

Pending Approval

**The American Legion Department of Oregon  
Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee Meeting  
Springfield, Oregon January 12, 2020**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams,** Called the Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC) to order.

**Acting Chaplain, Floyd Bacon,** leads the opening prayer

**Sergeant at Arms, Phyllis York,** leads the Pledge of Allegiance

**Department Commander, Steve Adams,** reads the POW-MIA Tribute

**Department Commander, Steve Adams,** leads the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion

**Department Commander, Steve Adams,** seats First Vice Commander Terry Brown District 7 in the absence of Amy Ritter District 7 Commander. (pg 1 from original DEC minutes)

Steve Adams: We have a little piece of business to do. We need to seat, Terry Brown, in place of Amy Ritter, District seven Commander.

Bob Huff: Commander, make a motion that we seat First Vice Commander, Terry Brown, as District eight Commander.

Andy Millar: [inaudible 00:00:37], second.

Steve Adams: I have a motion and have a second to seat Terry Brown, the District seven Commander.

Tom Harris: Correction, it's District seven.

Steve Adams: [crosstalk 00:00:56]. Okay, District seven. Yes, okay. Any discussion? All in favor say, aye.

Group: Aye.

Steve Adams: Opposed? Motion carried.

**Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips, Does Roll call of Department Officer and Past Department Commanders (PDC)**

**Roll Call of Department Officers 2019 - 2020**

<u>  p  </u> Department Commander	Steve Adams
<u>  p  </u> 1st Vice Commander	Don Weber
<u>  p  </u> 2nd Vice Commander	Larry Wittmayer
<u>  p  </u> Immediate Past Department Commander	Tom Harris
<u>  p  </u> Department Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
<u>  p  </u> National Executive Committeeman	Andy Millar
<u>  p  </u> Alt National Executive Committeeman	Jim Willis
<u>  p  </u> Department Finance Officer	Bob Huff
<u>  p  </u> Department Chaplain	Floyd Bacon
<u>  p  </u> Department Historian	Judy Johnston
<u>  p  </u> Department Judge Advocate	Jerry Shorey
<u>  p  </u> Department Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
<u>  p  </u> District 1 Commander	Cory Brockmann
<u>  p  </u> District 2 Commander	Renee Ohler
<u>  p  </u> District 3 Commander	John W. Lee
<u>  p  </u> District 4 Commander	David Applegate
<u>  p  </u> District 5 Commander	Vandee Mauser
<u>  a  </u> District 6 Commander	Toni Cordell
<u>  p  </u> District 7 Commander	Amy Ritter/Terry Brown
<u>  p  </u> District 8 Commander	John Molesworth
<u>  p  </u> District 9 Commander	Rebecca Rice
<u>  p  </u> District 10 Commander	Daniel Burks
<u>  p  </u> Department Sergeant-at-Arms	Phyllis York
<u>  p  </u> Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Ward Allen
<u>  p  </u> Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Morris
<u>  a  </u> Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Steven Mays
<u>  a  </u> Department Aide to the Commander	Bud Stutheit
<u>  a  </u> Department Aide to the Commander	Larry Williams

**Living Past Department Commander 2019-2020**

<u>  a  </u> Charles D. Bingham 1978-79	<u>  a  </u> Robert D. Scott 1982-83
<u>  a  </u> Patsy Nestor 1986-87	<u>  a  </u> Richard A. Schenfeld 1993-94
<u>  p  </u> Robert D. Liebenow 1996-97	<u>  a  </u> Donald M. Epperson 1997-98
<u>  d  </u> Harley W. Ray 1999-00	<u>  a  </u> George "Toby" Potter 2002-03
<u>  p  </u> Charlie Schmidt 2004-05	<u>  p  </u> Sid Carter 2005-06
<u>  a  </u> Bernie Healy 2006-07	<u>  p  </u> Kevin Owens 2008-09
<u>  a  </u> Jacqueline Collison 2010-11	<u>  e  </u> Jon Marsh 2011-12
<u>  p  </u> Robert (Bob) Huff 2012-13	<u>  p  </u> Michael Morris 2013-14
<u>  p  </u> R. Andy Millar 2014-15	<u>  a  </u> Michael Jones 2015-16

\_\_p\_\_ Jim Willis 2016-17

\_\_p\_\_ Gene Hellickson 2017-18

\_\_p\_\_ Tom Harris 2018-19

(p-present, e-excused, a-absent, d-deceased)

**Department Adjutant, Fylnn Phillips**, states that a quorum has been met.

**Fall DEC Minutes** (pgs 6, 7 from original DEC minutes)

Andy Millar: I move we dispense with minutes and say it already been published.

Steve Adams: I have a motion to-

Bob Huff: [inaudible 00:06:37] Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer second the motion.

Steve Adams: I have a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes. For the Fall DEC  
[inaudible 00:06:44] have a motion, have a second. Any discussion? All in favor  
say, aye.

Group: Aye.

Steve Adams: Those opposed? Motion carried. [inaudible 00:07:06]

Gerald Shorey: Commander. You still haven't approved the minutes. [inaudible 00:07:15]  
all they voted to dispense the reading. It'd have to be approved. And all  
you have to do is say are the minutes [inaudible 00:07:26] acceptable, and  
if they are, you'd have to ask for a vote.

Don Weber: Move to file the minutes as printed.

John Molesworth: Commander, John Molesworth, District eight, I second the motion.

Steve Adams: I have a motion and a second to approve the minutes as printed. Any discussion?  
If not, all in favor say, aye.

Group: Aye.

Steve Adams: Those opposed? Motion carried.

**Department Commander, Steve Adams**, Introduction of Guests

National Vice Commander Western Region – Rob Liebenow  
Past National Commander – Charles Schmidt  
National Executive Committeeman – Andy Millar

Alternate National Executive Committeeman – Jim Willis  
Past National Sergeant-at-Arms – Kevin Owens  
S.A.L. National Executive Committeeman – Willy Williams  
S.A.L. Detachment Commander – Carl Pawlik  
American Legion Rider Chairman – Gale Sears

(pg 7 from original DEC minutes)

Kevin Owens: Commander, I know this is our thing, but I would think that people understand that when you're an Aide to The National Commander. We'll never [inaudible 00:10:09] at least in my lifetime. And I do think it's very important you to introduce Don Weber the [inaudible 00:10:13] Aid to The National Commander [inaudible 00:10:15].

Steve Adams: I am fully willing to do that. Aid to the National Commander-

Don Weber: Thank you.

Steve Adams: Don Weber.

#### **Department Commander, Steve Adams, Opening Remarks**

- Addressed the Training on Saturday
- Spoke about Bradley Walther's - Project with his filling the gap that was missing to help veterans that are in distress.
- Introduced Betty Fish-Ferguson- asked Betty to share her experience at the National Legion College.

#### **Department Commander, Steve Adams, Introduces Betty Fish- Ferguson Post 149**

- Betty gave a synopsis of her participation at the National Legion College on November 2 through 8, 2020.
- Highlighted on:
  - How to organize buddy checks
  - What to do scenarios – if a Post burned down to if a Commander dies in Office
  - How to look for potential leaders and promote the growth within the American Legion/Post

#### **Book of Reports**

**Department Judge Advocate, Gerald Shorey, Reads- Standing Rules -The Department Constitution and By-Laws**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, request for the Department District Commanders and Department Officers - Book of Reports**

**Department District Commanders**

District 1 Commander	Cory Brockmann (pgs 13, 14 see updated information from original DEC minutes)
District 2 Commander	Renee Ohler (pgs 14, 15 see updated information from original DEC minutes)
District 3 Commander	John Lee (pg 15 see updated information from original DEC minutes)
District 4 Commander	David Applegate (pg 15 see updated information from original DEC minutes )
District 5 Commander	Vandee Mauser (pg 15 see updated information from original DEC minutes)
District 6 Commander	Toni Cordell (No Report was given)
District 7 Commander	Terry Brown (pg 16 gives Book of Report on District 7 see that report in the original DEC minutes)
District 8 Commander	John Molesworth (pg 16 see updated information from original DEC minutes)
District 9 Commander	Rebecca Rice (pg 16 see updated information from original DEC minutes)
District 10 Commander	Daniel Burks (pg 17 see updated information from original DEC minutes)

**Department Officers Reports**

National Executive Committeeman Andy Millar (pg 18 see updated information from original DEC minutes)

Department Immediate Past Commander Tom Harris

Department 1st Vice Commander Don Weber (pgs 18, 19 & 20 updated information on Membership see original DEC minutes)

Department 2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer (pg 20 updated information on membership see original DEC minutes )

Department Finance Officer Bob Huff  
(pgs 20,21 from original DEC minutes)

Bob Huff: Oh, it isn't going to be short. It is not going to be short. My report is in the book of reports, but I have a lot more to report on. I would first like to piggyback District 10 Commander and our NEC from District 6. I live in a very large District also. It's called District 4. Some folks think it's small because part of the five goes through District 4, part of the 97 goes through District Four.

Bob Huff: We are Post 172 miles between those Posts. Folks from District 5 have pine Posts. Seven miles below that Post starts my Post in District Four which goes 100 miles and the phone directory is 116th of an inch thick. There are a lot of

areas that have no telephone poles or electric poles, but I just wanted to say that.

Bob Huff: And I'm saying that because the State of Oregon, the Department of Oregon, 20% of the land in the Department of Oregon has 80% of the people, which is Greater Portland area in these areas and that's where the veterans are at. The 80% of the Department of Oregon only has 20% of the people. And I like to say that when we put our goals if we had the same goals for the percentages, we'd have over 30,000 people in this organization right now, which is where we should go.

Bob Huff: Please, and I will camp on what Larry Wittmayer just said. Read the book of reports. There is a lot of information in there. There really is. In front of you, I got a red-eye and I can hardly talk. Your DEC budget sheets are sitting in front of you. Those are that. That's through the end of November. Now, if you flip the pages, you're going to see five pages of what we call fines. They're really not fines.

Bob Huff: What we voted in the process in the manual is if we don't turn in our Legionnaire articles, if we don't turn in our assessments, we have a fine, which is a reduction to what your budget line is because that is Department money. Please, look at those. Now, these have been scrubbed three different times, but this money, funds that is American Legion Money just goes back into the general fund.

Bob Huff: So please, watch that. When your articles are due, please, send them in. I also gave you a copy of the budget and I have extra copies up here. These are the numbers as at the end of November. Those fines have not been reduced from your budget lines. Please, look at those because when that budget line is gone, there's no funds left in your budget. Our taxes have been sent into the IRS.

Bob Huff: They've been accepted for the Department of Oregon. I know in front of you, there were two forms today, a whistleblower form and a conflict of interest. You have all filled those out. We can't send our taxes in until we audit that they were filled out. We're supposed to do this after the Post-DEC after Convention. There was some confusion at the Post-DEC but you fill them out.

Bob Huff: That's just for your information. If you want to fill them out now and keep them until the next Convention, that's nice too. We have to do that every year. And for that, that's my report, Commander.

Department Permanent Finance Kevin Owens  
(pg 21, 22, 23 from original DEC minutes)

Kevin Owens: I'm that old. And Dan Burks, you do the crime, you do the time. I live in District 10 in witness protection program. I've been there. Before I ask any question, the meeting was held on Holiday Inn Express Springfield, Oregon, January 10th, 2020 at 3:30 pm. The following members were present; Chairman, Kevin Owens,

Past Department Commander, Department Finance Officer, Past Department Commander Gene Hellickson, Betty Fish-Ferguson and Eva Summers.

Kevin Owens: [inaudible 00:59:06] present were Department Commander, Steve Adams, Second Vice, Don Weber, Department adjutant Flynn Phillips and Past National Commander, Charles Schmidt. We discussed the following items. The Commission was given a presentation by Scott Anderson from Ameriprise on our financial plan, the Department of investments. The Department has done very well in 2019.

Kevin Owens: We've seen a 17.76% increase in our total portfolio of \$1,292,294 ending 12/31/2019. In 2018, we had a decrease at about 8%. That's just economy stagnancies in the stock market. We could see some changes to the market. As you know with an upcoming presidential election, it's pretty common that the stock market takes a dip. We could see some change in that with upcoming election.

Kevin Owens: We have positioned ourselves in our investments to see corrections of the market. So we're well-positioned. Our portfolio's well balanced, so we can weather the storm. We provided a copy to the DEC of the report presented to the Department Finance Commission. We also talked about the tax preparation and I would say it was not completed on time because we had to file an extension.

Kevin Owens: So we are going to run into that problem. You should have a copy in your DEC packet of the taxes, so please, look over. Those are very important.

Bob Huff: They were sent to their homes.

Kevin Owens: Okay. Yeah. We discussed the need to see what we can do in the future to help. Most of it was made by Past Department Commander, Gene Hellickson, and Second Vice, Betty Fish-Ferguson Fish Ferguson to allocate funds to provide training to our Department, giving the employees the necessary tools to improve their skills they need to be successful in their jobs. The training will include QuickBooks and office programs.

Kevin Owens: This is all in recommendation to the DEC. The money would come from the Department finance fund and as well, within the budget. Well, I'll do that last. Okay. The next business we talked about is the budget for next year. We were going to do something different this year. We're meeting on February 29th at 4:00 pm in the Department. We assigned everybody on the Commission a section to work on the budget and then we'll bring to the media on the 29th.

Kevin Owens: If you get contacted by one of those people on the Commission asking you questions, it's because we want to see if you had an increase or why you're having a decrease or we want to learn what you need. One thing I would like to talk about is we had a deadline.

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [01:02:04]

Kevin Owens: The thing I would like to talk about is we had a deadline. We had a deadline at 12/31/2019, and I'm really sad to say that there's some District Commanders that didn't turn any budgets in, so that's a big fat zero. We have deadlines just like in the military, three months to do a five-minute process so we have people that did not do it.

Kevin Owens: Unbelievable. I mean, you took on the job, five minutes is not too much out of your time a day. I work five days a week and I still could get my budget in. You're going to have to come to explain to us why you didn't turn your budget in and you all know who you are. So please, if you want some money please email me. They were supposed to come to my house, not to Department. The Department has nothing to do with the budget. Nothing! Zero. Its the Permit Finance Commission that pares the budget.

Kevin Owens: You spend it.

Steve Adams: You spend it, that's true.

Kevin Owens: Too much.

Kevin Owens: Okay, the Commission also talked about refinancing or resurfacing the parking lot. And we've talked about this in the past and we're going to work with A&A and the Department Adjutant and find the best solution to include contacting the City of Wilsonville because that is a thorough way through our parking lot. So we're going to see if they'll help us fund that project and we'll get some information. We might do it prior to the next DEC, we might see if the Commander will do a Go To Meeting to see if we can get that done.

Kevin Owens presents a resolution.  
(pgs 24, 25,26 from original DEC minutes)

Kevin Owens: 'Whereas the Department of Oregon budget for the Year 2019/2020 as approved by the Department of Oregon [inaudible 01:03:50], Astoria, Oregon, June 28, 2019, for a total budget of \$560,392.96 whereas, during the Fall Department Executive Meeting in Lebanon, Oregon, the DEC discussed the approved 2019/2020 budget and the reclamation to the midyear conference by resolution would be made to move the excess funds from the budget to the Department of Finance Commission Reserve Fund.'

Kevin Owens: And we're required to support our programs and Department functions. And whereas there's a shortfall and when excessive funds are not used in Convention travel, National Convention expense and National Convention delegate fees are \$5,400 in the Fall DEC Meetings with the excess fund of



\$1,451. And the membership workshop budget with excess funds of \$2,200 and fines of \$2,880 for a total excess funds of \$11,931 in the Department budget 2019/2020.

Kevin Owens: Whereas with the excess of \$11,931 available in the budget, transfer \$4,000 to the Office Equipment budget line, \$500 to the Junior Past Department Commander budget line, and the remainder of \$7,431 to the Program of Finance Reserve Fund budget line.

Kevin Owens: And therefore, be resolved that \$11,931 excess of Department of Oregon budget of 2019/2020, \$4,000 be transferred to the Office Equipment budget line. \$500 be transferred to the Junior Pass Department Commander budget line and that \$7,431 be transferred to the Urban Finance Reserve budget line, the expenses for the Department of Oregon Budget for 2019/2020.

Kevin Owens: And therefore be it resolved that the resolution be approved at the midyear DEC Springfield Oregon, January 12, 2020, and take effect and so implemented.

Bob Huff: Commander, make a motion that the resolution just presented be approved, as read.

Steve Adams: I have a motion to approve the resolution just made...

Tom Harris: Do I have a second?

Tom Harris: Commander, Tom Harris, Junior Past Commander, I second that motion.

Steve Adams: Tom Harris seconded. Any discussion? If not, we'll have a roll call vote.

**Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips takes a Roll Call Vote.**

<u>  y  </u>	District 1 Commander	Cory Brockmann
<u>  y  </u>	District 2 Commander	Renee Ohler
<u>  y  </u>	District 3 Commander	John Lee
<u>  y  </u>	District 4 Commander	David Applegate
<u>  y  </u>	District 5 Commander	Vandee Mauser
<u>  a  </u>	District 6 Commander	Toni Cordell
<u>  y  </u>	District 7 Commander	Terry Brown
<u>  y  </u>	District 8 Commander	John Molesworth
<u>  y  </u>	District 9 Commander	Rebecca Rice
<u>  y  </u>	District 10 Commander	Daniel Burks
<u>  y  </u>	1st Vice Commander	Don Weber
<u>  y  </u>	2nd Vice Commander	Larry Wittmayer
<u>  y  </u>	Department Finance Officer	Bob Huff
<u>  y  </u>	Immediate Past Department Commander	Tom Harris
<u>  y  </u>	National Executive Committeeman	Andy Millar

(y=yes, a-absent, n=no)

Flynn Phillips: Overwhelmingly approved.

Steve Adams: Motion carried.

**Kevin Owens gives The American Legion Foundation Committee Report**  
(pgs 26, 27 from original DEC minutes)

Kevin Owens: This Oregon American Legion Foundation Committee Report. Meeting called to order by Chairman Kevin Owens at 5:00 in a conference room at the Holiday Inn Express. The following members were present Kevin Owens, Charlie Schmidt, Rob Lebinow, Bob Huff, Jerry Shorey, Cory Brockmann, Betty Fish-Ferguson, Andy Millar, and Secretary Flynn Phillips.

Kevin Owens: We went over the Minutes for the last meeting, they were all approved. We had some open issues and one of them is when we were at National Convention we picked some coins up, old Legion coins, hundred-year coins. We're going to be giving those at the Convention. We're going to have a silent auction to raise money for the Foundation but the most important thing we got are the prints. Sergeant at Arms, can you?

Kevin Owens: So we got some flyers. So, you know the Legion prints? The prints, we have one framed, that's got a coin in it? Will be passed around. We're going to be raffling those off. So we printed 1,000 tickets for this raffle. We're going to ask the District Commanders, they're all going to get some tickets. And the tickets are over here. You're going to sign for them. They're numbered. It's your responsibility to get rid of them.

Kevin Owens: We've got a couple Districts that are a little smaller: six and ten. We decided not to burn them so we have seven Past Department Commanders who will be taking tickets and we'll get those after the meeting. So please, the money is to help the Foundation for our Youth Programs. When your Post needs some money for a program that's a Youth Program and you don't have it, you apply to the Foundation and we hope to be able to fund that. The only way we can do this is to do raffles and auctions. We're also going to have a couple of pin sets at the Department Convention. They are a set of pins that were made for our Past National Commander, Charlie Schmidt. They are a set of six pins. They are unique, they're all in color. They are all the colored pins. They have a myrtle wood coin in them that was made for that Year and for his campaign. Willy Williams actually put these together for us, and they're in a case. And we're going to be auctioning those off too.

Kevin Owens: There's not many left, so if you ever want to get one, they're limited. One of these is at Department Headquarters. One of these is actually at Indianapolis in the archives. It's history of our organization so we encourage you to when you have people coming to the Department Convention, that you purchase those items and the tickets. Should be easy to sell 100 tickets. Everybody got family members and five bucks it's not much.

Kevin Owens: We're also talking about doing some coins for donors. People who give money, when you give \$100 level, \$500 level, or \$1,000 we'll be working on that.

Kevin Owens: We encourage you, I'm trying to read Flynn's... I've read this but Flynn is our secretary and he got something in the Navy language and I'm not too familiar with that.

Bob Huff: I thought I was the only one that didn't...

Kevin Owens: Yeah, and I was in the Coast Guard but you guys are weird.

Kevin Owens: We also discussed the Auxillary birthday, they're going to their 100-Year birthday at the Department Convention, they're going to do a celebration so I would hope that the Legionnaires will be very supportive of them. They kind of have the backbone of our organization. If it wasn't for the Auxiliary and the SAL some of our Posts would be in dire straits as you heard from Betty Fish-Ferguson. The American Legion, as it's growing in some areas, we are declining in others, and we need to remember that she said [inaudible 01:13:44] young folks you're kicked in the teeth and I do agree with that to a point. But I also encourage young people to remember because I was once a young person in my Post, 22/23 years old amongst World War II veterans, that sometimes coming in and having a blazing storm, but you have great ideas, to remember that those people have been there for a while, and sometimes you have to ease into it.

Kevin Owens: Don't go in there and tell them what to do; get their ideas. That's all my report. I encourage you to support the Oregon Legion Foundation because it belongs to you. And if you need some help, you need a presentation let me know, we can be there. Then that's my report on the Foundation.

### **Kevin Owens gives a Sons of the American Legion Committee Report**

(pg 28, 29 from the original DEC minutes)

Kevin Owens: I have a Boys SAL report because Jon Marsh is not here and somehow he tasked me with this. They met yesterday in Santa Clara, I believe, Saturday. They talked the pros and cons. As you know, the American

Legion is online renewing. As an SAL member, it's awesome because I'm the Adjutant and it's great to renew, there are pros and cons to it. But I think it's like the Legion, we just need to train people, encourage people, and show them the value.

Kevin Owens: There was two resolutions that were re-read on the floor. There was no vote. One is the change of the dues. Remember the per capita now is \$20 to the Department, \$5 to National and \$15 to the Department.

Kevin Owens: They also changed, as you know, they're going to be in compliance with American Legion and Auxiliary for the \$15 delegate fee. They also discussed the eligibility of being a son. There are descendants of veterans of all wars. We are not cousins. Currently, there's no major conflict happening in the National regarding whether or not we will discontinue the policy of allowing stepsons to be members. If there's nothing else on that, Commander, I would ask Willy Williams and you see, because I wasn't there, if there's anything else that I forgot?

Willy Williams: [inaudible] the American Legion News and Resolution in our DEC meeting, it was turned down by the [inaudible 01:16:15]. To discard the stepson from going in the Sons. We had at DEC or anything member had been a member of the Sons for 28 Years. He'd been in NEC for 18 Years and he's a stepson. They are trying to discard the stepson of the Sons of the American Legion.

Willy Williams: There is another resolution on the end of May when we were there from Arizona and California, to grandfather our stepsons to stay in the Sons. There's a possibility of at least 15 or 20 in the state of Oregon that we would lose. We don't need to lose members, we need to gain members. This is one of the big fights we're having at Indianapolis.

Willy Williams: We'll find out more about it in May when we're there. Thank you for letting me speak up.

Kevin Owens: I would say, as a stepson of a Veteran, a 22-Year old Coast Guard Veteran, a 22-Year old...that's ridiculous. That's the only father I've known. I was adopted when I was five years old and that's ridiculous and I think our NEC men should look into that and our alternate we should be looking as National Commander. That's ridiculous. You know? Those kids are being adopted and their fathers, and that's their father. So, anyway, that's my two cents. Thanks, Commander. I'm out of here.

**Department Service Officer, Ed Van Dyke (pgs 29, 30 from the original DEC minutes)**

Ed Van Dyke: [crosstalk 01:18:47] Commander, my report, our report, is in the Book of Reports but there are a couple of add-ons I'd like to share with the DEC.

Ed Van Dyke: The first thing is the VA is going through some growing pains and I would like the DEC, the American Legion, and other service organizations to address the VA in reference to these growing pains. When they changed to an all-electronic claims management system, all claims management went to a National service queue. What we're starting to find out is there are a lot of admin errors that are being produced because the VA has become a widget counter. That's all they have become is they're counting widgets.

Ed Van Dyke: Now, for example, when I submit a form that I know is the correct form, and it takes me five times because it goes to five different people within the VA, to state that I have an active claim, that is unacceptable to me. Because it goes, it could be in Florida. It could be addressed in Texas, it could be addressed in Oregon, who knows where it's going to be addressed. But because the push is to get a widget, the service to our veterans is going down.

Ed Van Dyke: Now, this National work queue has a great opportunity to be a real good management system. But when they're pushing so hard, the service goes down, errors goes up, and service to us stinks to be all honest with you. So I'm asking the DEC and the Commander to get with other service organizations and tell the VA to slow down. Yes, we care about production, but we care about our veterans more. We want an accurate rating and we don't want crap that I've been seeing going through the system lately. Just slow down. We got a great system, just work on it and do a better job, slow down. It's just unacceptable to me, so that's what I'm asking you. You can get with me, I can give you example, after example, after example which... the National work queue has just created new problems and its just very frustrating so we just need to slow down. We just need to ask the VA to slow down. Okay?

Ed Van Dyke: And the second thing I'd like to address is great training yesterday. But there's two things that I'd like to make a correction to. Just because a veteran in 100% doesn't mean they qualify for additional benefits. He was very adamant because he was 100% service-connected that he should have got something. Well, that's not really the case.

Ed Van Dyke: The veteran was receiving 100% and my question would be why did he receive an eviction notice, and what can we do to try to make sure that he doesn't get evicted, but it's not additional benefits perhaps. Perhaps it additional counseling or whatever. But that sort of was just stated incorrectly just because a veteran's a hundred percent doesn't mean they're entitled to something

Ed Van Dyke: And the second thing was his statement in reference to the National Cemetery system. Now, the only reason that veteran and his parents had any delay whatsoever was they went to the most unique national cemetery

in the nation. It requires special processing to make sure that the veteran is eligible to be placed in Arlington Cemetery. If they went to Alabama National Cemetery they would have had authorization within two days.

Ed Van Dyke: The national cemetery system is great. To me, that looked like it was giving a slam on the National cemetery system and you had to wait eight months to be interred at Alabama but that's not true. It's just that Arlington Cemetery which is a unique situation if you want to be interred there. All right?

Ed Van Dyke: Commander, that's my report.

Cory Brockmann: I have a question. Cory Brockmann, District 1. First, thank you for everything you do for Veterans, I appreciate that, we all do very much.

Cory Brockmann: Just to clarify, what is it do you think that the Department can do to benefit your first issue? An issue letter in concert with other VSOs?

Ed Van Dyke: I think that an issue letter and then go to National and then talk to National Commander and say, "Look, we have to address this because this is getting out of control." And also go to others, DAV, go to Veterans of Foreign Wars, all the other service organizations and get together and address this issue and just say "Slow Down."

unknown: Quality rather than quantity.

Ed Van Dyke: That's right. I mean, I want them to take care of Cory Brockmann, not 5463994 and a widget. Thank you.

Steve Adams: Flynn,

Fynn Phillips: Yes

Steve Adams: Would you generate a letter?

Flynn Phillips: Yes

Kevin Owens: Commander, yes. Just because people may not know, I am the DAV State Commander and I will be addressing a letter. Its got the big two, the VFW... the big three: the DAV, the American Legion, and the VFW. Those are the big three.

Steve Adams: Yes. So Flynn generates a letter.

Charles Schmidt: Mr. Commander, Charles Schmidt. Past National Commander. I have the distinct honor of sitting on the Advisory Board to the National Command.

If our friend will give me a pointer paper, I'll present that to the Committee in March. Most definitely.

Steve Adams: Thank you very much, Past National Commander. [crosstalk 01:25:38]

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Ratification of Commission and Committee Members**  
Pgs 31 through 35 see original DEC minutes)

Internal Affairs – Lou Neubecker – Chair

Boys State – Steve Shollenburg - Member

Boys State – Kevin Sands - Member

Legionnaire – Juan Palacios - Member

Information & Technology – Juan Palacios - Member

All of the above Ratification of Commission and Committee Members were approved.

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Resolution to merge Navy Post 101 with the Estacada Post 74**

(pgs 35 through 37 see original DEC minutes)

Steve Adams: Okay. I would ... I would like to have Terry Brown chairman of the Resolutions Committee, come upon a resolution to ...

Flynn Phillips: to merge Navy 101 with Carl Douglas.

Steve Adams: To merge Navy 101 with Estacada.

Terry Brown: Okay, this merge has been kicked around for the last four years actually. So it's kind of a housekeeping trying to like to get this thing moving forward. So this is resolution number 202001001 consolidation of Navy Post 101 with Carl Douglas Post 74. Whereas Navy Post 101 experienced a continued decline in Post membership and did not meet minimum membership requirements of 15 members for over five years. And whereas Navy Post 101 did not have a Post meeting and over seven years did not have a functioning Executive Committee in over 10 years. And whereas Navy Post 101 Commander was not successful in getting membership involved and stepping forward to fill Post leadership. Even though several members from other Posts transferred in to assume Post Commander responsibilities and revitalize a membership. And whereas Navy Post 101 membership did not feel that additional members, a membership to fill Officer and Executive Committee positions was attainable.

Terry Brown: Whereas Navy Post 101 membership expressed in a two-thirds majority vote for Post membership consolidation with Carl Douglas Post 74 and whereas Carl Douglas Post 74 membership expressed at two-thirds majority vote for Post-merger with Navy 101, and whereas Navy Post 101

expressed the two-thirds majority vote to transfer all monies in the business checking account and financial records to Carl Douglas Post 74 to be placed in a restricted account only to be used for Legion programs and community programs that reflect well on the American Legion and its members, and whereas therefore currently no members in ... there are no members currently in Navy Post 101. Be it further resolved that upon approval by the Department of Oregon Executive Committee the merger will be complete and the Navy Post will know when charter and Post colors shall be declared to the headquarters, Department of Oregon dated as a seventh day of January 2019.

Terry Brown: I'd also like to say that there was two separate occasions, we transferred in Post Commanders to revitalize the Navy Post 101 and they are not as successful ... and for a long time we couldn't even find the acting Adjutant Co-Commander so they are had been basically gone undercover for a long time, so we're just trying to get things squared away and move on. Commander?

Steve Adams: Thank you, Terry.

Terry Brown: I make a motion that we approve the resolution as read.

Tom Harris: District 7 Commander Brown, Tom Harris, Past Commander, I second the motion.

Steve Adams: Thank you, Terry. Motion was made by District 7 standing Commander Terry Brown and seconded by Tom Harris to approve the resolution as read. We'll have a roll call vote.

Flynn Phillips: Roll call vote for the merger Navy 101 resolution into STK 74. Roll call Commander ... District 1 Commander Cory Brockmann.

**Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips takes a Roll Call Vote.**

<u>  y  </u>	District 1 Commander	Cory Brockmann
<u>  y  </u>	District 2 Commander	Renee Ohler
<u>  y  </u>	District 3 Commander	John Lee
<u>  y  </u>	District 4 Commander	David Applegate
<u>  y  </u>	District 5 Commander	Vandee Mauser
<u>  a  </u>	District 6 Commander	Toni Cordell
<u>  y  </u>	District 7 Commander	Terry Brown
<u>  y  </u>	District 8 Commander	John Molesworth
<u>  y  </u>	District 9 Commander	Rebecca Rice
<u>  y  </u>	District 10 Commander	Daniel Burks
<u>  y  </u>	1st Vice Commander	Don Weber
<u>  y  </u>	2nd Vice Commander	Larry Wittmayer
<u>  y  </u>	Department Finance Officer	Bob Huff
<u>  y  </u>	Immediate Past Department Commander	Tom Harris



y   National Executive Committeeman Andy Millar  
(y=yes, a-absent, n-no)

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Ask from the standing Commissions and Committees**

Americanism Commission - Sid Carter

Convention Commission - Kevin Owens (pg 39 see updated information from original DEC minutes)

Administrative Advisory Commission -Andy Millar (pg 39 see updated information from original DEC minutes)

Internal Affairs - Lou Neubecker (No Report)

Legislative Commission - Jack LaBox

Media and Communications Commission - (No Report)

National Security and Foreign Relation Commission-Greg Marvin (pgs 39, 41 see updated information from original DEC minutes)

Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission-Jim Willis

Veterans Employment and Education Commission - Bob Huff

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Presentations - NONE**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Unfinished business**

- Resolution 208032 status (feasibility study) (pg 40, 41 and 42 see the status from the original DEC minutes)
- Post 134 (pgs 40, 41 and 42 updated information from original DEC minutes)

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, New Business - NONE**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Good for the Order - Thank you to Post 83**

**Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips Report (pg 42 see updated information from original DEC minutes)**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Time and Place-The DEC will be held at Post 45 La Pine April 3-5, 2020.**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, Adjoumment**

**Department Chaplin, Floyd Bacon, leads the closing prayer**

**Department Commander, Steve Adams, declares the DEC adjourned**