



**Department Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 10 and 11th 2021
La Pine Oregon
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 on Saturday
Foundation Report	PDC Kevin Owens on Saturday
Service Officer Report	Ed Van Dyke
Resolutions	
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
__ E __	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
__ E __	District 6 Commander	Glenn Bradley
__ P __	District 7 Commander	Terry Brown
__ P __	District 8 Commander	Ed Mathews
__ E __	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
__ E __	Department Aide to Commander	William "Bud" Stutheit
__ E __	Department Aide to Commander	Larry Williams

Recorded by Department Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips Date 4/11/2021

The Commander declared a quorum.

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

	NAME	POST	YEAR
__ 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
__ P __	Sid Carter	29	2005-06
__ A __	Bernie Healy	158	2006-07
__ E __	Kevin Owens	34	2008-09
__ E __	Jacqueline Collison	34	2010-11
__ E __	Jon Marsh	43	2011-12
__ P __	Bob Huff	15	2012-13
__ E __	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

Call to order

Steve Adams

Meeting is about to be called to order. Will the Officers take their places.

Steve Adams

Will the Sergeant at Arms close the doors to meeting room?

Steve Adams

Please put the colors of our country in place. Hand salute.

Steve Adams

All members and guests in attendance will remain standing with our cap removed and placed over the heart from the beginning of the [inaudible 00:01:36] to the Pledge of Allegiance and concluding with the POW/MIA ceremony.

Steve Adams

Bob Huff, will you offer prayer?

Bob Huff

Your Lord. As we gather for this meeting, give us the use of your gift of peace and understanding that we may approach the matters we must handle. With sincere and just hearts may watch over and guide our tongues that we may not hurt our friends with whom we work for the betterment of our communities and our country. Keep us always true to the principles on which the American Legion was founded. We ask this in Your Name, Amen.

Steve Adams

Thank you Bob.

Steve Adams

The Sergeant at Arms will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Phyllis York

Ladies and gentlemen. Facing the flag of our country. We all say together.

Membership

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Steve Adams

Thank you.

Steve Adams

Resolution 288 adopted by the 67th National Convention, calls for a POW/MIA empty Chair to be placed at all official meetings of the American Legion. As a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIA is still unaccounted for, from all Wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a reminder for all of us to spare, no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity.

The repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of Liberty and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves to this vital endeavor. Will everyone recover?

Steve Adams

We shall now recite the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion for God and Country.

Membership

“For God and Country” we associate ourselves together for the following purposes; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate one 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to Posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Steve Adams

I now declare this Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting of the Department of Oregon regularly convened. The Adjutant will conduct the roll call for Officers.

S. Flynn Phillips

Roll call of Officers.

Department Commanders Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Present.

First Vice Commander Don Weber.

Steve Adams: He is going to be a little late.

Second Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: Present.

Immediate Past Department Commander Tom Harris.

Tom Harris: Here.

Dept Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips

Flynn Phillips: Here.

National Executive Committeeman Andy Millar.

Andy Millar: Here.

Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Willis.

Jim Willis: Present.

Department Finance Officer Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Present.

Department Chaplain Steve Shollenburg.

Steve Adams: Excused.

Department Historian Judy Johnston.

Judy Johnston: Here.

Department Judge Advocate Eugene Hellickson.

Eugene Hellickson: Here.

Department Service Officer Ed Van Dyke.

Ed Van Dyke: Here.

District 1 Commander Lou Neubecker.

Lou Neubecker: Here.

District 2 Commander Renee Ohler.

Renee Ohler: Here.

District 3 Commander Jerry Patton.

Jerry Patton: Here.

District 4 Commander David Applegate.

David Applegate: Here.

District 5 Commander Sid Carter.

Sid Carter: Present.

District 6 Commander Glenn Bradley.

District 7 Commander Terry Brown.

Terry Brown: Here.

District 8 Commander Ed Mathews.

Ed Mathews: Here.

District 9 Commander Kevin Owens.

District 10 Commander Daniel Burks.

Daniel Burks: Present.

Department Sergeant-at-Arms Phyllis York.

Phyllis York: Present.

Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Ward Allen.

Ward Allen: Present.

Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Morris.

Steve Adams: Excused

Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Steven Mays.

Steven Mays: Present.

Department Aide to Commander William "Bud" Stutheit.

Steve Adams: Excused.

Department Aide to Commander Larry Williams.

Steve Adams:

Excused.

Roll call of Past Department Commanders.

Robert D. Scott POST 51 1982-83

Patsy Nestor POST 158 1986-87

Richard A. Schenfeld POST 5 1996-97

Robert D. Liebenow POST 6 1996-97.

Steve Adams: Excused.

Donald M. Epperson POST 61 1997-98

George "Toby" Potter POST 12 2002-03

Charlie Schmidt POST 63 2004-05.

Charlie Schmidt: Present.

Dept Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips

Sid Carter POST 29 2005-06

Bernie Healy POST 158 2006-07

Kevin Owens POST 34 2008-09.

Steve Adams: Excused.

Jacqueline Collison POST 34 2010-11.

Steve Adams: Excused.

Jon Marsh POST 43 2011-12

Bob Huff POST 192 2012-13.

Bob Huff: Present.

Mike Morris POST 21 2013-14.

Steve Adams: Excused.

Andy Millar POST 24 2014-15.

Andy Millar: Present.

Mike Jones POST 67 2015-16.

Mike Jones: Here.

Jim Willis POST 51 2016-17.

Jim Willis: Here.

Eugene Hellickson POST 86 2017-18.

Eugene Hellickson: Here.

Tom Harris 158 2018-19.

Tom Harris: That's it.

Steve Adams

Okay we have a quorum.

Okay, opening remarks.

Lou Neubecker

For the opening remarks. **We motion that we seek Don Adams of District 9 because Kevin Owens is excused.**

Steve Adams

I would entertain a **motion to seat Don Adams in place of Kevin Owens in District 9.** We have a motion. We have a second to seat Don Adams in place of Kevin Owens for District 9, **all in favor, say, aye,** those opposed. **Take your seat Don.**

Steve Adams

It has been a while since we have been able to be together. And it's a welcome relief from our past experiences the last year and a half. I really appreciate it. The last time we were here at Post 45 was two years ago, we had a good time then, one of them that was scheduled here during the COVID had to be canceled. This one, we got down to the wire, but all of the Department Officers and District Officers did not really want to cancel this one. We wanted to see everybody and enjoy the camaraderie. And that's what we're doing. I've started a Commander's Project. It's a raffle on the left over here. You'll see the Limited Edition print that is done by an Oregon native artist, Cameron Bagg. He lived in the Albany area for many years, then decided to move to Montana. So he moved to Montana. He was there two years.

And when he got seven to 10 feet of snow at his house every year, he decided it would be a good idea to move to a warmer climate. So he moved to New Mexico. That is a limited edition print. It was sold out from what Cameron told me over the phone a few weeks ago, it's been sold out for about 10 years. He estimated the value on it if he had it in his shop in New Mexico, framed the like it is estimated values. \$2,400. Second prize on that. Raffle is \$300 cash. Third prize is a \$100 cash. The Commander's project gets donated to the Department of Oregon children and youth fund. So you can either see me or Flynn

for tickets. If the District Commanders would like to have tickets to sell in their District, see Flynn, or if anybody else would like add some tickets to sell any. He'll check some out too.

A little later this morning here in a few minutes, Kathy Karnowski from the Auxiliary will be over to address us. In the meantime, I would like to have Judge Advocate **Eugene Hellickson read the Standing Rules for DEC.**

Eugene Hellickson:

The Standing Rules are that the Department Executive Committee meetings members of the Department Executive Committee hereinafter referred to as the DEC, as used in these Standing Rules are set forth in article seven, section one of the Department Constitution and article four, section two of the Department by laws. Minutes of the previous meeting shall be sent to all DEC members at least 15 days. Prior to the meeting date, the meeting agenda shall be sent to all DEC members at least 15 days. Prior to the meeting date. Roll call shall include the Past Department Commanders. A voting member of the DEC may request a suspension of Standing Rules that a non-member of the DEC be given the privilege of the floor for the purpose of explanation of a specific proposal that has been proposed to the DEC and is under discussion time shall be limited to five minutes.

However, additional time may be granted to answer pertinent questions. A two-thirds affirmative vote for the members of the DEC shall be required for an extension of time. All requests for expenditure of funds in excess of the budget, adopted at the annual Convention shall be sent to the DEC members and the members of the Permanent Finance Commission at least 15 days prior to the DEC meeting date and must be in resolution form.

The proposed annual budget as prepared by the Permanent Finance Commission shall be sent to all members of the DEC. Not less than 7 days prior to the DEC meeting. Voting shall be by roll call on all resolutions in the following order: District Commanders, Department 1st Vice Commander, Department 2nd Vice Commander, Department Finance Officer, Junior Past Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman. The Department Commander shall vote only in case of a tie. The members of the DEC submit their reports in writing and reports will be limited to five minutes and a copy of the same, be given to the Department administrative assistant, all Chairmen of Department, standing Commissions and Committees shall submit their reports in writing all motions must be originated by a voting member of the DEC

All Codes of Procedures shall be submitted in writing to members of the DEC at least 15 days prior to the date of the fall DEC meeting. These Standing Rules may be suspended for a specific cause by two-thirds, affirmative vote of the DEC members present. The advanced time notices are waived for the Post Convention DEC meeting. Any time a poll is needed, the Department Adjutant shall send out a letter of explanation with a ballot to be returned within five working days, period.

Steve Adams:

Mr. Carter, would you please assume your seat at the District Chair, please?

I should have told you last night Sid, you don't have to get to the back of the bus anymore.

I'm not going into that conversation.

We will have the meeting of the previous minutes read by Department Adjutant, Flynn Phillips.

Dan Burks, District 10 Commander:

Commander I **move we dispense of the reading of the minutes and accept as published.**

Jerry Patton, District 3 Commander:

Second the motion

Steve Adams:

We have a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes and accept as published.

Do we have any questions? Any discussion? All in favor, say aye.

DEC:

Aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed ? **Motion carried.** Department Adjutant, is **there any correspondence?**

Debat Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips:

No Sir.

Steve Adams:

Thank you.

Steve Adams:

I will now call on National Executive Committeeman. Andy Millar to give his report.

Andy Millar:

My report is in the Book of Reports and I have nothing further to report. I will reserve some discussion for Constitutional rights preamble to the Constitution, our Constitution uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. And I'll withhold my remarks until new business.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Andy. I will now call on Immediate Past Commander, Tom Harris to give his report.

Tom Harris:

Commander. **My report** is in the book reports unless anybody has any questions on that, that's all I have.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Commander Harris. I will now call on First Vice Commander, Don Weber to give his report.

Don Weber:

Good morning, one correction to make to my report. I reported that Post 10 sponsored ROTC Candidate Award, and I need to be corrected.

Don Weber:

... candidate award and I need to be corrected. **It was Post 11 who worked with Oregon State University to support that event.** This year for ROTC, we only had two colleges that participated in our awards program, the University of Portland and Oregon State University. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Don. I now call on 2nd Vice Commander **Larry Wittmayer to give his report.**

Larry Whitmeyer:

Good morning. My report is in the Book of Reports. I would add this, considering that National has started a vast project with ideas. Anyway, I would ask you all to please be patient with the personify. It will work its way out. Okay. So the report that I have is that as of the 26th of March of this year, we were at 84.21 at 13,482 members. And comparing that to last year at this time, we were at 86.8. We're 2.59% off of last year. Last year we had 14,300. That is my report.

Steve:

Thank you, Larry. I will now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Department President, Kathi Karnowski to the podium. Would you please stand?

Kathi Karnowski:

Good morning.

Membership:

Good morning.

Kathi Karnowski:

So anybody that doesn't know me, my name's Kathi Karnowski. I'm the Department President of American Legion Auxiliary. You, as a veteran and member of the American Legion, know who you are and what you do. Do you ever ask yourself who is American Legion Auxiliary? And what do they do?

Well, you should ask yourselves. A lot of you are married to Auxiliary members. And so a lot of you know, but do you really know? We have made it a point to know what you do, and our mission is to assist you and fill in the gaps where needed. For us to do that at Department and District level, we need to be informed as to some of the things you do to figure out what plans we need to make. For Convention DECs and District meetings, we are to meet at the same day, time and place.

Just this fall, the Auxiliary on District 3 had to change their meeting place, because you remember, all the fires and the smoke. It was horrendous. So we did not meet at the same place as you, but we did meet because it made our members feel safer. So that right there, the circumstances, will change things. And so if something gets changed, we need to inform the others, so we can notify members of the changes. If the Auxiliary do something that affects the legion, we need to do that as well. And sometimes that doesn't happen and I apologize.

It is a given that all veterans deal with some issue, whether it be mental or physical or both, from serving our country. War wounds, from serving, do not just affect you, but everyone around you. It may seem like it is just you, but think about all of your relationships. I'm number four from my husband's wives. We, the ALA, are one of your relationships and we want to stay a part of your lives.

I worked for the Union Pacific Railroad. So I mainly worked with men. So I'm more comfortable... I'd rather be in your meeting actually, because that's who I worked with, those men. But it took a while for them to accept me or other women. We called them the old timers. And we had to prove ourselves to show we could do the job. And I'm sure you lady veterans, women veterans feel the same. I've heard some Posts that told women they could not join a Post. Not anymore, I'm hearing.

Most of us Auxiliary members are not veterans and our sole intentions truly are to help you and other veterans. A lot of us have been, or are married to a veteran and we understand some of the needs. So here's a personal story. When I was working for the railroad years ago, they had tinnitus, some people call it different things. And there was one engineer that came to work and he told everybody, he goes, "Yeah,

my tinnitus is so bad it keeps my wife up at night. She can hear my ears ringing." Well, you can imagine what kind of grief he got and I mean, trust me, they flipped it to him big.

Well, my husband and I both have tinnitus, and we cannot hear each other. But I will say this, and I hope this rings a bell with most of you. My husband has PTSD and most of you veterans, I truly think have some sort of a degree of PTSD along with other things. So do any of you go, I need my back to a wall? I mean, when I go to a restaurant with my husband, he likes his back to the wall so he can see who's coming in the door.

Do you hate waiting in line? Do you hate crowds? Do you hate noise? Do you have road rage whether you drive or not? My husband in the car, I usually drive because he's cussing, he's flipping, he's angry and I'm afraid he's going to wreck the car. So can you sit still very long? Are you fidgety, edgy? Do you always think... And I only have my husband to relate to or other women that I talk to. I could say something right there, but I won't.

Do you ever think that your problem is somebody else's? Do you ever think that, my anger should not bother you? You have the problem. It's not my anger. It's you have a problem. You should deal with it. I just want to be alone. Why, here's a favorite one, why did you make me do this? Why did you force me to do that?

A war is a horrible thing, and I am sorry that it has to happen. And I'm sorry everybody has been affected by war. So we, as spouses and family members, understand what you're living with and we try to make life easier if possible. We support you at home and as Auxiliary members. So if you have a wife, a spouse, a girlfriend, please talk to them. I'm my husband's fourth wife. And when we got together, he was having flashbacks. Is Larry in here?

Steve Adams:

Yes.

Kathi Karnowski:

My husband was a Navy Corpsman. And so Larry was on the Forrestal. Well, my husband, I don't know why, I mean, I'm a pretty open person, he felt he could talk to me, but he started having flashbacks after we got married. He goes, "Honey, I never ever had these flashbacks with any of my other wives or with anybody else." And he said, "I couldn't talk about it." But he said, "With you, I feel that you understand me. And I feel I can talk to you," because one, he gets it off his chest.

So just remember that, if you have a spouse, talk to them. And if you ever have any kind of a suicidal thought or a friend that has one, please get them help or yourselves, just a phone call away. I had to call the suicide prevention line years ago for my husband. And it wasn't pleasant, but it helped him. So all I'm asking you, is to please see our members as another tool for you to further the American Legion's mission and help more veterans in the end.

Yes, there are some of our members who can be difficult to work with, but that goes both ways. And we may have difficulty working with them as well. Nothing is perfect. All we can do is keep working at it. And we are. And I just want to say today, that I respect each of you for your service in the military and by your service now. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Okay. I'm going to accompany Kathi back to the Auxiliary meeting. And so I will turn the meeting over to Don Weber until I get back.

Don Weber:

And I will call on the Department **Finance Officer for his report.**

Bob Huff:

Thank you, Commander.

Bob Huff:

My report is in the Book of Reports sent out electronically. I do have one add-on that's on the report that I would like everybody to remember. As we're going through Post-elections and you select your Post Delegates, you have a Post Delegate number, those funds have to be sent into the Department 45 days before the Convention, along with the certification sheet.

If you have five Post Delegates or five Delegates assigned to your Post, and you only have two that are going to Convention, you still must pay for those five. But please, if you have those five and none of them are coming to Department Convention, please write on the sheet that there's no one coming. In order for your Posts to be in good standing at the Department's Convention, and to be on the floor, those Delegate fees have to be paid for. Thank you very much. That is my report.

Don Weber:

Thank you, Sir. So, I know the-

Greg Marvin:

District 5 Sid said he had to leave and asked me to take his place.

Don Weber:

As the what?

Lou Neubecker:

Commander I make a **motion to have Greg seated in District 5 Chair.**

Don Weber:

Oh.

Jerry Patton:

Second motion

Don Weber:

There's been a motion by 1st Vice Commander, seconded by 3rd District Commander, to seat Greg Marvin as the District 5 Commander. Is there any discussion? **All those in favor signify by saying, Aye.**

DEC:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by saying, Nay. **Motion carries. Thank you.**

Ward Allan:

Congratulations.

Don Weber:

Okay. **Kevin gave his report yesterday.** Does anyone have any questions that we can direct to the Finance Officer? Okay. Department Service Officer, Ed Van Dyke, please.

Ed Van Dyke:

Thank you. Thank you. My report is in the Book of Reports, but I'd like to take this time to talk about membership. I talked to several people yesterday, about my thoughts about membership and what I think

we can do as an organization to try to foster and generate that frenzy we're looking for. And there were a lot of great ideas yesterday, but I think we missed the most important one that would be that catalyst to create that frenzy we're looking for.

I recruited when I was in military. I hate recruiting, it's hard. And the thing that would be the optimum goal, would be that we wouldn't have to ask anybody that joined, because they're coming to knock on our door to join, to become a member of an organization that they know they've got their back on any issue that this United States can offer.

So, what I think the most important aspect or Foundation that our organization can bring, is to support and defend this Constitution of the United States. And currently, I believe we're not doing that. We're not speaking out as an organization to stand up for what's right, and what our Constitution believes in and what it stands for. And what I mean by that is that we're sitting idle as our Constitution is being spat on.

We have young men and women that are wearing the uniform today that, they're not wearing this uniform just for a paycheck, they're wearing this uniform because they love this country, and they want to support and defend this Constitution of the United States. And it's against foreign and domestic enemies. I believe that we are fighting foreign and domestic enemies today and we're not seeing anything about it, people. If we want people to come and knock down our door and become a member of an organization, we need stand up for what our base is, to support this Constitution of the United States.

Comments of high ranking, military members, enlisted and Officers both, that are making political statements. One-sided political statements addressing the individuals of this nation. That's wrong. We need to make a stance. We need to make a statement that the military is supposed to be unbiased. The military is supposed to be what? The mechanism to protect the Constitution of this United States. Not to take one side or the other, but is to protect the Constitution of the united States.

The Department of Defense, the other day, mandated a Stand-Down for all service members to be... And during this Stand-Down they're being indoctrinated into a one-political opinion system, which is totally unacceptable for us service members. Why are they... Well, anyway. It is totally unacceptable that we have a ministration that is trying to indoctrinate a one-sided opinion within our military system. That's called brainwashing. We need to stand up for what is right and what is wrong.

And I'll guarantee you, if we start making a voice, now I know that I've talked to several people that say, "Well, we're an organization. We can't take a political stance." Well, I don't believe this is a political stance. This is a stance that is protecting the Constitution and the rights of everybody in this country.

We need to start speaking up, people, or else we will not be able to speak up in the future. And I'll guarantee you, my son, my daughter, your sons and daughters, if they see us taking a stance and doing what is right and not what some, few individuals think is right, that they will come knocking down our doors and we won't even have to ask for membership. They'll come and join because they know that we'll have their back.

Gangs of New York, MS-13, why do you think they are so successful? Because they stand up and they fight for what they believe in. I don't believe we're doing that now. We need to stand up. We need to... I don't know. We need to start expressing our concerns, protecting the Constitution of the United States, send a message up to National that we need to start addressing this issue before it's too late.

The Preamble says, to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. We're not doing that. To maintain law and order. We're not doing that. Did we make a statement when all the mention of defund the police was going on? Did we make a statement? That's not political. That's defending our rights. That's defending our Country. We didn't make a statement.

To foster and perpetuate a hundred percent Americanism. We're not doing that. Did we make a statement when statues of George Washington and Lincoln were being toppled and our histories being spat on? Did we make a statement about that? We didn't do that. If we started doing that, I'll stay a member. And I'll guarantee you, there're going to be a lot of other people that are going to be a member.

Membership:

Here, here!

Don Weber:

Thank you, Service Officer. Okay, we'll do District reports now. District 1.

Lou Neubecker:

Lou Neubecker Distict 1, Phyllis said we didn't have to do that. Phyllis said we did not have to lift it up. Anyway, my report is in the Book of Reports, but I want to give a couple of attaboys to our...

Don Weber:

Can you hear him? Okay.

Lou Neubecker:

Immediate Past Commander, Tom Harris and my 1st Vice. Yes, as Commander Tom Harris, and my 1st Vice Susan Hughes, the three of us are working to get to know you Post 119 up and running again. And, Mr. Harris is constantly on the phone with their members and recruiting new members. I believe they are up to...

Tom Harris:

15 or 16 yes, we are still trying to verify. There are a few in the VA Hospital.

Lou Neubecker:

I really want to thank Tom and Susan for that. We held our first face-to-face meeting and we had 11 of the 15 Posts in District 1 there. So, that is the end of my report.

Don Weber:

Thank you, Sir, **District Two**, and we will need you to use the microphone so we can record the minutes.

Renee Ohler:

Commander, Renee Ohler District Two Commander. My report is filed in the Book of Reports. I have **nothing to add** to that, but I would like to have all District Two members, in the audience, please stand.

Renee Ohler:

And this is the representation of a few of our Posts. We have our Pioneer Post, Women's Post 149, Newberg Post, 57, McMinnville Post, 21. And these members have shown up to every DEC year after year, looking for guidance from the Department Level for their Posts and they should be commented. They are looking to go up the ladder for District 2 too. So thank you so much for your participation and keep coming the ladder.

Don Weber:

Thank you.

Jerry Patton:

Jerry Patton, **District 3 Commander, my reports on the Book of Reports** and just reminder of the District 3 Caucus in Lebanon is provided to whoever was running for Department Office which should be May 8th for anybody that is running for Department. Other than that, that would be all.

Don Weber:

Thank you.

David Applegate:

Commander. **David Applegate, Commander District 4. My report is not in the Book of Reports yet.** I embarrassingly forgot to send it out. However, I did bring it and make a long story short. **Basically, the physical meetings and the events have been curtailed because of this COVID-19 virus. However, things are picking up, 6 Posts out of the 10 had planned this month to start meeting, in person and several Posts have made plans for Memorial Day ceremonies and all continued to work on membership, that is my report.**

Don Weber:

Commander, anything on fire updates that we need to be aware of for the District?

David Applegate:

Not at this time, the pretty much everything has been put out. I know some of our Posts have raised money to aid members, which, we have had... who have lost material in the fires.

Don Weber:

OK.

David Applegate:

and that's moving along.

Don Weber:

Okay, great. Thank you..**District 5.**

Greg Marvin:

District 5 Greg Marvin..My report is in the Book of Reports and I have nothing else at this time.

Don Weber:

District Six

Steve Adams:

I just got a comment to make. It was a real pleasure going over to the Auxiliary. Those ladies over there are 1000% behind the Legion. No doubt in my mind, and working with them particularly this last couple of years has been a real pleasure. And I know the Officers, the candidates coming in feel the same way I do, that we need to work with them and the Sons and everything. One thing, I'm going to hold up something here. One thing that I forgot to do, and that's on me, I take responsibility of it. I did not recognize and our audience today, our **Past National Commander, Charlie Schmidt**. Will all Past Department Commanders, please stand up.

Thank you for your service and thank you for continuing to volunteer for the American Legion and being guidance to us. Thank you.

National Executive Committeeman, Andy Millar. Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Jim Willis, glad to see you here this morning, Jim.

Steve Adams:

Glenn Bradley's not here.

Steve Adams:

District 7, Commander Terry Brown.

Terry Brown:

You bet. District 7 Commander Terry Brown. My report is in the Book of Reports. I just want to introduce Jim Moriarty sitting back here. He's going to be hopefully the next District 7 Commander and our Caucus...

Terry Brown:

Our Caucus is next Saturday, the 17th at two o'clock at F & J Raven Post 134. I don't know, do you want to go into the merger front? Want to talk about it?

Steve Adams:

That's your call, Terry.

Terry Brown:

Okay. We had a meeting. Pardon me?

Steve Adams:

Yes. That's where we're at. It's on the agenda.

Terry Brown:

Okay, and your packet about half a dozen pages back or so I didn't want to steal the thunder I guess because I'm 7 and Ed is 8. I will talk first, but we had a meeting at a Department Headquarters in February, early March, somewhere in there to talk about the fate of the Districts 7 and 8.

Due to the attrition of the Posts in the two Districts at one time District 7 had 20 Posts and we are now down to 7 and one of those Posts is in distress, so that could be down to 6. And I think it's a similar analysis for the District 8. So seeing as how the two Districts are within the Portland metropolitan area. And the commute would be reasonable to combine those Posts into one District, which would save about a thousand dollars to the Department in District Commanders' stipend. So we had a meeting to discuss whether or not it was feasible and whether we should pursue combining those two Districts. And, I have sent a letter out to all of my Post Commanders, kind of outlining the idea that we're going to pursue if approved combining the Districts. Now this is not going to be done at Convention.

If it's we approve it, the motion or the resolution will be brought forward at Convention. And if it's approved, it would probably be effective in 2022. Is that correct? My understanding the next year. So anyway, there's a letter and that kind of outlines where we've done it. And I hope that each of the Post Commanders sent this letter out kind of explaining why we're doing it, the process we're going through. So we'll see what happens, but that's basically I'll have in my report at this time.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Terry. District 8 Commander Ed Matthews.

Ed Matthews:

Yes, Sir. So let's talk about 7 and 8 together. We need to probably get together with all the Commanders and each one of those Districts. So we can all sit down and let everybody know what's happening. So everybody can say yes or no when at the Convention. So that's, that's where we are right now. We're trying to move this on. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

District 9 Commander, Don Adams.

Don Adams:

Good morning. The District 9 report is in the Book of Reports and we have nothing to add at this time.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Don. **District 10 Commander Daniel Burks.**

Daniel Burks:

Dan Burks District 10. My report is in the Book of Reports. We do **have a couple updates**. It is unfortunate at this time, but we did finally **receive in our votes from the members of Post 115 and 148. We were looking to merge them into Post 77. It was a unanimous from both Posts.** So we'll be pushing forward with that at our next District meeting. On a better note though, Nyssa, Post 79 does have a new Commander and they've been running this last year.

They do have stuff in works for Memorial Day. And so they're up and running and it's kind of a cool story. The individual that took over as Post Commander, his father was the last Post Commander that they had. And the last record we had was 2008. So he jumped in and as soon as he came in, his son just deployed for bootcamp. So with that being said, we're also in talks right now with Jordan Valley. We do have a member out of our Vale Post that is a member out of Jordan Valley and doesn't attend meetings because of the fact that it's a bit of a drive. So we're talking about possibly trying to open a Post in Jordan Valley and that's the end of my report.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Commander. Are there any suspensions, of, or cancellation of Post charters?.. Are there any approval for new charters, new Posts?...Hearing none.

Reports from Chairs and standing Commissions and Committees? A and A Commission report. I call on Mike Jones for his report.

Mike Jones:

The A&A Commission that met at 1500 hours by the April 9th, the 2021 meeting slash breakfast room. A 8AM, or, Best Western Newberry Station and attendance where PDC PNC, Charlie Schmidt, PDC Jon Marsh and Jim Willis. PDCs Michael Jones as the Commission. Others in attendance were PDCs, Bob Huff, Gene Hellickson and Kevin Owens, 2nd Vice Commander, Larry Wittmayer and Cory Brockmann. Topics of discussion, general problems facing our Department and knowing might determine solutions to those problems. And in general discussion slash Q and A with all regional members of attendance at this DEC.

We also visited with Vice Commander Wittmayer and Cory Brockman about their hopes and plans for the coming year that they are elected next year. We've also had several phone conversations concerning these same and similar issues submitted for your consideration by PDC Michael Jones, Chairman. I have one thing I would like to add to that Commander if I may. That's a response to Service Officer Ed Van Dyke's report. I firmly believe that **this group sometime today should form a Committee to write the resolution. Following those guidelines laid down by him, basically protecting our Constitution, Amendments to the Constitution, to be supported and move forward to National.**

Steve Adams:

Okay.

Mike Jones:

I also have a challenge. Everybody in the world knows me, knows I have two passions, well, three, I got a wife, so you know, two passions in the world. One is hunting, then the other one is American Legion. Those are the only two things that brought me back from the dead. I fought my way back, so I got to be at least one more hunting season and come to at least one more Convention for American Legion. With that being said, my passion being from the American Legion and this Foundation. I'm going to **lay down a challenge right now to everybody in the room** to the Oregon American Legion Foundation and kick them off with this check for \$100 Commander.

Mike Jones:

You can hand that over to the Finance Officer if you like, that's my report, unless there's some questions from you Sir.

Steve Adams:

Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Are there any takers to Mike's challenge?

Lou Neubecker:

Commander. District 1, **I accept that challenge** from Mr. Jones.

Andy Millar:

Commander, I accept that challenge, Mr. Jones.

Steve Adams:

Andy Millar? Accepted the challenge, \$100 to the Foundation.

Don Weber:

Challenge met.

Steve Adams:

Don Weber accepted the challenge. Gene Hellickson accepted the challenge. Charlie Schmidt accepted the challenge.

Bob Huff:

Who gave us the \$100 cash?

Steve Adams:

Andy, Millar.

Tom Harris:

I did say write a receipt with the donation.

Steve Adams:

District 10 Commander accepts the challenge. Cory Brockman accepts the challenge.

Steve Adams:

A Sergeant at Arms is bringing the money to you, Bob. Greg Marvin, District 5 accepts the challenge. Ed Van Dyke, Department Service Officer accepts the challenge. Commander Adams accepts the challenge.

Andy Millar: You got \$100 bills?

Bob Huff: Yes, I have a \$170 going in there.

PDC Jim Willis.

Jim Willis:

I accept the... if Charlie accepts the challenge.

Lou Neubecker: Commander can we get break so we can go to the ATM?

Steve Adams:

District 2 Commander, Renee.

Renee:

Commander, I'm going to put the \$170, I won in the 50-50 last night.

Steve Adams: Thank you Renee.

Steve Adams:

Terry... You accept? Terry accepts. Larry Wittmayer?

Larry Wittmayer:

I accept the challenge. You're ready to accept it ? And I'm okay.

Steve Adams:

I'm ready to accept it. Get the wallet out Larry.

Judy Johnston:

I accept the challenge.

Steve Adams:

Judy Johnston accepts the challenge.

Steve Adams:

Lou Neubecker is paying his off.

Steve Adams:

Are there any others?

Sid Carter.

Steve Adams:

We don't know. It costs you \$100 bucks. It's going to cost you a \$200 Sid

Sid Carter:

\$200.

Renee Ohler:

Here is my \$30 to make it \$200

Steve Adams:

Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Bob, you got some more coming in.

Steve Adams:

Are there any others who accept the challenge?

Mike Jones:

I think we've got everybody in the room.

Steve Adams:

No? Everybody in the room has not met the challenge.

Steve Adams:

Okay, is there anyone else up to the challenge?

Ward Allen:

Sid did challenge everyone to match his \$200.

Renee Ohler:

Here's my \$30 to make my \$200.

Steve Adams:

Okay, according to our Finance Officer, we're a little short of making it an even number. Okay? The even number being \$2,000.

Tom Harris:

You can make that Commander.

Lou Neubecker:

How much are we short?

Steve Adams:

\$400.

Lou Neubecker:

I got another \$50.

Ward Allen:

Bob, you got another \$50.

Steve Adams:

Post 10, Daniel Burks another \$50.

Jerry Patton:

\$40.00

Steve Adams:

Jerry Patton \$40.00 District 3.

Steve Adams:

\$50.00 Andy Millar

Sid Carter:

Matching \$50 with another \$50.00

Steve Adams:

\$100 from Sid Carter. Thanks, Sid.

Ward Allen:

I'm going to place it over here. There's \$50 from Lou.

Steve Adams:

Okay. Don Adams. This is not a race, okay?

Bob Huff:

Commander, we have \$2,090.

Steve Adams:

Okay. We now have \$2,090. Okay. Thank you very much, all of you. Thank you very much. Americanism Commission Report. Call on Sid Carter for his report.

Sid Carter:

Commander I have nothing to report.

Steve Adams:

Convention Commission Report. Jon Marsh.

Jon Marsh:

Convention report, there will be one. It'll be back to Seven Feathers. We have a contract with them from last year. Everything will remain pretty much the same. We're going to alter the food a little bit. As you probably know, Department's got to put on this Convention, so we're going to try some different things to have some fun for a change at Convention.

Jon Marsh:

So Kevin and I will go down there this week or this month, sit down with them, get the final stuff ironed out, and we should be good to go. The last full week in June.

Jon Marsh:

All right. So that's my Convention Commission report. Anybody have any questions about it? I'd love to answer some, because I can't think of everything, so... Good. See you in Canyonville.

Jon Marsh:

Now this is the report for **the Sons of the American Legion from yesterday**, and we met at 1:00 in the hotel, and we had a visiting dignitary. I saw him last night. And basically, the business of the day was a **resolution that they want to put forward**. Excuse me.

Okay, **transfer of unused Sons of the American Legion funds to charitable distributions**, origin, the Executive Committee Detachment of Oregon submitted by Carl Pawlik, Detachment of Oregon Commander. **Whereas the sons of American Legion from the budget for 2021 contains line items for currently open Officer position and other meetings, and whereas because of the restriction placed on our organization due to COVID-19 virus, and whereas these restrictions caused the cancellation of all other meetings listed in the Sons of the American Legion 2021 budget, and whereas the monies budgeted for the National Convention, line item 5360, amounting \$2,000, and Washington, DC conference, line item 5365, amounting to \$1,500 will not be spent, therefore be resolved at the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Oregon Executive Committee meeting held in La Pine, Oregon, on April 10th, 2021, voted to transfer \$3,500 of budget monies from line item 5360 and 5365 to miscellaneous Detachment expenses, line items 5345, charitable distributions. Therefore be resolved that \$1,500 be donated to the Child Welfare Foundation. Line item 5345. And \$1,500 be donated to the Veteran and Children's Relief Fund.**

Line item 5345 and \$500 be donated to the National Emergency Fund. Line item 5345 be a resolve the resolution be adopted immediately following the DEC meeting held in La Pine on April 10th and 11th. So there's a resolution. I need a motion.

Bob Huff:

I'll make a motion that this resolution be approved as written.

Jerry Patton:

I second it.

Jon Marsh:

Thank you. A motion has been made, seconded that the resolution from the Sons be approved as read. Are there any discussions? Any questions? All in favor, say I. **Okay, we'll do a roll call vote.**

Flynn Phillips:

Roll call vote for the Sons of the American Legion. District 1 Commander?

Lou Neubecker: Yes.

District 2 Commander Renee Ohler.

Rene Ohler: In favor.

District 3 Commander Jerry Patton.

Jerry Patton: Yes.

District 4 Commander David Applegate.

David Applegate: Yay.

District 5 Commander Sid Carter.

Sid Carter: Yes.

District 6 Commander not here. District 7 Commander Terry Brown.

Terry Brown: Yes.

District 8 Commander Ed Matthews.

Ed Matthews: Yes.

District 9 Commander Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: In favor.

Okay. District 10 Commander, Daniel Burks.

Daniel Burks: In favor.

Flynn Phillips:

1st Vice Commander Don Weber.

Don Weber: Yay.

2nd Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: Yay.

Department Finance Officer.

Bob Huff: Yay.

Immediate Past Commander Tom Harris.

Tom Harris: Yes.

National Executive Committeemen Andy Millar

Andy Millar: Yes.

Flynn Phillips:

We have a unanimous vote, Sir.

Steve Adams:

Okay. The resolution to transfer the funds for the Sons, unanimous. Motion passes.

Jon Marsh:

So, from Post 180, we received donations of \$1,000 for the Veterans and Children's Relief Fund, and \$2,500 for the Child Welfare Foundation. So I just thought you should know that. That's a good, strong donation. We haven't been doing very good this year.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Commander. I'll now call on **Lou Neubecker Internal Affairs Commission.**

Lou Neubecker:

Commander, my report is in the Book of Reports. We scheduled a couple of Zoom meetings, but they had to be canceled due to other meetings going on, so we haven't really met this year, and if you don't mind, I'd do my meeting and communications Commission at the same time.

Steve Adams:

Do it.

Lou Neubecker:

Again, we scheduled a couple of meetings, and we haven't done... They were canceled due to several other meetings, so we haven't met either. That's the end of my report.

Steve Adams:

I now call on **John Lee, Legislative Commission.**

John Lee:

So my report is in the Book of Reports, but I've got a couple of things I'd like to bring up today, legislative changes, very, very quickly. Senate bill 319, which dedicates a portion of the capital ground for the Vietnam Veterans war memorial, it has been all the way through the senate now. It passed the senate 29-0. There was one person who was excused and not there, so out of the 30, pretty much unanimous. It's now moved onto the house. It's been referred to the veteran's and emergency management Committee, and will be heard there and pushed forward. Lot of support for it. The parks and recreation's already on

board with this, so everything's moving. Really got some good support for it. It's about time, should've been there a long time ago.

Senate bill 790, which takes a portion of the highway 30 and will be renamed as Veterans Memorial, that has been all the way through the senate. It passed 28-1 vote on yeah, with Senator Herd voting a nay. There was a little bit of pushback on it. Some of the Districts that are on the east side primary, they have portions of that highway that have been dedicated to memorials to other individuals. A portion of that is for a fallen police Officer who was killed in the line of the duty, and they were worried that their memorials would then come down because of this. Senator Canote ensured them that that's not part of this bill. Memorials that are on that highway will not be removed, but the highway itself will just be renamed as a veteran's memorial highway.

Originally, that was pushed to get that highway... It was going to be renamed as American Legion and the VFW Highway, but legislation had a pushback and said what about the other veteran organizations that are out there? Why aren't their names on it? And you can't put them all on there. So they did decide to change that, and it's now going to be the veteran's memorial. It's also on its way to the house, and the house looks like it'll have pretty good support on it as well.

The last thing I'd like to do is to encourage everybody to participate at your local level with your local legislators. The American Legion is non-partisan, but that doesn't mean we're non-political. We've been involved in politics and building stuff since 1919, and of course, the biggest one we've ever been involved with, probably one of the more important ones, of course, was the GI Bill, which American Legion actually wrote. There were a lot of problems getting it through. It wasn't full support to it. In fact, the president at the time wasn't even for the bill, so... But if it weren't for our pushing at the legislature that we've got...

It's really, really important. We wouldn't get these kind of things through. Everybody says they support the veterans, but when it gets time to put out the time or the money, it's really important we step up and make sure it's legislated so that they will. And so, even at the grassroots, everybody here has a say. On these bills, anybody can testify. As I've looked through some of these bills, I've seen legion members who have put in testimony for, as themselves. If you ever need help, some of them aren't the best written. If you need help on how to get them in there and what to do, give me a call. I'd be glad to help you out, or Jim Willis, is also really experienced at this. He's been a great help for me through this learning curve.

So anyway, that's my report. Commander.

Steve Adams:

Okay, we're going to take a **short 10 minute break** and reconvene.

Steve Adams:

Okay. We will get started again.

Steve Adams:

We now **have National Security Commission, Greg Marvin, for his report.**

Greg Marvin:

Thank you, Commander.

Greg Marvin:

My report is in the Book of Reports and I just have a couple of things to say about it. We happen to be in the Post home of our Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Kyle Kalmbach from Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and submitted by Post 45 here in La Pine. We did only have one entry this year, but he is a good entry and I was proud to pass him on. We had no entries for the Firefighter of the Year Award, and I'm hoping that it's COVID that kept those entries from being submitted because it's an excellent program. And we've had good luck from the Department of Oregon with our candidates over the past few years, having Bradley last year from Post 180 and year before that we had the National Firefighter of the Year.

Greg Marvin:

So we've had really good luck with that program. And I told people keep up sending in submittals on that and keeping this program going. Our next program, National Security is the Post Blood Donor Award. That's number three in your trophies in the awards book. And I'd like to make a couple of comments about that. We had a number of people over the past few years submit submit entries in that, that do absolutely nothing. They had no blood drives. They had no blood donors. Please don't do that. I'm not sure why they do that, but please don't do that. It's really simple, you don't have to have a blood drive. If you have anybody in your Post to donate blood, that's a blood donor that qualifies for an entry. It's not hard to do. And if you have anybody that helps out in a blood drive, chauffeuring people in to get blood donated and hand out cookies and donuts and whatever that all counts. And so that's worthwhile. The blood donor program is separated by a Post size.

Greg Marvin:

Donate blood and get in that contest. Winners will be announced to add to the Department Convention in June. That's all I have to say on that. That's pretty much my report Commander.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Greg. At this time, I would like to acknowledge a guest here. This is his first DEC that he's attended and he would like to just sit in and observe and the new Commander of Post 45. Jack. Thank you for being here Jack. Okay. Moving on. **Veterans Employment and Education Commission, Chairman Bob Huff give his report.**

Bob Huff:

Thank you Commander. I was just told to make it short. I'm not. My report is in the Book of Reports and like all other Commissions right now because I have to hold events with almost 500 people. That's not being allowed. We are prepared. We have been meeting on it. That'll be the end of that report. Now I'm going to switch gears. While I was sitting here minding my own business, the gentleman next to me, the Judge Advocate, made another challenge. He challenged me to write a \$500 check along with him. So we just added another \$1000.00 bucks, but we've received other money. At the current time, we have raised \$3,390 and I will still be here to accept other money. Thank you very much.

Steve Adams:

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission report, Chairman Jim Willis.

Jim Willis:

Thank you Commander. VA&R and our report is in the Book of Reports. And the only thing I want to add is to **say what a great job that both Ed and Jody are doing in representing the veterans and not just American Legion members.** Any veteran can see our Post Service Officers and they take care of them. And the one thing I want to close within honoring those two people is to tell you this, they change the quality of people's lives for the rest of their lives. And I'd like a round of applause for Ed and Jody.

Jim Willis:

Okay. Now Commander, I would like to use the footage of the floor during my report time to report on our **National Legislative Commission meeting held in Washington, DC** which was virtual and most of you are aware of that. But I want to pay a special attention to the legislative council members from Oregon who contacted our senators and our representatives of Southern Oregon as seven. Two Representatives and five Senators. Anyway, I contacted Senator Merkley, Rob Liebenow contacted to Senator Wyden, John Lee contacted Representative Bonamici, Dan Burke contacted representative Burns who is a freshman this year and we are tickled to death to have him serving Oregon by the way. I think we're going to see some great things out of him.

Jim Willis:

I also want to thank Terry Brown for contacting Representative Blumenhauer. Kevin Owens for contacting Representative Defazio and Betty Fish-Ferguson for contacting Representative Kurt Shrader. I can't tell you how important it is for Oregon to continually be involved with that National organization. And for us to then be able to report back to the National Commission. And our report is completed and we will hear more about that at the National Convention in Arizona. And you'll find that we did our job and we did exactly what we were supposed to do. And finally, while we are talking about the legislative issues that it relates directly to the United States Constitutional issue, which you heard briefly from Ed Van Dyke.

Jim Willis:

And I got to tell you, **I served in the military now a very long time ago, but nothing in my mind has changed in terms of what our loyalty is not only to service to the nation, but to our oath of office that we took to uphold and defend the Constitution United States.** I had to read it after it was brought to my attention, the fact that some members of the United States military serving Officers, Commission, command Officers been statements that were directly in support of one or the other parties. And that is not the right way to do business.

Jim Willis:

If you're in the military, we don't get into politics. And if you do, you're not going to be there very long. At least that was my experience. So I think when we get ready to get to Convention down in Canyonville, I hope that by that time someone's going to have a Resolution prepared for a Convention that we can pass and then take to the National Convention to have consideration to be passed by the National organization. Because if you wait for the other guy to do it, it's not going to get done. So it's okay if Oregon does it, we're just as good as New York. We're even better than... well, I got to be careful now I'm going to probably hurt somebody's feelings so I won't go any further than telling you that we're better than Florida. But in any event, Commander, I want to encourage us to do that Resolution by the time we do our Convention down in Canyonville. That concludes my report Commander. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

PDC Willis.

Jim:

Yes Sir.

Steve Adams:

That Resolution is in the progress as we speak.

Jim Willis:

Outstanding.

Steve Adams:

So we move to unfinished business. Chair recognizes **Jerry Patton, District 3 Commander**.

Jerry Patton:

Okay, now. This time I am better prepared of making a recommendation. About a month ago, there was a GoToMeeting to deal with Post 10. A **recommendation is to take Post 10 off probation**. Now there's a lot of guidelines that was said and they've been doing this. Here's some reasons to why they should be removed. The good work they are doing in the community and here are some examples. The Christmas gift drive through the serve, needy families and Albany, which was mentioned by our National Organization and the National Commander. They were asked not to speak ill about Department Officers and the Department under the social media which they have. Helped feed the homeless veterans in the Albany area.

Jerry Patton:

And they'd been working on a food bank there in Albany. So my recommendation, and I'd like to **make a motion to take Post 10 off of probation**.

Steve Adams:

Okay. At this time, I'm going to turn this issue over to First Vice Commander, Don Weber.

Don Weber:

Thank you Sir. There's been a **motion and a second by Bob Huff Department Finance Officer for the discussion period**. We're going to limit comments to one time per person with a five minute limit per person. So is there anyone that has any discussion on this topic?

Don Weber:

District 10.

Dan Burks:

Dan Burks, District 10. Nobody wants to see this go away more than myself. We have been dealing with this for three years and I commend Post 10 for all the good works that they've been doing. They've been doing that the entire time. However, the reason that they were put on probation has nothing to do with the good work that they're doing in the community.

Don Weber:

Judge Advocate.

Eugene Hellickson:

This probation.... is for [inaudible 00:17:55]. Not anything prior to that. [inaudible 00:17:55]

Not Announced who they are:

So then my question would be, what have they done since then in relevance to the reasoning they were put on probation in the first place?

Eugene Hellickson:

They were put on a probation. As finishing what the original problem if you will go along with that ended when we put them on probation. So, this motion was to take them off of probation, which is to find out if they met everything that was required of them to come off of probation.

Not Announced who they are:

I understand that completely, but again, my question stands the same. Based on the reasoning they were put on probation, what have they done? What training have you given them? You're on the Committee that would allow them or us as a DEC to say that they should be removed from probation. Because what they're doing now they did then. So you can't bring up what they were doing.

Eugene Hellickson:

What do you mean they're doing now what they did then? We're not talking about then we're talking about now.

Not Announced who they are:

Okay. Well, as of now, they're still on Facebook trying to pick fights.

Eugene Hellickson:

Yeah, they are. But I haven't seen anything derogatory on there.

Not Announced who they are:

Which is the whole reasoning why we decided to put them on probation in the first place. It was not their actions in the community. It was the actions within this organization.

Eugene Hellickson:

Complaints about what they've been doing on there. Have there been any charges filed that they're violating?

Not Announced who they are:

Is there any documentations saying that they've done any better?

Eugene Hellickson:

We weren't required to supply any documentation. The Committee was just put together as a Committee to work with them, which we did. And we had the discussions with the three members of the Committee and gave that result to the acting Department Commander.

Not Announced who they are:

Well, this is simple. It's going to be a decision of the DEC. I said my piece and I'm done with it.

Lou Neubecker:

District 1, Lou Neubecker I've seen a deal on Facebook from the Commander at Post 10 stating not to make a donation to Department on the name stickers and to not send any money to Department, send it to the Post. I took that as a very derogatory comment towards the Department, by the Commander stating not to support the Department's Fundraisers.

Don Weber:

Further discussion. Okay. Further discussion.

Don Weber:

Chair recognizes Mike Jones, Past Department Commander.

Mike Jones:

I didn't get that out of my mouth yet. Thank you. I appreciate it. I hate doing this stuff, but we just broke one of our own rules. Which we had an individual that warranted speak for their applied minute time frame and it was interrupted and turned into a discussion. And if I understand the rules correctly about discussion could have happened in reverse, if he had got his five minutes said, then the other individual did their five minutes. Am I right?

Don Weber:

No. There was a point of order brought up during his discussion that was addressed.

Mike Jones:

Okay. I stand corrected. But more than that, my feelings and I think it's echoed by some others in the room, is the Post itself was never in violation of anything. They were doing good works in the community. They were serving veterans. They were taking care of business, doing everything that we

expect them to do under our preamble. What we had was a couple of individuals in that Post that was causing some problems. Now like I say, I don't understand the good of keeping the Post on probation as a punishment for something an individual or two individuals did. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Don Weber:

Thank you, Sir. Further discussion. District 5.

Greg Marvin:

Commander. As I said in the last virtual DEC, I have not been apprised of everything in the last three years since I was on the DEC. My question is, what did the Department require of Post 10 and how have they gone along and complied with those requirements to take the probation off? And I'm not really aware of what they were required to do as opposed, or as the individuals and how that's been handled.

Don Weber:

Do you have a copy of the probation statement to him?

Don Weber:

I don't have a copy of the probation statement here with me today, but the probation required them not to do some things. And so it's proving negative if you will.

Jerry Patton:

Yeah. I think part of it, one of the things that was required that they will not speak ill will, but Department Officers, and according to the report, they haven't done that. And along with some other charitable stuff. So apparently they did require not to speak ill will which apparently they haven't so.

Don Weber:

Okay. Further discussion. Yeah.

Lou Neubecker:

Lou Neubecker District 1. Does the Adjutant not have the package with them?

Don Weber:

Okay. Even for a question. Let's see if we can pull out a copy of the probationary statement.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander, can I ask the Adjutant to read the letter that I was referring to?

Don Weber:

[inaudible 00:29:32] probationary letter was written to the Post. The Post signed it and returned it to the Department. [inaudible 00:29:44].

Don Weber:

This is the accusation letter.

Don Weber:

Okay. [inaudible 00:30:43]. Bob, do you have a copy of it by chance? You were on the Committee. A copy of that probation. The motion minutes? Is this the meeting minutes of the probation minutes?

Bob Huff:

[inaudible 00:31:29].

Don Weber:

The problem we have is that a motion was made at the Fall DEC, and we only have the meeting minutes from the last DEC meeting with us here today. So the probation was to refrain from certain activities, and I'm hearing the District Commander recommend that they have refrained from those activities.

Lou Neubecker:

Right. [

Chair:

No. Further discussion. Okay. **There's been a motion to remove the probation for Post 10. There's been a second. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.**

DEC:

Aye.

Don Weber:

Why?

Lou Neubecker:

Commander there is a conflict of interest on the vote. Bob Huff is unable to vote as he was on the Committee and the IA Committee. He should not be voting.

Don Weber:

That does not create a conflict. He is voting as it affects the Finances of the Department of Oregon. He is an elected member to represent the finances of the Department of Oregon.

Lou Neubecker:

Well, then I am voting.

Don Weber:

Yes, Sir.

Don Weber:

Yeah. Yeah. So all **those opposed, signify by saying nay.**

Don Weber:

Okay. So based on not being able to call that, let's try a hand vote. All those in favor of the motion, signify by **raising your hand.**

Flynn Phillips:

Three, six, eight.

Don Weber:

Nine nay votes. All those opposed, raise your hand.

Flynn Phillips:

One, two, three.

Flynn Phillips:

Four.

Don Weber:

Three.

Don Weber:

9 Favor 3 Opposed.

Don Weber:

Yes, Sir.

Eugene Hellickson:

District One Commander should not be allowed as he was also on the Investigative Committee.

Don Weber:

Yeah. And the same thing applies. He's voting to represent the Posts of District One. So the vote is nine in favor, three opposed. **Adjutant, is that a quorum?**

Flynn Phillips:

That is it.

Don Weber:

Okay, so motion carries. Thank you.

Lou Neubecker:

Wait a minute, there's four votes.

Don Weber:

Is there any further unfinished business?

Lou Neubecker:

District Eight voted no.

Don Weber:

District Seven? Okay.

Terry Brown:

Commander, District 7. I would like to entertain **a motion to move forward with the combining of Districts Seven and Eight and then a discussion period to talk about it.** So what I want to do is I want to answer as many questions as I can at this point because there's a lot of work has to be done in order to do that. We need to go back to our Posts and get consensus to merge the two Post, or the two Districts.

Plus, we need to write a Constitution & Bylaws for the new District. So I need a motion to move forward with that.

Jerry Patton:

Commander, District Three Commander. I'd like to make the **motion to combine District 7 and 8.**

Steve Adams:

No. He can't. Already a motion.

Jerry Patton:

Okay. I'll make the **motion to move forward.**

Chair:

Okay. We have a motion to **move forward for 7 and 8 to move forward in this process. Do I have a second?**

Tom Harris:

Commander, Tom Harris. I'll **second that motion.**

Steve Adams:

Okay. We have a motion requesting District 7, District 8 to move forward in the process of consolidating District 7, District 8, merging them. We have that motion and seconded. **Any discussion?**

Charlie Schmidt:

Commander, Charlie Schmidt, DEC. Request permission of the floor.

Steve Adams:

You have permission, Sir.

Charlie SChmidt:

Mr. Commander, I still **don't know and understand the rationale for this.** We've heard a little bit about there's X number of Posts in this District, X number of Posts in that District. Well, I'm here to tell you, in my District, we got X number of Posts. Is that a reason to consolidate Districts? Is it leadership? Is it a leadership problem in both Districts? In the past, I think we've heard something like this before in that area, maybe quite a while ago that we can't get any leadership in there. Well, is that a reason to consolidate them? And if it is, is it going to solve the problem? So, if I'm sitting on the DEC, I'd like to know a little more about it to realign our Districts.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Charlie. And I ask Terry Brown to give it a little clarification. **Why is the merge of District 7 and 8 being considered?**

Terry Brown:

Sure. Part of it has to do with economics. We have two District Commanders, and the Department pays a stipend of \$1,000 for each District Commander to attend the District meeting and Department meetings and things. The other has to do with I have in my District three Auxiliary Units. Two of them are inactive, and one is active. So we're down to three subsidiary Units, and they want to merge in order to have better communications. The furthest Post in my District versus yours, Charlie, the furthest Post is 44 miles away. All of these 12 or 13 Posts would be located within about a 50-mile radius of the two merged Districts. So in order to make it more economical and better communication, we think that 12 Districts or 12 Posts is not an unmanageable number to deal with. And so it just makes better sense.

Terry Brown:

It also has to do with when we're soliciting Firefighter of the Year, Law Enforcement of the Year, those kinds of things, we're crisscrossing because Ed has Posts in my county, which is supposed to be Multnomah County. And my Post is in Clackamas County, which is in Ed Mathew's county. So by putting those in under one District, we wouldn't have the crisscross of going to different organizations. And I think Don can speak a little bit more about that because he has to do with law enforcement and going to different agencies because we use Clackamas County, and so does Ed. And so if I go to Clackamas County, I'm looking for Law Enforcement of the Year, we don't want two Districts going to the same Unit asking for Law Enforcement Officers, which to me, it's not a big deal. But if you get over on the west side of Portland, it becomes more complicated because you have more Law Enforcement agencies involved within that unit. So it just makes sense to us. I'd be happy to stay with six Posts, but it just doesn't make sense to us.

Steve Adams:

Chair recognizes Mike Jones, PDC.

Mike Jones:

Well, any discussion on this must involve the legal aspects along with the Auxiliary. I don't know who or what. All I know is I have some dialogue with District 8 Auxiliary numbers here in the building Friday night. They are absolutely unequivocally, categorically opposed to this action. Now, my question is for the Department Judge Advocate, the if the Legion combines, is it incumbent on the Auxiliary to do the same because they are a separate entity? They're their own organization, right? And the other point I would like to raise is this does not affect just 7 and 8. This affects the entire Department. What are you going to do with Districts Nine and 10? Are they going to have to all have new caps?

Steve Adams:

No.

Mike Jones:

Well, does District 9 become District 8 and District 10 become District 9?

Steve Adams:

No.

Steve Adams:

No. That hasn't been discussed. You can't say yes or no on that right now because it hasn't been discussed.

Flynn Phillips:

That's part of the process.

Steve Adams:

That's part of the process, Mike, finding all of that out.

Tom Harris:

Commander, may I speak?

Steve Adams:

Chair recognizes Tom Harris.

Tom Harris:

Terry, when you first brought this up, I thought that you were asking for approval to move forward, but it was with the question to each and every one of the Posts to see what they thought about it. This was not to just jump right forward and say, okay, this is going to happen. Am I correct?

Terry Brown:

You're correct.

Tom Harris:

Well, that's what I was seconding, was you're going to move forward with asking and getting some documentation so-

Terry Brown:

That's correct.

Tom Harris:

... you can present that to the Department of Oregon.

Terry Brown:

We need to go to each Post and get their consensus to merge the two Districts.

Tom Harris:

And then are you going to present that to the Department, your findings?

Terry Brown:

That's right.

Tom Harris:

And then we'll vote on this again?

Terry Brown:

We would vote on it at Convention.

Tom Harris:

Okay. Thank you, Sir.

Terry Brown:

But I don't know unequivocally District or Auxiliary Unit number in District 8 is opposed to it because Kathy Karnowski was at the meeting we had. The only one who was opposed to it was Angie. I don't know where the opposition with the Auxiliary in District 8 came from because Kathi Karnowski was in on the meeting that we had to discuss this merger of the Units. And I know several members of the Auxiliary in District 8 are in favor of merging. So, I don't know who you talked to or what it was, but that's not the consensus we got from Kathi Karnowski. Dan Burks, District 10.

Dan Burks:

Commander. As a 2nd Vice running candidate over here pointed out last night, I'm one of the youngest in the room, which gives me the fortune and, I guess, misfortune of looking at this organization 20, 30 years from now. **So my question is if you guys move forward with this merger, is there a plan in place to build that District?** Because as of right now based on what you're showing me, it's because of a decline. So is there a plan put in place to build it, or are we going to combine it and close down more Posts? Because 20 years from now, I'd like to be sitting in the back making fun of people too, but I like there be some Posts available to show up to meetings like this.

Steve Adams:

District 8 Commander.

Ed Mathews:

I think what we're trying to do is get it started, get everything moving again. And we are in the process of saying, okay, what do we do now to solve our problem? Our problem is location. Our problem is that we need more people. Some people have moved out of that area, and we need to look a better way, just use our talents and abilities so we can get more people. And that's our objective. That's what all of your objections should be, is to get more people, to go out there and talk to them. But we're not doing that because we've got 46 miles that he's got to go to see his people, and I've got 20 on the other side. So that's what we're talking about.

Steve Adams:

Okay, Terry, I need some clarification here also. This motion is not to put it in stone that this is what's coming up at Convention. All this was was a motion. Terry wanted the motion to move forward. And all of the facts get together, then is **when a motion and a resolution will come up at that time. Am I correct, Terry?**

Terry Brown:

That's correct.

Steve Adams:

Okay. Sid Carter.

Sid Carter:

I think all of this is a moot point because where you are standing right now within the next year, you could be in Idaho. I'm serious. So consequently, I think we got the horse a little bit in front of the cart with what's happened with the state of Oregon because it's a pretty good chance that part of northern California, all of eastern Oregon right down the line of the mountains is going to be Idaho.

Ed Mathews:

I knew there was a plan to do that.

Sid Carter:

It's already a big plan, and it's getting a lot of support. So there's something else just to throw into the game of reDistricting.

Steve Adams:

Okay. District 9 Commander.

District 9 Commander:

My question is, **if we don't pass this motion**, can he still go ahead and move out and check and do all this stuff?

Steve Adams:

Absolutely.

Don Adams:

So there's no real reason to pass it and get all excited. Let him go ahead and talk to his people, get what all the Posts say, and then come to the next DEC and say, "Look, 80% of my Posts vote to consolidate." Okay. "I've talked to the ladies out there." I think we should have more facts. I don't think there's any reason for this. If he can go ahead and do all this stuff anyway, why are we wasting our time giving him permission to do what he's going to do anyway?

Lou Neubecker:

Well stated Don.

Steve Adams:

Mike Jones.

Mike Jones:

Thank you, Commander. It was not my intention to poo poo this thing. It was my intention to explain a couple of things. That is more than just what works for the leader shift in Districts 7 and 8. It involves the entire Department. It also involves the Auxiliary. There are some things to consider, and that's what I was trying to make the point of.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Mike. Charlie.

Charlie Schmidt:

Mr. Commander, my question through you to the District 7 Commander, the way I understand it is District 7 has a Post in the area defined by the Constitution & Bylaws that's actually in District 8. Is that correct?

Chair:

Yes.

Charlie Schmidt:

And Vice versa.

Steve Adams:

Exactly.

Charlie Schmidt:

Okay. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Okay. Now, I have another item to bring up here. Just a minute. A note was passed to me. Would you like to convey this to the DEC?

Renee Ohler:

I will. This is just an email or a text message I just received from my Carlton Memorial Post Adjutant, PDC Jim Wilcox, who is a member of my Post. They just got word that he was in a serious accident and was life-flighted to the hospital with a broken arm, broken leg and 8 broken ribs. And that's all we know right now.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Renee.

Steve Adams:

Our thoughts and prayers are with PDC Jim Wilcox and his family that he pulls through this.

Dan Burks:

Commander?

Steve Adams:

Dan Burks.

Dan Burks:

Commander. I know we've moved on and it's very difficult to hear this type of stuff going on right now. But just to bring up, there was a motion and a second made. We do have to do something about that.

Commander Adams:

Yes, we do. Terry.

Terry Brown:

District 7 Commander, Terry Brown. Yes in answer to Charlie's question about one Post being in one Clackamas County and one Post being Multnomah. Those are all grandfathered in, so there's no issue with them being outside of their counties. That's all covered by the grandfather clause.

Tom Harris:

Okay, Commander.

Steve Adams:

Tom Harris.

Tom Harris:

Okay. So the way I see it as I need to retract my second, because we don't need a second. We didn't need for the motion to happen anyhow. So you can move forward with your investigation and report later, am I right?

Terry Brown:

Then why should I put a lot of time and energy and going to my Post, if it's going to be voted down when we put the Resolution forward?

Tom Harris:

Well, Sir, that's how it works.

Terry Brown:

That isn't how it works.

Tom Harris:

We can't approve it at this point because you don't have-

Terry Brown:

You're not approving anything. You're approving me to move forward, and I want to get consensus that it's a good idea. If it's not a good idea.

Tom Harris:

I think it's a good idea, but I don't think you need a motion to go and find out if it's a good idea and then bring us some information back there. You still have to vote on it again. Am I right?

Terry Brown:

You do. But I don't choose to go forward with it and doing a lot of work if it's not going to be voted on.

Tom Harris:

We don't know that at this point. You bring back the great report and if you want to move forward... I don't see any question here at this point.

Tom Harris:

Thanks.

Tom Harris:

Thank you, Commander.

Terry Brown:

Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Okay. We still have a motion on the floor.

Jerry Patton:

Jerry Patton, District 3. I made the motion and wish to retract my motion.

Steve Adams:

Okay.

Eugene Hellickson:

Can that be done?

Steve Adams:

Yes, you can. The person that made the motion can retract it.

Steve Adams:

Yes.

Commander Adams:

Gene, I need a clarification here. Well, look fast. Okay, since the motion was made and the person that made the motion retracted the motion. **Therefore, there is no motion on the floor. Okay?** All right, we'll go on to further business. Under new business, we need to ratify the Code of Procedures for the Resolution Assignment Committee and I'll call on Terry to do that. Chairman of the Resolution Assignment Committee.

Steve Adams:

Okay.

Terry Brown:

Okay. There was some discussion on whether or not a District or a Post or somebody could propose a Resolution. It's my understanding, and our Judge Advocate can clarify, but I think way back when Jackie Collison was a Department Commander, at that time, we did not have a Resolution Assignment Committee that functioned throughout the year. What it was, was a Committee at Convention, and it was comprised of the Delegates that were assigned to the Convention. So when we got to Convention, we were assigned all these resolutions to review them. They change it and then move them on to the appropriate Committee. Since then, now we have a Resolution Assignment Committee that people submit resolutions throughout the year, which then said, "Well, we need some timeframes to build in so that when it comes to the Department, then it goes to the Resolution Assignment Committee to review, then it goes to the appropriate Committee, then it goes to DEC." So in order for all those redo processes, there was some timeframes built in which is 45 days to Department than then to the Resolution Assignment Committee.

Terry Brown:

So last October, we drafted up some language that talked about what to do. There really wasn't anything in the Code of Procedures that said, "If you don't submit it within 45 days, what happens?" It was like, "They said you must submit it within 45 days," and that was it. So some language is in there that said, "If you don't submit it within 45 days, the resolution would be returned to the party, District Post, whoever

proposed the resolution, and it was at the discretion of the Department Commander, whether it would be reviewed at the DEC." So through some discussions with our Department Judge Advocate and some other things, we tried to clarify that a little bit.

Terry Brown:

So that means there's a... I don't know what pages it's on in your packet, but there's a Code of Procedures or Resolution Assignment Committee. You want me to read it just so people don't have to? Okay. The clause that we're talking about it says, originally says, "All resolutions to be considered must be at Department 45 days prior to DEC. Resolutions submitted to Department less than 45 days prior to DEC will be returned without review to the District Post responsible for the resolution. At the discretion of the Department Commander, the resolution may be submitted at the next DEC for consideration."

Terry Brown:

That language didn't sit well with some people. So then between discussions with Department Commander and myself, and hopefully with the Judge Advocate, we added a change. **It now says, "All resolutions to be considered must be at Department 45 days prior to DEC. Resolutions submitted to Department less than 45 days prior to DEC will be reviewed by the Department Commander, Chair of the Resolution Assignment Committee and author of the resolution to determine time sensitive status. Time sensitive resolutions will be discussed and voted at the DEC. Non time sensitive resolutions will be delayed and reviewed at the next DEC or Convention."**

Terry Brown:

So in other words, that takes what happens with the Finance Committee, budget stuff, other things that are time sensitive, that can't wait until the next DEC, but it also puts emphasis on getting your resolutions to the Resolution Assignment Committee and Department 45 days prior to DEC.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Terry. Is there any discussion on this? Lou Neubecker? You don't want to discuss?

Lou Neubecker:

Commander Lou Neubecker, District 1. I make the motion that we accept Terry's change to the Code of Procedures for Resolution Assignment Committee.

Steve Adams:

I have a motion to accept the changes to the Code of Procedures for the Resolution Assignment Committee. Do I have a second?

Renee Ohler:

Second

Steve Adams:

Renee Ohler, Second. Are there any discussion? Charlie Schmidt?

Charlie Schmidt:

Commander, I'm actually glad to see this topic surface because the American Legion operates by resolution. In Oregon, all resolution program, our resolution process... Well, I'm not sure how to describe it, but if you go back and look for previous resolutions, they're pretty hard to find. Resolutions are a historical document. It is a legal document. Where are they at in the Department of Oregon?

Charlie Schmidt:

Example, I sat on the National Resolutions Committee. All resolutions come into the headquarters are documented. They're given to the Resolution Committee, they're farmed out through to a Commission and or a Committee who acts on it, who passes it back through the Resolution Assignment or Resolutions Commission. When it goes to the floor the respective reports by the respective Commissions and Committees, the Resolution Committee is the one that presents that particular resolution from that particular Commission. There, the NEC votes on it. The Resolution Committee has the authority, if there's no understanding or misunderstanding by all seven members on that Committee, and by the way, our National Vice Commander, Rob, also sat on that, so did T. Les Galloway. But they have the authority, if it's not clear and a clear understanding, they can call in the Commission Chair and explain it. What are you really trying to say?

Charlie Schmidt:

They don't have the authority to ditch it, but they can recommend to the NEC that file and received or sent back for further study, but they NEC makes that final decision. So I think this refers to the Resolution Assignment Committee here in our Department, and Terry was right. It was really set up so the resolution to come into our Convention, the Resolution Assignment Committee, sends them to the respective Committees, Convention Committees. We're talking regular Committees. Standing Committees, not Convention Committees.

Charlie Schmidt:

So first of all, I think we ought to get rid of the Resolution Assignment Committee and make a full time standing resolution Committee. So for this DEC, if there was a resolution, it would have come through, went through the Committee, it would have been filed, it would have been documented, it would have been acted upon and it was filed for permanent history. **Secondly, I do not believe this Code of Procedures is the right place for paragraph five. That paragraph five should belong in the Department Constitution & Bylaws, because that is a directive. I don't think it's proper and even legal for the Code of Procedures of this Committee to tell everybody else how to run this Department.**

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Charlie. Do you have any comments? Okay, so who do I sign to drop a resolution to do that? Internal Affairs? Okay. Okay.

Steve Adams:

Charlie Schmidt, in consultation with a few of my cohorts up here, **we agree with you that a Code of Procedures for any particular Committee should not dictate to the rest of the Department what has to be done, and that does come under Constitution & Bylaws. That needs to be changed. Okay. Yes. Lou, you made the motion. Hmm? She seconded it. Okay.**

Renee Ohler:

Commander. District Two Commander. I withdraw my second.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander Lou Neubecker. I withdraw the motion.

Eugene Hellickson:

Okay. **The motion and second has been withdrawn.** I need to consult here a minute. Okay. After doing some looking into Robert's rules of order, this applies to the last motion that Terry made, and it was withdrawn. Now this motion being withdrawn. **Because they were withdrawn after the Commander read it to the crowd and we started to do the discussion, the withdrawal has to be approved by this group. A simple vote, yes or no. So we should have a vote to allow the withdrawal of this one, and then as soon as we're done with that one, I believe that we should go back and have the same vote to withdraw the motion that District 3 put up to be legal.**

Steve Adams:

Okay. Sounds good.

Eugene Hellickson:

That book is thick, and it took a while to find.

Steve Adams:

Okay, the **second and the motion has been withdrawn to accept the Code of Procedures. I've also entertained a motion to accept that withdrawal.**

Don Adams:

Commander, District 9. I make the motion that we allow the withdrawal of the motion.

Steve Adams:

Okay. **We have a motion made and seconded to allow the withdrawal. Any discussion? All in favor, say, "Aye."**

Everyone:

Aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed, motion carried. The motion to have District 7 and District 8 move forward. That was also the second and the motion withdrawn. I will entertain a motion to accept that withdrawal.

Jerry Patton:

District 3 makes motion.

Lou Neubecker:

Second

Steve Adams:

Okay. There's been a motion made to accept that withdrawal and a second to accept that withdrawal. Any discussion? All in favor, say, "Aye."

Everyone:

Aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed, motion carried. Okay. We got those taken care of. I also direct the Constitution, the Bylaws Committee, Chairman, Ward Allen to write a resolution for a Constitution & Bylaw change when it comes to the Code of Procedures and the timeframes be in there and not in the Code of Procedures. You're going to need to confer with some other Committees Commissions on that also. Okay? All right. You particularly need to confer with the Judge Advocate on that.

Eugene Hellickson:

I completely agree with what Commander Adams is proposing. However, **we have many Codes of Procedures that direct other Committees or Commissions that they have to do something. So this is opening up the proverbial can of worms. But what we need to do is all you Committee Chairs need to**

review your Codes of Procedures and decide whether they need to be changed. If your Code of Procedures is directing somebody else to do something the way, from my military background, you started out with a regulation. Told you what needed to be done. You went to a manual which told you how to do it. A policy to me is what we're telling you needs to be done, and a code of procedure just tells you how to do it, not directing you to do something that is not directly related to your particular Committee.

Eugene Hellickson:

So I would really **recommend that all the Committees, especially now that we got what? Four months, five months? So that when we get to the fall DEC, everybody's had a chance to go through their Codes of Procedures and we can get these changes taken care of.** Some of them are going to be required to make changes to the policies. As Commander Schmidt said, some of them are going to probably eventually cause changes to our bylaws. So there's something that we've needed to do for a long time and it opened up a can of worms. But I think it's a good can that got opened up and it's going to force us to do some things that have been needed to be done in a long time. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Okay. The next **report exigency** (Ad Hoc) report from Cory Brockmann. Cory, give a report.

Cory Brockmann:

Good morning. I am Cory Brockman. I'm the Chair of the **Exigency Action Committee and Ad Hoc Committee developed by Commander Adams.** Good morning, Commander Adams, members of the DEC and our honored guests. The Committee's Book of Reports... Well, the report is the report is in the Book of Reports. Like many of yours, I strongly encourage you to read it. I'm not going to read through my report, but Commander Steve asked that I give you an update on the Committee's activities. I will say that over the course of the last nine months, the charge of the Committee has evolved. The original charge of the Exigency Action Committee was how do we make whatever changes need to be made in order to conduct a Convention? That evolved down to how do we get elections done? That took place through discussions with Commander Adams because the Permanent Finance Committee Chair had tasked someone on their Committee to write a resolution on the Finance or the budget. Then the Chair of the Constitution Bylaws Committee was also charged with how do we get a Convention conducted so?

Cory Brockmann:

I will say that the report in the Book of Reports is a bit verbose, particularly on the first page. But jump to the second page. The charge really was what actions are needed? What recommendations do we make to this body? Then what resolutions as follow on activities need to be conducted? I will tell you that a **draft resolution has been submitted** to Commander Adams and Adjutant Phillips, and I believe that the resolutions were passed off to Chairman Terry. It does regard a change to our Department Constitution. It does pertain or include changes to our Department bylaws, and both of those actions require it to go to the Convention for passage by the full Convention delegation. I will just take a minute to give you an idea

of the updates. I'm not going to read the resolution to you, but it's been moved forward to Jane. One of the amendments is to the Department Constitution, article five, section one.

Cory Brockmann:

And since to the Department Constitution, article five, section one, we add additional language into that article that allows under exigency that this Department can conduct a virtual conference or Convention, and very simple and not to, to overstate the fact, but think of an emergency as if a fire started on this side of Post 45, that's the emergency? That's the flyer. What is our exigency? What is our plan? Should a fire happen? Is it to run to the bar and get a cold drink quick? Or is it to exit the building? Okay. It's those two terms are oftentimes confused with each other, but it's the exigency that we want to take action on in March of 2020, our Department of Oregon delegation to the Washington conference was returning home. The pandemic was already spreading from the far East, across Europe to our nation.

Cory Brockmann:

What was the emergency from March to the last full week of June? We had our Department Convention, there was perceived emergencies, but by the time we got home at delegation before the end of March, the governor took a number of actions and that was a basically shut down life as we knew it. You could perceive the emergency was something was going on that we don't know nothing about that problem we had as an organization was our exigency plan didn't exist. We had no means of conducting a Department Convention, conduct elections, pass a budget or any of those other things that have to happen at a Convention. quite simply the amendment that's proposed in resolution is an addition to article 5, subsection 1. And I'll read that in the event of such exigency, that Department Convention cannot be conducted where and daily scheduled the Department Executive Committee shall fix by vote a decision to conduct a virtual Convention by audio visual conference technology upon such dates commensurate with the exigency part of the Committee's review was the Oregon revised statutes, Article 65, subsection 205, the Oregon legislation was charged with reviewing and updating that statute.

Cory Brockmann:

They did that. It was passed and it was enacted by **Governor Brown signatures 2020, basically in a nutshell that says organizations such as ours can conduct business virtually and using electronic means.**

Cory Brockmann:

But, we were not in a position to where we could conduct the Convention last fall, even virtually it would have been nice. I said fall, but last summer, the other recommendation the Committee makes is that we do not define any further what an exigency is. Why handcuff ourselves an exigency? Does it need to receive a presidential declaration or a governor's declaration? **PDC Marsh has Committee on the Convention Committee. We could have everything lined out for a Convention.** And two days before that Convention, the building burns down or something to the plumbing happens. Do we go home and not

have a Convention? **So this amendment just allows us to conduct a virtual Convention.** And the reason we seek to approve the virtual Convention is there's a lot of detail in our Department, Constitution & Bylaws, and how a Convention gets conducted. Things have to happen. There's a lot that, that PDC Bob takes care of both have to have their Delegates voted on the Delegates, have to be approved, Posts, good standing have to be approved. All that stuff happens. A virtual Convention would allow all those preexisting timeframes and timelines to still happen. I can tell you that there's no perfect solution, but if virtual Convention would allow the conducting of our normal business under a Constitution bylaws,

Cory Brockmann:

Okay.

Cory Brockmann:

And the other **amendment does propose** is in the Department, bylaws article 5, section 1, and it's a language change. The other recommendation, I guess it should read the language, change to clarify it within article 5, section 1, we seek to replace community with the word Commission and I quote the registration fee for all authorized Delegates, alternates and Delegates at large, as it shall be determined by the Department Executive Committee shall be sent in accordance with the Convention Committee code of procedures. And we seek to have that word Committee change to Commission. I believe we have a Department Convention Commission code of procedures, but I've never seen us approve as a body, a Convention Committee code of procedure. So that's just a language change.

Cory Brockmann:

The fourth recommendation is to establish within the Convention Commission code of procedures upon further research and considerations. The means by which we can conduct electronic voting in accordance with statutory laws here in the state of Oregon, a virtual Department Convention conducted by a virtual audio visual conference technology and all we're talking to is whether you're using go-to meeting, teams, zoom there's any number of platforms to conduct that kind of business. The challenge would have last year going through the pandemic and conducting District meetings and firewall meetings is you've got any number of us with different hearing abilities. We know how to conduct business here. There's an order to the business you get on teleconferences and folks not used to speaking in teleconferences respectfully, don't have proper etiquette to be recognized by the Chair of that, that meeting. And so you get a lot of back chatter and echoing and you'll end up hearing at some point, what the heck and click right?

Cory Brockmann:

They drop off. So while a virtual Convention isn't ideal, it allows this body to conduct the required business. It needs to what the recommendation is follow on to this other Commission is to consider a electronic voting platform. They exist out there. You can go home and Google it. After this meeting, after lunch there's businesses that can be hired for a date for a number of dates, and they will conduct the voting for you along with the credentialing requirements that the state of Oregon will require. So here we

take a roll call, well, face to face that's part of the credentialing who's authorized to be here. It conducted votes, it happened. A virtual Convention would be the same thing we call on people and we recognize them by site and by voice electronic voting. How do you credential who is casting the Delegate votes for Post one 92?

Cory Brockmann:

And it's as simple as recognizing in advance just as a comrade Bob does in listing all the Posts and their Delegates strengths. We also have certified email addresses and it doesn't have to be special, but just who's that person that has the authority to conduct the Castle's votes. So I think there's a means, and the way it's recommended is that it gets included into the bylaws, but it's not a requirement that we do electronic voting. It's just first thing in the future. There's going to be a better way of conducting business if we're functioning under an exhibit event. And then the last slide, and I'll give you as a recommendation, we have is an amendment to the Department, bylaws article 7, and it adds a section 14, which doesn't currently exist. And I'll read that section 14 upon incidents of an exigency within virtual Department Convention or resolutions memorials, and other written submissions will be transferred via electronic transmission to the appropriate Committee and as deemed necessary and electronic voting platform be utilized in accordance with statutory law to conduct, collect, and document for record, all voting measures that be conducted.

Cory Brockmann:

It's kind of like the dominoes you've got the Constitution. If you think you're going to change one part of it, there's threads that go to any number of other sections or articles and sections. The bylaws are done. Similarly, this section 14 as a new section to the bylaws addresses items that exist within our, our Department of bylaws on how we transmit documents during Department Convention. So related to the earlier discussion Commander Adams, the resolution that was sent for us, if our Committee held that, which is our privilege, if we wanted to, we could show up at Department Convention and at the appropriate time, stand up and read that resolution. It actually, we can't even read that resolution because the bylaws of our Constitution says that I pass that resolution on and it goes directly to the Convention Committee to deal with. So that's the end of my report, unless there's any questions that I can answer to help anyone.

Steve Adams:

I would like to commend Cory and his community on all of the hard work they put in with this. I've also talked with Kevin Owens, Chairman of the permanent Finance Committee. **They have a resolution that will be coming up a Convention to be able to pass the budget and Convention and all these others.** So all of the ducks are in a row. What we didn't want to happen was it does get carried on to where we couldn't do anything until the 2022 Convention. We wanted it in place, timeframe, same place that we would be able to do to get this passed at this Convention. And all of the ducks are in a row. So thank you very much, Cory.

Lou Neubecker:

I didn't do it. Okay. Would you please stand? Yes.

Steve Adams:

There was a brought up to have a rep, have a resolution to be presented at this Convention to get to National that National needed to support us strongly support the Constitution in the United States of America as written. You as the Media and Communications Chairman are directed to do that and get that resolution to Convention for us to vote on, to be able to get to National. You need to use, utilize all input from the other Commissions in this Department, including Department Officers, Judge Advocate, whatever, get a lot of input your director to get it done.

Lou Neubecker:

So, okay.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Sir.

Steve Adams:

Now, if I remember correctly, you said something to me about a challenge.

Lou Neubecker:

I did

Steve Adams:

Why don't you proceed without the minister us District 1 Commander.

Lou Neubecker:

District 1 Commander, I was talking to a couple of people during the one the break we had today should have two, but that's okay. Nobody really knows about your project other than what the costs of the tickets are. So could you please explain the cost of the tickets, what you want to do when we sell out of tickets, how much money you want to raise? Okay. I'll put the challenge.

Steve Adams:

Okay. I will do that.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Mr. District 1 Commander. Okay. Where this all started is actually this all started on a fishing trip with my family and I promptly got told to put my money where my mouth is.

Steve Adams:

Put it in a little more colorful language, but okay. So what I come up with was the Commander's project. And I had this print. I have had it for probably 15 years and my other half, since we don't have any more room on the wall to hang anything, suggest that it come up. So I did some research. I found out what the print was worth, estimated value and my personal best charities for me is what benefits the American Legion Department of Oregon. And I'm heavily into children and youth and mentoring our youth in the community. So I come up with a Commander's project, a raffle, and that money goes to our children and youth program. The brand itself was worth about \$2,400. Second prize is \$300 cash. Third prizes, a hundred dollars cash. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. And all of the money goes to our children in youth programs. I've talked to our Foundation, president Kevin Owens told him what I wanted to do. And his comment to me was give me the money it'll get done.

Steve Adams:

So that's what's going on. Does anybody have any other questions?

Lou Neubecker:

Yes, Sir. You did not answer my question. How much money are you going to raise when you sell all the tickets?

Steve Adams:

And I am looking to raise \$15,000 for this. Now you can do it by buying tickets for the raffle. You can also do it to the Commanders project by donations.

Lou Neubecker:

Okay. Thank you, Sir. So you want to raise 15,000?

Steve Adams:

I want to raise \$15,000.

Lou Neubecker:

And how much is the ticket sales going to bring it right?

Steve Adams:

Close to 10 grand. Okay.

Lou Neubecker:

So I make a challenge to every DEC member to donate \$50 to the Commanders project.

Steve Adams:

Thank you. Now you can also do that in addition to buying chances to win the print. I know you did, and I'm going to hit you up for more Lou. **The tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.**

Steve Adams:

On this **Resolution that you've been assigned to do. Get together with Ed to just right off the top of my head... These are the following people who joined me. Everybody's sitting at the front table, Terry Brown, John Lee, Cory Brockmann, Mike Jones, Charlie Smith, and anybody else who wants, thank you to the heavy hitters.**

Don Weber:

I'd like you to take a minute to confirm some District Caucus stuff. **District 8, April 13th, 1900 Department headquarters. Is that correct?**

Ed Mathews:

First I've heard of it.

Don Weber:

You don't know if you're having your District meeting on April 13th?

Ed Mathews:

We are.

Don Weber:

Okay. At Department headquarters.

Ed Mathews:

Yes, Sir.

Speaker 13:

Okay. District 7, April 17. 1200 hours F and J Raven at two o'clock 1400. Thank you. District 6, April 17th, 1300 Milton-Freewater. District 5, April 24th, 1200 Prineville Meeting starts at 1300. District 4, April 25th, 1300 hours. Grants pass also by zoom. And what time does the meeting actually start? 1300. District 10 May 1st 1000 mountain daylight time, Ontario. District 2 May 2nd, Carlton Post 1200 is actually for lunch and 1300 for the meeting. District 1 May 8th, 1130 meeting at 1300 Aloha. District 3 May 8th, 1200 lunch 1300 for meeting Santiam Post 51. District 9 May 8th, 1200 hours in Roseburg. Perfect. Is that lunch or, or meeting?

Don Weber:

Are you doing lunch at 12 and the meeting.

Don Adams:

Yes

Don Weber:

Okay. Thank you.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander Lou Neubecker District 1, 1st Vice District 1, all the candidates have already spoke other than the NECs. So if they would just want to go to District 3, that would be great with us.

Don Weber:

We've been talking about,

Steve Adams:

Okay, we're going to take a **short 10 minute break and then be back and finish our business.**

Steve Adams:

Okay, we will finish up business. We'll move on to the next agenda item. Department Adjutant will give his report.

Flynn Phillips:

Commander, my report is in the Book of Reports, but I wanted to bring your attention to some of the Posts that are probably looking for that Consolidated Post Report on the website under MyLegion. It has been withdrawn until that piece gets fixed. So, Mary has sent out the paper copy already for the CPR. You might want to just go ahead and fill those out and be ready because we really don't know when that CPR

part is kind of going back to the MyLegion. It will at some point, but just be noted that. So, that's all I have. Thank you.

Bob Huff:

Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Flynn. Next item on the agenda. The next Department Executive Committee meeting will be held on June 25th, 2021. The Pre-Convention DEC will be 3:00 PM at Seven Feathers Casino in Canyonville, Oregon. June 25th.

Bob Huff:

22nd is Tuesday. 23rd is Wednesday.

Steve Adams:

So it's going to be on when?

Bob Huff:

Wednesday at 1500 on the 23rd.

Steve Adams:

Okay. The pre-Convention DEC will be Wednesday, the 23rd at 1500 or 3:00 PM.

Flynn Phillips:

Chaplain standing by, Chaplain standing by. Take two.

Steve Adams:

So that is the announcement. The next DEC is at our Convention. Okay. The Posts, when you leave here as soon as this meeting is over, Post 45, we'll be serving lunch. And from what I understand from the Sergeant-at-Arms, it's going to be either hamburgers or chicken strips.

No, Sir. When we serve chicken and when we had had it the coast, we see how many seagulls were left. The Air Force checks to see how many went through the engines. Is there any further business to come before this meeting? Charlie Schmidt.

Charlie Schmidt:

Just like to say, actually it's been a great weekend. And I think it's kind of getting swollen, kind of stove it up in the cause of the virus yesterday. We got` the question, our candidates or Department Offices.

Yeah, we haven't really gotten to do that. And I think that gave those, that present a better idea of those candidates, their basis for this Department. Very good. You saw camaraderie, compassion, and charity with our donations. So looking at the future of this Department internally and externally, we got work to do, of course, but I say it's a feeling of teamwork coming together. I think more so than maybe in, sometimes in the past, we've heard from our Service Officer about something that is probably troubling to many of us in American today, our Constitution, that in our preamble, our founding fathers, the US Constitution. And I think it's timing is perfect right now we have a Department Convention coming up and we have a Department Convention coming up for Oregon to get a Resolution in place passed at our Convention and get to the National headquarters in time for the Resolutions Assignment Committee to farm it out to staff it out.

And I would guess venture to say that there'll probably be more than one rest of the machine on the same subject from some other Departments. I think our Legislative Commission should be directly involved in drafting our Resolution because they also have connections to their Legislative Council, the grassroots that are representing right here in the state of Oregon. So, happy weekend.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Charlie. **This weekend and I made a comment at the banquet last night. When The American Legion was first formed 1919, 1920, they were going through an epidemic at that time called the Spanish flu. The Department of Oregon in 1920, had a membership of almost 16,000. By 1923, it had dropped to under 9,000, and it was specifically attributed to the Spanish flu problem. And what are those members do at that time? They did not give up. They pulled up themselves up in their bootstraps and said, "This organization is not going to fail." I saw the same camaraderie coming on this weekend, the same situation, and was extremely happy to see it.**

Lou Neubecker:

Lou Neubecker District 1. The question for the Judge Advocates through me, Sir. On Terry's Resolution, you were actually making the most on the verbiage that he was changing. Is that not correct, Sir?

Eugene Hellickson:

On the Code of Procedures.

Yes.

Lou Neubecker:

Should we not vote on his verbiage?

Eugene Hellickson:

Yes, the motion was made. Correct?

Steve Adams:

But then it was retracted.

Eugene Hellickson:

That was withdrawn.

Steve Adams:

What's going to happen is, eventually, that's going to happen. But it is going to happen with the Constitution and Bylaws change.

Lou Neubecker:

Okay .

Steve Adams:

You may want to sit down now. Is there any further business to come before this meeting? Uncover, the Chaplain will offer a prayer.

Chaplain Bob Huff:

As we depart from one another, may God bless us and keep us and do His gracious protection we commit ourselves. May He be near us to defend us, with us, to refresh us, around us, to preserve us, before us, to guide us, behind us, to justify us, and above us, to bless us, and keep us all from evil. Safe travels. Amen.

Steve Adams:

Cover. 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 be ever watchful on the honor of our

country, our organization, and our ourselves that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom and democracy. Facing colors of our country. Hand salute. Two. **I now declare this meeting of the Department of Oregon, Spring Department Executive Committee meeting, adjourned.**

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', written in a cursive style.

S. Flynn Phillips

Adjutant