports are they have  
25 issues with membership attending their meetings.

1 Everything else seems to be copacetic.

2 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Thank you.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay, we need a motion and  
4 a second for Post 472 to --

5 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: District 11 Commander  
6 Thom Stan.

7 I'll make a motion that we rescind the  
8 suspension.

9 7TH DISTRICT CMDR CONLEY: John Conley, 7th  
10 District Commander, seconds.

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been  
12 properly made and seconded that we rescind the  
13 suspension --

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN MINADEO: Correction,  
15 probation.

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Probation.

17 Any questions?

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Discussion.

20 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: 10th District  
21 Commander Marotto again.

22 We have nobody here that was a part of the  
23 suspension process or the probation process.

24 FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah we were.

25 Yeah.

1           10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: So we hadn't  
2 heard from them as to what their recommendation is.  
3 I know we've heard other people recommend that we  
4 continue in a normal status, but we haven't heard  
5 from anybody that was involved in working directly  
6 with the Post, like on a daily basis.

7           FROM THE FLOOR: You heard from JD. He did.

8           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Wes and -- I can't think of  
9 the other one's name.

10          FROM THE FLOOR: Richard.

11          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No, it wasn't Richard. It  
12 was Boyd, Bert Boyd.

13          I have talked with them several times. They've  
14 called monthly after they went over to meet with  
15 them. And they have given the same report that I  
16 have. That's where I gathered most of my  
17 information from was from them, and from working  
18 hand-in-hand with the Post.

19          10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Thank you.

20          5TH DISTRICT CMDR MASON: Mason, 5th District  
21 Commander.

22          I'd like to make a comment on that, because  
23 it's kind of ironic that I was one of the  
24 subcommittees on that trial and we recommended that  
25 they be put on that probation.

1           And then this past summer, I went to  
2   Indianapolis for the Membership Workshop and I went  
3   as a District Commander and we had classes.  
4   Actually, this very thing was brought up. And the  
5   one thing that we were told there was we should, as  
6   a Department, never, ever, ever put a Post on  
7   probation. Because if we do, that makes us 100  
8   percent responsible.

9           And I thought that was kind of ironic that we  
10   didn't have that knowledge. One, we had the trial  
11   in January, that the three of us recommended that  
12   very thing. So it was kind of ironic that they did  
13   that. Because everything from that point then falls  
14   on this Department, not that Post.

15          So in lieu of what you have stated, it sounds  
16   to me like they have complied with our  
17   recommendations very well. I see absolutely no  
18   reason, you know, why we would want to continue for  
19   those two things, to relieve the Department of those  
20   responsibilities and that they are complying.

21          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other discussion?

22          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other discussion?

24          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all for it by

1 using the usual sign.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same  
4 right.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

7 You want to go into the Washington Conference?

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: New business.

9 Washington Conference, February 24th through  
10 the 26th, 2025.

11 Jacob and I are working on getting the list put  
12 together. National said they would have the  
13 appointments put out for the invitations next week.  
14 So please keep your eyes out.

15 If you do not get one and you wish to go,  
16 please let us know. It would be on your own dime,  
17 but we would still like to include you in our  
18 travels. So if somebody is wanting to go but they  
19 don't get a call in and they're willing to fork over  
20 the money for it, more power to them and we would  
21 love to have them with us.

22 So I believe the call-ins should be for  
23 Legislative and VA&R. So if you're on one of those  
24 National committees, you should be getting a call-in  
25 for that time period.

1 Any questions?

2 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Is it a new

3 Congress?

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I believe it is, yes.

5 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yeah, it's a new

6 Congress.

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

8 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: So --

9 TREASURER LEWIS: Suzette.

10 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Yes.

11 TREASURER LEWIS: Stand up and state --

12 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Suzette Heller, 12th

13 District 1st Vice.

14 Considering it's a new Congress, Jacob, I don't

15 know if the Posts on the history will send you a

16 list, and you have to have people appointed from the

17 regions to those Congressionals. And so I don't

18 know if they've spoken to you about that.

19 COORDINATOR BRAULT: Yes.

20 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Perfect. Good,

21 good. okay. I just wanted to bring that to your

22 attention.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Not a problem.

24 12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Okay.

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Appreciate it.

1           12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: Thank you.

2           NEC CHAPMAN: Just to add this: You're  
3 responsible for the legislative agenda.

4           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Jacob.

5           NEC CHAPMAN: You're responsible for the  
6 legislative agenda and you're the holder of the  
7 book. And this team is responsible for the rest of  
8 the call-ins.

9           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

10          NEC CHAPMAN: Next week, Bob, I think next week  
11 we're going to get together to do that. So that  
12 will be out shortly.

13          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's what we're planning  
14 on.

15          NEC CHAPMAN: While we're talking about that  
16 same thing, I was asked to bring up the point that  
17 if any District out there has some new people that  
18 are active and you think that they would be good  
19 representatives on a National Committee, or a  
20 National Commission, if we have openings. Of course  
21 they tell us when the openings are. We need for you  
22 to submit those names to Steve Masowick, Stan  
23 Pleasant, myself, or Bob Klostermeier, so that that  
24 consideration can be done.

25          Also, I was asked to pass on to the District



1 Commanders if you have any candidates in your  
2 District that are interested in running for  
3 Department office, not counting you all that are  
4 already in, but please get those names submitted to  
5 Steve Masowick, Bob Klostermeier, Stan Pleasant and  
6 myself, so that we can schedule an interview with  
7 them. Okay? We'll get a winner if we get somebody  
8 new.

9 Thank you very much.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Anything else on the  
11 Washington Conference?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Good of The American Legion  
14 and announcements.

15 TREASURER LEWIS: So we have a Gifts for Yanks  
16 meeting immediately following.

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Who are you?

18 TREASURER LEWIS: I'm Holly Lewis, Department  
19 Treasurer.

20 We have a Gifts for Yanks meeting at 2:00  
21 o'clock. So if you don't have a representative here  
22 for that meeting, if you could please stay. Because  
23 we have a very important conversation that we're  
24 going to have today. And it would be very nice to  
25 have a quorum for the meeting.

1           Thank you so much.

2           14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: For the good of The  
3 American Legion, John Life, 14th District 1st Vice  
4 Commander.

5           The 14th District does have a \$100 check to  
6 donate to the Commander's project.

7           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

8           (Applause).

9           Yes.

10          9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: Jacqueline  
11 Whetstone, the Commander of District 5.

12          And today we did present, for the Commander's  
13 project, \$125.

14          COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

15          9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: And I would also  
16 like to say that the Burton 459 Post, this fall,  
17 signed up 53 new members.

18          (Applause).

19          2ND DISTRICT 1VC SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District  
20 1st Vice Commander.

21          Back in November, on the Marine Corps birthday,  
22 I went to Dalton Union Winery. They had a thing  
23 called "Tag-a-Brew." And I inquired to JD about it.  
24 And I just want to see if there's any follow-up on  
25 that.

1           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I do have some follow-up on  
2 it. It is a campaign that -- the company is based  
3 out of Michigan. It's through several, I want to  
4 say 15 different states, I believe.

5           They did not get our permission to use our  
6 name.

7           They are doing good work. Last year, in  
8 Michigan, they donated money to the Department of  
9 Michigan.

10          After this campaign is over -- the campaign  
11 runs from Veterans Day till Valentine's Day.

12          And they've already had it out there. So  
13 there's not a whole lot we can do as far as  
14 unassociating ourselves with it.

15          The owner and I did have a good conversation.  
16 I informed him, because they want to continue this  
17 yearly, with different Departments, that they need  
18 to reach out to the Departments and get their  
19 permission before they go using The American Legion  
20 Department name.

21          So we will be getting a donation from them.

22          Along with that, Commander Cox and I went to a  
23 golf outing for Bechtel Group. And they are making  
24 a donation, and it should be rather sizable, to our  
25 Department also.

1           So just a couple of updates on that.

2           Anybody else?

3           CHAIRMAN LaVOY:  Commander, Ken LaVoy,  
4   Department Finance Chair.

5           Can you, JD, provide us a quick update  
6   regarding the license plate?

7           ADJUTANT ROBINSON:  Yes.

8           The license plate was reviewed two days ago.  
9   We are in the process of -- the people that had been  
10   working on it, Mr. Vrabel, that we all know and  
11   loved, his untimely passing caused it to slow down.  
12   And then the representative that was over it lost  
13   his race and moved on.  So it lost all of its  
14   momentum.

15          Jacob is working diligently on it right now.  
16   We will have a sign-up sheet at Mid-Winter to  
17   collect signatures, I believe, just to make sure,  
18   just to make sure that we have them.  I believe that  
19   we should not need them after the vote they took the  
20   other day, but I would rather have them in our back  
21   pocket and not need them than need them and not have  
22   them.

23          So it looks like it should pass sometime by  
24   April.

25          ADJUTANT HELLER:  I'll just comment on that.

1     Suzette Heller, 12th District 1st Vice.

2             They voted out of committee to waive the 150  
3     signatures. So keep an eye on, keep an eye on the  
4     bill that will go on the House floor. So, should  
5     that get approved on the House floor, December 18th  
6     is the last time the House session will meet, if  
7     that gets approved on the House floor, you won't  
8     need those signatures --

9             ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yeah.

10            12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER: -- because they'll  
11     approve that.

12            So, yeah, so those 150 signatures won't be  
13     necessary. So I wouldn't waste your time if you  
14     don't need them.

15            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Appreciate it.

16            All right, one other thing that's not on the  
17     agenda but it is for the good of The Legion, I would  
18     like to bring up is I've started an Adjutant's  
19     association kind of sort of thing, where I've  
20     contacted all of the Post Adjutants and we've been  
21     meeting monthly.

22            If you're not on the list or you want to be on  
23     the list or you know your Post Adjutant wants to be  
24     on the list, please reach out to me, I'll get them  
25     in the list.

1           The first time we did it we had 48 people.

2       Last month we had 27.

3           Our next meeting is the 11th, at 7:00 PM, I  
4       believe. That's the time everybody liked to have  
5       it. We are going over CPRs and awards manuals this  
6       time.

7           We would like to become a program, eventually.  
8       Let us work some kinks out and get it fine tuned a  
9       little bit to come back before you. But I thought  
10      this body should know what's going on in your  
11      Department and that it seems to be working well.

12          Ken has a question.

13          CHAIRMAN LaVOY: I don't have a question.  
14      Another comment. It is in the agenda.

15          And that's in regards to that we are now,  
16      starting next month, at the three-year mark for  
17      Columbus hosting the National Convention.

18          We already received our initial paperwork,  
19      after the fall meetings, with regards to setting up  
20      our committee. And so that will be kind of the next  
21      thing that we'll start doing, to get the planning  
22      committee organized to start planning for the  
23      convention.

24          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Thanks, Ken.

25          As far as National Convention goes, Chappy, did

1     you have something to --

2           NEC CHAPMAN: Well, yeah.

3           You might mention that you attended a regional  
4 meeting, and that there was a mention there about  
5 racing. I don't know if there's anything else  
6 that's come out.

7           ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I have not seen it yet, but  
8 we're supposed to find out this coming Wednesday.

9           But as of right now, what NEC Chapman is  
10 referring to is, as of this time, we are no longer  
11 in the racing business. As far as I know, all I can  
12 tell you is the contract was broke by the race team,  
13 not by us. And we elected not to pursue redoing the  
14 contract. So we will not be in racing at this time.

15          FROM THE FLOOR: (Applause).

16          ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's all I know. I don't  
17 have any details. They are supposed to have some  
18 details for us at our next monthly meeting, which is  
19 next Wednesday.

20          National Convention is August 22nd to the 28th,  
21 2025, Tampa, Florida.

22          The Commander and I will be going to do a site  
23 visit.

24          I can tell you we at the Home2 Suites. And  
25 there's another one attached to it. But we are the

1     only people in the hotel again. All by our  
2     lonesomes.

3             I will tell you there will not be a canteen in  
4     this bar, or a bar in this hotel. When we're stuck  
5     out like that, we're at the mercy of what goes on.

6             So if you don't like being by yourselves and  
7     you don't want to be out in BFE, do better in  
8     membership. That's all I can tell you.

9             1VC OREN: Thank you.

10            FROM THE FLOOR: They have full-size  
11     refrigerators.

12            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: If you're on that side.

13            NEC CHAPMAN: NEC Chapman.

14            One plus side is Home2 Suites are very nice.  
15     You're going to have refrigerators and stoves and  
16     all that in your room. So bring your supplies.

17            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We will have the sheets at  
18     Mid-Winter so you can start getting your  
19     reservations made.

20            CHAIRMAN LaVOY: Just real quick. Ken LaVoy,  
21     Finance Chair for the Department.

22            You had mentioned that we're far out. How far  
23     are we out from the convention center?

24            ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I don't know. I've not got  
25     down there to look yet, Ken, to be honest.



1 HISTORIAN BEYER: Al Beyer, Post 523.

2 I should have mentioned this earlier, when I  
3 was up front. I brought in a guest today. His name  
4 is Terry Veach. He's just a recently new member of  
5 The Legion. And I'm sure he would appreciate making  
6 some new friends.

7 Thank you.

8 FROM THE FLOOR: Hi Terry.

9 (Applause).

10 COORDINATOR WHITE: Sorry, everyone. Me again.

11 So, Mid-Winter is January 17th, 18th, and 19th.  
12 I've said this a few times already, make your hotel  
13 reservations. The deadline is December 27th.

14 If you call me after December 27th and say,  
15 hey, the hotel doesn't have rooms, hey, they want to  
16 charge me more, sorry. Have your reservations in by  
17 December 27th. Okay? December 27th. It's \$122 a  
18 night.

19 December 27th. Because I'm telling you I'm  
20 going to get about ten phone calls, oh, I didn't  
21 make my hotel reservation. December 27th.

22 Also, on Saturday we are doing the of-the-year  
23 awards banquet. We have some awesome, awesome,  
24 awesome, awesome recipients this year.

25 Please get your order forms for the banquet in

1    ASAP.  Because we only have room for a certain  
2    number.  Once we hit that certain number, that's it.  
3    And we will not have tickets at the door.  So get  
4    your reservations in for the banquet.

5           This year we're having Tony Cross from National  
6    come in.  He's going to do some "Be the One"  
7    training.

8           BALC, Ken and the gang, they have programs  
9    training for BALC, which should be awesome.  That  
10   will be on Saturday.

11          Everything else, all the meetings, are pretty  
12   much the same.  There's a couple extra committees  
13   that are meeting on Friday.  If you are a part of  
14   those, you will be notified.

15          There's a tentative schedule on our website, as  
16   well as a banquet form.  Everyone got mailed a  
17   banquet form.  It's on the website.  And you can  
18   actually fill it out on the website as well.

19          So, December 27th.

20          COMMANDER WHATLEY:  Thank you.

21          (Applause) .

22          ADJUTANT ROBINSON:  One more thing, Commander.

23          I just would like to give my staff a big round  
24   of applause because they do an amazing job.

25          (Applause) .

1           They work a lot of hard hours. We have a lot  
2 of fun doing what we do and we love what we do, but  
3 I want to give a big shout-out and a thank you to  
4 them.

5           COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes, thank you. I too  
6 would like to thank the staff. They are doing an  
7 amazing job. Without them, we would be in a lot of  
8 trouble. I really appreciate you. I salute you.

9           Closing remarks.

10          As we enter the season of celebration, being  
11 thankful for the blessings that's been bestowed upon  
12 you and your family, let's not forget those comrades  
13 who have fallen with illness from their service to  
14 their country.

15          But they're still part of us. As part of the  
16 Buddy Check, this is a good time of the year to  
17 start it. It's the first of December, the first  
18 week in December. Let's reach out to those  
19 comrades. Let's reach out to them because they  
20 cannot attend your Post anymore for their illness  
21 that they have.

22          And I would like to wish all of you a blessed  
23 and safe Christmas during this festive season. And  
24 I hope to see you as you are today, in good health,  
25 your family is in good health, and all the wishes

1     that you look for.

2             Thank you.

3             12TH DISTRICT 1VC HELLER:   Thank you,  
4     Commander.

5             COMMANDER WHATLEY:   We'll have a benediction  
6     from Chaplain Ron Distel.

7             CHAPLAIN DISTEL:   Let us pray.

8             As we prepare to depart, Lord, give us all safe  
9     travels.   Help us to remember, Lord, how far we have  
10    come in this journey that has gotten us to where we  
11    are today.

12            We are all tourists.   God has fixed all our  
13    routes.   He has set our destinations and He has made  
14    all our necessary reservations.   So trust in Him and  
15    enjoy your trip called "life."

16            To You we pray, Lord.   Amen.

17            FROM THE ASSEMBLY:   Amen.

18            COMMANDER WHATLEY:   Cover.

19            The colors of our nation in place, hand salute.  
20    Two.

21            . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

22            I now declare this DEC adjourned.

23                               \* \* \* \* \*

24                               (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

25                               \* \* \* \* \*

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