



Department Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 17th, 2021
Virtual Go to Meeting
8:30 AM.

Call to order
Salute to Colors
Opening Prayer

Department Commander Steve Adams

POW/MIA Ceremony
Pledge of Allegiance
Preamble
Roll Call Quorum present
Reading of the previous minutes
Reading of the Department Standing Rules
Introductions of Department Officers
Reports

Department Commanders Report	Commander Steve Adams
District Reports	
1 st Vice Commander	Don Weber
2 nd Vice Membership	Larry Wittmayer
Finance Committee Report	PDC Bob Huff
Permanent Finance Report	PDC Kevin Owens
Foundation Report	PDC Kevin Owens
Service Officer Report	Ed Van Dyke
Resolutions	Chase Bank/Ameriprise
NEC Report	PDC Andy Millar

Department Standing Commission Reports

Americanism	
Children and Youth	
National Security	Greg Marvin
Boys State	
VA&R Report	PDC Jim Willis
VE& E Report	PDC Bob Huff
POW/MIA Report	
Legion Riders Report	
Legislative Committee Report	John Lee
Baseball Report	
SAL Report/ Convention Report	PDC Jon Marsh

New Business
Unfinished Business
Post Charter Actions
Good of the Legion

None

Roll Call of Officers 2020 – 2021

__ P __	Department Commander	Steve Adams
__ P __	1 st Vice Commander	Don Weber
__ P __	2 nd Vice Commander	Larry Wittmayer
__ P __	Immediate Past Department Commander	Tom Harris
__ P __	Department Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
__ P __	National Executive Committeeman	Andy Millar
__ P __	Department Finance Officer	Bob Huff
__ P __	Department Chaplain	Steve Shollenburg
__ A __	Department Historian	Judy Johnston
__ P __	Department Judge Advocate	Gene Hellickson
__ P __	District 1 Commander	Lou Neubecker
__ P __	District 2 Commander	Renee Ohler
__ P __	District 3 Commander	Jerry Patton
__ P __	District 4 Commander	David Applegate
__ A __	District 5 Commander	Lance Trowbridge/Sid
__ A __	District 6 Commander	Glenn Bradley
__ P __	District 7 Commander	Terry Brown
__ P __	District 8 Commander	Ed Mathews
__ P __	District 9 Commander	Kevin Owens
__ P __	District 10 Commander	Daniel Burks

Non-Voting Members

__ P __	Alt National Executive Committeeman	Jim Willis
__ A __	Department Sergeant-at-Arms	Phyllis York
__ P __	Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Ward Allen
__ P __	Department Service Officer	Ed Van Dyke
__ A __	Department Service Officer Assistant	Jody Marsh
__ A __	Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Morris
__ A __	Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Steven Mays
__ A __	Department Aide to Commander	William "Bud" Stutheit
__ A __	Department Aide to Commander	Larry Williams

Recorded by Department Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips

Date 1/17/2021

The Commander declared a quorum.

ROLL CALL OF LIVING PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS (2020 - 2021)

	NAME	POST	YEAR
__ A __	Charles D. Bingham	8	1978-79
__ A __	Robert D. Scott	51	1982-83
__ A __	Patsy Nestor	158	1986-87
__ A __	Richard A. Schenfeld	5	1993-94
__ P __	Robert D. Liebenow	6	1996-97
__ A __	Donald M. Epperson	61	1997-98

__ A __	George “Toby” Potter	12	2002-03
__ P __	Charlie Schmidt	63	2004-05
__ A __	Sid Carter	29	2005-06
__ A __	Bernie Healy	158	2006-07
__ P __	Kevin Owens	34	2008-09
__ A __	Jacqueline Collison	34	2010-11
__ A __	Jon Marsh	43	2011-12
__ P __	Bob Huff	15	2012-13
__ A __	Mike Morris	21	2013-14
__ P __	Andy Millar	24	2014-15
__ P __	Mike Jones	67	2015-16
__ P __	Jim Willis	123	2016-17
__ P __	Eugene Hellickson	86	2017-18
__ P __	Tom Harris	158	2018-19

Opening remarks

Lou Neubecker made a motion to seat Greg Marvin as District 5 Commander to sit in for Sid Carter. D3 Commander Jerry Patton seconded it. Motion carried.

D3 Commander Jerry Patton made a motion to seat Andy Millar to sit in for District six Commander Glenn Bradly. Andy Millar seconded it. Motion carried. Lou stated he sees D6 Commander Glenn Bradly is online, but his mic was muted. Jerry Patton **withdrew** his Motion.

D9 Commander Kevin Owens remarked that some of Flynn's minutes are not correct. Such as my financial report. Some sentences are not complete.

Jerry Patton made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections

Commander Steve Adams gave opening remarks, thanked all the past National Commanders, past National Sergeant-at-Arms, and past National Aid online and attending. He stated he had

been very busy at the department level, meeting at least once a month with the Department staff, leadership, Auxiliary, and SAL. It has worked out well, and getting a lot of good input. He said he has also been on the phone with VFW State Commander George Carroll about Veterans issues and some things they are going to support as far as legislation and some difficulties with some of their posts. He said he conferred with the Legion Post that was involved. More VFW communication later.

He stated the VFW Commander made him aware that a political party had a VFW and Legion family logo on their website. Flynn will contact them by phone and letter to remove the unapproved Legion logo.

Steve commented that he was pleased by how the Department, Auxiliary, and Sons were working together now and thanked them all.

Department Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson read the Standing Rules of the DEC.

District Reports:

District 1: Lou Neubecker states his report is in the Book of Reports but adds; PDC Harris and D1 Vice Commander Susan Hughes are working with Vernonia Post 119 in trying to get them back up and running, and they will visit this Friday at 7:00 PM. Anyone is invited to attend and help. He commented that the State of Oregon is trying to buy their building because they want to put a walking path from Vernonia to Scappoose.

District 2: Renee Ohler states, her report is filed in the Book of Reports (BOR), and I have nothing to add.

District 3: Jerry Patton states his report is filed in the (BOR). He stated an update. D3 had two Oratrical contestants, one dropped out, and the contest moved to Brownsville. He also visited Cottage Grove and Post 10.

District 4: David Applegate states his report is filed in the (BOR). He added he had been in touch with his Posts; most are not meeting in person but he is keeping in touch. Lastly, D4 is second in Membership of the ten districts.

District 6: Glenn Bradley, Andy Millar, spoke up and commented there are some technical difficulties, and their First Vice, Chase Ence, can give the report. Chase commented we did not submit a report, but they are having a couple of posts consolidate. Ione and Heppner and Pendleton and Mission are combining. He stated he was very excited to have the National Vice Commander visit for four or five days over the District. He was hopeful that Covid would not interfere. He said they are working on getting their Membership up.

District 7: Terry Brown, his report is in the (BOR). He added that he became aware that the Commander for Corbett Post 108 resigned in the last few days and dropped out of the Legion. He was able to contact their Adjutant Robert Raymond and Finance/Membership chair. Robert does not have a computer, so he doesn't get anything he sends out. Finance Officer doesn't have a computer either, and those are the only two officers they have in the Post. He mentioned this problem several times in the past, so he is going to draft a letter to each member outlining that if someone does not step up to be Commander, that would leave a couple of options, merge with an adjacent Post, Gresham Post 30, or Sandy Post 127, or 129. He added that he had not spoken to D8 Commander about the merge yet.

District 8: Ed Mathews; his report is in the (BOR) and the DEC. he said they were doing well with Membership, meeting with the Executive Committee monthly, and waiting on the Governor to make her decision, so everything is fine.

District 9: Kevin Owens District, my report is in the (BOR). He reported that Port Orford had struggled over the past few years is actually at 113% in Membership, so Kudo's to them. Everyone is working Membership. He is in contact with all the commanders, communicates with them a couple of times a week, email or phone, and challenges Dan Burks D10 Commander on Membership, and we're coming after you, slowly but surely.

District 10: Dan Burks, his report is in the (BOR). He added he had been notified he would have an oratorical contestant, and Burns Post 63 has two, and they will hold a post contest. He was concerned about holding the original contest at the District meeting at Nyssa, which meets at a church but couldn't due to Covid. So he will be speaking with his Oratorical Chair, Charlie Schmidt, today with a contingency plan. Then responds to Kevin's challenge that he wasn't concerned.

D7 Commander Terry Brown spoke up and gave an update on Post 134 F&J Ravin. They were trying to raise \$60,000 to complete their renovation, pay back taxes and get out of the hole. The last report is they have raised \$36,000 to correct electrical and plumbing and some other issues. They have made arrangements with the IRS to start making back payments on their taxes. They have a ways to go. Commander Steve Adams thanked all those that are working hard on it. Great to hear.

NEC Report: Andy Millar commented that on January 13th, the National Commander Bill Oxford issued a "Call to Action." In May 2020, he reached out to Legion and leadership about the challenge we are facing as an organization and as a Nation. He referenced the Covid challenge as posts stepped up to assist communities through Bood Drives, meal prep, and countless creative ways. Legionnaires excelled in times of need. It doubled down on three key challenges from last year. One, recruit over 100,000 members into the Organization. Two, attain a 90% renewal rate. Three, achieve 100% CPR reporting. It will be tough to meet the 100K goal. Nationwide we have 615,000 expired members from 2019 and 2020. The National Commander has a goal or "Calls to Action" for all leaders between now and March 15th, to encourage posts and districts to work their expired rosters and, personally contact and renew those members who have not renewed, and to do buddy checks on those renewed to see how they are doing. He added, encourage posts to work the DMS lists. There is a \$5.00 incentive for the Department when someone contacts 2020 DMS members transferred and renewed into a local post in 2021. He said make working renewals is a top priority.

He commented that on November 17th, the NEC held a special meeting by Zoom. Resolution one entitled the Number 48 Indy Car Team Sponsorship. This is a strategic relationship between the American Legion and the Jimmy Johnston, Chip Ganassi #48 Indy Car Team. It's anticipated they will get additional members, donations, and sales from Emblem Sales, not to mention the television advertising from 17 Indy car races per year. One being Portland at the Portland International Raceway in mid-September.

He stated they had Virtual NEC meetings on October 14th and 15th and passed over 40 Resolutions. Of note is #36, titled "Mission Blue Assistance" post assistance program. A post in financial need could apply for a \$1000.00 grant to assist with the mortgage, insurance, and past utilities resulting from COVID. The NEC authorized over \$5 million from the National Emergency Fund. Resolution #32 mandates sexual abuse training and criminal background checks for all youth programs. The Resolution strongly urged and encouraged departments to establish policies and procedures for sexual abuse training and background checks. He thought Oregon was a leader in this and to continue. Resolution #35 Insurance requirements require any insurance policies purchased that the American Legion Department or Department charter immediate bodies and post organizations specify The American Legion is held harmless and named as an additional insured and that Department to require the same. There will be more to come from the National Judge Advocate. Rest assured, National HQ and the NEC are taking care of business.

Immediate Past Commander Report: Tom Harris, his report is in the (BOR). He added he appreciated everybody's help, our Officers at the District level and Department, and a big scream out for our administration people at the Department for supporting all of our efforts this year. Its

been tough for everybody supporting programs and Membership with Larry. Keep up the excellent work.

First Vice Commander Report: Don Weber said he wanted to encourage people to attend the Training Tuesdays on the National website. Tuesday the 26th will be on renewals. It's a great opportunity to pick up on it. He voiced concern for our programs this year. He felt that the programs would occur when the sanctions for Covid is lifted. He said recruiting for Boys State, LECC, and Baseball is all right now. We need to recruit now but can't get into schools. He added that he spoke to Boys State Chair Ian Gerstel. He plans to have a committee meeting later this week to review a possible option for a Virtual Boys State if we can't get into the college.

Second Vice Commander Report: Membership and Post Activities Commission Report. Larry Wittmayer states his report is in the (BOR). He thanked the Membership Commission and all the District Commanders for their hard work for the campaign. He listened to all the reports, and every report mention Membership and how important it is to the Department. He said our M&P Chairman sent out an addendum to the letter that was referred to on the 13th that the National Commander said, and his analogy to Membership is that "Membership is the fuel that runs the Legion." So if you are headed to the community, which might be the programs, you only get so far with your membership fuel, and then you want to go to the next community, and you need more membership fuel. The point is, sooner or later, you won't be able to reach all the communities because our Membership is not doing well nationally. He commented that he appreciated everyone's hard work, but we are slipping. We have four days to reach the 80% goal, and we are sitting at 78.39%. We are 734 members behind, but we can certainly try to make it.

Update since my (BOR) DMS 114 lists are the low-hanging fruit. If you want to increase your numbers, take those lists call the phone number if there is one don't give them an excuse to say no, or send them an email or a letter and keep track of what you have done so that in a week you can follow up again. He remarked that he sent a new DMS list as of December 30th. Everyone should have one. If you need a new list call him.

He mentioned that Andy spoke of the \$5.00 bounty, which is National, and its also for Department, and a bounty for transfers. There were a number of posts that did not do any transfers since October. He sent the DMS list to District Commanders to forward, and he also sent personal emails. He further stated that as of December 31st, we have 35 posts between 70 and 75%, 22 posts between 80 and 90%, and seven posts between 90 and 100 %. The Hall of fame Posts are Post 50 at 127.27%, Post 55 at 100%, Post 76 at 113%, Post 106 at 110%, Post 137 at 115%. District 10 at 82.39%, D4 at 80.06%, D9 at 79.04%. He said the numbers may not be accurate now. Still, the Department Commander is coming up with a letter to encourage everything with Membership. He would come out with his own letter afterward accentuating National Commander Bill Oxford and M&P Chair Jay Bowen's remarks.

He added, so get to work, make those calls, talk to people in person or on the phone. Remember when you see a person wearing a military hat in a store or wherever. Strike up a conversation. Sooner or later, they will get interested in what you have to say. Hand them an application that you carry in your wallet. Every member is a recruiter.

Commander Steve chimed in and reiterated Larry's comments. Larry added that everyone should check the Kalmbach Memorial Membership Program requirements that he thinks ends on June 30th.

Department Finance Officer Report, Bob Huff, Commander, states his report is in the (BOR). But a lot has happened since then. He added to that of the Membership Chair reported. He said you have electronically received his Book of Reports, the 2021 budget with actuals, and the authorized budget on it. All members of the DEC and PDC's have it. Take a look now, or if you have, you will note on the 2021 budget that was authorized, if you have not been submitting your Book of Reports or Legionnaire articles, some of your budgets have been removed. Also, since this meeting and other meetings, you have a budget authorized for housing that has been removed. By the end of this month, I will remove everybody's authorized budget from this report. When the money is removed, all that is done is the authorized budget is put under the Permanent Finance Commission Funds.

He added the Membership Chair just said we are 734 members behind last year. Put in dollars, that's every dollar that every District Commander was authorized in their authorized budget. We have to work on Membership. Only four districts in the Department that have reached the 80% goal, D10, D4, D9, and D5. Congratulations. He said he reviewed all membership reports because he runs dollar reports often. He said to District 10 that District 4 moved ahead of you right after the first of the year and is now the number one District. He mentioned when Ed Horne was Department Commander, and he was District 4 Commander, Ed would ask how they were going to do this year. Bob remarked number 10, last but we will be 100% and D4 plans to 100% this year. The same, I'm sure the same for D9 and D10 and all other Districts also.

Permanent Finance report: Kevin Owens states his report is in the (BOR). He stated they had a meeting on December 18th and discussed a few things. They talked about the parking lot. We do have the money. We talked with the A& A Committee hopefully; that will be in their report to get the parking lot process going and get it done. He also said he talked to the Training and Development Committee Chairman and recommended moving \$2000.00 from her budget, and she said yes, so that has been removed.

We discussed the Chase Bank account that was an overflow account because the FDIC only secures funds to \$250,000. We used to have roughly \$400,000 to \$500,000 in the checking account. So we set up an account for that overflow. That account is not drawing interest. So we have recommended that we close that account and move the money to our investment firm Ameriprise, which has been doing a great job. Then make a Permanent Finance Reserve Fund. We just named it that. That's not saying it's Finance's money, and it just means it's fenced off. So there is a **resolution** that we talked about. Everyone should have the Resolution. I will read it.

The origin is the Permanent Finance Commission,

"Whereas the Permanent Finance Commission, Department of Oregon, is tasked for overseeing the financial solvency of this Organization. And

Whereas we have an existing savings account, we have a Chase Bank with little growth over the past three years. And

Whereas the Department of Finance Commission, Department of Oregon met on Friday, December 18th, 2020, via the Go-To-Meeting app,

Whereas a motion was made and second approved to authorize a change in this account from Chase to Ameriprise portfolio, and

Whereas before funds can be moved, a contract must be reviewed by a Department Judge Advocate and accepted, signed by Department Commander and Department Adjutant for a moderate investment managed account with Ameriprise.

Therefore, be resolved that Permanent Finance Commission, Department of Oregon presented a contract for this action to the Department Judge Advocate for review and accepted, signed by the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant for a moderate investment managed account, and

Therefore, be resolved that the Permanent Finance Commission, Department of Oregon close the account held at Chase Bank and transfer the funds to the Ameriprise portfolio under the fiduciary management, William Scott Anderson, that there's a new separate account be called the Permanent Finance Reserve Fund. And be

Further resolved that this Resolution upon approval at the mid-winter DEC and Carlton Oregon on January 17th, 2021 take effect and is so implemented."

And before we move on, there is ... Because it's an important thing, we made a policy. Gene Hellickson, Past Department Commander, wrote it. So, you should have a policy along with that Resolution.

And so, as a voting member of this DEC, I recommend approval of this Resolution.

Bob Huff Finance Officer, **Second's** the Motion.

Commander Steve Adams announces he has a motion to move money from the Chase Bank account to Ameriprise and naming the account the Permanent Finance Reserve Fund.

Robert Liebenow NVC states I understand the need for this and don't disagree but questions the having all our money tied up at Ameriprise, and what happens when the stock market crashes? Kevin Owens explains that we are invested at moderate risk. Leaving 100K at Chase doing nothing makes no sense. The thought that no one has asked is... Our budget is not set up for crisis management. The Department runs on crisis management. Every time we have an issue

that Department or we can't fix is, we don't fix it. We scramble to try and find the money. We are trying to take money from budgets that are not being used and all that.

The Fund is set up. There are some strict policies on it. We have a policy if you've read it. This how we have to handle the money, and the money has to be paid back to the Fund. We set a threshold of \$100,000. Our goal and the Finance Commission Goal is to make sure the Fund builds up like our other investments.

The parking lot would have been an instance, or like the other day, when a tree hit the power line and threw the switch causing the power outage to Department. Talking with Flynn, that part of the meter belonged to us. If it was damaged and unrepairable, we would have to replace it. Flynn has a \$5000 discretionary emergency fund, but that could have easily been \$10K. We need to have a way of not running on crisis management that we have a separate fund totally separate from the budget. It has a policy that controls that money. It makes sense to take that money that's just sitting there and try to make it grow. That's our reasoning Rob.

Rob Liebenow commented that he was throwing the question out there because the stock market can always take a dump.

Kevin commented that the money we have there is earmarked for certain things. Boys State and SAL have money there. Our VA&R Commission has money there. That's the majority of it. If we didn't do anything and we had to change, I think we would be in worse shape, of course, its going to go up and down.

Most of the money in there is earmarked. It's in there by the Constitution. The market is what it is. He told Rob he didn't think things would drastically change in the next six months. We are in fairly good shape. We are trying to make sure the Department is solvent in lean times.

He stated both Rob and Larry said we are getting leaner, and if we don't start to wake up we're going to be in trouble. We're going to be down 100,00 members, and that's a big drop.

Second Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer asked Kevin about the Policy that Gene Hellickson wrote. He didn't recall seeing it as a member of the Policy Committee. Kevin responded that because the Resolution has not passed yet. So no reason to send him one. More discussion. Kevin remarked everyone of the DEC was sent the Policy. He stated Flynn sent it out way before the 15-day requirement. He further stated the Policy is passed by the DEC, not the policy committee. So the DEC can override anything of the Policy committee or Permanent Finance.

NEC Andy Millar said he would move to have the words Carlton changed to Virtual. Kevin responded, yeah, when it was written, we were headed to Carlton Post. That's a technical correction. I have those and will correct that and send it to Flynn again.

District 10 Commander Dan Burks asked based on the Policy under Section IV. "if the Fund has been less than 75% targeted reserve level for three consecutive months, the DEC in the absence of any extraordinary circumstances, will adopt an operational budget. He thought that was

typically a convention-level vote, or are you insinuating something would be different with this particular Fund?

Kevin responded, yes and no. The goal is for Department to pay this back. It's still the Department's money. The goal is to pay the Department back in increments. There is a limit that we set; otherwise, the Fund could be depleted pretty quickly if we don't pay attention. If there is a reason we are not paying it back, we need to find out why. We need to build the Fund back up. If we don't, we need to put that in next year's budget to figure out how we are going to pay it back. It would be a budgeted item and that would need to be passed at Convention, but I hope we would never get in that situation.

Kevin reiterated that this has nothing to do with the budget unless the money did not get paid back. It would never show up. We would have to have a payment schedule. This was an independent fund, just like the Foundation is an independent fund. It would be managed for when we can not fund things. He gave an example, say, a commission that came in and needed some extra money. We would have an opportunity to get money out of there if we couldn't get some out of the Foundation if it was for a youth program or something.

Dan Burks responded. I'm just talking about the line that the DEC will adopt the budget. Gene was asked to explain. Gene referred them to the Constitution and Bylaws the budget will be approved at Convention.

Kevin's response was Commander; it has nothing to do with the budget. Leave it out. Your getting confused. It's like co-mingling money. The budget is one thing. This is a separate item.

Commander Steve said he did not get a copy of the policy change. Kevin remarked talk to you're the Adjutant it to him and was supposed to send it out per the email I sent to him with a copy of my agenda and with a copy of the minutes of the meeting. A copy of this and the copy of the Resolution and the Policy. It was sent to Flynn before Christmas.

D1 Commander Loe Neubecker spoke up. Concerning the item, Dan is talking about... Could we just remove the word budget? Kevin responded; Sure.

D2 Commander Renee Ohler asked Kevin Owens, with the Ameriprise Funds, a Contingency Fund, and a Building Fund and no withdrawals. Wouldn't it make more sense to put it into the Contingency Fund that already exists with Ameriprise?

Kevin responded the DEC is only authorized to remove 10% of that Fund. So that doesn't do much for us. The second thing I think you're asking is there a penalty? No, there is no penalty for removing funds. So I would suggest everyone read those sections in the Constitution. Again, the Contingency Fund is great, and do we want to remove that money? We never want to spend that money because, first of all, we have to pay it back to those funds because that's in our Constitution. We are trying to have a fund that we can use that is not part of the Constitution, and

we don't have a penalty when we remove it. We want to have a fund if the building gets hit by a big tree, and we do have big trees, and they have hit the building in the past. We just need to have a fund to get access to.

D2 Commander Renee questions the \$70,000 in Building Fund with Ameriprise. There's no intent to ever use it?

Kevin responded we don't want to co-mingle money. Right now, we have in our budget, in our Permanent Finance Reserve Fund. That's the Fund when you don't have enough money, and you want something; that's the Fund we take money out of. That's how we are going to pay for the parking lot. We almost have \$26,000 in the Reserve Fund.

He explains to Renee; There are no restrictions on any fund. We have no restrictions. He said we could take money out of any fund anytime we want. We do it every year for the VA&R Fund. Every year we write a check. What's leftover gets put back into the Foundation. That's how we fund the VA&R program. The Service Officer every year is paid from it. If you're not aware, that's how we fund it. We take no money out of Department to run the Service Office, VA&R, VA in our program.

Renee asks if that money doesn't come out of the Ameriprise VA&R fund. Kevin responded, It does, but it's in the Foundation. It's fenced off. The Foundation is the only one that can approve expenditures to the Department.

Kevin further explained the new Fund. It's earmarked. It's independent of the Foundation. It's a separate account. Kevin expanded. Instead of leaving it in the Chase account, we are moving it to Ameriprise. We can do the same thing as with the Chase account if we need to take money out.

Kevin further answered Renee by saying in the Contingency Fund, and the DEC is only authorized to withdraw 10% per the Constitution for an emergency. In the Constitution, this is where we said you could take \$20,000 out, which you have to pay back. That's what we are saying. He said he talked with the A&A because they are the ones in charge of the building and facilities, and they are all good for it because it gives them an opportunity to do stuff maybe we have put off for years. If the air conditioning blows up, that's not cheap, or the roof leaks or a tree goes through the roof, we have to fix it. We're trying to do what's best for the Department.

Commander Adams remarks if there is no other discussion, we have a **motion** to transfer money from Chase Bank to the Ameriprise Account.

Commander Adams asks all in favor, say, Aye. Larry Wittmayer said, Nay.

PDC Mike Jones said this is a resolution involving money.

Commander Adams directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, Yes

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, No

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, Yes

D4 Commander David Applegate, Yes

D5 Commander Vice Greg Marvin, Yes

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, No

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, Yes

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, Abstain

D10 Commander Dan Burks, No

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Yes

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yea

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, Yes

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, Yes

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, Yes

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, two nays, one abstain, 11 yes's. **The Motion carries.**

Kevin Owens thanked the Commander. Said he abstained because he was the Chairman of the commission. He commented that the Budget meeting was set for February 20th but needed to be moved to Saturday the 27th because of the Oratorical Contest. Flynn sent out a budget request to everyone. Kevin said, let's get those into me ASAP. Don't wait until the 15th or 16th.

Kevin reminded everyone that Department is not going to keep sending reminders. Commission Chairman, that means you're in charge of the commission that has Boys State or Oratorical reports; you are responsible for getting those to me. So please stay on top of it. The 15th is the deadline. Then it's going to get sent out to the Committee itself. The Finance Commission will do each person in sections and review them, and if they need to get with you, they will. Please do not do to me like last year, that we had some districts that did not get funded. No fault to the Districts we have today. A five-minute job might turn into a 25-30 minute job of having to write a resolution, so please get them into me.

The Commander thanked Kevin and asks for the Foundation Report.

Foundation Report: Kevin Owens, The Foundation met via "Go-to-Meeting" Virtual on the 12th. We decided to get some folders, and some letterhead made. Flynn got with our Chaplain Steve Shollenburg and got the Logos done better. He appreciated the help in the design and got those folders printed. The intent was to have a permanent logo and some professional-looking presentation folders. So when we give people correspondence, it looks professional. We discussed having a tri-fold pamphlet to hand out, so we are working on that. We discussed our raffle and lack of support on some of the districts not selling tickets. We are thinking of having a silent auction at the Convention. I will get with Jon Marsh.

If we are not going to have a picnic as we used to, then maybe a silent auction with hors d'oeuvres and have a bar set up, where people can come in and look at the items. He said he talked with Bandon Dunes for a couple of rounds of golf at the most premier golf course in the states. Hopefully, I have two nights stay at The Mill Casino. Charlie Schmidt has offered up some stuff, and also Cory Brockmann. He talked with the Community Trust Fund, where the Blount Foundation is.

He commented that if you look at PBS, you notice all those people of the Community Trust. They have a lot of entrepreneurs that like to give money out, so he is going to try and figure out how to get to one of their dinners or luncheons. Another idea is a corn hole tournament during the Foundation get-together. According to Charlie Schmidt, it is big in Missouri.

Kevin said Andy Millar brought up that he has a Rocky Mountain bronze statue he is going to donate. He said he would task District Commanders to get an item that represents their District. Like Seaside or Astoria, fishing trips, etc. Other than that, we closed the meeting. I should mention that a check for \$1721.00 came in leftover from the Eagle Scout project, the sprinkler system, that has been put back into the Foundation earmarked for Boy Scouts, and Larry Wittmayer was informed.

Flynn said that Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg volunteered to make six sets of the Cornhole Boards. We will buy the bean bags.

Dept. Service Officer Report: Ed Van Dyke, states his report is in the (BOR). Ed said he wanted to address an Agent Orange case he has been working on since 2016. They had a hearing. He received notification six months ago they were successful in getting his service-connected claim for all the Agent Orange conditions. He and his wife received roughly almost a half-million dollars, and they donated \$5000 to the Legion. An update on the regional office. The office has been closed since last March for Covid, and they are going through another closure. They have decided to do a total remodel. The projected date to reopen is probably around May of this year. Also, he had received an email from a concerned vet that a friend of theirs passed away. They were concerned it appeared that this vet died of lung cancer and the death certificate said they died of Covid. So he wrote a letter to a VA executive, and Flynn asked National to look

into this. Once National understood, they talked to the veteran who wrote the email, and his concerns were addressed. He thought National did a good job even though they went a little overboard. They were able to handle the situation pretty well.

Commander Steve Adams announced the new name for Post 68. It was renamed "T.Les Galloway" Post 68.

Reports from Chairs of Standing Commissions:

A&A Commission PDC Mike Jones said the commission met twice in December to discuss important issues and prep for this meeting. They developed several questions to ask to Dept. Adjutant about employee performance and the manner in which the Dept. is functioning, and those questions have been answered. He added we have two recommendations to bring before the DEC, and both have the support of the Finance Commission, i.e., Finance Commission Chair just more or less implied. We recommend having the Department engage Oregon Paving to redo the parking lot and entry for the \$21,600. I request a **motion** to that effect at this time.

Commander Adams calls for a **motion** to approve the low bid. D3 Commander Jerry Patton makes the Motion, seconded by D1 Commander Lou Neubecker.

There was a discussion to have a roll call vote;

Roll call vote to approve the \$21,600 for the parking lot resurfacing.

Commander Adams directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, Yes

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, In favor

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, Yes

D4 Commander David Applegate, Yes

D5 Commander/ Vice Greg Marvin, Yes

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, yes

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, Yes

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, **Abstain**

D10 Commander Dan Burks, In favor

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Yes

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yea

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, Yes

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, Yes

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, Yes

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, with one abstain, **The Motion carries.**

Mike Jones continues, with another matter involving money. A raise for Mary Laudon would seem appropriate, and the Federal Government has decided the cost of living increase of 1½% is sufficient; we request the DEC vote a 2% cost of living increase for Mary to take effect upon the next pay cycle. He asked for a motion to that effect.

Commander Adams calls for a motion to approve a 2% cost of living increase for Mary to take effect upon the next pay cycle.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker makes the **Motion**, followed by D3 Commander Jerry Patton, who seconded it.

Commander Adams directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, Yes

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, In favor

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, Yes

D4 Commander David Applegate, Yes

D5 Commander Vice Greg Marvin, Yes

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, yes

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, Yes

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, **Abstain**

D10 Commander Dan Burks, In favor

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Yes

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yea

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, Yes

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, Yes

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, Yes

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, with one abstain, **The Motion carries**

PDC Mike Jones thanked the Commander and added: The A&A Commission always meets at the DEC, that was our plan before it got changed; that's why there was no Book of Reports from the A&A and probably never will be. That concludes the report.

Americanism Commission Report. Sid Carter not on at this time.

Commander Steve Adams said there needs to be something discussed under Americanism and called **for a motion to hear** from Oratorical Chair Cory Brockmann.

D3 Commander Jerry Patton **made the Motion**, followed by D1 Commander Lou Neubecker for a second. Commander Adams called for a discussion hearing none, ask all in favor say Aye, Voting members were unanimous. Motion carried **to hear** from Oratorical Chair Cory Brockmann.

Oratorical Chair Cory Brockmann gave thanks and gratitude to all the Oratorical Committee and district oratorical chairs for their hard work and especially the posts for their hard work and running the program.

He added, we have six districts that are continuing to move forward with their District virtual contests. Materials were sent out to districts and posts to be able to have virtual contests. The Department Oratorical Committee is in agreement to host a Department level contest in person. We are then allowed to certify the winner to compete at the National finals contest, where the scholarship is huge.

He discussed a new strain of Covid out there, and people are still getting sick. So his desire was to host a contest in person but closed to the public to minimize with the fewest number of people needed, i.e. contest officials. The other challenge is to find a host facility. The ODVA is under renovation last year and is pretty much locked down now. Commander Steve Adams contacted

Linn County Expo and is having difficulty getting them to commit. The contest is four weeks away. We may have to move to an alternate site, that maybe Department Headquarters. He mentions that he did not have the dates for District contests in front of him, but Districts 1,3,5,6, 8, and 10 need to conduct their District contests within the next couple of weeks. He mentioned

that he had contestants from last year's Post and District level chose not to participate this year because of health concerns they have. So he drafted Covid-19 guidelines mainly from the Department of Iowa should we host at Linn County Expo or Department, PPE will be involved and minimum contestants to keep everyone safe as possible.

Commander Steve responded to Cory that he had placed two calls to the Director of the Expo with no response. If no response by Wednesday of this week, I will call you and discuss plan B.

Cory thanked the Commander for his efforts in finding a location and a couple of judges, He stated he had a vacancy on the Oratorical to conduct the program. Since Randal Butler left, Debra Jacobson from Salem Post 149 has been stepping up and volunteering and overseeing the Oratorical responsibilities of D1, 7, and 8. He thanked her for helping the rest of the Committee.

Greg Marvin asked Cory for a copy of the Policy. Cory mentioned it wasn't a policy but Oregon's COVID guidelines which he will share with all District Oratorical chairs and commanders after the meeting. Greg Marvin responded with D5 is still on for Saturday the 23rd but has not spoken to Ron Blair, their Chairman yet, but did speak with Commander Larry Roshak a few days ago. He will get in contact with him to get the details of their plan.

D7 Commander Terry Brown asked Cory to expand on the minimum he talked about at Oratorical. He further said the number of people who can attend in the audience. After discussion, Cory explained due to Covid guidelines and all health concerns, we would like to see just contestants and their parents. This would also give the Commander more support when he talks with Linn County Expo and getting their buy-in. So we're talking program, leader, contestants, five judges and two timekeepers, 10-12 people.

He said we could space that number of people out with PPE except for the orator, maintain social distancing, and hopefully conduct a contest that way. He said he thought that 4.5 weeks out from our final, we'd have pulled this off with great success. He commented that he couldn't thank the District chairs and the posts enough for staying the course and creating opportunities for our youth. Our Committee charge right now is to conduct a program and a contest final that will be as safe as possible, and that remains our objective.

Commander Steve calls for the Convention Committee Report,

Convention Committee Report; Commission Chair Jon Marsh commented that we canceled another DEC, so we'll see what happens in April. We are still good for the Convention at Seven Feathers should it happen.

Commander Steve calls for the Internal Affairs Report, Lou Neubecker.

Internal Affairs Report: D1 Commander Lou Neubecker. Lou asks the Commander that he wants to call on Ward Allen, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee Chair, to give our report.

Lou mentioned that Ward Allen is in Son's meeting at the moment. Lou then called on D7 Commander Terry Brown for a Resolutions and Assignment report. Terry responded at this point I don't have anything.

Lou asks if there are Training and Development and Trophy and Awards Committees? He added he had not heard from either Committee.

Commander Steve asks if there is a Sons Committee. Lou said they are in their meeting now. Jon Marsh replied they were using Zoom meeting and didn't hit share. Their camera and mic are not on, and Jon's having difficulty getting through. End of my report, Sir.

Commander Steve calls for the Legislative Commission Report.

Legislative Commission Report: John Lee Chairman, He adds his report is in the (BOR). There are some changes. Things are slow, legislation was to start on Tuesday, but all meetings and sessions are canceled for next week out of security concerns. He said he met with the senior policy advisor with the ODVA, and they went over a lot of bills, spent about 1½ hours with her.

He said there are about 48 Bills right now that pertain to Veterans. Fourteen bills died last year because of the Republican walkout that killed the bills. Seven of those have been brought back in. They were resubmitted after talking with the ODVA Policy Advisor, and she said there was one more.

One of those Bills allowed active-duty military who were not getting paid to apply for unemployment because of the Coast Guard last year, and it died last year but was resubmitted. He said he has gone through about 500 bills and has not seen it yet, and she will send him something on Tuesday. End of my report.

The Commander calls on D1 Commander Lou Neubecker for the Media and Communications Commission report.

Media and Communications Commission report: D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, Chairman, adds, we are trying our best to create the best paper within National, and I think we are on the right track. As you can see we are putting out more and a better quality product. For Information and Technology, I'll turn that over to PDC Gene Hellickson.

Gene adds I don't have anything except the microphone system was ordered and received. One part was broken and sent back to the company for a replacement. That's all I know.

Lou calls on Public Relations chair PNC Charlie Schmidt. PNC Charlie Schmidt adds Covid has scattered us out. We are still The American Legion. We still need to be connected to our members and connected with our programs. He commented on our different challenges and how we have heard from the Oratorical Committee Chair on giving those kids an opportunity to talk their way to college and learn about our Constitution of the United States of America, particularly at this juncture in our nation.

My report is in the Book of Reports, basically summarizing stay connected with your posts and members because some posts are not having meetings, or maybe even virtual, or limited meetings. The key is to stay connected. Let's don't get lackadaisical because of a virus. He said something to consider in the coming quarter, in February, the observance and honor the Four Chaplains, who made the ultimate self-sacrifice. There's a great program. It's available on the web. In March, there is a couple of significant events. March 15th is the 102nd American Legion Birthday.

Also, March 29th is the National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Again that's an opportunity based on the limits of Covid to observe or welcome home those that have served in the Republic of South Vietnam and its associated countries. So there are opportunities to stay connected to get your posts involved to some degree as you can. It seems that I'm getting them exposed to more posts, newsletters and I think that's fabulous, and I think that's another way of staying connected, even if it's just one page or more of whatever of keeping in contact with your members. Toot your horn and be proud we're almost 102 years old. Let's go forward and carry the legacy of The American Legion forward.

DICommander Lou Neubecker Chairman says end of my report but adds I like my Chairs to give their report otherwise they're just sitting there. He remarked he did receive a message from Training and Development Chair Betty Fish-Ferguson that her report was in the (BOR). Nothing else from her.

The Commander calls on Greg Marvin, the National Security and Foreign Relations Commission Chair Greg Marvin.

National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Commission Report: Greg Marvin says my report was in the (BOR). An **update**, normally at the Mid Winter DEC the National Security Commission meets to review the applicants of the Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year award. That's not happening today. We did have one application for Law Enforcement Officer from La Pine post 45, and we discussed whether to pick that person or cancel. The discussion was La Pine Post did the work, and so we should go ahead and accept him. His name is Kyle Kalmbach, a detective at the La Pine Police Department. It was forwarded to Department and then on to National HQ or further contests.

The Commander calls on Jim Willis, the VA&R Commission Chair, for his report

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission Report. Jim Willis; States his report is in the Book of Reports. I have three additional things to say. The first is my appreciation for Post 99 for providing office space for our Assistant Service Officer; that's very helpful that she has a place to work from, so I appreciate their assistance. Second, I appreciate the flexibility of the Department Service Officer to work from home; with his computer, he does have direct contact with National Veterans Affairs.

Thirdly, my sincere appreciation on behalf of the commission and Service Office to the American Legion Foundation here in Oregon for their rapid response to the needs that we have had through the past year. Most of them had computer updates and allowing our Service Office to continue to stay in touch with Federal VA. As a result, people have been able to have help, and that's something we have, through the support of the Foundation, recently. We wouldn't have a service program otherwise, so thanks to them. That completes my report.

The Commander calls on Bob Huff, the VE&E Commission Chair, for his report.

Veteran's Employment and Education Commission Report: Bob Huff, stated his report is in the Book of Reports. As with everyone's report, we are at a standstill because of Covid restrictions. We have tried to get set up at several different fairgrounds and state and federal areas. That's all been put to a stop. We are meeting three times monthly virtually with the Oregon employment, DevOps, Easter Seals, Oregon National Guard, VA Voc Rehab. VA Voc Rehab is working out of one of our offices. As soon as something opens up, we're going to be scheduling. We have been contacted by employment employers. There is no shortage of jobs in the state. End of my report.

The Commander calls for **unfinished business**.

D3 Commanders directs a question to 1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Is it too early to put in a recommendation to request to drop Post 10 off probation? Commander Adams refers to 1st Vice Commander Don Weber.

He believed the Motion included a date for it. Is someone recommending an earlier release?

D3 Commander Jerry responds that he went to their Post meeting last Monday, and it was brought up by Commander Solomon. The only one that could make that recommendation is the District Commander. So, I could put forth the recommendation and see what Department says. So is it too early to make a recommendation?

1st Vice Commander Don Weber responded, with you caught me off guard. Let's talk after the meeting. Let me pull a copy of that Motion.

D9 Commander Kevin Owens asks for the floor.

Kevin remarks, we have a committee that been kind of working with Post 10 over the few months, working on their Membership with the help of Larry Wittmayer, and I have working with Commander David Solomon. We're trying to get their Membership up. I talked to David yesterday and asked Larry to send me the unpaid list, and there are 273 people on the unpaid list. Two hundred of those had been paid by Rick Dominguez personally; that's the problem. The rest of the 73 he will work on. I personally sent a letter out in December asking them. I am trying to help the Post out with Larry. They have 45, and I think that is from 2019. I sent those lists to David yesterday.

Gene Hellickson I talk to David on a regular basis, seeing what they can do to get them moving. As you can see, in December, they put on a great Christmas Drive-By. In fact, it was picked up from National. I think they are headed in the right direction. I would suggest we take them off probation. It's been pretty quiet. I haven't heard any backlash from anyone. Everybody is trying to help each other.

Gene Hellickson asks for the floor; as Kevin stated, I have been in contact with David Solomon on a lot of stuff and their Adjutant. I agree with Kevin, and I think they have done what they have been required to do. I don't see any purpose continuing on any further.

Commander Steve Adams directs 1st Vice Commander Don Weber to turn the meeting over to him for this one issue.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber recognizes D10 Commander Dan Burks. He responds that all though the report was great about helping out with Membership and other fantastical things going on, it had nothing to do with the reason why they were placed on probation in the first place. He added we have been dealing with this Post for three years, so to what extent do we determine that a whopping three months is long enough to decide we are okay.

Kevin Owens says he begs to differ. He adds that the Post was trying to go the right way. They were asked to stop making comments on Facebook, and they stopped. They are trying to work through their issues with Membership which was created by someone else. I see where we allowed other posts to be on probation for 3-4 years, i.e., F&J Ravin.

We did nothing for a long time. It serves no purpose to leave somebody on probation. At what point will it satisfy somebody to be off probation. They have done far more than 99% of the posts in the Department in helping the community. It serves no purpose to leave somebody on probation just because we have had to deal with them for three years. It's not a point; I'm just making a statement.

Dan Burks replies, The statement is about building historical data. They have met with us for three years. I believe that three months is not long enough to establish that they have turned over a new leaf. Kevin replies I disagree; you have a right to your opinion.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber remarked I think this is a decision of the DEC. After some discussion of who can make **a motion**, D9 Commander Kevin Owens makes a motion to take Post 10 off probation, followed by D3 Commander Jerry Patton as a second. Is there any discussion?

Kevin Owens adds, Don, if people are against this, they need to write some criteria on what they think they need to do. We also need to set some guidelines for the future for what posts need to do to get off probation. No opinions. Just facts of what we need to do.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber state he would like to hear from each voting member so we can get a further direction, Asks the Adjutant for a roll call vote.

After some discussion with Gene Hellickson on a vote or Poll, 1st Vice Don responds that he didn't believe a motion in of itself required a roll call vote; however, he said in order to follow up and because of the nature of the virtual meeting, I wouldn't know where to do that without a roll call vote. That's my reason, and Gene replied, that's correct, thank you.

1st Vice Commander Weber directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote to take Post 10 off probation

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, No, later Abstains

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, Absolutely not

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, Yes

D4 Commander David Applegate, Abstain

D5 Commander Vice Greg Marvin, Abstain since I haven't been on previous sessions

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, yes

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes, I think the recommendation should come from the Committee monitoring Post 10.

Kevin responded to Terry that they did come from the Committee. Gene and I are on the Committee.

Terry commented that's because it was brought up by the D3 Commander, who should have abstained.

Kevin responded to Terry. I know that. I'm the one who made the Motion. Gene and I are on the Committee. Terry says I understand.

Gene comments that other people should be abstaining too. Those who were involved in the investigation and they are voting on it., that's not right either.

D4 Commander David Applegate its seems to me from what little I have picked up here. You have to present to this post requirements to follow through to meet your requirements so they can get this dropped. If they have met it, three months or three years, it seems to let them take them off.

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, No

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, **Abstain** I am going to abstain because I was on the Committee. Find all the people involved because they should not be voting.I would refer to the Judge Advocate on this issue. If you were personally involved, you should not be voting either way. You should abstain.

Gene Hellickson, Judge Advocate adds that's the way I feel about it. How can you have people voting on it that were involved in the whole process from the beginning? This whole thing is getting out of hand because we have a motion on the floor that you are taking votes on, and we are back to the discussion phase, so the whole thing is wrong.

NEC Andy Millar calls to get the vote taken.

D10 Commander Dan Burks, No

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, I'm chairing I can't vote

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yea

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, Yes

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, No

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, Abstain

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, D1 Commander Lou do you want to change your vote? hearing yes, District One Abstains

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks I have four yes votes and five no votes. I'll count again.

Kevin comments that he calls for Andy Millar to abstain since he was special counsel on this thing.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber remarks, exactly. I will pull a meeting together with the recommending Committee, and we will come back with a planned presentation., **so the MOTION does not carry.**

Commander Steve thanks Don and asks is there any unfinished business?

Steve comments that under the Exigency Actions and that Committee, I would like to give you an update on what the Committee is doing. He calls on Cory Brockmann for the update.

Cory Brockmann, Exigency Actions Chair, remarked that the Committee was seated by Commander Steve. Its specific charge was to identify and make recommendations, including resolutions as appropriate of those actions that necessitate the continuity of business for the Department of Oregon. The final request of any recommendation or Resolution is due to the Department Adjutant by May 1st, 2021.

The Committee consists of D2 Commander Renee Ohler and D10 Commander Dan Burks. We have met a few times following our DEC meetings. We conceptualize what we interpret the charge to be. For people listening, it's fairly overwhelming. Through the fall and early winter being a little overzealous of what all needs to be fixed in the Constitution and By-Laws to move forward.

He remarked that over the past couple of months, he had contacts concerning resolutions to be introduced at this DEC or Spring DEC concerning the overall umbrella charge of this Committee. It's not my position, or this Committee's charge, to say that **anyone can not** bring forth a resolution to its appropriate body for action.

I talked with Commander Steve in December that this Committee was going to take action in earnest after the first of the year. My plate is pretty full, but the chief elements of construct, of resolving our contingency, our election of officers, voting whether is for the budget, or elections of officers, and the convention. Maybe before I share any more comments, Commander Steve, can you share what's happening with any resolutions on the budget and the Convention?

Commander Steve replied that he had a conversation with Kevin Owens and Betty Fish-Ferguson, and there is a resolution coming forth to be able for us should we not have a Convention again. It should be able to pass the budget. There is a resolution coming forward on the election of officers on Constitution and By-Laws that needs to be changed there, and a resolution should we not have a Convention, how we can do it virtually.

I know those resolutions need to be presented no later than the Spring DEC to be able to get those out to the DEC and members of the Organization for consideration of the Convention. We have a timeframe there that we have to use no later than the spring DEC for those resolutions to change the Constitution and By-Laws. Cory continued, we need to address the issues of the election of Officers and how we do it in a virtual environment.

He agreed with Steve and commented on State Legislation and State Statute. Cory said if you think back and this impacts us all. We're not a year into the pandemic, seems like five years, but we are in the month of January, less than 12 months, and as then D1 Commander, the challenge was what are we doing, what should we be doing. What came out of that was we could not conduct business electronically, elections electronically because of State Statute prohibited it. He shared some of this early on.

He shared that with D10 Commander Dan Burks early on. If Oregon Revised Statute chapter 65 deals with Non-profits, 65.212 electronic mail or other electronic means to discuss the issue of taking action. We do know we have asked posts and districts to conduct business as best we can. We did not give them clear direction on what they can and cannot do. He further commented that this Oregon Revised Statute went into effect on January 1st, 2020. It impacted all non-profits in Oregon, not just ours.

So, he said we had the ability to conduct business and elections electronically, and it's easy to say that, but more difficult in how you accomplish it. He reached out to Gene Hellickson, I.T. Committee if he had any knowledge through the pandemic of electronic voting platforms, and he had not researched any.

The challenge is accommodating a great variety of posts. Some meet only twice a year. We do that legally within the Constitution and By-Laws, and some posts meet once a month as general Membership. We didn't even get all ballots back for the budget vote, and that went out to Membership last year. So, it's easy to say we can conduct business electronically, but yet we don't have the means for all votes to vote that way. It will be a challenge.

Cory said he sees the Committee's charge now. He remarks to Gene that from the manner of our discussion, how do we get elections done virtually. Then do so in advance? And have declared candidates and a common date., also how do we handle the process by which nominations can be made from the floor. I think we can accommodate that or at least the recommendation resolution. Well, that depends on what the body of the Organization wants to do. I think we can move forward on all levels, whether it's voting on budgets or holding a virtual Convention. In the event we can't hold a virtual Convention, I don't have great hope that in August, we'll be functioning any differently than we are now.

My last comment on electronic voting...We have a great and varied membership. There are websites the Department could subscribe to, subscription-based, per event, or annual subscription, whereby you can conduct elections or votes. The issue then is who is the authenticated vote caster. By authenticated, it has to be a process by which you can authenticate the individual on the other end casting a vote. And who is legally charged with the authority to do that?

He adds we conduct business just like this morning, and our DEC members are voting and being recorded by the Adjutant; they are authenticated because if you're not seeing them, you are

hearing them. You just can't receive an email from an unauthenticated email address and have integrity in the process. He said he would hedge a little bit and say we will have a resolution and recommendation to conduct elections with a slate of candidates in a slow mail process that's going to go to an authenticated address that we have in our database with our Department Adjutant. Have them cast their delegate votes and return to the Department where it will be opened and counted by those charged with that duty. That's all I have, Commander. Any questions?

The Commander responds No, and at this time, is there any unfinished business?

The Adjutant Flynn asks for the floor. Commander, this may be the spot where we want to bring up the final thing on what we need to do to help pay back the Auxiliary for the \$800 they spent to rent space at the last DEC. D1 Commander Lou responded that's new business.

Commander Steve says okay, Adjutant Flynn responds, well, it's from the last DEC. The Commander said that would be unfinished business. He added that he had a meeting with Post 51 last week, and the Post is cutting a check for \$200.00 to get to the Department Auxiliary. They are also getting a check from Unit 51 Auxiliary for \$200.00. So the Post and Auxiliary are going to contribute \$400.00 to that \$800.00 bill. That's what I have heard. There was some discussion here two months ago from Kevin and Bob Huff and from you Adjutant that the Department would contribute \$400.00 to that \$800.00. Am I correct there, Kevin?

Kevin responds, to be equal, I would suggest that we give \$200.00, and then the Auxiliary has money funded in their budget for these issues. So I'll recommend and make a **motion** as D9 Commander that we give the auxiliary \$200.00

D1 Comander Lou Neubecker **seconds the motion.**

Commander Steve says we have a **motion** on the floor and **seconded** to give the Auxiliary \$200.00 toward the \$800.00 they spent for space rent at the last DEC. Any discussion?

Kevin responds to Flynn, Make sure it comes out of the Meeting budget. Response, No problem.

Commander Adams directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote to give the Auxiliary \$200.00 toward the \$800.00 they spent for space rent at the last DEC.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, Yes

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, Yes

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, Yes

D4 Commander David Applegate, Yes

D5 Commander Vice Greg Marvin, Yes

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, yes

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, Yes

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, **Abstain**

D10 Commander Dan Burks, Yes

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Yes

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yea

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, Yes

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, Yes

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, Yes

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, with one abstain, **Overwhelming approved**

Steve Adams, Moves to New Business.

The Commander says, the first item, we need to approve District Six budget for \$1000.00.

D1 Commander Lou Neubeck makes a **motion to approve** District Six budget for \$1000.00, followed by D3 Commander Jerry Patton seconded.

Commander Steve Adams, we have a **motion to approve** District Six budget for \$1000.00, followed by D3 Commander Jerry Patton seconded any discussion?

1st Vice Commander Don Weber asks if this is above the existing budget? Flynn says no.

D9 Commander Kevin Owens states, hold on. They don't have a budget. They didn't submit a budget last year. One of the District Commanders felt it wasn't necessary, so mess over the next guy. He added, take the money out of the Department Finance Reserve Fund. That's where the money's coming from because we have some money set aside for these kinds of issues.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber says for the last half of the year, that seems a lot. I withdraw my comments.

Kevin says we are going to delete some of that money after this meeting because we are not meeting in person. Believe me, you are all getting deleted somewhere.

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer says call for the vote. Commander Adams asks is there any other discussion. If not, and since it's a money issue, I will call for a roll call vote.

Commander Adams directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote **to approve** District Six budget for \$1000.00,

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, In Favor

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, In Favor

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, Yes

D4 Commander David Applegate, Yes

D5 Commander Vice Greg Marvin, Yes

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, I have to **abstain**

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, Yes

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, **Abstain**

D10 Commander Dan Burks, Yes

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Yea

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yea

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, Yes

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, Yes

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, **Abstain**

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, with three abstains, **Motion approved**

Commander Adams okay Motion carried. Next item I will discuss is there has been a request from the Bend Hero's Foundation, Dick Tobiason, for the American Legion and the VFW to approve a motion that he wanted to declare Highway 30 throughout Oregon, 417 miles, and it started out as the American Legion/ VFW Memorial Highway. Well, there was going to need to be some approval from both Nationals to use the Logo's and he has since retracted that and was going to rename it the Veterans Memorial Highway, and he is proceeding through the legislature on that. He added that he had been on the phone with the VFW Commander George Carroll, and

he feels he has more important issues right now because of Covid restrictions and wildfires that affected some of their posts. At this time, they have some higher priorities than putting more signs up on highways.

He added that he did make a commitment to George Carroll and Dick Tobiason, that he would bring it up at the DEC and open it up for discussion. He is not asking the Legion to commit funds for these signs, which are \$2000.00 apiece. The Ben Hero's Foundation, which he is the Chairman of, has committed two signs, one on each end. Previously when these signs came up it's been Posts; both the VFW and Legion have committed donations for these signs. Whether a letter of support...Have the Adjutant issue a letter of support to the legislature supporting the naming of that highway Oregon Veterans Memorial, or whatever we want to do.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker commented that Seaside received the letter from Dick, and they were involved with the POW-MIA, and their E-Board voted and started raising funds for it and sent a letter of support.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber commented that if we delay this another year, someone else may come up with a different idea; the longer we wait, the higher the risk we won't be able to get it done.

Commander Steve explained that the original email Dick sent out to some Legislatures naming it the VFW and Legion highway, they came back and said other veterans organizations would be left out and want their highway too. That's why it came back as The Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.

Kevin Owens asked how does that represents the American Legion? It doesn't distinguish us from anything. We need to get our name out there. If other Veteran Organizations want a highway, They can petition like anyone else.

D4 Commander David Applegate questions the number of signs they would purchase. And if we send a letter of support, are we in for the costs?

Commander Steve replied No, we are not in for the costs; the letter of support is for the naming of the highway "The Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway."

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer spoke up and reminded everyone of the emblem use approval requirements from National. I think putting it off for another year would be a better idea.

Kevin Owens replied it takes five minutes for National to approve a request. He has done it in the past for campaign stuff for Charlie. An emblem use request to the National Adjutant.

Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson responded that he had already advised Dick Tobiason that he had to submit a letter to National requesting permission to use the Name and Logo.

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker asked Flynn if we got a response from the National Adjutant for the emblem and logo use. He responded, Yes, After I submitted what the sign was supposed to look like with the proper TAL and logo. After that was approved, the whole sign changed to "The Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway." Lou said we already have permission if we decide to go back.

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer added I think we should have some designation to the TAL. If the VFW doesn't want to do anything, that's their problem.

PNC Charlie Schmidt remarked that Mr. Tobiason is also a Legionnaire and Chairman of Bend Hero's. That District 10 and central Oregon worked together on the POW/MIA highway, the Legion was very proactive and involved and ran two dedication ceremonies and got a lot of PR out of it. Mr. Tobiason is suggesting that there is only one major highway left not having any designation, should be a tribute to any veteran, regardless of what era they served in or service they served, that this state recognizes those men and women who served us. Many are still sacrificing, even their families.

He further added, Dick put out the proposal for the TAL and VFW Highway when he was working on the POW/MIA Highway. That's where he got the majority of support. Dick put out a feeler to a Salem representative, and the staffer put out the feeler around their constituents. There were some adverse comments that came back as to why just these to Veteran organizations. I had the feeling myself, and maybe others did too. He said he was a member of the Legion, VFW, VVA, and DAV. The DAV is left out. There are no more additional highways. There was some negative comments that came back through the Representative's Office about supporting the TAL and VFW.

What's disheartening is that there were comments from Vietnam veterans that said they would not support The American Legion. Little do they know what the American Legion has done, not only for all veterans but for Vietnam veterans in particular. Especially the Agent Orange issue, which is still going on and still working on symptoms relative to Agent Orange and getting it listed.

Who is the largest contributor to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in DC? The American Legion. To me, it's disheartening that my fellow Vietnam veterans feel that way about the Legion. He expressed his concern to Dick that if you're going to do this without stepping on anyone's toes or hurt feelings, then it should be for all Oregon Veterans.

Now it takes away our opportunity to get our name on a sign, but also an opportunity to educate people that The American Legion was one of the contributors that got the legislation passed through supporting legislation to get this highway designated in honor of all veterans across the state, past, present, and future. Its also an opportunity of educating other veterans of who we are and what we do, and what we have done for all veteran organizations. So I think if we want to support it, we support it and if we want to buy a sign or two, let's cross that bridge when we do it.

It's an opportunity to honor all Oregon Veterans. Charlie reminded everyone who the WWII Oregon Veteran was that helped start the American Legion, George White. One of the things Mr. Tobiason has said, and he has worked in the past on all these highways of making relationships in the Salem legislature, he believed that if this highway is going to be named, no matter who's name is on it, it needs to get in this legislative session.

Commander Steve thanked PNC Charlie for the remarks and also said that another Oregon native, Ed Ivers from the Mid Valley area, helped George White get the Legion started. Charlie responded that's affirmative, Mr. Ivers was in Indianapolis, or Minneapolis for the first National Convention, kind of a Commander, as the Department of Oregon was getting organized in the American Legion.

Commander Steve said yes, and Gene Hellickson had done an extensive bio on Ed Ivers and was gracious enough to share with me when I was a member of the Post at the time.

He said if there is no further discussion, I will entertain a motion to support the naming of Highway 30, "**The Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.**"

D3 Commander Jerry Patton said I'll make that **Motion**, Followed by D1 Commander Lou Neubecker as seconded.

1st Vice Commander Don Weber asked if this is for the current year or next year's support.

Commander Steve said this year, so a letter would need to be sent to Dick Tobiason, the legislative Chairman, and any legislators to get on board with that.

Commander Steve said this does not involve money, so we don't need a roll call vote, so we have a **motion** and seconded, to support the naming of Highway 30 "**The Oregon Veterans Memorial Highway.**" Being no other discussion. All in favor say, Aye, Members said Aye, opposed, Silence. Unanimous, fully supported. Flynn draws up the letter and gets it out to the DEC and PDC's for review.

Commander Steve said the other item for new business is to **ratify Commission and Committee members**. One is the Riders Committee, for Rider Secretary John Blum, and the other Oratorical Committee member Debra Jacobson.

NEC Andy Millar remarked I move to ratify; D1 Commander Lou Neubecker seconded the **Motion**. Commander Steve said we have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, All in favor say, Aye, Members say Aye, Those opposed, Silence. **Motion carried.**

Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson asks to read two sentences from Roberts Rules of Order, You should not vote on a question in which you have a direct personal or monetary interest not common to other members." A key statement is, however, "You can not be compelled to abstain

because of such a conflict of interest." I happened to find it after our little discussion that was going on. Commander Steve thanked him.

Commander Steve moves to the **Good of the Order**.

PDC Mike Jones asks for the floor, adds since we're discussing point of order, we need to have a ruling from the Judge Advocate, our Constitution, and By-Laws say at DEC meetings, only Commissions will report to the DEC. Committee's do not. I don't think it's a personal choice thing, It's spelled out in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson responds, I believe that is correct, but I would have to go back and look at what it says, but I know that in the past, that was the whole purpose, to cut down on time. Only the Commission Chairs would give the report for their committees unless there were extenuating circumstances for further explanation. I could go back and double-check.

PDC Mike Jones remarks I'm sure that's what it says unless it's changed, I wrote that Resolution.

D4 Commander David Applegate spoke up that he thought Lou liked his Committee Chairs to talk because they are involved, rather than just sitting and listening. PDC Mike Jones responded it's not a matter of choice. It's what the Constitution and By-Laws say.

D7 Commander Terry Brown brought up a question on a document that Department sent out requirement certain documents to be on file. It specifically listed posts and districts; one requirement was to have liability insurance covering commissions and committees. I believe that according to my insurance agent, that we have liability insurance, and I believe every Post should have liability insurance, but that's not the issue.

When I talk to my agent, whether they have a breakfast, post-meeting, or whatever, it might be covered, including commissions that we have. I don't think I need a specific liability to cover committees or commissions. That would be an additional \$350.00 to write a specific policy.

The other issue is Districts; it has the same thing. A district is not a separate entity with its own Tax ID. It falls under the purview of the Department. So I think Department should cover that. It may be as simple as removing the language that says "specifically for commissions and committees" and just say Post has to have liability insurance. "are we there?."

Commander Steve asks, is there anyone else who has some input on this? Commander comments to the Adjutant that you and I had a discussion on this as far as the liability insurance for commissions and committees, and this falls under Department. Department's liability covers commissions and committees as they are doing business with the American Legion because it's a Department function Flynn responds, yes. Steve says, okay, I know the Post would be the same way.

D9 Commander Kevin Owens added I have had this discussion with Flynn, and I think I have talked with Gene that Posts are autonomous from Department; they have their own EIN number they are incorporated.

Our Post uses The American Legion Post insurance program. For us to put National or Department on that Policy, I want to see that ruling. They can say what they want. They said they recommend it, I don't know where they have the authority. I'm not putting it on our Policy. I'm using the Post insurance policy program that National recommends. The need to make some clarification until they force us to do that.

NEC Andy Millar spoke up; National only strongly recommends that the Post additionally insure National. Something must have happened back there where somebody got sued. It's basically way out of order to have another separate entity sued somehow connected with the Nexis... part of the lawsuit, but though it does not require us to do that.

Adjutant Flynn asks for the floor; I have a comment. The Mission Blue Grant application for \$1000.00 Post applying for the grant. One of the requirements was to add National as an additional insured. I had to submit their certificate of liability showing National as an additional insured.

D7 Commander Terry Brown said I think we deviated from what I originally brought up. I think it could be as easy as changing the language in that document that I sent out that said, "The post has to have liability insurance," The other is to drop the requirement for Districts.

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer commented that "I think what Terry is referring to is a checklist that Gene Hellickson put out, not a policy. It was his interpretation to help the Post and District in the Department to determine what kind of insurance was necessary or at what levels, so it's a guideline. So whatever the Posts do, or Districts or Department does, isn't necessarily a cutting stone for that guideline, is that correct, Gene?

Gene replied correct, but they tied it into Resolution #35 on the trademark of the American Legion, and then there is the follow-up letter from National with stronger language in it about using it and how the Department is supposed to be checking on it. So the whole thing is a catch 22. The way I read it, they do not require you to have an extra policy, only to have National and Department to be named as an additional insured. That's what it says in Resolution 35.

D7 Commander Terry Brown replied that he stated it as it "specifically says" liability insurance for commissions and committees for the Post and District.

Commander Steve added, at the post level, the commissions and committees are covered under Post insurance. At the Department level, the commissions and committees are covered under the Department insurance, and districts being part of the Department are covered there also. Gene replied, we are going in circles here.

Commander Steve said we could have further discussion on this at a later time. Is there anything else for the Good of the Order?

D2 Commander Renee Ohler asks for the floor. I'm not sure if we need a resolution for this, but I would like to make a **motion** to get rid of the Commander fines. We have a lot of new Commanders, and we also have that new Fund now to support money if needed. I would like to make a motion to get the fines impeached on District Commanders for not doing post visits, not doing Legionnaire Articles, or whatever was involved with that.

It's not so much not doing their job, but in this time of the pandemic, when you can't go to a post and visit, why should you be fined for that?

D9 Commander Kevin remarked, they are not getting (fined) money removed for those reasons. They are getting money subtracted for not doing articles, and that's what they are being removed from, nothing else.

D2 Commander Renee responds, last year, it was post visits, so I don't know how that changed. Kevin responded, we are not going to fine somebody when you can't do something. Renee responds, correct.

D9 Commander Kevin discusses at length, The issue is there are certain requirements that if you can't do the job, then don't do the job, I'm saying in general, so money is not being removed for any visitations, money's only being removed for, either people did not use their budget for the first DEC, that we met in person, and money being removed for not doing articles., that's it.

D1 Commandeer Lou asks, can we just temporarily suspend that portion of the SOP? Kevin's reply was, we don't need to suspend it. We are not removing the money. He mentioned he has already visited 6 of 9 posts already. Some don't meet because it's in a public building, so they're not open. Some are doing virtual stuff. He said we are putting everyone in the same category, so nobody is being removed. It's not an issue, do your articles like you are supposed to, and nothing will happen. We have all agreed to that. As Charlie said, it's communication with our members. If you are not communicating with our Posts and commissions aren't communicating with our members, then how are we going to get our programs back together when this thing is over. When people say, "Hey, they apparently don't care about us, " the programs just go to hell, so it's our own doing, from within rather than external.

D10 Commander Dan Burks, that's compelling. I believe Renee Ohler, D2 Commander, made a motion, and it was asking about the validity of the Motion.

Commander Steve says the **Motion** is on the floor. D10 Commander Dan Burks, **second**.

Commander Steve says We have a motion on the floor and a second. The **Motion** is to remove the fines for District Commanders for not visiting Posts. Renee, did that include writing articles?

She responded that includes all fines. The Commander says **then all fines for District Commanders would be taken off the table and not done.** Motion and seconded.

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer says he takes exception to the fact that it only includes District Commanders.

There was much more back and forth heated discussion on the Motion between Kevin and Larry, Renee, Lou and Charlie over the terms, fines, responsibility, doing your job, not communicating, fault of declining Membership, mentoring new people, turning in travel vouchers or not, a suggestion to reinforce resolution #25 anyone serving in a department position submit a monthly article to keep members informed, help the district commanders get their jobs done, verifying that articles submitted before budget money removed.

Commander Steve calls for the end of the discussion. **There is a motion on the floor and a second to eliminate the fines for the district commanders.** I'm going to call for a roll call vote. It deals with money.

Commander Adams directed the Adjutant to do a roll call vote **to eliminate the District Commanders' fines.**

D1 Commander Lou Neubecker, In Favor

D2 Commander Renee Ohler, In Favor

D3 Commander Jerry Patton, No

D4 Commander David Applegate, No

D5 Commander Vice Greg Marvin, Yes

D6 Commander Glenn Bradley, Vice Chase Enis, Yes

D7 Commander Terry Brown, Yes

D8 Commander Ed Mathews, Yes

D9 Commander Kevin Owens, No

D10 Commander Dan Burks, Yes

1st Vice Commander Don Weber, Nay

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer, Yes

Immediate Past Department Commander, Tom Harris, No

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar, Yes

Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff, **No**

Adjutant Flynn Phillips remarks, we have nine yes votes, **Motion carries**

Commander Steve remarks, asks if there is anything else for the good of the order? Hearing none, he calls for the Adjutants Report.

Adjutant's Report, Flynn Phillips, Commander, my report is in the Book of Reports (BOR). I have an update on the wireless microphone system. I had one faulty part that had to be sent back for repair/replacement. I'm testing the system now, it looks like it will work, and I find that there is a sweet spot about 2-3 inches from the mic itself where you need to stay; otherwise, you get loud or can't hear you. We will have to use it a bit and get used to it.

The letter to the Governor was sent, and I tried to get a response but was only able to leave a voice mail on the constituent line, so no response either way. The parking lot and the Eagle Scout project were taken care of.

Commander Steve remarks, the next Department Executive Meeting will be held at La Pine Post 45 on April 10th and 11th. Is there any further business?

PDC Charlie Schmidt remarks We have the distinct pleasure and honor of having our National Vice Commander of the American Legion Rob Liebenow. Could we tender him an invitation to say a few words?

NVC Rob Liebenow remarks, I'm not attending as the NVC, but as a member of the Department of Oregon, Commander Steve says you are the National Vice Commander, so please speak.

NVC Rob Liebenow remarks I am looking forward to my official visit to Oregon, I believe in the middle of April. I will be touring District Six, and I look forward to it.

Commander Steve remarks I will have the Chaplin lead us in prayer, Uncover.

Department Chaplin Steve Shollenburg says the prayer.

Commander Steve remarks, Please cover and says,

'Till we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties of citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever the main objective of The American Legion and its members. Let us ever be watchful of the honor of our country, our Organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy. Please Cover.

Commander Steve ends the meeting.

I now declare this meeting of the Department of Oregon executive meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Flynn Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

S. Flynn Phillips

Adjutant