

~~Speaker 1:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Go. January 9th, 2022 Midwinter DEC. ~~Billable~~ **Villebois**.

Room: ... safeguard and transmit through prosperity the principles of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Don Weber: For the reading of minutes, last DEC we had to delay, approving those minutes. So we have several sets of minutes that we need to go over. I would... Okay. It's right there in bold too. I'll call on the ~~advocate~~ **Adjutant** for roll call.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Roll call. Department Commander, Don Weber?

Don Weber: Here.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** First Vice Commander, Larry ~~Whitmire~~ **Wittmayer**.

Larry ~~Whitmire~~ **Wittmayer:** Here.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Second vice commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: Present.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Immediate Past Department Commander, Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Present.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Thank you. Department Adjutant is here. National Executive Committeeman, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: Here.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Gene ~~Halixon~~ **Hellickson**.

Gene ~~Halixon~~ **Hellickson:** Here.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Thank you. Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Present.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Department Chaplain, Steve ~~Scholenberg~~ **Shollenburg**.

Steve ~~Scholenberg~~ **Shollenburg:** Here.

~~Advocate~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Department historian, Dick Winders.

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Dick Winders: Here.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Department, Judge Advocate, Gene ~~Halixon~~ Hellickson.

Gene ~~Halixon~~ Hellickson: Here.

Flynn Phillips: He's on the phone. Department Service Officer, Ed Vandyke, he's been excused. Department First District One, Commander, Lou Neubecker.

Unknown voice: He's here.

Lou Neubecker: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Two Commander, Juan Palacios.

Juan Palacios: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Three Commander, John Morford.

John Morford: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Four Commander, David Applegate.

David Applegate: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Five Commander, Lance Trowbridge.

Lance Trowbridge: Here.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Six Commander, Andy ~~Malar~~ Mallar. We're going to see him.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Alright.

Unknown voice: wait.

Don Weber: We need to install Andy.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Alright.

Don Weber: So we'll come back to that.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Alright. District Seven Commander, James Moriarty.

James Moriarty: Present.

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~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Eight Commander, Chris ~~Christofferson~~ Christopherson.

Chris ~~Christofferson~~ Christopherson: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Good. District Nine Commander, Larry Hill.

Larry Hill: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: District Ten Commander, ~~Dan Barks~~ Daniel Burks.

~~Dan Barks~~ Daniel Burks: Here.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Thank you bud.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Phyllis York.

Phyllis York: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Ward Allen?

Ward Allen: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Oh. Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Mike Morris?

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Excused.

Flynn Phillips: We have a quorum.

Don Weber: Thank you.

Cross talk: Cross talk

~~Attendee~~ Bob Huff: [inaudible 00:03:03] Past Department Commander.

Don Weber: Let me take a moment. So our District Six Commander has moved out of the state and is no longer available to serve. District Six does not have a Vice Commander. So we need to install Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar as the District Six Commander for the remainder of the year. So Andy, would you please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

Don Weber: I. State your name.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: I.

Don Weber: Do solemnly pledge myself.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: Do solemnly pledge myself.

Don Weber: To perform faithfully and impartially.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: To perform faithfully and impartially.

Don Weber: The duties of the office of the American Legion.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: The duties of the office of the American Legion.

Don Weber: I am about to assume.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: I am about to assume.

Don Weber: And I further pledge.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: I pledge.

Don Weber: I am not a member of.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: I...

Don Weber: I am not a member of.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: I am not a member of.

Don Weber: And do not subscribe to.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: And do not subscribe to.

Don Weber: The principles of any group.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: The [inaudible] any group.

Don Weber: Opposed to our form of government.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: Say again.

Don Weber: Opposed to our form of government.

Andy ~~Malar~~ Millar: Opposed to our form of government.

Don Weber: Thank you very much for stepping up to fill that role, Andy. Since Andy has previously served as Installing Officer for many of us, we don't need to go through the other portions, but the official swearing in is important that we do.

So now we can call District Six present at our forum. And so we'll return to the roll call of past Department Commanders.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Robert D. Scott. Post 51, 1982 to '83?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Patsy Nester, 158-

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: -'86 to 87. Richard Shenfield?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Robert Leavenhow Liebenow?

Robert Leavenhow Liebenow: Here.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Don Epperson. Post 51. '97 to '98?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: George Toby Potter, Post 12?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Charlie Schmidt. Post 63. 2004 and five?

Charlie Schmidt: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Sid Carter. Post 29, 2005 and six?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Kevin Owens. Post 34, 2008 and nine?

Kevin Owens: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Jackie Collison. Post 34, 2010 and 11?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: ~~John~~ Jon Marsh. Post 99, 2011 and 12?

Attendee [inaudible]: ~~Sir~~ sick

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Yeah.

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Okay.

Flynn Phillips: Bob Huff. Post 192, White City, 2012 and 13?

Bob Huff: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Mike Morris. Post 21, 2013 and 14?

~~Don Weber~~ Flynn Phillips: I think he's excused, he's sick.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Andy Malar Millar. Post 24, 2014 and 15?

Andy Malar Millar: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Eugene Helixon Hellickson. Post 86, 2017 and 18?

Eugene Helixon Hellickson: Present.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Tom Harris. Post 119, 2018 and 19?

Don Weber: Excused.

~~Advocate~~ Flynn Phillips: Steve Adams. Post 51, 2019 to 2022?

Steve Adams: Present.

Don Weber: Thank you. So all those people who reported that they are bringing presents, the National Executive Committeeman has a bag. We will collect donations. Those presents will be in the form of donations that will go to ~~BCF~~ VCF. So thank you.

Don Weber: We have a few distinguished guests with us this morning that I would like to introduce. So primarily our past National Commander, past Department Commander, Charles ~~Smith~~ Schmidt.

Charles ~~Smith~~ Schmidt. Yeah. I'm here.

Don Weber: Thank you for joining us tonight.

Charles ~~Smith~~ Schmidt. Commander, I'm a Legionnaire. I'm a distinguished guest.

Don Weber: You are always distinguished, sir.

Don Weber: Our National Vice Commander for the Western region, Jim Higuera. So thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Traveling with Jim is Denise Conrad past Department President for Ohio and national ALA committee on service... Services...

Denise Conrad: Community Service chair.

Don Weber: By the time you leave, I'll get that right.

Attendee: **Unknown voice**: No, you won't.

Don Weber: Okay. Kevin Owens is past National Sergeant-at-arms.

Don Weber: Thank you Sir

Don Weber: Do we have anyone else?

Attendee: **Unknown voice**: [inaudible].

Don Weber: Yeah, I don't see our SAL folks. I thought they might... **[crosstalk 00:08:29]**.

Flynn Phillips: What about Rob?

Don Weber: Rob our past National Vice, you weren't there last night. So you're not on my list here. So...

Attendee **Flynn Phillips**: Gia, Past President [inaudible 00:08:40] **Auxiliary**

Don Weber: And true. One of our Legionnaires who is past Department President for Oregon, Gia. Thank you, Gia.

Don Weber: Okay. [inaudible 00:08:57] Let's come back up now to our reading of the minutes. So all of the meetings were posted on the website. I hope everyone has had a chance to review those. I would entertain a motion to waive reading of the minutes and then we can it come back and review each one of the minutes to see if anyone has changes or modifications to any of those minutes.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Kevin Owens**: ~~Matter~~ **Commander** I'd like to make a motion that we dispense of reading the ~~or review~~ the minutes. But also I think we need to scrap the minutes before they're approved because there's a lot of mistakes in all, and I've read some of **them**

Don Weber: Okay.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Kevin Owens**: I think they need to be looked at and not... The way they are. They're not acceptable. Is that

Don Weber: Okay. So what is your motion to take?

Speaker 2: Kevin Owens: So not to [inaudible 00:09:47] **dispense reading** the minutes and then not to approve the minutes as they got credit. [inaudible 00:09:54] **posted**

Advocate: Don Weber: Can we take that one step at a time? Lets [crosstalk 00:09:56] the minutes.

Don Weber: Okay. There's been a motion to waive reading of the minutes.

Speaker 2: Unknown voice: Second.

Don Weber: The second to the motion. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Room: Aye.

Don Weber: All those opposed, motion carriers.

Don Weber: Okay. Now let's take a- [inaudible]

Speaker 2: Kevin Owens: Now make a motion. Not approve the minutes, all the minutes until they've been ~~described~~ **scribed**

Don Weber: So should we go through them one at a time?

Speaker 2: Kevin Owens: We don't, they all need to be ~~described~~ **scribed**

Don Weber: So your motion is to...

Speaker 2: Cross Talk: Not approve.

Cory Brockmann: Kevin Owens: Not approve.

Don Weber: Not approve all of the meeting minutes and come back to it to the next meeting.

Speaker 2: Kevin Owens: Yes.

Don Weber: Okay. So there's a motion to disapprove the meeting minutes that are posted online and then defer to our next meeting.

Cory Brockmann: Commander. Cory Brockmann. Second Vice Commander. I second that motion.

Don Weber: Motion is second. All those in favor. Signify motion-

Speaker 2: Bob Huff: Discussion.

Don Weber: Okay. Then discussion.

Speaker 2: **Bob Huff:** Commander...

Phyllis York: Bob Huff, Finance Officer.

Bob Huff: Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff. I think we explained in the last meeting and every year, that we have requirements under IRS rules, that before we can send our taxes in, our yearly meeting, our members meeting needs to be approved. Saying that I don't want to revise your motion, but I think that everybody should read those mark them up. Send them to the Adjutant, we should have...

Flynn Phillips: special meeting.

Attendee: **Bob Huff:** A special meeting.

Bob Huff: Special meeting in a couple of weeks to approve those or we have a definite issue.

Attendee: **Kevin Ownes:** I agree.

Don Weber: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Speaker 35: **Flynn Phillips:** Can I make that comment?

Attendee: **Kevin Owens:** No.

Speaker 35: **Flynn Phillips:** The recordings of these minutes are then sent over to a transcriber, a computer, and then we do our best to try to go through and listen to those, to see if we can change some of the words that the computer didn't pick up. Okay? So they are never going to be perfect because it's not a human being that does it. If you guys want to change the minutes for me, then send me something that's highlighted that I can... Look, I am not going to go through 89 pages...

Attendee: **Don Weber:** Okay.

Advocate: **Flynn Phillips:** ...To search for something that you say is not right. I, you need to help me.

Don Weber: Okay. Further discussion. Motion to postpone approving of the minutes and have a special meeting in two weeks. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room: Aye.

Don Weber: All those opposed, motion carries. Okay.

Don Weber: Well, it's been an interesting couple of months to say the least. We have had several distinguished visitors with us. Are we offline there, Flynn?

~~Flynn~~: **Flynn Phillips**: Yeah. That's what they're saying. I'm not sure why it's offline.

Don Weber: Okay.

~~Flynn~~: **Bob Huff**: Do you want me to hook up on a zoom?

Don Weber: Okay.

~~Flynn~~: **Flynn Phillips**: Can you hear us now?

Don Weber: [crosstalk 00:13:14] Well, I see Lou talking, but his mic is muted.

~~Advocate~~: **Flynn Phillips**: You're muted, Lou.

Don Weber: It looks like we're back online.

Attendee: **Bob Huff**: Yeah. We're online.

Don Weber: So our leading candidate, our leading candidate for National Commander, Jim Troiola came. We took him out to several posts around the department, a great visit, great exposure to a lot of the things that are going on within this department of Oregon. It is absolutely amazing to me, the quality of work that's being done.

Don Weber: And for example, on Veterans Day, I had the opportunity to travel out to district 10 and we visited several community events out there, posting of the flag for grade school. I think I spoke about three different community events with the Legion's Veterans Day speech that they provide. A great turnout for events. We had a great visit at a homeless camp for veterans out in Clackamas County. And I think we're going to develop some traction there. And I know our ~~ELA~~ **ALA** president **goal** school this year is supporting homeless veterans, so that's a great facility that I think we'll get connected with. And then this week I'm a little ahead of you here for comments, Jim, but I feel good about the visit that we had. I appreciate your time and what we accomplished. I think in the last three days as I count, we, we got about 10 actual renewal memberships.

Don Weber: That's an actual increase in membership for the state of Oregon. We have about another 20, roughly people that committed to renewing their dues, that probably wouldn't have if we hadn't been in touch with them. And then we transferred several people from 114, which is certainly going to improve membership for those posts that participated in that it doesn't increase our membership in the state of Oregon, but that's a win for us, because once those posts get connected with those people and start maintaining that connection, then those are long term members. And we know that people that are in 114

and 99... DMS 99, not post 99, generally don't renew. So that's good news to get those transferred. So it's been a great several months here. And with that, Jim, would you like to share some comments? I think this is a great time for us to hear some things that you have.

~~Jim Triola:~~ **Jim Higuera:** Yes, I would.

Don Weber: Okay. Sergeant-at-arms, would you...

~~Jim Triola:~~ **Jim Higuera:** Thank you.

Jim Higuera: Good morning.

Room: Good morning.

~~Jim Triola:~~ **Jim Higuera:** First of all, I'd like to bring you the greetings so far, National Commander, Mr. Paul Dillard from the Department of Texas, as you well know that Commander Paul is busy making his visitations as well to all the departments that he can make in view of this current pandemic and restrictions that are in place at the time. It's kind of appropriate being Sunday... And on Sunday, those of us, go to a church or something like that and the minister would get up or the pastor and deliver the sermon. So I guess I'm the pastor today because I have the choir here with me today and I say that because the choir already knows the songs that are to be sung, otherwise they wouldn't be on the choir in the form of leadership that all of you ladies and gentlemen have... What, volunteered to do over this years.

~~Jim Triola:~~ **Jim Higuera:** And the many years that you have been Legionnaires. We know for a fact that our watch word for the year from Commander Dillard is, "No veteran left behind." And I think in my talks to the post and the people that we've met and our dinner yesterday evening, **That a** it's important that we look after our buddies, the buddy check system. There's a lot of bills pending in Congress. Normally this time of the year. We would be going to the hill and talking to our people in Congress and the Senate, the representatives and indicating that this is what the veterans need to have. They're entitled benefits. And at any opportunity that we have, that we tell our representatives that, we're the boss, we put you in office and you should do our will. But the thing is that if we don't become actively involved, call to action, nothing's going to happen.

But what brings that call to action is the power in numbers. And that's the membership. And I'll tell you, I spent a couple of days with Jim over here when your district commanders, and we made some visits. There's places in Oregon that I have never seen, but it's beautiful. I'll tell you... Nice clean air. Apparently my allergies have left me for a couple of days, but that's okay. We will come back to Oregon and we'll go over there and revisit our spruce goose that we once had Long Beach California.

We did have a great time. And the thing is that I believe communication is one of the main things that we should have with our members. You know for a fact that if we have a 500 membership in a parking lot for 40 cars, not everybody's going to come. They say, "Well, there's no parking. So why go?" But they have our support. They send in their \$40 or whatever the case may be. And the department of Oregon should definitely be commended for what they have done in the past and doing in the future. My latest membership report indicates that the department of Oregon in the west, which is 15 departments, is number one.

We're not exactly where we should be, 80% plus, because Commander Dillard, in his acceptance speech indicated the fact that we need 90% retention. We also need to increase our recruitment of new members, do our buddy checks, get that ~~130%~~ 103% and then you're eligible for anything over that. You get what, \$18 and some odd change back to the department. So you can increase your ~~coppers~~ [inaudible] there. And I'm sure the Finance Officer will be happy about that. Right Always...

Attendee: Bob Huff: We'll talk about that today. Thank you.

~~Jim Triola:~~ **Jim Higuera:** So the thing is we all need to be on the same page. We all need to be on the same channel and I'll tell you one thing though. I have to commend each and every one of you, you've made a decision to dedicate your free time, to make sure that no Veteran is left behind. To make sure that we are aware about our suicide prevention program, to recognize the state that the comrade or veteran would have.

And that includes the women too. You got to remember that women are veterans as well, and they're suffering the ravages of wounds and disease of the world as well. And we need to recognize that as we move on.

I have enjoyed my, my time here in Oregon. The weather was great, we loved the rain. In California, we don't get much of it, but we did have a spell about a week straight, maybe about four to six inches, somewhere in that neighborhood. But then again, its mother nature, dictates what's going to happen and that includes go global warming and whatever else, they want to throw at us. I want to say, thank you for your hospitality. On behalf of Denise Conrad and myself, we really enjoyed it. And I want you to know that we shall return to visit you comrades and maybe a different part of the state that we can do. And hopefully, with the Commander, the Department Commander would get a free trip to Wisconsin this year for finishing at the top. And it's going to be his team and you are the team comrades each and everyone needs to do our part to make sure we have a successful year. So with that, I want to say, thank you, thank you once again. And God bless you all.

Don Weber: So I'd like to call on our Judge Advocate for the standing rules.

Don Weber: Gene.

Advocate: Don Weber: Do you have his cell number?

Don Weber: He's got his.

Don Weber: Can you unmute his microphone and see if...?

Flynn Flynn Phillips: I never muted it.

Attendee: Bob Huff: Can I say the book right there?

Flynn: Bob Huff: He was on a minute ago.

Don Weber: Oh, he's on. But he got his mic muted and his video muted. So we can't wave at him to turn his mic on. But if you click on that red mic, that will turn his mic back on. We'll hear if he's snoring in the background, if you turn his mic on.

There it is. Gene, can we call on you for the standing rules?

Gene Halixon: Gene Hellickson: Clear Commander.

Don Weber: We can hear you now.

Gene Halixon: Gene Hellickson: Okay.

Gene Halixon: Gene Hellickson: Members of the Department Executive Committee, the DEC. Here and after referred to as the DEC, as used in these standing rules are set forth in article seven, Section one of the Department Constitution in article four, Section two of the Department bylaws.

Gene Halixon: Gene Hellickson: Minutes of the previous meeting shall be sent to all DEC members at least 15 days prior to the meeting date. The meeting agenda shall be sent to all DEC members at least 15 days prior to the meeting date. Roll call shall include the past Department Commanders. A voting member of the DEC may request a suspension of 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 by, to the DEC and is under discussion. Time shall be limited to five minutes. However, an additional time may be granted to answer appropriate questions. A ~~two-third~~ two-thirds infirmity of the members that the DEC shall be required for extension of time.

Gene Halixon: Gene Hellickson: All requests for expenditure of funds and 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 a resolution form.

~~Gene Halixon:~~ **Gene Hellickson:** The proposed annual budget as prepared by the Permanent Finance Committee, Commission shall be sent to all members of the DEC not less than seven days prior to the DEC. Voting shall be by ~~all~~ **roll** call, on all resolutions in the following order, District Commanders, Department First Vice Commander, Department Second Vice Commander, Department Finance Officer, Junior pass Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman. The Department Commander shall vote only in the case of a tie. Members of the DEC should do their reports in writing and reports shall be limited to five minutes and a copy of saying, be given to the department and its administrative assistants.

~~Gene Halixon:~~ **Gene Hellickson:** 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 those of procedures shall be submitted in writing to members of the DEC at least 15 days prior to the date of the ~~following~~ **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 full convention DEC meeting. Any time a ~~hole~~ **poll** is needed, the Department Adjutant shall send out a letter of explanation of [inaudible 00:28:12] with a ballot be returned within five working days.

~~Gene Halixon:~~ **Gene Hellickson:** That was the end.

Don Weber: Thank you very much. So we'll move into officer reports, call on Kevin Owens for the NEC report.

Kevin Owens: My reports in the book report, but I'd just like to say that it was an honor having our National Vice Commander here for the last four days. And I think we accomplished a lot. Door to door, seems to be the way that we used to do it back in 1919. I think that's the way we need to do it today. Phone calls, emails, Skype, whatever else you do is great, but members do not respond with caller ID and all that other stuff, would block email. Sometimes they just don't communicate, especially if they don't know you. So I think... I want thank the District Seven Commander, Jim, for getting us involved with his district. And I know I had a great time and I know Charlie and I know that past Vice Commander did, so. That's my report.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Immediate Past Commander. Steve.

Steve Adams: Commander My reports in the book of reports, I have taken it... The buddy checks one step further. We've had members of our organization that are deceased, this last year, and I've taken it upon to keep in contact with the families of those veterans, to see if they have any needs we can help them with. So I'm also doing buddy checks with the families. And I have got some response from them, several of them, that they're very grateful that we are still concerned about the family of those veterans that are deceased. It's working

out very well. I would encourage all District Commanders and Post Commanders to do the same thing. It goes a long way. It promotes us in the community because those people tell their friends that the American Legion care about... Please do that. That's my report.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Dob Weber: First Vice Commander, Larry ~~Whitmire~~ Wittmayer.

Larry ~~Whitmire~~ Wittmayer: My report is not in the book of reports. I'll give a verbal report. The first thing is, in October, I had the opportunity to visit District Six in the La Grande at their District meeting. And it was an awesome District meeting. They had a full turnout and a lot of business was accomplished. In November, I had the unique opportunity to represent this department at the National American Legion College... What an opportunity. I think the one thing that stands in my mind more than anything else is one of the presentations that was given concerning, "Do you know what your why is?" Why are you here? Have you reevaluated every day, what you can do, and ~~anyway~~ any rate that really got me and anyway. I also had the opportunity, I got back and was able to have dinner with candidate [Triola Troiola 00:32:02] and see him to the airport.

Larry ~~Whitmire~~ Wittmayer: And then I attended the department's Christmas party, and I want to thank the McMinnville post for throwing that party. I also visited District Three in Springfield for their district meeting. That was a very well attended meeting. And it was an opportunity for me to visit, to be in the same building as my father's Legion post. District Eight also had the, their district meeting, which I attended and their party. I have attended the leadership meetings for our team and for each planning. And I have also supported our Department Membership Chair in his trials and tribulations and learning how we can better operate and work in our membership plan. So that is my report.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Larry ~~Whitmire~~ Wittmayer: Thank you.

Don Weber: Second Vice Commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: Cory Brockmann, Department Second Vice Commander. Good morning. Greetings members of the DEC and our distinguished guests and guests. My report is in the book of reports, and I want to extend a thank you and my gratitude to Department Adjutant and headquarter staff for getting it in there. There is a small glitch in there still, and I think it might just be simply the conversion to the PDF to get it posted. If you had scrolled through to the bottom, there's three challenges that I've observed. You'll agree with me, I think once you hear them, but through six months of our year already, I want to highlight those real briefly. And it's just that bottom one that got cut off. So if you would Department Adjutant, please just reload that...

~~Advocate:~~ Flynn Phillips: Alright.

Cory Brockmann: This next week. Filling commission and committee vacancies. We cannot be successful if we don't have bodies to do the work, the volunteering that we need to have done.

Cory Brockmann: So it's incumbent upon all of us, help us identify both new talent and [inaudible 00:34:20] patriot of the with a heart to do the service that we need to get done. I've already been working with Commander, Larry Whitmore Wittmayer, our First Vice, we've got a little bit of traction to start working this next spring, to identify vacancies needing attention for next year, but it's not too late for this year. Anyone that's new that we can get into a committee seat is going to learn something before we go rolling next year.

Cory Brockmann: The second item is terming membership loss due to non-renewal for whatever reason, 90% is our national commander's goal for renewal. We've had these gentlemen and ladies as members of our organization once already. And I think it's just connecting with them, we were always going to lose a few, but we shouldn't have these large amounts of vacancies for non-renews... Renewals.

Cory Brockmann: And the third item I had. The Oregon Legionnaire is the official publication of our department. And it seems like every DEC convention we speak to, the need to have articles submitted. That's all of our responsibility. It's easy to think that you're not a good writer, or you don't have the time, but I'd ask you to consider those members that can't make it to any meetings, either at your post or at our district or on convention. That's our official publication that shares the story of our successes. So please give attention to that.

Cory Brockmann: And then two quick items here. I will echo NBC NVC Jim's comments. Communications are key. Successful communication is a two way process. It always has. I would challenge all of the committee chairs and commission chairs, particularly committee chairs. Once you hold your meetings, get those minutes into the department adjective. And please CC the commission chair. When I was a District Commander, I always asked the post, when you send something into department, give me a CC. If it gets lost, I know it went in. So commission and committee chairs, there's a lot of work we do through the year, but we ought at a minimum, be conducting four meetings of a committee and commission every year. And there ought to be meeting minutes, submitted to Department Adjutant.

Cory Brockmann: Lastly, final comment on membership. We put together a work hard for Wreaths Across America of our headquartered department staff. It was an opportunity to both honor veterans and create some comradery. It was highly successful, but I can tell you, we walked slowly from the Willamette National Cemetery amphitheater up on top of the hill to reverse down the hill to where section P and F are in place Wreaths and this pickup slowly passes me and sitting in the bed of that pickup are two females. And I had this gray sweatshirt

on, had department of Oregon, had our Legion emblem on it. And this voice hollers at me from the pickup. That's about a car length away. "Can females join the American Legion?" I shout back, "Yes!" and then a pause. "If you're a veteran, are you a veteran?" "Army!" I said, "See me at the bottom of the hill." And she did, five minutes later, pulled out a membership application from my wallet. We probably talked longer than my wife wished because I wasn't putting wreaths out on graves, but that just tells the story.

Cory Brockmann: You never know, never assume that they know they're eligible. And this is a female veteran. There's lots of young men veterans that just don't think they're eligible. So our work is always out to our membership. And please give a review of my book of reports and see me if you've got any question... Excuse me, questions. Thank you.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Good to report.

Don Weber: Membership and post activities. Dan.

Dave Applegate: He's muted.

Don Weber: There he is. Good morning.

~~Dan Burks~~: **Dan Burks**: Good morning.

Don Weber: Your membership of post activities report.

~~Dan Burks~~: **Dan Burks**: My report is actually in the book reports. I would just like to add that is, our Second Vice was talking about a lot, communication is key. It is easier for me to help you if I have some clue of what's going on. And right now we've been doing buddy checks out here District Ten. And our PNC may fill you in a little bit more later, but we found somebody around Christmas time, a member who's lost their house, that burned to the ground. And Post 67, I found on three of my members who were with cancer, right around Christmas day. So part of what we do is help each other out. We can't do that, unless we what's going on. So we need to reach out, get in contact with our membership and overall it helps out our membership as well. ~~And~~ Commander that's my report.

Don Weber: Okay. Thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Finance Officer, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Commander.

Don Weber: Five minutes.

~~Steve Adams~~: **Steve Shollenburg**: Good luck with that.

Bob Huff: Actually, since I'm going to be up here five times today, I'll keep this part one minute to five minutes... Because I'm also doing VA and R, but I will do it with the service office also.

~~Dan Barks~~: **Don Weber**: True.

Bob Huff: In front of each of you, is this document right here and to explain it to you, which I know we go through this. What we do is, each month we update the actuals for 21, 22. We go back a few years. The item under AH, is what was voted by the convention as your authorized budget line. The actuals are through the end of November, because we don't have Decembers, all Decembers information yet the amount that have been charged to those budgets. Now I ran you all copies of these, because you're required to send to our ~~Criminal~~ **Permanent** Finance Commission Chairman, a copy of your budget request.

Bob Huff: And thank you to all those people who have done that, that file has been sent out to you. You can use that information for what has been budgeted to you in the last three years and what you've actually spent. So please put those numbers together. And I know everybody is talking about membership and of course I'm going to talk about membership. I have been sitting up here for 16 years now and I know I repeat a lot of stuff, but I've watched in decline our numbers. And I know it was just pointed out about the two women in the truck. Well, it isn't only the two women in the truck. Most of you know, I live very rural. Five of the towns in my post are less than two blocks long, but I am recruiting. I am recruiting World War II veterans and Korean veterans in their eighties and nineties, which my post is a very old post.

Bob Huff: It's rural. A lot of people are living off the grid. They're all wearing Legion caps or caps. When I do the Memorial day for the last 15 years at the Eagle Point National Cemetery. And I see people wearing my post cap and American Legion caps. I've never seen before. Plus we do a lot of community events. We need to get out in our communities. Yes, women veterans. If I told you how many veterans don't know they're eligible for the American Legion, when I'm sitting out recruiting and people say, "I'd like to join, but I'm not eligible because I was in service in 1958." And we explained to them, "Yes, you are eligible." So yeah, we need to grow those numbers. Now, as we sit down and look at our budget and this is nothing new, it becomes easier, because I keep repeating stuff.

Bob Huff: We keep reducing the number of our members, that is income. Yes, we have other income streams of those other income streams are also dedicated to VA and R to our VEE operation. We need to get out and work those. We do not want to slash programs. Programs, create members and those are opportunities for what we do as Legion for our activity. And as I keep going through this, when I say 16 years, I've been writing articles in the Legionnaire for 16 years and as a district commander for three years, that's how I got the information out to our

communities. Our rural communities, when our meetings were, what Joe Blow did, what we did. And we've got more membership to us off that, this is what we do. I want to be part of that organization that does this stuff.

Bob Huff: I hate having a guest in the room, but I'm going to keep talking. The... I don't hate having you here. You've been in my post in California too.

Bob Huff: This year. I want to compliment a gentleman that's on the screen right now. Lou Neubecker, is the only district commander that sends in an article every month to the Legion there, telling his district, what's going on in the district. And it's very disappointing. I write a minimum of three articles for the Legionnaire, because I have different positions every month, telling people what we are doing, so that members will know. And I even put my own phone number in there in case they have any questions and have told all of you, if anybody reads all this stuff that we will come to your post, we will come to your meetings and help you.

Bob Huff: Please, you're not hurting me. You're hurting those people that you represent that put you into office. It's the same with chairs. You have a commission, put the information out there. A lot of people are afraid to go into school because they haven't done it before. Help them, tell them where you can get help. Same with Boys State, same with Junior Shooting Sports. Same with the Law Enforcement Academy. Put that information out there. I've got members that I didn't even... That I've seen in grocery stores, that I didn't even know were veterans. When we're doing American Legion Baseball and we've recruited them. Their kids are involved. If, and I won't, [crosstalk 00:46:06] yes, I will hit [inaudible 00:46:07]. Plus part of being a District Commander and I'm not shooting at District Commanders, I've been a District Commander and I'm still in the District Adjutant, this is tax time. We are all C nineteens, 5 0 1, C nineteens.

Bob Huff: Everyone here, your post, not your district. Your post is a separate corporation. The same as department is a separate corporation. You are required to file taxes in each of your organizations. Now, if you're making under 50 grand a year, there's a simple way of doing it. If you don't file your taxes for three years, you will get a revocation letter. Your C 19 is a under an umbrella of the American Legion National Organization. The National Organization has to send in a list of the IRS. Every February, National Judge Advocate does that. If you lose your EIN number, you don't have a C 19 and you're required to pay taxes on your post activities.

Bob Huff: So please do that. I'm going to be up here a few times today and I'm... Hey guys, ladies, team. We've got veterans all over this place that should be in our organization. We need those numbers. We really do. And I mean, I believe in what I do. I do it seven days a week. I'm in the VA vet, VS everything else. I think every one of us believe what we do. So let's go out and get some other people to join us.

~~Steve Adams~~: **Bob Huff**: Commander, I'll wait for my next speech.

~~Bob Huff~~: **Don Weber**: Thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Department Finance Commission, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: Just my book, my reports in the book reports. I would just say, if you haven't sent your budget request, please send them to me. Not the department, not to Flynn, not to... Please send them to me. My emails of the book are in the confidential roster. You're just about a month away from doing our budget. We need those. Just assume that you're not going to have that position next year. District Commanders just assume. So just remember that your buddy has to have a budget. So if you don't send one in, we're not going to give you, we're going to give you a big zero. We don't want to give you a zero. We want to, and just remember we're on a limited amount of money. We think, everybody thinks we're just flush and we have all this money and it's easy to give away, but it's not.

Kevin Owens: And it's very tough to sit in a budget meeting and make... That's not the intent for us to cut. We will never cut programs. That's our life blood. That's what we're about. It's not about going to DEC's and get paid for hotels and mileage and all that stuff. We're about programs. I know some people don't like that, but that's the reality of what this organization is about.

Bob Huff: Correct.

Kevin Owens: So we need your budgets, please. If you have not submitted them, it takes five minutes. If you don't know how to do it, give me a call. I'll help you do it. I'll do it for you on my computer and you're done, but we need to have those, because what we do is, we divide those up amongst the commission members and they all take care... We come together and try to make the budget process easier.

Kevin Owens: And then everybody has a lot of input. So please, I know that it's a simple process, so thank you. And that's my [inaudible 00:49:53] report and foundation.

Don Weber: Please.

~~Bob Huff~~: **Kevin Owens**: Okay. So American ~~Wreath~~ **Legion** Foundation. We've had, we tried to do a zoom meeting every month and we've got some good things going. We're trying to do some, a raffle for a [inaudible] **PUFL**, we're working on that. We're trying to do the... The bean bag toss. We're going to do that again. We're working on that process. We're also trying to work on getting into the Portland Rose Festival Parade. We're trying to work on that ~~Mr.~~ Past [inaudible 00:50:32] **National Commander** Schmidt, Cory. We've talked about that. So we're trying to get in the parade. We're trying to get the... Yeah **raffle**

~~Bob Huff:~~ **Kevin Owens:** We're trying to get Jimmy Johnson with one of the cars, to come out. We're working on that. Will that happen? I don't know, it's slim, but you know what? It doesn't hurt to ask. So we're we also have a raffle. Rob has some tickets.

~~Bob Huff:~~ **Kevin Owens:** So District Commanders, we're asking for your support. We get those tickets sold. Please do not get tickets and turn them back at the end of the year, please don't do that. We've had that happen in the past. Buy them yourself, sell them to your wife, whatever you want to do, but please don't bring tickets back, bring the money back to us. This is about us, about our programs and that's what the foundation is about. That's it, about programs. So in the last meeting that we had, we made... A motion was brought to the floor that we are going to donate \$5,000 to the Oregon Oratorical Scholarship Program. So what's going to happen is, there's going to be a resolution coming up that we're going to transfer \$5,000 out of the scholarship fund at the department into the VCF donation. So that's going to be our \$5,000 donation from the department and then we're going to backfill from the foundation into the scholarship.

~~Bob Huff:~~ **Kevin Owens:** It's a wash. Otherwise, we'd have to try to come up with the money out of our department budget. So that's what the foundation's for. So please, buy those tickets, promote the program. If you need any information about the foundation, how it works, we have money for scholarships, Boys State. We have money for the Law Enforcement Camp, Jim Willis Law Enforcement Camp. We have money. You need to fill the scholarship, just fill it, it's an easy paper. One page process. And we try to turn those around. I mean, we can turn around in an hour. It just amounts how fast people respond to the email. So we're here to help you. And we're doing great things. We got a lot of good things. We got the bracelets, we got... So anyway.

~~Bob Huff:~~ **Kevin Owens:** If there's no questions, I will...

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Our service officer is excused today. His supervisor, Bob Huff will give his report when he covers, what did you say? Under VA and R.

Bob Huff: VA and R.

Don Weber: Okay. So we'll get to that in a few minutes. Let's get into District Commander reports, Lou Neubecker, District One.

Lou Neubecker: Lou Neubecker, District One. Commander. My report is in the book of reports and I do have a couple items on the seven... On December the seventh. Several posts in the district. I don't want to use the word celebrated, but remembered that... Pearl Harbor ceremony. And I think there was about eight or nine posts that held the Christmas parties and New Year's Eve parties. And we are working on our membership. And that is the end of my report, sir.

Don Weber: Thank you, Sir. District Two, Juan.

Juan Palacios: Juan Palacios. Second District Commander. I report to the book report. I'd like to add that on a Christmas party that we had...

Don Weber: Okay. Please use a microphone.

Juan Palacios: On the Christmas party that we had for the department, there was a lot of allegations made that the Sheriff's deputies were being corrupt at the party and we advised our Judge Department State Commander and he imposed fines and we end up raising about 1400 bucks in two hours. And it was given to the Commander project and the Unit President of the department, ~~put~~ **splite** between themselves. We had a pretty good time and nobody got out of line. We didn't have talk to anybody, but we did have to drive into the jail.

Juan Palacios: We won't say one person that did not go to jail. And I think not enough front there, but he paid. Yeah. I would like to mention that our folks and my district are doing pretty good. We have some that are really slow, but I'm going to be talking with them and be a little more forceful and to get them to get back in line, but we're pushing for first place. I think we're tied, but we're definitely in second place, but like I said, we're going to be first, [inaudible] but it's okay.

Don Weber: Glad to hear that.

Juan Palacios: And our membership is growing and I said, "We'll be the best." And my post is one of our best, one of the biggest posts. And if you all want to come on down and if you're a Department Commander or a commander of any type, eat your breakfast or dinner, eat free, we will send that meal to the Department Commander and he will pay for it.

Juan Palacios: But anyway. I want, thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Thank you.

Kevin Owens: Can any post find out a fine for advertising?

Don Weber: So ~~funny~~ **find** District Three.

Unknown voice: Is three here?

John Morford: John Morford. District Three commander. My book, its supposed to be in the book of reports. I sent it in last month.

Bob Huff: It is.

John Morford: And I would like to add that the... I appreciate the fact that the Department Commander and both Vice Commanders attended my District Three meeting. It was very interesting to have that many in the second meeting that I conducted

there, it was an interesting meeting. I thought it went well. And I think they enjoyed that good food that Post 40 provided for us.

Don Weber: Absolutely.

John Morford: So we hope to continue to see more of the department members down there by the caucus, same day, most of the districts are doing it on May 14th. So that's where we're at. We are working on membership at the 71 point something percent at the moment, hopefully continue to grow and we'll get up there eventually.

Don Weber: Alright. Thank you, District Four.

David Applegate: I did send a report-~~out~~ up... I did send a report ~~out~~ up and it should be included the book of reports. I would like to add that the post charters here. We have to announce that we have, Post 50 is going to present a charter to a women's ~~artillery~~ auxiliary, here on the 19th of January. So I'd like to just make that, we need some positive news on members here on membership. Our ~~Closed~~ post Commander [crosstalk 00:58:08] worked hard to get candidates in that and including some Juniors. So we're pretty pleased with that. And that's my report

Cross talk: [cross talk]

Cross talk: To do an official.

Attendee: **Bob Huff**: They're all coming down. They're going to have Chris [inaudible 00:58:28].

Don Weber: Give me the information.

Don Weber: So Dave, if you'll please give me the information on that unveiling of the charter for Unit 50.

David Applegate: January 19.

Don Weber: Okay. Thank you. Where are we at? District Five, Lance.

Lance Trowbridge: **Commander** District Five Commander. Lance Trowbridge from Sisters, Oregon. A great city where we have a rodeo and a Quilt show every year. So come on down, enjoy our rodeo in June,

Cross talk: Cross Talk:

Lance Trowbridge: Second weekend in June and I understand that... You will get your money ~~back~~ **Kevin** and advertisement, and come to our Quilt show in July. Anyway, my reports in the book of reports... And I have 16 posts in District Five and a lot of them, some of them, most of them are pretty active posts. We have a lot of parades every year, and we have a lot of activities at each one of the posts. And

Lance Trowbridge: I really enjoy going to the post meetings. Very enjoyable, have great commanders at each one of the posts. The district right now is at 77% in membership. And we have one post, Post 55, [Meyer 00:59:53 Mosier], has a 105%. Post 86, that's my post, is at the 94%.

Lance Trowbridge: I only have seven more members signed up to get a 100%. I'm going to do that in January, by the end of January. And I really enjoy being a District Commander. I get to visit the posts, get to meet a lot of people, and I get to spread the word about American Legion in our community. We have a great community in Sisters. We have a great, Kawana's large community. We have... Matter of fact, the VSW VFW and American Legion lead meet together in each time we have a meeting. So our next meeting is going to be in February, the February 2nd. So first Wednesday of each month. And that is my report, Commander.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. And we enjoy having you as a District Commander also. District Six, Andy.

Andy Malar: Andy Millar: Yes. I don't have a book in the book of reports. Since I spent the last two, plus weeks of digging out from the snow with Chase's resignation of recent, to relocate to Washington. District Six is vacant taking application for commander, none thus far. Meanwhile, we're coping. January 22nd will be our first virtual District Six meeting sponsored by a Commission Post at Wild Horse Resort Hotel, noon lunch, and 1:00 PM business meeting. We're going to see if virtual attendance will basically improve our attendance on [inaudible] the meetings because everyone over here is going to have probably some snow... [crosstalk 01:02:30].

Andy Malar: Andy Millar: The President Oratorical chair, Maria signed off, not voluntarily. She lost power probably for all Malawi Malala county and parts of Union Candidate of electricity to power us up. And she will be back on as soon as the power is up. May 14th we will hold our district caucus at 10:00 AM. So to enable the [crosstalk 01:03:30] District Officer Candidates to appear at the Ontario caucus in District 10. And it will be in [inaudible Baker or LaGrande]. That is the end of my report.

Attendee: Andy Millar: Alright. We call Maria Hawthorne back on.

Don Weber: Alright. Thank you for your report, Andy

Maria Hawthorne: Maira Tye: [inaudible] I'm freezing out around here.

Don Weber: Alright. District Seven.

James Moriarty: Commander Thank you. My name is Moriarty, District Seven Commander. My report is in the book reports and I just wanted to relay to everyone that was with us with the National Vice Commander, it was truly an honor to see parts of the outlying area's of Estacada. And I do hope that you come back so we can

James Moriarty: knock on some more gates and not jump over any electrical fences [inaudible 01:04:48] Estacada. But I was truly humbled yesterday, that not a District Seven member, not a ~~Regression~~ **Gresham** Post 30 member, donated money for Post 30. So that's why I'm here. And that's why I think everyone else is here in this room, is veterans helping veterans. No one asks that member... And that who's in this room right now to pay for anyone else's dues, but it was done. And we had a fantastic job, I was honored to be a part of it.

James Moriarty: And I just would like to present this bullet pen to Mr. Jim Higuera. This is a Special Forces Organization that we support in Estacada and post 74. And it'll be the last pen you'll ever have to... So 30% of the proceeds of these pens go towards the Special Forces Foundation at North Carolina, we purchased approximately a hundred last year and give them out to dignitaries that visit the post. And we have a leading National Candidate. Also, represented one and I think that's all I have. That's all. Thank you again, Mr. ~~Guerra~~ **Higuera**, Appreciate it. Thank you.

~~Jim Guerra~~ **Jim Higuera**: Thank you, sir.

~~Advocate~~ **Cross Talk**: Chris isn't it? Chris Christopherson?

~~Don Weber~~ **Cross Talk**: No, he is 10, nine first.

~~Advocate~~ **Don Weber**: Oh dude. We're out of order. I missed you here. Alright. District Eight, please.

~~Chris Christoff~~ **Christopherson**: Chris Christopherson District Eight Commander.

~~Advocate~~ **Don Weber**: Thank you.

~~Chris Christoff~~ **Christopherson**: My book is, my report is not the book reports. I still haven't learned how to do that. Also, I've got a bunch of stuff to learn. I've just installed in October, made some rookie mistakes and I've got some communication challenges in some of my posts, people with no email, one commander has the landline. So it's not as easy as I thought it was going to be. Most of the good stuff in our district, I'm from the largest post, ~~about~~ **post** 180 in Milwaukee. We got an Honor Guard that averaging two ceremonies a day, sometimes even six. And if there's anybody in the Metro area, that would like to help them out, they could sure use it. Memberships at 89% of that post, 74 for the district, we got some posts that need to get involved.

Chris Christopherson: I visited four of the posts. I've got two with no meeting place. One of the meetings was canceled. Two others had no quorum. We've got a shortage of officers at every post. I hope we can... Some of them have been working to fill those empty positions. Most of the rest of it, I gave yesterday, we got one post with no members, or no officers. So that's, that's my report. I'll get the rest of it in when I learn how to put it online.

~~Advocate:~~ **Don Weber:** Alright. Thank you Sir. District nine.

Larry Hill: Good morning, Commander. Larry Hill, District Commander, District Nine. Well folks, all those worker bee's yesterday heard what I'm going to say, the elevated front row missed out a lot. Okay. So just to recapitulation, our membership in District Nine stands to about 74% right now. Historically we start off great guns for the first few months and about this time of year we die.

Larry Hill: And that's why we're back down where it's the bottom again. It's very strange. We do real well on, just taking those dives like that. I got one of the problem posts. There's, no officers that's number one. She wants to close everything down. **Oh** I'm talking about [inaudible 01:09:13] Arthur. She has cancer, her husband is very ill, they're moving to Rhode Island at the beginning of summertime, she sells her house and she...Kevin's worked with her and he busted his tail. It sounds like Brookings all over again. [Danger Crew 01:09:30] all over again. We re resuscitated Brookings. How many times Kevin? Yeah, I don't... Each one of us, who were just commanders. Stand up and say, "We saved Brookings!" and then it'll die again. Next district commander, "We saved Brookings" and it dies. So now it's up to us to try to save that post. Okay? Its unique. There's about 50 members in it.

Larry Hill: Only 16 members in that entire post lived in Port Orford, and Sixes. Beside that, they have a good size number in Brookings who wasn't interested at a post when they transferred out there and they have a large out of state-contingent. So basically if you're looking for officers and a life **blood**, but you're looking at a potential pool of 16 people, okay. Maybe a few more. They had a bang up district and post commander down there. About four o'clock, one morning, there was a knock on the door and they used a [inaudible 01:10:13 **battering ram**] to go to his house. Income taxes **evasion**, there's a couple other charges they had, DEA there, they had IRS there. He owned a pot shop and he never paid any taxes. Okay. But he was one heck of a fine post commander. Unfortunately he got caught. If he wasn't a felon, I would have brought him back. I really enjoyed that man.

Larry Hill: He was all right, don't [inaudible 01:10:58 **dog gone it**] things like that happen. So that's our problem, folks. We got our district meeting and Oratorical Contest coming up in Tri-Cities slash Murderer Creek. Next Saturday, 10 o'clock was Oratorical followed by lunch, followed by the district meeting. So if you wish to be scared of yourself and come on down, we got two. Well that's as far as I know right now, we may end up with zero. By the time we get to that or one. Whatever it is, it's more than we had last year. I think, so I'm very pleased about that.

Larry Hill: Basically, that's it. We're hanging in there. We've done a lot. One of our posts, which is ~~Murderer~~ **Myrtle** Creek got above the fold front page, article on the journalist of Pearl Harbor Day, where they put out the flags, all kinds of photos, our real good write up. Setting up ~~the flag to~~ **Flynn**, he is going to put it in the

Legionnaire. It was really good and they were recognized and he expressed all the issues that we all hear, which is good to let the public know. We're a bunch of old guys and we need some younger blood and everything else. So it was good to hear that. And that concludes my report. Thank you very much.

~~Advocate:~~ **Don Weber:** Thank you, sir. So ~~Dan Barks-~~ **Burks** your district report.

~~Dan Barks:~~ **Dan Burks:** Commander, my report is in book reports. I would like to add that a [inaudible 01:12:23] fixed a flag raising ceremony on New Year's Eve, that's New City Hall [inaudible 01:12:30 in Vale]. I'm really excited about that and their new mayor is also a new member of the Legion and all sort of excited. So we're talking to him about transitioning into the commander's position and replacing [~~June Gustavo~~ **Gina Silva**] who's only been doing it for 16 years.

~~Dan Barks:~~ **Dan Burks:** Of that membership, we've got couple **post** close struggles for a reason or other and I plan to be speaking with our district members of chair [inaudible 01:13:03] ~~Charles Smith~~ **Schmidt**. Whatever [inaudible 01:13:03] and I've already talked to post member, John Day. Part of his issue is we just transferred in a bunch of members and they haven't renewed yet. We're used to [~~Jim Perrone~~ **Jerome**] running around, picking up all the membership, who is currently been, somewhat home bound, due to heart complications. So we might go out there and do a little, little bit more door knocking, but it will have to be a pretty big event because most of these folks live 30, 40 minutes apart, each. So, but other than that, we work with the ~~Metro~~ **Nyssa** post right now, as well.

~~Dan Barks:~~ **Dan Burks:** As I explained yesterday, one of my [inaudible 01:13:56 **issue**] is, the new commander took over and we got this post going for the first time, since 2008. He inherited all the ~~the~~ **this** membership that are basically homebound. So there's only two members really in that entire post that really are functional. So we're trying to get him some new members and get him to new officers and stuff like that, really because they help. So commander, that concludes my report.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. At this time, we'll recess for a short break. Please return at 10 after 10.

~~Bob Huff:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** There's water in the refrigerator, if you folks would like to.