



**Department Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
October 8th and 9th 2021
Embassy Suites Hotel
Aloha Oregon
8:00 AM**

**Call to order
Salute to Colors
Opening Prayer**

Department Commander Don Weber

**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 Don Weber
District Reports	
1 st Vice Commander	Larry Wittmayer
2 nd Vice Membership	Cory Brockmann
Finance Committee Report	PDC Bob Huff
Permanent Finance Report	PDC Kevin Owens
Foundation Report	PDC Kevin Owens
Service Officer Report	Ed Van Dyke
Resolutions	
NEC Report	PDC Kevin Owens
Foundation Report	PDC Kevin Owens
Immediate Past Commander Report	PDC Steve Adams
Administrative and Advisory Report	PDC Rob Liebenow

Department Standing Commission Reports

Americanism	Gea Clausier
Convention	PDC Jon Marsh
Internal Affairs	Open
Legislative Committee Report	John Lee
Media and Communications	Open

Membership and Post Activities
SAL Report
National Security
VA&R Report
VE& E Report

Dan Burks
Dan Burks
Greg Marvin
PDC Bob Huff
PDC Bob Huff

New Business
Unfinished Business
Post Charter Actions
Good of the Legion

None

Roll Call of Officers 2020 – 2021

__ P __	Department Commander	Don Weber
__ P __	1 st Vice Commander	Larry Wittmayer
__ P __	2 nd Vice Commander	Cory Brockmann
__ P __	Immediate Past Department Commander	Steve Adams
__ P __	Department Adjutant	S. Flynn Phillips
__ P __	National Executive Committeeman	Kevin Owens
__ P __	Department Finance Officer	Bob Huff
__ P __	Department Chaplain	Steve Shollenburg
__ P __	Department Judge Advocate	Gene Hellickson
__ P __	District 1 Commander	Lou Neubecker
__ P __	District 2 Commander	Juan Palacios
__ P __	District 3 Commander	John Morford
__ P __	District 4 Commander	David Applegate
__ P __	District 5 Commander	Lance Trowbridge
__ E __	District 6 Commander	Glenn Bradley /Chase Ence
__ E __	District 7 Commander	James Moriarty/Terry Brown
__ E __	District 8 Commander	Ed Mathews / William Cristopherson

__ P __	District 9 Commander	Larry Hill
__ E __	District 10 Commander	Daniel Burks

Non-Voting Members

__ P __	Alt National Executive Committeeman	Gene Hellickson
__ P __	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 Historian	Dick Winders
__ E __	Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Mike Morris

Recorded by Department Adjutant S. Flynn Phillips Date 10/10/2021

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
__ A __	Sid Carter	29	2005-06
__ P __	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 __	Eugene Hellickson	86	2017-18
__ A __	Tom Harris	158	2018-19
__ P __	Steve Adams	51	2019-2021

Call to order

Don Weber: Thank you, ma'am. Facing the colors of our nation, hand salute, two, uncover. Calling the chaplain to offer in vocation in POW-MIA tribute.

Steve Shollenburg: Heavenly Father, we ask you again to be in our presence today as we conduct our American Legion business. Father bless our leaders today and give them knowledge and wisdom, it's only you can do. Let us fulfill your guidance according to your will. Bless us all, Father God, as we learn and fulfill our mission. We pray in Jesus name, amen.

Per resolution 288 adopted at the 67th national convention, calls for the POW MIA flag to be in place at all official meetings of the American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW's at MIA still accounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America. This is a

reminder for us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American captivity. The repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defensive of liberty and a full accounting of those missing, let us rededicate ourselves to the Bible endeavor.

Don Weber: Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms Please lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

Phyllis York: Ladies and gentlemen, facing the flag of our country, we all say 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.

Don Weber: Cover. Please follow me in reciting the Preamble of the constitution. 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 in order, to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism, to preserve the memories and the 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 good will on earth, to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy, to consecrate and sanctifier our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Don Weber: I call on the adjutant to conduct roll call.

Flynn Phillips: Department commander.

Don Weber: Here.

Flynn Phillips: Weber. First vice commander Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: Here.

Flynn Phillips: Second vice commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Immediate past department commander, Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Department adjutant, I am here. National executive committee man, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: Here all day.

Flynn Phillips: Alternate national executive committee man, Gene Hellickson.

Gene Hellickson: Here.

Flynn Phillips: Department finance officer, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Department chaplain, Steve Shollenburg.

Steve Shollenburg: Here.

Flynn Phillips: Department historian, Dick Winders. Department judge advocate, Gene Hellickson.

Gene Hellickson: Here.

Flynn Phillips: Department service officer, Ed Van Dyke.

Ed Van Dyke: Here.

Flynn Phillips: District one commander, Lou Neubecker.

Lou Neubecker: Present.

Flynn Phillips: District two commander, Juan Palacios.

Juan Palacios: Present.

Flynn Phillips: District three commander John Morford.

John Morford: Present.

Flynn Phillips: District four commander, David Applegate.

David Applegate: Present.

Flynn Phillips: District five commander, Lance Trowbridge.

Lance Trowbridge: Here.

Flynn Phillips: We will skip district six, district seven. District eight let's say, James Moriarty. Seven? District eight commander, Ed Matthews. District nine commander, Larry Hill.

Larry Hill: Present.

Flynn Phillips: District 10 commander, Daniel Burks. Excused, I think.

Bob Huff: He's excused.

Flynn Phillips: Department Sergeant at arms, Phyllis York.

Phyllis York: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Department Sergeant at arms, Ward Allen.

Ward Allen: I'm here, but I did not bring my present.

Flynn Phillips: Department Sergeant at arms Mike Morris.

Don Weber: Excused.

Flynn Phillips: Excused.

The roll call of the living past department commanders. Robert D. Scott, post 51, 1982 to '83. Patsy Nestor, post 158, 1986 to '87. Richard Shenfield, post 5, 1993 to '94. Robert Liebenow, post 6, 1996 to '97.

Robert Liebenow: Here.

Flynn Phillips: Donald Epperson, post 61, '97 to '98. George Toby Potter, post 12, 2002 to '03. Charlie Schmidt, post 63, 2004 and '05.

Charlie Schmidt: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Sid Carter, post 29, 2005 and '06. Kevin Owens, post 34, 2008 and '09.

Kevin Owens: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Jackie Collison, post 34, 2010 and '11. Jon Marsh, post 99, 2011 and '12. Bob Huff, post 192, 2012 and '13.

Bob Huff: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Mike Morris, post 21, 2013 and '14. We know he's excused. Andy Millar, post 24, 2014 to '15.

Andy Millar: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Eugene Hellickson, post 86, 2017 and '18.

Eugene Hellickson: Present.

Flynn Phillips: Tom Harris, post 119, 2018 to '19. Steve Adams, post 51, 2019 to 2022.

Steve Adams: **To 2021.**

Flynn Phillips: Thank you. Just trying to give you an extra year.

Lou Neubecker: You said two was enough.

Don Weber: Continue district six.

Flynn Phillips: District six, we have a quorum.

Don Weber: Continue the roll call.

Flynn Phillips: Okay. You want for ...

Don Weber: District six, all right, Bradley.

Flynn Phillips: District six, Glenn Bradley.

Don Weber: Again.

Flynn Phillips: District six, Glenn Bradley.

Don Weber: Third time.

Flynn Phillips: District six, Glenn E. Bradley Sr.

Don Weber: Glenn Bradley is no longer with us. He has been called to post everlasting. Call on everyone to uncover and ask the chaplain to read a resolution.

Steve Shollenburg: October 10th, 2021, resolution. Where it has pleased Almighty God, the great commander to summon to the immortal legions of our beloved comrade district six commander Glenn E. Bradley Sr. and Whereas we humbly bow to the will of

the 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 American Legion Department of Oregon and Hermiston Post 37 does mourn the passing of our comrade district six commander Glenn E Bradley Sr. That we command to all works for the American Legion and to God the spirit he had for community, state, and nation. And be it further resolved that a token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring district six commander Glenn E. Bradley Sr. to post everlasting, the American Legion presented to the family.

Don Weber: Thank you. Call on the next.

Flynn Phillips: Bernie Healey. Bernard Healey. Bernard A. Healey

Don Weber: Past department commander Bernie Healey is no longer with us. He has been called on to post everlasting. Call on the chaplain to read a resolution.

Steve Shollenburg: October 10th, 2021, resolution. Where at it has pleased Almighty God, the great commander to summon to the immortal legions our beloved comrade PDC Bernard A. Healey. Whereas we humbly bow to the will of divine Providence, while ever cherishing in our hearts and 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 Tigard Post 158 does mourn the passing of our comrade PDC Bernard A. Healey. That we command to all the workers for the American Legion and to God, the spirit he had for community, state, and nation. And be it further resolved that a token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring PDC Bernard A. Healey to post everlasting, the American Legion be presented to his family.

Don Weber: Thank you. Continue.

Flynn Phillips: Mike Jones. Michael Jones. Michael A. Jones.

Don Weber: Michael Jones, past department commander is no longer with us. He has been transferred to post everlasting. Chaplain?

Steve Shollenburg: October 10th, 2021, resolution. Where it has pleased Almighty God, the great commander to summon to immortal legions our beloved comrade PDC Michael A. Jones. 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 Ontario post 67

does mourn the passing of our comrade PDC Michael A. Jones. That we command to all the works for the American Legion and to God the spirit he had for community, state, and nation. And be it further resolved that a token of our common grief, a copy of this resolution transferring PDC Michael A. Jones to post everlasting, the American Legion be presented to the family.

Don Weber: Thank you. All cover. The adjutant has advised that we do have a quorum. I'll call on the first vice for **a motion to seat some district commanders**.

Larry Wittmayer: I make a motion. I make a motion that we seat the following first vice commanders in place of the district commanders. That would be for district six, Chase, Terry Brown, and Richard Hornbeck.

Don Weber: There's been a motion. Is there a second?

Speaker unknown: Second.

Don Weber: There's been a **motion to second to seat district, these vice commanders as district commanders**. Any discussion? Yes, sir.

Charles Schmidt: Commander Charles past department commander of post 63. Correction, it is **Robert Hornbeck**, not Richard.

Larry Wittmayer: It is written Richard, thank you.

Don Weber: I didn't notice that on the script. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: Opposed, signify by saying nay. **Motion carries**. Thank you. Please be seated.

Larry Wittmayer: Commander?

Don Weber: Content.

Larry Wittmayer: I'd like to make a **motion also to seat the new district eight commander William Chris Christopherson**.

Don Weber: Is there a second? There's been a motion to second to seat the district eight commander. Discussion, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you commander.

Lou Neubecker: Commander? Point of order Lou Neubecker district one Chase is the new district six commander, but he was not seated as such.

inaudible: He was elected by district. [inaudible]. He wasn't installed.

Larry Wittmayer: Was he installed?

inaudible: [inaudible].

Don Weber: He was seated as a district commander and elected.

Larry Wittmayer: He was seated as a district vice.

Lou Neubecker: That's district vice.

Larry Wittmayer: He was seated as district vice. Commander, I'd like to make a motion.

Lou Neubecker: State your name please. State your name [inaudible].

Larry Wittmayer: First vice Larry Wittmayer. I'd like **to make a motion to seat Chase Ence as the district six commander duly elected.**

Kevin Owens: second Kevin Owens

Don Weber: Motion to second. Discussion, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you.

Kevin Owens: I just want to reiterate the thing you talked about yesterday. Speaking to the vice, state your name. Three times you guys all done that, so [inaudible].

Don Weber: Okay. For the reading of the minutes, they were not returned from the transcription service in time and could not be distributed within the 15 days prior to the DEC. So, all of the minutes have now been distributed to everyone on the executive board. We will expect you to review those. In two weeks, in 15 days, we will schedule a go-to-meeting. That will be a very short meeting to

capture your comments on any changes necessary for the minutes. At that point in time, they can be approved on a go-to meeting.

It's been an exciting time since convention when we last met. My theme this year is reconnecting veterans. As it turns out, I selected that theme long before I knew what some of the other themes from higher headquarters would be. But it turns out to tie in very closely with the themes from our national commander and national vice commander. We need to reconnect veterans to make sure they are all taken care of. And that ties in with buddy checks, so those have always been critical. We need to stay in touch with our members. If you haven't heard from them, get in touch with them. We heard from the national marketing director that we will have a focus this next year on reducing veteran suicide within the nation; another project that I personally believe is just very critical. National will be starting a theme that we will hear more about in the future.

That will be The One. Basically, Be the One is going to mean paying attention to your buddies. And if you see that they're struggling, let's find out if they need some help. So, we will get more details on what national has in mind for that, but that's something that we really need to focus on and move forward. But a reconnecting veteran within the state of Oregon, especially after this pandemic has been really exciting. I attended a welcome home Vietnam veterans' ceremony up in Warm Springs. Great respect for the veterans up there. They had a parade and comments. A great opportunity. Had the opportunity to go out to Banks post, they had a parade. Just great watching the people honoring the flag as you walk down the street and talking with them at the community park down the road.

I hope everyone knows that we participated at the Portland Grand Prix, where we had an American Legion booth there. I think we talked to thousands of people. We had a location that was right next to the walking overpass that goes over to all of the pit areas for the cars. So, anyone had a pass to go see the pit area had to walk right by our booth. So, we talked to a lot of people, we signed up some new people. We had a donation jar out and I think we made just a little under a thousand dollars in donations alone. So great opportunity. I do believe that, that's a two year contract with Carvana and Jeremy Johnson. So, I'm hoping that we have the opportunity to do this again next year. Great opportunity to connect with veterans and get the word out about the American Legion.

So, I do have on my notes right here, reminding people that when you're speaking, you need to state your name and you need to use the microphone.

The microphone is more than just making it possible for everyone in the room to hear. It's when our transcription goes in to be transcribed, they need to know who is speaking and they can't do that if we don't know who's speaking. So, appreciate that as we move forward on that. I'd like to call on the judge advocate for a reading of the standing rules. (silence).

Gene Hellickson:

Members of the department executive committee, herein referred to as the DEC, as using the standing rules are 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 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 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 permanent finance committee 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, 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 chairman 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 a two thirds affirmative vote of the DEC members present. The advanced time notices are waived 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.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. I'd like to step back a moment. I just see that our SAL national executive committeeman has joined us. Welcome, Marc Chaney. Thank you. ... So, we took care of the district six and district eight commander. Need to ratify a couple of committee commission appointments, internal affairs commission, Steve Adams chair, the sons of the **American Legion committee adding Jon Marsh, sons of the American Legion committee adding Lou Neubecker, public relations committee adding Maria Tye, and boys state committee adding Kenneth Fred Broadwater.**

Flynn Phillips: **And Rob Liebenow.**

Don Weber: Oh, I thought he was on there previously.

Flynn Phillips: Okay. All right. I think there was a question about that.

Don Weber: You were previously on there, right? So, we don't need to ratify your appointment. Okay. Motion to accept those.

Lou Neubecker: so, moved.

Don Weber: Okay.

Flynn Phillips: Who was that?

Lou Neubecker: Lou Neubecker, district one.

Unknown: Mic please

Don Weber: Motion made by Lou Neubecker, district one commander.

Steve Adams: Second, Steve Adams.

Don Weber: **Second by Steve Adams.** Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you. I'd like to call on the national executive committeeman Kevin Owens for a report.

Kevin Owens: [crosstalk]. Holy mackerel. This thing is [inaudible]. Morning, Kevin Owens national executive committeeman, Bay Area post 34. Just returned from the national executive committee meeting held in Indianapolis October 6th through the 7th, 2021. I would like to highlight a few things that occurred during the two

due date meetings. There were 22 resolutions that were brought in front of the national exec committee. The one that is the most important resolution was number four, titled support of defense directive 1344.10 and the Hatch Act of 1939. This was brought to the national convention and was **rejected** by the national security commission and the subcommittee. With the efforts of the past national commander Charlie Schmidt, it was **reworked by the national security commission and brought to the NEC for a vote, which was passed** by the NEC. So, our efforts did not go unnoticed, except they reworked it. We're not quite sure after reading it, whether it really have the meaning that we want it to. But in advent, it did pass and so it will go. It will be a permanent record at the national headquarters.

Another was the area, was the **mission blue post assistance program**. To date only 464 posts from 45 departments have received grants. I encourage all the posts in the department of Oregon to apply. If you need information, please go to the legion.org or call the department adjutant. If you haven't already received a thousand-dollar grant, you could be eligible for another thousand dollars. First time post can get up to \$2,000. So, there's a process to get it. You have to make certain; this is what we talked about our consolidate post report forms. If you do not follow them, you're not eligible. The second caveat is your insurance has to have a writer that says that national's covered on your post insurance. So, you have to have those two things. So, I encourage all the post district commanders. I encourage you. It's free money. They're asking you to apply. You could use it for rent, you can use it for utilities. There's a caveat of things that you can use this for. Please get that back to the post. Don't leave it on your desk and forget about it.

It's free money for your posts. They're encouraging everybody to apply, and they made it pretty evident. The other was the dues increase. So, at this point, no foreseeable dues increase. So that's probably a good thing for everyone. This is because of the national heavy solicitation for fundraising. So even though our membership has went down, our money that we've got for solicitation is increased. This year fundraising increased even membership decreased for forecasts and the net operating, this is a net operating surplus of \$4,272,000.85. That's a surplus. So, with their efforts, they've prevented us from having a dues increase. That doesn't mean we should slack off on dues or get new members. That means that we're not hurting at this point. So please continue on the path to 100%.

This year, the **departments** are being asked to **support the veterans** and children's fund, as we know it the VCF, over the next seven years. Each department was assigned a goal, which the department commander was given

also by giving that spare change. That breaks down to 25 cents a member. That's what they're asking. That's 25 cents a member. Doable. That's \$3,753.75 each year. **Our total goal is \$26,276.25 over the next seven years.** But I know as Oregon is a giving state, that we can get that done quicker. So please reach out district commanders, fundraisers. So, I know each of you can reach the goal by giving that spare change that we have in our pockets, which I know we're going to do here pretty shortly. Let's have some fundraisers at our post and districts. Challenge each other. So, district commanders, challenge each other. Who's going to give the most.

I encourage the department officers and district commanders to make this a priority. Veterans and families need our help. Our national adjutant has named a new judge advocate, Mark Seavey, to assume the role as a legal counsel for the national headquarters. So, Mark Seavey, there was an email, I think Flynn sent it out to everyone. Next is the national commander, Paul Dillard has made a goal to get our retention up to 90%. So that is one of his goals, 90% retention rate. I know where it can do it. The next is the buddy check. This is a very important program to the national commander, the buddy check program. We've heard a lot about yesterday at our training, about how important it is to check on our buddies. Something that believes is the key to getting it done.

That's his thing, getting it done by buddy checks. We talked about yesterday that the Senate passed the buddy check week thing. So, we're waiting to get that passed. We need to reach 100% and the process is easy. Again, district grant jury visitations help the posts that need help. So, consolidate reports. There's no reason to come to a department convention and say, "Well, I don't have this post done." You are the field generals. As past national commander says, "You're the field generals of this organization." Before you come to the net department convention, reach out to those posts. If they haven't had them done, ask them to do it. If they don't know how to do it, help them do it. If they can't do it, go there and help them do it, but don't come to the department convention.

It's not Flynn's job to stop the office job, it's your job. That's your district. That's not my district, it's your district or Flynn's district. He's the administrator. He's not the consolidated repost report monitor. He will tell you he hasn't done it, but let's look good and get those done. There's no reason not to do them. You can't say that any post has not done one thing. Can't tell me that. Everybody does something. So please, district commanders, I know you can do it. Let's not make this a problem that we have. Let's just put light on our department so we can get onstage, our department commander looks good, our department looks

good, we get 100% consolidated reports. Please, I need your help. I know Flynn does it. I know the department commander does.

There was a **new program** that was announced at the NEC on Thursday before we left. That was a new program rewarding departments. **Any department that attains 103% of its 2022 membership goal and achieves at least 90% retention rate will receive \$18.50 for each member dues transmitted over the 103%.** So, if you get over 103%, anything we get, 18.50 our department. The department must be both goals 103% and 90% retention to qualify for incentive. Meeting just one of these qualifications does not count for purpose of this incentive. The membership will end on October 1st, 2022. You will still transmit dues as normal, but a check will be issued after everything is tallied up. In closing, I'm honored to serve as your national executive committeeman. My job is to bring back information to our department and be the liaison. If you have concerns or comments about anything that was discussed, please contact me anytime.

That's my report and because I failed to, I want to point out that my best of friends, past department commanders that are sitting in the front have singled me out. Here, I have \$20 for not saying my name for VCF. I don't need a receipt, Bob. I'm going to challenge everybody. It's my \$50 to start with for a VCF for that fund. Let's get that fund done. 26,000 a week and raise this department 25 cents a member. Pretty simple and I know the commander would sure appreciate it. [inaudible] Commander, that was my report.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Flynn Phillips: Can we challenge you now?

Kevin Owens: I already gave my 50, son.

Flynn Phillips: All right, I'm going to raise you 50.

Flynn Phillips: You want to raise it to a hundred?

Flynn Phillips: No, I just-

Kevin Owens: Did you raise it 200?

Andy Millar: Yeah.

Kevin Owens: Did you?

Bob Huff: Sure did. I just matched his.

Kevin Owens: There goes my daughter, she's never going to eat again.

Larry Wittmayer: No diapers, no nothing.

Don Weber: So, the veteran's children's fund supports the TFA program that Oregon has been very active in using over the years. I haven't seen Jon Marsh here, but I know he's previously reported numbers on how much we have used at the TFA program falls under VCF, veterans' children's and fund. The other big thing it supports is the training for our national service officers that we have. So, they conduct training and provide those benefits around the state. So, this program is critical and that will be my project for the year to support the veterans' children's fund. I'd like to call on immediate past commander, Steve Adams for a report. Thank you.

Larry Wittmayer: Say your name.

Steve Adams: My name is Steve Adams, immediate past commander. My reports in the book of reports. The only thing I have to add is this last month, I attended two funerals of veterans that were highly decorated in Vietnam. They were not Legion members. They happened to be friends of mine. Knew them, contacted me and I attended the funeral of both of them. The family was very pleased that a member of the American Legion was there to honor their deceased family member when they were not a Legion member. So consequently, we have some new members both in the Legion auxiliary and sons from those family members. They were highly impressed.

I am continuing to work with some of the schools in the mid-valley area that are now back in session. And I can get with the counselors and the administrators there to give our children and youth programs, boys state, oratorical, law enforcement, Jim Willis law enforcement career camp. We're virtually started from scratch, virtually this year because we've been down for two years of those programs. So, we need to make a little effort to start them back up again. So, I would encourage all of the district commanders to do the same in their district if they would please. Thank you.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. First vice commander, Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: I am Larry Eugene Wittmayer, first vice commander of the Department of Oregon. I would like My report is in the book of reports. There's a couple of things I'd like to summarize and I'm reporting for my position as the first vice. Later, I will report membership. Had the opportunity to audit the national membership workshop this past period. And we also received our membership

goals and they've been passed out promptly and everything's been taken care of. We're moving along towards our membership. We've reached 50%, 50 some percent. I'm not positive exactly. What is it?

Bob Huff: 56%.

Larry Wittmayer: 56%. Okay. I believe that the department convention and the national convention were a great success. I learned a lot at the national convention, having had the opportunity to visit the membership subcommittee and other things. I also attended the general sessions. I also participated in the PIR booth, and it was great just talking to people that walked by. In addition to the fact that we were able to drag up some memberships, Charlie and I worked on this one booth. Both he and his wife joined or transferred actually. So, at this point, that's the extent of my report as the first vice.

Don Weber: Please go ahead and cover M and PA.

Larry Wittmayer: I don't actually have any M and PA because it was not reported. I was going to do that during the membership portion of my report, as I report for Burks. But I will say that **Dan is not getting any feedback from any of the districts concerning post activities** that he would like to participate in and/or his committee would like to participate in so that they can use them as a vehicle to increase membership. We need to have those reports into Dan from the district commanders and/or slash the post commanders to get this moving. That's part of his membership program this year. That's all I have.

Don Weber: All right. Thank you. Again, those post activities are so critical because when the community sees you out there and sees the great things that we are doing, they want to be a member of this organization and it makes your recruiting so much easier. So, take advantage of those events. In addition to notifying Dan, I would love to go to as many of those events as I could possibly get to. So please add me to that distribution. Second vice commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: Good morning. My name is Cory Brockmann. I'm your department's second vice commander, a proud member of Aloha post 104, the home post of our current department commander who's standing behind me. I accept the challenge and will give \$100 to our finance officer for the VCF.

Bob Huff: Thank you.

Cory Brockmann: My report is in the book of reports, and it was submitted on time. I do have a few additional notes I'd like to make. It is critical, absolutely critical that when

we have due dates, suspense dates, deadlines, that we adhere to them. It's not to be controlling in a negative fashion from the top down. Those due dates typically end up being something that has to be met so that the follow-on activities and actions can happen. We encountered some issues yesterday doing the code of procedures review. There's just requisite due diligence. We're really that close to getting it done on time. That positively impacts us, not negatively impacts us.

District commanders, you've heard from me once or twice already. I really do need your district committee assignments. Those committee chair assignments that you have are the link that we want to share with all of our commission and committee chairs to work with their committees. OK, That's what that request is all about. It's just linkage. We want to strengthen our relationship and support back out to the district and post level. So, if you can get that to me, I'll build a short little table that links all the committees and what you have for your district committee chair assignments. The confidential roster, I believe was also mentioned in my first email out to the district commanders following the department convention. You have it in your packets today. Give it a review. If you don't have it in a packet, go home and give it a review. If you see any updates or corrections, just email the department office. OK

There are corrections that are needed. When I find them, I share them. But it's important because an email that ends up non-deliverable is a message wasted. All right. So please review the confidential roster. Buddy checks, buddy checks, buddy checks. All right, buddy checks. I missed that portion because I was in a separate meeting yesterday morning. I can share with you just this past week, I sent out six buddy checks: three female veterans, three male veterans. All right. I send them out usually by text message because I work full time. Well, I heard late Friday night or early yesterday morning we have a female past department commander of Aloha 104 who was in an accident, has a concussion and a broken nose, and going to the VA hospital Tuesday.

Buddy checks matter and their impact is increased by doing it sooner. If you're waiting till the end of the membership here to do a buddy check to try to secure a renewal, we failed that member. OK So, buddy checks are easily accomplished. It can be text messages, phone calls, but I charge you to work with your posts to set up a process by which we accomplish that. It's very simple. You get your membership list through the post, you filter it for phone numbers and emails, and you just parse it out to members within your post. You work on a strategy to contact every member. OK

The impact of buddy check is one, make sure they're all right. If they're all right, I believe in my heart their membership is going to be renewed. If they wait until the end of the year and it just sounds like, well, you just want another check for membership renewal, we've not served them the way we need to. Membership and PA, I'll just hit this real quick. District 10 commander, Dan Burks chairs that commission this year. He hit the ground running before our department convention. If nothing else, he was spinning wheels early because he was ready to do things in his committee that this group wasn't ready. We got new people on board in posts and in districts. But just to echo Larry's comments, we're out of the convention season, the national convention is over. Our first DEC now is going to be over this weekend.

We need to get engaged with membership activities. Dan has said multiple times, he and his committee will come out to districts. All right not just do revitalizations, they want to do training to help you be successful in a membership drive revitalization, buddy checks, all of that, but find those dates. I think we talked a little bit yesterday with the district commanders about making Dan aware because he's not just membership, he's also post activities. And he'll want to see and hear everything you folks are doing, but he's not looking for just a spaghetti feed on a Thursday night up in Enterprise, for example. But he wants to know, what are those bigger activities that you're going to be doing that's worthy of him having committee members come out and help support a membership drive?

Then I just gave my hundred dollars contribution to the VCF. I don't know if our department does a good job or if we've ever done canvassing all the contributions that we make perhaps by programs. Excuse me. By that, as an example, we go to the national convention and there's an opportunity for each department to come up on the main stage and make their donation to the national office. It's not always just a check that gets written out and handed over. So as an example, I'm not sure if I'm even accurate here, but I'm going to use the American Legion Riders as an example. They do the legacy run and I'm sure our ALR, I'm not a Rider, does fundraising for Legacy. But if you're connected with any program within the American Legion and you're doing some type of fundraising activity that results in that group just sending that money directly into national, I would challenge you to please communicate that back to our department adjutant.

Because we should be able to go to the national convention and for the different programs of donations, get up on stage and proudly recognized the Department of Oregon for all their contributions, not just that day. I believe NEC Kevin; Oregon is a giving state. We're giving department and we don't toot our

horn when we do it. But it'd be better to have an understanding of a reflection of all the great things we've done through the year at the national convention, stating what we've contributed. Lastly, again, I missed the buddy check. I'm going to have these available in the back if we take a break or when the day is over. Those that supported the Indy Race up at PIR saw these. I was inspired. I applied for a grant from the foundation, and they graciously gave me 550 bucks. We're creating marketing packets and we made 500 of these suicide preventions packs. They just contain slip knot bracelets, nothing rocket science. Where does that idea come from? I was just inspired. It's easy to make, low cost. I'm hoping to get more folks involved in making them.

The grant calls for me to create 3000 packs, 3000 packs. Those packets aren't just about suicide prevention. I'm going to have some buddy check ones made. You don't have to be a slip knot bracelet person, they're about engaging veterans. Not even a Legionnaire, you can use them for buddy checks, but they could be non-Legionnaires. So, if you have interest, I would say email the department adjutant. Our ALA ladies, our department headquarter staff are excited about making more of them. I'm going to visit with the commission and committee chairs. If there's something going on in your committee that you'd like a hundred packs made, it's just a matter of branding a different insert. That's all I have commander unless there are questions for me.

Don Weber: All right. Thank you. Great report.

Cory Brockmann: Thank you.

Don Weber: Appreciate it. I call on the finance officer, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Thank you, Commander.

Don Weber: My pleasure.

Bob Huff: Good morning. My name is Bob Huff. I'm the department finance officer post 192. My report is in the book of reports. Actually, I have seven reports in there, but I want to highlight several items this morning. One is most of you know it's time to get your taxes ready, even if you don't file them until January. Now I'm speaking to this group, I know we can hold 143 people in this room, which we're nowhere near. But I'd like to speak to all of you. Your district commanders, you have assessment sheets. You should be going out assessing your posts. One of the things that you should ask is, did you file your taxes? I'm not trying to minimize that because we have several posts that are losing their taxes that

haven't filed for three years. That's usually when we get the call and if it's the first time, they can usually get that back.

But it takes about six months. You need to make sure that your posts have been filed and who is filing it. Because when we get into trouble, it's usually somebody's spouse that's been filing it, and they have no records and they can't find the letter. The IRS is very good at sending your post, any of your posts, a letter that says you haven't filed your taxes. They do that twice during the year now. When you get the letter that you're revoked, then we have an issue. You need to be paying attention to that. Seriously. Want to talk about a couple of other items that are very dear. Have all of you seen these?

Group: No.

Bob Huff: You get these emailed to your house. These are the Oregon Legionnaire magazine. Now it used to be when we did paper copies quite a while ago, each district commander wrote an article and they also said when their next district meetings were, what the posts were doing. If the district commander didn't write the article, because I was a district commander for three years, in fact, I write a lot of articles, it was right in there that you didn't write an article. Then there's a little thing called peer pressure where members would go back and I'd asked my district commander, where's your article? You know, one of these. You go through these books and they're on your internet, the adjutant sends these out every month, plus they're on the webpage. Every district commander, every chair, all of the officers are supposed to write an article and that's communicating to our members.

Now we have a policy here in this department that if you don't write your article, your approved budget is reduced by a certain amount of money. That includes it's still in the policy. It really is. If you're supposed to be making post-assessments and you're not making those assessments, which should be sent to the second vice commander, it's a like deal, it's reduced. This magazine, which to be honest with you because I sit on another commission at national, we will not be able to be printed on this paper because they closed the mill down and this is petroleum-based paper. That's another discussion we're going to have, but please submit your articles.

I can go through here right now and tell you that there are probably five people in this room that actually submitted them. This is to get the information out to our members. One is post 10, whatever post, they're having a feed. What activities going on, see if you can get support from other posts. When's your next meeting? Is it going to be virtual? Is it going to be in person? Because we're

starting to pick it up. I will get off this bandwagon because I have several more of these to make today and I thank you very much.

Don Weber: Thank you, Sir. I can make sure you understand the difference between the permanent finance committee and the foundation. So, the permanent finance committee is a committee of the Department of Oregon and has a code of procedures. The permanent finance commission is an independent corporation. So, they have their own constitutional bylaws, and they elect their own officers and have their own rules. It turns out that Kevin Owens is the chair of both and so we will have the report from both, but that's why we only have a code of procedures change for the committee and not for the foundation. Thank you, sir.

Kevin Owens: Kevin Owens, past commander finance chairman. My report is in the book reports. First, I'd like to **make a motion to accept the code of procedures as printed or corrected as of yesterday.**

Don Weber: There's been a motion.

Lou Neubecker: Lou Neubecker, district one. I'll **second** the motion.

Don Weber: **Motion is second to approve the code of procedures.** Any discussion?

Terry Brown: Yes. I think there was a page-

Lou Neubecker: Who are you?

Terry Brown: Sorry. Where is it? Terry Brown, district seven first vice commander, post 74. I think there was a page that was added that was corrected. But in that process, there was something left out when they changed the page. If I can take a minute to look at it, pull it back up.

Kevin Owens: The correction was that they deleted a line that was on the page in the packet. They changed the wording from pre to par. My copy says pre and then the other ones, they struck out that we need to submit the Legionnaire prior to the convention. That's a requirement, but that was talked about. It was on the last page, Terry.

Terry Brown: Yeah.

Kevin Owens: It was highlighted out. It was in red, but they highlighted the last section. That was the problem and the par part, that was a correction.

Terry Brown: That never got changed in the part that was submitted. This is the page that was submitted for the changes, but you added it to the last page. So, the last page was never corrected.

Kevin Owens: Flynn should have corrected it yesterday.

Terry Brown: It was not.

Kevin Owens: Well, that's the sheet that they gave you yesterday. You're not going to have the new sheet for that. He would give you a new sheet.

Terry Brown: No, he did. **This is the correct-**

Kevin Owens: Let me look at your sheet. Somebody pass that sheet over.

Terry Brown: We got one sheet, Kevin.

Kevin Owens: So, the change is the correct yesterday, is that on the top of the last page it said electronic, the Oregon Legionnaire. They deleted, they put par in there. I don't know how they did that because I sent them the copy from the sheet and that was crossed out. It should say pre-annual convention issue of the Oregon Legionnaire. That was the correction that was done. I don't know how that happened, but the other stuff was all stuff that we deleted that you already had. So, he didn't give you a new sheet today, but we talked about it yesterday. It doesn't change the intent of the code of procedures. All it does is say it's a constitutional thing that we have to submit the annual budget to everybody. That's a constitutional thing.

We didn't change the constitution; we just corrected the wrong that was done at the department. Because the original copy that I have, which I could send to you, it will show you the corrections in yellow that I did. What happened at the department, I cannot tell you. But I sent mine in August. On the 15th of August, I sent the changes because I sent everything out to the committee. I think Betty's on the commission. She received those. We did that right in the middle. Right after the convention, I sent everything out. That's the correction. He just crossed out something and changed a word or whoever did. That was the correction from yesterday. Everything else was fine. I'm not sure where you're going, what the intent or what you're trying to change.

Terry Brown: Terry Brown, district seven first vice. All I'm saying is that the copy we now have with the corrected page, the one that Flynn gave us this morning, you add that to the second page of what you handed out yesterday.

Kevin Owens: It's still wrong.

Terry Brown: It's still wrong.

Kevin Owens: Okay. But we're correcting that right now.

Terry Brown: As long as it gets corrected.

Kevin Owens: I will make sure. I will send Flynn another copy of my original that we voted on as a commission. I will send a copy to Flynn and Flynn will email the district commanders and the officers, the voting members of the DEC. So, he will do that, but I will make sure it is corrected. I can send it to you right now from my iPad. So, I'm on it. I agree that they didn't correct it. He didn't correct it yesterday. Okay.

Flynn Phillips: Sorry, Terry.

Don Weber: **Okay. There's been a motion to accept the code of procedures for the finance committee. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.**

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Terry, Flynn did not make updates to those last night. He just made more copies and distributed those this morning. So those are not updated copies that were distributed. So, what we're approving today are changes that will be made.

Cory Brockmann: Commander, Cory Brockmann, second vice commander. Could I have the privilege of the mic for just about 60 seconds? So yesterday afternoon we went through these codes of procedures, and we basically agreed on the ones that the department office had sent out to us in advance. Then we sent back to the department adjutant those edits that were made on the floor that weren't distributed previously. So, the packets that adjutant Flynn distributed this morning are supposed to contain those edits that we spoke of on the floor yesterday. What comrade Terry is saying is the edits that were made on the floor that went with Flynn, didn't come back in the same condition that we actually reviewed them here. I think Kevin's a simple enough of a change, but those packets that Flynn distributed this morning should have, and there were four of them that went to Flynn that was highlighted that example. PNC Charlie had one from the public relations committee that was submitted that wasn't in the packet that you received. So that should be in what was distributed this morning.

Kevin Owens: He can't get it.

Flynn Phillips: I couldn't find it. So, I printed it all and Charlie has his edits.

Lou Neubecker: Cory, Lou Neubecker, district one commander. They are not Kevin's second page is not in what was distributed this morning. That's where Terry's going is that we did not get what we were told we got.

Cory Brockmann: That's all I'm saying.

Kevin Owens: I appreciate that Terry brought that up. It's a breath of hope that we are finally as a department, and I'm going to say it over a period of years that we're starting to have people that look at what's going on rather than just say yes or no. That's your job is to make sure that everything's correct. We're going to have errors, but we just need to get through those errors and figure out a new way. I think we talked to Flynn, a new way to get the code of procedures in a file that they're not getting lost. We need to have one person, not 10 people or whoever department collecting those and making sure they're correct. So, I appreciate that, Terry, that you're bringing it up. So other than that, by book reports, I can tell you that our finances are doing wonderful at our investments. But it does not diminish the fact that most of that money, at least 1.2 of that million dollars is dedicated money for our VAVS program.

So, when we say we have about one point, we've been up to high as 1.7 million, most of that is dedicated money. Then there's a bunch of SAL money in there. So, there is a slim amount of money that's in there. Then there's the dedicated money that we have to have by the constitution. So, we have about 30,000, Bob, roughly around 30,000. That's I'll say free money. That's for a post that can get money for grants and stuff, programs. Boys State has closely 75, 80,000 that belongs dedicated money, but free money. So, we encourage you to submit for that money. So, with that, that's why I report on the permanent finance.

Don Weber: Did you cover the foundation?

Kevin Owens: I'm going to do that right now.

Don Weber: Okay. Thank you.

Kevin Owens: Kevin Owens, president of the Oregon Foundation. **I'll make a motion that we approve our code of procedures as printed.**

Don Weber: [inaudible]. For the committee?

Kevin Owens: **Yes.**

Don Weber: We already approved that.

Kevin Owens: For both commissions. Well, the finance does have a code of procedures we would like to have those approved that there are two separate things. There's the code of procedures, how we function, and then there are the bylaws, which is a separate thing, which is irrelevant to the department. Even though you should know what they are, you don't vote on it because we're a separate corporation. We have to be independent by the IRS. So, I'm asking for the code of procedures to be approved. There is a code of procedures.

Don Weber: For the committee.

Kevin Owens: For the foundation, just the foundation.

Lou Neubecker: **Lou Neubecker, district one. So, move and approve to approve-**

Don Weber: He's authorized to make the motion.

Lou Neubecker: And I'm **seconding it.**

Don Weber: Okay. **Motion and a second to approve the code of procedures for the finance foundation.** Any discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: **Aye.**

Don Weber: Opposed signify by nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you.

Kevin Owens: Just a couple of things. We had a go-to-meeting, the foundation, and we did approve a grant for the department for the VAVS program for roughly \$130,000 that we granted from the foundation to the department budget, which was approved. That helps fund our service officers, our VS programs. So that was done and the check is already ... We had to have the check by the end of the year for the start of the year. So that is done. I can tell you we gave her Cory a grant to do the bracelets. Just a thing, that we talked about how insignificant this might be. We look at it, you think that's insignificant. It's just a piece of a string with some words on it. You think, well, what is that going to do for you?

I could sell you from a personal experience. Cory and I walked the streets of the PIR and we went up to a booth that happened to be a lady that was selling Pendleton whiskey. We went up there. We just went up there, she was over

there by herself and it was nobody around her. We gave her one of these, Cory put some on there. Her son committed suicide.

Terry Brown: Oh lord.

Kevin Owens: Her son committed suicide and she took that bracelet. I was moved by that. That made my whole weekend to know that I made somebody feel well or Cory did. We gave her some extra bracelets, she put them on and she was grateful. It was a shocking experience to find out you're talking to somebody that her son committed suicide, a veteran. So just remember this is not insignificant. It disputes a lot and you'd be surprised. Cory, he'd see some young girls, he'd become over and they put the bracelets on there. They were grateful. So, this is not insignificant. This is a powerful tool right here. Use it. Use it, please. The last thing, we had a lot of fun, John Lee and I, Cory. We got some tires. It's a crazy thing. We got some tires from two race cars, two drivers. One of them happened to be a young lady. What was she? 18, 17.

Cory Brockmann: 19.

Kevin Owens: 19. Young lady, we got her to sign the tires. I got the tires; he got the signatures. Then we got one guy who was brand new. He had come to our booth, and we had met.

Cory Brockmann: [inaudible].

Kevin Owens: He won and he blew his engine on the eighth lap on the test thing. But he went out, he'd come down and talk to us. He was sponsored by the police department. I thought he was famous because when I went down there to get some tires, all of us, there was Portland police around; a bunch of them, bunch of them. I said, "Man, he must be famous." I was talking to the guy that come down. So, we got him to come down the side. So, we got two tires for our auction at the department convention. They're signed, they're heavy.

I had to get a guy. I wheeled the guy down the road. I said, "Would you give me a ride, give us a ride?" Let me give you a ride. There's a picture that was put out [inaudible]. One on the top, one of them was an air force veteran. Again, I can't tell you how important certain things are, but this thing has really struck a nerve in me. My whole day was just thinking about that lady and her son, just because of this little packet. I want to commend Cory for even doing that. Thank you, Cory, for what you do. That's my report commander.

Don Weber: Thank you. Great report, Kevin. Thank you. Okay. I'd like to call on the department service officer for a report.

Ed Van Dyke: Ed Van Dyke, department service officer. Commander, my report is in the book of reports, but I do have one thing to add. I was summoned to federal court, and I was lucky enough to be placed on a jury. The jury is expected to last about six weeks. It's a federal criminal case. So, the trial will go from 8:00 to 2:30, so I'll be available to work after 2:30. So I just want to let you know that my phone is going to be out from 8:00 to 2:30. The trial starts October 18th and who knows how long it's going to last, but at least six weeks they say. All right.

Don Weber: Great.

Ed Van Dyke: That's my report.

Don Weber: Thank you for the update. Appreciate it. Okay. District commander report. District one.

Lou Neubecker: Commander, Lou Neubecker, district one. My report is in the book reports, but I want to add a couple of things. We had a tragedy on the coast and that was one of our police officers died in his sleep, 26 years old. Two kids, two small kids; 1 four, 1 two. The Legion took it to hold a fundraiser for him. We raised over \$3,500. The community came together on a Go Fund Me page, raised over \$200,000 for the family.

Flynn Phillips: Wow.

Lou Neubecker: The other thing that I've been harping on here lately is Vernonia post 119. I wish they were here, but Mr. Harris, PDC Harris, and Adam, or Damon rather, are doing a great job. Steve, what'd they say? What'd they get, five or six new members waiting to join?

Steve Shollenburg: Last I talked to Tom, seven.

Lou Neubecker: Seven. Okay. Steve's making them new signs for their building. They got a couple of grants. 119 is back up and running. So, I just want to let you know that. I forget, I think it was Cory or Kevin who brought it up about the ALR legacy runs. We do make contributions to it. I had the same question at the national convention, where's Oregon's money? So, I will look into that and get back to you next DEC.

Don Weber: Appreciate it. Thank you, sir. Vernonia's post is a great example of someone stepping up with some key leaderships skills to coordinate those activities.

Bringing those people together, now they're talking with each other. They want to start an auxiliary unit there that will probably charter on the 1st of January. So, it's just a great example of how to build up these posts. So, thank you, Lou. District two.

Juan Palacios: Juan Palacios, district two commander, and a Marine. Just want to make sure y'all know that.

Inaudible: [inaudible].

Juan Palacios: My reports are in the book of reports and I'd like to add that in one of my posts, a Kaiser post, we just got a new commander there. He was six months in the American Legion. He brought that post from the graveyard and it's excelling tremendously. He's a dear friend, Mr. Broadwater. Really neat guy, go-getter and I'm looking maybe to use him in that general vicinity of Kaiser to visit other posts. That kind of helped him build up their post because [inaudible] you really need to work on and we're going to be doing that. I'm utilizing my first and second vice to do visits at the post. Then I'm dedicating myself to the posts that we have problems. We have to get that more into. Other than that, sir, [inaudible].

Don Weber: Thank you. Another great example of leadership stepping in and doing great things. District three.

John Morford: John Morford, district three commander. My report is in the book of reports. I do have a couple of items to add. We had a truck back into one of our Post buildings and that has cleared the insurance company now. The insurance has agreed on what they're going to pay and so the work is moving forward to get that building fixed. We hope to have it back up around mid-December, the first part of the year.

Don Weber: Which post is that?

John Morford: That's post 32 in Cottage Grove. They've been using the VFW building for most of their activities. That building's been down. It actually hit the wall post to the electrical panel. So the whole electrical panel has to be replaced, the whole wall has to be replaced. So, they're starting the construction phase of it and hope to have that backup. Then North Eugene, Santa Clara post has started a fundraiser to redesign and basically rebuild their building to a single story from the two and a half stories it is now. They've had a wonderful summer of community activities where they have barbecued, I don't know how many halves chickens and sold to the community. They have a drive-through pick-up where the

community can drive through and pick the stuff up when they're doing that. They've got a plan for a quarterly event to help them on their way. Their goal for raising the money for the new building.

Don Weber: Thank you. District four.

David Applegate: Dave Applegate, commander district four. My report is in the book of reports. I would like to add just a few things. The district, I'm going to call it the blue 1000 program is fantastic. I put out the information to your posts and the response I'm getting back is great, including my own post 50. Because it's definitely helping out, especially in this time where it's getting difficult to do fundraisers. Of the 10 posts, we have six that are moving along pretty normally and the other four are getting going. And Again, I have work to do there, but looking forward to it. That's my report.

Don Weber: Okay. Thank you, sir. District five.

Lance Trowbridge: Lance Trowbridge district five commander, also a commander of post 86. My report is in the book of reports, and we have some excellent posts out in district five. Bend post four has been doing Zoom meetings successfully. Other posts in district five have been doing quite well. We're up to where we need to be with our membership and I'm working with post commanders. I'm making my assessments as we go. I'd like to get those assessments done by the end of October. So, we have a district meeting that's upcoming Saturday in La Pine, so I'm looking forward to that. That's my report.

Don Weber: All right. Thank you, sir. District six.

Chase Ence: Thank you, commander. Chase Ence, district six commander and post 72 adjutant. I don't have anything to add further to the book of records. My reports in there. We do have a resolution coming up on the merger of two of our posts. lone and Heppner that we have coming up later. That is, we want to get completed success. We did lose our district commander Glenn Bradley, but you all know that. Kind of a sad day for us, so plan on taking the ground running and hopefully achieving some great things. Kind of excited to take over and take us to a next level in district six, and get out, and meet our posts. We're looking to that also. Bring us back so we can be up in the front, rather than in the back. Anyway.

Don Weber: Like hearing that.

Chase Ence: That's the plan anyway. We got to get some energy back into our system and get people motivated again, to realize what we're here for. We're here to keep us. This is a brotherhood, and we need to keep it that. Brothers and sisters in our country and we need to make sure that people know why we're here. So that's why I come. I come to carry the burden of our fellow brothers and to make sure that we do the best we can to partake in our country and promote citizenship and brotherhood. So, we have the ability to conquer and create. I just want to thank you guys for this opportunity, and I can't wait to achieve great things.

Don Weber: Thank you.

Chase Ence: Thanks again.

Don Weber: District seven.

Terry Brown: Terry Brown, district first vice commander, post 74. Let me start by giving you some dates. Post 74's meeting is going to be on October 21st in Estacada. So, if you're interested in attending a post-meeting, we can get you the location and stuff. There's a dinner involved with it, a hundred bucks a person. The next district meeting is on October 23rd. I just texted our district commander and he hasn't responded back. We're still looking for a location, but I believe it's going to be at the [Beighton] Carol funeral home where it was last time and at 2:00. His report is in the book of reports, but I would like to add a little something. We've been working with a widow of a veteran and her daughter. The widow is disabled, and they were virtually homeless. They were living in their van, and they had three dogs which created an issue, but they needed lodging. So, we paid for numerous nights' lodging in different locations until they could find some permanent lodging.

At one point, we had pledged to pay her first month's rent to get into a house. Fortunately, that fell through because she came to find out that it was a landlord that lived in another state who was going to rent some property in Oregon. That was a scam, so we dodged the bullet on that one. But we paid to have her vehicle fixed so she had transportation and paid to have some clothing so she could get a job. She had to have certain shoes and things like that. Then ultimately, we got her, were instrumental in getting her a job at Costco in Wilsonville. I believe there's a Costco, I think she said. So that turned out good for us, and it turned out good for the widow and her daughter. That's it in my report.

Don Weber: Nice. Thank you. District eight.

Chris Christopherson: Commander, Chris Christopherson, Milwaukee post 180 and new district eight commander. I was installed Tuesday. I have no report to submit. I'm looking forward to getting to work though. Larry is going to be my mentor. I have a couple of goals. I want to fix the rift between us and the auxiliary. I'd like to get some training going. We've got a lot of older population that doesn't know how to Zoom and that kind of thing. I think that'd be really helpful.

Don Weber: Our department training officer happens to be in the meeting today. Feel free to talk with Betty Fish Ferguson, to get some assistance on that.

Chris Christopherson: Will do.

Don Weber: More than happy to do it.

Chris Christopherson: That's all I have.

Don Weber: Thank you. District nine.

Larry Hill: Good morning. Larry Hill, commander district nine. My reports are in the book of reports, but I would like to add something that post 16's first vice came up with. I was a Marine, I hate to say that, but you got to. He was silent but deadly and he actually came up with some good stuff. He said extensive discussions have been held and it's felt that for us to present an efficient and business-like appearance to the public and potential members, we must begin with ourselves. As we look better and perform in a more professional manner, the results will show and will greatly assist in growing our membership. He then lays out eight different suggestions of what they can do internally. One of them is if your executive board members and the officers attend eight monthly meetings and the majority of executive boards are going to pay the dues for the next year.

That's okay. The executive board's going to have quarterly lunch and meetings, and the post will pick that up in addition to regular meetings. Laid out when the food drives will be held, April, May, September. Then when we go to the sports show, if you participate for eight hours in sitting there selling raffle tickets, you can get five free raffle tickets. That's a nice incentive. That's 25 bucks right there and you might get a rifle. All post offices will have peer review every six months, which might be a help also.

Also, field day just for all you sailors and so forth in the army. It's a GI party held every quarter. Come down, clean the post exterior, interior. Make it look spiffier than it is. [inaudible] other ideas and suggestions will be added, and others will be removed or amended. Presently this is a working document. So, he has a

group of executives down there who are looking inward, first of all, to clean up the act, to enhance the image going out to the public. This is a different take on membership, and we hope it works. That's it for me. Thank you very much.

Don Weber: Thank you. District 10.

Robert Hornbeck: Department commander, district commanders, ladies, and gentlemen. I'm second vice district 10 commander, Robert Hornbeck standing in for our district commander Dan Burks. I'm also a post 63 Hardy post commander. Our report has been filed in the book of reports. To add to that, our district is working hard on membership. We're working hard on honoring veterans' programs, things of that nature. That's all I have to report at this time.

Don Weber: Thank you, and I look forward to visiting you and the veteran's day timeframe. So, thank you. We're going to move on with the commission reports now, and each commission chair will be covering code of procedure changes for those that are required. So administrative advisory.

Unknown: How about a break?

Don Weber: Okay. Is it that time? Yeah. Okay. So, we'll pause for a second here.

Unknown: [inaudible].

Don Weber: Pardon?

Unknown: [inaudible]

Don Weber: I will call on you at 9:45 for your report. So, we'll be in recess.

Bob Huff: Several of you remember this, which we used in the National Parade. There are a few of these left. Ian is sitting at the back of the room. He would like to sell those for the VCF Campaign. Ian, do you have a dollar amount?

Ian Gerstel: Whatever they want to offer.

Bob Huff: Whatever they want to give to Ian will go to the VCF. Thank you, Commander.

Don Weber: Yeah, you're welcome.

Unknown: What's that?

Flynn Phillips: BS for Boys State.

Unknown: Oh.

Larry Wittmayer: We have three minutes until we start so...

Unknown: Oh, I thought you said V, you said B.

Cross talk: I wouldn't wear it general. [crosstalk]

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah,

Cross talk: And so, you put them on the webpage. [crosstalk]

Larry Wittmayer: In your report, you're going to ask for the post to come up and talk about the convention, right? In your report? Why don't you do that? And we're not going to do this 2/3 vote and all this other bullshit. Just part... [crosstalk] Yeah. I know that, but that's what I'm saying. No, I meant as far as having the privilege of the floor and all that other bullshit. You know? Let's just bring it as part of your report. Let it go at that. [crosstalk].

Larry Wittmayer Tough.

Cross talk

Larry Wittmayer What time have you got?

Cross talk: I've got 2208.

Cross talk: 2208, something wrong with that.

Cross talk: Yeah. I didn't [crosstalk].

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah, that's what I thought. That's what I've got with my watch.

[crosstalk]

Cross talk: Got the marker. Oh.

Larry Wittmayer: This is your [inaudible] first vice Larry [Wittmayer]. We are now in session again. And the next report to be heard from would be the A and A Committee, Rob Liebenow.

Robert Liebenow: Both Commander Wittmayer, members of the DEC, Past National Commander Charlie Schmidt, and past department commanders. I am Robert Liebenow, Chairman of the Administrative and Advisory Commission. At this time, I would like to ask you to approve our code of procedures.

Larry Wittmayer: That was a motion?

Unknown: No, you can't make a-

Larry Wittmayer: Oh, that's right.

Robert Liebenow: Can't make a motion.

Lou Neubecker: Commander Wittmayer, Lou Neubecker District One, **I make a motion to accept the A and A Code of procedures.**

Unknown: Second. [inaudible]

Lou Neubecker: Five dollar.

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Immediate Past Commander, **second the motion** to approve the code of procedures for the A and A Commission.

Rob Liebenow: You know, carrying this around I feel like the Sergeant at Arms.

Larry Wittmayer: Okay. Larry Wittmayer, First Vice, is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion. All those in favor?

Group: I

Larry Wittmayer: Opposed? **Motion passed.** By the way as a footnote, only the members of the DEC have voting privilege. Go ahead, Rob.

Robert Liebenow: Thank you. Just a quick report. The Commission met on Friday, October 8 at 7:00 PM at Aloha 104. Present at that meeting was myself as Chairman, Past National Commander Charles Schmidt, NEC Kevin Owens, Finance Officer Bob Huff, and Past Department Commander Jon Marsh. We also had as guests, Department Commander Weber and First Vice Larry Wittmayer.

We had a short discussion without the adjutant present because some of the members felt that they needed to talk openly before the adjutant came in. Nothing out of the ordinary. We had a short discussion, about 7:30 PM the adjutant came in along with Judge Advocate Hellickson. There were a few questions asked of the adjutant. I'm not going to go into detail because a lot of things we do in the A and A, it stays in the A and A.

A lot of things that sometimes we forget it is we are the Administration Advisory Committee; we advise the Commander. And on the admin side, we need to work with the adjutant to make his job easier. So, there was some discussion on that. And then, broke out as usual. And the heavy discussion on the problems of the department and how we can correct the department and get it functioning again as it should be.

And as you know, the solution is simple, but making it happen is the difficult part. And that is every leader in this department, from post district and department levels, that includes your Chairman of your Commissions and your Committees, they have accepted a position, although it is voluntary, they have accepted a position. And they must follow through with that commitment. Without that commitment, we're never going to get this department in the direction it needs to go.

As you've heard earlier, reports. There's a reason there's a deadline, and you're lucky that you have a very generous and willing adjutant that breaks that deadline all the time because people are not getting the reports in on time. There are times he's headed out of town for a DEC, Mary's sitting at her desk still completing the book of reports because somebody just walked in and said, "Here's my book of reports." He's been told, any report that comes in after the deadline doesn't go in the book. It goes down as a no report. Maybe sometime people will finally get the message. There's a deadline, and there again it falls back on the Commander to make sure this stuff is being done.

Other than that, our meeting ended at approximately 8:30 PM, and Vice Commander that ends my report.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you very much. Next, we will hear from the Americanism Commission Report, [Gea Clausier].

Gea Clausier: Okay, since I'm also on the National Children and Youth Committee, I will include from both the national convention held in Phoenix and the fall conference held in Indianapolis. The full reports for both of these meetings have

been given to the adjutant to post on the webpage, but I'm going to hit some highlights that I feel everyone should know.

At the national convention, Arizona has had a law enforcement career academy for almost 50 years and showed a video of the last one that was held. Oregon needs to request a copy and hopefully can be shared at the next DEC for all to see. There is a new organization that national is supporting called Our Military Kids, and this organization supports the National Guard and Reserve families since support services at military installations are harder to access. This is important in Oregon since there is not an active-duty base for Army and Air Guard here. That additional support will be provided. Check out their website ourmilitarykids.org.

At the fall conference, there was a new video titled, "Youth Programs and Responsible Citizenship," created by the American Legion, and can be found online in legion.org, that is worth watching and sharing with all posts. The temporary financial assistant, TFA, policy, and procedures were discussed. Since there was a decline last year in requests due to all the additional unemployment and stimulus checks this year, they may increase when all of these payments come to an end.

Several resolutions were passed. Again, this is the highlight and look at the complete wording on the webpage soon. Resolution to change the location of the junior shooting sporting starting in 2023, is possible to Alabama. The resolution to amend the flag code for disposable of unserviceable flags by doing a study on how to dispose of polyester or nylon flags, since when burned they can create toxic fumes. The Department of Colorado agreed to do this study. There was also a resolution to amend oratorical contest drills regarding the time and number of assigned topics. Since Postmasters International requires five to seven minutes and a 30-second allowance under and over, the American Legion will be adapting the same time change.

Now on to the Baseball Committee. First of all, I have a copy of the official program for 2021. I only could get one copy, but I'm willing to let anybody and everybody that wants to look at it. Okay. Baseball Committee, Mike Sowles submitted details from last season in a separate report. I haven't seen the book of reports so hopefully, it's there because he submitted it on the 31st of August. The Code of Procedures update was not included so these are the proposed changes.

One, increase the committee from seven to 13 members. The Chairman and members can be a member of the American Legion, Sons of the American

Legion, or an axillary member of the American Legion. The Chairman will be appointed, but all others in this committee shall serve as appointed until they choose to be replaced. The committee is made up of coaches, managers, Legion members, and business community representatives.

Two, the vice-chairs were dropped from the divisions. Paragraph 5A states all committee members are voting members, not just Legion. Paragraph nine, drop the written report to be submitted 45 days before the beginning of the convention.

Larry Wittmayer: Do I hear a motion to approve these Code of Procedures changes? Past Department Commander Adams?

Steve Adams: I make a motion that we do not approve these Code of Procedure changes due to Constitution and bylaws violations.

Larry Wittmayer: Do we have a second to that?

Unknown: Yeah.

Lou Neubecker: Lou Neubecker District One Commander, I second that motion.

Larry Wittmayer: Now we get into... This is Department First Vice Commander Wittmayer. Now we get into a **discussion about this motion**. Past Commander Adams. Microphone.

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Media Past Commander. The discussion here, what I find, is that it's a Constitutional and bylaws violation because our Constitution and bylaws state that the members of the committee must be Legion members. And so, not anybody from the community or other entities can be committee members at that time according to our Constitution and bylaws.

Unknown: Steve.

Kevin Owens: Commander Kevin Owens, NEC. The other thing is that I noticed that he's talking about those who would stay on those committees until they want to leave, and that doesn't work that way. Committee members and commission members are appointed by the Commander, ratified by the DEC, and the Commander makes that choice, not the committees. So, that's against our Constitution.

Larry Wittmayer: Any further discussion?

Larry Wittmayer: Any further discussion?

Chris Christopherson: Chris Christopherson, District Eight Commander. This seems like a really good opportunity to sign some people up if you want to add to it. Have them join the sons or axillary or post.

Larry Wittmayer: Okay. So, it appears that next after discussion, all those in favor or not approving this motion, signify by saying, "I."

Group: I

Larry Wittmayer: Naye. This **Code of Procedure change has been disapproved.**

Cory Brockmann: Commander Wittmayer? Cory Brockmann, Department Second Vice. Judge advocate, would you please inform us on, do we need a motion to maintain the existing Code of Procedures since we're in a business year?

Gene Hellickson: No.

Cory Brockmann: It just stays in place?

Gene Hellickson: Yup.

Cory Brockmann: So, the department adjutant will update the code for a new date only?

Gene Hellickson: That's correct.

Cory Brockmann: Okay. Thank you. Commander.

Gea Clausier: Next, I'm going to move on to the Boys Scout Committee. Larry Wittmayer attended the national conference on Boy Scout on 29 September by Zoom. And so, he will post the information in the Legionnaire, share at the next DEC that he has changed to his Code of Procedures, which I'll let him speak to.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you. This is Larry Wittmayer, Department First Vice. But scouting chair. And we do have a suggested Code of Procedures change for the Boy Scout program and I will read them. This starts with paragraph 15, and I will read some that aren't changed to lead us into the change. The committee shall meet as needed prior to March 15 each year to evaluate Eagle Scout of the Year applicants using the evaluation form provided by the American Legion National Office.

Now, we get into the change. **The Department to Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year will not be required to have a religious award.** The selectee will therefore not be eligible to move up in competition for the national scholarship. Should the Department of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year have their religious award, their candidacy moves up to national. The Department of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year will be awarded a scholarship of \$2,500. This scholarship may be used for advanced education beyond high school at an accredited school. The funds may be used for tuition, fees, or books.

The Department of Oregon Eagle Scout of the Year will have two years after graduation from high school to use the scholarship unless they join a branch of the US military. Then, they will have one year after honorable discharge to use the scholarship. In order to receive the scholarship funds, the Eagle Scout of the Year will provide the address of the financial aid office of the attending school for the department. If the Eagle Scout of the Year served in the military, they will also send a copy of their DD214 upon discharge... that's not in there... DD214 to the Department of Oregon in the change.

So, the Chair recognizes a motion to approve this Code of Procedures change. The Chair...

Lou Neubecker: Commander Lou Neubecker, District One. I make a **motion to accept the change to the Boy Scouts Committee.**

Larry Wittmayer: And a second?

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Media Past Department Commander. Second the motion to approve the Code of Procedures for Boy Scouts.

Larry Wittmayer: Are there any discussions?

Unknown: Larry. Larry.

Larry Wittmayer: I recognize Past National Commander, Charlie Schmidt.

Charles Schmidt: Commander Charles Schmidt, Chairman PR Committee, O+ blood and have had both of my shots. Mr. Commander, I'd like to ask through you to the Scout Chairman. Why don't we have a religious award in the Department of Oregon?

Larry Wittmayer: I'd like to answer that question as to the Department Scout Chair. We have not had an applicant for Eagle Scout of the Year in the last two years that I can remember if not three. In discussion with a lot of the Scout Masters in the department, in the areas that we sponsor, that's the hang-up. Because there are

a lot of young people who, quite frankly, their families do not participate in an organized religious atmosphere. In addition to that, we have some who belong to denominations that do not have a recognized religious award. That's the reason why we, at the convention Scouting subcommittee decided that what we could do was drop that requirement for the religious award.

I'd like to further state that the scout promise deals with a belief in God.

Charles Schmidt: Yes.

Larry Wittmayer: And I've chaired a number of Eagle Board of Reviews in my 60 years in scouting. And just about every time we ask that individual if they have a belief in the Supreme Being. We can't nail it down to do you believe Jesus or do you believe in Buddha or whoever. But we ask them for a belief in the Supreme Being and nine times out of 10 they will say yes, or they're not eligible to be an Eagle Scout. Does that answer your question Commander?

Charles Schmidt: I would think if they believe in the Ten Commandments that would be justification.

Larry Wittmayer: Also.

Charles Schmidt: But again, who's the recipients of this award? It's the future of this country.

Larry Wittmayer: Correct.

Dave Applegate: Dave Applegate, in District Four Commander. Right off hand, it sounds to me like you're penalizing this person because they can't go national. I don't see that that's that fair. There should be a way to work around this. I have also sat on Eagle Scout boards, and we deal with this issue. It is a major-

Larry Wittmayer: Would you like me to answer that comment?

Dave Applegate: All right.

Larry Wittmayer: I don't feel like there's any penalization for an individual who doesn't have the award because at least he's eligible for this scholarship at a department level. And if he has the award, he can go up to national. So, there's no penalization for the fact that he doesn't have the award. There's giving them the opportunity to apply for the scholarship if they don't have the award.

Dave Applegate: Right. I understand that. The other minor issue is that, okay, if they go into the military, they say they put in 10 years. That's a long time to carry that-

Larry Wittmayer: Well, then-

Dave Applegate: You should specify in there a certain time I would think.

Larry Wittmayer: Then they're not eligible for the scholarship.

Dave Applegate: Oh. Okay. Thank you.

Larry Wittmayer: Any further discussion?

Don Weber: I think Terry.

Larry Wittmayer: Terry Brown.

Terry Brown: Terry Brown, District Seven Vice Commander. I'm just curious why in graduation from high school they have two years to use the scholarship, but when they leave the military, they only have one year.

Larry Wittmayer: That's a good question Terry, and I'll answer that as the Scouting Chair. That's a good question, that's the way it was in the previous Code of Procedures. And so, I dittoed that.

Terry Brown: Okay.

Larry Wittmayer: Any further discussion? **Call for the motion. Do we have a motion to approve it? Do I already have it? That's right we were on the discussion. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Okay. Then we'll call for the vote. All those in favor of this change to the Code of Procedures signify by saying, "I."**

Group: I

Larry Wittmayer: Opposed? **Change passes.** Okay, the next... go ahead.

Cory Brockmann: Commander Cory Brockmann, Department Second Vice. The privilege of the mic. Folks, to expedite this business item. We reviewed these yesterday. We have in your packets that were distributed by the department of adjutant yesterday, those changes. And you received a packet this morning from the department adjutant with a freshly announced edit yesterday. So, I propose that we move these, if there are no changes, **make a motion for all three** to be approved by the commission. And if there's a discussion needed, we'll have a discussion.

Larry Wittmayer: Gea go ahead.

Gea Clausier:

Next is Boys State Committee, Ian Gerstel was unable to attend the conference in Indianapolis, But another member of the committee attended. The Americanism Chairman was not notified of this change until after funds had been spent to send another other than the Chairman. As a member of the Finance Committee, I was not aware of this expenditure being approved, either. Money should not be taken out of a budget line other than the purpose it was intended for without some coordination and approval for special circumstances.

With that being said, the conference was held September 24-26 in Indianapolis. The conference convened in a joint session of axillary girl's state directors. Most notable was the decision to host 100 delegates of the states such as Oregon, which did not send anyone, had positions that could be filled. So, the states that were participating threw their name in a hat, and they were able to ascend an additional student.

So, once that additional student arrived at the National Boys Convention, one of them was assigned to be representing Oregon. Children and Youth Committee, Judy Johnston Chairman, did not forward a report and the Code of Procedures has no changes.

The Law Enforcement Career Camp Committee Chairman, okay, yesterday we learned that we had voted to change, under Resolution 21, the name to Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp. But after discussion yesterday, we realized that that resolution is null and void until the Constitution and bylaws are changed at the next convention. John Lee attended one meeting with the Oregon police to kick off the planning for this career camp.

Junior Shooting Sports Committee, Rahl Salem Chairman, also submitted his report separately.

The Oratorical Committee, Maria Tye, did not submit a report, but the Code of Procedures was submitted with the following changes. Section three, department Oratorical Committee members have changed from area one from vacant to Deborah Jacobson, area two from Richard Ramey to Steve [Bergadine], area three from Steve Bergadine to Charles Wilson. And section seven, another scholarship was added for fifth place for \$1,500.

Larry Wittmayer:

Do I hear a motion to approve those changes?

Lou Neubecker:

Lou Neubecker, District One Commander, I make a motion to approve the changes that Gia just gave us.

Larry Wittmayer: Do I hear a second?

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Media Past Commander. Second the motion to approve what Gea just said.

Larry Wittmayer: Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I

Larry Wittmayer: Opposed? **It passes.** Now, we move on to Internal Affairs Commission report by Steve Adams. Is that correct? No, I'm sorry Steve.

Steve Adams: No.

Larry Wittmayer: We move on to the Convention Commission report by Jon Marsh. Sorry, Jon.

Chris Christopherson: Somebody give him a walker.

Larry Wittmayer: He does, its name is duchess.

Jon Marsh: Can I come up there? Jon Marsh, you're on-board Command to Commission Chairman. I'm here this day to report on what I hope is the upcoming convention. They have turned in... Post 104 has put their hand up for it, and they have turned in a certain amount of paperwork to me, which leads me to believe that they're semi-serious. So, they're a little behind the eight-ball on the paperwork, but I think I'll work with them, and we can work that out. All right? I'm going to let the Commander say a few words to you, Mr. Adam Gettmann, about he's going to put on the best convention we ever had.

Larry Wittmayer: We have a problem.

Chris Christopherson: Let's hope so.

Unknown: That presents a problem.

Larry Wittmayer: Hang on a second. Court of the [jag] we have a problem because we have a nonmember of the DEC addressing the DEC. So, we need a 2/3 vote to approve his presentation. All those in favor?

Group: I

Bob Huff: There's no motion, though.

Larry Wittmayer: All right. Make the motion Bob.

Bob Huff: Commander Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer. **I make a motion that we allow the Commander of Post 104 to speak.**

Larry Wittmayer: Second?

Cory Brockmann: Cory Brockmann, Department Second Vice, **second the motion.**

Larry Wittmayer: I don't suppose there's any discussion? All those in favor?

Group: I

Larry Wittmayer: Please.

Adam Gettmann: Good morning fellow Legionnaires and guests, I'm Adam Gettmann, Post Commander of Aloha post 104. It is a privilege and **my honor to request that Aloha post 104 be considered as the host post for the 103 Department of Oregon Annual Convention 2022.**

Flynn Phillips: And?

Larry Wittmayer: That's it?

Kevins Owens: [inaudible]. Kevin Owens, National Executive Committee. I have a few questions and maybe some concerns. I'm not trying to throw a wrench in there. I know that a lot of people do not like to drive in the Portland area, and that is an issue. The traffic up here is horrendous, especially during our convention. So, where are we going to hold this stuff? And I know you have a post, but it is not going to be big enough really to hold unless you do something outside. Be trying to hold a dinner, and try to cram all... You don't have the parking. So, it's just stuff to consider, considering we have a few people who are beginning to get a little older like Jon Marsh. And we have a lot of people that are getting to be handicapped. So, it's this stuff that we need to consider. I'm handicapped, people don't really know that, but other than the brain maybe but...

Unknown: We know.

Kevin Owens: Shut up. But I have a walking problem and I'm one hundred percent disabled because of it. And so, walking is an issue.

Larry Wittmayer: We aren't actually approving this than to go ahead, are we?

Flynn Phillips: I have no comment.

Kevin Owens: We need to consider where we're going. I'm not saying we shouldn't do 104, what I'm saying is where we hold it, sitting in chairs that are for two-year old's is a problem because sitting in a plastic chair all day is unacceptable for these folks. They're elderly, well he's elderly. But I'm just saying, [inaudible] to get a place to hold it. We need to consider what kind of Facilities that we're being at. Where we're sitting, how you sit, where we're parking, how far do we have to walk. How far do we have to drive through traffic that most of these people that are, other than the Portland area, are not used to driving in?

Larry Wittmayer: I don't think we're approving this.

Kevin Owens: Getting lost. All of these things, variables. You know what I'm talking about. It's not like Charles [crosstalk]. But I will just say if you're going to get a place to hold it, and then having the Auxiliary where we're close together. Because some people, their wives rely on their husbands or vice versa to get them around. And if we're separated so far, that could be an issue. So, just food for thought. And I know Jon Marsh has been down this road. And I know [Whataford] would do a great job, but just things we need to think about as an organization. So, this is my thought. Thanks, Commander.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you.

Bob Huff: Commander, discussion?

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah, we're up for discussion at this point.

Gene Hellickson: Commander, people need to speak into the microphones.

Larry Wittmayer: Here.

Bob Huff: Bob Huff, Department Finance Officer. Commander, I do thank you for taking on this, but I have a real concern and it's this room right here. Not that we would meet here, this room will house 143 people. We're in the Portland metro area for the last 16 years I've been coming to meetings. This is the lowest group of people we've ever had. And that is my concern.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you, Mr. Huff. Okay. Does anybody else have any concerns? At this stage of the game, thank you very much Commander, and we'll continue with the report by Jon Marsh.

Jon Marsh: Thank you, Adam. Okay, you can see we have some concerns. They mentioned to me that they're looking at a couple of grade schools. Well, I don't know if that new convention center is open or what's going on around here. Do you? Do you know if the convention center...?

Adam Gettmann: I've heard it's open, but we have not talked to them yet.

John Marsh: Okay.

Adam Gettmann: Kind of waiting for this weekend, before we-

Jon Marsh: Okay. All right. Great. I think we can work it out. We'll find an entirely adequate place, and I doubt it'll be a grade school with plastic chairs. Okay. Yeah.

Larry Wittmayer: So, is that the end of your report?

Jon Marsh: Yes, I would just like to ask for approval of my committee-

Unknown: There are some changes.

Jon Marsh: Code of Procedures. Sorry.

Larry Wittmayer: Oh, I didn't know there was one.

Jon Marsh: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Larry Wittmayer: All right. So, we have before you a Code of Procedures change for the Convention Commission and I won't read the changes, you've got them before you. So, I'd entertain a **motion to** approve the change.

Cory Brockmann: Cory Brockmann, Department Second Vice. **I make a motion that we accept the Code of Procedures as distributed by the Convention Commission.**

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you, do I hear a second?

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Media Past Commander. I **second the motion.**

Larry Wittmayer: Any discussion about the Code of Procedures change? All those in favor?

Group: I

Larry Wittmayer: Opposed?

Unknown: I.

Jon Marsh: Okay, in that case, sir I'd like to have **my Commission dissolve in the convention.**

Larry Wittmayer: You're not going to dissolve.

Jon Marsh: Thank you. Oh, wait. I didn't talk about... what do you have for me, Bob?

Bob Huff: Commander?

Jon Marsh: Oh, the report on. Yeah.

Bob Huff: Yes.

Jon Marsh: I forgot.

Bob Huff: Good morning, I'm Bob Huff, the Department Finance Officer. We had a convention this year at Seven Feathers. And this particular meeting right here is when we would close out that Convention Commission since we've done our audits and we have all of our numbers. Since we do not have a convention-corporation.

Bob Huff: Corporation for this year. **We used the Department, so we don't need to close out any of our tax numbers or anything as a run-up of the report.** And Jon and Jodi and I did meet on other things too. Actual American Legion Delegates that paid, there were 305. American Legion Delegates that attended the convention were 114. And yes, that does cost us some issues. SAL paid \$148 because we have dual members, there were 20 SAL members there. And the American Legion axillary, we had 85 pay and I don't have the count of how many were there. With all the billings that we got and the whole deal, no we did not go in the sewer because we had money in our budget allocated for the different avenues.

How we actually, almost zeroed it out, we probably made... because this DEC then approves \$1,000. When we make this report, we'll come out with about \$27 to the good.

Bob Huff: That is good.

Larry Wittmayer: That's awesome.

Bob Huff: That's awesome. So, and Commander I was not trying to put anybody on the spot. Seriously, I hope you pull this convention off. I would vote for that. The only thing that I'm asking is when we go back to our districts, and we go back to our posts, we should have more members that are attending the convention. Understanding COVID, and warnings, and restrictions, and everything kept quite a few people, we could've actually made quite a bit of money. But that's not what the convention is about. It really isn't. That is my report. I would make a motion that since we're closing this report out, that the \$1,000 for the incentive for the Convention Corporation, which will stay within our own department, be approved.

Larry Wittmayer: I think you have a motion then.

Bob Huff: We have a **motion**.

Don Weber: We have a motion, is there a second?

Lou Neubecker: Lou Neubecker, District One. **Second**.

Don Weber: **The motion is second to approve the incentive pay from the department to the department. Any discussion? All those in favor, signify it by saying, "I."**

Group: I.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay? **Motion carries**. Thank you. I understand-

Larry Wittmayer: Jon needs to finish.

Don Weber: Jon, I understand you're still up.

Jon Marsh: I am, yeah. I just want to say with rubbery knees, I am so pleased to hear that we didn't go in the bucket. Jesus Christ, I was worried about that.

Don Weber: [crosstalk] that from the record.

Jon Marsh: 118 people, can you imagine. What kind of convention? I hope we do better. I'm sure we will because we're bringing it up here. It's not so far to travel. No, issues, right?

Don Weber: And we have a great post to host it.

Jon Marsh: Whatever you say, Commander. The proof is in the pudding, sir. All right. I'm glad to hear about the convention. We all know where we're going for next DEC.

It's going to be mostly, I believe, virtual out of the department. So, and after that, there has been some confusion, I believe, about the spring DEC. At this time, we are committed to going La Pine. And they're counting on us being there in Naples. All right?

Don Weber: Okay.

Jon Marsh: All right, sir.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Jon Marsh: That's my report.

Don Weber: Thank you. Did you do your Code-

Jon Marsh: Yeah.

Don Weber: Procedures changes. Okay. Internal Affairs, I thought you took care of everything?

Steve Adams: No.

Don Weber: What did you have so much time at the podium for before? Internal Affairs Commissions.

Kevin Ownes: Two big Commanders come and go.

Larry Wittmayer: And we'll stay here. Jeez. All right. You're up Steve.

Steve Adams: Okay. Commander. Internal Affairs report-

Larry Wittmayer: Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Internal Affairs Chairman, Commission Chairman. We held a meeting on October 9th at 0800 on the quarter deck of Embassy Inn Suites.

Don Weber: For everyone else, what is that?

Steve Adams: The lobby.

Don Weber: Thank you.

Steve Adams: Okay. In attendance were Judy Johnston, Terry Brown, Ward Allen, Betty Fish-Ferguson. The reason for this meeting is we had to, according to the Code of Procedures, appoint an Assistant Chairman. That person's job is in case the Chairman cannot be at a DEC to make a report, that person does. Virtually the Vice-Chairman to fill in when the Chairman can't do something. And so, since he chose not to attend this DEC, Dan Burkes was appointed Assistant Chairman.

Betty Fish-Ferguson, Chairman of Training and Development stated that the next training will be October 30th in Aurora Post 110. And we also discussed possible sites for future training. And Betty took that under advisement, and she's going to pursue that with the Commander and the IA Chairman.

So, we adjourned the meeting at 8:25 AM. So, that's what we did. Also, in attendance at that meeting was Larry Wittmayer, First Vice; our Commander Don Weber, and there was somebody else there too, but I can't remember who it was. But anyway, they were there in a-

Larry Wittmayer: Visiting.

Steve Adams: Ex-officio nonvoting. But they contributed and that's what I wanted. And I think the meeting went very very well, with a lot of suggestions coming up and guidance for the Commander. We have two changes to the Codes of Procedures. One is to... the Internal Affairs Commission, section 4, it's a typo that has been in this Code of Procedures several times. And we finally caught it. Where it says, "President of the Finance Commission," line one, last word, Finance Commission does not have a president. It's the Permanent Finance Commission, so the president needs to be changed to permanent.

Do I need to make a recommendation?

Don Weber: You can make a motion.

Steve Adams: **So, I make a motion that we change the word president to permanent in section four for the Internal Affairs Commission.**

Lou Neubecker: Commander, Lou Neubecker, District One Commander, I second that motion.

Don Weber: Motion **second** to approve the Code of Procedures for the Internal Affairs Commission. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay?

Larry Wittmayer: You have a discussion.

Don Weber: Oh, I'm sorry.

Terry Brown: Terry Brown, District Seven First Vice. Can we leave the Resolution Assignment Committee verbiage in here? Because you have a assignment as highlighted.

Steve Adams: No.

Terry Brown: I'll discuss that.

Don Weber: That has nothing to do with your Internal Affairs Commission Code of Procedures.

Terry Brown: That's right. No, it does not.

Don Weber: Okay, so that's a different Code of Procedures so what we're voting on now is the Internal Affairs Code of Procedures.

Terry Brown: I know, but it says in here the name is Resolution Assignment Committee.

Don Weber: Okay. Please address that.

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Internal Affairs Chairman, the reason that it was not changed in the Code of Procedures for Internal **Affairs is that according to the Constitution and bylaws we cannot change the name of the Resolution Assignment Committee at this time.** We have to wait until the convention to get the name change in the Constitution and bylaws before we can do the name change in the committee. So, therefore, we can't do it at this time.

Terry Brown: Terry Brown, are we going to talk about the Resolution Assignment Committee in the discussion because Gene and I, we've been talking back and forth about the issue that there is a Resolution Assignment Committee versus Resolution Committee. So, are we talking about that at all?

Steve Adams: I have not been privileged to that discussion.

Terry Brown: Oh, just at the break. We started talking about some things.

Steve Adams: Okay. So, what was that discussion?

Terry Brown: Okay, well, all right it appears like the confusion with the Resolution Assignment Committee and the Resolution Committee because there are two different

committees. The language that's currently in the Code of Procedures for the Resolution Assignment Committee, in my mind, dealt with the committee that deals all year long with resolutions that come in. There's a little bit of verbiage in there that talks about the convention. There should be another Code of Procedures for the Resolution Assignment Committee for the convention. So, because there's nothing that talks about what you do at the convention. You dissolve the committee afterward and that kind of stuff.

So, we're really looking at developing two separate codes of Procedures. So, that's kind of in the works, but...

Robert Liebenow: Commander, the privilege of the floor? Past Department Commander, Rob Liebenow. When I set up the Resolution Assignment Committee, and I'm the one that started it. It was to mirror the national convention where we had a Resolution Assignment Committee at the convention to take in all the resolutions and distribute them to the proper committees and commissions for convention purposes only.

Steve Adams: Okay.

Larry Wittmayer: Go ahead.

Steve Adams: I conferred with Richard Ramey on this subject. And when the committee was formed for a standing committee for the department during the year, it was totally separate from the Convention Resolution Assignment Committee. And yes, because of the Department Resolution Assignment Committee, the chairman and the members are chosen and picked and appointed by the Commander. At the convention, the names to serve on those committees come from the delegate lists that the district submits that the post has submitted to them.

Don Weber: Let's have the judge advocate clarify here. Gene?

Eugene Hellickson: Judge Advocate, Eugene Gordon-Hellickson. What we've got going on right now is like Past National Vice Commander Liebenow pointed out, the present Code of Procedures that we have in the book was written for conventions. But it doesn't say convention, okay? So, that's one thing that needs to be changed. Now, over the years, that Code of Procedures has kind of been morphed into also covering the rest of the year.

And what I was talking with Terry about, and I think I've talked to Past Department Commander Adams about, is we really need to have two Codes of

Procedures. Where the present one, things have been added to it like the Assignment Committee would be doing editing. That's not the purpose of an Assignment Committee. If you're going to allow editing, that should be in the other one. Because the present one that we have is strictly an Assignment Committee, and it any reference in there to them doing editing or technical stuff to the actual resolution needs to be taken out of there.

So, a logical place to put that would be in the second Code of Procedures that applies to everything except the convention. And part of the problem is we don't have any documents to support this whole thing that's going on. But Robert's Rules of Order has a complete chapter on a Resolution Committee. So, that's where this whole things come out. So, we should have a Resolution Assignment Committee that is for the convention. And we should have a Resolution Committee for the rest of the year that covers all these little things like editing and all that stuff. Does that make sense?

Don Weber: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Larry Wittmayer: Absolutely. Totally-

Eugene Hellickson: And that's kind of what's caused this confusion between... So, I think what we're recommending is that the existing one adds to the title... This won't be able to be done until the next convention. Add to the title that it's a Convention Assignment Committee, and then when they make the new one it would just be called the Resolution Committee. Okay?

Don Weber: Thank you.

Eugene Hellickson: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Don Weber: Okay. You want to discussion?

Cory Brockmann: Cory Brockmann, Department Second Vice. For the judge advocate, just to clarify, we have department standing committees that function year-round, and then convention committees.

Eugene Hellickson: Correct.

Cory Brockmann: Is it your suggestion that we're only developing a Code of Procedures for just that one convention committee or all convention committees?

Eugene Hellickson: All.

Cory Brockmann: Because there's two separate issues here. Right now our Codes of Procedures are addressing all of our standing committees.

Eugene Hellickson: Correct.

Cory Brockmann: Right? And so, what I'm hearing is you're saying we need to create a Convention Committee Code of Procedures.

Eugene Hellickson: We have the convention Code of Procedures now.

Cory Brockmann: Right.

Eugene Hellickson: It just doesn't say that it is the title, and that has led to the confusion-

Larry Wittmayer: Right.

Eugene Hellickson: Of trying to get other things for that committee to do.

Cory Brockmann: Okay. So-

Cory Brockmann: So, we're going to need a resolution at the department convention, right? To change the language in the Constitution bylaws.

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah.

Don Weber: Correct.

Eugene Gordon-H...: Before we create any Code of Procedures for that now.

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah, yes.

Cory Brockmann: That applies to the whole topic on resolution assignment and title that we abated yesterday, as well as the Jim Willis Law Enforcement Career Camp resolution, which was approved-

Larry Wittmayer: Incorrectly.

Eugene Hellickson: Incorrectly. Right.

Larry Wittmayer: Correct.

Don Weber: So, there's a motion on the floor where do you stand?

Steve Adams: We need a vote.

Don Weber: Okay, so there's a motion on the floor. Where do you stand?

Steve Adams: We cannot change-

Don Weber: I'd like to have a ruling on the motion.

Charles Schmidt: **We cannot change the Resolution Assignment Committee name at this time.**

Terry Brown: That's correct.

Don Weber: Then how does that affect your-

Robert Liebenow: It doesn't.

Steve Adams: It doesn't. It doesn't. The only change would be from the president to permanent in the Internal Affairs.

Don Weber: Okay. So, the Internal Affairs Commission, your changes will delete the change that includes the name for the Resolution Assignment Committee.

Steve Adams: Right.

Don Weber: And then it will be approved.

Steve Adams: Well, we already have a motion to approve it.

Don Weber: Well, yeah, a motion yes.

Don Weber: To approve. Okay.

Don Weber: Okay. So, there's a motion to approve the Internal Affairs Commission Code of Procedures, which originally included a reference to the name of Resolution Committee, which cannot be changed yet. So, that change will not be put into the Code of Procedures change. **So, the motion still stands to approve the Code of Procedures without that recommended change. Does everyone understand? Any further discussion?**

Steve Adams: And to change president to permanent.

Don Weber: Right. So, the change of president to-

Steve Adams: Permanent.

Don weber: **Permanent applies... Yeah.** So, that's it. So, all those in favor signify it by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you.

Larry Wittmayer: You didn't give them a chance.

Steve Adams: Thank you, Don.

Larry Wittmayer: I've been to national with training. Okay.

Steve Adams: Okay. Code of Procedures Constitution and bylaws, Code of Procedures for Resolution Assignment Committee there's no changes. Code of Procedures for Sons of the American Legion, Training and Development Committee, Trophy and Awards Committee, no changes. The only other change is to the American Legion Riders Committee. And that is paragraph 11, and I will read that.

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah, but there was this confusion about it.

Steve Adams: There was some confusion about it yesterday so I will read it. The addition to paragraph 11 is the second paragraph of paragraph 11. So, what was added? So, paragraph 11 will now read: ORALR annual award nominations for a large and small chapter of the year, and Rider of the year will be consolidated at the ORALR level for submission. Chapters of the year will be determined through quarterly reports received, Activities reported, and value-added to their post and community. Riders of the year chapter submissions upon consideration will be reviewed by the ALR Committee for selection.

Second paragraph, the nominations of the chapter of the year will be made by the ORALR and submitted to the committee. Each must be received by the Chairperson no later than five May annually. Plaques and plates for the above will be created through the department for distribution during the Annual Oregon American Legion Convention to the chapters and individuals receiving awards.

From what I understand from Gale Sears and Mike Speer as secretary of the ALR Committee is this fine-tunes what they have been doing. It just makes it more clear and sets rules on what they have to do.

So, I would **make a motion to accept these changes to the Code of Procedures for American Legion Writers as written.**

Lou Neubecker: Commander, Lou Neubecker, District One Commander. I make second that motion.

Don Weber: Restate the motion.

Steve Adams: Hmm?

Don Weber: Restate the motion.

Steve Adams: I made the motion. He second-

Don Weber: Restate the motion.

Steve Adams: To accept the changes to the Code of Procedures American Legion Riders as written.

Don Weber: Okay, there's been a motion and a second to accept the change to the Code of Procedures for the American Legion Riders. Discussion? All those in favor?

Larry Wittmayer: No, too fast.

Steve Adams: He has a discussion.

Don Weber: Did you have a discussion, sir?

Charles Schmidt: Yes.

Don Weber: Okay.

Charles Schmidt: Commander Charles Schmidt, PR Committee. For clarification, the chairman mentioned in the Code of Procedures those bodies I heard that the training and development were under Internal Affairs? Training and development is a commission. So, surely, we don't have a commission reporting to a commission.

Don Weber: What's the name... Training and Development is that a commission or a committee?

Steve Adams: Committee.

Flynn Phillips: Committee.

Don Weber: Committee underneath Internal Affairs?

Steve Adams: Yes.

Don Weber: My records show that it is a committee underneath Internal Affairs.

Charles Schmidt: It's **not a commission?**

Don Weber: Snooze. Further discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: All those opposed, signify by, "Nay." **Motion carries.**

Steve Adams: **Okay. Now, I make a motion to accept the following Codes of Procedures as written Constitution and bylaws, Resolution Assignment Committee, Sons of the American Legion Committee, Training and Development Committee, and Trophy and Awards Committee.**

Lou Neubecker: I'm sorry. I'll make the motion, or I'll second the motion of whatever the hell you said.

Don Weber: State your name.

Lou Neubecker: Lou Neubecker, District One. [crosstalk]

Larry Wittmayer: It's \$2.00 ahead.

Don Weber: **Motion to approve remaining committees Codes of Procedure. Discussion? All those in favor, signify by saying, "I."**

Group: I.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay? **Motion carries.**

Steve Adams: I have been advised by a person that was over Internal Affairs for many years that part of the Internal Affairs Commission Chairman's job is to make sure that the district commanders turn in their monthly reports to the department and their post-analysis. The last I heard about post-analysis being turned in for the whole year, may have been 10 or 12. So, that means only 12 posts were visited the entire year by 10 district commanders. I find that a little hard to believe.

So, those post analyses have to be in. What those post analyses do is they tell the department two things, posts that are having advanced Activities, sponsoring programs, that help us to know. It also helps us to know when posts aren't doing that, could the department help them, and get those programs functioning. Do they need help? That's what the department is for is here to help. But the key to it, and I've hounded this for two years, is communication. We have to talk to each other, at least email each other. If you don't like to hear what the other guy says, at least read it. But anyway, we need to communicate. So, I encourage the district commanders to get that done.

Also, I encourage the district commanders to get the posts to turn in the reports that are required, the consolidated post report is a really important one. But also, the post to let the districts know and where the districts can let the department know events that they're doing and what they're doing with their programs. We need to blow our own horn more.

Don Weber: Okay.

Steve Adams: So, and we're not doing that. So, please do that.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Robert Liebenow: Commander, privilege of the floor?

Don Weber: Yes, sir.

Robert Liebenow: Robert Liebenow, Past Department Commander. I just have a question. Yesterday, you had a meeting, it went over all the Codes of Procedures and the changes.

Don Weber: Yes.

Robert Liebenow: And as alluded to Second Vice Commander Brockmann earlier, why are we rereading all those changes now? Unless they came about last night or this morning, you heard all the changes yesterday. Why are we listening to them again?

Don Weber: I think we're through that-

Robert Liebenow: In the essence of time.

Don Weber: There were a couple of them that had some confusion in it yesterday. And I hope that confusion was clarified this morning and taken care of. So, Legislative Commission report, John [Lee].

John Lee: So, I'm John Lee, Legislative Commission Chair. My reports are in the book of reports. However, that was 45 days ago so there have been a few additions to that. My Code of Procedures, I have not had a change to them. We're not looking at making a change at this particular time. They're going to be looked at some other ways also, and hopefully, in the future, there's going to be some, but not currently. Does that have to be approved?

Unknown: Yes.

John Lee: So, I'd like to make a motion that we approve the Code of Procedures for the-

Larry Wittmayer: You can't make the motion.

John Lee: I can't make the motion. **I request then a motion be made.** [crosstalk].

Lou Neubecker: I guess I am. Lou Neubecker, District One, **I make a motion to approve the Code of Procedures for Legislative Commission.**

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, immediate Past Commander, I second the motion.

Don Weber: The motion is second to approve the Code of Procedures for the Legislative Commission. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.**

John Lee: All right, thank you very much. With that, there are a few things that I'd like to add to that. I've been staying in close contact with ODVA Legislative Director, although we may be interested in bills that don't necessarily come out of ODVA, they watch it probably closer than anybody. And I found that when I went through all the bills, all almost 4,000 of them, the list of veteran-type bills was identical to theirs. So, I work with them very very closely. There have been some changes up there. The Assistant Director of ODVA got deployed and is now in the middle east.

And so, Jenny Donovan who was the Legislative Director moved up as the Assistant Director of ODVA. And a girl by the name of Stacey Jacob mason has taken her place, very knowledgeable, worked with Berkley's office for eight

years I believe, reading those legislative processes. So, I meet with her at least once a month, more if needed. She's really easy to get to, and was at a meeting yesterday, at which she was speaking.

One of the bills that we've seen a lot of talk about, and I've had veterans from, even other organizations, questioning house bill 2700 and senate bill 306, which involves taxing of a retirement pension or income. She really went into it. The bill is really directed ODVA to do a study on taxes, which doesn't totally make sense. But that's where these bills were headed. It was really being spearheaded by Senator Riley, who has just put in his notice of retirement. So, whether this gets pushed again, I'm not sure.

This bill goes back a long way. People that have been here for a while know that there's this line drawn in the sand in '91, and this actually goes all the way back to '78. And Stacey did pretty good research on that. And I will try and send out some information through Flynn on what she came up with. But it really started in '78 when there were some looks at it. The state kind of backed off and it's because PERS was not being taxed, and the federal was.

So, at that point, they took a look at it and they started taxing PERS, but then gave them a tax credit, which then the state was sued and said, "If you're going to do one, you can't do the other." That becomes another tax, even though you're taxing them and you're giving the money back. That's still a tax break. And in '91, they pushed it further. This went all the way up to '92, it went all the way to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court says, "You can't pick and choose. You either tax everybody or you don't tax everybody." And because the line had already been drawn at '91, they went back and stopped taxing ours because PERS wasn't being... but after that point, they tax everybody.

It's still being looked at. There are some questions and it's been run back to the Supreme Court twice. Both times came back, and the state lost. And so, they tax everybody now, and PERS is also taxed, everything after '91. So, anyway, that's kind of what the history was. It was a lot of asking about that. So, I wanted to bring that up.

There was an interim session within Legislation, normally runs after the long session kind of in the fall area. The committees were getting ready to meet, and they were going to specifically talk about the Bridge Grant, which is money for people who can't complete a course. Provided, they can get some money to carry them through it.

And also, on the rule, transportation grants for the in-between rural areas. We've got some real good grants for ultra-rural type areas. If you live out in the fields and trying to get transportation. But those in-between places are sometimes a little harder. And so, there are some grants that they're looking at getting there. But kind of got hung up, and they want to be able to get them back into that area.

And also, they were going to be looking at the mental wellbeing of veterans going back to the suicide-type stuff. We're looking at some legislation-type stuff that's there. However, those interim committees got canceled due to a COVID outbreak at the capitol building. So, they never occurred. Next year, we'll start the next short session in Oregon. We have a long session on odd years and a short session on even years. So, the next year 2022 will be a short session, which means there's not a lot of bills going to be going through. It's a 35-day session. It starts February 1st goes through March 7th. The senators and congresspeople are only allowed to submit two bills.

So, that means that's a total of about 120 bills can be submitted. It gets up a little bit higher than that because some of the chairs can add in extra one and that kind of stuff. But we're looking at about 200 bills that can go through next year as opposed to the almost 4,000 that's in a long-term area. So, that's where we're headed on that.

The other thing I'd like to just bring up, and it was brought up by Director Fitzpatrick at the meeting yesterday. This last week, and the last couple of days, there have been 13 cases of COVID found at the Lebanon Veterans Homes. They've been pretty much free. They haven't had any real outbreak since 20 months ago. The one at the Dalles has been doing good. But just in the last couple of days, they've had 13 cases show up. Fortunately, everybody has shots, they're not getting overly sick, but they're trying to figure out where it came from and why suddenly this case. I just wanted to put that out there.

Don Weber: Okay.

John Lee: Thank you.

Don Weber: Thank you. We do not have a commission chair, nor a legionnaire committee chair. I would like to call on Flynn [Phillips] for a report of activities in that commission.

Flynn Phillips: The legionnaire, Flynn Phillips, the Department Adjutant Legionnaire Committee information technology and public relations are in the book of reports.

Don Weber: No changes?

Flynn Phillips: No changes.

Don Weber: To the Codes?

Flynn Phillips: No.

Don Weber: Charlie, would you like the privilege of the floor? I thought I heard you say that you had some comments for Public Affairs.

Charles Schmidt: I did Commander. Charles Schmidt, Public Relations Committee. Flynn, gave me a piece of paper last night since by email, obviously got somewhere in transition. But I did get acknowledgment that it was received at headquarters. But moving on, the current Code of Procedures for the Public Relations Committee, the changes, and minor changes are if I may. At the top where it says Code of Procedures Public Relations Committee, under that, should read 2021-2022.

Going back to section 14 where it talks about the PR awards categories. The current copy has four categories. We're going to delete category four because there are only two posts in that category. So, category three would be changed to read, and I quote, "Post with a membership of 301 and more," unquote.

Also, the very last line of the last sentence on this Code of Procedure should read, the Department of Oregon Public Relations Committee will purchase plaques to recognize each category winner during the annual department convention. I so move.

Cross talk: [crosstalk]

Lou Neubecker: Commander, Lou Neubecker, District One Commander, **I make a motion to approve the Public Relations Code of Procedures submitted by Past National Commander Charles Schmidt. [crosstalk].**

Juan Palacio: Juan Palacio, Second District Commander, I second that motion.

Don Weber: Motion is **second** to approve changes to the Public Affairs Code of Procedures. Is there any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you. I would like to call on our Finance Officer, Bob Huff to give an update from national on media and communications.

Bob Huff: Thank you, Commander.

Don Weber: It falls right in this category. But it does have to be short.

Bob Huff: I'm Bob Huff, I'm the Department Finance Officer. I attended, last week, the national media communications and magazine, and there are some things that we need to, not discuss, but to let you know. Because of the 20% increase in print and postage, and because of more paper mills being shut down. And even in the items, I showed you from the department today, they're no longer using the petroleum for the paper. So, they will cease to print that.

Because of the additional costs with postage, we will now be put into a different mailing system. We will be bulk mailed with several other organizations in or to get the reductions that we need in our costs. And at that, your magazine should be coming about two weeks later. So, if you don't receive it, it's the new way the system is going.

A couple of the more positive things, the American Legion Magazine has been number one read of 200 magazines in this country. And that has been continuing, we have more people read it. The actual batting line is American Legion Magazine number one, number two is Costco, number three is AARP, and moving into number nine is the VFW.

Group: Here here.

Bob Huff: It is the best-read magazine. Now, one of the things in the magazine you will probably see more advertisement because the new norm is 50% advertisement, 50% dialogue. Our magazines are now restricted to 60 pages. At the last minute, before the meetings we just went to, they had to go back and take five pages out of the magazine, which can't be an advertisement. Because they don't have employees to run all the magazines. We're in pretty good shape because we have contracts that go out five years. They are not taking new contracts in this country for magazines right now.

And in addition to all the other shortages, do not expect to see a lot of Christmas ads glossy in your newspapers because they can't print them this year. And anybody that's interested in the media alliance, which several of us in

here are, I actually have the paperwork up here. After the meetings today, I can give you to take care of that. Commander.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Membership and Post Activities, First Vice.

Larry Wittmayer: First Vice, Larry Wittmayer, reporting for membership chair Dan Burkes, who is elk hunting. Darn it. [crosstalk]. At any rate, his report is in the book of reports. I'd like to say that the Department is at 56%?

Bob Huff: Yes.

Larry Wittmayer: Doing well, we made the 50% goal. But it's going to get tougher as it moves on. We need to continue to get those renewals in and get those new members signed up. I express and echo Dan's concern about a couple of things. And that is, his ability to access MyLegion to provide 114 reports, etc. Okay? I realize that that's been beaten to death, and so I'm not going any further with it. But he needs to have those access, and you guys need to get up to speed on MyLegion to help your posts.

With regard to M and P post Activities, which I did report on earlier, spaghetti feeds are not the kind of thing he's looking. But he's looking to get out in the field with training and support for your post Activities. And that's where it's at with that so I think that's the end of my report, Commander.

Don Weber: Thank you.

Unknown: Code of Procedures.

Unknown: Code of Procedures.

Don Weber: He doesn't have a Code of Procedures change.

Larry Wittmayer: So, I need to indicate that?

Unknown: It has to be approved by [crosstalk].

Larry Wittmayer: All right.

Don Weber: Make a motion.

Larry Wittmayer: **I make a motion that the membership Code of Procedures be approved as written.**

Juan Palacios: Juan Palacios, Second District Commander, I second that motion, I think.

Don Weber: Motion is second to approve the membership and post Activities Code of Procedures. Discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you. National Security and Foreign Relations Committee, Greg Marvin. I didn't see him. Is he here now?

Unknown: No.

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Media Past Commander, I have been asked because Greg couldn't be here today, and he asked me to give his report. Steve Adams, the Media Past Commander, I was for Greg Marvin, Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Relations report. His report is in the book of reports. He had one addition to his book of reports. He found out after he submitted his report, that there are two bills in front of Congress right now. They are pending.

One is to extend employment benefits for serving military wives. Their husband is serving, and he has employment preference benefits and they want to extend it to the wives of those people. The second one is spouses of deceased veterans that have been killed in action, they want to extend those employment benefits to those spouses also. And both of those are pending.

Okay, Greg also told me that the National Security and Foreign Relations Commission Code of Procedures, Foreign Relations and ROTC Committee, Law and Order Homeland Security Committee, Military Benefits and Quality of Life Committee, National Guard and Reserve Committee, **all of those Codes of Procedures there are no changes. So, I make a motion to approve those Codes of Procedures.**

John Morford: John Morford, District Three. I **second** that motion.

Don Weber: Motion to second to approve the Codes of Procedures for the National Security and Foreign Relations Commission. Discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: All those opposed signify by, "Nay."

Larry Wittmayer: Nay. I'm sorry. Excuse me.

Don Weber: **Motion carries.**

Steve Adams: Thank you, Commander.

Don Weber: Okay.

Cory Brockmann: Commander-

Don Weber: Veteran-

Cory Brockmann: Commander Weber, Cory Brockmann, I'd like to clean up some past Code of Procedures that we've not addressed on here. The Media Communications Commission Chair, who we don't have. The Legionnaire Committee and IT Committee, did not make a motion to accept no changes. We only accepted P and C Charles Schmidt's-

Don Weber: Public Affairs. Yeah.

Cory Brockmann: Yes. So, I **make a motion that we accept the Media Communications Commission, Legionnaire Committee, Information Technology Committee Codes of Procedures as standing.**

Don Weber: Motion-

Dave Applegate: Dave Applegate, District Four, I **second** that motion.

Don Weber: Motion to approve three Codes of Procedure for the Media Communications Commission. Discussion? All those in favor signify by saying, "I."

Group: I.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay. **Motion carries.** [inaudible]. We'll go into recess and reconvene at 11:25 AM. [crosstalk]

Don Weber: And I'd like to call on Bob Huff for the combined reports of VA&R and VE&E.

Bob Huff: Well, thank you, Commander.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. But that doesn't give you anymore time.

Larry Wittmayer: Timing.

Bob Huff: My name is Bob Huff. I am the VE&E, VA&R, VEE, and VEE Chair, so I will be the last [crosstalk]. In trying to keep this shorter, please. Please. Yesterday in our meetings, we discussed the code of procedures for VA&R. All voting members were here for that. The VA&R did not add anything to the code of procedures. We fixed number 7C, which in 2004, this body voted to eliminate that. It is written here that it's eliminated, and we eliminated section 10, which is something that the department becomes liable for, that we cannot do. As a duly elected member of the DEC, **I make a motion that we approve that VA&R procedure. [crosstalk]**

Lou Neubecker: The mics over there. The mic's over there, guys.

Unknown: We don't have a mic.

Unknown: We don't have a mic.

Lou Neubecker: It's their turn. Where have you been?

Robert Hornbeck: Post Commander, Post 63, Robert Hornbeck. I second that motion.

Don Weber: Thanks, Richard.

Bob Huff: The motion is to improve the common democracy [crosstalk].

Bob Huff: Just VA&R.

Don Weber: Okay. **Motion to approve the VA&R code of procedures? Discussion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.**

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: All those opposed, nay. **Motion carries.**

Bob Huff: The VA&R report is in your book of reports, along with the service officers report from VA&R. Just as an add-on, we had a meeting of the VA&R Commission and the service officers, the other night, and went over some issues which are in the meeting minutes that are also at the department. One, our service officer, Jody, will be creating a survey that we're going to put on the website and when it's there, if you would care to answer, we would approve. I congratulated them on the book of reports. You must read it. It's excellent. It seriously is, what our people are doing.

And we discussed the cost of living, our raises, and the fact that we are still working to where we can't have face-to-face contact. I also have oversight of the Jackson County office and everything is being done on phones or virtually now. We probably got some good out of there, but hopefully, that will improve. Commander, I would like that report. **I'll make a motion that that report be accepted.**

Don Weber: We have to approve the reports?

Bob Huff: You do with this one.

Don Weber: Why?

Bob Huff: Because I put in what we actually did. If we don't have to, we don't have to. That's fine.

Don Weber: Do we have to approve that report?

Gene Hellickson: Approve a report?

Bob Huff: I will go forward.

Gene Hellickson: I don't know why we would have to approve it.

Bob Huff: That's good, then. Okay, for the **VE&E, V&E, we have three codes of procedures. There are no changes.** Our entire team met in front of my mirror in my bathroom and since I'm the only member and I wrote it, I approve of it.

Don Weber: That's the VE&E?

Bob Huff: That's the VE&E.

Don Weber: Okay.

Bob Huff: And we did have role call. I was questioned on that. [crosstalk]

Don Weber: There's been a **motion to approve VE&E codes of procedure.**

Larry Hill: Larry Hill, Commander, District 9, US Army, retired. All right. I second that motion.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Discussion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay. **Motion carries.**

Bob Huff: Commander, those are your last four chairs.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Kevin Owens: Commander.

Don Weber: Yes, sir.

Kevin Owens: Kevin Owens, NEC. I'd like to make a **motion** that we add, on a technical correction, is that we add online or Zoom or GoToMeeting, whatever you want to call it, to all the code of procedures so it allows you to have meetings in that form. So I make that in the form of a motion.

So it's a technical correction

Don Weber: to all the code of procedures.

Bob Huff: Commander. Go ahead.

Lou Neubecker: I **second** that. Lou Neubecker, District 1, Commander, I second that motion. [inaudible].

Don Weber: Okay. **There's been a motion and a second to add to all, a technical change to all codes of procedure to authorize video conferencing for the meeting. I'm going to make a statement here that we do have in our policy statement that oversees all codes of procedure, the authorization to have meetings by Zoom.**

Bob Huff: It does, it does.

Don Weber: So is there further discussion? There's been a motion, a second, to add that to all codes of procedure. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: All those opposed, signify by nay. **Motion carries.** Thank you. Okay, suspension or cancellation of charters. I believe we have-

Kevin Owens: Commander? There was an action taken by the NEC [inaudible].

Don Weber: Oh. I don't have-

Kevin Owens: So, Kevin Owens, National Executive Committeeman. So last year, we decided that we were going to merge Monument and Dayville into John Day. The department submitted the paperwork. It has to be approved by the NEC. And last Thursday, that was approved, so it's official that Monument and Dayville are gone, and they are merged with John Day. So I want to report on that. That was approved by the NEC.

Don Weber: Thank you.

Cory Brockmann: Excellent work.

Don Weber: Okay. Post to charters and cancellations. I see you pointing some fingers here.

Don Weber: I need a microphone.

Don Weber: Oh, microphone. Okay. sergeant-at-arms. Chop chop.

Chase Ence: Chop, chop, Commander. District 6 Commander, Chase Ence. We have two posts that have decided to merge and become one, just to make it easier for travel and for the loss of membership. We have Heppner wanting to merge with Lone. Just coming for you with this resolution, trying to get it passed. I think most of the members here, everybody should have this in their packet.

So, we need just a **motion** to approve this so we can move forward with that merger. So we can have two rather than four.

Don Weber: Okay. Go ahead and read the resolution.

Chase Ence: Okay. So the resolution regarding the post-consolidation. It's Heppner, Post 87, has experienced a continual decline in post membership, and whereas Heppner, Post 87, has lost officers, executive committee, and other leaders from their post, through attrition and to the extent management of this post by itself is a hardship. And whereas the membership of Heppner, Post 87, does not feel that the additional membership to fill the officers and executive committee is attainable at this time. Whereas remaining members of the Heppner, Post 87, wish to participate in American Legion activities and be identified with production posts. And whereas Lone, Post 95, would be benefiting by having veterans from the American Legion Heppner, Post 87, within its membership. And whereas the existing members of Heppner, Post 87, would benefit by consolidating with Lone, Post 95.

Be it resolved that the District 6 meeting, Department of Oregon, in the regular meeting of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, on this October 17th, 2020, voted to recommend to the Department of Oregon, that the Heppner, Post 87, consolidate with lone, Post 95, and that lone, Post 95, the post also be approved the merger of Post 87.

Upon the approval of the Department Executive Committee, and be it further resolved that upon approval of the Department of Oregon Executive Committee, existing members of Heppner, Post 87, shall become members of lone, Post 95, and all property of Heppner, Post 87, shall be turned over to the adjutant and finance officer of lone, Post 95. And all members shall be afforded all the rights and privileges extended to the regular members and be it further resolved that Oregon, that the post charter and post colors, therefore be delivered to the headquarters Department of Oregon as a post has been dissolved.

Unknown: [inaudible].

Don Weber: Okay. A resolution is in the form of a motion. Is there a second?

Cory Brockmann: Point of order, Commander?

Don Weber: Yes?

Unknown: 17's charter. We have 17's charter. Marshfield's and [inaudible].

Gene Hellickson: Gene Hellickson, Judge Advocate. There is a procedure in the bylaws that posts requesting to consolidate/merge with another post shall, and it lists all the things that need to be done. As a Judge Advocate, I haven't seen any of that material come in through the department.

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah, that's what I thought [inaudible].

Flynn Phillips: I'll send that stuff to you.

Gene Hellickson: Such things needs to be done as inventory of post assets, both real and personal, a list of liabilities, a list of all property, both real and personal, transferred within the past three years. Resolution by both posts involved in the consolidation, by both posts.

Don Weber: Chair would like to recognize Andy Millar, past Department Commander.

Andy Millar: So Flynn, hasn't the lone post sent you the details of that? Okay.

Flynn Phillips: I'd have to look. I know I'm working on the thing with Dan Burks, with the other two, and I sent that off to you-

Andy Millar: Yeah, I think that the lone post sent it to department headquarters. And this was the final thing to come up with.

Don Weber: Chair recognizes Rob Liebenow, past Department Commander.

Rob Liebenow: Yes. Paperwork has to be done and filled out and sent in properly. But just for your knowledge, as the Heppner members renew, that is being sent to the department, they are renewing and transferring at the same time to lone. So even though the paperwork has not been submitted, there's not going to be any members left in Heppner.

Don Weber: What are the-

Rob Liebenow: But the paperwork's got to be done.

Don Weber: Yeah. What are the assets of Heppner?

Chase Ence: I believe we have a building. [inaudible]

Don Weber: Isn't that the post where it was co-owned, or they met in the VFW building?

Andy Millar: I know the post home by-

Don Weber: Who are you?

Andy Millar: Andy Millar, past Department Commander. The post home was sold several years ago. And they are going into a home. There was a post home at lone, so you saw that.

Don Weber: But isn't that where we had the issue with them co-meeting with the VFW and it was-

Andy Millar: No. That was Livingston and Pendleton.

Don Weber: Oh, I'm sorry, then. My mistake.

Andy Millar: All right.

Don Weber: Okay.

Unknown: Heppner was meeting in members' homes. [crosstalk]

Andy Millar: Yes. Okay. And yeah, Heppner was meeting at members' homes and the Elk Club there, until the Elks recently dissolved.

Don Weber: Okay. Okay.

Andy Millar: But I was sure that the information from the Judge Advocate was sent in by Heppner and Ione.

Group: I don't understand what we can't decide. [crosstalk].

Don Weber: Yeah. What next steps do we need to take here today? [crosstalk].

Gene Hellickson: Well how can we submit a resolution if we don't have any documentation that everything has been done? There is no further action.

Don Weber: So basically, recommendations tabled until the Mid-Winter DEC. [crosstalk] Okay.

Kevin Owens: Commander?

Don Weber: Yes, sir.

Kevin Owens: Kevin Owens, NEC. Just a point of clarification. Now, you were talking about the charter and the flags. They do not go to the department, they go to the post that receives your members, or that members. Just like when Bay Area, Post 34, was Sunset and Marshfield was 17, we have their charter, we have their flags. So don't send that stuff to the department. Flynn doesn't need any more stuff in the safe, I'll tell you that right now. So please send those to the thing. And just remember for point, is that this not approved until it's approved by the NEC.

Don Weber: Right.

Kevin Owens: So, it has to be approved. And that will not happen 'til the spring. So that post will not go away until the spring, by approved by the NEC. That's a requirement.

Don Weber: Don't we need to approve a resolution [crosstalk]

Kevin Owens: We have to approve that. Until the paperwork, and this is a good training exercise for the department adjutant, are things like this need to go to the Judge Advocate. They can't go to the department. You can't approve them. The Judge Advocate has to look at all information about mergers or cancellations

and make sure that everything is complete. So in the future, we need to make sure that information is going to the Judge Advocate because then we're going to have this goat rope that we have every time, and we walk away and we're making two posts upset because we don't do it correctly. So just clarification, when we have posts mergers or cancellations, district commanders, make sure the paperwork's done. Don't come here with a resolution and then expect action by this body, when we can't do it.

So at this point, I'd like to make a motion we table this until the paperwork is complete and verified, and approved by the Judge Advocate.

Don Weber: Thank you. There has been a motion to table until the mid-winter DEC. Is there a second?

Chase Ence: Chase Ence. Second.

Don Weber: Okay. [crosstalk] Okay. Is there further discussion? [crosstalk] And by the way, the tabled motion precedes the other motion, so for further discussion [crosstalk].

Group: There's no discussion.

Lou Neubecker: There's no discussion, it's tabled.

Larry Wittmayer: No, it's tabled, we don't do that. No discussion.

Don Weber: Okay. Missed that one. Yeah. Okay. There's been a motion to second. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Group: Aye.

Don Weber: Opposed, nay? Motion carries. So if you'll put that on the old business for Mid-Winter DEC. [inaudible] Are there any new charters to be presented? Larry It's that time, I feel. Take [inaudible]?

Don Weber: [inaudible] come over here.

Larry Wittmayer: Larry Wittmayer, First Vice Commander. We have the certificate of accommodation to be presented for Michael F. Sowles. Is Michael F. Sowles in presence?

Don Weber: He has been excused.

Larry Wittmayer: And so who do we have that will accept it?

Don Weber: What was that name again?

Larry Wittmayer: Deveraux.

Lou Neubecker: Deveraux.

Lou Neubecker: If he's not here, we'll [crosstalk].

Lou Neubecker: Is Deveraux here?

Lou Neubecker: No.

Larry Wittmayer: So, will the district commander for that district please present themselves? [crosstalk] Now he presents himself.

Unknown: I don't want to do this [crosstalk].

Larry Wittmayer: I'd like to read the certificate. This is a certificate of commendation, that is gratefully presented to Michael F. Sowles. For demonstrating exemplary qualities of leadership as the Oregon Legion baseball chairman. Ensuring the health and welfare of youth, coaches, umpires, and fans, which led to the successful completion of the pandemic-impacted 2021 season. For leadership qualities that embody attributes of character that gain the respect of your fellow Legionnaires. And thus, worthy of the trust is placed in you, this is presented by Cory Brockmann, department second vice commander, Department of Oregon, this 10th day of October, presented by department commander. [crosstalk].

Don Weber: So, if you'll present this to Mike Sowles, that he has done a fantastic job of carrying the baseball program through the pandemic and making it a great program. As witnessed by [inaudible].

Larry Wittmayer: That will be \$15, department commander. District commander. [crosstalk].

Unknown: \$15 is \$15. Yeah.

Lou Neubecker: Yeah, you owe \$50 to the DEC [inaudible].

Don Weber: Okay, we'll move into unfinished business. We had an incomplete resolution at convention, to merge District 7 and 8. The resolution addressed all the reasons why they should be consolidated, but it did not address the change, impact that

that has on the constitution and bylaws. So, we'll need an ad hoc committee to go through and search out all of those changes to the constitution and bylaws and make sure we can get this thing put back together for presentation at the convention this year. Because change to constitution and bylaws requires the main body.

So, I would like to form an ad hoc committee. Terry, what was your final on that? Who was your recommendation for the chair?

Terry Brown: Richard Ramey, but I don't know if Richard-

Larry Wittmayer: Commander?

Don Weber: Yes, sir.

Larry Wittmayer: I have a point of interest. We are ... I'm sorry, Larry Wittmayer, the first vice. We're appointing an ad hoc committee when actually, we have an internal affairs commission that should handle this.

Terry Brown: That's right.

Larry Wittmayer: So, I wonder if we can't turn this over to the internal affairs to deal with, rather than an additional-

Terry Brown: I second.

Larry Wittmayer: We're having an ad hoc committee when we really already have a committee to handle it. So, my point.

Don Weber: Okay. Okay. [inaudible]. Steve, You're the chair of the committee. So, you need to collect some people to talk about the merger of 7 and 8. I would like to recommend that Lou Neubecker be on that committee. And I would like to recommend that Terry Brown be on that committee. They've done a lot of work previously, and this needs to take it to the next step. So, you are charged with that.

Steve Adams: No, no.

Larry Wittmayer: You took the job.

Don Weber: Thank you for volunteering, sir.

Group: You're welcome. [crosstalk].

Group: I think that Gene is-

Group: Or Gene also.

Don Weber: New business. Okay. I know I would like to have Gene Hellickson address us under new business.

Steve Adams: On that committee, for the merging for 7 and 8.

Don Weber: I don't know who you are if I'm listening to the tape.

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, chairman of the internal affairs commission. [inaudible]

Yes. I would appoint Lou Neubecker, Terry Brown, and I would also like to have Gene Hellickson on that committee. You got up and went to the bathroom, Gene, so, you volunteered.

Larry Wittmayer: You don't have a conflict of interest, do you?

Gene Hellickson: Well, I [crosstalk].

Don Weber: I don't think you do. I think the judge advocate needs to review it after you put it together. And that puts him into a conflict of interest if he's on the committee and then has to do the second level review.

Unknown: Yes.

Steve Adams: Okay, I'll buy that, then. [crosstalk]

Gene Hellickson: Oh, it doesn't matter if you buy it.

Steve Adams: But, thank you for volunteering, Gene. Okay.

Don Weber: Chair recognizes Rob Liebenow.

Rob Liebenow: Rob Liebenow, past department commander. My question would be, since internal affairs already has a committee, which makes up all of his chairmen of his committees, so he's just adding these two, along with them, correct?

Don Weber: Yes.

Larry Wittmayer: Yes.

Rob Liebenow: So, it will be internal affairs committee, or commission members, plus adding the two.

Gene Hellickson: Yes.

Commander: All right. Call on judge advocate, Gene Hellickson for new business.

Gene Hellickson: Judge Advocate Gene Hellickson. This will be real short. On the standing rules of the department, the only reason I'm bringing this up on new business is to make sure it gets documented, and it doesn't fall through the cracks, as it were. I am number four. A roll call shall include the past department commanders. Second sentence: No other visitors will be introduced. I would recommend that that second sentence be removed. **But I can't make a motion or anything, and it's going to be part of the constitution and bylaws would have to be changed. So, I just wanted to go on record that I think we should change it so the constitution and bylaws committee can review it and write up that resolution for the next convention.**

The second thing is, when we do, I'll call them official documents, like for our departed comrades. Everything was fine, but I think we should do the courtesy of saying, instead of "PDC" as an example, PDC Jones. I think we should honor him by saying past department commander. And we should get away from using initials that everybody here knows about, but other people who may be looking at the document have no idea what PDC stands for. It's just a recommendation. I just think it would be more professional on the department's part to see something like that.

Don Weber: Absolutely. Concur.

Gene Hellickson: Thank you.

Don Weber: Thank you. Okay, and you'll take care of moving that change forward. Because, quite frankly, if the national commander comes to visit, I'm going to introduce him. So, I will violate it regardless of what that says. Further new business. I would like to call on the chaplain for his report.

Steve Shollenburg: Commander. I'm Steve Shollenburg, department chaplain, Post 57 with the Newberg connection. My report is in the book of reports. And there are a couple of add-ons that I'd like to add on first. I'd like to challenge the district commanders to get with your chaplains and talk to them and make sure that they want to be in that position. It's not just an opening and closing prayer.

There's a lot of work and a lot of stuff that the chaplain needs to do and needs to be aware of, which brings us into the next topic, that we are putting together a chaplain training program. I've been talking to Betty, been talking to Flynn, and then Commander Weber. And we're going to start that. And we would like the chaplains to come in, at least the district chaplains, and the commanders, if they'd like to attend. And then they can pass that on down to the post chaplains, or the post chaplains would be able to come if they'd like to, as well. But, sometimes back, over in the eastern part of Oregon, it's kind of hard to get there.

And we're going to be putting it online as well, so if they want to study the course there, they would be more than able to there. And, that's the end of the report. But now, we want to do sick call and relief. And we're going to be doing that at the DEC's. And if the district commanders are there again, if you would contact me if you have anybody injured or sick or anything, that needs to be put on the prayer chain, get ahold of me. If you need my card or my number, my number's on the confidential rosters. Get ahold of me. And send me an email, or give me a call, so we can get the people on our list.

Today, we got a few people on here. Wayne Frost and his family with ongoing issues. He's the one that cut off Ian's finger. But he is having problems himself. Susan Wright, her husband passed away, and then a month later, her son passed away. Dennis Jones with ongoing issues with cancer and prostate. Bob Clague, he passed, and keep his family in prayers. My brother, with Alzheimer's, is getting worse. Linda Adams, past department commander Steve Adam's wife, with her issues, ongoing issues.

And then, two weekends ago, Jack Bailey and Laura Bailey, from Post 21, riders, was over on the Hermiston run. Jack had a heart attack on his motorcycle and died before he hit the ground. And his wife was on the back, and she was very critical, in the Bend hospital for days, having surgeries. She is finally home, and she is going to be okay, but mentally, we're not sure about that part, and emotionally. I just got a slip from the second vice, Cory Brockmann. Marty Menard, I think you pronounced that right, has a concussion and a broken nose. I didn't find out why.

Warren Collins passed away, keep his family in our prayers. Steve Mays, assistant sergeant-at-arms, was missing this weekend. His wife had passed, and her funeral was yesterday. And also, the national commander was sick after the convention, I haven't heard how he's doing, but we hope he's doing a lot better.

Debra Duschet, which is a rider in Post 21, they were attending the funeral of Jack Bailey yesterday, and they had stopped. And she got off her bike. The bike somehow fell over, knocked her over. She fell down a cliff. It took over four hours for them, for the emergency crews, to get her up out of that cliff. And they Air Lifted her to OHSU. And she's got, from what I heard, broken legs, broken arms, and some other major injuries. So, keep her in your prayers as well.

The three past PDCs, past department commanders that we talked about this morning. With the resolutions. Their families need constant prayer as well. And, as John Lee brought up, the 13 outbreaks of the Covid at the VA home in Lebanon. And all other people that we know of. But, again, if you know of anybody, get ahold of me.

Don Weber: Chaplain. I would ask that you add past department commander Mike Morris to that list. He was in the process of traveling to our meeting yesterday. Made it as far as their post, and started getting weak. He does have Parkinson's and had to return home. I don't know the extent, but clearly, he needs to be noted.

Steve Shollenburg: He just decided not to come, period.

Don Weber: Okay.

Steve Shollenburg: Yeah. We heard that last night. Debra got a call from the post, and he didn't even leave, he just decided not to come.

Don Weber: That's someone that wouldn't miss if it wasn't serious, so.

Steve Shollenburg: Right. And that is the end of sick call and relief. My code of procedures has already been approved by the ultimate commander up above. The last thing I have to say is just, go to church.

Group: Amen.

Don Weber: Chaplain, that's such a great report. I think I'll nominate you for the national chaplain.

Steve Shollenburg: Oh, thanks.

Flynn Phillips: Done. Seconded.

Don Weber: Anything for the good of the order?

Larry Hill: I'm over here.

Don Weber: Okay, we'll start with District 9.

Larry Hill: I hope it will be [crosstalk]. All right, when we had our national commander visiting the southern part of the state-

Lou Neubecker: Who are you?

Larry Hill: and it was-

Don Weber: Who are you?

Larry Hill: Oh, I'm sorry. Larry Hill.

Bob Huff: Abe Lincoln. Get Abe out.

Larry Hill: District 9 commander. You guys are getting me all confused. I'm an old man, please don't do that.

Don Weber: I'm going to put you on some of that transcript duty to make you listen to that thing and figure out who all those people are speaking.

Larry Hill: Oh, no problem. I used to do that in the army, so that's okay. Oh, we had a conversation going, and Flynn stirred it up a bit, then I stirred it up a bit. And the upshot of the conversation was that Larry Hill will be happy to donate his eyebrows for a donation of \$15,000. Flynn will follow with the details on this. Please do it before I pop off. Otherwise, you're going to have to shave them off while I'm in the box.

Okay? And this is going to go for a good cause. So, I'm going to turn this over to Flynn right now.

Don Weber: Flynn, you are on the hook.

Kevin Owens: Can we get a sample eyebrow first? [inaudible].

Don Weber: Okay. Yes, sir, Terry Brown.

Terry Brown: Terry Brown, District 7, first vice commander. This is, I guess, a procedure process. But I noticed, and he can correct me if I'm wrong, Gene, that when the district commanders have to leave the meeting during the meeting, they can't leave an empty seat, so you're supposed to request the ...

Unknown: Sergeant-at-arms

Terry Brown: **Sergeant-at-arms to come in and stay by your chair, your seat. I noticed we hadn't been doing that. So, maybe a friendly reminder that we need to follow that process. And then, also, you need to salute the flag as you leave.**

Don Weber: Right. All right, thank you.

Kevin Owens: Commander. Trowbridge once you take your wallet out. You did it twice. I saw you. Take some of that army money out. But commander, I got a couple of things Gea Clausier [crosstalk].

Larry Hill: Wait, who are you?

Kevin Owens: Let me finish, Jesus. Kevin Owens. And actually. Gea Clausier asked me to bring it up when she was at the Americanism meeting on Monday and Tuesday, she was talking to a gentleman about computers. And apparently, you can write a grant to Apple for some used computers. And then you can get a computer for every post in your department. So, she's asking permission to look into that grant, and write a grant, and then get a list of posts that would like an Apple computer. That's Apple. A-P-P. So, if you're interested in that computer, maybe we can consolidate a list. Flynn or somebody sends an email out. And have her email be for the return. So she can get a list.

So, if you're interested in a computer at your post, let her know, and she's going to write a grant to get those computers.

Don Weber: And I overheard that discussion and they also recommended that we check with Dell, where we might be able to get some real computers for those folks also.

Kevin Owens: Commander, I hate to be derogatory, but take your medication. I was a PC guy, and since I switched to Apple, was the best thing I ever did.

Larry Wittmayer: Hear, hear.

Kevin Owens: The other thing is, that I want to reiterate, all too often, that we have people in posts, that they go to functions or go, and they ask to speak, or they talk about stuff, and they do not know what they're talking about. They think they do. This is a position program. This is the American Legion right here. And I recommend that everybody get this book. Get this book. It's called positions and programs. It talks about our programs and where the American Legion stands.

So, when you go somewhere and talk, carry this book with you, and leave it on the podium where you're talking, so you're not talking when you're talking about the American Legion, you're not making yourself look foolish. Because, believe me, the newspaper will come back and eat you up if you're wrong, so you want to read this book. Read this book. And then, we'll have legislative positions with the American Legion, that John Lee will get. Legislative positions for the national organizations. Those are the things that the American Legion wants us to work on with our legislators.

So, please, get this book. Don't go out to a public program and speak and not know what you're talking about, because it's embarrassing for the American Legion, and it's mostly embarrassing for you and your post. So, please, get this book, download it. We can probably see if we can get some, but that's a very important book. I know that Rob's probably seen this a million times, and I know Charlie has, and appreciate, this is serious. Please do not talk when you don't know what you're talking about, please.

Don Weber: Okay, chair would like to recognize Rob Liebenow. Let me get back to you.

Rob Liebenow: Past department commander, Rob Liebenow. Just a quick note on membership. As you know, we hit the 50% target date in September very easily. Our 55% target date is the 14th of this month. We've already hit that. The next target date is November 10. That's a month away, at 65%. And that 10% is between 12 and 1400 members. And it's not going to be easy to make unless we're out there, working the program, making sure our posts are getting that membership transmitted to national.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Chair recognizes District 5

Lance Trowbridge: Lance Trowbridge, District 5 commander, guilty as charged. I will be writing a healthy check for your purposes. And I apologize. It was something I really needed to do. There was a lot of noise coming from next door. And I had to leave twice. Once to see the front desk, and second to go over there, talk to those people. And they did ratchet down the noise level.

So, it's a big convention over there, with a lot of religious musicians, and they're practicing for their next delivery. I don't know what it is exactly, but there you are. Thank you.

Don Weber: Thank you. Further items go to the ... Yes, sir, District 2. Juan.

Juan Palacios: Juan Palacios, 2nd District, commander. I was just informed I did something wrong by Mr. Kevin, there, about bragging, and there was a fine. Well, he told me it was \$50. But I'm going to brag some more to make it an equal 100. We are going to be number 1. [crosstalk].

Kevin Owens: Do we verify this with [inaudible].

Don Weber: Thank you. I would like to thank Aloha Post 104 for hosting the DEC meeting this weekend, it was a last-minute decision, a change. We were originally planning on going to McMinnville. They didn't have housing available down there because of some other events. So, thank you for stepping up. And I got to tell you, I think dinner was great last night, so thank you again, for that, as well.

Kevin Owens: Service [Adam]? Service for you? Service for you and Adam.

Group: You should have told us they had [crosstalk].

Don Weber: Another statement that I need to make that is absolutely critical. Every post in our state is independently incorporated. And that means they need to make their own rules of how they want to conduct business. That means each post is entitled to specifically make decisions on how they deal with masks and vaccinations. It is critical that everyone from districts and departments that goes and visits, respects the people and the policies at each post.

I've had several situations been brought to my attention. So, I want to make that as a general statement. Just remember, departments and districts cannot tell them how they have to manage their post. Questions? Okay. Sorry I have to bring that up. But I'd like to call on department adjutant for his report.

Flynn Phillips: Commander, my name is Flynn Phillips, I am the department adjutant. So, for topics of discussion, and for the minutes to be absolutely sure for 200 years from now. Larry Hill's eyebrows are as big as the flying nun's cap. So, it is crucial that he get as much money from the foundation as possible. Thank you, Larry.

Larry Hill: You're welcome.

Flynn Phillips: So, my report is in the book of reports, but I wanted to tell you a little bit about fall meetings. And I went to the adjutants' and commanders' meetings. And we had a room full of 50 adjutants, and they were all complaining and telling horror stories and things like that. And somebody was able to send a letter and response off to David Sutton's boss to be able to ask for some relief and maybe get him and the national adjutant on a call. And that actually is going to happen

Wednesday at the adjutants' call. So, hopefully, I'll be able to attend that on the Zoom meeting and find out what's going on.

Whether or not we're going to get any traction from that. The Mid-Winter Conference is going to be with the officers and commanders at the department, and others by virtual. And the time and date, it will be in January. The 8th and 9th at the department. Other than that, that's the end of my report.

Don Weber: Okay, good. Thank you, sir. We need to get a new notebook here, this thing is horrible. Uncover. I'd like to call on the chaplain for benediction.

Steve Shollenburg: Gracious Father, God, we humbly come before you at the end of our meeting this weekend to thank you for being in our presence and giving our leaders knowledge and the wisdom that you wanted them to have. Father, please be with us, and be with our sick and injured, and place your healing hands around them. Be with their families, and our members that are gone on to posts everlasting. Bless us and keep us safe until we meet again, Father. Pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

Group: Amen.

Don Weber: Cover. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our country can be fulfilled only by the faithful performance of all duties-

Commander Don Weber ends the meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted



S. Flynn Phillips

Adjutant