



**Department Convention Pre-DEC Meeting Minutes
June 23rd, 2021
Canyonville Oregon
3:00 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**

Don Weber:

Please note the colors of our country have been placed in the position to my right. Hand salute. Order arms. All guests and members in attendance shall remain standing with their cap removed and placed over their heart from the opening prayer through the pledge of allegiance and concluding with the POW MIA Ceremony. Chaplain, will you offer prayer?

Chaplain: Steve Shollenburg

Oh God, our great Commander, we pray that he will guide our work in this Department meeting [inaudible 00:00:53] grant us some wisdom to seek your will in all that we do and undertake and the courage to follow the directions you would have us go in. In seeking to serve God and country, may our efforts be of benefit for our fellow veterans and all the people of our community. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Steve Adams:

Sergeant-At-Arms would you lead us in the pledge of allegiance?

Phyllis York

Ladies and gentlemen, facing the flag of our country we all say it together. 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:

Per resolution, 288 adopted at 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 MIAs 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.

Everyone will recover. We will now recite the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. 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 a 100% 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 in 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 comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

The Department Adjutant will do the roll call of Department Officers and Past Department Commanders.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Commander Steve Adams?

Steve Adams:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

First Vice Commander Don Weber?

Don Weber:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

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Second Vice Commander Larry Wittmayer?

Larry Wittmayer:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Immediate Past Department Commander Tom Harris?

Tom Harris:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Adjutant Flynn Philips?

Flynn Phillips:

I am here.

Flynn Phillips:

National Executive Committeeman Andy Millar?

Alternate National Executive Committeeman Jim Willis, who has passed away.

Department Finance Officer Bob Huff?

Bob Huff:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Chaplain Steven Shollenberg?

Steven Shollenberg:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Historian Judy Johnston?

Judy Johnston:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson?

Gene Hellickson:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Service Officer Ed Van Dyke?

Ed Van Dyke:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Service Officer Assistant Jody Marsh?

District Commander District One Lou Neubecker?

Lou Neubecker:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

District Two Commander, Renee Ohler?

Renee Ohler:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

District Three Commander Jerry Patton?

Jerry Patton:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

District Four Commander David Applegate?

David Applegate:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

District Five Commander, Lance Trowbridge?

Sid Carter are you in the house? No, okay.

District Six Commander Glenn Bradley? Okay.

District Seven Commander Terry Brown?

Terry Brown:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

District Eight Commander Ed Mathews?

Ed Mathews:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

District Nine Commander Kevin Owens?

Kevin Owens:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

And District 10 Commander Commander Daniel Burks?

Daniel Burks:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Sergeant-At-Arms Phyllis York?

Phyllis York:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

District Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms Ward Allen?

Ward Allen:

I'm here but I didn't bring a present.

Flynn Phillips:

Department Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Morris. Not here.

Department Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms Steven Mayes.

Steven Mayes:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

That's amazing. Thank you for being here. Department Aide to the Commander William Bud Stutheit

Department Aide to the Commander Larry Williams?

Andy Millar:

NEC is in the house.

Flynn Phillips:

I shall continue. With the roll call of the Past Department Commanders Robert D. Scott Post 51, 1982 and '83, Patsy Nestor Post 158, 1986 and '87. Richard Schenfel Here Post five, 1993 to '94, Robert Liebenow Post 6, 1996 '97 Here. Don Epperson Post 61, 1997 and '98. George Toby Potter, Post 12 2002 to '03. Charlie Schmidt Post 63, 2004 to 2005. Sid Carter Post 29, 2005 and '06. Bernie Healy Post 158, 2006 an '07. Kevin Owens Post 34, 2008 and '09.

Kevin Owens:

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Still here.

Flynn Phillips:

Jackie Collison Post 34, 2010 and '11. Jon March Post 99, 2011 and '12 Still here, Robert Huff Post 192, 2012 and '13 Present. Mike Morris Post 21, 2013 and '14. Andy Millar Post 24, 2014 to '15.

Andy Millar:

Present.

Flynn Phillips:

Mike Jones Post 67, 2015 and '16. Jim Willis has now passed. Gene Hellickson Post 86, 2017 and '18 Here, Tom Harris Post 119, 2018 to '19.

Tom Harris:

Here.

Flynn Phillips:

Okay. Commander, we have a quorum.

Bob Huff:

Commander we need to seat Dist. five

Lou Neubecker:

Commander, Lou Neubecker District One, we need to make a motion to seat Greg Marvin as Sid Carter's replacement.

Jerry Patton:

Jerry Patton, District Three, I second the motion.

Steve Adams:

No, the since is convention it's 25 bucks.

Lou Neubecker:

Five bucks.

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Steve Adams:

Okay. I now declare this executive committee meeting of the Department of Oregon regularly convened. I know I have a motion from District one Commander, seconded by District three Commander to see Greg Marvin in place of District Commander in District five. Any discussion? All in favor, say aye? Those opposed? Motion carried.

Okay. We have some special guests with us today. Dean Kessel, from he's the National marketing director is here with us today, he will be speaking at our meeting tomorrow. Thank you for coming, Dean. Another special guest, Past National Commander, Charlie Schmidt.

Past National Sergeant-At-Arms Kevin Owens. Past National Aide to the Commander, Don Weber. And all of the PDCs that are here, Mike, Charlie, Tom, Andy, Jon, Kevin, Bob, Gene thank you for being here, I appreciate it. Thank you. Okay. Sorry Rob, National Vice Commander, Rob Liebenow.

Rob Liebenow:

Next time I will wear my cap so you'll see me.

Steve Adams:

I deserve that, Rob, yes. Okay, I'm going to make these opening remarks short. We've had a year and a half of struggle. We've had a year and a half of things that were come our way that we had no control over and it was something new and we had to learn how to cope through it. We have learned should it happen again, we have the knowledge that we have obtained in the last year and a half and it won't be as bumpy. I would like since this is my last DEC, I would like to thank everybody in this room for the support and encouragement that they have given me for two years. Thank you very much.

I will now call on the Judge Advocate, Gene Hellickson to read the standing rules of the DEC.

Gene Hellickson:

Bylaws Article 10 Rules of Order, section one, all proceedings of this Post, department, excuse me, shall be conducted under the pursuant to the Robert's Rules of Order except as herein otherwise provided. Excuse me.

I apologize, I grabbed the wrong piece of paper. Members of the department executive committee here and referred to as the DEC as used in these standing rules are set as set forth in article seven, section one of the department Constitution in article four, section two of the department bylaws. 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, no other visitors will be introduced. A voting member of the DEC may request a suspension of the standing rules that a non-member of the DEC be given the privilege of the floor for the purpose of explanation of a specific Department Convention Pre-DEC Meeting Minutes June 23rd, 2021, Canyonville Oregon

proposal that has been proposed by the DEC and is under discussion. Time will be limited to five minutes however, additional time may be granted to answer pertinent questions.

A two-thirds affirmative vote of 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 department of finance Commission shall be sent to all members of the DEC, not less than seven days prior to the DEC meeting. Voting shall be by roll call on all resolutions in the following order: District Commanders, department Vice Commander, department Finance Officer, junior Past Department Commander and national executive committeeman. The Department Commander shall vote only in the case of a tie. Members of the DEC should submit their reports in writing and reports shall 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 reports must be originated by a voting member of the DEC. All codes and 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 a two thirds affirmative vote of the DEC members present. The advanced time notices are waved for the Post convention DEC. 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. Again, I apologize for grabbing the wrong form.

Bob Huff:

Its called human

Flynn Phillips:

Don't let it happen again.

Steve Adams:

I need to apologize to another person in the audience, here. We have a person with us is a dual member of the Auxiliary and the Legion. She is a past member of the department staff and the Past Auxiliary President, Gea Clausier.

We now have the reading of other previous minutes of the previous DEC held on La Pine, Oregon by the Department Adjutant.

Flynn Phillips:

Sure

Bob Huff:

Commander Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer. I make a motion that we exclude reading the minutes as they can be put on the webpage.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander I second that motion.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion by Bob Huff and a second by Lou Neubecker.

Lou Neubecker:

It's been two years and you still screw it up.

Steve Adams:

I know that, I love to do that.

Kevin Owens:

Any discussion? Commander, I don't think we need to. We shouldn't be approving the minutes. I personally have not read those minutes because they were not in within the 15 day-

Steve Adams:

They were on the website.

Kevin Owens:

They were not within the 15 days that we got the minutes. I just got an email two days ago, so they're not within the timeframe of the Constitution and Bylaws according to the statute or the rules that the Judge Advocate [inaudible 00:19:59] that we waive approving those until the Fall DEC.

Lou Neubecker:

I remove my second.

Steve Adams:

The second has been removed. Okay. We need another motion. Go for it, Bob.

Kevin Owens:

Commander, Kevin Owens District Commander, Past Department Commander, I make a motion that we suspend to read the minutes until the Fall DEC so everybody can digest those minutes.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Kevin.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander, I'll second that.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion and a second to waive the reading of the minutes until the Fall DEC, any discussion? If not all in favor say aye? Those opposed? Motion carried.

We will now have the reports from the District Commanders. We will start off with District one on your reports that you give today, whether it's the Commissions or District Commanders, if you don't have anything because we're working up against the timeframe here today, if as much as possible just add or whatever, or say your reports in the Book of Reports.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander Lou Neubecker, District one. My report is in the Book of Reports but there's one thing I do want to add and that's a big thank you to Tom Harris, for what he's done with Post 119 in Venolia. He took a Post that was ready to close and I believe at the last membership 103%. So I want to thank him very much for helping out District one.

Tom Harris:

Commander, if I could say a few words myself. Hey listen, it didn't take that much to make that happen. They had all the support they needed in the town. Cory Brockmann started that sometime back. All we did was go and finish the job, but all those veterans out there were looking for a leader and we found a new Commander out there. We put them together and it didn't take three and a half months. We went
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from four members to 22. Unfortunately, we lost a couple of World War Two vets out there. Great guys, I've got to meet and got to sit down and break bread with them and it was actually a real good time. Thank you very much. Thank you Lou for noticing.

Steve Adams:

Thank you very much for your hard work Tom. District Two Commander Renee Ohler.

Renee Ohler:

Commander, District Two Commander Renee Ohler. My report is in the Book of Reports and I have nothing to add.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Commander. District Three Commander, Jerry Patton.

Jerry Patton:

I do have one thing to report. Yesterday I received a phone call from Rick Shores. He was supposed to be the upcoming District Commander, but he informed me that he resigned and I have a resignation to be turned into Flynn. It says, "I regret to inform you at this time that I am no longer able to accept a District three Commander position due to recent health revelations. I have also notified the Department Commander by phone conversation. Any questions, please contact me Richard Shores." Other than that, no other report.

PART 1 OF 4 ENDS [00:24:04]

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Jerry. I have a question. [Lou 00:24:04], who is your new District Commander coming up?

Lou Neubecker:

We don't have one. [inaudible 00:24:11] stays the same, and Officers are staying in place.

Steve Adams:

Oh, then the clothes will fit.

Lou Neubecker:

Good thinking.

Renee Ohler

Yes,. Your new District Commander is...

Renee Ohler:

Jaun Palacios, first class [inaudible 00:24:32], and he is here.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Renee. And in District three, it's in discussion and Jerry will be discussing with him, the first Vice Commander will move up, and that is Dale Jenkins.

Steve Adams:

District four Commander, Dave Applegate.

Dave Applegate:

Commander Dave Applegate District four. My report is in Book of Reports and I just want to add that two of our ten Posts had been picked to be visited by Bill Oxford, the National Commander coming out in another week. We're getting ready and pretty excited about that. That's my report.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Commander.

Steve Adams:

Or who is your incoming?

Dave Applegate:

I am, for another year.

Steve Adams:

Okay, thank you. In place of District five Commander Sid Carter, Greg Marvin.

Greg Marvin:

Commander, District five report is in the Book of Reports and Lance Trowbridge will be the new District five Commander from Post 86. I'll be Vice Commander of the north from Post 49, and Kathy Downey will be the District Vice Commander from the south from Post 86. That's all I have.

Steve Adams:

Thank you. District six Commander, Glenn Bradley, is not here. District seven Commander Terry Brown.

Terry Brown:

Yeah. Terry Brown District seven Commander. The incoming District Commander is James Moriarty. Unfortunately, he won't be here this weekend. My report is in the Book of Reports, but I do have one update. Had a meeting last night with Post 30 in [Gresham 00:27:05] and their Commander had resigned some time ago and they have a past Post Commander that's willing to step up temporarily to fill the position, but they have some big issues that they need to work out, and I may need to talk to the judge advocate and maybe Andy Millar because he was involved a long time ago with part of the issue. So we need to work on some things.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Commander. District eight Commander Ed Mathews.

Ed Mathews:

Ed Mathews, District eight Commander. Thank you, sir. We had an eventful event, a tragic one, as we lost a World War II veteran who resided in Spokane, but he was also a member of a Post five in Oregon City. So we lost a very important man there. He was a Bronze Star winner and he's also a winner of, what do you call it, a Medal of Honor for France. So anyway, other than that, we're trying to find a new home because they would not want us back again from that organization. So we'll be looking at that too. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

District eight Commander, who is your new District Commander?

Ed Mathews:

Me.

Kevin Owens:

Kevin Owens, Commander of District nine. The report's in the Book of Reports. We kind of have a dilemma. Our District elected Larry Hill is our new District Commander, and as you know, he's running for first Vice Commander. So one way or the other, we're going to have a District Commander be either
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Larry Hill or Richard [Billmand 00:29:05], the past District Commander from Post 34. Really, the only thing I would have to report is as you know, Barry Post 34 mile Post airport is going to tear the building down. So they gave the building. Last Saturday, we had the last day of the garage sale on the floor officially going to be out of the building. I stabbed myself in the leg cutting out the seal in the floor that was put in the 1941 by the Navy. We contacted Pensacola. They had never seen this symbol before. So one way or another it's either going to the local museum or my wife and I are going to ship it to Pensacola.

So what a task. One inch old plywood in the floor, not plywood, but oak flooring. So if you want oak flooring for your house, I know where you can get some. That's my report.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Kevin. District 10 Commander, Daniel Burks.

Daniel Burks:

Dan Burks, District 10. Report is in the Book of Reports. I would like to add a few things. We had three individuals pass away here just recently, some of them close to family. One of them happened to be a member of the American Legion for 72 years. He'll be buried out there in Mountain Home, so we've arranged for some preparations for him as well.

On a bigger note, we've gone ahead and finished up our membership for the year. We had a good push. One of our brand new Post Commanders for Nyssa, which of course you guys know has been in some dire straits for a while now, not only hit goal, but they went over 100%, he's here today. Unfortunately, because of traffic, he didn't make it in to here just yet.

And then a better note, District 10 went ahead and wiped the floor with District nine. So we're pretty excited about that. Our incoming Commander is a mouthy little midget, myself.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Commander. It's good to have goals. Try to beat you, that's good. I now call our National Executive Committeeman Andy Millar for his report.

Andy Millar:

Thank you. Commander, my report is in the Book of Reports, and what I have to add is Post 37 Hermiston was booted out of their longstanding probably 25 year history of sharing the VFW building. Since then, the state has closed down the VFW Posts in Hermiston and probably the VFW is going to maintain all the funds. Originally there was a lease, but the state officials overrode the Commander on the lease. So anytime you hear of VFW issues, they're closing the Posts down and we're kicking our American Legion Posts out. So, that's all I have. Commander, also District six Commander is down here.

He was down here this morning, had a medical emergency. So, I think he will be here, but I would be paying probably 40 bucks if I'd have answered his phone call. So we'll find out on our phone call.

Steve Adams:

Thoughts and prayers are with the District Commander and the Post. Department First Vice Commander report. Don Weber.

Don Weber:

I defer my time.

Steve Adams:

Okay.

Steve Adams:

Second Vice Commander, Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer:

Commander my report is in the Book of Reports.

Steve Adams:

Thank you. Finance Officer Bob Huff for his report.

Bob Huff:

Commander, I will make a short report. This is a business meeting. I'd like to thank everybody for being here today. I'd like to ask the District Commanders or anybody else out here is if you see any of our other members who have not signed in, we will be down here at 7:00 tomorrow morning, issuing delegate badges and understand that under our Constitution and bylaws, we need 51% of all Posts in good standing before we can vote. Right now, I need five more Posts. I know I've seen a couple people here that haven't signed in that are in those Posts, so let's please get the word out so we can have a nice convention and get all our voting in. Other than that, thank you very much. I'd like to tell Andy that I do have six receipt books, so if you're getting fined, just see me and I will write you a receipt. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

I am curious, Bob, how you're going to get Flynn up at 7:00 in the morning.

Bob Huff:

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Actually, we were out here this morning and couldn't get in.

Steve Adams:

Are there any suspensions or cancellations of Post charters?

Steve Adams:

Are there any new charters? Oh.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander, District 10 is looking for a [inaudible 00:36:22]. You've got the immediate past Commander.

Tom Harris:

My report is in the Book of Reports, unless you have any questions.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Tom.

Steve Adams:

District 10 Commander, do you wish to make a comment?

Daniel Burks:

No.

Steve Adams:

Okay, thank you. Reports from the chairs of the standing Commissions, year-end Book of Reports. Americanism. Jon Marsh.

Jon Marsh:

Good evening. Welcome to our wonderful convention. I'm going to read a resolution. That's what I have for Americanism to replace Sid while he is not here. This is **resolution number 21**. The title is Law Enforcement Career Camp Name Change. This comes from the Department of Law Enforcement Career Camp Committee.

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Whereas Past Department Commander Jim Willis was an active member of the National Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Committee for over five years, and

Whereas Past Department Commander Jim Willis worked for several Western states to aid in the creation of youth cadet law enforcement camps within their states, and

Whereas the outstanding service that Past Department Commander Jim Willis provided his knowledge of and service with the Oregon State Police made creation of a Law Enforcement Career Camp possible, and

Whereas the continued support he provided developed it to the excellent program it has become. Therefore, be it resolved that the American Legion Department of Oregon, Law Enforcement Career Camp be named the American Legion Department of Oregon, Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. Commander, it is my honor to read that. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

I would entertain a motion.

Greg Marvin:

Commander? Greg Marvin District five Commander and Law Enforcement Career Camp Committee member. I second, or I make the motion to accept that resolution as read. Is written

Lou Neubecker:

Commander District one, I second that motion.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion and it's been seconded to change the name of the Law Enforcement Career Camp to Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. Is there any discussion?

Charles Schmidt:

Commander Charles.

Steve Adams:

Charlie.

Charles Schmidt:

Past Commander, requests permission of the floor.

Steve Adams:

You have the floor.

Charles Schmidt:

Commander, members of the DEC, I believe this resolution is very appropriate. There's nobody better, more concerned about the law enforcement, teaching our youth about not only public safety, but also what law enforcement means. Jim Willis was a legacy in many, many ways, from his civilian life to his American Legion service. When national was starting the law enforcement program, they wanted some quality people, people that knew about law enforcement to get that program going. And I was asked, "Does Oregon have somebody for the one of those positions on that committee?" And I said, "Absolutely. Jim Willis." And Jim Willis, God rest his soul, would have been going to the National Convention to serve on another committee, but also the law enforcement committee.

So I think in due respect and in honor of somebody that contributed so much to our program, and as the resolution said, to many other programs and other departments, because he had an impact on those other departments, I think it's most appropriate that we honor and we remember the legacy of Jim Willis in this respect.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Charlie. I just have one comment. I was with Jim the last National Convention in which he contacted the Department of Washington and was working with them to get a Law Enforcement Career Camp going in the Department of Washington. We have a motion on the floor to rename the Law Enforcement Career Camp to Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. Any more discussion? If not, all in favor, say aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed? Motion carried. Excuse me a minute. Convention Commission.

Jon Marsh:

Okay, everything here is pretty much what you'd expect except no buffet, even though they promised me it'd be up and running, but it's the State of Oregon that's keeping them from doing that. So, we won't have a buffet. You may have back up in line to eat if you're not eating at one of the events that we have luncheons or breakfast. All in all, it should be pretty good. We're going to have a party put on by the Foundation tomorrow night. We're going to get wild and do some corn holing. So anyway, if anybody has any problems with the hotel or anything, please just come see me directly because I've got a direct link to them, and don't bother going up to the front desk and complaining because they're just going to give you lip service. And if you just be calm, come to me, I can almost certainly promise you I'll straighten it out. Have fun. I intend to. So it's good to see all you guys again. Thank you, Commander.

Steve Adams:

Internal affairs Commission.

[inaudible 00:45:12] resolutions. [inaudible 00:45:18].

Speaker 11:

Can you do that? [inaudible 00:45:41] Can you just make a motion? Can you just make a motion on that? I think about optics. [inaudible 00:46:32]

Lou Neubecker:

Okay, sorry for the delay, guys and ladies. my time's up now. I have to read these for the people that were at the DEC in La Pine, our Department Service Officer brought up several good points. I was put on charge of the ad hoc committee, which included all the District Commanders and a few other people, the PDCs, Cory Brockmann, and anyhow, we ended up doing GoToMeetings and we came up with two. We broke up what Ed had said up into two resolutions.

So the first **resolution, which is C-04**, support the Preamble of the American Legion Constitution, Whereas; a fledgling American Legion adopted award for war provisional decoration, the Preamble to the Constitution, at the May 8th through 10th, 1919 St. Louis caucus delegates praised the founding document as, "It came at the opportune time. It summed up the spirit of our endeavors.

PART 2 OF 4 ENDS [00:48:04]

Lou Neubecker:

... it summed up, the spirit of our endeavors. It forecasts the mighty future for us." And in that moment of The American Legion, step forth before the nation, of force made visible. A soul with a voice, an incarnation of a great endeavor. And

Whereas; the Preamble and The American Legion Constitution was adopted in Minneapolis National Convention, November 10th through 12th, 1919, with 10 phrases that the builders of The American Legion were instituted to produce with their jobs. And

Whereas; for 102 years, the Preamble's 10 phrases still define who we are, what we do and for whom we serve. And

Whereas; The American Legion that generates generations of citizens, sacrificed and preserved is now under the attack by factions to shatter our democracy and cherish our values, our nation and long enjoyed, and

Whereas; alternative measures to public safety, national security, freedom of religion and speech, freedom of elections, education and other values are being injected to weaken our nation's inner structure. And now,

Therefore; be it resolved by the 102nd Convention of The American Legion Department of Oregon meeting assembled in Canyonville Oregon on June 24th through the 26th, 2021, that The American Legion has storied history and formulated positions to support the Constitution of the United States and The American Legion. And,

Be it further resolved; that the soul of The American Legion voice echo across the grassroots of America and our commitment to each individual phase in our Constitution's Preamble, America to here. And

Be it further resolved; that [inaudible 00:02:25] to America's of its perpetual commitment to the congressional change in upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States and The American Legion's longstanding commitment to promote and perpetuate 100% Americanism. And

Be it finally resolved; there upon acceptable vote at The American Legion Department of Oregon Convention, June 24th through the 25th, 2021, at Seven Feathers Resort in Canyonville, Oregon.

This Resolution be forwarded to the national organization to be presented at the 2021 National Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Steve Adams:

I need to recognize the Judge Advocate. I recognize, Judge Advocate, Gene Hellickson.

Gene Hellickson:

These resolutions are convention resolutions, and should be read at the convention.

Lou Neubecker:

I need to do a report and to recording of those.

Gene Hellickson;

All right. These are being presented as a result of the report. The actual reading of these resolutions will take place during the convention. So right now they're just being read to show what the committee came up with. And that's basically it. It's just for information right now.

Lou Neubecker:

Okay. That was the first one. Then on the second one, which is number C, for violation of oath convention,

Whereas; one of the purposes of The American Legion was congressionally chartered- [crosstalk 00:53:02] ... on September 16th, 1919. Was to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, which has not changed in a hundred and two years. And

Whereas; one of the valued principles of The American Legion's mission, American values and patriotism meeting that The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution. And

Whereas; The American Legion members having served in America's armed forces as Officers and non-Commissioned Officers have taken an oath to defend the Constitution to the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic, an oath that has been taken since 1775 with some revisions.

And

Whereas; certain documents, such as, DOD Directive 1344.10, and the Hatch Act of 1939, revised in 1993, direct the military to maintain non-partisan positions regarding politics. And

Whereas; according to established open source documents, statements of partisan or political nature were made by high ranking military officials and nonCommissioned officials, a clear violation of their oath of office DOD Directive, 1344.10 and the Hatch Act of 1939.

Whereas; the Department of Defense conducted stand downs for the possible purpose of indoctrination of partisan political nature, distracting focus from America's national security interest around the world. Now,

Therefore be it resolved; by the 102nd Convention of The American Legion Department of Oregon meeting assembled in Canyonville, Oregon on June 24th through 25th, 2021, that the largest veteran service organization, The American Legion publicly expresses its concern for the above mentioned events and speak out in defense of our oath of allegiance. And

Further it be resolved; that The American Legion encourages Departments to be vigilant of the violations of the partisan political nature by any person or organization under the aspects of the DOD 1344.10 or the Hatch Act of 1934, and inform their elected official when they are heard. And

Further it be resolved; that the American Legion use multimedia resources to affirm an advocate to America, there's perpetual commitment to the congressional change in upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States of America and The American Legion's longstanding commitment to its four pillars, [inaudible 00:56:17], National Security position, and Promotion of American Values and Patriotism. And

Be it finally resolved; that upon acceptance vote at The American Legion Department of Oregon Convention on June 25th, 2021 at Seven Feathers Resort in Canyonville, Oregon, this resolution be forwarded to the national organization to be presented at The American Legion 2021 National Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ed does that cover everything that you were talking about at the La Pine DEC [inaudible 00:57:00]?

Steve Adams:

The legislative Commission report? John Lee.

John Lee:

So most of my report is in the Book of Reports. It's just one thing that I'd like to add. Senate bill 319, which gives part of the Capitol grounds for a Vietnam War Memorial was hung up in committee. However, due to the letters that were written by veterans, that came out of committee two days ago and last night at six o'clock, it did pass. So it's on its way to the government secretaries.

Grassroots movements do work. I want to thank everybody that did send letters to the committee. I'd sent that out, I know Flynn had sent that for me to get those letters out to that committee chairman, chairwoman and her two Vices. And within one day it apparently made a difference because it did come out. So anyway, that did move forward. And so I do have a copy of the bills, that veteran bills, if anybody wants them, I'll have them in the back and I hand them out.

If you have any questions later, you're more than welcome to come to me. I don't want to try to answer questions now when it comes to legislation, be it come lengthy conversations. So we'll keep it short. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, John. You're doing media and Communication Commission.

Lou Neubecker:

My report is in the Book of Reports, that's it.

Steve Adams:

Thank you then. Post activities Commission.

Larry Wittmayer:

My report is also in the Book of Reports. This year, we didn't do well, but we tried, we had a lot of things thrown in front of us, anything from the pandemic, to the fires, to the... My Legion thing. Every one of these Posts in this department worked hard. And I want to thank them very much for that effort. That's all.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Larry. National Security Commission, Greg Marvin.

Grey Marvin:

Commander, my report is in the Book of Reports and the only change is that we will be awarding a national law or the National Department Law Enforcement Officer Award. And we'll be handing out blood donor awards later on in the convention. Thank you,

Steve Adams:

Thank you Greg. Permanent Finance Commission Report, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens:

Commander my report is in the Book of Reports. I would like to say that as a Commission that has the responsibility of keeping our money and protecting it. To our members, I would like to thank members, Jon Marsh, Gene Hellickson, Eva Summers and Betty Fish-Ferguson. And it's not always easy to be in a Commission that says no a lot, but we do it for a reason. And I think we prepared a good budget.

I encourage our members, it's in their packet to look at the budget. You've got questions, we're going to have a committee meeting tomorrow, but we'll be bringing that up on the floor. So that's my report on that.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Kevin. VA&R Commission report.

Bob Huff:

Commander, the report is in the Book of Reports.

Steve Adams:

Thank you. Veterans Employment and Education Commission.

Bob Huff:

Commander, the report is in the Book of Reports. The one good thing for VA&R and VE&E, as some of these constraints we've been going through for the last year and a half are starting to open up again. Two of our VA's are telling us, within the next two months we can start running events again. So it will be by county, and by the insurance policies that we carry, but we're going back into business. So we will be putting that out on email and please come support it. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

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Thank you Bob. Foundation report, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens:

Commander, the Foundation, you know is a separate entity. We're independent of The American Legion. We had our annual meeting via Zoom here about a week ago. We had the election of Officers, and again I was elected as President and Charlie Schmidt was elected as Vice President.

Tomorrow we're hoping to put on a great event, we encourage you to play beanbag toss [inaudible 01:03:27] . I was in the Coast Guard. So it's free. Other than the beanbag, we encourage you to come out and to have a drink. You have to pay for the drinks, but get some food. We have some great prizes.

Cory has done a marvelous job, a silent auction. We've got some great prizes. I'll give you one that we collected, happened to be a gentlemen named Colonel York, grandson of Sergeant York, [inaudible 01:03:58] Medal of Honor recipient. When Charlie was National Commander and I emailed him and he actually sent me... I have a check, canceled check from 1950 signed by Sergeant Alvin York. It was for his wife. So I encourage you to bid on that, we would like to... Your money for the Foundation and we've got some great prizes, come out and have some fun. That's the whole idea of the Foundation, that to have fun and camaraderie. We haven't seen each other for almost two years. So I encourage you to come out. And if you don't, I'm going to hunt you down. So anyway, Commander that's my report.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Kevin. Administration and Advisory Commission Report. Mike Jones.

Mike Jones:

Commander. Good afternoon everybody. Our report is in the Book of Reports, however, we have one additional item that we need to do. The Commission has had several meetings lately on this single issue. Therefore, we have invited members from the Finance Commission in, also the Department Judge Advocate who was involved and some of the appointees or incoming Commander, we hope [inaudible 01:05:39] Don Weber appointment was in on it. We were discussing the employment contract that needs to be renewed with our Department djutant. That should be in front of you. There were copies made to be presented to each member of the DEC.

What you're looking at has been recommended by the A&A Commission, that's been cleared by the Finance Commission. You'll also notice, if you look closely, the Department Adjutant has reviewed it and he accepts those terms. So, we're asking that, that be approved now at this DEC. Also, Commander, if there are pertinent questions that needs to be answered in regards to this, we immediately go into an executive session, so the private matters can be kept private, please.

Steve Adams:

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I would entertain a motion and then we'll go into discussion.

Kevin Owens:

Commander, District Nine Commander, make a motion that we accept the contract.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion to accept the contract. Do I hear a second?

Dan Burks:

Commander, Dan Burks, District 10, I'll second.

Steve Adams:

Dan Burks second. We have a motion to accept the contract. Is there any discussions or questions?

I already got that on mine...

Mike Jones:

Commander [inaudible 01:09:20]. I have volunteered to immediately take that, and correct that, so that a proper one can be signed, if necessary.

Steve Adams:

Thank you Mike. Are there any questions? I'm going to read the [inaudible 01:10:21]. They're almost done. They didn't take [inaudible 01:10:26] okay.

Steve Adams:

Are there any questions? Hearing none. Then a motion made to accept the contract. Seconded. There has not been any questions. All in favor. Say aye. (group says aye). Those opposed? Motion carried.

Thanks Mike.

I just have been informed by the Adjutant pencil pusher that there are no awards at this time. There are no awards at this time, at this DEC. Is there any other unfinished business? Hearing none. On to new business.

PART 3 OF 4 ENDS [01:12:04]

Steve Adams:

Under new business, I will now I ask First Vice Commander Don Weber to read a resolution.

Don Weber:

This is a special resolution prepared for presentation to the family. The American Legion Department of Oregon, Monday, June 14th, 2021 resolution:

Whereas; it has pleased Almighty God, the Great Commander, to summon to the immortal legions our beloved comrade, Jim Willis, and

Whereas; We humbly bow to the will of Divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts the memory of distinguished service to our country and outstanding contributions to American Legion comradeship; now,

Therefore, be it Resolved; That the American Legion Department of Oregon and Santiam Post 51 does mourn the passing of our comrade, Jim Willis, That we commend to all the works of the American Legion and to God the spirit he had for community, state, and nation; and

Be it further Resolved; That in token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring Jim Willis to Post Everlasting, the American Legion, be presented to the family and is signed Steve Adams, Department Commander, and S.Flynn Phillips, Department Adjutant. And as a member of the DEC, I move to approve the resolution.

Jerry Patton:

Jerry Patton, 3rd District, and I second the motion.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Jerry.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Don.

Steve Adams:

As a motion to approve the resolution for Jim and second it, any discussion?

Here... Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson.

Gene Hellickson:

Commander, I would just recommend that we read this motion also at the convention.

Steve Adams:

This resolution will be read when the convention opens, Gene. At the convention. We have a motion, it's seconded. Any more discussion?

All in favor, say aye.

Group:

Aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed? Motion carried.

For the good of the order.

Renee Ohler:

We're honored to have our National Commander coming to visit the American Legion Department of Oregon next week. I would like to make a motion that we present National Commander Oxford with a check for the Veterans and Children Foundation in the amount of \$5,000.

Lou Neubecker:

Commander Lou Neubecker, District 1. I'll second that motion.

Steve Adams:

A motion has been made and seconded to present Commander Oxford, when he's here next week, National Commander Oxford, with a check for \$5,000 for Children and Youth... For Veterans and Children.

Steve Adams:

Oh, for Veterans and Youth, excuse me.

Any discussion?

Kevin Owens:

Commander, Kevin Owens, Chairman of the Permanent Finance. We had a discussion. We had a vote. Four out of the people responded to the vote, and then we had a... So it was a positive vote. Three yes, one who wanted to change, but we went with the \$5,000. It's not in the scheme of the budget, but we

have a Permanent Finance Fund that has money in that, so the money would come out of our fund that we hold and reserve for instances like this.

So I think a lot of people are not aware of the VCF Fund and I would like to allow privilege of the floor to past National Commander Charlie Schmidt, just for clarification of why we are doing this, if that's all right with you.

Steve Adams:

I'm in favor of that, Kevin. Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt has the floor.

Charlie Schmidt:

Commander, members of the DEC: So there were boys in Paris, France, in 1919 getting ready to come home, and their number one concern was "Who's going to take care of the boys when they come home?" And also, equally important is, "Who's going to take care of their families," because some of the boys would never go home. And of course, as they came home, they started lobbying of, "Who's going to take care of the boys? Because at that time there was no VA, there were no Service Officers. And as time goes on, "Who's going to take care of the families?"

In 1925, National Commander James Drain raised \$5 million. And in 1925, \$5 million was a lot of money. But that was to take care of the dependents of those boys that wouldn't be coming home. In the meantime, they were still jockeying for legislation to do something for the troops. Eventually, the Temporary Financial Assistance came into being one of the American Legion programs. And the Temporary Financial Assistance is to take care of a family on hard times, but the qualifier for those cash free grants is children. Children that hopefully won't have to worry about a roof over their head for a period of time, won't have to worry about food on the table, won't have to worry about maybe some emergency medical care, and certainly won't have to worry about food. And that is helping a family. And how does the veteran fit into that?

I know the American Legion, every department, even in our own department, we have two Department Service Officers - and I might add, we've got two of the best in the American Legion - but those Service Officers are required to be trained every year. And the American Legion, to accredit those Service Officers, offers training twice a year. One time it's in Washington, DC, and the other time it's at our national headquarters. Service Officers, who will take care and help a veteran with their needs. A Service Officer is a veteran's best friend, because those Service Officers are trained, current training, to stay abreast with all the changes, all the laws, and all of the mandates that VA puts on them. So they can take care of you and me and our buddies. So, they were two separate programs, and now they've been consolidated into the Veterans and Children Foundation.

\$5 million today really isn't very much, but our goal in the American Legion, throughout the American Legion, is now five times that. \$25 million. And until we reach the \$25 million, so we can invest that money and not have to worry about where it's going to come from, to take care of veterans and

take care of their children, every National Commander's goal is going to be... Their program is going to be Veteran and Children Foundation. In 2016, the National Commander's goal was to raise \$1 million to keep our Service Officers trained, to raise \$1 million so the children will always be taken care of. And it just so happens, the 2017-2018 National Commander carried that goal on, and now it has become a priority in the American Legion, again, to take care of our veterans and take care of their families.

And by the way, this is not a gift directly to Commander Oxford. It's a donation, one of the many donations from, including hopefully us, and a lot of departments and other fundraisers, to get that money set aside, so we won't have to worry about it, and maybe we... Luckily, we might be able to live off of some of the interest, as well, to take care of veterans and take care of their children. Commander and I, and... We have the Marketing Director here, and I think he might be talking about something like that tomorrow. We might hear something about that. But this is who we are. We take care of our buddies and we take care of our families. And that's what the Veterans and Children Foundation does.

Steve Adams:

Thank you, Charlie.

Rob Liebenow:

Commander, the privilege of the floor [phonetic 01:22:00]

Rob Liebenow:

Probably been [phonetic 01:22:02] Past Department Commander. My suggestion would be that Commander Oxford know of our intentions, and the check actually be presented to him by our Department Commander on the floor of the National Convention.

Steve Adams:

We have a motion on the floor, already.

Kevin Owens:

Commander, privilege of the floor, PDC. We just want to make sure that we do our part from the Department of Oregon, and presenting that is a great idea. It's an opportunity to showcase what Department of Oregon's about. And it is a great idea. We'll give him these intentions, we just need the pass because we want to do it in this year's budget, because we've had some extra money and it's the right opportunity to do it. That's all we're trying to do. Just clarify that, and it's a great fund, and I can tell you that Oregon receives far more money from National and TFAs and emergency fund than we ever give. So just remember, we're trying to do our part as members, and the big scheme of the picture there. So thank you, Commander.

Steve Adams:

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Thank you, Kevin.

Renee Ohler:

Okay, so I will amend my motion that we present a check to National Commander Oxford for \$5,000 in support of the Veterans and Children Foundation at National Convention.

Lou Neubecker:

Lou Neubecker, I'll second it.

Steve Adams:

Okay. Present National Commander Bill Oxford a check for \$5,000 at the National Convention.

Terry Brown:

What happen to the other motion?

Steve Adams:

It was amended.

Gene Hellickson:

Commander, Commander

Steve Adams:

Gene?

Lou Neubecker:

It was just amended.

Terry Brown:

I thought it had to be rejected.

Steve Adams:

Gene?

Gene Hellickson:

Once a motion has been read by the Commander, then an amendment at that point has to be voted on by the DEC. If the DEC votes to allow the amendment, then it takes effect. Prior to the Commander reading the actual motion and going into discussion, you could change it at any time, but it's no longer your property once it is read. So you can propose the motion, which you did, but now it needs to be voted on to accept it. And once it's accepted, then we carry on with the main motion. Clear?

Don Weber:

Definition of what of when its read [inaudible 01:25:17]...He hasn't read it...

Gene Hellickson:

Read it before we started the discussion.

Gene Hellickson:

You can't have the discussion until the motion is presented by the Commander.

Steve Adams:

[inaudible 01:25:37]... Without the amendment.

Renee Ohler:

Then we do [inaudible 01:25:52] the amendment.

Steve Adams:

Okay. There was a motion made to give to National Commander Bill Oxford when he was on his visit here, a check for \$5,000 for Veterans and Youth. Any discussion on that one? If not, all in favor, say aye.

Gene Hellickson:

No, you have to accept the motion to amend it first

Steve Adams:

You said we had to vote on that one and then vote on the amendment.

Gene Hellickson:

No, I didn't

Steve Adams:

Okay. [inaudible 01:26:38] Okay.

Gene Hellickson:

It's the other way around you have to vote on her amendment first. Then vote on the

Steve Adams:

I misheard Gene. We vote on the amendment first and then vote on the... So the amendment has been made. Any discussion? Voting on the amendment: All in favor, say aye.

Group:

Aye.

Gene Hellickson:

Now vote on the original motion

Steve Adams:

Now we vote on a \$5,000 check to National Commander Bill Oxford for the Veterans and Children Fund.
[inaudible 01:27:34] Okay. There's been a motion, it's seconded. All in favor, say aye.

Group:

Aye.

Steve Adams:

Those opposed? Motion carried. Thanks, Gene.

Under good of the order, I wish to thank the Host Post, that is our own Department, Legion members, Auxiliary members, and S.A.L. members for their help in hosting the Pre-DEC and Department Convention. They've done an outstanding job. Let's give them a big hand.

I will now call on the Department Adjutant for his report.

Flynn Phillips:

Commander, my report is in the Book of Reports. Thank you.

Steve Adams:

He needs a raise, Mike. The next Department Executive Committee meeting will be on Saturday at the Post Convention DEC, following the closing of the 2021 State Convention. Is there any further business to come before this meeting? If not...

Charlie Schmidt, Past National Commander?

Charlie Schmidt:

May I have the privilege of the floor, very briefly?

Steve Adams:

You have a Charlie.

Charlie Schmidt:

I would just like to say that we are going to be honored to have the National Commander of our American Legion, Bill Oxford, to come and visit Oregon June 28th through July 3rd. We've got a very aggressive schedule to take him out and visit our Posts. And I think we're going to be hitting at least 10 Posts. And the beauty of it is we're going to get some media attention. We've got about seven media

outlets that want to come to those activities. And hopefully, it'll not only inform people about our American Legion, but also our communities. So the power of the press, we're going to put it to work. Thanks to all the Posts and the Districts who've stepped up to host the Commander, and I think he is going to have a good visit and a favorable memory of the Department of Oregon.

Steve Adams:

What room are we going to meet in tomorrow?

The memorial's at 8:00 and the meeting starts after the memorial.

Tomorrow, the convention will start in the Azalea Room here, right after the memorial service. The memorial service is at 8:00 in the morning.

Is there any further business to come before this meeting?

Yeah, I'm getting to that.

If not, I will ask the Chaplain for the closing prayer.

Remove your covers.

Steve Shollenburg:

Gives prayer (the transcriber did not write the prayer of the closing of the PRE DEC).

PART 4 OF 4 ENDS [01:32:12]