

~~Speaker 1:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Second session DEC.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** Call on District 9 Commander ~~Owens~~. [crosstalk] **Larry Hill**

Larry Hill: I forgot to do a public service announcement. The last Saturday of this month, Betty Fish-Ferguson and her traveling circus will be giving us training at Post 16 for Districts 4 and 9.

We'd like to have you, okay? See, I made up for it, okay? [crosstalk]

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** All right. Thank you, Larry.

Larry Hill: Thanks so much.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** Okay. Next up, call on A & A for a report.

~~Kevin Owens:~~ **Rob Liebenow:** I apologize. I didn't know I was on the agenda this morning. But we did have... The A & A met at Department headquarters Friday evening, or Friday afternoon. The main things we discussed was some changes to the Department [inaudible] **Adjutant** annual contract. I won't go into those-

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Doubled my pay.

~~Kevin Owens:~~ **Rob Liebenow:** Yeah. I thought **you volunteer to ah to do this** [inaudible] **you know on the side** ~~you'd want to care to review this on the sides.~~ [crosstalk]

~~Larry Hill:~~ **Don Weber:** What I heard was half.

~~Kevin Owens:~~ **Rob Liebenow:** We went over the contract. We're looking to have that ~~side~~ **signed at the next DEC** ~~you know, connect to DEC~~ instead of waiting until Convention.

We need to go over [court's inaudible exhibits,] performance review. I think at this time we're going to allow the adjutant to fill out his own performance review. Then the committee will go over it and make any other recommendations. And myself and the Commander then will sit down with the adjutant and go over that report.

Other than that, I think everything is going well. The office is still open and working, doing the best they can. If you read my book of reports or my article in the Legionnaire, you know the Department cannot do their job and give their reports out until every District and Post commanders ~~have~~ turned in their reports. So, I think I made sure that's done.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** Right. Thank you, sir.

A & A... Not A & A. We just did that.

Americanism. Here's a microphone right here.

Lynn-Gea Clausier: [Lynn Lauinger **Gea Clausier**], chairman for Americanism. And my report is in the book of report. But I did want to add that Ian Gerstel has made arrangements for the university, and this next week he will be setting up the agenda for Boys State. So, that's the only addition to my return at this time.

Speaker 2: Don Weber: Okay. Thank you. Convention Commission is up next, and I don't see ~~John~~ **Jon** Marsh. Is ~~John~~ **Jon** Marsh in one of those other windows on the screen?... Yeah, I don't think so.

Don Weber: Internal Affairs, Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Thank you.

Speaker 2: Don Weber: Five minutes.

Steve Adams: You got it.

My name is Steve Adams, chairman of Internal Affairs Commission. On January 5th, 2021 at 1900 hours, we had an Internal Affairs Commission meeting. In attendance were myself, Dan Burks, Gale Sears, Ward Allen, Terry Brown, Judy Johnston. Betty Fish-Ferguson was running around an airport trying to catch an airplane back, and she was having a difficult time, if I remember correctly. She tried to get on and wasn't able to do it. So, she was excused.

We talked about the merger that was online to come up between Districts 7 and 8. And that is proceeding. We will be having a District 7 and 8 meeting at Department, partial of it will be Zoom to come in on it, on January 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Also, we discussed the Maupin Post 73. There was some talk about donation, that Post wanted to donate their property and Post to the city. They have been under a... The city has leased that Post since 2008. There is a provision in that lease that was approved by Department at that time should the city want to buy it. Then there was a provision in there for the city to buy it, to opt to buy it. But in that provision, **it was** when the lease was signed in 2008, any money that they put into the building to upgrade it, to maintain it, whatever would be deducted from the assessed valuation of that as an assessment, it would be deducted from that on the fair market value.

So, it was put out Lance, District 5 Commander and Gene Hellickson, Judge Advocate, attended that meeting. And there was... Since 2008, the city has put over \$300,000 into that building. Don't know what the fair market value of that property is going to be in ~~Maupin~~ **Maupin**. But they are proceeding with as if it was going to be a donation to come up with that. Lance's District 5 is staying up on top of that and will be informing me of what is going on there.

Also, we will be sending a survey out to District Commanders and Post Commanders here in the very near future, a confidential survey back to Internal Affairs.

And so, that's just a heads up of what we're going to do. So, please encourage the District Commanders, encourage the Posts to get those surveys back. And the District Commanders, get those surveys back in a timely manner. Okay. That's my report.

Speaker 2: Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Legislative Commission. There he is, John Lee.

John Lee: Commander, John Lee, Legislative Commission.

Speaker 2: Don Weber: Thank you.

John Lee: So, my report is in the Book of Reports. I encourage people to look at it. Attached to that are ~~free~~ **three** maps, one for the Senate, one for the House, for the state redistricting of those. And also look for the Congressional, US Congressional, because we now have six Congressional areas where that's all broken down, where it is.

Also encourage everybody to look at where you're at to make sure that your representatives haven't changed and see who they are. Grassroots are so important to our legislative type stuff. Just a little something to bring up at this point, we're going into the short session, which will start on February 1st, last 35 days. So, it's a really short session. Each legislative individual can apply two bills, submit for two bills. That leads just roughly 240 bills total, as well as the committees can also submit some, as well... Keeps us around 300 bills can be submitted in the short session, as opposed to about 4,000 in the long session that's coming up.

There are some concepts right now that are in place, but the actual bills have not been set up yet. That will be coming here this next week. So, until the 8th of March, I'm pretty busy trying to keep up on these.

If anybody is never interested in finding out more or wants to be on the Committee for Legislative, and you live close to the Salem area, let me know. We would be glad to show you how this works and look at your... We've got some positions open on the committee... Or, on the Commission.

It's really rewarding. On top of that, I want to also bring up membership. Everybody talks about membership. We need membership. It's money. However, it's power I want. Everybody that joins, the power behind it. When I testify before Congress or the Senate, I say, "We have this many members." That gives me support behind it and how many people are supporting this bill.

So, it gives a lot of power. And unfortunately it never keeps going down. And if it goes down too far, then they're going to say, "Well, that 200 people over there, we don't really need to worry about them." So, that membership is extremely important when we look at legislative. A lot of people say, "We support veterans." We're all for it until you say, "Well, we need to get your dollars and we need to get your time." And in order to be able to get that, we got to do that in legislative. So, anyway, that's my report.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** Thank you, John. Next, we'll hear from the Media & Communications Commission Chair, Flynn Phillips.

Flynn Phillips: Flynn Phillips, adjutant and acting as the Media & Communications Commission Chairman. We have under that The Legionnaire, the Information & Technology and Public Relations Committee. Those reports are in the Book of Reports. However, we need some more members on these committees, because Charlie is a army of one, an air force of one on the Public Relations... Two? Or so... You, Okay. Maria, yeah. So, we need some more people on those committees. Thank you.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** Well, next we're supposed to have a Membership and Post Activities Commission report, but we've had that, as I recall.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Yes, you did.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** So, we'll call next for the National Security & Foreign Relations Committee report. Greg Marvin, Greg is not in attendance.

Okay. We'll call for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation-

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Can I make a comment for that one?

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** You may.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** **Commander** Greg Marvin has two Law Officers of the Years and two Firefighter of the Year applications that he's working on with his committee. So, we should have a winner in both of those.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** Good. Good. Okay. Then next we'll hear from Bob Huff, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission report.

Bob Huff: Thank you, Commander.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** You're welcome.

Bob Huff: I'm going to stay up here and also do VE V & E.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** You have two minutes.

Bob Huff: [inaudible] Lou Neubecker Becker used to tell me that when I was Department Commander, that I had two minutes to speak at his meetings. I'm discussing business. It takes more than two minutes. Okay. For me, I'm going to be doing the VA & R, as I'm Chairman of all pillar number one, which is all our veterans' activity for VA & R and E & E. And with our Service Officer, who has COVID, by the way, and his wife... That's why he is not here. And I'm doing his report also, which is... I'm also doing the ~~VE~~ V & E report, because I'm the President of the ~~VE~~ V & E for Oregon for the President's administration.

Want to talk about VA & R. I think everybody here knows that we've had two years of not being able hold events. We're going into a third year, as the governor just activated our National Guard in the state two days ago to go back into the hospitals and work. And they came out last night and asked that we not have any gatherings in rooms again, which has been an issue. Our Department Service Officers, we have two, one spoke to you yesterday, Jody. And Ed Van Dyke, who is our Department Service Officer, and who was the Deputy Director of the ODVA, and is actually the one that taught almost every County Service Officer in the state how to do their functions, and is very, very good.

I'm also... Offline of this, have oversight in the Jackson County Service Office for the last 15 years. I sit with the County Commission in that county. So, I work with both my function.

I want to kind of praise our Department Service Officers first. They are working off of telephones. All Service Officers in this state are working virtually and off phones. And what's came out of that over the last couple of years is they are actually handling twice as many claims as they did in person. And as ~~VBA~~ VVA has been an issue, having a [inaudible], and as far as the traveling, as they're going around holding the cases, they're doing twice as many now, virtually. Our service officers have... And I know everybody doesn't see it. I get the list from national of all the claims that are processed here in this country, by the Veterans Service Officers and the outcomes of it.

And our outcomes are very strong. They really are. Even though Ed is sitting at home, his wife and children are sick right now. He's doing Service Officer work over the phone. Him and Jody both are traveling. There is no foreseeable in the future of the ~~VBA~~ VVA in the Portland Federal Building as being reopened for people to come in, as is every County Service Officer in this state, because of COVID or whatever else we want to call it.

We canceled all of our parking in that area, the future, which I believe is going to be virtual. I am holding the only in-face county meetings in Jackson County at this time. Everything else, we're virtual. We're living virtual right now.

I want to hit a couple of these... The VA & R I want separate a little bit. The VSO for the state is the oversight of the VA VS, which are within our VA facilities, which I'm the rep for, for the particular VA hospital.

It's also the system we're saving, which I know Larry and Commander [Schmidt]. We've all had to do it. Roseburg, and I've had to do it at White City. And to be very honest with you, we've had in my facility... We've had 17 doctors leave in the last two months. And they're being offered over \$100,000 more to go to other hospitals right now.

And we are getting down to the point again in this department. I know when we were at the Phoenix National... What do you call it? Excuse me.

They were already experiencing the same issues there. We're back to 60 days up to a year for appointments. And we're getting to the point. I know Eugene shut down two days ago because over 50% of the employees in that facility have COVID, and everything is going back to telecommunication. So, I'm sure that we're going to start doing the system we're saving again. And I'm afraid probably in our own Department, because of the medical appointments, which is not good.

The facility I'm in, they've had to move patients from all over the United States, too. And we're basically a mental health, PTSD, and detox facility. And they're doing that because the fourth arm of the Veterans Administration is bringing civilians into the facilities, into the hospitals. And during the COVID, that has become a big issue. So, they have been sending patients that require that care, because we are a lockdown facility. They're coming into our facility. So, I know even on our charges, where we buy stuff and get contributions more, has almost tripled, because nobody can believe... It's just... It's great.

So, we support the pillar one. We also do the national cemeteries, which unfortunately I'm also the coordinator for one of those. I know that the folks up north is really starting to do a good job with the national cemeteries.

For the last two years, we have been held to how many people can go to a funeral. We did 42 funerals in the month of November at the Eagle Point National Cemetery. And we don't do three a day like they do up north, because those folks were being held because they couldn't hold the burials.

And we're doing a lot of virtual burials, because people are not allowed to come to the cemeteries. In fact, a lot of you in this room knew Judy Pierpoint, who was the age of [Doni] Christner. And she was my deputy for about six years. She's a World War Two veteran at the VA until she got to where she couldn't drive her car anymore. And her and I have always communicated. In fact, my son worked at the corner of her house and used to take her garbage out. This will take more than five minutes, and that's okay.

So, I sent her Christmas cards every year. We've always communicated. And my Christmas cards the last two years have come back. And I was bearing Dennis [Crawfordson], and you know his wife, about three months ago. And at the next name on the wall were my last two assistants at the VA, Judy Pierpoint and

Tom. They're both there. So, I bought three wreaths this year and laid three wreaths during the Wreaths Across America, which was really good.

The VA & R Commission does all the events in the state, along with the VE & E Commission, which is Veterans Employment Education and Homelessness. And most of you know I run homeless events in Oregon. We have not been allowed to do anything for two years. We've been locked down. Although, we are doing stuff individually, because we have lockers full of clothes and people bring us things that we are able to provide people with.

Even though we haven't been allowed to have face-to-face events, we held a job fair in December for the Veterans Administration to get employees, because we don't count how many businesses have "help wanted" signs. We count businesses that don't have "help wanted" signs on them.

I mean, a few years ago we were out trying to get employers for our veterans. Now, we're trying to get more veterans for the jobs. Anybody basically can get a job now... They've lowered the bar on a lot of jobs. We held a face-to-face employment event in December at the VA Source, strictly for federal employees. They had packages made up for them. Normally, getting into some of these federal jobs will take you five or six months by the time you go through the whole gamut. We figured if we got 15 people there, we would've been fortunate.

We had 98. And we also had our homeless setup. We had all the services set up, HUD Vash and everything else. Every job that we had a requirement for, somebody was hired and was in there in two weeks.

We didn't think we were going to get to do that again because Portland and Roseburg are also giving us requirements. We have another one on the 5th. I was contacted before I came here to set up another one on the 5th of next month for doctors and nurses, because we cannot continue to operate at our... Where we need to be, you know.

So, you're going to probably be hearing a lot about that. Of course, I dialed back in and said, "What are the incentives for us to get clinical workers here? What are we going to offer them, since the local hospitals, who are going through the same problem that we're having, are getting \$10,000 bonuses and the whole bit? The federal government can't do that."

So, it's going to be interesting. So, anyway, if you hear of anything in your areas... And it's in The Legionnaires, it's in your Book of Reports... I always put my email address, my phone numbers. Please call me.

Now, I am getting a lot of calls out of the Portland area for employees and... Jobs are out there. We partner with all the [DevOps] in this state. In fact, I've got three of them in my Post. A lot of my Post members of our [~~PeepOps~~ DevOps]

and our different positions that work with us. In fact, my PA is the PA for the VA. Different people in my Post are actually the person that does that job for the government.

I know I'm blending these together, but it is blended together. We're hoping for... I've requested from the VA to be able to hold stand-downs because we have big areas and we own everything. And part of our stand-downs is getting veterans in homes, getting them housed, which we have the ability to do that. We've got very good control to get them the help they need. If they need to go into the medical, we have the medical right there. We hold it on their campus. To get jobs for job training, we have the colleges there also. So, hopefully, we get back to normal. If anybody's got any questions... If not, I'm going to sit down because this meeting's supposed to end at 10:30.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** Wow.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** I didn't record your start time, but I think you exceeded it.

~~Flynn Phillips:~~ **Bob Huff:** I hope I exceeded it.

Don Weber: Where were we at here? We're at-

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Post Charters.

~~Speaker 11:~~ **Bob Huff:** I'm the last speaker.

Don Weber: Okay. It says not on here. [crosstalk] Do I need to call for it?

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Nope.

Don Weber: Okay. Custody and policies. Okay. Resolutions. We have a distinguished chaplain. And we have a resolution to be read, to nominate him to become a National Chaplain. I'm going to call on Flynn Phillips to read that resolution. [crosstalk].

Flynn Phillips: Adjutant Flynn Phillips. Going to read the recommended resolution to National for the endorsement of Steven D. [Shollenberg Shollenburg] for National Chaplain of the American Legion.

In your first sentence there, then, where it says he was ordained in Seventh-day Adventists, that he was actually ordained as a non-denominational pastor. So, I will begin.

Whereas, Steven D. Shollenberg Shollenburg, an ordained non-denominational pastor since 2001 and a member of the American Legion since 2010, has served as Chaplain for various Oregon chapters and Posts for the past eight years, including the American Legion Riders State Chaplain, McMinnville Post 21,

Lester C. Rees Post 57, and the Department of Oregon Chaplain for the past three years and was recognized as the Department of Oregon Chaplain of the Year in 2020.

And whereas, the American Legion Preamble starts with the words, "For God and country," we associate ourselves together for the following purposes.

And, whereas, the introduction declares that the American Legion recognizes the influence of almighty God in all our worthwhile endeavors, declares allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and country. And, whereas, Steven D. ~~Shollenberg~~ **Shollenburg** did distinguish himself as an impromptu chaplain at the 102nd American Legion National Convention and Western Caucus in Phoenix, Arizona by offering prayer when called upon, as no other chaplain was in attendance.

He did impress those in attendance, and therefore, be it resolved that the American Legion Department of Oregon Executive Committee assembled in Wilsonville, Oregon on January 9th, 2022, endorses Steven D. ~~Shollenberg~~ **Shollenburg** for a National Chaplain of the American Legion.

And be it finally resolved that the American Legion Department of Oregon Department of Executive Committee forward this resolution to the American Legion National Adjutant.

Flynn Phillips: I think we need to vote.

~~Speaker 11:~~ **Bob Huff:** Commander?

Speaker 12: **Unknown voice:** There's a Commander right there.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** Go ahead, sir.

Bob Huff: Commander Bob Hope, Department Finance Officer. I make a motion the resolution be approved as written.

~~Kevin Owens:~~ **Unknown voice second the motions--:** Second.

~~Speaker 1:~~ Been a motion and a second to approve the resolution as read. Discussion?

Don Weber: Yes, sir. Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Commander. I've had a chance to work with Steve ~~Shollenberg~~ **Shollenburg** for the last few years. He has raised the level of Department Chaplain up another level. And he's done one incredible job. Thank you very much, Steve. [crosstalk].

Don Weber: All right, recognize Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: Commander. Is this a resolution off from the floor, or has this gone through the committees and all of that? Because there's nothing here on the second page that says that.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: Okay. I'll give you that.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you.

Don Weber: It's been through the committee and the floor.

Larry Wittmayer: Okay. Thank you.

Kevin Owens: [inaudible] Past Department Commander, National Committeeman Just so everybody's aware, and Steve's well aware, he's the first. We are endorsing him to be put in the pool to be National Chaplain. That does not mean that he will be National Chaplain. It doesn't mean that he'll be tomorrow or the next day. This could take five years. It's a decision that's made by National.

So, I don't want anybody getting their hopes up that tomorrow, he's going to be the National Chaplain. So, just... Because I know people will ask that we endorsed him and went to National, why is he not National Chaplain? So this is not an easy process, because they will vet you. They vet you, they look at your background, they see what you do and all that. So, they want the best person.

And I think Steve is the best person, but that is up to the team. So, we just want to make sure that we pass it to our members, if he doesn't get picked next year or the next year after that, it's not because he's a bad person. It's just they make decisions. So, I just want to make everybody aware of that.

Larry Hill: Bob Huff: Yeah. He hasn't trained as replacement yet, either.

~~Larry Wittmayer:~~ Don Weber: Thank you, sir.

~~Speaker 12:~~ Don Weber: Further discussion?

Nope. You don't have the floor, privilege of the floor. Okay. There's been a motion and a second to approve the resolution, nominating our Department Chaplain as a forward for the National Chaplain position. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

[crosstalk]

Don Weber: [crosstalk] Okay. Roll call and vote.

~~Speaker 2:~~ Flynn Phillips: Endorsement for Steve Shollenberg-Shollenburg.

District 1 Commander, Lou Neubecker.

Did Lou drop off? His mic's on.

Don Weber: He's up there, and his mic's on. [crosstalk].

Don Weber: Go on.

Flynn Phillips: District 2 Commander, [Juan Palacios]?

Juan Palacios: Aye, yes.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 3 Commander, John Morford.

John Morford: District 3 Commander John Morford, aye. Approve for.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 4 Commander, David Applegate.

David Applegate: Aye.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 5 Commander, Lance Trowbridge.

Lance Trowbridge: **Trowbrige:** Lance Trowbridge, I vote yes.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 6 Commander, Andy Millar.

Andy Millar: Aye.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 7 Commander, James Moriarty.

James Moriarty: Yes.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 8 Commander, Chris [Christopherson].

Chris Christopherson: **Christopherson:** Vote aye.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 9 Commander, Larry Hill.

Larry Hill: Aye.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 10 Commander, Dan Burks.

Dan Burks: In favor.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Thank you. District 1st Vice Commander, Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: In favor.

District 2nd Vice Commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: In favor.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Aye.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Immediate-past Department Commander, Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Aye.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** National Executive Committeeman, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: Can't hear you, someone blew my ear off **Aye**.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Motion passes.

Kevin Owens: Recall Lou.

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Oh, recall Lou. Do you vote in favor of Steve Shollenberg? **Shollenburg?**
[inaudible]

Flynn Phillips; Good. He says, "Yes." All right. Motion passes.

Don Weber: All right. Motion carries. Thank you. Second resolution on the agenda is to designate Oregon State Route 35 as Oregon Veterans' Highway. Who is presenting that one?

Flynn Phillips: Believe that... I think that's Lance Trowbridge. Wasn't it Lance? [crosstalk].

~~Speaker 2:~~ **Don Weber:** We're going to call on you to read the resolution.

Excellent.

~~Lance Trowbridge:~~ **Kevin Owens:** Five dollars not [inaudible].

Lance Trowbridge: Post 22 Hood River, Highway 35 runs from Freeway 84 all the way up to Mount Hood. So, they want to name that highway the Nisei Highway.

Whereas the freedom of the Constitution and American Legion impartially accept to foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism, preserve the memories and incidents that are associated with all wars, inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state, and nation.

And whereas the American nation is committed to the idea of freedom, equality, and justice, and dismantling injustice in our past. And whereas the

Nisei, second-generation Japanese Americans from the [inaudible] region [inaudible] served in our country and nation during World War 2. [inaudible] [cross talk]

Don Weber: Can you hold on here just a second, please?

Kevin Owens: David Applegate wants to know what's going on with his mic.

Speaker 2: Flynn Phillips: I need you to mute your microphone, please. Thank you.

Don Weber: Kevin Owens: We heard everything you said about your wife.

Okay. Please continue Lance.

Lance Trowbridge: Lance Trowbridge: Due to President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19th, 1942. And whereas these Nisei soldiers were among 33,000 Nisei who served our country in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe as linguists in the Military Intelligence Service in the South Pacific and [inaudible] Japan.

And whereas the names of 16 local Nisei soldiers were blacked out from an honor roll of 1,600 local law enforcement members of the Hood River County Courthouse on November 29th, 1944, bringing national notoriety to the Valley. And the names were restored 13 weeks later on April 9th, 1945.

Whereas during the war, local citizens discouraged Nisei veterans and their families from returning to their homes and farms. And whereas the Oregon House representing Past-Joint, the memorial number nine on February 20th, 1945, calling on [inaudible] to prevent the return of Japanese Americans for the duration of the pertinent war with Japan.

Whereas in 2011, our nation's Nisei soldiers were awarded a Congressional Gold Medal. And in 2015, the French Legion d'Honneur Award, the highest award a French government could bestow on members of the American Armed Forces, that in June 2021, the United States Postal Service released four Forever Stamps to pay tribute to Nisei soldiers.

And whereas Hood River citizens, including American Legion Post 22, now since recognize Nisei World War 2 veterans in an acknowledgement of wrongs by dedicating local landmarks and a memorial brick in honor of all Nisei veterans at Overlook Memorial Park on Veterans Day 2001, and a marble monument inscribed with names of all Japanese and Oregon veterans at Idlewilde Cemetery on Memorial Day 2011.

And whereas three years after the end of World War 2, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 998 9981, committing the [inaudible] to integrate the segregated military after 170 years of discrimination.

And whereas the United Congress compel you to award Medals of Honor to World War 2 Asian Americans and [inaudible] veterans who performed these in valor equal to their white counterparts and who had been excluded from that highest military common award due to discriminatory taxes.

60 years after World War 2 began, 22 Asian-Pacific veterans, including 20 Nisei, received Medal of Honor awards on June 21st, 2000.

And whereas the State Route 35 has special significance for Japanese American veterans, as many of their families owned and worked on fruit orchards along the highway and in the region until they were forcefully removed to President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

And whereas SR-35 is 41 miles in length and connects with the POW/MIA Memorial Highway on Highway 26 and with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway in Hood River on Interstate 84.

And whereas Oregon has designated eight border-to-border War Veteran highways, but has not designated a Highway to honor Oregon's World War 2 Nisei veterans.

Whereas designating SR-35 as Oregon Nisei Veterans World War 2 Historical highway will at long last pay tribute to the Nisei veterans not only in the Columbia River Gorge, but also unclaimed Nisei who served for the state of Oregon.

And whereas 13 Nisei veterans from Oregon are known to be living today, and descendants of at least 27 Nisei veterans are known to live in Oregon's mid-Columbia area.

And whereas American Legion Post 22 located in Hood River is served by SR-35 as the only Congressionally-chartered veterans group located in the mid-Columbia area. Many Post members associated with local Nisei veterans in their daily lives, and World War 2 Nisei soldiers were members of the Post.

And whereas to preserve memories and incidents of our association is a tenet of the American Legion Preamble and Constitution. Now, therefore be it resolved by District 5, the American Legion Department of Oregon, in its regular meeting assembled in Wilsonville, Oregon, January 9th, 2022, urge the American Legion Department of Oregon to support designation of SR-35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War 2 Historical Highway by the Oregon Legislature.

And be it further resolved the American Legion Department of Oregon Post 22 should testify to the Oregon Legislature in support of the proposed designation.

And be it finally resolved that the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War 2 Historical Highway will be a perfect reminder that the service and sacrifices of Oregon's World War 2 Nisei veterans were made at a high cost. And freedom is not free.

~~Speaker 1:~~ **Lance Trowbridge:** Thank you, Commander.

Don Weber: Thank you. Do I hear a motion?

John Morford: John Morford, District 3 Commander. I make a motion that we adopt this resolution.

Don Weber: Thank you. Is there a second?

Juan Palacios: **Sir,** Second. Juan Palacios, District 2. Make a second on it.

Don Weber: Thank you.

There's been a motion a second to approve this resolution. Discussion?

Yes, sir.

Charles Smith: **Commander** Charles Smith, Past-Department Commander, privilege of the floor.

Don Weber: Please. And I hope you're going to invite Casey [Kennemark] to join us for that.

Charles Smith: You never know.

Commander, understanding this resolution. And I appreciate the fact that this honors some other veterans who maybe have been left out. And I think it's a good idea on behalf of Post 22.

My question is on this resolution and the other resolutions... None of them are signed. Have they really been vetted through anybody? I would think that they came to this body here to act on it, that they would have assurances here that it has been acted upon and sorted out in whatever body, whether it's a committee or a commission or whatever.

And just a note, I would presume that one resolved clause that talks about testifying that our Legislative Commission will take the ball with this, should it pass, and run with it with the...

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Further discussion? There's been a motion and a second to approve this resolution. Call on the Adjutant for roll call vote.

Flynn Phillips: Roll call vote for designating the Oregon State Route 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War 2 Historical Highway.

District 1 Commander, Lou Neubecker.

Lou Neubecker: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 2 Commander, Juan Palacios.

Juan Palacios: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 3 Commander, John Morford.

John Morford: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 4 Commander, David Applegate.

David Applegate: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 5 Commander, Lance Trowbridge.

Lance Trowbridge: Trowbridge: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 6 Commander, Andy Millar.

Andy Millar: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 7 Commander, James Moriarty.

James Moriarty: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 8 Commander, Chris Christopherson.

Chris Christopherson: Christopherson: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 9 Commander, Larry Hill.

Larry Hill: Yes.

~~Chris Christopherson:~~ Flynn Phillips: District 10 Commander, Daniel Burks.

Dan Burks: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: 1st Vice Commander, Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: 2nd Vice Commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: In favor.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: Department Finance Officer Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: All right.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: Immediate Past Department Commander, Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: National Executive Committeeman, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ Flynn Phillips: Resolution passes, 100%.

Don Weber: Motion approved unanimously. Thank you.

Call on Permanent Finance Commission for a resolution.

Kevin Owens: We're the Permanent Finance Commission.

Whereas the Department of Oregon's budget for the year 2021-22 as approved at our Department of Oregon Convention at Seven Feathers on June 25th, 2021, approved the Oratorical Scholarship Fund for \$16,000.

And whereas an executive committee of the American Legion Foundation voted to transfer \$5,000 of unclassified funds of the OALF to the Oratorical Scholarship Fund of the Department of Oregon's 2021-22 budget on Thursday, December 9th, 2021.

Whereas with the excess of \$5,000 available in the 2021-22 Department of Oregon budget line Oratorical Scholarship Fund, \$5,000 is transferred for a donation to the Veterans & Children Fund, known as VCF, from the Department of Oregon.

And now therefore, be it resolved that \$5,000 in excess in the Department of Oregon budget line item for Oratorical Scholarship Fund for 2021-22 be allocated to the Veterans & Children Fund from the Department of Oregon.

And be it further resolved that this resolution, upon approval of the Mid-Winter Department Executive Committee in Wilsonville, Oregon on January 6th, 2022, takes effect and so implemented.

And as a voting member of this body, I so move.

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

Unknown: **an unknown voice second the motion:** Second.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. Motion and second to approve a resolution for modification to budget. Discussion?

Robert Liebenow: May I have the privilege of the floor?

Don Weber: Please.

Robert Liebenow: Robert Liebenow, Past Department Commander. The Veterans & Children Foundation is very important. It pays for educating our Service Officers, and it helps fund the temporary financial assistance to help keep children under the age of 18 in their homes with heat, electricity, and so on.

I think I was the only one in the Foundation that voted not to bring this resolution forward. Like Mr. Owens said, this is a line item budget. That line item budget should only be used for what it is budgeted for.

I think the Department throughout the state of Oregon can come up with the funds of this \$5,000. District 1 has voted to donate \$500. My own Post, Hillsboro Post 6, has donated \$200. And I think if the leadership of this Department, which is all of you sitting up here, as you travel the state, go to District meetings, Post meetings and stress the importance of the Veterans & Children Foundation, you can raise the \$5,000 we have.

We will get the check at National Convention that's in the end of August. So, we have from now until then to raise this funds. I would say if we cannot raise it by our own convention, we revisit this resolution.

I'm asking you for a "No" vote on this resolution for the fact that we're playing musical chairs with our budget. That budget was set up for specific purpose and should not be used for anything else. Thank you.

Don Weber: Okay.

Kevin Owens: I'd like to clarify something, because you're going to get a different picture. The Foundation is separate entity. It has separate funds, has... It's not connected to the Department. It's a separate board that can do what they want in that board.

The Department has no say so because that's how we have to function as an IRS 501(c)(3). We're not asking you to take money out of the Oratorical funds. What we're saying is we're going to backfill the funds into that scholarship fund. It is a wash. It is two separate boards, two separate entities. We did it because of the way that we function.

The VCF is a 501(c)(3), just like us. We are not supposed to donate to another 501(c)(3) to alleviate that and alleviate the budget so the Department has no cost to it. Zero. It does cost the Department no money, none.

And I agree with Rob that we should be able to raise the money. But we still can give \$5,000 and still raise the money. Let's give 10,000, let's give 15,000. The money goes for a good cause. But I want to assure you, we are not changing the Department budget one penny. It's a donation from the Foundation to a scholarship fund, which is a youth program. And that's what the Foundation's for.

So, don't get blindsided that we're changing the budget. That is not happening. We're just taking the money from the Foundation and giving it to the Scholarship Fund. We're allocating that \$5,000 to the VCF Fund. That's all that's happening. It's a zero cost to the department, and it does not affect our budget. So, I hope you'll vote, "Yes."

Don Weber: Thank you. Further discussion.

Okay, hearing no further discussion, we'll take a vote to approve this resolution.

Call on the Adjutant for roll call vote,

Flynn Phillips: roll call, vote for the resolution to transfer the money.

District 1 Commander, Lou Neubecker.

Lou Neubecker: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 2 Commander, Juan Palacios.

Juan Palacios: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 3 Commander, John Morford.

John Morford: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 4 Commander, David Applegate.

David Applegate: Aye.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 5 Commander, Lance Trowbridge.

Lance Trowbridge: ~~Trowbridge:~~ **Trowbrige:** Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 6 Commander, Andy Millar.

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Andy Millar: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 7 Commander, James Moriarty.

James Moriarty: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 8 Commander, Chris Christopherson.

~~Chris Christopherson:~~ **Christopherson:** Yes.

Flynn Phillips: District 9 Commander, Larry Hill.

Larry Hill: Yes.

~~Chris Christopherson:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** District 10 Commander, Dan Burks.

Dan Burks: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** 1st Vice Commander, Larry Wittmayer.

Larry Wittmayer: No.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** 2nd Vice Commander, Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann: In favor.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Department Finance Officer, Bob Huff.

Bob Huff: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Immediate Past Commander, Steve Adams.

Steve Adams: Yes.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** National Executive Committeeman, Kevin Owens.

Kevin Owens: Abstain.

~~Don Weber:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** It passes.

Don Weber: Resolution passes. Thank you.

The amendment to the Constitutional Bylaws was previously approved at Convention. So, that does not need to be on the agenda.

We have no awards. Is there any unfinished business to come before the body today?

~~Charles Smith:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** Yes.

Don Weber: Chair recognizes past National Commander Charlie Smith.

Charles Smith: [Crosstalk] Clarification on reports that we heard this morning as we... I don't think we had an opportunity for discussion.

That was the Internal Affairs report on merger of 7 and 8. I know we haven't passed any resolutions about that, so I'm just kind of curious about that. And I would encourage every member sitting around the table, as you review the previous minutes of previous meetings, go back to the October 2021 Fall DEC Meeting [inaudible **in La Pine**], as we had a discussion that would be very important to you.

Don Weber: Okay.

Steve Adams: **Comander** ~~May 1?~~

Don Weber: Yes, sir.

Steve Adams: Internal Affairs Commission Chairman, Steve Adams. Charlie, there has been no resolutions written at this time for that merger. That is coming up, the resolutions will be done and written and will be to this body. And the goal is to have them to this body, all of the paperwork done... The goal is by the Spring DEC, to have that completed before Convention, because there also has to be Constitution and Bylaw changes, also in that.

So, all of the paperwork, and that is the goal that is coming up. That is why we're having monthly meetings with this, to spirit this along, to keep it going fairly smooth. Okay?

Don Weber: Further discussion on that?

~~Charles Smith:~~ **Don Weber:** Yes, sir.

Bob Huff: Commander, just a question of the... Is Membership and Post Activity Chair involved in this?

Steve Adams: Yes.

~~Charles Smith:~~ **Bob Huff:** Okay, because that's part of...

Steve Adams: Yes, they are part of that committee.

~~Charles Smith:~~ **Don Weber:** Okay.

Don Weber: Further business to come before the order today?

~~Jim Herrera:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** One more.

Don Weber: Yes, sir. [inaudible].

Let's catch Lou Neubecker first here. Go ahead, Lou.

Lou Neubecker: As you heard, Rob stated that District 1 is donating \$500 to the Fund, and we are challenging each District to match us.

Don Weber: So, there's been a challenge thrown out there for all the other District Commanders. And if we can meet that challenge, that would meet the goal here.

I think you had something else for the unfinished business? [crosstalk]

~~Unknown:~~ **Flynn Phillips:** **Adjutant Phillips** National Vice Commander, Jim [~~Herrera~~ **Higuera**]. We'd like to present to you all the photos that is taken while on your trip here.

~~Jim Herrera:~~ **Higuera:** Oh, great. Thank you.

~~Unknown:~~ **Bob Huff:** Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please present this in a rubber band... That's so he doesn't lose the cable. [crosstalk].

Don Weber: Any further unfinished business? That didn't qualify as unfinished business. We haven't talked about that before. Yes, sir.

Larry Wittmayer: As the Adjutant of Post 65, I'd like to thank you all for participating here today. This is our meeting place. In addition to that, I think I can speak for Post 65 that we would donate \$200 towards this goal.

Don Weber: Nice. Thank you.

Is there any new business to come before the group today?

New business? Call on the Chaplain for sick call and relief.

~~Steve Shollenburg:~~ **Shollenburg:** My report is in the book of reports. It's late, as usual. Right, Mary?

There's a few things I'd like to add. The Department Four Chaplains Memorial Service, we are having this year. It will be at the McCabe Chapel on February 6th, and that's just south of McMinnville on McCabe Road, up on a hill. It's a nice, beautiful little chapel that we're going to use this year for the Four Chaplains Memorial Service. The movie Four Chaplains Sacrifice at Sea will start

at 12:00. It's one hour. Wonderful documentary if nobody's ever seen it. It's fantastic.

And then at 1:15, we'll have the service from 1:15 to 2:00. And everybody's welcome, but there is limited seating. So, if you want to be there, come early if you want to sit.

The other thing is... District Commanders, if you would send me your District Chaplain's name, phone number, and emails, I would really appreciate it to where I can get a hold of them. I've wanted them for quite some time. Now, nobody's ever sent them to me.

So, I'm going to ask you right here, if you would please. And then that way they can send me information, and we can get back and forth to chaplain stuff.

Also, we talked about training here a couple months ago, chaplain training. We're just about done with the Chaplain Training Book. We've had to make a few changes on it, and it's about ready to come out.

So, this next training class down in Roseburg, we will be talking more about it. So if your chaplains are interested in a small chaplain training program, they can also get a hold of me for that.

I handed out the sick call and relief report. Everybody has it. If you didn't have one, there's some up here on the right in front of me, it's got the names of some people that need prayer and some passing people that from National and other states.

Also this last week, we had Ellen [Kalmbach] pass away. And that was the Past department commander, John Kalmbach's wife. And she was a member of Unit 104 for many years. So, if you keep the Kalmbach family in your prayers, it would be very much appreciated.

Also this vote of confidence for National Chaplain, very humbling. And I want to thank my family, American Legion family for supporting me in that vote of confidence. Thank you. And especially Charlie ~~Smith~~ Schmidt Past National Commander.

Thank you, sir.

Don Weber: Thank you, sir. That's all? I never gave a podium to a minister that took less than 30 minutes. Yeah, no less. [crosstalk]

For the good of the order, I'd like to call on Larry Wittmayer for a report on his training at National College.

Larry Wittmayer: That is not in the agenda. And I think I said something about it before. I would like to thank the Department because it... Excuse me, it probably is a turning point in my American Legion role. I learned an awful lot. I was associated with a group of people that were well, first off, let me give you an idea...

They evaluated us by our personal characters, okay? And my Department or my District had a majority of dominant characters in it, or personalities, in it.

So, even though we had that, we were able to work together as a team and accomplish all of the assignments that we had, like I told you before.

I think the one presentation that I got, the why was I a Legionnaire, was extremely effective. Okay. And I would...I think it's really important for us to get out there and promote the National Legion College to some of our younger Legionnaires. In my District, we had the oldest and the youngest, the youngest was 29. I won't tell you how old the oldest was, okay. [crosstalk]

And you know, it's possible that there might be a criteria later on that says that us old "you know what" may not be able to go.

Unknown: Already is.

That's correct. I had to fight that to get this through.

Larry Wittmayer: Has it come through this year?

Unknown: They're looking at changing it. At the time that you went, if you were a Vietnam veteran, you were too old to be going. And I had to talk to them about it. I know that and see where it was at. And I spent probably an hour on the phone with them.

~~Kevin Owens:~~ **Larry Wittmayer:** I know that. And there could be some changes coming down that will change that. But I want to say this. Yeah. Has it already been changed? Yeah.

~~Speaker 1:~~ Unknown: The younger ones. Primary and the older ones. Second secondary.

Larry Wittmayer: Yeah. And I came secondary and you all know why. Okay. The World War 2 wings on your hat. But that doesn't mean that I can't do an effective. And that doesn't mean I don't have the will to do it. So, but it also means that I'm going to make a commitment to recruit younger people to go to the college. ~~Okay.~~

Like I said, it was a turning point in my Legion venture or experience and, you know, look around the room. If you're not a Vietnam vet, put your application in it. Doesn't take a lot to put that application in. So at any rate, I think that's about all I have to say about it.

Don Weber: Thank you. No pressure. [Cross talk] Anything, anything else? Anything. Oh, okay.

Cory Brockmann: Corey Brockmann, Department 2nd Vice Commander. I would ask the Judge Advocate or the Chair for Internal Affairs to clarify who is in charge of our Department Policies book. I have heard that it's the Department Commander. The Department Policies is not a standing committee by our Constitution Bylaws, but we've gone over a year without it being updated with some inaccuracies and some sludge language that's in there that just needs cleaned up.

Don Weber: Steve

Steve Adams: Steve Adams, Internal Affairs chairman, the Policy Committee, the Chairman is the Department Commander on that Policy Committee. When I was a Commander, I expanded the Committee to include the 1st and 2nd Vice Judge Advocate. The Department **Adjutant** was on ex officio. And so, it's the Department Commander that is a chairman of that committee. ~~Okay.~~

Cory Brockmann: So I would ask, is it an ad hoc or should we work to make it a part of our Constitution and Bylaws?

Steve Adams: Okay. I would agree with that. That it should be in our Constitution and Bylaws. It should be. It is not at this time. If that would've come up a year ago, we would have done that, but it didn't come up at that time. So the ~~lab~~ **last** it was 2020 was when we did the revision in that case. And there was that we think if I remember correctly, we met... That committee met four, possibly five times to review the whole policies that we had and changes made. And those were brought up at the fall **DEC** ~~you see~~ at that time for revision. And they passed

Cory Brockmann: Cory Brockmann, Department 2nd Vice. I would ask that the Department Commander and whoever currently is a part of that committee revisit the Constitution of that committee. NEC Kevin just planted the seed in my ear that the different policies that comprise the Policy Book are comprised of different Commission Chairs or their input into it. So, it's not that we as a committee can't visit with our Commission Chairs on their respective policies, but we just need to formalize, I think, in the Constitution and Bylaws of that committee.

Don Weber: So I see our Judge Advocate's microphone going to green. I think he has comments on this.

Judge Advocate ----: **Gene Hellickson**: Yes. I believe it's the first page of that policy states **who should be on new beyond** the policy and what their responsibilities are. And **as Commander Adams said** there was a meeting where a lot of these changes were made. However, those changes were made and implemented. If you read the policies, which I don't know if people have time, you see there that some of the policies go back to 2016 with gross error, like no policy and things of that

nature. So that tells me the person who's listed on those policies and responsible for it hasn't even looked at. And that's really all I have.

Don Weber: Okay. We will readdress those. Anything else for the good of the Legion call on the **adjutant** a for his report?

Flynn Phillips: **Adjutant my report is in the book of reports. Thank you very much.**

Looks a, my report is in the book of reports. I very much what's the next meeting report.

Don Weber: So our next D **DEC** meeting will be April 2nd and third at post 63 Harney county. Thank you for stepping up to host that meeting. And it will absolutely be an honor to go out there and join you. I think it's been a while since we've been there and I personally look forward to it. We will have the candidate for National Commander visiting us prior to that DEC. And he will be here through the Saturday banquet and then leaving again on Sunday of our DEC. And that's Dan ~~C. Hayford~~ **Seehafer**[crosstalk]

Don Weber: I'm trying to think. Is there anything else, Chaplain already mentioned the Four Chaplains, so, okay. You have some housekeeping things.

Larry Wittmayer: Thank you very much. You know, like yesterday I, I would really appreciate it if you would all pick up your cups and throw them in the trash and the recycling. Okay. Because looks like I'm going to have to do it all right. And any, any chairs, you know, we can get the chairs picked up with your help at any rate. Thank you

Don Weber: Okay. Chaplain.

I uncover, and I'll call on the Chaplain for the benediction.

~~Steve Shollenburg~~ **Shollenburg**: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time of unity during this meeting this weekend. We thank you for the building of relationships, friendships, and those you have positioned perfectly to work together for the success of the American Legion goals. Thank you for the ideas that have been spoken and for those who willingly contribute thoughts and ideas. So, Father, fan the flames, the gifts of which is in us and reveal your truth to us each day as we go our separate ways, please keep us safe until we meet again. And we pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Don Weber: Cover. Until we meet again, let us remember our obligation to our country can be filled only by faithful performance of all duties and citizenship. Let service to the community, state, and nation be ever the main objective of the American Legion and its members. Let us be ever watchful of the honor of our country, our organization, and ourselves, that nothing shall swerve us from the path of justice, freedom, and democracy.

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Colors in place, hand salute. Two.

I now declare the meeting of the Department of Oregon Mid-Winter DEC adjourned. Thank you.