1	THE AMERICAN LEGION
2	DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
3	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
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6	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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9	Held: Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 10:00 AM.
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12	Location: Department Headquarters
13	60 Big Run Road
14	Delaware, Ohio
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24	DRAGON REPORTING SERVICE Cincinnati, Ohio
25	(513) 600-6151

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1 Saturday, December 7, 2019. 2 . . CALL TO ORDER . . . 3 COMMANDER FRIEND: Colors of our nation in place, hand salute. Two. 4 5 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . . Invocation. Please uncover. 6 7 Melissa. 8 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Before I begin, I wanted to 9 say Merry Christmas to you all. And hopefully I 10 got to everybody with the Christmas cards. And if 11 I didn't, I'm sorry, I didn't know you were going 12 to be here. 13 This morning I wanted to talk to you a little bit about joy. We have joy in our hearts. 14 15 have a beautiful day. We have sunshine. We had 16 great travel weather. And now we have the joy of Christmas and the joy of our Savior's birth. 17 18 So let us pray. 19 Dearest Lord, we come before You this morning 20 with thankful hearts. And we had a great 21 Thanksgiving, Lord. And now we're into the busy 22 holiday season. Let us take time, Lord, to stop, 23 look around, and see those who might be hurting, 24 those who have lost loved ones, lost jobs, have

situations that are just beyond understanding.

25

Lord, but we know that they are in Your care and all happens in Your will. So let us take time to be alongside a brother or sister in need.

And Lord, as we come before You in this meeting, we ask for Your presence to be among us. Help us with clear minds and open hearts, Lord, that we might discuss the business of the Department of Ohio at our Executive Committee meeting. So we ask, Lord, that Your presence be here, that you would guide us, that you would help us with making decisions.

And help us, Lord, to remember that we are here to serve those in our wonderful State of Ohio in our respective Districts and our Posts.

So, Lord, we ask for Your blessings and we just give You praise, honor and glory. It's in Your name we pray.

Amen.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Resolution 288, adopted at 67th National Convention, calls for the designating of a POW/MIA empty chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and

conflicts involving the United States. 1 2 The chair has already been draped. So let it 3 remind us, all of us, to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from 4 5 captivity, the reparation of all remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full 6 accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate 7 ourselves to this vital endeavor. 8 9 Thank you. 10 Now we'll have the Pledge of Allegiance by 11 our 1st Vice. 12 . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . . 13 Cover. 14 We'll have the preamble by our 2nd Vice, Brad 15 Teis. 16 2VC TEIS: Okay, before we start, you all 17 have it in front of you, it's no longer the "great 18 wars, " it's in "all wars, " as we proceed to say 19 it. 20 . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . . 21 COMMANDER FRIEND: Roll call. 22 FROM THE FLOOR: Nice shirt. 23 ADJUTANT HELLER: Good morning. 24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning. 25 ADJUTANT HELLER: I know you all love to see

1 me in this shirt today; right? I'm a woman of my 2 word. 3 All right, roll call. . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . . 4 5 Thank you, Commander. We have a quorum. COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. 6 7 Okay, the introduction of the guests, 8 Sergeant-at-Arms Roy. 9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TERRY: We had the sign-in 10 sheet at the back of the room, Commander. 11 So if I've missed your name, please see us 12 and we'll get you on the roster. 13 We have Dave Hilliard, Bill Genochio, 14 Terrence Hummel, Tom Rowe, Ron Chapman, Bob 15 Rhode -- did I get that right? 16 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes. 17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS TERRY: Thank you. 18 -- Jim Morris, Harold Savage, Gary Mack, 19 Jerry Wilson, Jeff Vrabel, Kevin Vrabel, Chet 20 Nowak, Jim Koppin, John Looker, Dayna Beyer, Al 21 Buxton, Marv Shamhart, Mike Blackwell, Virgil 22 Arling, Jim Campbell, David Cobb, Darell Bishop, 23 Paul Dillard, Malcolm Glasgow, Blake Farmer, and 24 Bernie Kessler. 25 So we'll hold this. If I missed anybody or

1 your name is not on there, please let us know and 2 we'll get it taken care of. 3 Thank you, Commander. COMMANDER FRIEND: You're welcome. 4 5 Apparently you PDCs didn't put "PDC" beside your name. So when he called your name --6 7 Could I actually have all the Past Department 8 Commanders please stand. 9 (Applause). 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. 11 Okay, the reading of the previous minutes. 12 Do we have a motion? 13 The minutes, you all have the minutes. 14 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Commander, Rick 15 Garren, 12th District Commander, makes a motion to 16 accept the minutes as printed. COMMANDER FRIEND: Do we have a second? 17 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: 1st District 18 19 Commander Jason Rue seconds. 20 Is there any discussion? COMMANDER FRIEND: 21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 24 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all in favor 25 signify by saying aye.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 4 COMMANDER FRIEND: So approved. 5 ADJUTANT HELLER: I was prepared to read all this. 6 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: Did you see how thick they 8 are, guys? We would have still been here tomorrow 9 night. 10 Okay, now we go with greetings. 11 Good morning. 12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning. 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: The Department officers 14 and staff would like to welcome all the members of 15 the DEC and special guests and guests. 16 As you know, in the past few months I've had 17 the opportunity to visit all of the VA facilities, 18 with the exception of Toledo CBOC. Hopefully I 19 can do that sometime after the 1st of the year. 20 Jermaine is my contact guy. And hopefully he can 21 get it set up so we can go get that before it gets 22 too nasty weather-wise. 23 I can't express enough the camaraderie, just 24 the exposure that we had when we were at these 25 different facilities. The way the people were

treated, the way that the workers were, I mean it's just, it's amazing.

And kudos, I actually have to say, to the Cleveland staff. And Bill is here. They have done an exceptional job. I mean it's just, it's amazing what that staff has done.

And to create what we have in all those facilities, and the people that actually have done that, they are all extremely dedicated. I don't know, I can't say enough, really.

And if you actually have a chance, Jermaine did an extremely fantastic article on our visits, the pictures and the write-up.

If you all would, actually, Jermaine, you deserve a hand of applause on that article that you wrote when you and I did all the visits.

(Applause).

Now, as you all know, my project this year is the National Emergency Fund. We're doing good. And we actually have a bet with our SAL Commander that I'm going to outdo him. And hopefully I can succeed, because that bet is 500 bucks. So if you guys have anything at all today that you can actually give to my NEF project, I'd be more than happy to receive it.

We've got a lot of important business today.

And I would like to ask everyone to be, please be respectful to the other members of this DEC.

And when you do ask to speak, please stand up, state your name, your title, so that the Dragons can hear what you're doing, and we'll have a real good DEC this week.

We've got a lot of work to get done today. So hopefully we can succeed and have everything done that we need to get done.

Now I would like to take this time -- and I don't think they gave me your bio.

We have a special guest with us this weekend. We have the leading candidate for National Commander, Paul Dillard.

Paul was born in Whitesboro, Texas. He graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1965.

After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving from 1965 to 1969, during the Vietnam Era. He received an honorable discharge as a Radarman 3rd Class Petty Officer. And after joining the reserves for two years, he received a promotion to Radarman 2nd Class Petty Officer.

Upon returning from the Navy, he attended Grayson County Junior College and East Texas State

University.

Paul worked several years in the manufacturing business as an engineer, plant manager and director of manufacturing in Tennessee.

Upon returning to Texas, he accepted a sales representative position with Sherman Foundry, and became their aircraft pilot. Wow.

A career change was made when he and Donna began their family and he entered into the insurance business, specializing in employee benefits, and later forming the Dillard & Gann Insurance Company.

As a paid-up-for-life member of C.R. Simmons and C.G. Hardwicke Post 29, Sherman, Texas, he has been very busy during his 40-plus years of Legion service. He served as a Post Commander, Vice Commander, Adjutant, and Judge Advocate. Paul coached American Legion Baseball for over 10 years, and served as their Boys State Chairman.

He served in the 4th District as Commander, Vice Commander, and served the Department as Sergeant-at-Arms, Membership & Organization Chairman, National Security Chairman, Uniformed Organizations Chairman, Board of Trustees

Chairman, and he served on the Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee. He was elected to the high office of Department Commander in 2007.

Ladies and gentlemen, would we please give a warm welcome to our leading candidate, Paul Dillard.

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you -(Applause).

You can do it right there, Paul. That's fine.

NATIONAL CMDR CANDIDATE DILLARD: You betcha. Howdy.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Howdy.

NATIONAL CMDR CANDIDATE DILLARD: He just got through saying a bunch of stuff after he told me I had 45 minutes last night. Then he talked about how fast we've got to go through this thing. But I really think he meant four or five minutes.

But first of all, I would like to thank you for the invitation, Commander Roger and Suzette, for inviting me up here and seeing Ohio and being around you folks.

It's always great to see some good, old friends, like Jim back there (indicating). He and

my father-in-law was real close. And we saw him at conventions for years. And his last name was Morris also. So Jim and I go back a few years.

Hello, Robert. You doing all right?

NEC KLOSTERMEIER: Doing great.

NATIONAL CMDR CANDIDATE DILLARD: Good. It's good to see you. I'm glad you could make it. And we think about you and your family --

NEC KLOSTERMEIER: Thank you.

NATIONAL CMDR CANDIDATE DILLARD: -- and stuff like that.

But anyway, let me, since I don't have the 45, I kind of want to get started here.

I mean my 45 is in my truck back at the airport. But, you know, I don't go anywhere without it, except when I'm on an airplane.

So, first of all, my theme this year is "No Veteran Left Behind." I think that's what my theme will be starting September the 3rd, if I survive the journey and make it that far.

And when I came up with that, I was thinking that that was the very intent of the founding fathers of this great organization whenever they wanted to form this is no veteran left behind, when it comes to our active duty, our former

military, their spouses and their children. And from that is what generated and became the four pillars, our Veterans Administration, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

But, you know, and some of you have heard me say this, that's our four pillars, but it takes a strong foundation to hold up those pillars. And I call that membership, because that's what it's all about. Without membership, that foundation of membership, they would not exist. And so it's very important, I think, that we engage all veterans, so we leave no veteran behind when it comes to membership.

That "No Veteran Left Behind" I came up with about four years ago, when my resolution was first put in in Texas, trying to figure out what was I going to do, what was I going to say, what was it going to be. And driving up and down the road, you know, you think a lot of things. This was before The Legion Act, before it was even dreamt of. It wasn't even possible. And I said, you know, it fits pretty good.

And by the way, we are doing pretty decent. I think, as of the trip, we had right at 7,000, that we know of, that's joined under The Legion

Act. And I know it's more than that, because my brother-in-law, I signed him up on the old membership card and there wasn't a place to check. So I know there's more than that 7,000. So it's good, you know.

The thing about it is, as I said, we've got to engage. You know, you've got to ask yourself:

Do you know if your neighbors are veterans? It's very important.

If you live in the city, you've actually got eight neighbors. You've got three in front, three in the back, and one on each side, you know. So you've got eight neighbors. Do you know if they are a veteran?

You're not asking them to join. You want to know, first of all, if they're a veteran. They might say "Why?" Then you can take time to talk about some stuff. Leave it open, no pressure, and find out. We've just got to ask.

So it's very important. Because if you look at our membership over the last five years, we've lost over 400,000 members. And I can say not really, but the numbers show that. Because our DMS, which would have been right around 120,000 a

year, if you ever look at the tally, which I know Suzette really has looked at that, a third, at the end of the year, at least a third of the DMS members were previous members. After three years, they come back and they ask them again. So they've run right through the washing machine again, you know, and come up.

Because we only renew less than 45 percent of them. And when you start thinking about that, that's kind of tough, whenever you look at you're losing 65 percent. That's thousands of them. So that's a problem.

But let me take it a step further. The real problem is the first-year members that you and I write, which has been around 70,000, only 61 percent of them are renewing. Why? We asked that person to join. Why is that person not renewing?

So if you look at that figure, you know, that's around 27 to 30,000, 27,000 or so, of those that aren't renewing that we just signed up.

So that buddy check is very important.

Follow up on those folks that we physically wrote, and call them and talk to them about renewing their membership, even though they're not able to

come to meetings, yeah. And that's understandable.

All of us went through the same thing as we came into the American Legion, and the years of training and coming up through it. It takes a while when you've got a family and you're occupied in other ways. So it is difficult.

But keep them engaged. Let them know what's going on. Send them something. Send them birthday cards. You know, it's maybe the first time they get something from The American Legion and we're not asking for money.

So, you know, and I like the buddy check. I was brought up in an old World War II post and we contacted every member every year, regardless. If they renewed, we asked them how was they doing, you know, we're still meeting, we gave them the nights and all that stuff, and then we thanked them for renewing their membership, and keep supporting The American Legion and their programs. Those that didn't, we took that opportunity to say, Jim, by the way, I noticed you haven't renewed. How you been? And blah, blah, blah. Could I come get it today, you know, or something of that nature.

And of course I'd ask three times and make them say no three times. I wouldn't let them put me off the first time. I was an old insurance salesman. So you get three no's before you quit.

But, you know, getting back to that retention or renewal is so important.

That's like my business, and there's some other folks who talk too, whether it's real estate, insurance, or stuff like that. Hey, I would have went broke a long time ago. I couldn't be standing here. When I had a client, man, I put my spurs in them, I put my hooks in them, I put a barrier around them so nobody else could get to them, and I stayed in touch, I stayed in touch with them. I sent them anniversary cards. I sent them birthday cards. Paul Dillard was hitting their mailbox at least four to six times a year for some reason. And so I was always there. And something else, because I did a lot of financial planning too, so when that come up, well that's the first person they think of.

That's what we've got to do in The American Legion. We've got to keep ourself out in front of them, not when we want money. We've got to keep it out there that they are part of this family.

Because the numbers are important. The greater the numbers, the louder our voice is when we're in Washington. So it's very critical.

If you look at -- and I know some people will say, oh, here's membership. Here we go again.

But, you know, it is important. Because if you look at the history of what we've done in the last few years, the only time that we don't stay where we were last year, or grow, is when our retention has been less than 90 percent.

And this last year, it ended up about 86-point-something, towards 87. If we can retain 90 percent of our membership, we will not slide. We will more than likely grow. Had we done that last year under Brett -- we're going to end up about 1.835, 1,835,000 is about what we're going to end up with this year. Had we renewed that other 3-and-a-half percent, we would have surpassed the 1,880,000. With Denise we could have made it to 2,000,000 again. So that's what's critical.

It's just like this year. You know, gold, I was telling somebody yesterday, gold is nothing more than a benchmark. It's not where you want to get to and stop.

You know, think of football. You've got a goal line there. But until you break through it, you're not going to score. So don't go up to the goal and quit. You're not going to win the game.

Hockey, if you don't get it inside that goal, you're not going to win the game.

Basketball, they bounce it around the room.

But until it goes through that goal, you don't get a score.

The American Legion has got to bust that line. It's got to break that goal. And we've got to proceed forward.

I don't go with 100 percent. Again, I would have been getting food stamps and everything else in Texas had I just went to a goal each year, because everything gets more expensive. You know, I put my plan in force every year in my business and I always figured for growth. I had to. I had to pay my secretary more money. You know, I wanted to make a little more money. Everything is getting more expensive. So I went over and above what I did last year, you know, whether it was 10 percent or 15 percent. And then I gauged it every quarter. Every three months I took a hard look at it, and knew whether or not I could take

off extra days and play golf this month, or this next quarter, or I had to work harder to get there. Because my wife would run me off or something.

That's what we've got to do. We have got to engage all veterans. You, in this room, it's so important, because all of you know this, but it's so important to take this back to your Districts, to your local Posts. Let's build a team.

And you all are doing a good job. You all are at 75, 76 percent, or something like that, right now. You know, you're doing good.

Texas is, you all are 21, we're 52 or something like that. But Texas is always slow. It takes a while to get the Pony Express to bring that mail in with the membership there in Texas. You know, it's a big, old state. But we've always been slow.

But I'm very disappointed. I was the Commander in '07. And we're going to end up this year with a little over 20,000 less than we had in '07. And I think you all are going to end up a little more than 30-something thousand than you were in '07. That is what's happening nationwide.

So these numbers, the reason I gave it to you

is just so you can say, look, we're doing good right now. We're ahead of last year. That's pretty pathetic that we're ahead of last year, as bad as we are. I think you all are a little below, about 600 or 900. We're about 900 to 1,000 above last year.

But it's not good enough. There's too many eligible out there. We've got an open door now with The Legion Act. There's no reason to not ask, you know, a person. When you see them you can pretty well tell they're a veteran, sitting at their truck, their car, their house, or something. And just ask them if they're a veteran.

And they'll want to know why. You know, let them know a little bit about what we do. Because we have the strongest four pillars any organization could ask for, especially when it comes to the veterans and their families, family members. And I think it's our job to get out there and do that.

You know, the death rate right now has got under 3 percent. It's 2.6, 2.5 percent, something like that, you know. So just call it 3 percent. Well that's 54,000 a year.

But let me tell you, in 1919 and 1920, they

were down also. So it's nothing new. We're all not here forever. But that's only two-and-a-half to 3 percent. That leaves 97 percent there somewhere for our retention. So we ought to be able to capture, you know, another four to five out of that 7 percent leftover, and end up at 90 percent. With a death rate of 2.5 or 3, we'd be at 93. You've got 7 percent that's flown out the window.

It's critical to follow up with your members. Talk to your Posts about some sort of contact, some sort of notification in the mail. I think phone calls are best, because that's what I did to make my living. I can send letters all day long. And I just kept the Postal Service (indicating). But, you know, when I talked to them, I helped Paul Dillard and my business. And so it's real, real, real critical.

Another thing -- that pretty well covers the personal contact aspect of what I'd like to give.

But our next generation is what's so important to this organization. Who is going to continue to lead our organization the next 100 years? It's that next generation. And that's the term I came up with, that I like to refer to them

as.

Because I'm an old Vietnam veteran. And we were madder than Hades when we didn't get notified or recognized as a Vietnam vet. And some of the Posts, you know, kind of shoved you back here (indicating). But that's all under the water. We want to make sure that don't happen again. No veterans left behind.

So I call it the next generation because of the dates. It's so hard. OEF/OIF, Panama, you know, it's so hard. And I don't want them left out. So I talked to some of them in the last few years and I said, well, that's that term, that's that term, because they are the next generation of veterans. That's the reason I refer to that.

Those folks, men and women, in the next generation, they are doers. They want to be community involved. They want to have involvement where their family can participate. That's what we've got to go look for. Whether it's smoking in a Post, or non-smoking, or whatever, that's what you've got to look for for that community.

Because a Post will only be as successful as a community will allow them. And the flip side of that is the community will allow the Post to be as

successful as they want to be, as long as they're working for the community.

But let's engage that next generation.

Because, at the Post level, they can do a lot of things. They can say, well, you know, I'd like to have a fiddle stick tournament. Oh, that's good.

Robert, you brought that up. Could you chair that for us? You know, evidently, it interested them.

That's what's important. Let them do --

There's things at the Post level you can do as you're learning about The American Legion that you can't do as you get on up, because we're governed by the bylaws and things like this. In a resolution-driven organization, it takes a little bit longer.

So then we mentor them during this timeframe. Because we're not going to forget our mentoring. You know, that's what's made this organization so strong.

So it's important to really give them some latitude at your local Post. Welcome them, thank them for their service, visit with them. What are they interested in? Whatever.

So let's work on that next generation.

Because that's what it's all about, folks. The

next generation has got to lead this organization into this next century.

You know, hopefully I'm one of the last old ones that's going to be doing this. So -- well, not really. If the people want it, jump up and get it.

But I mean that next generation, you know, is very important. So let's remember that. Let's really work with them.

I've got 35 more minutes, I think.

So let's look at that.

You know, when you stop and you think about it, our founding fathers actually found and seen a need for The American Legion. And so you think about it. Where would our veterans be today if not for The American Legion? And for that matter, where would America be today if it wasn't for The American Legion? You know, because we have that stroke, that power. But we've got to climb back above, back above that 2 million.

You know, when I was District Commander in '88, that was the first time, '88-'89, that's the first time we made 3 million since '46, '47 and '48. I think all-time high is 3.3 million. And then for six years running it was over 3 million.

Let me tell you how that happened real quick.

Jim Morris remembers this. Because they come in there and there was a plan put in effect that a lot of people didn't really, really know about, but it's what I'm saying. You've got to break down the three aspects: What's wrong? What's happening? Why are we not there?

And you break them down just like you would your business. Retention, as I said, was one.

Okay? That's the biggest one.

Just asking, new members, that's another big one.

And so you say what's the other one?

Well let me tell you what we put in effect
back in 1987, yeah, '86. I think the first year
for DMS was in 1985. I think that's when John, my
father-in-law, was Department Commander. They put
the direct mail system in place. That's when it
started. The first time it started, woo, all
those memberships started flying in. You know,
that was three or 400,000 a year.

Well all those membership writers were sitting around the club room saying, hey, we don't have to worry about recruiting anymore. National is doing it. That's what killed us. Our

membership writers quit going out there because National was doing it. And at that time they was dumping them in, you know. We was over 100,000 for several years there.

Well, then those old boys didn't teach some of us young whippersnappers how they were doing it. So we had to reinvent the wheel.

And, you know, I don't believe in reinventing the wheel. You know the best idea I ever had in my life, I stole it. Because if it's working, use it. You know? If I can ever tell you anything, just steal it. And somebody said, no, you just borrowed it. And I said huh-uh, I put it in my back pocket and I kept it, you know. So, you know, that's stealing it.

I just want to appreciate everybody for last night, and the folks I've met since being here, for the hospitality.

And Ohio, you're doing fine. Just do a little bit better. Just ask. Okay? Just ask. And I know you'll make this Commander very happy.

And the next one, if I survive the journey, and you all loosen up and let her step up, she's going to get 90,000 next year.

Isn't that right, Jean?

1VC WILSON: That's right, sir.

NATIONAL CMDR CANDIDATE DILLARD: That's the first time a woman has ever answered me, positively, that quick. My wife usually says, "What?"

I do get the last two words in my house, "Yes, dear." That's the only reason I can smile.

But really, in closing, I just want to say thank you again for the hospitality. It was great.

I look forward, if I do survive this journey, on September the 3rd, I'll be able to put a white hat on to represent this great organization.

And I promise you one thing. When I put it on, it will start turning blue. And then in about 364 days, it will be all blue again and I'll be a blue capper again, which is what I like. And that's what it's all about.

But I just wanted to close and say God bless each and every one of you for coming here today, spending the time. You could have had other things you wanted to do.

And God bless America. And God bless the men and women serving our nation.

Thank you again, Ohio.

1 (Applause).

COMMANDER FRIEND: Paul, thank you for those words. Excellent.

Okay, next in line is Bernie Kessler, our SAL Commander.

On deck is Jean Wilson, Membership.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: Good morning, everyone.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: As always, it's an honor to stand up here before you guys, and women, and represent the Sons of The American Legion, one of your most important programs. And I do stress the word "program." We're no different than Buckeye Boys State, than baseball, than oratorical.

And so I'm here to give you our SAL report from our DEC.

First I'm going to give what our adviser,

Skip, he's your chairmen of your advisory

committee and he submitted a report. He couldn't

be here today.

I do know that Skip is a dual member. He's a member at Bettsville 733, where he is a member of The Legion. And he was also their Adjutant and their finance officer for that Squadron. So they meet today at noon.

Skip's report says the Detachment Executive Committee met at 10:00 AM, Saturday, October 19th, at Department Headquarters.

The following resolutions were adopted: To accept the surrender of the Charter of Squadron 717, in the 5th District; to endorse Past Detachment Commander Jeff Vrabel, Sr., from the 9th District, for the office of National Vice Commander at the central region for the year 2020-2021.

And the following donations were accepted:
Child Welfare Foundation, \$130; Gifts for Yanks,
\$200; Fisher House, \$1,500, which is split between
Dayton, Cincinnati and Cleveland, \$500 each. And
that was from Dennis Albright. He had a gun
raffle. You guys had tickets on that. He had
that gun raffle. So, yeah, so that's where that
came from.

And that was pretty much the basis of his report.

Some things that I want to follow up on, from my point of view, were, you know, we always say about the Sons how, you know, so many of us are younger and we're still working. That morning at our DEC, I see how full you are, we excused over

20 people from our DEC. Now that included people who were supposed to get up there and give greetings, or not greetings but reports, and advisers.

And one thing about it, we have 14 Districts. We only excused two advisers. And that's great.

And I mean, you know, and we understood why. So we don't have a problem with that.

But a lot of our Past Detachment Commanders don't come to our DECs anymore. I'm not sure why. But that's for us to figure out.

I invited Holly Lewis there to speak on Buckeye American Legion College, because I feel that we also need the training that is provided by The American Legion.

Unfortunately, our guys felt that -- I wanted to move everything to a Friday night, have our DEC early, then our regular session after that. Well, that kind of got a lot of pushback, and so we kept it the same as what it was.

Our meeting, our DEC meeting, will be Friday night. Our regular session of the Mid-Winter Conference will be Saturday morning. And for that reason, we're not going to be able to have as many people at Buckeye American Legion College as I

would like.

They did say that -- or I did tell them that I'll excuse anybody that wants to go to it. I mean if you're just a regular member, if you don't have a report to give and you want to attend Buckeye American Legion College, you're more than welcome. I'll excuse you from our conference.

The other thing that was brought up was the fact that our people need to train our people.

That was kind of what we came up with too. So we're going to work on that.

We discussed the Washington Conference. I know that you guys, your conference in Washington D.C. goes for a few more days than ours. Our conference for the Sons is Sunday morning, the 8th.

We do the wreath laying at Arlington. And this year our Commander has chosen World War II and Korea, I believe, to be the two that he is going to place his wreath at, the National Commander's wreath at, for his family members.

I think I will probably place mine in honor of my father at the World War II Memorial.

And if there's any of you guys in your
Districts or Squadrons that has somebody that you

would like to do that, have a wreath placed in their name, I can do that. Bill Towns will be assisting me. I don't know if Jeff is going to be able to attend. All right? But we'll have somebody there to do it for you.

We'll get the information to Suzette. It can be posted on the website. It's \$150 for the wreaths. They take care of everything. And then we'll go from there.

We wanted to also talk about the Squadron Charter for 717 North Ridgeville. It was brought to our attention that we need to contact as many members there as we can, or contact the members and get them transferred. I think we've done that. We've done our due diligence on that.

Some of them have transferred. Some of them said, well, if that Post isn't there and that's where I always go, I'm not going to go to another Post, I'll just drop my membership. Not acceptable, but you can't pay for them just to keep them involved.

So I understand you guys are going to have to act on that charter revocation, or whatever, later today. I don't know that. Yeah, well, okay.

But anyhow, then we also, like I said, we

endorsed Jeff as the candidate next year for the Vice Commander's position of the central region, our eight states. And that is -- he is this year's membership chairman for the eight states. So that's good to have Jeff here.

If I can go back to the Mid-Winter -- or the Washington Conference. I don't know who makes room reservations. You know, that Columbia House Hotel right across the street? I know the Sons are going to need two rooms. I don't know if that's, you know, I know you --

ADJUTANT HELLER: You make them.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: We'll make them on our own?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Uh-huh.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: All right, we'll take care of that. All right, that settles that.

If I could talk a little bit, real quick, on membership.

We received, on Friday, November 22nd, from Ken George, he's the National Liaison to the Sons, that our numbers, our quarter numbers, keep fluctuating, sometimes week after week, month after month. Ken George has come up with a procedure that it will no longer change, that our

quota is going to be 2 percent over our previous year.

But he's going back. Like I say, for 2020, right now, the number we're working off of is our 2018 membership. That 2018 membership, at that time, let me see, that number at that time was 30,523. So the new number, our goal for membership this year, is 31,133. That's an increase of 610 members, you know, over last year.

You might think, well, you don't have to think that's a lot because, guys, I'm going to tell you right now, as of December 5th, this last report, we've recruited 1,036 new members.

(Applause).

The 3rd, 4th and 5th District have done that a lot. The 1st District got over 100. So, you know, we appreciate that.

That 610 is done. We've got that new member covered. Now we're working on renewals. So that's where we're at.

We are at 45 percent, 43, 43-and-a-half percent, which is good. Because when this letter came out on the 22nd of November, we were only at 37 percent. So the guys are turning in membership. I just gave Mike 43 cards from one of

my Squadrons in the 5th District.

So that pretty much concludes my report on the SAL and what they're doing.

One thing. I know so many of us, you know, we always have to have our dreams. And, yes, it was never my dream to be up here, to be this Commander. But the more I've learned of what you guys do, and what my father did, and his friends and everything, that made me want to be more involved in the Sons of The American Legion. And here I am.

At the beginning of the college football season, you know, a lot of people, a lot of teams had dreams. And I remember that at the preseason conference that they had, or the TV show, Joe Klatt, from Fox News, from Fox Sports, he said to Urban Meyer about the team up north, he said, "It is their year."

To which Urban responded, "For what?"

I want you guys to know they were serious. The team up north was serious. Because I have a magnetic schedule, a refrigerator schedule, and they actually put down here on December 7th, the "Big Ten Championship Game." They thought they were going to be there.

But I have this for you, Suzette. And you can have this (indicating).

(Applause).

That's, guys, I think that's why, once she found out that they weren't going to be there, that's why you scheduled this symphony thing for tonight. The team had more --

ADJUTANT HELLER: I needed a distraction.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: One other thing, I'm going to sit back here for a few minutes, listen to a few more reports. But I also have, here in my pocket, I have two tickets for the Ohio State-Penn State basketball, men's basketball game. You know, and that tips off at noon. Why? Because we had the actual dream of being in the championship game.

So, anyhow, I did try to get rid of these.

Didn't I, Suzette?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes. He tried to take my husband.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: So if I cut out of here a little early, before lunch, that's where I'm headed, down there with my wife.

But anyway, it's an honor to stand up here and to represent you guys, and to talk about you.

And hopefully we can get some things accomplished with the Sons.

My theme is, you know, "Recognize the past, redefine the future." We've already done that with our on-line membership.

My Squadron itself is at 155 of my 182 that we have. And of those 155, the only thing I gave Mike was 40 to start the year in July, before we could do the on-line. I've done over 100 memberships on-line. It's the simplest thing in the world, guys, if you can get your Squadrons involved and getting them signed up for the MySAL. You know, it's just amazing how quick it goes.

All right, thank you, gentlemen. Have a great conference.

ADJUTANT HELLER: And ladies.

SAL CMDR KESSLER: And ladies.

PDC SCHMITT: Commander, Schmitt, PDC, through the chairs to Commander Kessler.

The dues letter that just came out recently, with the Sons and the Auxilliary and the Legion Riders and the Legion in there, any feedback from your membership on that?

SAL CMDR KESSLER: On the dues increase or on --

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          PDC SCHMITT: No, on the newsletter that came
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     out.
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          SAL CMDR KESSLER: On the -- about the
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     change?
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          PDC SCHMITT: The communications published.
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          SAL CMDR KESSLER: I missed that.
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          PDC SCHMITT: You missed it?
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          SAL CMDR KESSLER: Oh, the joint thing, okay.
          No, I haven't. I mean it was just hard to
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     get anybody, you know. Bill Townsend put it in
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     his, some of his stuff. And Bill Townsend has
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     been talking about it. But, no, we really haven't
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     gotten too much feedback, positive or negative, on
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     it.
          So --
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          PDC SCHMITT: Okay, thank you.
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          SAL CMDR KESSLER: Sorry to say.
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          COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Bernie.
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          SAL CMDR KESSLER: Thank you.
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          And I apologize to you ladies.
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          Thank you.
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          (Applause).
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          COMMANDER FRIEND: We'll have a membership
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     report by our 1st Vice, Jean Wilson.
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          1VC WILSON: Good morning.
25
          FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.
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1VC WILSON: You know, it's a great day to be here, it's a great day to be an American, and it's a great day to be a Legionnaire.

And I think that I'm really impressed today with the number of Past Department Commanders that we have in attendance. That just means they don't go away. They're still here for us. And I just think it speaks very well of them that they decided to come spend their day with us.

So thank you, Past Department Commanders. You're an inspiration.

And you know what? It is my dream to be a Past Department Commander. Not quite yet, but it is a dream of mine. So I'm going to be right up front. It's a dream of mine for a long time.

So we'll get right into the membership report.

First of all, I'd like to congratulate the Fabulous 4th District for being a District that qualified, not only qualified for the Brown Jug, but also won the Brown Jug.

So, Commander, 1st Vice Steve, you did a great job. I have your rewards with me today.

And I'll give them to you before you leave. So thank you very much for stepping up and getting

the job done.

So on the membership report that we currently have, you all have it there in front of you, we still have a lot of work to do. There's a lot of work to do. There's a lot of there that we need to go out and get.

And, you know, it's pretty unacceptable to me some places, some Districts, where you're at. To me it shows that you're not doing the work that you're set out to do. I'm not trying to pick on anyone. I'm not trying to make anybody mad. But when you decided to run for a District office, you took a responsibility. It's not to run four meetings. It's not to come to four DECs. You took a job and you raised your hand and you said you were going to do the work of The American Legion.

And the No. 1 priority in The American Legion, believe it or not, you know, it is membership. Because without membership, we're nothing. We have nothing.

So I need you guys and ladies to go back to your Districts, to contact your Posts that are struggling, and help them.

This, you know, it doesn't look good for us

to make our next lap. We've still got until

December the 11th. So I need you guys, ladies,

Legionnaires, you know, contact these Posts.

If you need help, please pick up the phone.

We're here to help you. Roger, myself, Charles,

Suzette, we're all here to help you. When you ask

for help, trust me, it's a smart thing to do.

When you sit there and you keep your mouth closed

and you don't ask for help and you don't know,

then you're making a terrible mistake and you're

doing an injustice to our American Legion.

So, currently, the 4th District is at 82.96 percent. The 2nd District is following them really close at 81.34 percent. The 1st is 78.44. The 9th is 77.19. The 8th is 76.96. The 13th is 75.33. The 3rd is at 74.65. The 11th, 72.19. The 12th is at 71.42. The 10th is 71.0. The 7th is at 69.56. And the 14th is at 67.65.

We need our Districts to be 75 percent by next Wednesday. So when you get home on Sunday, or you can start today, I don't care, get with your Posts and your Districts. The cards are out there. We just need to go get them.

We all, except one District, which was fine, we all had our membership bets. If you don't

remember what it was, I have the evidence here (indicating). So you are to pay me off today, if you already haven't.

The bet was for the Commanders, in case you forget, it was a \$25 gift card if you didn't qualify for the Brown Jug. The 1st Vice Commanders was a bottle of Crown Royal.

After some thought, I decided that if you could be at 75 percent by this DEC, that I would forgive your bet. Those who are not, I don't forgive. I expect to be paid off.

Now I struggled a little bit with the Crown Royal. I don't drink it. So I thought, well, perhaps let's just make it all gift cards.

Now you think, wow, wow, she's going to have a merry little Christmas. No, no. All my gift cards that I receive will be donated to charity. They're either going to go to the Fisher House, for families that are there and maybe want to go out for a meal or get a gas card or something like that. And the other half is going to a foundation that I've donated to for many years. It's called the Dragonfly Foundation. And it is a great foundation that helps children and their families while they're going through treatment for cancer.

So all those will be donated to Dragonfly.

Going on to MyLegion. We've improved a little bit. We have 18 new Posts in the Department of Ohio that are currently, since our last meeting, have signed on to MyLegion and are doing their membership reports, their membership renewals through there, and new members.

So, you know, that's the future, people.

That's why we're having training on it tomorrow,
so that you, as District Commanders and 1st Vices,
can go back to your District and do training,
whether it be at your District level, at your Post
level, however you have to do it. But it is the
future of The American Legion.

And I want to tell you something, it is what we all need to do. It just makes sense. We don't have to worry about cards getting lost in the mail. We don't have to worry about checks getting lost or misplaced. You're controlling your own destiny. And there's so many reports, so many things that you can do on MyLegion. It's just a perfect way to do it.

And there is resistance, of course. Anything that is new there's resistance. But you have to get on there. You have to encourage people to do

it. And we just need to reach out to your Posts in your Districts and help them get on MyLegion. It's what needs to be done.

And you're going to be glad when this happens, when all Posts conform and do it. It's going to be a much easier job for you and all of us.

So, please, at every District meeting that you have, talk about MyLegion. It's just -- we've got to get people motivated.

And if you have a Post that says "Absolutely no way, I'm not going to do that," I believe truly they don't understand how it works and how easy it is.

And we, as Department officers, are willing to call that Post, we're willing to go visit that Post. We just need to know where you need assistance at. So don't hesitate, you know. We want to do it.

Okay, we're also asking every District, by the end of March, to have a District revitalization. We know the 1st has already done it. We know the 10th. I know the 4th is setting theirs up for January.

So Brad and I are going to split the list of

Districts. And we're going to be calling you and asking you when your District revitalization is.

And we will come help you if you want us to.

We'll come observe. We'll do whatever you need us to do. But we are going to be calling you. We expect all 14 Districts to have a revitalization.

And I talked to Jason today and asked him if his District would have another one. And he's going to be working on that.

Sorry, Joe, you're going to be working too.

Okay, one other thing. What's so important is our buddy check. And it's really not about calling them up and asking them for their dues. A buddy check is actually to check on the person to see how they're doing.

And last week our Post went and visited one of our members. Al Buxton, our Chaplain, went with me. And we went out and saw a long-time member, 88 years old, who is in the early stages of dementia. And he was blown away that we would actually just stop by and see him. And his wife was just, she couldn't thank us enough for coming to see him. Because he thought he had been forgotten. Because he hasn't been able to come to meetings because he's not able to drive his car

anymore. They had tears in their eyes when we left. And you know me, I had tears in my eyes when I left.

But it will make you feel so great to just reach out to someone else who really, really loves our organization and just can't get out anymore. We can't forget them. And they're out there, in their homes and their nursing homes. And we need to go out and reach out to them.

If anyone has any cards that they brought with you today, please see Mike, so we can have a final membership report after lunch. And then we'll be exchanging, or maybe they will be staying the same, the green and red lantern.

You know, you've got to remember the three R's in The American Legion. And that is to recruit new members, retain the members that we have, and remember why we're doing this.

You know, we get a new member in a Post. We sign them up. We're all excited. And then we wonder why they didn't renew their dues. It's our fault. We didn't engage them in our American Legion. We didn't engage them in our Post. We work so hard to get a new member that we forget how to keep the members we already have.

So you have to do that personal touch. You have to call these people. You have to go see them.

You know, our Mid-Winter will be coming up soon. And, you know, you all will be there, I'm sure. We're very excited about it. Suzette has been working really hard on creating a great Mid-Winter. The Legion College is going to be there again. We're going to have a great guest speaker. It's going to be a lot of fun. And it's going to be a learning experience. So just remember that when you come, be ready to learn something new.

ADJUTANT HELLER: And bring a friend.

1VC WILSON: And bring a friend, or two.

So in closing, I just want to say just remember that together we are better. And that's just a true statement. Together, we're better. When we work together, when The Legion, the Auxiliary, the SAL and the Riders, when we all work together, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

And I just want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(Applause).

COMMANDER FRIEND: Next up is our 2nd Vice Commander, Brad Teis, with our activities report.

2VC TEIS: Morning, everyone.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

2VC TEIS: You know, activities are one of the best things we have in our Posts and in our Districts. And we have to keep this going because that's what brings our families in. The more activities we have, the more families we're going to see.

So I'll start out here, the Department
Bowling Tournament will be February 8th, 9th,
15th, 16th, and 22nd and 23rd, if we need the
third weekend. It will be at Poelking Lanes in
Centerville. The hosting Post will be Post 165.
Mike is sending it out in the packets. They're
setting up a menu for two nights in a row and
they're really going to host us well. We stopped
by there to visit.

We still need a bid for anybody that can put on the 2021 bowling tournament. So if you know any Posts out there who would like to host it, or any lanes, Mike -- well Mike's not here. I think it's a minimum of 36 lanes. Is that what it is? It's a minimum of 36 lanes to host the bowling

tournament.

The Department Euchre Tournament has been picked up this year by Post 241, in New Breman. It's on the 14th. We'll have flyers coming out soon. I talked to Mike.

The Department Pool Tournament will be in Zanesville Post 29 again this year, on April 3rd through the 5th.

The Department Golf Tournament, thanks to

Post 199 in Harrison. They decided to pick it up

this year for us because we couldn't get anybody.

It will be at the Circling Hills Golf Course in

Harrison. The hosting Post is Yeager-Benson 199.

It will be July 25th and 26th.

So we'll be getting packets out and getting all that stuff out.

Any upcoming District and Post activities that you have, please send something to Mike, me, Department, Suzette, or somebody, so you can get it to us. Roger and Jean and I have promised, if one of us can come to one of them functions, we will be there if we're not busy. So unless we know you're having it, we can't stop by. So please do that.

And before we finish up here, The American

Legion Department of Ohio Facebook, there's a lot of old pictures on there. We need people to start sending stuff in. Send your Post activities in.

Let's get it on there so we can see that.

If me and Jean can see this on the Facebook page, we'll call you. We'll call you. Because we'll look at our schedule and we can see if we can come out to see you.

But we definitely want to come out. There's too many days that we're sitting around that we don't have something to do that we would like to have something to do.

Because we put a team together here. And we sit down and we talk all the time. And Suzette is along with us.

But we want to come out to serve you. That's what you elected us for, is to serve you and your Posts and your Districts. And that's what we want to do.

Lastly, it has nothing to do with this, how many men and ladies in here had fathers and grandfathers in World War II?

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

2VC TEIS: Let's not forget December 7, 1941.

All the men and ladies that took their oath on

them days to serve our country. And to this day, World War II veterans, and these are statistics as of September 1st, there are less than 390,000 World War II veterans left. And the worst part about it is they're dying at 294 a day. That's 2700 World War II veterans dying a month, 2700 a month, since September 1st. Take them numbers down and we're down to about 260,000. That was our legacy. That's who we need to follow.

Thank you.

(Applause).

COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, next up we have the Treasurer's report from our Treasurer, Charles Stennis.

TREASURER STENNIS: Commander, I'd like to allow our guests, Carol Allen and Blake Farmer, to speak first.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Sure thing.

Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort Carol and Blake up here.

MS. ALLEN: Okay, so what's coming around to everyone is the current profit and loss statement for Q1 of this fiscal year for the Department of Ohio. What that includes is also the actual revenue and expenses for the first quarter, along

with Charles' budget numbers put in there.

I'm going to let Charles address the budget side of things and all of that, but I just wanted to explain to all of you what we've been working on very diligently with the Department of Ohio with this profit and loss statement.

So it is a true representation of what the actual revenue and expenses are for Q1 for the Department of Ohio, which is something that I believe hasn't been represented for quite sometime.

So when you look specifically at the revenue dollars on the first page of the report, one of the things that we've been working on is to have a true reflection of what your membership revenue is. That's a big impact on your budget and your finances. So the membership revenue amounts that are listed for The Legion and for SAL on that report actually do reflect what monies the Department of Ohio gets to keep. None of that money is due back to National. That is true revenue for Q1.

So we think that is, I know we talked about it with Charles and Suzette, that is very important for them to be able to budget

appropriately for the Finance Committee to determine how much cash flow you basically have.

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The other thing that we've worked on is just trying to consolidate that P&L and make it easy to read, so that anyone can pick it up and look at it and get a good understanding of what the financial situation is.

Secondly, the other financial report that we're working on, which is not distributed today, is the balance sheet. So the balance sheet is the overall big picture of the history of The Legion. That has been a little bit more complicated to try to clean up. There's a lot of inactive accounts there that we're trying to sort through. been the secondary report that we've been working on because we really, really, really wanted to get a good representation of the revenue and expenses. Now that we have that happening, I can focus on moving forward with getting the balance sheet in a good place so that you'll be able to have a very good representation of monies that are sitting in different funds and that type of thing.

The next item I wanted to talk about, which I know is a big one, is Post credit checks.

So, as you all know, money comes to the

Department of Ohio either from the dues, the \$27.50 per member, \$7 for SAL, being sent in to the Department, or when members pay on-line through MyLegion. The Post portion of that money comes to the Department of Ohio for the Department of Ohio to then distribute to the Posts.

Currently, we have sent -- have those gone in the mail?

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

MS. ALLEN: Yes.

ADJUTANT HELLER: I can second that.

MS. ALLEN: Okay.

So we've got two batches of post credit checks for Q1 of this fiscal year that have gone in the mail. The remaining checks will be going out early this week. Just in total, there was just under \$50,000 that was due back to the various Posts for those credit checks. So they're going to be getting those checks in their hands. There's an explanation letter that went with them as to what that money is, what the buckets are, basically, that it came from.

The next process is to go back in time and do post credit checks for last fiscal year. That process is a bit more cumbersome. Some checks

were sent but some of the amounts were not accurate. So we're trying to sort through to make sure we're actually getting the right amount of money back to the Posts for those.

The last item that I wanted to talk about, which affects, I'm sure, most of you in this room, since you drove here today, is related to expense checks, so for travel, mileage, those types of things.

We have moved forward to processing those checks just once a month. So instead of every time an expense report comes in, you know, we're cutting a check for a very small dollar amount, we decided that we were moving forward with expense reports that are in to the Department of Ohio by the 15th of the month, those will be cut the next pay period. However, anything after the 15th of the month will get held to the prior (sic) month.

The reason for this was to help avoid any possible duplication. So if someone submits an expense report and accidentally submits a second one, it's a lot easier to catch it if we're doing these monthly. And also, too, just the time involved, the checks done, all of that, it's also a cost-cutting factor as well.

1 So if there's any questions about that, I 2 don't know if you've had questions, but that's the 3 reasoning behind that, that process change. That's all I had to report on. 4 5 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Ma'am. MS. ALLEN: Yes. 6 7 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Bob Carson of the 14th District. 8 9 As a dual member, are you sending out the 10 credit checks to the Sons also? 11 MS. ALLEN: Yes. Yep, yep. Those are in 12 process as well. 13 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Thank you. 14 MS. ALLEN: Yep. 15 Anybody else? 16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 17 ADJUTANT HELLER: I would just like to add, 18 Commander, if I may. 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: Sure. 20 ADJUTANT HELLER: I would just like to add 21 that we have worked diligently with Carol in 22 setting up an efficient process for finance. 23 have not seen a profit and loss report since 2016. 24 Actually since 2015, this Department has not seen 25 a P&L report or a balance sheet. So I just want

to say that this has been a very cumbersome process, but well worth it. Because I believe that this truly is the foundation of where we can really gauge the health of our finances. And we cannot function as a nonprofit without knowing, fully, you know, where our finances are.

So Carol, I want to say thank you.

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I believe we have a very good system. We've worked very closely with the Treasurer and the other members of the Finance Committee, and also the officers. And we have a great check-and-balance system. We have a great processing system.

So with Carol, we get a whole company. We get the entire Rea and Associates. She has a whole company and team of people that she can call on to either answer questions or to get our best practice.

So for us right now, I know she's not here every day, and I know that there have been questions about when are we getting a new fiscal officer, a new finance officer, and I know the Treasurer has addressed that as well. And right now, this system is working. Because what Carol gives us, we could not get with one CPA. So the

fact that we have a previous auditor as the company, Rea and Associates, they've audited our books for probably the last ten or 15 years, and so we have people who have institutional knowledge about how the finances have been operating here at The American Legion Department of Ohio.

So I just want to say thank you for continuing to commit to this. I know that we pay you. We pay you very well. It's worth it. So I commend you on all of the things that you've discovered and uncovered. And you've just been a joy to work with. So thank you.

MS. ALLEN: Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Carol.

Blake.

MR. FARMER: Hello. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Blake Farmer. I've been managing the investment portfolios for the Department of Ohio for a little more than 20 years.

Recently, the group I work with, The

Schumacher Group, we decided to become what's

called a registered investment adviser, which

essentially means that we're independent of any

other organization. In doing that, we're using

Fidelity as a partner to custody our clients' assets.

And I was asked to explain why we've made that decision. And there's just a few reasons that I think are very straightforward.

No. 1, in our industry, we feel it's becoming more and more important to have control over our costs, which we believe means that we'll be able to pass lower costs on to our clients. So one of the things that this allows us to do is pick and choose what tools we use and what tools we pay for. As a franchisee of Ameriprise, where we were, we don't really have that flexibility. They essentially give you the tools, and then you pay for those tools whether you're using those tools or not. So No. 1, it gives us control over our costs, which we believe will be passed on to our clients.

No. 2, we feel like our clients are going to have better tools when they go to the Fidelity website. If you were to compare that to the tools that we had on the website where we were, I think you're going to find that those tools are much better, they're much enhanced.

And No. 3, we feel like we're going to have

better tools that we use internally to manage clients' assets and advise them. And the reason for that is we get to choose what tools we use. And if you look at a system like Ameriprise, they're providing tools for advisers nationwide. Some of those advisers are more experienced than others. So we feel like we have the ability to pick and choose those tools that fit our clients and what are more appropriate for our clients, which ends up being more cost effective.

So those are the main reasons we've decided to make that change.

Your Finance Committee has decided to continue to work with us. So those assets that I've been managing for 20-some years are going to be held by Fidelity, and will continue to be held by Fidelity.

As far as the investment returns go, things are going very, very well this year. The markets are doing well and we're continuing to do very well. So if you were to look at the investment portfolio, you know, we're up right around 25 percent for the year, so continuing to do well.

The way we focus our investment philosophy is just based on economic data. So at the moment,

1 the economy continues to look very solid and we're 2 reflecting that in the portfolios. However, if we 3 begin to see data that says we need to be worried about the economy, we'll begin to add some 4 5 protection to the portfolios. But for the moment, the economy looks very, very solid. And we think 6 7 the adjustment that we've made will be beneficial 8 to our clients. 9 If you guys have any questions, or thoughts 10 or concerns? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 12 MR. FARMER: We appreciate it. We thank you 13 for your continued trust.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Thank you, Blake.

(Applause).

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COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, next up we have our Treasurer. It's now Charles' time.

TREASURER STENNIS: I just have a few things. I shouldn't be more than about an hour an a half.

As you can see here, well one of the reasons why we did this was to make sure to let you all know that the Finance Committee is on its job.

That's the first thing. Not to say that folks previously weren't but, again, if you're in this position, you should be doing your due diligence

at all times.

So at this present time you see that we are in the black. But it's early. It's early. It's only the first quarter.

But this will be used as a tool, as the Commander goes throughout the year, to make decisions. And I think that's what's most important, is the decision making.

So, that being said, let me move on to the next thing on my list here.

Back in September, we sat down as a committee and decided that the issue of raising dues will not be addressed this year. There are several reasons why.

One reason is because, as of October 31st, we have in excess of \$1.5 million in our portfolio.

And that is a substantial amount of money. As Blake just said, the portfolio is doing extremely well.

And the other thing is, before now, we didn't have any financials to reference how that would impact the organization. So it would be better to be proactive and lay off a year or so, and then to come back and address that.

The next thing that we also found out, that

it would be better to do a modest increase -- and Jason, you'll like this -- of either two or \$3, instead of five. After a lot of research was done, that's another thing that came out of the meeting that we had.

So that will not be, we will not be coming back to the body and asking for that anytime soon.

As you can see and hear, we do have a portion of the portfolio that has been budgeted for this year. And as you can see, we have not touched it. We have not touched it. The goal is to budget it but not touch it. That's the goal.

And as I just mentioned, as of October 31st, our portfolio has \$6.1 million in it. And we've, since, over the year, we've got 1.5 million. So we wouldn't think that that would be a good time to hit someone up for new dues. It would not be.

And lastly, from the Estate of John F.

Johnson, that estate has given us, given The

American Legion, \$27,000. So we are grateful. He

was a 97-year-old World War II veteran who fought

in Aleutian Islands. From what has been described

to me, he was a quiet man but he loved the

activities of The American Legion. So he has

donated \$27,000 to us.

1 COMMANDER FRIEND: Nice, super. (Applause). 3 TREASURER STENNIS: Commander, that concludes 4 my report. 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, next up is Melissa Fowle with our Religious Emphasis report. 6 7 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: I guess it's still morning. 8 Good morning. 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning. 10 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Okay, he already touched on 11 Pearl Harbor Day, so I won't talk about that. 12 I want to talk to you about the fudge that 13 you might have found, or was handed to you, 14 possibly. I made it last night, all six kinds. This is my gift to you as "The Fudge Lady." Okay? 15 16 So Merry Christmas. 17 And I expect to have better sales next month 18 at Department Mid-Winter. So please check out the 19 kinds that I will have for Mid-Winter. This all 20 goes for Buckeye Boys State this year. 21 Also, as Department Chaplain, I needed to ask 22 all of you to keep Bill Edwards in your prayers, 23 as he lost his wife Linda back in October, very unexpectedly. And I'm sure that this holiday 24

season is going to be really hard on him.

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1 Do we have any other prayer concerns? Yes, sir. 3 8TH DISTRICT CMDR DONOVAN: Rick Donovan, 8th District Commander. 4 5 L.S. Pauley died last Tuesday. He was a Past District Commander. 6 7 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Anyone else, please? 8 PDC WILSON: Walt Croswait, from 9 Chambers-Hautman Post, I believe, or, no, 10 Mt. Washington Post 534, his wife Terri used to be 11 the VA rep down at the VA Hospital, he had his 12 right leg amputated below the knee from diabetes. 13 So kind of keep that name in your prayers too. 14 ADJUTANT HELLER: Could we also add to that 15 list Bob Klostermeier and his wife. I know she's 16 been struggling with COPD for a long time. And he's had a lot on his plate. 17 18 And also, let's keep Dennis Clausing and Barb 19 Clausing in our prayers as well. 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: Brad. 21 2VC TEIS: And everybody knows Holly Lewis. 22 You know that her daughter and her friend were in 23 that accident a long time ago. And they were all 24 coming along well. Well, the other day, the young

gentleman went to sleep and never woke up. Dusty.

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1 He was 32 years old. So we'd like to keep Holly 2 in our prayers too. 3 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Yes, sir. 4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: Yes, Jim 4 5 Jennings, 4th District Commander. 6 Bob Derr, Past District Commander, two 7 different terms about eight years apart, passed 8 due to a heart condition I guess about 60 days 9 ago. 10 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: I got you. Thank you. 11 Okay, now I'm going to go on to the --12 SERVICE OFFICER GENOCHIO: Melissa. 13 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Yes, sir. 14 SERVICE OFFICER GENOCHIO: Bill Genochio, 15 Avon Lake Post 211 and VBA Coordinator for the 16 State of Ohio. 17 Virgil Carver is suffering from esophageal 18 cancer. He's going through radiation and chemo. 19 And Marykay Mendoza, who is the Adjutant for 20 Post 211, as well the ALR Treasurer, she was in a 21 severe car accident and is in the hospital right 22 now with hips. 23 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Thank you. 24 All right, I'm going to go on to the 25 Religious Emphasis Committee meeting.

It was called to order at 10:00 o'clock in the morning in the Department Library on October 19, 2019.

I'm going to just do a brief synopsis of what happened there because we are probably way over our time.

We had nine members present and five guests.

We went over the committee rules and we had some changes.

We would like to add that the Department
Chaplain be separate, because the Department
Chaplain is appointed by the Department Commander
and not by the District Commander. So there would
be 15 Chaplains there. Okay? So that's one thing
that we would like to add to that first paragraph.
And add that the appointments are by the
Department Commander and District Commanders.

We'd like to change the DEC review date to December, because we don't meet until mid-October and we always meet after the National Chaplain's meeting, so that the Department Chaplin can come back with information from the National Chaplain.

We would like to say that we will review the budget set by Finance, the Finance Committee, and not set the budget, because we don't have any say

over that.

And we would also like to add Religious Emphasis before the committees.

Malcolm Glasgow, the 12th District

Chaplain -- no. That's what it says in here.

Sorry, he's our Assistant Department Chaplain. He motioned to have the Religious Emphasis Committee review the applicants for the Father John Duffy Award and Chaplin of the Year Award, and make recommendations for the award winners. Bill Edwards seconded that motion. So we will need, that will require a vote by the DEC.

We also had a guest. Chaplain Cherry, from the Columbus VA, came out and talked about veteran suicide. This is at the behest of the National Chaplain, that we really look into suicides that we have at this time. They're just getting higher and higher, not only amongst veterans, but amongst those who are currently serving. In fact, I know the Reserves for the Air Force had a whole day that they set aside, nationwide, to look into veteran suicide. And the Navy has done the same. I can't say anything about the other services. I don't know, at this time, for sure.

But this is very much a big problem. And I

know that the Service Officers also had that. The service officers were supposed to be looking at that too, during their meeting. So this is something that not only the Chaplains are looking at, but the Service Officers as well. A big problem.

Please go back to your respective Districts and Posts and make sure that there's a hotline number there. Make sure we're doing our buddy checks. We need to listen. We need watch. This is a very big problem.

Also, under our new business, as the weekend before the Four Chaplains Sunday is our Mid-Winter, I have discussed combining the services on Sunday morning of Mid-Winter to include Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders Chaplains, in order to do a Four Chaplain Service at Mid-Winter. The committee agreed to the idea and the time limit would be about 30 to 45 minutes long for this.

We would have two separate services for the Department Convention this summer.

So that's basically the Religious Emphasis in a nutshell. And I would entertain a motion to accept the report.

1 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion. 2 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: All right, I move that we 3 have the Religious Emphasis Committee review the applicants for the Father Duffy Award and Chaplain 4 5 of the Year Award and make recommendations for those winners. 6 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion. 8 have a second? 2ND DISTRICT 1VC HOMAN: Mike Homan, 1st 9 10 Vice, 2nd District, seconds that motion. 11 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a second. 12 Is there any discussion? 13 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Commander, Rick 14 Garren, Commander, 12th District. Am I to understand that this is for the 15 16 awards at the end of the year? Because we did 17 have a pretty bad time last year doing a lot of 18 this. Are we going to do all of them here or are 19 we going to do like we did last year? 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: The Duffy Award is the 21 only one done at the convention. 22 ADJUTANT HELLER: No, the Chaplain of the 23 Year. COMMANDER FRIEND: Oh, the Chaplain of the 24 25 Year.

1	CHAPLAIN FOWLE: What we had suggested, since
2	there's usually three people that look this over,
3	is that the Department Chaplain would be on that
4	committee. And then we would draw two other
5	members from a hat to complete that committee.
6	And we would meet at Department Convention prior
7	to the convention opening.
8	12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Okay, then. Like
9	last year I was on that committee and
10	CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Very difficult.
11	12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: it was a mess.
12	So, all right, thank you.
13	COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any other
14	discussion?
15	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
16	COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any other
17	discussion?
18	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
19	COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all in favor
20	signify by saying aye.
21	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.
22	COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign.
23	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
24	COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved.
25	Thank you, Melissa.

1 Commander, if I might, let's 1VC WILSON: 2 also keep Malcolm Glasgow in our thoughts and 3 prayers. He told me last night that his cancer 4 has come back and he's going to have to go under 5 further treatments. And so let's please keep Malcolm and his wife and his family in our 6 7 prayers. 8 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Thank you. 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. 10 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: And before I forget, I know 11 that there are several people who are not here. 12 And they have a Christmas card and some fudge. 13 know that the Christmas card will probably make it 14 there, but it's up to you whether or not the fudge 15 does. 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, next we'll hear from our NECman, Bob Klostermeier. 17 18 NEC KLOSTERMEIER: You know we could have 19 waited until after lunch. My stomach would 20 probably help. 2.1 First of all, good morning, everyone. 22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning. 23 NEC KLOSTERMEIER: It's nice to be able to 24 look out here and see all these smiling faces. 25 I don't have a long report.

First of all, I want to say how proud I am to be serving as your NEC for these last two years.

First of all, to start off, this year we got to see the fantastic float we had in the parade in New Years, and especially with all the things that we've gotten done this year. The Legion Act, that's been long overdue.

Also, with the Ladies Auxiliary passing on the floor at their National Convention that men can now join the Auxiliary. I wrote a resolution on that in 2010. When I was Department Commander in 2011-2012, it took two years to get up to National. But they shot it down anyway, just like they did everybody else's. But I'm glad to see it finally got passed to where we can do something with the men that we have.

The National Commander is working very hard on what we talked about a little while ago, and that's veterans' suicide. I talked to him when he was here in town in October. An extremely nice fellow. I had a great time with him and his aide. Bernie Klein. And we got to talk quite a bit riding around in the countryside here a few times.

But I thank the Commander for driving, even though he likes to take chances and try and get

into accidents. But we got there safe and sound.

Once again, there's not a lot going on at the National at this time because of the end of the year.

I know the National Commander and his aide want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and the National Organization also.

But I did bring one thing with me. And I don't know how many of you guys and girls, raise your hand, how many of you are attached with the VA, receiving health care through the VA?

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

NEC KLOSTERMEIER: Well I don't know how many of you heard about this, but it's a million veterans program. Right now they have 800,000 members signed up. And I am one of them so I get this newsletter from them and stuff.

But if you get a chance, you can sign up for it. You can go onto veterans.gov and go in the MVP program and you can get signed up.

But if you go on it, they're checking diseases by race, ethnicity, service branch, and by gender. They're giving it for all eras.

Vietnam, right now, is the highest, at 39 percent.

But the top five conditions for men are:
Hypertension, 39.6 percent; high cholesterol, 35
percent; tinnitus, 21.9 percent; hearing loss,
20 percent; acid reflux or GERD, 20.6 percent.
This includes going all the way back to World War
II.

The top five conditions for women:

Depression, 27.1 percent; hypertension,

22.7 percent; high cholesterol, 22.7 percent; acid

reflux or GERD, 21.3 percent; anxiety reaction,

panic or disorder, 17.8 percent.

These are some of the things that they are studying at the VA and trying to figure what they can do to help. So if you can get on this, they're looking for a million veterans to sign up. Right now they've got 800,000.

And that didn't come down from National. That's just my personal little thing.

But Suzette talked a little earlier here about my wife. I've kept everybody kind of informed as the time has been going on.

I took her to the lung doctor on Wednesday.

And before we left, he told her to make sure she spent a lot of time with her family at Christmas.

I told my kids -- she collapsed in July. And

I told my kids that if she was here by Christmas I'd be surprised, because her COPD is really acting up.

And now she can't swallow. She can just barely walk now. I have to feed her, bathe her, change her.

And I did finally get it out of her yesterday. We were sitting there talking and I finally got out of her yesterday why she doesn't want to try and go to the bathroom. Because that's where she collapsed in July, was in the bathroom. And she's scared to go back in there. So that's what you can see.

But right now she's doing well, still breathing pretty good. But her COPD has now turned severe and emphysema is setting in with it. So if you can keep her in your prayers I'd surely appreciate it. And I'm hoping she's going to be with me quite a while longer, but I don't foresee that in the future.

Once again, on behalf of myself and her, I'm going to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And I look forward to getting back to the business at hand of working with The American Legion.

1 Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Bob.

(Applause).

COMMANDER FRIEND: Next we'll hear from our Judge Advocate, Doug Whitney, on the Constitution and By-Laws.

JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Thank you, Commander.

Before I get to the Constitution and By-Laws
Committee Report, there are a number of other
issues that I want to discuss.

Since our last meeting, we have reviewed four Posts' constitution and by-laws, according to our constitution requirement to do so when they're amended.

There are some issues that have been brought to our attention that are important at this time, based on National policy, that I'd like to discuss with you.

Publicity for events. National cautioned us about an event that was advertised by a flyer in the State of Ohio as an international event, implying that it was approved by the National American Legion, which was not the case. And they required our organization that had so advertised

it to take that advertisement down because of a concern of the liability issues at the National level.

We need to be very careful about advertising events that are beyond the sponsorship of the local Post or District if they have not been approved at the level at which they're advertised.

Secondly, as you may have read in the most recent edition of "The Ohio Legion News," as we are approaching election season, it's important that we look at the nonpartisanship requirements and policy of The American Legion, that includes not attending political party dinners or rallies wearing Legion caps or regalia. It includes not furnishing color guards at such facilities in Legion caps or regalia.

This might be a gray area of some concern, at least on my part, about members of The Legion appearing with pictures of themselves in their Legion caps on their Facebook page and then posting posts either supporting or critical of a political candidate, which may unnecessarily imply Legion endorsement of that Post. It's something that I think we need to be very, very careful about.

Just a reminder, again, about the use and name of The American Legion or its emblems. If Posts or other organizations are having T-shirts or pins made, that they require approval through the Adjutant channels to the National Adjutant before they contract for having those made.

Finally, well, I wanted to do two things.

Let me go to the Constitution and By-Laws Ad Hoc

Committee report.

The committee met on October 22, 2019.

Present were Department Commander Roger Friend,

1st Vice Commander Jean Wilson, Department

Adjutant Suzette Heller, Past Department Commander

Stanley Pleasant, Past Department Commander Dick

Zulch.

2nd Vice Commander Brad Teis -Parliamentarian Bob Ray was excused. 2nd Vice
Commander Brad Teis was also excused.

I was also present as an advisory member without vote.

Under Old Business, Past Department Commander Pleasant reminded us that the dues increase had been tabled.

Under New Business, there was a discussion about two specific articles of our constitution

and by-laws.

Article IV of our Discipline section was pointed out by myself as being pretty dysfunctional, in that it provides some procedure for discipline of members and removal of officers but it is grossly insufficient in detail. For example, it talks about sworn charges but it doesn't say how those charges would be sworn. It doesn't give the format of the charging. It doesn't give sufficient detail for conducting a fair trial, as required by our National Constitution.

And, therefore, I recommended that that article be amended to just refer to a new document that was outside the constitution and by-laws called the "Uniform Code For Conduct of Disciplinary Proceedings," which would be submitted to this body for approval, similar to the Uniform Code for the Revocation and Cancellation of Post Charters, which is outside of the National Constitution and By-Laws, and is subject only to approval by the National Executive Committee. We've been following the National model for that.

That motion was approved by the committee by

a motion by Past Department Commander Stanley Pleasant, and seconded by Dick Zulch.

Secondly, there was a discussion about a proposal to amend Article X, Standing Committees. That motion to amend was also recommended for approval by a motion by Past Department Commander Stanley Pleasant, seconded by Dick Zulch. It was approved.

Adjutant Heller will further elucidate on that particular constitutional amendment proposal during her report.

Finally, I would like to talk just a bit about an organization that's near and dear to my heart.

How many of you, during your time on active duty, stopped by or used a USO lounge?

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Many of us have done so.

I, personally, have volunteered at the USO lounge at the Dayton Airport for about six years now. Our Legion Post provided some funds for that lounge. Another Legion Post in the 3rd District bought a new refrigerator for that lounge. In exchange for that, the USO Lounge, which serves

about 700 service members or retirees per month, put on its television board credit for that support, as well as allowing us to put recruiting materials for The American Legion in the USO lounge.

I don't know if you're aware, but there are approximately at least nine USO facilities in the State of Ohio, one in the Cincinnati airport; two in Dayton, one at the airport, one at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base; two in Cleveland, one at the airport, one at the MEPS; one in Toledo; one at the Youngstown YAR Station; two in Columbus, at the airport and at the MEPS, the Military Entrance Processing Station.

Every time one of those young service members is sworn in, they automatically become eligible to be a member of The American Legion. If your Posts will give a little financial support to those USOs, and, better yet, provide volunteers where they can have face-to-face contact with those soldiers, sailors, airmen and retirees, and allow them to post recruiting materials, it's a great opportunity for membership recruitment for The American Legion and developing a partnership with the USO to do that.

1 With that, Commander, that completes my 2 report. 3 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Doug. 4 Yes. 5 4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: Jim Jennings, Commander, 4th District. 6 7 It's just a minor correction. The Cincinnati 8 Airport is not in Ohio. That's in Northern 9 Kentucky. 10 PDC WILSON: Mr. Commander, I've got a few 11 points I'd like to make. Wilson, Past Department 12 Commander. 13 First of all, on the USOs, I don't see why, 14 if they're not in your area, or if they are in 15 your area, just write Charities, Inc., a letter. 16 I think it's a very appropriate cause for 17 Charities, Inc., to try to help out with a little 18 money to do things in those different USOs. 19 The second thing is probably a little 20 harsher, maybe, but I understand the National's 21 stand on not wearing your cap at political things. 22 I also understand that in the past I have seen 23 many National Commanders, Vice Commanders, and 24 National staff wearing their hat at different

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political parties' events.

I wonder when we're going to come into reality and come into the 21st century, when we've got terrorists, Muslims, being elected to office.

When are we going to come out of the backyard and come into the front yard and start promoting what's good for America?

I just think it's ridiculous that you can't wear your cap when you're going to a political party that's going to help America. And we've got to quit standing off in the shadows. We've got to start telling people who we think should be elected. Because if not, we're going down a bad road. And I think we ought to change that, one way or another.

There's many times in the past I've seen National Commanders at either a Democratic election or a Republican election. I have no problem with that.

But I think we ought to start coming up and at least getting back to the norm that we care about America. And we need to elect people that are going to help America and not tear it down.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Jerry.

That sounds to me like that needs a resolution.

Next up we'll have our Parliamentarian, Bob Ray, on the rules of the DEC.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RAY: Thank you, Commander.
Good morning.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RAY: I hope you all brought your copies along with you that were sent out this last week.

We mentioned this at our last DEC meeting, that these rules needed to be looked at and updated, especially with changes in the National Constitution and our own.

I sent out the first iteration a couple months ago, just to get some feedback, which I did. I got some very useful feedback for the final document, especially from our Judge Advocate, who mentioned the fact that we have the Convention Corporation of Ohio and Charities, Inc., Corporation of Ohio that were not even mentioned in our rules. They are now.

And I also would like to thank the Adjutant for correcting my spelling, punctuation, and a few other things that she did to make this final document presentable to everybody.

So if you want me to, I can read it, if

1 anybody's got any questions. 2 If not, Commander, we should entertain a 3 motion accept it as printed. COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll entertain a motion to 4 5 accept it. Do we have a motion? 6 4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: Jim Jennings, Commander, 4th District. 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, we have a motion. 8 9 Do I have a second? 10 ADJUTANT HELLER: What's the motion? 11 COMMANDER FRIEND: His motion was to approve 12 this by the DEC. 13 Do I have a second? 14 2ND DISTRICT 1VC HOMAN: Mike Homan, 2nd 15 District, seconds the motion. 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any other discussion? 17 18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any other 20 discussion? 21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all in favor 23 signify by saying aye. 24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 25 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign.

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 3 Now we'll hear from our Adjutant, Suzette. FROM THE ASSEMBLY: 4 O-H. 5 I-O. ADJUTANT HELLER: Let me make sure I have my 6 7 proper documentation. 8 FROM THE FLOOR: You look great in scarlet 9 and gray. 10 ADJUTANT HELLER: My husband would agree this looks great on me. Just saying. 11 12 Good afternoon. 13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon. Not yet. Six more minutes. 14 15 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay. 16 So it's my report and then lunch. 17 All right, a few things. 18 I want to start with Finance Operations and 19 Procedures Manual. I provided you all with a copy 20 of that. This is it right here (indicating). 21 Okay? 22 So on the Finance Operations and Procedures 23 Manual, what we've discovered as we're reviewing 24 and operating and conducting business in the areas 25 of our operation is that we have nothing

documented on how it is we are to proceed in all of these different areas. There's no documentation.

So, really, it's like, you know, come on board, figure it out, kid. You know, we'll give you some guidance and we'll help you out.

So, to me, that is no way to run a business. It is no way to run an operation, especially a large nonprofit like what we are.

We're a global nonprofit organization. We consist of a 501(c)19 and 501(c)3. To me, I take that very seriously.

So what I have taken the liberty to do, and I presented this at the, I think at the Constitution and By-Law Ad Hoc Committee, also at our Finance meeting. And I've been working with the officers on this.

I want to thank everybody for their input on this. And I would encourage any input from you.

So what you have here, this is going to be in every office. Every single thing that we do, just like when we were in the military, we had AR manuals, we had FM manuals, we had all those things to show us. When we didn't know how to do something, there was a booklet documented of how

we were supposed to do that.

So, because we are such a large nonprofit, yet small and mighty, right, we don't necessarily have an excessive amount of staff that maybe a large corporation that's for profit might have because they can afford those things. So we operate with a very minimal staff.

But I will tell you that, to avoid being reactive, as we have been for the last couple years, and to get us to a more proactive standpoint, should somebody leave this organization, which just pulls us back into a reactive standpoint, so by having a document like this in everybody's office, where the pages just get changed and updated should they need to, this is going to be very helpful in somebody else being able to pick up that task, and to be able to incorporate that into whatever they're already doing, just so that there's no gap in service, right, in any of our programs.

So I would encourage you to review this.

I'm not necessarily certain that we would need a motion for this. This is what we're doing from an operation standpoint. I just want to inform you all that this is how we're operating.

However, I will be working closely with the

Treasurer and the other officers. Because the

finance aspect is important. And a lot of that is

documented in our constitution and by-laws. So we

probably will need, when it's completed, we'll

probably need a motion or a resolution or

something, just to accept this manual, accept the

creation of this manual, in order to keep this as

a living document. So that's a possibility. And

I'll have to get with the JA on that, moving

forward.

So the biggest part is the table of contents. And I've only given you, so far, what I've drafted up to the operations and procedures. But if you look at the table of contents, you'll see this covers a lot. So we're hoping to have this also be like a staff employee manual, so we'll have ways that we deal with drug use in the workplace and/or professional attire in the workplace, time off, vacation time. So all those things will be in this Finance, Policy and Operations Manual.

So it will be very simple. It's one document. And somebody could easily reference anything that's in this.

I know sometimes when folks call and they'll

say, well, this is how we've done this; right?

And then we've changed it internally and said, no, we're going to do it like this. So this way you get the same answer. So if you call here for something and you're wanting to know how we're doing something, you're going to get the same answer every time you call because everybody is going to be operating within the same guidelines on how to do something. Okay? And I think that will be very helpful when working with the Districts, the Posts, and the organization in general.

So that's one part. It's going to help us be efficient.

New hires.

We have found a replacement for Terri

Croswait, who is in the Cincinnati office. So I

know the 4th District will be very happy to see

that we've offered employment to a Beth Guarino.

She is a member of Blue Ash Post 630. She's from

Reed, Ohio. And we're hoping to have her start on

12/16. I sent the offer letter to Finance. They

appear to agree with that.

I don't necessarily know how we want to handle, you know, hiring of new people who have

replaced people that have already been employed here. So I would ask for clarification on that.

I know my role. I've pretty much been overseeing the hiring, and then working with the officers if there's anybody that's needed to leave the organization. So I would just ask for clarification on that from this body.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Don't all jump up at once.

ADJUTANT HELLER: We've interviewed her several times. She's not being paid anything more than what the previous person was being paid. She gets the same benefits as everybody else in the organization. And Bill Genochio is her first line supervisor. And so --

COMMANDER FRIEND: I guess what it would mean is that, actually, we don't really need a motion. But we do need a vote, per se, to either accept this individual or not accept this individual. Because the DEC actually makes the final decision on the actual hiring and would be able to approve her recommendation. So --

Bob.

PDC SCHMITT: Schmitt, PDC.

Is she going to have a trial period of 90 days or six months?

1 ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes, 90 days.

PDC SCHMITT: Ninety days?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Uh-huh.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Bob.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RAY: Mr. Commander, I had an occasion to meet this young lady a couple weeks ago at one of our District functions. She seems like a nice young person. She's familiar with what we're going to do.

I worked at the Cincinnati VA two days a week as a volunteer. And I used to stop in and see Terri. And she would ask me questions if she needed something, you know, at The Legion.

I'll be more than happy to do that with this young lady, if she happens to be hired. Anytime something comes up, I'm free to help her out any Tuesday or Wednesday.

Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay.

I guess what it means is I'm actually going to entertain a vote from the DEC that if this young lady accepts the offer, that we go ahead and hire her.

Is there any discussion, other than what we've already heard?

1 4TH DISTRICT 1VC FOSTER: Commander, I make a 2 motion that we go ahead and have a vote and vote her in. 3 Steve Foster, 4th District, 1st Vice. 4 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion. Do we have a second? 6 7 NEC KLOSTERMEIER: NEC Klostermeier seconds, 8 Commander. COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a second. 9 10 Is there any other discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all in favor 13 signify by saying aye. 14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 15 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 17 18 ADJUTANT HELLER: Thank you very much. 19 will be very excited about that. 20 Okay, Dayton, we're still interviewing. know we have a candidate here in this room. 21 22 District Commander, Joe Law, has applied for that position. We also have other candidates for that 23 24 position. So we're working through that. We're 25 hoping to have that resolved by the end of the

year.

In Cleveland, there's an administrative position. We're still seeking resumes for that, as well as Department Headquarters, the administrative person at the front desk.

Sam, we loved her. She is a veteran. She went to Nationwide Children's Hospital. She got an offer she could not refuse. They have daycare on site and she had a newborn. So we were sad to see her go. We keep in touch with her. She did send us a message and said that she sort of regretted her decision. But I think she's getting used to her new position now. So we do stay in communication with her.

The next item of business is Standing

Committees and Commissions. I sent you all what
that could possibly look like. I'm working on the
analytics to that now. But I really don't want to
proceed any further and utilize any good American
Legion time if that is not something that's going
to be supported by this body. So I'm seeking
support for that. I know the Treasurer and I, and
the Finance Commission, and the officers, have had
several conversations about this.

This will allow us to budget clearly. Right?

So the programs will actually have a home in the commissions.

You have this document (indicating). And currently what stands in our constitution and by-laws, it's in the constitution, and it's Article X, Standing Committees.

In those standing committees, it only includes Finance, VA&R, Publications and Scholarship. That is not how we operate. That does not reflect the operations of this organization.

I've sought advisement with the Judge

Advocate. I've spoken with the National Judge

Advocate, Kevin Bartlett. I've spoken to several

Adjutants in different Departments. And I've

looked at the outline of authorization by what

National has and how they operate.

And so I've looked at all of our programs.

And most of our programs don't necessarily have a home. So there really isn't a, I don't want to say a governing authority, but kind of a big brother or big sister umbrella.

So I've taken all of our programs and I've listed them underneath commissions. And I've narrowed it down to 11 commissions. And those 11

1 commissions would be, they're standing 2 commissions, and they are: Americanism; Children 3 and Youth; Convention; Finance; Internal Affairs; Legislative; Media, Marketing and Communications; 4 5 Membership and Post Activities; National Security; 6 VA&R; and Scholarship. Everything that we do here 7 from a program structure at the Department is in 8 relation to one of those standing commissions. So, I'm not asking for, in a sense --9 10 obviously this is a constitution and by-law change 11 that would have to be presented at Department 12 Convention. So should this move forward with a 13 resolution, this would come before the DEC in 14 April. And then you all could forward that to 15 convention if you were to support and continue 16 working on this. 17 So I'm asking for, from this body, guidance 18 on how you want to proceed on this, and/or 19 feedback on this change. 20 Commander. 21 COMMANDER FRIEND: PDC Wilson. 22 PDC WILSON: Past Department Commander 23 Wilson. 24 Since this is going to require a 25 constitutional change, -- am I correct?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes.

PDC WILSON: -- I think it should be referred to the Constitutional Committee for their review, and not this body itself.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Well, and that's funny that you say that, Jerry, because we don't necessarily -- it was already referred from the Constitution and By-Law Committee, the ad hoc committee that was put together. But there really isn't a home for something like this. So it came out of that committee already. So it came out of that committee and went to Finance.

PDC WILSON: I've never seen that.

ADJUTANT HELLER: We don't have a Department Constitution and By-Law Committee. We have an ad hoc committee that the Commander had put together when he took office.

PDC WILSON: We have a Constitution and By-Law Committee that reports to every convention.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Yeah. They meet once a year at convention. That is separately. That's a convention committee that reviews any constitution and by-law amendments that are put forth by this body.

PDC WILSON: I think you should refer it to

them.

COMMANDER FRIEND: And it will be. It will actually be referred to that committee.

Yes, Bob.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RAY: I think what the confusion might be is, I'm a member of that committee but I was absent that day, the minutes did not really explain. All it said was we needed this change, but it didn't actually explain. And I think that's what some people may not understand exactly what we're trying to do.

If we had 11 commissions instead of 14 committees, that's what you're saying; right?

COMMANDER FRIEND: Yeah.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RAY: And all 14 Districts still would be represented on those; yes?

COMMANDER FRIEND: Yeah.

PARLIAMENTARIAN RAY: Okay, then it still should be further developed for the final thing. And I'm sure it will by the time it comes to the convention.

But everybody should at least get a chance to take a look at it, especially our DEC should get a chance to take a look at it and express their opinion, or misgivings, approval, whichever.

1 COMMANDER FRIEND: Just to give you a little 2 insight, each one of those commissions will 3 actually have subcommittees in that commission. Just like under the Media and Communication, what 4 5 would normally be one of the committees that is not actually under that will be under the Media 6 and Communication Committee. 7 8 PDC WILSON: Mr. Commander. And every 9 District will be represented on those; yes? 10 ADJUTANT HELLER: Except for Finance, 11 Internal Affairs and Convention Corporation, which 12 are already appointed. 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Yes. 14 PDC SCHMITT: PDC Schmitt. 15 In your e-mail, you had indicated there were 16 16 committees and there would only be 11 commissions. 17 ADJUTANT HELLER: Uh-huh. 18 19 PDC SCHMITT: What are the five that are not 20 going to be? I assume that's POW/MIA --2.1 ADJUTANT HELLER: There was already a 22 resolution at your convention that eliminated the 23 POW/MIA Committee. And all the POW/MIA programs 24 went under the National Security Committee.

Special Olympics?

25

PDC SCHMITT:

ADJUTANT HELLER: Special Olympics falls under Children and Youth, currently.

Now that can still, all of these programs can still exist with committees and subcommittees, but their main authority and home would be the commission.

PDC SCHMITT: Okay. But what I'm asking is:
You indicated in your e-mail there are 16
committees. And you're only talking about 11
commissions. What happened to the five? Who are
those five committees that aren't going to exist,
or they're going to fall in under some other area?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Well, like Gifts for Yanks. Gifts for Yanks is going to have a committee, because the VA&R Commission would most likely not choose to have a Gifts for Yanks Committee.

Right?

It was that. It was -- I can't think off the top of my head exactly, but Public Relations would be under Media, Marketing and Communications.

It's all detailed, all those programs are detailed in this (indicating).

PDC SCHMITT: Except for those five that were not mentioned as to what they were or where they were going or what happens to them.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Right, right.

PDC SCHMITT: And that's what my question is: What's happening with those so-called five? Who are they, or whatever, and where are they going?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Point taken.

PDC SCHMITT: Because we don't know that, you know.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Uh-huh.

PDC SCHMITT: But you mentioned the 16.

ADJUTANT HELLER: I guess what I'm asking is:
Would you like to see this develop further?
Should we spend more time on getting this
organized properly? Is this a direction that you
would like to see this Department to go, is what
I'm asking you? Because this requires a lot of
time. And if there's other things that we could
be spending our time on, that's where I need your
quidance.

PDC SCHMITT: While I'm still up, I would say yes, I think it needs to go that direction. I mean you've got Americanism as one of our pillars. National Security, one of our pillars. VA&R, one of our pillars. And Children and Youth, one of our pillars. They should be listed our constitution and by-laws separately than what they

1 have been in the past, not being there. COMMANDER FRIEND: Okav. 3 Yes. 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Bob Carson, 14th 4 5 District. If you look at what Suzette has in our 6 7 package that we were given today, on page 8 8 through 13 of The American Legion Ad Hoc, By-laws 9 Ad Hoc Committee, it explains basically her breakdown of where each of these committees that 10 11 are currently in use are going to. Just --12 ADJUTANT HELLER: I could have gone a lot 13 further with this. But I didn't want to because I 14 thought if you all don't support it --15 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: But this is just 16 to give us an idea, right now, of where she's at. 17 If we can go ahead and do something like 18 this, it would give us a better idea of who 19 belongs in what and where we're going. Does that 20 not make sense? 21 ADJUTANT HELLER: Absolute sense. 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: It kind of shadows 23 National, because National has commissions. 24 then there's committees that fall under those 25 commissions.

ADJUTANT HELLER: I also believe that that's something that we could add to our Operations and Procedures Manual, so it allows the staff to have more direction on what their duties are and exactly, you know, what commissions and what programs that they're assigned to.

Because I will tell you that, not recently, but when I initially took this position, it was kind of like, okay, how much work do you have?

Okay, do this. I need you to do this, or I need you to do this.

So I believe, and I think the staff, I know the staff would support me on saying this, they have gotten a much better idea of what their roles and responsibilities are. And this is kind of the solidifying piece that, should any of us not be here, that anybody new coming into the organization would be able to pick this up and run with it, and there would be no gap in service.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Doug.

JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: Just as your Judge Advocate, I've reviewed this document. I find no conflict with National policy, National Constitution and By-Laws.

One thing it's important that you know is

that it transfers this section, Article X, from the constitution to the by-laws. And that is an appropriate structure for the document.

2.1

Usually, constitutions would list the officers of an organization. The by-laws would prescribe their duties. The constitution might list committees and commissions, but the by-laws would give you all the details as to how they operate. And that's what this does. That is an appropriate transfer from the constitution and by-laws.

Other than that, as a matter of policy, you're not going to get an opinion from the Judge Advocate, because that's a policy matter to be determined by this body.

I do find no conflict with National policy.

But I do recommend the transfer from the constitution to the by-laws.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay. It sounds like you all would encourage us to move forward with this; correct?

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yes.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay, thank you.

We'll work with the officers on this, and that committee, to expand on this further, and we

can have something a little more solid by the April DEC.

Okay, moving on, I'm hungry too, shifts in positions and duties. This is very important for you all to know. I just want to quickly review what's been going on with our staff members here.

So Marie Leister, who's the new executive secretary, I know you all have met her, we are so glad to have her on staff with us.

Because our Miss Becky here, who's been with us coming up on 17 years --

ASSISTANT CORBIN: Eighteen.

ADJUTANT HELLER: -- 18 years, I'm sorry, I digress --

(Applause).

Yes, thank you.

She was getting a lot more responsibility than what she was able to manage. So I had to shift duties around, bring in another person.

So, Becky, we've moved her. And her role has basically been fiscal secretary. She's also been responsible for National Convention, emblem sales, and she assists me with Post compliance.

Now when I throw the word out "fiscal" secretary, what that means is Becky has been doing

all the account receivables. Okay? So she works closely with Carol. She works closely with membership. All of the membership and all the checks get to Becky, and she processes those every single day. She lets membership know how many cards for the different Posts and how much money that she has received for the accounts receivable. And that has really allowed us to be a more efficient process with our membership processing. So that's been a good thing.

So I would like to call Becky our "fiscal secretary," as well as many other things, in a good way, in a good way. I meant that in a good way.

And I know everybody is like where's Becky? Where's Becky? Becky? Becky is still here. She's alive and well. She's doing an excellent job.

And I think for her too, in all this transition that we've experienced, this has really allowed her to have a breadth of new roles and responsibilities at Department. And sometimes when you just do the same thing day in and day out, it can get a little redundant. So I believe it's given her a new focus on the mission.

Marie, excellent. She's been doing a great in job keeping up with us and the DEC, and supporting us administratively.

Christie has been doing a great job. She's picked up Mid-Winter and Convention, and she's also the Americanism and Children and Youth pillar.

Jermaine has represented this organization so well in the public sector, at the statehouse.

He's excelled in his positions and he just represents the Department very professionally, with VBA, Legislative, Gifts for Yanks, and National Security.

Mike has been doing a great job in membership, SAL, ALR, and Post Activities.

However, that position is still being developed.

We are still working through the development of that position.

Because with MyLegion.org, we have a foot in two different worlds, we have a foot in the regular, how we've always processed membership, right, and then we have a foot in the digital age. And so I feel like, since he's been here, we've changed how we process membership at least a half a dozen times. I mean it just seems to constantly

be evolving.

So we're still growing in the membership area. So expect to see some good change in that in the future.

Bill has done an excellent job as well. When I took this position to serve you all, I had to give up my role as a Service Officer, which was so near and dear to me. But he's done a great job with VBA and the field offices.

And it was the most sensical decision, based on efficiency and skill. So all of the field offices and all the claims work are under one roof, which is our Cleveland field office.

Carol, I had already mentioned her, that it, too, is another very sensical decision.

I will tell you what we need. We need a media, marketing and communications coordinator. Holly has done such a great job in unifying us as an American Legion family. However, I believe that if we had a position here at Headquarters, a coordinator that could work with her, individually, a lot more closely, right, not just for that commission but also to help us get a revenue stream for our equipment in the back, right, to do a lot more networking throughout the

State of Ohio, donations, and just --

So the equipment in the back, we purchased that. That was probably about a \$75,000 purchase when it was all said and done. We, you know, this body made a decision to take that money from our investments, which was great because a lot of other Departments are really chomping at the bit to get here to see what we've got going on back there.

And we've seen some savings in time, and probably a little more savings if we were to compare it to what we would have paid for that in the public sector.

However, we're still not seeing the revenue stream from that to help cover that cost. So the unrelated business income tax has been an issue. And if we were to use that equipment to earn a revenue stream -- currently, it costs us about 2,000 a month in leases and paper costs and click rates to maintain that equipment. And so all we would have to do is sell printing to like-minded organizations, right, the message is the same, in a sense. And if we earned more than what we pay for that, then it's unrelated business income tax. So it's getting other entities to help us pay for

that, those costs. And I really think, maybe in the future, having a part-time, or even a full-time coordinator focused on that would be great.

The final thing is measurements, metrics and goals for 2020.

Reports, impact reports on programs, I started working with Bill, because that's one of the areas I'm very familiar with. He's going to present to you this afternoon a report on, an impact report on what the veterans, our VBA section of The Legion, has been doing, and comparisons.

But what I would like to be able to do is, in the future, is let you know the successes. I would like to be able to communicate with you the wins for this organization that we've all been a part of. But, currently, we don't necessarily have a baseline for, really, a lot of things here.

So my focus in 2020 is going to be more establishing baselines. So that way we have something to compare to. Because right now we really don't have a whole lot to compare to.

I was so happy I jumped for joy when I saw that we had a first quarter report. I mean,

hallelujah. It was just a great thing.

But in order for us to continue to measure in all of our different areas, we have to establish a baseline. So that's, moving forward, that's another goal that hopefully this time next year I can come to you and say this is our baseline for all these different areas.

So if any of you have experience with that, especially as District Commanders, 1st Vice Commanders, who will be around next year, I would love to work with you on that. So I would encourage you to reach out to me, also with the officers, and assist in that process.

Post compliancy. Wow, that is an area that, it almost frightens me. Because I have a roller thing in my office, and there's probably about, I don't know, maybe 20 Posts or so in there that, every time we get a phone call and we find that, you know, there's an issue at the Post, the JA will start looking at all their documents and records. But what we're finding is a lot of our Posts are not in compliancy.

Your Posts, you all are like, this is like a franchise, right, in a sense, and you are all like regional managers, regional directors. And these

are little nonprofit entities. We are a nonprofit organization. There's laws that we have to follow. There's 990s that need to be filed.

There's articles of corporation and constitutions and by-laws that need to be updated. There's the secretary of state business site that you have to register with. There are a lot of different compliancy matters that a lot of our Posts are not updated on.

Because when somebody gets reelected, it just, maybe somebody in the past paid attention to that, but currently, as it stands, new leadership comes in and they may not be mentored or be given the tools to maintain that.

So I would encourage you to think about Post compliancy. Those Post Inspection Reports that you do are very, very important for us right now. So please get out to your Posts, take those questions very seriously, and document as much information as you can so we can get a baseline of our Posts and see what Posts need help with getting their compliancy up to date.

Because the last thing that we want to do is have the attorney general come down on us and tell us that -- just to have further problems with the

AG's office. We don't need that. We don't want 1 2 that attention. And it's not good for anybody. 3 And then for passing it on, right, we want to 4 be able to pass on to the future generation a good 5 working business. So, Commander, that concludes my report. I'm 6 7 very sorry. I was a little lengthy. 8 COMMANDER FRIEND: That's okay. 9 ADJUTANT HELLER: So thank you. 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Everybody hungry? 11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yeah. 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, actually we're a 13 little bit behind schedule. We're about a half 14 hour behind the break. 15 It's actually 12:28 right now. Let's 16 reconvene at 1:28. We are now in recess. 17 18 (THEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS STOOD IN RECESS). 19 Okay, we'll reconvene. 20 Yeah, we'll do the Historian report. 21 HISTORIAN BEYER: Good afternoon, everybody. 22 I hope you all had a good lunch. 23 Roger, or Commander, I would really like to thank you for this appointment. I appreciate it. 24 25 I have greatly enhanced my knowledge with the

Legion and everything, especially having gone to Indianapolis for the Historian workshop.

I've been attending events and activities for these Posts and Districts on behalf of the Commander and the Department, including events where your 1st and 2nd Vice are in attendance to capture and archive the history.

I also attended the National Historian Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. If you haven't been there, you've got to go. Just go to the fourth floor, I believe it is, and go through that museum. It's fantastic.

Presently, we are receiving mid-year reports from Post Historians on their activities and events that are participating in the incentive that I detailed in The Legion News. This is for a drawing to win an American Legion tie clasp for those Posts or Districts that turn in a report, just a report, by December 20th. The drawing will be held at the Mid-Winter Conference. And there's no real requisites for the report, or to win the tie clasp, other than being picked out of a hat. All right? But make sure you get your reports in by that time.

FROM THE FLOOR: To you?

1 HISTORIAN BEYER: Yeah, they do, they come to 2 me. 3 Also, I have the form available if yours is missing or you don't have it and you do want it. 4 5 I have it available on e-mail for any Posts or District that might be interested in 6 7 participating, all right, or for photos posted on 8 Facebook that my committee may have taken from me 9 for a copy. 10 I would also like to thank my committee 11 member, and my wife, Dayna Beyer, who's also known 12 as Tsi Sim Mar, -- Tsi is not started with an S 13 or a C. It starts with T-S-I. She's Chinese. 14 All right? -- who is Auxiliary Department Historian, for her involvement with me as 15 16 Department Historian. So she does a wonderful 17 job, a great job for me and for the Department. 18 (Applause). 19 All right, well thank you. That's all. That 20 concludes my report. 21 COMMANDER FRIEND: Al, thank you very much. 22 Tsi, thank you. 23 Because those two braved the cold the night

we did the POW/MIA Chair on the football field.

And it was not a fun night. It was actually

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1.

1 pretty chilly that night. So they were on the 2 field with us. They both did a real good job. 3 And I cannot thank them enough for all the stuff they've done for me, as far as being there 4 5 when I needed somebody there by my side. Thank you again, Al. 6 7 Okay, Americanism Committee, Tom Rowe. BBS is on deck. 8 CHAIRMAN ROWE: Good afternoon. 9 10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon. 11 CHAIRMAN ROWE: The Americanism Committee met 12 October 5, 2019, in the library, at 10:00 AM. 13 Proper respect was rendered to the flag. Opening 14 prayer was given. Thirteen out of 14 Districts 15 were in attendance. 16 We had guests, 2nd Vice Brad Teis, and the 17 Commander stopped in as well. 18 The following motions from the Americanism 19 Committee, that were agreed upon by the committee, 20 need to be acted on today by this body: 21 Americanism can have an official meeting at 22 Mid-Winter to discuss the A&G test winners. 23 will be a non-vouchered meeting. 24 The Americanism Committee would like to be 25 the ones to judge the test at the state level at

Mid-Winter. There are six packets that need to be judged. So the odd numbered Districts would judge on the odd years, even numbered Districts would grade on the even years.

The Department coordinator, as a neutral party, will pick, at random, four Americanism District Chairmen, out of the possible seven chairmen, depending on the odd or even year, to act as judges for the A&G test at Mid-Winter. The other three Americanism Chairs will act as alternate judges if any judge could not attend. The two other judges will be the Auxiliary Americanism Chair and the SAL Chair.

Also, we have new judging rules that have been approved by the committee for the state judging at Mid-Winter. I believe you should have those. If not, I will go ahead and read them, briefly. It's pretty quick.

The judges for the Americanism and Government state judging will be four members of the Americanism Committee, as well as the Auxiliary Americanism Chairwoman and the SAL Americanism Chairman. The judges will be drawn at random. Even numbered Districts will be considered on even numbered years, odd number Districts on odd

numbered years. Four judges will be chosen from the Americanism Committee, and the three others will be considered judges in case a selected judge is unable to attend.

The drawing will be done by the Department Americanism and Children and Youth Coordinator, being a neutral party.

The instructions are that the test papers of the 14 District winners are of a specific grade division. The tests papers are arranged in order from high score to low score for each particular grade.

The student's information is blocked out for fairness and objectivity and privacy. Do not remove the label over the student's information for any reason, even after judging is complete.

The essay is also sealed.

Student's tied with the same identical score are indicated, and only these essays with tied scores will be visible for the judges to read.

You are asked to select no more than five students from this group of 14, and number them one through five based on score. And please initial each test paper you choose.

The first three students you select will be

the three tentative state winners in that grade division. These students are tentative state winners, pending confirmation that student wishes to go on the trip.

The No. 4 student will be the first alternate, and would be afforded the opportunity to attend should one of the three state winners not be able to.

The fifth will be the second alternate, and would be afforded the opportunity to attend the trip if either of the final two state winners or first alternate cannot attend.

Once judging is complete, place the nine non-winners in the envelope marked "Non-winners. Place the five winning tests in numerical order, one through five, in the envelope marked "State winners." Please write your name and title on each envelope.

The envelopes will be then handed to the Americanism and Children and Youth Coordinator to reveal the results. The coordinator will remove the labels and write the name and hometown of those students on the section of the state winners form. And all judging is complete once that is done, then the judge will sign off.

1 And within 24 hours, a spreadsheet will be 2 created and will be given to the Americanism 3 Committee by e-mail. And on Sunday morning, at that non-vouchered 4 5 meeting, that's where the District Chairs would get together and talk about the winners, and then 6 7 would be able to notify those student winners, or 8 the Posts to contact those winners. 9 Commander, that is my report. But like I 10 said, those motions do need to be acted upon 11 today. 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN ROWE: I'll take questions if 14 anybody has any. 15 5TH DISTRICT 1VC ESTEP: Why the changes? 16 FROM THE FLOOR: Who are you? 17 5TH DISTRICT 1VC ESTEP: Ken Estep from 18 District 5. 19 CHAIRMAN ROWE: The changes as to the 20 judging? 21 5TH DISTRICT 1VC ESTEP: 22 CHAIRMAN ROWE: The committee felt that, we 23 work with the A&G every year, closely, and they 24 felt that we're the best suited to handle it. 25 That would include the Auxiliary Chairwoman and

the SAL. 1 2 The SAL does do a lot. That's something you 3 probably know. They support this program, you know, depending on the Post or District, they 4 5 support it in many different ways. Some of them give the tests. Some of them support it by 6 7 purchasing tests, pins, other awards, and so 8 forth. 9 So we're being inclusive for the whole 10 family. And we just feel like we're better suited 11 to do the judging. 12 Yes, sir. 13 12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: If I can get up. CHAIRMAN ROWE: I understand. 14 15 12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: Poulton, 1st 16 Vice, 12th District. Do I understand that you're only talking 17 18 about five winners to make the trip, as opposed 19 to --20 CHAIRMAN ROWE: No, no, no. Each grade. 21 12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: Each grade. 22 CHAIRMAN ROWE: And I didn't say gender. 23 Boys and girls. 24 COMMANDER FRIEND: That's five winners in each grade. So it will still be 18. 25

1 CHAIRMAN ROWE: Yes. That will not change. 2 None of that will change. 3 12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: Eighteen total? CHAIRMAN ROWE: Yes. 4 5 12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: All right. CHAIRMAN ROWE: Yes. 6 7 PDC SCHMITT: Commander, through the chairs, 8 I just want to commend the committee on this 9 year's test. I think they really did an 10 outstanding job putting the test together. I only 11 had one question about one. But, you know, that's 12 a matter of interpretation. And from that 13 standpoint, the answer sheet lined up well with 14 the answers of the questions on the test. And I 15 just think they did an outstanding job. And I 16 think they ought to be commended for it. 17 (Applause). 18 CHAIRMAN ROWE: All right, sir. 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: BBS Trustee --20 Oh, sorry, another question. Go ahead. 21 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: Rue, 1st District 22 Commander. 23 I believe we have to make a motion to accept 24 those changes to the Americanism. And I will make 25 that motion to accept the changes that were made.

1	COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion.
2	Do we have a second?
3	11TH DISTRICT 1VC ROBINSON: Robinson, 11th
4	District 1st Vice, I second.
5	COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any more
6	discussion?
7	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
8	COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in
9	favor signify by saying aye.
10	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.
11	COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign.
12	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
13	COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved.
14	Thank you.
15	Jim. Now Jim. BBS Trustee Meeting, Jim
16	Koppin.
17	DIRECTOR KOPPIN: Good afternoon, ladies and
18	gentlemen.
19	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.
20	DIRECTOR KOPPIN: First of all, I'd like to
21	have all the Buckeye Boys State staff please
22	stand.
23	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).
24	DIRECTOR KOPPIN: Thank you.
25	These are the people that make Boys State

work.

The 2019 American Legion Buckeye Boys State program was a success from the standpoint that even though our numbers were down from the previous years, the numbers this year were 998, the overall quality of the young men who attended was what was commented most about by our staff.

I don't see the leading candidate anymore. I was going to congratulate him on Texas being No.

1. Ohio is no longer No. 1. We are working diligently to cure that.

The program was visited by National Commander Bill Oxford, who spent quality time with us and left knowing why we are the best program in the nation.

National Boys Nation Director Scott Wynn spent the entire week with us as his first official duty after obtaining his position at National Headquarters.

United States House of Representatives member Warren Davidson and Ohio State Senator Bill Coley were guest speakers at the 2019 program. They will return for the 2020 program, along with State of Ohio House of Representatives member Rick Perales.

Governor Mike DeWine came to the program and spent a lot of time with the Boys State Governor and Lieutenant Governor, as well as he held a long question and answer period session with our state elected officials. He spent a lot of time with the boys. He just didn't come as a, as my former predecessor used to call it, a grip and grin session. He came and spent a lot of time with the boys.

Dick LeBeau was inducted into The American

Legion Buckeye Boys State Hall of Fame. He had

straightforward, and sometimes colorful, remarks

that were well received by the delegates and staff
alike.

On Wednesday evening, Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court Sharon Kennedy visited again and read the oath of office and installed the officers of the governor, lieutenant governor, state officials, supreme court, and the court of appeals.

Former Chief Counselor Carmen Scott was at the program to give his flag speech that was made famous by Father John Kemp. He also awarded a scholarship in his name to counselor Brian Le.

One of the highlights of the week is a flag

retirement ceremony that we hold outside Millett arena. It was conducted by Past Department Commander Richard Zulch. Many, many delegates stayed after the ceremony to ask questions and watch as the last embers faded away.

Each year we have a college fair hosted by senior counselor Todd Gerber, which allows all delegates a chance to talk to representatives from colleges, universities, and branches of the military, to help determine what their future plans might be after high school. The 2019 program had well over 100 schools participate.

Each year we have a blood drive, in connection with the local blood bank, on the last Saturday of the program, which is also a parents visitation day. There were 195 units of blood collected, which helped the local blood bank replenish their supply. A lot more delegates and staff offered to donate, but could not because of time constraints.

I am happy to report that the 2019 program finished below budget financially, and we continue to be self supporting.

With that being said, we are going to keep the enrollment fee per delegate at \$300 for the

2020 program.

Christie and I are doing everything we can to contain costs associated with the program and still remain the best program in the nation.

This year, there were 12 members of The American Legion Buckeye Boys State staff who attended the Boys State portion of the National Combined Americanism Conference in Indianapolis. In addition to the general session there, there were five breakout sessions on various topics to attend and later discuss. We came back with many new ideas and procedures, which were relayed to our entire staff at our fall conference.

President William Pennel has formed a committee to find ways to reach out to American Legion Posts and high schools in order to promote more attendance at American Legion Buckeye Boys State. The new "Program Planning Committee" consists of Chairperson Mark Weldon, Ron Chapman, David Ridenour, Richard Schuck, Jeff Jordan, Grant Grace, John Garvey, and Steve Scheer.

President Pennell also appointed a Conference Negotiation Committee, consisting of Grant Grace, Mark Weldon, Richard Schuck, Steve Sheer, and John Garvey.

The reason for doing that, we are going into our fourth year of a five-year contract. I'm sure we will be looking forward to finding, not a new home, a future home there at Miami. They are very, very interested in keeping us there. And we would like to stay, but we also understand there are other universities who would like to have us come to them. So it's nice to be wanted.

As always the Ohio State Highway Patrol has a huge presence in and on our program. This year's staff will have Sergeant Drew Hertlein as the officer in charge. He'll be back for his second year. Sergeant Adam Shonk, a former Buckeye Boys State Delegate, will be on staff.

And usually we get the Trooper of the Year.

Last year's Trooper of the Year was James

Hutchison. I think he was out of a Post down

there in Cincinnati somewhere, or Hamilton.

Hamilton, that's where it was.

On November the 14th, at Department
Headquarters, we held a training session for the
14 Buckeye Boys State Chairpersons, to help get a
better understanding of our on-line application
process. Ten of the 14 Districts were
represented, and many new ideas were discussed on

how to make the application process easier for both the delegates and the Post Chairperson. The four Districts, the 7th, 9th, 11th, and 14th, who were not in attendance, were all sent the information that was discussed at the meeting.

Also, we would like to have your Buckeye Boys
State orientation dates. We need orientation
dates from District 3, District 6, District 7,
District 9, District 11, and District 14. So if
you District Commanders can go back and get with
your Buckeye Boys State Chairmen and get those
dates in as soon as possible. We need those so
that when we, or when your Posts start
interviewing your boys, it's nice to tell them
when the orientation dates are. These kids got so
many things on their calendars, the sooner we get
something to them the better it can be. So we
would appreciate it if you could get those dates
to us.

Miami University invited us to dedicate a POW/MIA chair at their football game against Akron. Attending were myself, Christie White, Jermaine Ferguson, Ron Chapman, and Roger Friend. Also there was State Senator Bill Coley and House of Representatives member Rick Perales.

COMMANDER FRIEND: And we got Rick to join us as a Buckeye Stater.

DIRECTOR KOPPIN: We were able to, between the five of us, we were able to get another member to join the Buckeye Boys State staff.

And leading to that, I had all the Buckeye
Boys State staff stand to be recognized. Why
aren't the rest of you on the Buckeye Boys State
staff? We have plenty of applications. We will
take them, gladly. Christie has some. I have
some. We would like to see, next time I give my
report, all of you stand up when I ask for Buckeye
Boys State.

Are there any questions, either for Christie or myself?

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

DIRECTOR KOPPIN: Hearing none, Mr.

Commander, that concludes my report.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Jim.

If you all don't know, you cannot realize the fun we have those days down there with these kids. And when we say that we have the best of the best, it is amazing the minds that these kids come down there with. It is phenomenal.

So if you even think about it, or even think

you might want to be one of us, you're more than welcome to come down and visit. We can make arrangements if you want to make a couple days down there.

But Miami University has really done an extremely good job of actually giving us what we need to have down there. It's amazing. The food, I mean at any time you can go into the university and when you go to a cafeteria to eat you not only have one but you have three to four choices of entrees that you want to choose from. I kid you not, guys, I gain five to seven pounds every time we go to Boys State. But it's amazing.

Thanks again, Jim.

Okay, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation,
Dave Cook, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN COOK: Good afternoon.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN COOK: I'd like to start off by thanking you, Roger, for giving me the appointment this year. I really appreciate it. This is probably my most favorite program, considering I did it for 25 years.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Dave worked at the VSO office up in Marysville. So he's a good fit for

this.

CHAIRMAN COOK: The Department VA&R Committee met Saturday, October 5th, at Department Headquarters. Seven members were present of the committee, with two quests in attendance.

The committee reviewed the temporary financial assistance and the FSN guidelines and application. The committee voted to define the eligibility for the Family Support Network Temporary Assistance Program to be available to America Legion membership, members of the Ohio National Guard, and the Ohio Air National Guard, and families of deployed or active service members who reside in the State of Ohio.

The FSN is a one-time grant of up to \$500, to help meet the costs of shelter, food and utilities.

Temporary Financial Assistance guidelines are set by the Children and Youth Foundation. The TFA is a one-time grant of up to \$1,500, to help with the costs of shelter, food, and utilities for American Legion members with minor children.

Our applications for both programs' process should start off at the Post level. However, Legionnaires may directly contact Jermaine

Ferguson to apply.

2.1

The committee reviewed and discussed the 2019 National Veterans Suicide Prevention Annual Report. Frank Adley of the 9th suggested that The American Legion conduct a study to see how many Legionnaires fall victim to suicide to see if there's any significance.

It is often reported that a sense of mission and community are two factors that prevent suicide. This committee believes that the community and mission of The American Legion is a solution to prevent suicide. The committee instructed Jermaine Ferguson, the VA&R Coordinator, to investigate and to provide the information so the committee may draft a resolution.

The committee voted to form a subcommittee to create guidelines for the Ohio veterans court program. The first meeting will take place early next year.

The committee reviewed the Department and National VA&R Awards and nomination process. The committee requested that Jermaine send out an award packet to the District leadership. Jermaine is reviewing all awards and will disseminate the

award packet in the upcoming weeks.

The committee reviewed the report of the Commander, the Department Commander's visit of the Ohio VA Medical Centers and the Ohio Veterans Home.

The committee discussed best practices to discuss veterans who have questions or concerns with the health care they receive. The committee discussed the possibility of adding a town hall or a luncheon to the Commander's visit in the upcoming years.

I thank you for your time and respectfully submit this report to be recorded by the committee.

Any questions?

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

CHAIRMAN COOK: Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: VBA report, Bill Genochio, from the field office in Cleveland.

COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: All right, good afternoon all.

As he said, I'm Bill Genochio, VBA Coordinator for the State of Ohio.

In your packet you picked up this morning is the copy of everything, with the data on the back.

So I'm not going to go into real big detail on the mission of a service officer or anything like that, but I will caveat on a few things.

As you see on the front, I go into what the decision review officer hearing and the BVA hearing is. And the reason for that, if you look at the data that's presented on the back, it's essentially that that, the DROs, the Decision Review Officer, is 62 percent, versus our BVA, which is a 78 percent success rate.

The difference in that is, if you look on the front it kind of goes over it, is your DRO hearings are being filed with a 38 C.F.R. There's no wiggle room. It's by law. It's there in the book and that's how they grant it.

The Board, where we make most of our success, is where we can argue common sense law that brings out and points out recent studies from like the Institute of Organizational Medicines and varying components we can argue in favor of the veteran. So, 70 percent of the time, we're winning at the BVA. The overall times, any time we appeal for one of our veterans, 71 percent of the time we are winning some sort of benefit, if not the whole benefit, but something for our veterans.

Also provided here is the monetary values.

It's broken down in three criteria that I capture,
one is the Decision Review Officer Hearings, the

BVA, and the retro.

So if you look, we're a little over 1.3 million won at the DRO, 4.9 million won at the BVA, and BVA Remand is at 1.3, for a total of over \$7.6 million that we've procured for our veterans in the State of Ohio since we started tracking this at the end of 2016.

What I'm doing in the near future, as data comes in, because some of these case hearings that we're getting take two, three years for a decision to come back, based on if it was remanded or not, so this data sometimes, if we get a big chunk of hearings that are decided, or sometimes it's a span and takes a little bit before we have updated numbers, so what I plan to do is to break it out by year, as decisions come out, to give a better picture of what's happened in 2017, '18 and '19. It's just going to take a little while to compose that data.

One of the other things I want to bring up to the Districts, since you're all here, that you can take back to your Posts, something that's been

raising an issue at the VARO level is there's been 1 2 personnel decreases in the VA. So, before, your 3 veterans would be able to get scheduled for Huntington, West Virginia, and Cincinnati, for 4 5 video hearings. It's not happening right now. All hearings scheduled, for VBA hearings, are to 6 7 be conducted in the Cleveland Regional Office. 8 They are looking at, case-by-case, if a 9 veteran is hospitalized, unable to travel, taking 10 a request to have that hearing rescheduled at 11 Cincinnati or Huntington, but it's a case-by-case. 12 The majority of those are going to be handled at 13 Cleveland from here on out, until personnel can 14 get hired to fill those positions again. 15 That concludes my report, unless there's any 16 questions. 17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 18 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. 19 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Thank you, Commander. 20 ADJUTANT HELLER: Thank you, Bill. 21 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, Gifts for Yanks and 22 VAVS, Darell Bishop, Chairman. 23 Yes. NEC KLOSTERMEIER: Just a clarification. 24 25 Don't we have to have a motion to accept all these

1	reports so we can go ahead and file them?
2	COMMANDER FRIEND: Good question.
3	I will entertain a motion to accept his
4	report.
5	NEC KLOSTERMEIER: That's Bill's, but we had
6	Dave Cook's also. Neither one of them had a
7	motion on them to accept them.
8	COMMANDER FRIEND: Can we do it as two and
9	move that those reports are accepted?
10	NEC KLOSTERMEIER: I will make that motion
11	because we need to record both reports.
12	COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, thank you.
13	Is there a second? Do I have a second?
14	2ND DISTRICT 1VC HOMAN: Mike Homan, 2nd
15	District, seconds that motion.
16	COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion?
17	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
18	COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all in favor
19	signify by saying aye.
20	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.
21	COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign.
22	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
23	COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved.
24	Sorry, Darell. Go ahead.
25	CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Gifts for Yanks Committee

meeting, Saturday, September 7th, 2019.

The Gifts for Yanks Committee meeting was called to order in due form by Chairperson Darell Bishop, at 10:00 o'clock, at Department Headquarters. We had an invocation given by Ken Ellis, and Holly Lewis was appointed secretary. There were 10 out of 14 Districts present.

Chairperson Darell Bishop and Commander Friend gave opening remarks.

A review of the Gifts for Yanks minutes of June 6th, 2019, were approved as printed.

There was a review of the committee and Gifts to the Yanks guidelines, and they were approved as printed.

Under new business, it was brought up that we should get recommendations from the VA facilities on holiday gifts. A list of gifts was put together for next year's distribution.

Fundraising for 2018-2019, at this time, was about \$199,000.

The committee had discussion on raffle tickets. It was determined that they would be sold three tickets for \$5.

There was a discussion on the marketing materials. It was decided that the Department

would put packets together and mail to every Post in Ohio.

After a long discussion, the committee voted on getting a Gifts for Yanks table cloth cover.

Under fundraising, the committee decided that they would like to purchase 300 baseball caps and ask for a donation of \$15 each. The caps will cost \$8.21 per cap, totaling \$2,561.52, and the projected profits will be \$2,118.48. Under discussion, it was decided to get 250 winter caps and 250 summer caps.

Meeting closed in due form at 11:00 AM.

Submitted by Darell Bishop, chairman; Holly Lewis, secretary.

Joint Committee Meeting, Saturday, November 16th, 2019.

The Gifts for Yanks and VAVS Committee

meeting was called to order in due form at

Department Headquarters by Chairman Darell Bishop.

Holly Lewis was appointed secretary. Invocation

by Ken Ellis.

Holly took the roll call. Gifts for Yanks, there were 13 out of 14 Districts present. VAVS had 24 out of 35 VAVS locations represented.

Chairman Bishop gave opening remarks.

After review of the Gifts for Yanks minutes 1 2 for the September 7th, 2019, meeting, they were 3 accepted as printed. Under new business, a report from the 4 5 Commander's VHA visit was given, and a hard copy of the Commander's report was given to all 6 7 committee members. 8 The 2019-2020 budget was reviewed. 9 2019 Holiday Gift Distribution Dates: 10 Georgetown Veterans Home, Saturday, December 14th 11 2:00 AM (sic) --12 FROM THE FLOOR: 2:00 PM. 13 CHAIRMAN BISHOP: It's a misprint. 14 Cleveland VA, Thursday, December 19th, 9:30 15 AM; Sandusky Veterans Home, Thursday December 10th 16 (sic), 10:00 AM --17 FROM THE FLOOR: The 19th? 18 CHAIRMAN BISHOP: The 19th, you're right. 19 Cincinnati VA, Thursday, December 19th, at 20 9:30 AM; Dayton VA, Wednesday, December 25th, 8:00 21 AM; Chillicothe VA, Wednesday, December 25th, 8:00 22 AM. 23 The 2019-2020 fundraising total at this time 24 is at \$32,618.50. That represents 70 Posts out of 25 The fundraising goal remains at \$250,000.

Tickets for The American Legion three coin set were passed out to every District for sale.

The drawing will be held at Department Convention in 2020. It will be at the Department Convention.

At this time, the new baseball caps were shown to the committee. There will be a donation of \$15 for the caps. We've got 150 summer and 150 winter caps. All proceeds will go to the Gifts for Yanks, profit to be about \$2,118.48.

The meeting closed in due form at 11:00 AM.

Submitted By, Darell Bishop, chairperson;

Holly Lewis, secretary.

I'd like to give you an update on the fundraising. At the present time, we've got \$36,280, with 80 Posts out of the 525.

The VAVS Deputies, we wish that District

Commanders would pay attention to this. If you're

city or your area is mentioned, we need a VAVS

representative for that facility. Youngstown,

Gallipolis, Athens, Ashtabula, Cambridge, East

Liverpool, Marietta, and Saint Clairsville, we do

need representatives for those facilities.

I'd like to thank the VAVS representatives, and Gifts to the Yanks, for staying over after our meeting. They helped do the packing for the Gifts

to the Yanks. We really do appreciate that. They did a wonderful job for us.

Another thing we have are the hats and coin sets. We have tickets outside. They are for sale. A \$15 donation for the caps. It's \$5 for three tickets for the coin sets.

I looked it up the other day on the National website, the coin sets went up to \$550 apiece. So they are going to be in demand, eventually. The Gifts for Yanks, we do have three sets for the next three years. So we're in good shape.

Other than that, I'd like to ask a question. Everybody got their Gifts to the Yanks holiday gift this year. What do you think about them?

Nice.

Very nice.

FROM THE FLOOR:

Excellent.

CHAIRMAN BISHOP: I mean we put a lot into it this year. We went with quality instead of quantity. And I think the committee did an excellent job this year. And I thank them for being on the committee.

Mr. Commander, that completes my report.

2VC TEIS: Commander.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Yes.

1 2VC TEIS: I have a check to you from the Post 44 Memorial Fund for \$1500. 3 ADJUTANT HELLER: Nice. 4 (Applause). 5 CHAIRMAN BISHOP: That does help. 6 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 7 accept Darell's report. 8 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Commander, Rick 9 Garren, 12th District Commander, so moves on a 10 couple of those amendments that were in there. 11TH DISTRICT 1VC ROBINSON: Robinson, 11th 11 12 District 1st Vice, seconds. 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. I have a motion and a second. 14 15 Is there any discussion? 16 ADJUTANT HELLER: I'll accept that check. CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Jermaine has his hand out 17 18 already. 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 21 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 22 favor signify by saying aye. 23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 24 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 25 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved.

2.1

2.3

National Security Committee report, Al Buxton, Chairman.

CHAIRMAN BUXTON: Good afternoon.

FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN BUXTON: Mr. Commander, I thank you for appointing me to this committee. I think, overall, this is about my 11th or 12th year on this committee, the second time as chairman. So thank you again.

National Security Ad Hoc Committee meeting met on Saturday, November the 16th, 2019, at Department Headquarters.

The Department National Security Chairman called the ad hoc committee meeting for the purposes of reviewing five separate issues and to draft proposals for Department National Security Committee consideration.

The Department National Security Committee
has not heard nor acted on any business conducted
in this meeting. The minutes below are for
informational purposes only, and will be presented
to the committee for consideration at the spring
meetings.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman

Buxton and opened in due form at 10:01 AM, on November 16th, at Department Headquarters.

I asked for somebody to be secretary. I guess me being an Adjutant in the 4th District, that was me.

Roll call. We had four members present:

Myself, Bernie Brogan from the 12th; Robert Weiler

from the 3rd; and Jerry Perry from the 4th.

Department Environmental Conservation Program and Ralph Doll Convention Award Background:

The Department Environmental Conservation

Committee has not received appointments from all

14 Districts, nor has the committee held a meeting

in recent years. The question is: Should we

disband this committee and administer and define

the program under the Department National Security

Committee?

Robert Weiler of the 3rd gave a brief report about the program, the informational item that they covered in past years when he was chairman. The program included adopt a highway, community clean up, recycling, plant a tree, river and stream clean-ups, create birdhouses, coloring contests for children, et cetera.

Proposed program guidelines and Ralph Doll

Award criteria:

2.2

Each District Chairman should encourage all Posts to have a chairman for participation in the Environmental Conservation Program. .

Each Post should submit a one-page narrative, along with any pictures and a copy of their CPR.

The District winner will be decided by the District Committee, and the winner will be submitted to Department for Department Convention Awards.

All Posts that participate in the District will get a certificate of participation, and the District winner will receive a plaque.

Motion by Weiler, 3rd, to accept the guidelines of the Environmental Conservation Program, seconded by Brogan of the 12th.

A motion was made by Weiler of the 3rd to table the disbanding of the committee until guidelines are sent to the Districts and Posts, and we encourage Post and District involvement in the program. Seconded by Perry, the motion carried.

Law and Order Convention Award guidelines:

All Posts should send their nominations to the District Commander, along with a one-page

narrative and a copy of their CPR.

2.3

The District Commander must fill out the convention award form and forward it to

Department. These should be mailed by certified mail at least one week prior to the Department Convention.

No CPR with the nominations, it will be disqualified.

Motion by Perry of the 4th to approve the guidelines of the Law and Order Convention Award, seconded by Brogan of the 12th. Motion carried.

POW/MIA pin discussion on the cost of the pins: Motion by Brogan of the 12th to purchase 500 pins, and to ask for a \$5 donation. Seconded by Weiler of the 3rd. Motion Carried.

After a discussion about the quote from

Proforma Kapco with Margie Kapco, this quote will

have to be redone, as the quote was past the

expiration date. At this time the motion was

rescinded and tabled until a new quote was

received. Motion by Weiler of the 3rd to table

until the new quote is in. Seconded by Perry, the

motion carried.

Discussion was held on the distribution of monies from the sale of the pins.

1 Purchasing POW/MIA flags, these flags would 2 cost more than we would take in by selling the 500 3 pins at \$5 apiece, because most of your POW/MIA flags are like 35 bucks apiece, if not more. 4 5 The committee also discussed about donating money to the League of Families and the USO. 6 7 After much discussion, the committee decided 8 to give to the USO. Motion by Weiler of the 3rd 9 to give to the USO. Seconded by Brogan of the 12th. The motion carried. 10 11 The next item was Adopt a Military 12 Installation Program. This item was tabled until 13 the National Security meeting in the spring for 14 more information. 15 Respectfully submitted by Al Buxton, 16 Department National Security Chairman. 17 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 18 accept Al's report? 19 2ND DISTRICT 1VC HOMAN: Mike Homan, 2nd 20 District, moves to accept that report. 2.1 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do we have a second? 22 4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: Jim Jennings, 23 4th District Commander, seconds. 24 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion and a 25 second.

1 Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 3 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 4 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: All those in favor signify by saying aye. 6 7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 8 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 11 Thank you, Al. 12 It's kind of warm in here, folks. If you 13 want to take your jackets off to make it a little 14 bit more comfortable, you're more than welcome to. 15 Okay, moving right along, the Legislative 16 Committee, Malcolm Glasgow, Chairman, and Jermaine Ferguson, coordinator. 17 18 CHAIRMAN GLASGOW: Good afternoon. 19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon. 20 CHAIRMAN GLASGOW: I'd like to thank Roger 21 Friend for appointing me as chairman again on this 22 committee. 23 The Department Legislative Committee met on 24 Saturday, September the 14th, 2019, at Department 25 Headquarters. We had ten members of the

Legislative Committee and four guests that were in attendance.

We received a legislative update from Lucas Denney. He's from the Ohio Division of Veterans Services. He's the chief legislative officer. Lucas reviewed the state operating budget; House Bill 18; Senate Bill 24; and House Bill 282.

Lucas also reported that retired Colonel
Johnson is the newly-appointed state senator for
the district that represents the Georgetown
Veterans Home.

We received a legislative update from Giovanna Loccisano. She's the Legislative Director to State Senator Hoagland.

Giovanna highlighted Senator Hoagland's contributions and the state budget to address mental health, PTSD, and suicide prevention efforts by the creation of the Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation program, which has an allocation of \$6 million.

Senator Hoagland intends to introduce

legislation that will assist and empower

transitioning veterans to access civilian jobs

without the burden of applying for an occupational

license or credentials that will have already

qualified them for that from the military.

Each year, the Department Legislative

Committee presents a Federal Legislator of the

Year Award and a State Legislator of the Year

Award. The committee instructed Jermaine

Ferguson, our legislative coordinator, to research and offer recommendations for these awards. We did not do one last year, but we do intend to do one this year, upon receiving recommendations for candidates.

The committee reviewed certain legislation, voted to support House Bill 18; House Bill 174; House Bill 16; House Bill 133; Senate Bill 31; Senate Bill 63; Senate Bill 62; and Senate Bill 65.

If you have any questions about these bills, please see Jermaine at the conclusion of this meeting. And he's sitting in the back. He'll give you all the information.

The committee set forth the following goals for the remainder of the year: To recruit and identify Post Legislative Chairmen; to increase membership engagement in the legislative matters; to define legislative priorities for the State of Ohio; and to increase communication on a monthly

basis to stay informed on legislation.

House Bill 282 was currently at the House Finance Committee. And it's our understanding that the House Finance Committee will hear House Bill 282 in early January. We have had several meetings with state senators to ask for their support. We remain optimistically hopeful that House Bill 282 will pass the House and the Senate before our deadline of the month of June next year.

At this time I'd like to personally thank

Jermaine Ferguson for all his hard work and

dedication to the efforts of the Legislative

Committee. Due to my health situation, I haven't

been able to attend a lot of visitations at the

statehouse this past year. But Jermaine was

instrumental in making sure that we had

Legionnaires down there with their caps on at

committee meetings and in the general assembly.

And I can attest to the fact that when we do attend those, of all the DSOs, there's more Legionnaires than any others. And it makes a big difference because we're watching them, they're watching us. And it does make a big influence on legislation.

1	With this in mind, I'd like to thank you for
2	your time and respectfully request that this
3	report be received and recorded by this committee.
4	Is there any questions?
5	COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, I'll retain a motion
6	to receive and record it.
7	PDC SCHMITT: Schmitt, PDC.
8	I make the motion that we receive and record.
9	COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second?
10	9TH DISTRICT CMDR ADLEY: Adley, District 9,
11	seconds that.
12	COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion and
13	second to receive and record his report.
14	Is there any discussion?
15	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
16	COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion?
17	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
18	COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all in favor
19	signify by saying aye.
20	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.
21	COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign.
22	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).
23	COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved.
24	CHAIRMAN GLASGOW: Thank you.
25	COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you.

American Legion Riders, Gary Mack, Department Liaison.

Gary.

ALR LIAISON MACK: Good evening. No, we've still got time.

I wanted to wear red today in honor of Suzette's bright red shirt. And I see Chappy joined us on that.

The Riders met on October 26th, in Loudonville Post 257. We thank them for their hospitality.

Some of what I'm going to say is a repeat of what Suzette brought up earlier today, but I want to reinforce some of those.

The Riders are the youth. They're learning.

And we need the Post leadership and the District leadership to guide us.

Let me get to the point.

There's a requirement that each Rider chapter send a copy of their constitution and by-laws, or the rules and regs, to the Department. Mike Kennedy would be the point of contact. We don't have them all yet. We have a Consolidated Post Report, lines, let me make sure I get it right, 112 and 113, which identify the chapter at that

Post. We have District inspections, probably referred in the consolidated report. Are you asking them for copies of their constitution and by-laws? Are you reviewing them? importantly, because it came up last time, and I'm not going to mention someone behind me who said, "That's a rule, we've got to be doing this," are the chapters presenting their finances to the Post Executive Committee as required? Is anyone looking? Are you helping us out?

I know that answer in my Post. I'm not going to tell you the answer, but I know what it is.

And no, we're not in compliance.

ADJUTANT HELLER: What's that?

ALR LIAISON MACK: We're doing a great job.

So, on the serious side of it, Post Directors for the Riders are still learning. And if you guys aren't helping us, we don't know. You don't see any leather vests in this group.

So I'm going to open an invitation to everyone in the room. At Mid-Winter convention, at the tent, at 1:00 o'clock, I know it conflicts with some of the education at 1:00, come to our meeting. Provide input. Help us. We're there to help you at the Post level. We're asking for you

to help us at all the things that we really don't know yet.

I think the biggest thing is to get our finances straight. Because she said we're a nonprofit organization. And I know there's a lot of rules and regulations. And I don't personally know all the rules and regs. And I know how much money the Riders generate. We gave over a million dollars again this year to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Those people know what we're doing. But at the Post level, maybe not so much. So please help us.

I'll be happy to answer any questions.

Commander, that's my report.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you.

I'll retain a motion to --

17 | Yes.

14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Bob Carson from the 14th District.

Our understanding, at least mine, and what I've been told in my District, is the Riders are a Post activity.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Yes.

14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Why are we concerned, as the DEC, that you have anything to

1 do with us other than just as an activity, like a 2 dinner, or something like a --3 ALR LIAISON MACK: We're not anymore. Suzette can --4 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: Go ahead. JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: It's true that the 6 7 Riders are a Post program. They've also been 8 recognized by this Department as a 9 Department-level program. 10 However, the National rules, as set forth on 11 page 129 of your Post Officers' Manual, provides 12 certain mandatory requirements for Department and 13 Post oversight of organizations such as the Legion 14 Riders and the Sons of The American Legion 15 Squadron, that includes approval of their 16 officers, their constitution and by-laws, and 17 receiving monthly financial reports from all such 18 organizations. That is a Post mandatory 19 requirement. Look at page 129 of your officers' 20 manual. 2.1 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, I'll retain a motion for Gary's report. 22 23 NEC KLOSTERMEIER: NEC Klostermeier so moves 24 to accept the report. 25 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there a second?

1 11TH DISTRICT 1VC ROBINSON: Robinson, 11th 2 District, seconds. 3 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 4 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 6 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 8 favor signify by saying aye. 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 13 Media, Marketing, Communications 14 Commission/BALC. 15 Holly Lewis is the chairman. But with the 16 recent death of her daughter's boyfriend, Suzette is going to give Holly's report for us. 17 18 ADJUTANT HELLER: It won't be nearly as long 19 as my report. 20 All right, good afternoon. 21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good afternoon. 22 ADJUTANT HELLER: This is going to be very 23 brief. 24 So the Media, Marketing, Communications Commission had two conference calls. One was on 25

October 2nd, and the other one was on November 20th.

The meeting on October 2nd was really just to solidify the committee. We've got appointments on that committee from the Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and also Headquarters, or The American Legion. So there's a wide variety. The MMC Commission, right now, has been created out of the Legion family, which has been a good thing.

And the purpose of that committee meeting was really to talk about the creation of this (indicating), which is, this is really a great product that came out of the MMC Commission.

The MMC is actually a commission, per the resolution that was approved.

So if you have not seen this, you don't have it in your e-mail, please e-mail me. I will make sure that you get a copy.

We're looking to have this as maybe a monthly publication. This incorporates all members of the, all facets of The American Legion family. So it will have updates in there, and just little tidbits of information that the commission believes would be useful to all of you and to any

member.

This is going to every member that we have an e-mail address for. So we also encourage you to get your members to look at their MyLegion on the website and update their e-mail address. Because we also take our addresses and compare that with National's roster.

So we decided then to schedule a joint conference with the Publications Board, which is outlined in the constitution and by-laws, and also the Public Relations Committee. That meeting took place on Wednesday, November 20th. That was a joint meeting with the MMC, Media, Marketing, Communications Commission; Publications Board; and Public Relations.

Sadly to say, everybody got the same e-mail, everybody got the same reminder, everybody got the same conference call details, there were 26 people invited to that committee meeting and only six people called in.

So that somewhat curtailed the purpose of our mission, which was to determine, we wanted to pull Public Relations in and kind of narrow that mission down, and determine the future mission of the Media, Marketing, Communications Commission.

However, all is not lost. Because we're not giving up on that. And there will be another meeting, another conference call meeting, after the 1st of the year, to decide the mission and purpose of Publications and Public Relations, and to further outline and detail the duties of the Media, Marketing, Communications Commission.

So with that being said, there was also the BALC report, which was on there. I really don't want to comment too much on that because Holly is pretty much spearheading that.

But I will say to please come to Mid-Winter and attend that, the training. If you're not going to be there, please have somebody from your Post be represented.

We're going to do a Post operations, Post Adjutants, MyLegion, further MyLegion training, membership training. It really is a benefit to everybody.

I know Mike Blackwell is sitting here today.

Mike, Jose Rivera from the Finance Committee, and myself, we all had the privilege of attending

National American Legion College last month. And it was an excellent opportunity.

In order to go to Legion College for the

Department, you have to complete Buckeye American Legion College. I can tell you that there are probably at least a dozen people sitting in this room right now who would be excellent candidates for National American Legion College. So please attend BALC.

Commander, that concludes my report.

12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: Poulton, 1st Vice, 12th District.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes.

12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: The classes that are proposed for this coming year, are they the same classes, essentially, that were done in the first initial year of BALC?

ADJUTANT HELLER: I believe they are. We've narrowed it down. We didn't put a whole lot in competition with those because it was felt that those were the core classes that were most frequented and most asked for. So, yes.

12TH DISTRICT 1VC POULTON: So for of us who attended and completed this past year, is there post-graduate level work for us?

ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes. And that's being developed. So thank you for mentioning that. That is being developed.

We're going to have a mixer. So if you're already a graduate of BALC, there's going to be a mixer that we're going to have the night of the banquet, previous to that. And that's where we're going to ask for your input on that as well.

But at Department Convention, we're also going to have Legion College training that will encompass exactly what you say, Tom, what you're recommending.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Yes.

1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: Rue, 1st District.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Right behind you.

CHAIRMAN BUXTON: Buxton, Adjutant of the 4th District.

Are they still doing the awards for newsletter and rosters like they used to in the past?

ADJUTANT HELLER: I'm going to say no, because Public Relations, right now, they have not met. And so that's where all those awards fell, was under Public Relations. But they haven't met in three years.

So that was the purpose of the joint conference call, to determine what is the mission of PR moving forward, and how can the Media,

1 Marketing, Communications Commission work with the 2 Public Relations to further that, that aspect of 3 awards and recognition, social media platforms, 4 marketing. 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, Jason. 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: Are they going to 6 7 look at changing that mixer time? Because that's 8 during the dinner. 9 ADJUTANT HELLER: It's before the dinner. 10 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: No, it's a half hour before and a half hour in. 11 12 ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes. The answer is yes. Ι 13 think maybe we just calculated that wrong, 14 probably. We'll fix it. 15 Commander, that concludes my report. 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, the Oratorical Committee, John Looker. 17 CHAIRMAN LOOKER: Thank you for the 18 19 appointment, Commander. 20 The Department Oratorical meeting was held at 21 Department Headquarters on November 2nd, at 10:00 22 AM. There were 11 of the 14 Districts present. 23 Guests present were Christie White and Ruth 24 Crutcher. 25 And Christie volunteered to be secretary.

She held up her hand first.

In this year's meeting, we have actually changed the amount of scholarship money we're going to be giving out. We've increased it to: First place for \$2,500; second place \$1500; and the remainder of the scholarship money, \$2500, will be distributed between all the participants. And that still leaves us under budget for what we have in the budget that I saw today.

So we've also added some participation pins, which Christie went out and looked at. We've got District participation pins. And we're also going to have a gold ribbon for the first place winner and a silver ribbon for the Department second place winner.

Districts need to send their proper paperwork to Department, which includes photo, e-mail address, grade, high school, and title of their prepared speech.

Once the completed paperwork has been received by Department, Department will send out a congratulation letter to the contestants with dates, time, location of the Department contest, which will be out here.

And all that needs to be in from the

Districts by March 15th.

All the Oratorical chairs will handle training this year, from all 14 Districts. That includes the briefing of the judges, moderators, timekeepers, escorts, contestants and tabulators.

Our District contest, or District packets again are due March 15th.

The state finals will be held here at Department on April the 5th.

The National contest is going to be April 17th through the 19th, in Indianapolis.

And anyone who would like to volunteer at National's, it's a great experience. If you go to the National web page, there's actually a place where you can volunteer there.

At National's, they've also increased the amount of scholarships this year. It went from 18,000 to 20,000 for first place; from 16,000 to 18,000 for second place; and from 14,000 to 16,000 for third place. But they also included in their raise how much each participant gets for just going. Last year it was 1500. This year it's 2000.

The other change they made at National's, which is by resolution, was, in previous years,

83 percent of the contestants, 53 is what was there last year, 83 percent of those are gone in the first round. This year we're going to have the first and second place in each one of the nine Districts go on to the semifinal round, which they will receive another \$2,000 for going to the semifinals.

So that's a big increase. We've been trying to do that for three years, finally got the resolution through, thanks to Bob. He's the one that put it through.

Thank you, Bob.

So far, we do not have a District Chairman for District 11. I would certainly like to talk to somebody about that, please, after the meeting, if I could.

And this year we already have 15 contestants, two from District 3, two from District 4, two from District 5, one from District 7, three from District 9, and four from District 13, that has expressed an interest in participating in the Oratorical contest.

The assigned topics for 2020 I think are very interesting. It's Amendment No. 12, which talks about the electoral college; Amendment No. 24,

which is a citizen's right to vote shall not be denied by the United States or any state by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax; Amendment 27, no law varying the compensation for the services of senators and representatives shall take effect until the election of representatives have been intervened; Amendment No. 20, terms of the president and vice president, when Congress should Assemble and articles of the presidential succession.

Future dates for the Oratorical: Again for 2020, it's April 17th through the 19th, 2020; April 9th through the 11th for 2021; April 22nd through the 24th for 2022.

I'd like to give a special thanks to Jerry Wilson and Charities, Inc. They donated \$15,000 to the Oratorical contest this year.

And you haven't seen it yet, but I'll get you that information.

I'd also like to thank Christie. Christie has been working diligently to get the pins that we need for the participants and everybody.

And thank you for all your hard work, Christie.

Commander, that concludes my report.

1 (Applause). COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 3 accept his report. 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Wright, 13th 4 5 District, motions to accept the report as said. 6 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second? 7 2ND DISTRICT 1VC HOMAN: Mike Homan, 2nd 8 District, seconds the motion. 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: I have a motion and a 10 second. Is there any discussion? 11 12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 14 15 COMMANDER FRIEND: All those in favor signify 16 by saying aye. FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 17 18 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 21 CHAIRMAN LOOKER: For everyone out there, 22 this coming Tuesday, December 10th, is my 23 birthday. So if you could send me something, I'd 24 appreciate it. 25 But the other thing is, Wright-Patterson Air

Force Base is going to be designated as a Purple
Heart Base. On December 10th, at 10:00 o'clock,
there will be a ceremony at the museum at
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It will be the
first base in the nation, and I think the world,
to be designated as a Purple Heart Base. So any

FROM THE FLOOR: What time is that, sir?

CHAIRMAN LOOKER: 10:00 o'clock.

FROM THE FLOOR: AM, right?

of you that can attend, please.

11 CHAIRMAN LOOKER: It's 10:00 AM. And it's at 12 the museum.

One more thing real quick.

Something near and dear to my heart is an organization that they allowed me to participate in five years ago, which is called "Weekend to Remember." It's a nonprofit.

And what we've done this year is we're going to offer a \$20,000 ATV that will be given away on July 4th. And it's \$20 a ticket.

And the win for the Legion Posts in the entire state, for each \$20 ticket you sell, the Post gets \$5 back.

So I have pamphlets. I'd like to get it all the Districts. This is last year's activities.

1 But it's "A Weekend to Remember" program. Purple 2 Heart, Gold Star families, and we added Blue 3 Shield families last year. COMMANDER FRIEND: All right, John, thank 4 5 you. Thank you very much, John. Okay, next up, Baseball Committee, Marv 6 7 Shamhart. 8 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Thank you, Commander, 9 and the officers on the Executive table, and the 10 DEC members and guests, I appreciate you letting 11 me be here. 12 All of you should have those minutes. So I'm 13 not going to read them, unless you want me too. 14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No. 15 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Okay. I thought that 16 would go over well. 17 I want to thank our Chaplain, Melissa Fowle. 18 Thank you for the card and the fudge. I'll eat 19 that on the way home. 20 Okay, we had our meeting, the Baseball 21 Commission, right here, October 26th, and all my 22 commissioners were there and all my chairmen were 23 there. 24 And we went over the previous seasons and the 25 tournament, and discussed different things, things

that we thought maybe we would change. Most of it, we liked what we did. So we patted each other on the back.

And we'd like to say thank you to Christie
White because she does all the stuff behind the
scenes. And it would be very difficult to do this
without her. So you got a good person there. And
we just wanted to let you know that we appreciate
that.

And I have some dates for you for our upcoming, they're pertinent dates, you know. You don't need to see the whole thing. If you want to, they're on page 3 of the rule book.

But we have a meeting coming up

February 23rd, up here, 10:00 o'clock, for the

commissioners and the District chairmen. What

that is, we go over the rules that have changed

from the National, and if we change any, and have

the managers and coaches at 1:00 o'clock. That's

for us to get them started registering their

teams.

And we changed a few things.

June 1st, if you guys are having a team or thinking about it, or know somebody, June 1st is the last day to apply for your registration and

your insurance. You do that on the National site. That's www.legion.baseball.org (sic). And you buy the insurance, pay the registration fee, and they send our portion back to the Department, which isn't very much, considering. The insurance is usually the highest part of that thing.

And the fees this year, 600 for the senior team and 500 for a junior team. And that's been that fee since I've been the chairman, Baseball Chairman.

And we don't foresee changing that because the National, believe it or not, lowered their fee a little bit. It wasn't much, but it was lower. So that's better than going up.

So, the Junior Legion State Tournament will be held at Beavers Field in Lancaster, Ohio, July 15th to the 19th.

July 24th, the Department Senior Region

Champions, if we have eight regions out of 14

Districts, they're broke down in eight baseball

regions, and we still recognize the Districts but

we have eight regions so we can have eight teams

show up to the tournament, and that was moved from

12 to eight a few years back, and that will be

July 24th. They have to have theirs done and all

the paraphernalia and paperwork has to be to Christie by that day.

July 28th is the senior banquet, at Crossroads Center, on West Fair Avenue in Lancaster.

Of course, Commander, you're invited.

And any officer that wants to show up, it's on us. Just let Christie know so we've got a place for you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Appreciate it.

July 29th to August 1st is the Department
Senior State Baseball Tournament. It's at Beavers
Field in Lancaster. We will have four games the
first couple days, I believe it is, the way it's
set up. There will be a night game that starts at
7:00, under the lights.

It's a great field. If you've never been there, come by. It's an excellent place to watch a baseball game. The concession stand isn't too bad either. We hit that a lot.

And the National Regional Tournament, we're all held the same days, we're in the Great Lakes region, Region 5, and that's August 5th through the 9th, at Charleston, Illinois.

They had it last year. They're asking these regional people if they can keep it for at least two years. I think they're trying to find a permanent, but I doubt whether they'll find a permanent for that. There are a lot of them that put their bid in for two, or even one, but hopefully for three or four years. Anyway, we'd like getting that locked in.

And The American Legion World Series is

August 13th to the 18th. It's in Shelby, North

Carolina.

And I'll tell you something, that is a heck of a field. The American Legion has put a lot of money in it, with help from the county, Cleveland, that Shelby is in, and the Shelby School District and the City of Shelby. They do a great job. It is unreal.

If you want to take a little vacation and go somewhere, slip by Shelby. You can take a tour of that. And you just go, you park, they get you on a golf cart and take you right down to the gate. And the National Baseball Chairman is there with his assistant, Steve Cloud, who I work closely with. They'll give you a tour. It's really something to see.

1 Other than that, I have a couple personnel 2 things. 3 We had all the regions covered. Except now we have a vacancy in Region 4, which covers 4 5 District 6 and District 12. My son, Steve, who was very instrumental with 6 7 his IT work and computer knowledge, and baseball, 8 but he was a good go-getter, if you needed 9 something done, he'd get it done, he moved to 10 Arizona. So it's a little tough for him to get 11 back here. But he likes warm weather, not cold 12 weather. You can understand that. 13 So I've got an opening. We're looking for 14 people. 15 We do have a new District 12 Baseball 16 Chairman. He just sent his stuff. And his 17 Commander sent it to me last week, I believe it 18 was. 19 Where's the 12th District Commander at? 20 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: (Indicating). 21 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Okay. You did that, 22 sir? 23 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Yes, sir. 24 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Yeah. 25 What is his name?

12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Mike Higgins. 1 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Pardon? 3 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Mike Higgins. 4 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Mike Higgins. 5 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: From Post 98. COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Yeah. 6 7 He sent me an e-mail. But I was in a hurry 8 to get out of there this morning so I didn't have 9 it. But I knew you would be there. So we got one for the District. Now we're 10 11 just looking for a regional commissioner. And 12 we'll keep looking. So anybody in District 6 or 13 12, if you know anybody that's interested. 14 Because we like to always point to you guys in the 15 District and say look, man, they're working. 16 Other than that, Commander, that's my report. COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 17 18 accept his report on the Baseball Commission. 19 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Wright, 13th 20 District, makes a motion to accept the report as 2.1 read. 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do we have a second? 23 10TH DISTRICT CMDR ICKES: Ickes, 10th District, makes a motion to second. 24 25 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion and a

1 second. 2 Is there any discussion? 3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 4 5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 6 7 favor signify by saying aye. FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 8 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 12 ADJUTANT HELLER: Thank you, Marv. 13 COMMISSIONER SHAMHART: Thank you. 14 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, cancellations, 15 revocations, suspension of charters, and 16 consolidations and applications. 17 ADJUTANT HELLER: It's me again. Good 18 afternoon. 19 So this meeting, according to the agenda, closes in nine minutes. So I'm going to be quick. 20 21 FROM THE FLOOR: Hurry. 22 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay. 23 There are National Headquarters guidelines 24 for canceling and/or creating a Post and Squadron. 25 So we're putting together a Department guide to

help with that. So we're going to have this on the website. We're creating a Post page on the website that will have all the Post forms that you need for your Posts. And all these things will be there, and the guidelines.

So I encourage you to make sure you read these because it's important. We don't want to ever turn anybody away from canceling a Post charter and/or creating a new Post charter because of the paperwork, or you know, because of how it was submitted. So we want to try to avoid that. So we just want to make sure you have all the information you need.

We have one SAL Squadron and one, two, I have two Post charter requests.

So the application for a squadron charter is for Squadron 272. It's out of Post 272. This came before the body in August. This was the one that was returned for more information.

So we've received that. According to my knowledge, this has gone through all the proper channels.

And so, Commander, I ask that Akron John Fulton Post 272, that the motion is to approve the application for this squadron charter.

1 COMMANDER FRIEND: There is motion to approve 2 this application. 3 Do I have a second? 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Bob Carson, 14th 4 5 District, I second the motion. COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 6 7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 8 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 11 favor signify by saying aye. 12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 15 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 16 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay, next we have an 17 application to create a Post, an American Legion 18 Post, in Mendon. It's the Henry Drake-Ricky D. 19 Zizelman Post. It's a 2019 Centennial Post. So 20 they're asking for the number 2019. We didn't 21 create one in 1819, so this would suffice the 22 creation of that Post. 23 National was asking us to create Centennial 24 Posts. Department had one Post named 2019, their 25 number in their Department. And so this is

1 fulfilling that request. 2 All the paperwork was completed for this. 3 And I'm asking for a motion to approve an application for a temporary charter for Post 2019 4 5 in Mendon. 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: Rue, Commander, 1st 6 District. 7 8 I'll make the motion to approve the temporary 9 charter for Post 2019 in Mendon. 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do we have a second? 11 PDC SCHMITT: Schmitt, PDC, seconds the 12 motion. 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Any discussion? 14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 15 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 17 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 18 favor signify by saying aye. 19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 23 ADJUTANT HELLER: So the next application for 24 a temporary charter is for Post 790, in 25 Sharonville, Ohio, named Doug Dunaway Post.

1 is also for the creation of an American Legion 2 Post Charter. 3 So I ask for a motion for Post 790, Doug Dunaway Post, to approve the charter. 4 5 2ND DISTRICT 1VC HOMAN: Mike Homan, 2nd District, move that we accept the application. 6 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second? 8 4TH DISTRICT 1VC FOSTER: Steve Foster, 4th 9 District, seconds. 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 11 FROM THE FLOOR: They're actually from the 12 4th District, not the 13th District. 13 ADJUTANT HELLER: Did I say the 13th? 14 FROM THE FLOOR: You didn't say a District 15 but it's in print here. It says the 13th 16 District. It's actually the 4th District. ADJUTANT HELLER: Oh, that's an additional 17 18 charter I have. 19 FROM THE FLOOR: Okay. 20 ADJUTANT HELLER: I didn't want to make the 21 agenda three pages. I was trying to keep it to 22 two. 23 FROM THE FLOOR: I was just clarifying. 24 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any more 25 discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 3 favor signify by saying aye. FROM THE ASSEMBLY: 4 Aye. 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 6 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. 8 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay, I did receive, from 9 the 13th District, I received a charter 10 application. And I would like to see the 13th 11 District after. This is for Post 350, in Bedford. 12 This is not completed. So I just want you to know 13 that I do not recommend this moving forward. 14 please come see me after and let's talk about this 15 and get the proper paperwork. Okay? 16 FROM THE FLOOR: All right. ADJUTANT HELLER: 17 Okay. 18 Last and final is Post closings. I just urge 19 you to really read that paperwork. Because I'm 20 still dealing, we are still dealing, with Homer 21 Lawson Post 653. It is very important. 22 As I mentioned all along, there's compliance 23 and we're a nonprofit. Right? We're a nonprofit 24 organization.

There are a lot of factors at play when we

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revoke a charter or remove a charter or cancel a charter. There's issues of weapons, there's issues of finance, there's issues of their property taxes, there's issues of a liquor license, the bingo gaming license. There are a lot of things that are centered around the operations of a Post that we need to make sure that all of those things have been dissolved prior to the charter being turned in.

So those Post inspection sheets, just like you're looking at all those documents, that's for a reason. Because should that Post turn in its charter or be canceled, we need to know what they have. So that way we can assist, you can assist, in the proper dissolution of that charter. Okay?

Jerry, do you want to comment on that?

Because he's been helping me with this.

PDC WILSON: Wilson, Past Department Commander.

On November 19th, I drove over to the county seat in Washington Courthouse and got the layout of the parcels that they have.

I went up to the Post itself. It's on the 700 block of Gregg Street. And I took pictures of it.

And it's really rough. It's a rough building, in a pretty tough area.

But it needs a roof. The only downspout is over the doors. So when you come out of the door you wouldn't get wet. But everywhere else, the downspouts, there aren't any.

There is a pavilion that needs to be torn down. It's in really rough shape. And I'd be afraid some kids would go out there and start playing on that sucker and it would collapse on them. So that would be a responsibility of the Department of Ohio.

I also talked to one of the leading real estate agents in Washington Courthouse. He's sending us a market analysis. But he also sent me, he went down and talked to the zoning board. And if that property was sold, it's in seven different parcels, and they're only 12 to 15 feet wide, and they're very long. So if you wanted to sell it for a lot, you'd have to combine some parcels and do some surveying. And he said there could be as many as three lots to build on on that spot, and those lots go for about \$20,000 apiece. So there's about 60,000 in revenue.

I talked to the District Commander. And

we're going to try to find a construction company over there that might be able to assist the Department of Ohio. In the 4th District, I've got good friends that own construction companies. They'd tear it down in a day and it would be gone. But we'd need to find someone to do that.

But that's where it stands right now.

And by the way, if you're ever in Washington Courthouse, stop in the other Post. On Tuesday night, they've got a super bean soup and corn bread.

ADJUTANT HELLER: I just want to remind you that the National Constitution and By-Laws says that when a Post turns in, when we receive a canceled charter, when a Post turns in their charter, the Department Executive Committee is authorized, empowered and directed, by and through its duly authorized agent, to take possession, custody and control of all the records, the property and assets of said Post.

So now, with that property, we have to insure it, because we want to make sure nobody gets hurt. So, as Jerry mentioned, we have to make sure we take the precautionary measures because now we're liable. That Post is just sitting there vacant.

And so now that property is a liability to the Department.

PDC WILSON: One other thing, Suzette.

When I talked to that real estate agent, he said, "I don't know if you're aware of it, but that particular area was a known area for the sale of drugs."

So we need to get rid of that building and that pavilion and make it vacant land, or we could just sell it and that money would be put in an escrow for up to five years. If that Post wanted to come back, they would get that money back.

After that, it would go into the general fund.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Just a reminder that you're an officer of this board. That duty falls on you as well. So it said "Department Executive Committee." So I need your help on that. Okay?

Thank you.

13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Suzette, Wright, 13th District.

A Post has an IRS lien on them. They owe back taxes. Are we, as the Department of Ohio, responsible for that?

ADJUTANT HELLER: No. It's detailed in the constitution and by-laws. We do not accept any of

1 the debt. We're not responsible for any of the debt. 3 But we do have the right to receive the That's how it's stated. We don't take 4 assets. 5 any of the liability, just the assets. 10TH DISTRICT 1VC GLASGOW: Larry Glasgow, 6 1st Vice Commander. 7 8 Why can't we just have an auction and 9 liquidate it and be done with it? 10 The members of that Post transferred to the 11 other one, I hope. 12 ADJUTANT HELLER: Yeah. The transfers have 13 already been done. 14 10TH DISTRICT 1VC GLASGOW: Well why don't we 15 just liquidate that Post? 16 ADJUTANT HELLER: We can. But there's a lot 17 of things that have to take place. 18 10TH DISTRICT 1VC GLASGOW: Well why do we 19 have to tear the building down instead of just 20 having an auction and be done with it? 21 ADJUTANT HELLER: It's not the building. 22 It's -- well, you make a very good point. 23 PDC WILSON: We could do that. But if you 24 don't do that, you've got to do something with it. 25 FROM THE FLOOR: Sheriff's sale.

1 PDC WILSON: Wilson, Past Department Commander. 3 You all don't have to do anything. If you wanted to list it with that real estate company 4 5 down there, let them list it and sell it. And the proceeds -- and sell it as-is -- and the proceeds 6 7 would come to the Department of Ohio and we'd put 8 them in escrow. 9 ADJUTANT HELLER: So how do you all propose 10 this be handled then? Can I get some clear 11 directives on that, please? 12 10TH DISTRICT 1VC GLASGOW: Larry Glasgow, 13 1st Vice Commander. 14 I make a motion that we liquidate the 15 property as soon as possible with a local real 16 estate company or auction. 17 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay. 18 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion. 19 have a second? 20 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Wright, 13th 21 District, seconds the motion. 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 23 FROM THE FLOOR: Under discussion, I think 24 we've got to look at our insurance company, if

we're going to take possession of that, and make

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1 sure we have a rider on that property. 2 ADJUTANT HELLER: I have a meeting with the 3 insurance agent on the 10th, December 10th. FROM THE FLOOR: We ought to liquidate it and 4 5 get rid of it as soon as possible though, so we don't have that insurance to carry on it for a 6 7 long time for something that's just a liability. 8 PDC WILSON: By the way, what I didn't say is 9 it's assessed at 104,000. But to get that you're 10 going to have to do a heck of a lot with that 11 property. 12 FROM THE FLOOR: We don't want the liability. 13 We just need to move on. 14 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay. Is there any other 15 discussion? 16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 17 COMMANDER FRIEND: We have a motion and a 18 second. All those in favor signify by saying aye. 19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. Resolutions and constitutional amendments. 23 24 We have three endorsements for National Vice 25 Commander. The first endorsement is Jerry Wilson.

Do we have a resolution? 1 ADJUTANT HELLER: We do have a resolution. 3 We have four resolutions for endorsement, actually three resolutions for endorsement of 4 5 National Vice Commander and one resolution for SAL National Vice Commander. And I'll quickly read 6 7 the resolve clauses. 8 Okay, so a resolution of endorsement for SAL National Vice Commander for Jeff Vrabel, Sr. 9 10 "Resolved, by the Department Executive 11 Committee of The American Legion Department of 12 Ohio in regular session assembled at The American 13 Legion Department of Ohio Headquarters in 14 Delaware, Ohio, on Saturday, December 7th, 2019, 15 does hereby endorse Jeff Vrabel, Sr., for the high 16 office of the Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander Central 2020-2021, and adopts this 17 18 resolution." 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 20 accept this resolution. Rue, District 21 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: 22 Commander, 1st District. 23 I make a motion that we endorse that 24 resolution.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second?

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1 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Wright, 13th 2 District, seconds the motion. 3 COMMANDER FRIEND: I have a motion and a second to adopt this resolution to endorse Jeff 4 5 Vrabel, Sr., for the high office of National Vice Commander of the SAL. 6 7 Do I have any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 8 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 12 favor signify by saying aye. 13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 14 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: So moved. ADJUTANT HELLER: The next three resolutions 17 are for endorsement. I've been advised to receive 18 and record these resolutions, and that there will 19 20 be a Commander's advisory committee shortly after 2.1 to review the candidates. Okay? 22 So, on a resolution to endorse Robert 23 Klostermeier as National Vice Commander, the 24 resolve clause reads, "Resolved, that Lucas County 25 Council of the Great 1st District, in regular

session, November 4, 2019, with several Posts of 1 2 Lucas County present, unanimously approve this 3 resolution; and be it further resolved that the Executive Board of the Great 1st District, in 5 regular session, also represented by several Posts of the Great 1st District present, unanimously 6 7 approve this resolution nominating Robert M. 8 Klostermeier the next leading candidate for 9 National Vice Commander representing the 10 Department of Ohio and the central region of The 11 American Legion; and be it further resolved that 12 the Executive Committee of the Department of Ohio, 13 in regular session, December 7, 2019, support and approve this resolution for Robert M. Klostermeier 14 15 to be our next leading candidate for National Vice 16 Commander for the central region of The American 17 Legion." 18 Do you want to receive and record theses 19 individually? 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: Yeah, we probably ought to 2.1 do motions for each resolution. 22 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay. 23 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 24 accept the resolution for Bob Klostermeier. 25 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: Rue, Commander, 1st

District. 1 2 I make a motion we accept and record the motion for Bob Klostermeier. 3 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second? 5 5TH DISTRICT CMDR BEYER: Al Beyer, 5th District. 6 I second that motion. 7 8 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 10 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 13 favor signify by saying aye. 14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 15 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: Motion carried. 17 18 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay, resolution of 19 endorsement for James Campbell. 20 "Resolved, by the Dynamic 9th District, 21 Department of Ohio, before a regular membership 22 meeting on Saturday, September 21st, 2019, this 23 District endorses James W. Campbell for the high 24 office of National Vice Commander; and be it 25 further resolved that The American Legion

1 Department of Ohio gives serious consideration and 2 support for the election of James W. Campbell to 3 the high office of National Vice Commander in the foreseeable future." 4 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 5 accept this resolution. 6 7 9TH DISTRICT CMDR ADLEY: Adley, 9th 8 District, makes the motion. COMMANDER FRIEND: Do we have a second? 9 10 11TH DISTRICT 1VC ROBINSON: Robinson, 11th, 11 seconds. 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 14 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: All those in favor signify 17 by saying aye. 18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 21 COMMANDER FRIEND: Motion carried. 22 ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay, the final resolution 23 for endorsement. There's one resolve clause, 24 thank you. That is for Jerrold Wilson. 25 "Resolved, that the Executive Committee of

1 the Department of Ohio, in regular meeting on 2 December 7th, 2019, approve a motion to sponsor 3 and support Past Department Commander Jerrold W. Wilson to represent the Department of Ohio as 4 central division National Vice Commander when the 5 Department of Ohio is called upon to offer a 6 nominee." 7 COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 8 9 accept this resolution. 10 4TH DISTRICT 1VC FOSTER: Commander, Foster 11 4th District. I make a motion to accept that 12 resolution. 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second? 14 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Commander, Rick 15 Garren, 12th District Commander, so moves. 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 17 18 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 20 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 21 favor signify by saying aye. 22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 23 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: Motion carried. 25

ADJUTANT HELLER: Okay, I have one final resolution.

This came out of the Membership Committee.

And the subject is "Department Weekly Membership Report." Resolution No. 20-03.

I believe it's important to read the "whereas" on this as well.

"Whereas, The American Legion Department of
Ohio currently has a significant number of Posts
not utilizing MyLegion.org to renew the membership
of their Post members; and

"Whereas, at the beginning of every new membership year, Department Headquarters receives thousands of renewals; and

"Whereas, Department Headquarters is limited with the amount of scanning devices and membership personnel that the time involved in processing membership renewals causes delays in other membership duties; and, now, therefore, be it

"Resolved, by The American Legion Department of Ohio, at the Department Executive Committee, in Delaware, Ohio, December 7th, 2019, that The American Legion Department of Ohio will send renewals directly to National for processing during the months of July and August to permit

1 Department membership personnel to focus on other 2 membership duties; and be it finally 3 "Resolved, that weekly membership reports are to be published beginning the first week of 4 5 August." COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to 6 7 accept this resolution. 8 12TH DISTRICT CMDR GARREN: Commander, Rick Garren, 12th District Commander, makes a motion to 9 10 accept that. COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second? 11 12 14TH DISTRICT 1VC CARSON: Bob Carson, 14th 13 District, I second it. 14 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 15 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 16 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 18 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 19 favor of accepting this resolution signify by 20 saying aye. 21 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 22 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 24 COMMANDER FRIEND: Resolution carried. 25 Future Department Convention host sites,

District 13.

ADJUTANT HELLER: I'm sorry, I thought I was done.

Okay, Resolution 20-07, "Future Department Convention Sites Proposal."

"Resolved, that the Executive Committee of the 13th District is fully committed to host the convention at the Holiday Inn on Rockside Road, Independence, and assist the Department of Ohio in the planning process; and be it further.

"Resolved, that the Executive Committee of the 13th District is fully committed to host and assist the Department of Ohio in the planning process for any site so determined, located in the County of Cuyahoga; and be it finally.

"Resolved, that this resolution is supported, without objection, by the 13th District Executive Committee and the delegates present at the 13th District Council meeting held at Post 323, Euclid, on the 2nd day of October, 2019."

This is for the 13th District to host a future Department Convention site, not necessarily specifically at Rockside, but any location in Cuyahoga County.

COMMANDER FRIEND: I'll retain a motion to

1 accept this resolution. 2 13TH DISTRICT 1VC WRIGHT: Commander, Wright, 3 13th District, motions for acceptance of the resolution as read. 4 5 COMMANDER FRIEND: Do I have a second? 9TH DISTRICT CMDR ADLEY: Adley, 9th 6 7 District. I make a second to accept. 8 COMMANDER FRIEND: I have a motion and a 9 second. 10 Is there any discussion? FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 11 12 COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any discussion? 13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 14 COMMANDER FRIEND: Hearing none, all those in 15 favor signify by saying aye. 16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye. 17 COMMANDER FRIEND: Opposed, same sign. 18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: Motion carried. 20 Okay, under Unfinished Business, is there any 21 unfinished business? 22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 23 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, final membership 24 report and the exchange of the lanterns. 25 1VC WILSON: I don't believe any position has 1 changed.

But currently we're at 73.49 percent. We need 1,342 cards to hit 75 percent by Tuesday, December the 11th.

So, that being said, please get out there and work with your Posts when you get back.

We, this year, went through a great deal of

work, time and trouble. Mike and the staff up here worked really hard on the 888 transfers. They were all given out to you, over 4,000 888 transfers were given out to you. And we only have 488 of the 4,000.

So that just proves to me that the work isn't being done. And that's why we need to get in our Districts, have revitalizations. Let's get those lists. Let's work them. They are there. We just need to do the work.

Okay, so, the green lantern stays with the 4th District.

Congratulations, Steve. Hold on to it. (Applause).

He walks around with it because he thinks someone's going to steal it and he's going to have to pay a fine. That's why he walks around with it.

Okay, the 7th District has the privilege, 1st Vice Commander Jim, to give it to the 14th District 1st Vice Commander.

So don't forget, when you come to E Board meetings, or any meeting that's with The American Legion, you're lanterns need to be present and on the table.

So I would suggest the 14th District work real hard and get rid of that by the next DEC.

Okay, I have to pay off my membership bets.

So I'm going to give my membership bet to 1st Vice

Commander Steve.

There's your bottle of Crown Royal, sir.

And you, JJ. Congratulations.

4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: I'll tell you what I'm going to do with this. I'm going to give it to Steve. Because he put about ten times the miles on his car this past six months than I put on mine.

1VC WILSON: Well that's very good, and very true.

Okay, okay, okay. If you want to sugarcoat it, get a doughnut. I'm not a doughnut.

Steve, I said that you and JJ, since I gave the other Districts a little break, although most

1 of the Districts paid up anyways, thank you, 2 gentlemen and ladies, I said if you were 3 75 percent, you didn't have to pay off your bet at the DEC. But most of them did anyway. So I 4 5 appreciate that. But it wasn't fair to Steve or JJ, because they did qualify for the Brown Juq. 6 7 So I do have, out of the 28 envelopes that I 8 started with at the 1st of the year, I still have 9 four left. 10 So you get to pick an envelope. 11 And you get to pick an envelope. 12 And I think that since he worked very hard to get rid of that red lantern, you get one. 13 14 I've got one left. 15 ADJUTANT HELLER: What District did the 16 revitalization? 1VC WILSON: Oh, the 1st District had a 17 revitalization. And the 10th District did, but I 18 19 believe you had yours first. 20 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, they did. 21 (Applause). 22 Now, I'd also like to say that, okay, you 23 guys are all going to be having your spring, well 24 I know that most of you are getting ready to have 25 your winter conferences. So let's start there.

But if you already had it, bring it up at your spring conference.

The No. 1 thing that we need to get done for next year, and you can start working on it now, is to remind people they need to fill out their forms. They need their certification of officers and they need their CPR. It's not hard.

Now, our goal next year is to have everyone clear by June the 1st.

It's not hard to do. Well it is. The process isn't hard to do, but to get people to do the process is a little harder.

So start talking about it now. Okay? Print off the forms, make some copies, and give them out. Let's get working on it now. Because I'm telling you, we're going to be calling you. We're going to be bugging you. You're going to get tired of hearing our voices and getting our e-mails and our text messages. Because we want to get it done. We want to show National that Ohio is serious about The American Legion. So that's a great way of doing it.

So those people that can get theirselves clear, they're going to get their cards before convention. But those who can't get their cards

done before convention, or they give them out, they're bringing cards to convention, right, and handing them out there to a Post member that can sign for them, with credentials.

We would want them to bring their Post membership card and show us, you know, they actually belong to that Post. And we would have a list where somebody could sign them out.

So the thing of it is is, A, we want to try to get all the Posts clear and get their cards to them; B, we'd like to get the cards to people as quickly as possible and save ourselves some postage.

So, you know, you want us to be, you know, we want to be economically looking in the right direction of cutting costs. So that's one way we can cut some costs, if we can get the Posts their cards to them.

Now last year, I came up and I got my cards for my District and I gave them all to the District Commander and the 1st Vice Commander, and they got them to all the Posts. Okay? So it can be done.

And it's a good way to do. And it's a good way that you can talk to the Posts right in the

beginning of the year. So let's work on that.

And I appreciate what everyone is doing. I really do. I know you're trying to do your best.

But, really, we need to dig in and get more done.

We need to get our Department quota for Department Commander Roger Friend.

So please go back to your Districts, set up your District revitalization. We're going to be calling you in January and seeing when and where it's at. And we're going to try to come to that. So set them up and let's get going.

And I want to say to the 1st Vice Commanders, even though it's only December, you need to start planning your year for next year. You know, what are your goals? What's going to be your work plan? Where are you going to have your meetings and that? So start. You don't have to do it right now, but start thinking about that.

Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Jean.

(Applause).

I feel really honored that these two (indicating) are working like they are.

Because, you know, for a Commander to be a quota Commander, and a Department to be a quota

Department, is an amazing thing that could happen.

And I know we can do it.

I actually made a bet with California, when we were in Indianapolis a few weeks back, that we would be 93 percent come March. We're not that far from it now. And I know we can do it.

And I really appreciate Jean and Brad, because they are go-getters. And I guarantee if she says they will talk to you, they will call you, guaranteed. You will get a phone call.

Okay, moving on, is there any new business to come before this meeting?

Yes.

5TH DISTRICT CMDR BEYER: Al Beyer, 5th District.

Just for clarification purposes, this big red paragraph on the second amendment, or the proposed amendment, does that apply to the SAL members as well?

JUDGE ADVOCATE WHITNEY: No, the SAL has its own procedures. That only applies to American Legion members.

5TH DISTRICT CMDR BEYER: Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any other new

business?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, is there anything 3 under the Good of The Legion? 2VC TEIS: Yes, Commander, if I could, 4 5 please. 6 Anybody out there still have our 100th 7 anniversary coins? Anybody? If you do, raise 8 your hands. 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating). 10 2VC TEIS: Okay. Get with me after this 11 meeting. I want to know how many you have. 12 I sat down with Commander Schmitt, Past 13 Department Commander Schmitt, and know it's hard 14 to sell them at 20 bucks. We've got \$5 into them. 15 And I'm coming to you today on his behalf. And we 16 agreed to, if we could, we have -- Christie, what was it, 320-some left? 17 18 COORDINATOR WHITE: 337. 19 2VC TEIS: So 337 left, plus whatever you 20 have. 21 And I think if we can sell them for \$10 22 apiece, we can still make some money off of them, 23 so we don't go in debt off of these things, or let 24 them sit around here for years. 25

I know they've got them sitting out at the

front desk for emblem sales if anybody wants to buy them.

But I'm bringing it before you today, because he brought it to me before, that we'd like to lower the price to \$10, so we can get rid of the rest of these.

Thank you.

COMMANDER FRIEND: You're welcome.

Okay, Mid-Winter and Department Convention 2020 report, Christie.

COORDINATOR WHITE: All right, I just want to touch on the Mid-Winter and Department Convention real quick.

As everyone knows, Mid-Winter Conference is January 24th through the 26th. It is still at the Crowne Plaza.

When you call to make your room reservations, use the code "LEG". Don't just call and make a reservation. Use the code "LEG". You will get the \$98 a night and be in our Legion room block. If you call and just make a reservation, they don't know that you're making a reservation for The Legion.

A couple of schedule things for Mid-Winter I would like to just touch on.

Friday afternoon, we're starting registration at 2:00 o'clock. We will also have a blood drive from 2:30 to 7:30, in the Ohio Room, right when you walk in to the hotel. So if you're coming in, plan to come in a little early and give some blood.

ADJUTANT HELLER: Before you start drinking.

COORDINATOR WHITE: Before you start

drinking, or I don't think the Red Cross will take
your blood.

Friday night, the Auxiliary is having a centennial celebration for their 100 years.

Usually we do a Legion family celebration in the tent. This year we are just going to join them and help them celebrate their centennial.

Saturday, all day Saturday is mainly Buckeye American Legion College. The way that we set it up this year is the classes aren't going to interfere with the other classes. So membership is the first class. It's a couple hours. You have option 1 or option 2 on membership. After that, Post Operations, you have option 1 or option 2 for that class. And then in the afternoon is programs. So you can pick which one that you want to do. All the classes aren't on top of each

other like it was last year.

After Buckeye American Legion College classes are complete, we're having a Department leadership roundtable. We'll have Auxiliary officers, SAL officers, Legion officers, Riders. It's a chance for the members to come, sit around with them, if they have questions, if they need help with anything, pick their brains. So make sure that you guys, after the classes, attend that roundtable.

Immediately following the roundtable there is a mixer for NALC and BALC alumni. It will probably be the same time as the social hour.

Thank you for pointing that out.

Saturday evening we are having The American Legion Family Leadership Awards Banquet. Again, that's for Legion family, Legion, SAL and Auxiliary.

The keynote speaker for that banquet will be Major General Deborah Ashenhurst. Cost is \$38 a person.

On Sunday, instead of doing two separate religious emphasis, as the Chaplain pointed out, we will be having a Four Chaplains service on Sunday. That will be in the tent, the same time

as the services were before. 1 2 If there are any issues for Mid-Winter making 3 reservations, any issues with the hotel, call me ASAP. And I will call the hotel and get it fixed. 4 5 Any questions on Mid-Winter? 8TH DISTRICT CMDR DONOVAN: Christie. 6 7 COORDINATOR WHITE: Yes. 8 8TH DISTRICT CMDR DONOVAN: Rick Donovan, 8th 9 District Commander. 10 The blood drive thing. Most times when you 11 say you've been to Vietnam, they say thank you and 12 go away. Is that going to be the case there? 13 COORDINATOR WHITE: No. It's through the Red 14 Cross. I know because I've given blood. I think 15 I did last June. They have questions that they 16 fill out, if you've had this disease, that 17 disease, if you've been exposed to this, that, 18 whatever. I don't know exactly what their 19 criteria is, but I've never seen, in one of those 20 questions, them ask about --21 8TH DISTRICT CMDR DONOVAN: I've walked by 22 blood drives before and it's, hey, why don't you 23 give? I say "Vietnam" and it's "Thank you." 24 COORDINATOR WHITE: I can double check for 25 you.

1 1ST DISTRICT CMDR RUE: They have certain 2 times of the year and certain countries and stuff 3 like that that you're not allowed to give. COORDINATOR WHITE: But it's for everyone, 4 5 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. COMMANDER FRIEND: Is there any other 6 7 questions for Christie? 8 COORDINATOR WHITE: For Mid-Winter. 9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response). 10 COORDINATOR WHITE: I'll touch briefly on 11 convention. 12 The Department Convention will be held 13 June 25th through the 28th, in Toledo. Same hotel 14 as last year. Room rates are 119 a night. You can start 15 16 calling and make your reservations for Department 17 Convention. If you make your reservations, you 18 have to use the code "2006 Legion." So "2006 19 Legion." 20 There's little half-slip pieces of paper out 21 there on the table that has all this information on it if you want to get a head start. If not, 22 23 all of this will be on the website within the next 24 month or two.

The convention will kick off on Friday night,

25

with an opening general assembly for the Legion family. That will be in the Seagate Convention Center that's attached to the hotel.

All of the general assemblies, all the assemblies that we have will be in the convention center. We'll still have meetings in the hotel, but the big general assembly where everyone is together, every single one of those will be in the convention center.

ADJUTANT HELLER: With air conditioning.

COORDINATOR WHITE: As pointed out before, membership cards will be given out at Department Convention. Make sure that your Posts send a delegate to convention in order to get their cards. The certification of officers and the Consolidated Report Form are still needed in order to pick up your membership cards.

There are a lot of convention awards that

Posts are eligible for at convention. If your

Post is interested, get with Mike, Jermaine or

myself we can help you out, let you know how your

Post can apply for some of those.

We are also planning on revising how to certify your delegates for convention and the registration process at convention. If anyone has

any suggestions or input on how to make it better, modernize it, we're all ears.

Also, as mentioned before, the 13th District has a resolution for holding a convention at their District, hopefully upcoming soon.

Please have your Districts make a convention committee and talk to your convention and visitors bureau. We are still looking.

As of right now, again, we only have a resolution for the 13th District. We would like to have a whole lot more, some options, to plan ahead for the future.

I have extra RFPs here, printed out, if you want to take some back with you to your District.

Talk to your convention and visitors bureau. And let me know and I can get those to you.

4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: Quick question.

Jim Jennings, 4th District Commander.

If the Post or your District doesn't have a delegate, can the District officer pick the cards up for that Post?

COORDINATOR WHITE: We have to discuss that, but I don't see an issue with it.

ADJUTANT HELLER: We're looking to create where they would sign for it. We would check

1 their membership card and they would literally 2 sign for it. 3 4TH DISTRICT CMDR JENNINGS: Well the procedure is fine. I was just wondering if it's 4 5 allowed. 6 ADJUTANT HELLER: We're hoping to have a delegate from every Post attend. Just one, at 7 8 least. 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: Anything else, Christie? 10 COORDINATOR WHITE: No, sir. 11 If anyone has any questions about Mid-Winter or convention later on, just give me a call. 12 13 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. 14 (Applause). 15 Becky, do you have anything you want to add 16 to that? 17 FROM THE FLOOR: No. She's got National 18 though. 19 COMMANDER FRIEND: Becky, National 20 Convention. ASSISTANT CORBIN: Good afternoon. 21 22 I just want to give everybody an update as far as the National Convention. 23 24 It's going to be held in Louisville, Kentucky 25 this year, from August 28th to September 3rd.

It's going to be at the Kentucky International Convention Center.

The Department of Ohio will be staying at the Galt House Hotel. It's about a five-minute walk from the convention center. So it's not too bad. The cost is going to be \$127, plus tax at 16.07, which I calculated at about \$148 a night. The parking is \$15 per day. If you want valet, it's going to be 25. There will be rollaway beds available at \$25 per day.

Just the same as always, your reservations will go through me. Do not call the hotel and make them yourself.

We are still working with the hotel and with National to secure details. They haven't put a lot out there yet. But always check the National website, because they are updating that. And more will be coming probably within the next month or so. But again, make sure on that.

And as soon as we find out details for parade routes, the National Banquet and thing like that, we'll get that out to you as soon as possible.

Hopefully we'll have a housing form out to you, if not by Mid-Winter, definitely shortly after. We want to secure our details and get an

1 information sheet out to you as soon as we have the information ourselves. 3 Does anybody have any questions? FROM THE FLOOR: What was the name of the 4 5 hotel again? ASSISTANT CORBIN: Galt, G-A-L-T. 6 7 FROM THE FLOOR: G-A-U. 8 Galt House, G-A-U-L-T (sic). 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: Any other questions? 10 ADJUTANT HELLER: Yeah, as soon as we get 11 that information from National we'll get it out to 12 you. 13 The only thing they have on the website 14 now --15 COORDINATOR WHITE: There's also going to be 16 a lot of other states staying there. So I highly 17 recommend, once we get that housing form out, that 18 you guys get your reservations in right away. 19 that way you don't take the chance of running out 20 of rooms. 21 We are trying to get more housing contracting through, but, you know, it's a first-come 22 23 first-served basis. 24 And we did talk to Bridgette and she just let 25 us know that, you know, the rooms, they can only

block so many. So the main thing is to get your reservations in right away.

And it comes to me. And then I will forward them on to the hotel.

ADJUTANT HELLER: I'd just like to add something to that.

The Ohio Party for National Convention is something that we need to consider for this coming year.

Because National, they spend a lot of money on that big event after the parade. This is going to be, my understanding, the last parade that National Headquarters is putting on. So they're going to have a big party. And I was told they were going to do a bourbon tasting contest. There's going to be a lot of different tents set up outside.

So I'm recommending to the Commander, who will be the delegate chairman, that we should consider doing the Ohio Party at a different time and day, as opposed to putting it up against an event that National provides.

So you all, once the parade is over, you can enjoy the festivities they have going on, you can enjoy the other Legionnaires from other states,

1 and we can just have something different. 2 expect to see that as well. 3 If you have any ideas or suggestions or recommendations -- if you're a frequent National 4 5 Convention attendee, you know what the schedule is like. We haven't deviated from that since I've 6 been here. So just consider that schedule and 7 8 offer up a different suggestion. 9 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you. I agree. 10 ADJUTANT HELLER: Thank you, Becky. 11 COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you, Becky. 12 (Applause). 13 Okay, moving on, Brad. 14 2VC TEIS: Ms. Heller, front and center. 15 It's nothing really bad. You're going to 16 like this one. 17 But anyway, if you saw her post on Facebook 18 when they were at the stadium, her husband was in 19 Ohio State, she was in Michigan. And at the end 20 she had that little poopy, pouty lip when they 21 lost. 22 But, on behalf of my wife and myself, here's 23 a present for you and Scott. 24 ADJUTANT HELLER: Thank you. 25 FROM THE FLOOR: It's tickets to an Ohio

1 State game. ADJUTANT HELLER: "A House Divided." That's 2 3 great. 4 (Applause). 5 2VC TEIS: You'll see the right side is a little higher. 6 7 ADJUTANT HELLER: So, at the game, the band, 8 I love The Ohio State Band. Okay? 9 FROM THE FLOOR: The best damn band in the 10 land. 11 ADJUTANT HELLER: Yes, the best damn band in 12 the land. 13 I've taken a tour of the facility at Ohio 14 State. And they are the oldest military-style 15 band in the nation. And they're just exceptional. 16 I really like the band. 17 So this year, during halftime, they created 18 scissors. And they had a Michigan state flag. 19 And they cut the Michigan state flag in half. So 20 I thought that was pretty cool. This is really neat. And we will fly this 21 22 proudly. So thank you. 23 COMMANDER FRIEND: Okay, it's been a long 24 day, guys. I want to thank everybody for your 25 diligence, your respectfulness. And I think we

had a good meeting. We got a lot accomplished.

I will be traveling to Georgetown on the 14th, with my Sergeant-at-Arms and my wife to assist and get me out there for Christmas. So if anybody is in that area, I'd be more than happy to see you when I get out there.

Also, tonight, if you have not got your tickets -- is Marie still here?

ADJUTANT HELLER: She's not. But you can get them at the symphony. She'll have them there.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Make sure you get your tickets. We have a real good event going on tonight. Along with the symphony, actually there will be food and drink on the second floor.

And surprisingly enough, I mean we're pretty lucky, because Giant Eagle, from what I understand, donated the food.

And you all met Blake Farmer this afternoon. He donated the alcohol. He has actually paid for both bartenders and the beer and wine for us to enjoy ourselves tonight. Unfortunately, he's not with us to thank him, but he has been an outstanding individual that has worked for our assets. And you can't beat the individual. He's amazing. But he's also extremely dedicated to

this Department. So we are really proud and happy to have him with us.

Okay. Yes, go ahead, Mike.

COORDINATOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Commander.

For those of you coming tomorrow for the MyLegion training, we will start promptly at 10:00 AM. Casual dress.

Please charge your devices tonight. We will have some charging available, but I don't want to spend the money on power strips for every single computer and laptop we've got in here. So try and have a full charge on. It should last about two hours. So everybody's device should be able to last two hours on that.

I'll have the room reset and the screen up here and everything.

Holly Lewis is not going to be able to join us. So Brad and I are going to be doing it together. But we'll take our time. We'll walk you through it if you don't understand. If you don't ask, though, we don't know. So please don't feel embarrassed because you don't know something.

I came here a year ago, thought I knew a lot, and I'm still learning. Okay? Trust me. Please ask.

Suzette will be here also. The meeting will be here.

So we'll have plenty of people walking around to help you. We're going to make it a relaxed, fun environment. I'll restock the refrigerator tonight. Whoever drank my last Diet Coke, I want to see you.

Thank you, Commander.

COMMANDER FRIEND: Yeah, it's like he said, you guys would not realize how easy it really is.

He's not with us right now, but Jim Morris, probably about six or eight months ago, asked me to get him set up and help him out. He was totally amazed that when we got done that afternoon, with one keystroke, he actually downloaded 100 members in his Post with one keystroke. So, I mean, it's amazing.

I've been on it ever since, you know, Ohio was the Guinea pig. We were the actual Department that actually was used to open up this whole project. I have been on it ever since it's been there. It's easy. It's too easy.

And if you're worried about the monies, set up a separate account. That's all you've got to worry about.

With no further business to come before this 1 2 Department --. . . CALL TO ORDER . . . 3 4 Colors of our nation in place, hand salute. 5 Two. . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . 6 I declare this DEC --7 8 FROM THE FLOOR: Benediction. 9 Melissa. 10 CHAPLAIN FOWLE: Malcolm. 11 COMMANDER FRIEND: Benediction, Malcolm. 12 ASST. CHAPLAIN GLASGOW: Heavenly Father, as 13 we are about to depart this Department of Ohio 14 Executive Committee meeting, grant us Your 15 knowledge and wisdom as we continue to serve You, 16 Lord, and our community, state and nation with the 17 four pillar programs of The American Legion. 18 And Heavenly Father, least we forget all our 19 departed comrades from this Department, especially 20 those who made that supreme sacrifice so that we 21 may enjoy the freedoms and liberties that we have. 22 Let all our departed comrades memories and names 23 be cherished, honored and praised forever and 24 ever. 25 Also Lord, grant us safe travels to our final

1	destinations today and tomorrow.
2	For You, Lord God, and the United States of
3	America, we pray.
4	Amen.
5	FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.
6	COMMANDER FRIEND: Thank you all for coming.
7	I declare this meeting adjourned.
8	* * * *
9	(PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)
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30,000 [1] 17/20	6th [1] 143/11	116/15 117/13 124/6 125/18 126/11 128/7
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