



102nd Department Convention Meeting Minutes

Planning Session Friday June 25th, 8:30 a.m.

**June 24th, 2021
Canyonville Oregon
09:21 P.M.**

**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**

Flynn Phillips :

Planning Session Friday June 25th, 8:30 a.m. American Legion State Convention [inaudible 00:00:24]
Canyonville, Oregon. [crosstalk 00:00:24]

Speaker 3:

[crosstalk 00:00:24] [crosstalk 00:00:24] [crosstalk 00:00:24]

Speaker 3:

Yeah.

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:00:25]

Steve Adams:

Sergeant of Arms [inaudible 00:01:08] will you close the door to the convention hall.

Steve Adams:

I now call this 102nd Department Convention reconvened. As the colors of our country have been placed in the position of honor to my right, hand salute. Would you please stand and salute? Two. Uncover, Chaplain, we'll offer prayer.

Steve Shollenburg:

Gracious Heavenly Father, we come before you, again, during our Convention. We just ask You to bless the leaders. Bless our members today as we go through our meeting, make sure that it is according to Your will, Father. We pray this in your name. Amen.

Steve Adams:

Amen.

Group:

Amen.

Steve Adams:

Covered. (silence)

Steve Adams:

We will now have the report of the Commission Committees, and presentation of trophies and awards. Reports from the Committee on Committees meeting will now be given. The first committee, A&A...

Charlie Schmidt:

Commander, delegates, Chairman Mike Jones is unable to give his report today. He's returning home under the weather, very ill. A&A has nothing to report. The [inaudible 00:03:36] report was given at the pre-convention DEC, therefore, Commander that concludes our report.

Steve Adams:

Americanism Committee

Cory Brockmann:

Good morning. I am Cory Brockmann, and I was appointed the Chair of the Americanism Committee. Our meeting convened at 1400 hours in the alcove outside the Juniper Room on the 24th of June. We had a great discussion on Junior Shooting and the Scouting Program. There is continued interest in Junior Shooting in Archery, but no action is being taken. A great discussion on the Scouting Program. We've had no Eagle Scout the last two years, and a recommendation was made to the Scout Committee Chair, who is present, on recommending changes to the Code of Procedures on how they may make some changes and have an Eagle Scout for our department, even if they're not eligible for the national program.

We spoke on general discussion oratorical[inaudible 00:05:05] baseball and law enforcement career camp. We do make a recommendation to Roseburg, Post 60, to consider recognizing Mahalla Norris, U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, and the first national champion in her fifth attempt [inaudible 00:05:24] at the Steeplechase two weeks ago. She was named the National Champion. She's a native of Roseburg, Oregon, and a high school graduate from Roseburg, and so we recommend maybe they'd consider contacting her family to pay her dues, and getting her into the American Legion. There are no resolutions to bring forth before this general body. Our committee thanks Ann Everetts for serving as our committee secretary, and Commander I make a recommendation and make a motion that we dissolve this committee.

Steve Adams:

I would entertain a motion to dissolve...

Don Weber:

Commander, he made the motion. I will second the motion to dissolve the committee.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion to dissolve the committee. We have a second. Any discussion?

Kevin Owens:

Commander, I was just wondering. Do we have any awards for the Americanism Commission? We will need to have time to [inaudible 00:06:29] give those awards out.

Steve Adams:

Just a minute. Do we have it? Yeah.

Kevin Owens:

So dissolving a Commission that has not completed their task.

Flynn Phillips:

Committee on Committee.

Steve Adams:

What I have on the script is

We're not [inaudible 00:06:42]. Cory, do we have any boys state certificates to issue?

Cory Brockmann:

Commander Adams, I am not the American Commission chair or the vice chair. I was just the [inaudible 00:07:06]. I'm happy to make a report [inaudible 00:07:06]. [inaudible 00:07:06]

Steve Adams:

[inaudible 00:07:06] Ian?

Ian Gerstel:

Yes, sir. [inaudible 00:07:06] [inaudible 00:07:06] Boys State is finishing up this week. Certificates will be sent out to eleven boys [inaudible 00:07:38]

Steve Adams:

Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Larry?

Steve Adams:

Do you have any for Boy Scouts.

Larry Wittmayer:

Yes we do [inaudible 00:07:06]

Steve Adams:

I now call on Larry Wittmayer. [crosstalk 00:07:37]

Kevin Owens:

Point of order you didn't vote on [inaudible 00:07:37] the motion on the floor.

Bob Huff:

You have a motion on the floor.

Steve Adams:

We're finishing up the business before we vote on it.

Don Weber:

But you have an open motion

I think they have it on the motion to cancel [inaudible 00:08:12] or something.

Don Weber:

Gene? Gene what are we doing with that motion so we can take care of the rest of business before we decide to vote?

Gene:

We make a motion.

Steve Adams:

To dissolve the committee, the Convention Committee.

Gene Hellickson:

We don't have anybody here. We don't have anybody here that knows about [inaudible 00:08:44], and so I think that it would be appropriate in this case [inaudible 00:08:50]. [inaudible 00:08:54]

Steve Adams:

Okay. That makes sense. All right.

Steve Adams:

Well, that's what we're doing partially now.

Gene Hellickson:

I guess we can wait until we're done with the trophies and awards, and then dissolve it. [crosstalk 00:09:16]

Speaker 3:

You need to dissolve the Convention Committee.

Bob Huff:

I need [crosstalk 00:09:29].

Gene Hellickson, Steve Adams:

Technically, because the motion is there we got to [inaudible 00:09:36] motion. [inaudible 00:09:39] and the actual awarding [inaudible 00:09:45] [crosstalk 00:09:45] That's kind of the reason for that. [crosstalk 00:10:00] [crosstalk 00:10:08] Yeah, but that's the phrase.

Gene Hellickson:

We want to table the motion. Somebody can table the motion. Okay? So we want to table the motion, and still-

Speaker 3:

We have the awards on the table.

Steve Adams:

Pending presentation of the awards.

Steve Adams:

I'll make a motion. I'm sure we can get somebody to second it.

Don Weber:

Commander?

Steve Adams:

The Chair recognizes Don Weber for [inaudible 00:10:41].

Don Weber:

Don Weber, first vice. I make a motion to table the motion to dissolve the Americanism Commission Convention Committee until completion of the awards presentation.

Steve Adams:

Do I have a second?

Kevin Owens:

Commander, [inaudible 00:10:58], second it.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion and a second to table the motion to dissolve the Americanism Commission. Any discussion?

Gene Hellickson:

No, there is no discussion.

Gene Hellickson:

It's a non-discussable motion.

Stee Adams:

Okay.

Steve Adams:

All in favor, say aye.

Group:

Aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed? The motion carries

I now call on Larry Wittmayer for the certificates and awards for the Boy Scouts.

Larry Wittmayer:

We're going to do this down front, rather than have him come up on the stage. The first award would be... First off, these awards are awarded to posts that sponsor Scout units and evaluation of their program. I'd like to say, and I've said this already, but I'd like to reiterate it. We've gone from 19 chartered units now to 43 in three years.

Larry Wittmayer:

That's 194% increase.

Speaker 3:

Good job, Larry.

Larry Whittmayer:

So with regard to the Cub Scout award, that post that sponsors a Cub Scout pack, and the winner is Beaverton Post 124.

Flynn Phillips:

District One.

Larry Wittmayer:

We'll see about that.

Flynn Phillips:

I'll tell you later.

Larry Wittmayer:

He's going to take away [inaudible 00:13:40].

Larry Wittmayer:

I know. [inaudible 00:13:40] All right.

Cory Brockmann:

Can you hold a... Is there a certificate or something?

Speaker 3:

Yeah.

Cory Brockmann:

Could you hold that up where you can see and photograph it? Thanks. [crosstalk 00:13:58]

Larry Wittmayer:

We're going to do the same thing because the winner of the Scouts BSA, as you well know, it's not Boy Scouts of America anymore, the Scouts BSA award goes to Albany Post 10.

Don Weber:

Junior Shooting Sports.

Steve Adams:

Dan Evers. He's sitting right over there.

Commander Adams:

Okay. Mr. Evers?

Dan Evers:

Yes?

Don Weber:

You have some awards.

Dan Evers:

Oh, I [inaudible 00:15:15].

Dan Evers:

Okay. I'm [inaudible 00:15:15].

Don Weber:

Is there a community service award?

Flynn Phillips:

Yeah. There is.

Don Weber:

Who gets that?

Flynn Phillips:

We'd have to ask Judy. She's the awards lady. Either that, or the Commander can.

Bob Huff:

Commander, I'd like to be excused. I'm going to go over and get the award. [inaudible 00:15:56]

Don Weber:

Please.

Speaker 3:

Yeah. Put your name [inaudible 00:16:05].

Dan Evers:

I also got the Americanism Awards [inaudible 00:16:05].

Don Weber:

Okay.

Dan Evers:

Okay, Junior Marksmanship Award for 2021, Ray Crawford, Post 44.

Dan Evers:

44 isn't here, so so Dist. 5 I'll take it [inaudible 00:16:37] I'll take it for him.

Dan Evers:

Since Cory's the acting Americanism, and he's got a suit on... I was supposed to have one more award, but I don't [crosstalk 00:17:20].

DanEvers:

I'll give it to him in the morning.

Speaker 3:

Okay, and you get the Americanism, too. [crosstalk 00:17:25]

Speaker 3:

Step in there. Let's see the award.

Speaker 3:

Okay, so I'm going to announce it first.

Cory Brockmann:

We got the Oratorical Scholarship Post Award goes to Travis Moothart, Post 184. The award reads in recognition of outstanding dedication and support in sponsoring the 2021 Department Oratorical winner, Katelyn Lafayette, Central Lynn High School, and to the Department of Oregon's Oratorical Program. Congratulations, John. [inaudible 00:18:05] Thank you.

Speaker 3:

Thank you. Let's do another one. [inaudible 00:18:18]

Speaker from Post 184:

I just want to say thank you to the Department for the \$100 that we got from this.

Greg Marvin:

All right. Right here. Okay, the Americanism Awards. [inaudible 00:18:33], Travis... Don't go away, John. Come back. Travis Moothart Post 184, post membership size 15 to 100. In recognition for outstanding work, your members of programs, the American Legion in benefiting our committee, community, state, and nation.

Greg Marvin:

The Department of Oregon Americanism Award, Harney County Post 63, membership size 101 to 250.

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Speaker 3:

Good job. [crosstalk 00:19:34]

Cory Brockmann:

Open that up where we can see it.

Cory Brockmann:

I'm going to have you step one [inaudible 00:19:42]. [crosstalk 00:19:44] Are you ready? On one, two...
Take one more. Okay. Hold that.

Speaker from Post 63:

Thank you, gentleman.

Don Weber:

Congratulations. You got one more?

Speaker 3:

Two more. What are you talking about? Do you have the Community Service Awards?

Greg Marvin:

Community Service Award.

Greg Marvin:

I merit this award. Their post size 251 to 500, Seaside Post 99. Two rings in a row? Congratulations.

Greg Marvin:

There's another Award [inaudible 00:20:41]. I merit this award for membership from 501 to 750, Albany Post 10.

Cory Brockmann:

Right in the middle there.

Don Weber:

Congratulations. Thank you.

Speaker 3:

We had four Eagle Scouts and 58 [inaudible 00:21:19] Eagle Scouts this year.

Speaker 3:

Outstanding. Good work. Good job.

Speaker 3:

All right. Thank you.

Don Weber:

Thank you, John.

Don Weber:

Judy Johnson, Community Service Awards.

Don Weber:

Community Service? [crosstalk 00:21:48] His outpost.

Don Weber:

Public Relations is next up. [crosstalk 00:21:57] I'm going to read these off. These are the winners of the Public Relations Awards. Okay?

Charlie Schmidt:

I'm on deck right now. Yeah. So after I give my report, I'll [inaudible 00:22:29]. Okay?

Charlie Schmidt:

Thank you, Commander. Public Relations Committee met yesterday at 1:00 p.m. We did not have any resolutions, but we did discuss public relations in general. Public relations is our post connecting with the community, also with our own post members, our auxiliary members, and, of course, the sons. It's important that we stay connected to our members, particularly, as we hope they get to the end of this pandemic. Somehow even though we may not be able to go to meetings, have the social distancing, somehow we got to use the media sources available to us to stay connected with our members. We're going to outgrow this pandemic here pretty soon, so in the meantime, there are many resources that

you can use, multimedia. There's also electronic media and, of course, the post newsletter. I've noticed the rise, thank goodness, in post newsletters.

Some of them are becoming very informative, and I think there's another category for the post newsletters, but we also discussed the upcoming trip of the National Commander coming to Oregon on June 28th through July 3rd, and in preparation of that, our standing committee did prepare a media advisory, which was distributed to just about every media outlet in Oregon, and interestingly, many sources paid attention. So when the National Commander visits about 10 posts, and some VA campuses, and I don't know if there will be any media at the Willamette National Cemetery, but the media is out there looking for information, learning about the American Legion, so I encourage you to use your media resources in your community, and there's the list of media resources.

It's an extensive spreadsheet. It'll give you every television station, every radio station, every newspaper, and individual reporters, and if you need that, I can share that with you. That concludes our report on our Convention Committee. At this time, I would like to present some Public Relations Awards. I might add that there are four categories based on post population. I'm happy to report that 31 folks did respond to tell us what they're doing in their public relations in relation to their post. Category one is based on 15 members to 150 members. Commander, if you have the plaque down there...

Steve Adams:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Charlie Schmidt:

... if Carl Memorial [inaudible 00:26:49] 173 would come forward...

Charlie Schmidt:

For category two, which is membership from 151 to 300, if Stayton Post 58 would come forward, please...

Speaker 3:

Here you go, Bob.

Charlie Schmidt:

Good job, Stayton.

Speaker 3:

Good job.

Charlie Schmidt:

For category three with membership 301 to 450, is there a representative here from La Pine 45? Come on down.

Charlie Schmidt:

Good job 45. Our last category is category four for post memberships of 451 and more. Albany 10, come on down.

Charlie Schmidt:

Way to go number 10! I just want to give you some statistics on our PR awards nominations. For category one, we had 24 posts that submitted nominations. Category two had five submissions. For category three, we had one, and for category four we had one. Now, if you break that down then by districts, district one submitted three nominations. District two submitted seven. District three submitted five. District four submitted three. District five submitted four. District six one, and district seven three; district eight one, and district nine three, and district 10 one for a total of 31, so keep up the good work. Let's use our media to our advantage. They need to hear what the American Legion family is doing, and you all are doing good things every day. Don't be bashful. Share and perhaps we'll reach some veterans that may be convinced by reading what you do to join our ranks.

Commander, this is my [inaudible 00:32:06] reporting for the Public Relations. I already said I had no resolutions.

Don Weber:

Dissolution of the Convention Committee.

Charlie Schmidt:

Commander, I move that the Public Relations Convention Committee be dissolved.

Don Weber:

Sir, a great report.

Don Weber:

Do I hear a second?

Lou Neubecker:

Second.

Don Weber:

You've made a motion and a second to dissolve the Public Affairs Committee. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed say nay. The motion carries.

Charlie Schmidt:

Thank you, Commander.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. I'll call on Bob Huff for the VA&R Report.

Bob Huff:

Good morning and welcome to our convention. I'm Bob Huff. I was the Convention Chairman for the VA&R. We met yesterday in the Azalea Room 1420 hours for those of you who weren't in the Army or the Marine Corps, that's 2:20 in the afternoon. We had six members present. We had no resolutions presented. We did have considerable discussions. As with some of our committees, we have been locked down due to COVID, and not being able to hold events this year. We had quite a bit of discussion because the VA&R [inaudible 00:33:42] does the service office, which we have an excellent service office staff here, and we do the VADS at our veteran's areas. We met until 1449 hours yesterday.

We did have a lot of discussion about holding future events, and the activities that have been going on here. [crosstalk 00:34:12] We had some discussion on the GI Bill as one of our members had questions, and we actually had an expert who was with us who was able to answer. We have awards for the VA&R. The Chairman for the VA&R, as most of you know, Jim Willis, who's a great member of our organization, passed away, so I will be doing [inaudible 00:34:31]. As I call you, if you could please come up to the Commander at the American Flag, and I'm going to ask you to carry the awards over there after I read them.

Speaker 3:

Okay.

Bob Huff:

Our first, the Rehabilitation Award, and we did have a lot of submittals this year, and we had some very, very good submittals. For a post rehabilitation award for a post size of 15 to 100 is Mt Angel Post 89. Our post award for a post 101 to 500 is Harney County Post 63.

Flynn Phillips:

Harney County

Bob Huff:

Our post award for a post of 500 and up is Albany Post 10. You're also doing the Community Service Award this year, and there were also a lot of submittals. This is all good because that's what we all do. Our first is post size 15 to 100, Travis Moothart Post 184. Post size 101 to 250 for the Community Service Award is Harney County Post 63. Post size 251 to 500 for the Community Service Award is Seaside Post 99.

Bob Huff:

For post size 501 to 750, the Community Service Award is Albany Post 10.

Bob Huff:

Commander, I move that VA&R crosstalk 00:37:57] Convention Commission be dissolved.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. There's been a motion. Is there a second?

Lou Neubecker:

Second.

Don Weber:

Motion and a second to dissolve the VA&R Convention Committee. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by nay. The motion carries. I'd like to call on the Chaplain for the Convention Committee Report.

Steve Shollenburg:

All awards for the Chaplain and the Back to God [inaudible 00:38:34] will be given out at the banquet, and I make a motion that the Committee be dissolved.

Don Weber:

There's been a motion. Is there a second?

Lou Neubecker:

Second.

Don Weber:

Motion is seconded to dissolve the Chaplain Convention Committee. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Commander Adams:

Opposed signify by saying nay. The motion carries.

Children and Youth... Judy, do you have some awards and a report?

Judy Johnson:

I'm not children [inaudible 00:39:29] yet.

Judy Johnson:

Jon Marsh is.

Lou Neubecker:

He's in the SAL.

Don Weber:

Okay. We may have to delay theirs. [inaudible 00:39:54]

Constitution and bylaws.

Lou Neubecker:

My name is Lou Neubecker. I'm the Internal Affairs Chair for the Department. Ward Allen is our chairman for the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for the Convention, and he is in the SAL meeting. We met yesterday at 1:45. There was 11 members present. We had three resolutions. We started off with resolution D01 amendment to the Department Constitution and Bylaws on elections. There was a motion made to accept the resolution. It was seconded by Adam, and there was no discussion, and it passed unanimously. Resolution D2, the procedure to adopt the budget [inaudible 00:41:16] event on the interruption of the Department Convention was sent to the Resolution Committee because it was not approved by the Resolution Committee before it came to us. So we sent that back to the Resolution Committee.

Resolution D03, the merger of districts seven and eight; there was a motion to accept the resolution by Adam Gitman. The motion was seconded by Robert Hornbecker [inaudible 00:41:47], and after probably 30 minutes of discussion, it was voted to approve the Resolution; nine yeses, one nay, and one abstention, and then at that time the Resolution Committee sent back Resolution D02 to adopt the budget under the event of the interruption of the Department Convention. The Resolution Committee approved it, sent it back to us. It was accepted. To accept by Adam Gitman, it was seconded by myself, after discussion. There was a lot of discussion because it just kept saying mail, mail. So we had them to get ahold of the adjutant [inaudible 00:42:46], and have them add the words or electronic transmission with of in the first result, and then we added or electronic transmission in the third result was the motion was made by Terry Dennis.

I just blew that name, Ray. After discussion, it was passed unanimously. There was no other business to take care of, so we adjourned at 2:37. At this time Commander, I make the motion to dissolve the Convention Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Don Weber:

Do you have any awards?

Greg Marvin:

Second to the motion.

Don Weber:

There has been a motion and a second to dissolve the committee. Any discussion?

Kevin Owens:

Commander, Kevin Owens, [inaudible 00:43:37] deleted now to this convention. That resolution for the adopt the budget was the Permemnt of Finance, and second it's against the State constitution, State to do electronic voting.

Don Weber:

So the resolutions will have to [crosstalk 00:43:58] for discussion on voting on those [crosstalk 00:44:01]-

Kevin Owens:

All right. That would come to the Permanent Finance, and that is [inaudible 00:44:04], and so again, If your going to adopt [inaudible 00;44;14] I recommend you amend that because you cannot do electronic voting in the State of Oregon. It's against-

Bob Huff:

It's against the law.

Kevin Ellis:

... the Constitution of the State.

Speaker 3:

No. It's not.

Speaker 3:

Okay.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. [crosstalk 00:44:29] Okay. So there has been a motion and a second to dissolve the Committee. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by nay. The motion carries. Thank you.

Don Weber:

[inaudible 00:44:53] The Permanent Finance Committee Report.

Kevin Owens:

The Convention Finance Committee met on June 24th, 2021 at 1:55. The Convention Center Seven Feathers Canyonville, Oregon [inaudible 00:45:47]. The following members were present; Bob Gnos

[00:45:51] Post Six, Mike Sowles Post 58, Jared Enman Post 79, guest [inaudible 00:45:56] Betty Fish-Ferguson, a member of the Permanent Finance Commission, and we also had Luke Dosky, and myself Kevin Owens PDC [inaudible 00:46:04] Post 34's chairman. The budget for the 2021-22 budget was discussed, and how it was prepared with a good discussion with the members present. The Chairman was asked if there'd be a dues increase, and after much discussion, it could be a possibility in the future if membership continues to decline. A motion was made and seconded to approve the annual budget for 2021 and 2022, and bring the Convention forward for approval.

Chairman, we discussed the resolution of D02, the procedure to adopt the budget in the future of the Interruption for the Department Convention. Being no questions, the motion was made and seconded to approve for Resolution D02 to bring to the Convention for their approval. Everyone was thanked for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. As a duly elected delegate to this convention, I move the actions, which need to be the actions of the convention. As a duly elected delegate of this convention, I so move.

Don Weber:

Is there a second?

Speaker A number of voices

Second

Don Weber:

There's been a motion and a... Do we take the motion? Accept the report.

Kevin Owens:

To accept the report as written.

Don Weber:

So there's been a motion and a second to accept the report as read. Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by nay. The motion carries. Thank you.

Kevin Owens:

Commander, just so that we're clearly understood, that we just passed the budget. Do you realize that? Because I know that last year and the last convention there was some confusion. I can tell you. Membership cannot continue to decline at 3,000 members in the last two years, over 3,000. It's not just the last two years. It's been every year that we've been losing around 1,500 to 1,600. I know that we talked about membership. We get tired of hearing about it, but it is one of our sole drivers for money to our Department, and I'll tell you. There's one thing that we won't do is cut programs. That means that we're going to start laying employees off. If it continues, we will not have a Department headquarters. We just cannot afford it. So please take this serious. I mean, take it to heart that we've got to get membership.

If every one of us in this room would get at least one member, just in this room, we'd be on the plus side. This year we're going to lose over \$30,000 in revenue for this department. We've got to do everything possible in this next year to mitigate any huge increase, but if we don't continue to see some increase, we're going to have to [inaudible 00:48:53]. It's inevitable. We don't want to do that. So please, work on that. So our resolution, I'm going to talk about it because this is going to read on the floor. The reason we're doing this is because we had an interruption. We didn't have a connection last year. In our Constitution, it says we cannot adopt a budget... The Executive Committee cannot adopt a budget because it's up to you as delegates to this convention to adopt a budget.

So we need to do that, and the thing about electronic, everybody, you cannot electronically have election of officers, and you cannot do the budget. You can't do any of that electronically. It's against the State statutes. We looked into this. The auxiliary looked into it. Even our National President looked into this even the past national president, so we cannot do it, so we have to do it a certain way. I know everybody doesn't want the mail because electronic is easier, but it's just the way we're going to have to do it until something happens in the State. With that, [inaudible 00:49:56] the floor. I want to talk about last night, just briefly, the Foundation Meeting, the Foundation Fix that we had last night. I thought it was wonderful. I want to thank all you for bidding on stuff, and I really want to thank Cory Brockman and Catherine for what they did.

They set the tables up. I just did what I should do as the President, and got in the way with people who know what they're doing, so Cory, thank you very much, wherever you are. I can't see you.

Thank Catherine, and thank you. I want to thank all the members of the Foundation. We are an independent of the American Legion. We function independently, and those members that brought gifts and money out of their own pocket to do this, we take no money. We take no money for coming to conventions. We take no money to DEC's, but all those gifts came out of everybody's pocket, so we are 100%, and you can tell people when they give to the American Legion Foundation, that 100% of their money goes to help veteran's programs, our programs, so thank you, and Bob's going to give a report because he's our secretary, or I mean our treasurer of our Foundation, and we made some money, and it's all because of you.

I want to thank you. We're going to have corn hole again. I hate to use that word, corn holing again. [crosstalk 00:51:14] Commander, I request permission to dissolve this committee.

Don Weber:

Does he have to give his report?

Kevin Owens:

That was the Foundation.

Don Weber:

That's the Foundation?

Kevin Owens:

That was my report. The Finance Committee, I would request you to dissolve.

Don Weber:

He's part of the Finance Committee.

Bob Huff:

No. No. I'm not, actually.

Speaker 3:

Okay.

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:51:14]

Don Weber:

Is there a second?

Speaker A group of voices:

Second.

Group:

Second.

Don Weber:

The motion is seconded to dissolve the Finance Convention Committee. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed say nay. The motion carries. Thank you. Bob Huff, thank you, sir.

Bob Huff:

Commander? I only like to talk [inaudible 00:51:48]. I going to give the money from last night. I would like to put up a big thank you to our chaplain, Steve Shollenburg, who did the [inaudible 00:52:00] term corn hole. He made all of the wood stuff, and all of these beautiful stands the flags are sitting in, he also made those. I mean, just thank you. Okay, from last night, we were having a lot of fun. Just from the silent auction, the stuff on the table, and as I did [inaudible 00:52:27] to win, I took the money off.

Bob Huff:

Thank you for not putting... Keep your hand down.

Bob Huff:

We made \$2,060 off that table. From the Corn Hole Tournament, another \$360, and the donation drive was another 22. We actually came out with \$2,442.00 last night.

Speaker 3:

Nice.

Bob Huff:

Just as a side note as we're having these discussions, wouldn't it be great if we have our DEC's on Saturday afternoon and have a Corn Hole Tournaments, and just continue this tradition? Commander.

Don Weber:

Did you have a committee to dissolve?

Bob Huff:

No.

Don Weber:

Okay.

Bob Huff:

I'm just giving positive.

Don Weber:

Okay.

Speaker 3:

Commander, [inaudible 00:53:24] book is right there.

Don Weber:

Well, there's a book that's got one less. There's a [crosstalk 00:53:39] list here, and then we're supposed to cover all of the convention committees, which aren't listed on any of those. So we have missed the Membership of Post Activities Convention Committee. Larry, do you have a report for them? I assume you have some awards, also.

Larry Whitmyer:

Yes. I do.

Don Weber:

Any that are presented here?

Larry Whitmyer:

No.

Don Weber:

Okay.

Larry Whitmyer:

But I'd like to make a report out here first.

Bob Huff:

Yes, please do. Thank you.

Larry Whitmyer:

Well, I've got a lot of awards to give out, but I'd like to make a report on the Convention Commission first. We had 14 members at that meeting. We started at 2:15 in the afternoon over here in the corner of this room, and also, I'd like to reiterate that this is not only membership, but it's post activities. Some of the things that were brought up were ways that we can renew members when they can't afford it, and some discussion was made about possibly posts paying their membership fees, and other recommendations, and so that was discussed. We also came up with the obvious thing, and that is with regard to new and renewals. It has to be a face-to-face operation in most cases. When you look someone in the eye, it's hard for them to say no.

Phone calls are good. We also need because of post activities the things we need to, as Charlie brought up, we need to advertise what we're doing. We need to show our face, and then they're going to come. So if we build it, they'll come. Okay. I have a considerable amount of membership awards to give out, and so at this point, I'm going to go downstairs and do that. Let me do it in the order that I have. Okay? What have you got?

Don Weber:

Larry? You said you had several awards to hand out?

Larry Whitmyer:

I've got a bucket full.

Don Weber:

Okay. Let's go into recess here. We'll reconvene at 9:50.