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Speaker 1:

Back from lunch. Last session. It's the 12:45 [inaudible 00:00:14].

Don Weber:

We're looking for the Sergeant in Arms please, and the assistant Sergeant in Arms. [inaudible 00:00:59].

Speaker 1:

I haven't seen him. [inaudible 00:00:59]. No, I couldn't find him.

Speaker 3:

Sergeant in Arms, would you secure the doors?

Don Weber:

Are we ready?

Speaker 3:

Yes, please.

Speaker 1:

But he's going to start the recorder.

Don Weber:

Okay. We will reconvene. My understanding is that the constitution of bylaws changes have all been dealt with. So I'm going to move into our replacement for the caucusing project. So in the past, we used to break down into different districts and each of the candidates would wander around each district and share the information about what they want to do. We've recently replaced that with more of a town-hall style. So I'm going to call on those candidates that I know of to give some comments, to give you an opportunity to ask some questions. So in the meantime, I understand that we have a challenge on hand that someone would like to make here. Chair recognizes Tim Troop, post five.

Tim Troop:

All right, Commander Legionnaires. I held an emergency council meeting with my officers for post five, and we challenge every post in this department to do the best you can and match us if possible, we are going to put \$500 to the department to help with the budget.

Don Weber:

Wow.

Tim Troop:

We expect to collect next week, and deliver it by Friday.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Thank you. Significant. [inaudible 00:02:47]. All right, well-

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Tim Troop:

Thank you.

Don Weber:

Outstanding.

Speaker 1:

Taking the challenge? Pardon? [inaudible 00:02:58]. I still can't hear you. You need a microphone?

Speaker 3:

You want to say that tigers put up 500 as well?

Don Weber:

Oh, okay. For those who didn't hear, that was tiger post 158, that met that challenge. And it looks like 68 has another. All right. Post 68 [inaudible 00:03:17], actually, I'm sorry, the T-less Galloway post 68 matches that challenge.

Tom Harris:

And Post 45 also matches that challenge.

Don Weber:

Post 45 matches that challenge. Are you getting these?

Speaker 1:

Yes.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Thank you. That'll be great assistance for our budget going forward and we will continue to take those as the day progresses. Okay. So I am going to call on candidate Cory Brockmann for some comments. And he's the only one that I'm aware of so far who is running for department commanders. [inaudible 00:03:58]. Hey, what can I say? [inaudible 00:04:07]. I'm so [inaudible 00:04:10].

Tim Troop:

The best part is you're fired.

Speaker 3:

Right now.

Don Weber:

Give me 30 minutes. Right?

Tim Troop:

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If you donated and you did not give a yellow ticket, raise your hand, the serjeant-at-arms will come by and give you a ticket. It's all honesty. We trust you. When you have your hand up, you can attach a challenge to get the 500, right?

Don Weber:

I will also share with you if you would be more comfortable in removing your jacket, please feel free to do so. This building is rather warm. So at this point, I will call on Larry Wittmayer for comments on candidacy for department. [inaudible 00:04:53]. Comrade.

Larry Wittmayer:

Comrade. Legionnaires. I was told to make this short and sweet.

Don Weber:

Thank you.

Speaker 1:

Thank you.

Speaker 3:

Hurry up. You won.

Larry Wittmayer:

The short of it is, I'm developing a team. Do you want to be on it?

Room:

Yes.

Larry Wittmayer:

Vote for me.

Don Weber:

Do we have any questions from the floor? I see a hand up back there. I can't tell who it is. [inaudible 00:05:31]. Oh, I thought you had questions for the candidate. Any questions for Larry on his process going forward?

Speaker 3:

No, he kept it short.

Don Weber:

Yeah. Okay. For first vice, the only nomination I know of is Cory Brockmann.

Cory Brockmann:

Members of the 103rd delegation to the Department of Oregon Convention and our special guests from North Oregon or Southern Washington, whatever it is, glad you all can be here. In your program, this is me. It's a pretty good likeness. You see it in some post offices and other shady areas. But it is me. I made it to eight of our 10 districts, caucused nine of our 10 districts and participated in meetings or other functions. I drove through the great district of six on my way to watch Air Force, beat Boise State last fall, but didn't make their caucus this year. And I think it was district seven, I didn't. Made their meetings, but not their caucus. I spent a great amount of time this past year working to help our department elevate its visibility as part of commander Don's reconnecting veterans and post pandemic marching forward and starting to grow back an energetic department.

Cory Brockmann:

There were some successes I'll share briefly and some failures. Failure's never a bad thing if you learn something from it. But one example is we work pretty hard. And I also serve you as the revenue subcommittee chair on the Oregon American Legion foundation. We work really hard with the Rose Festival Foundation. We could not pony up 45 to \$75,000 to meet their foundation's requirements to be in the Rose Festival. We're in good stead. Anything can happen in the future. Comrade Kevin shared the Hillsborough hops had great outreach. The Oregon international airshow three days, fantastic work, lots of engagement. We had VSOs from Washington county there.

Cory Brockmann:

We're working with the Portland Timbers and the Portland Thorns major League Soccer League. They're receptive to our ideas. We'd like to hold nonperishable food drives. So members that aren't of the American Legion family can contribute cans of food that would all go to support veteran veterans in need. We don't have a game set that we're going to be recognized, but that's in the works. The Portland Trail Blazers, we're going to reach out to them probably here in late July. Their season's over, has been for quite some time. Who else we got?

Don Weber:

Winterhawks.

Cory Brockmann:

The Winterhawks. We reached out to the Portland Winterhawks, which is a youth hockey team. Last year, it was in December. They held their veterans appreciation night in November, which makes sense. But they did us the good courtesy of posting a VSO or a PSA, saying thank you to all veterans who served. It's those kinds of things, it doesn't seem like much, but we need to create that visibility. As all the great blue cappers, that do the boots on the ground to work the renewal of membership, we're trying to expand the veterans or the members in our department.

Cory Brockmann:

So a lot of that's what we're doing, we're going to keep doing that through next year. And I'll share just briefly a real exciting nugget. We're working with the national headquarters, marketing leadership, Kimberly Meesters and Mary Jo Dial. We're trying to create a relationship with this department and Dutch Brothers Coffee. Dutch Brothers is headquartered in Grants Pass Oregon, two brothers that moved off the dairy farm and started a business. One of the brothers has since passed away. Dutch Brothers is found in 12 Western states with 538 coffee shops. And they are largely young people oriented. Be the One. It's not just a campaign to talk about. It's a campaign of action. And I think that's

what we try to demonstrate with our buddy check packs that we've made ourselves. We're about 4,000 packs made and we use them as outreach tools to engage veterans.

Cory Brockmann:

If this campaign takes off, what we hope to do is cash transaction roll ups. If you've been to grocery stores or other retail stores, and then say, "Would you like to donate the remainder of your change to the American Legion? Why not? And help support our youth programs." We'd like to see the, Be the One campaign put on every paper and beverage cup that comes out of Dutch Brothers.

Cory Brockmann:

The idea's already through the national leadership is if they can attach a relationship with the Indy Car partnership we have with Chip Ganassi Racing, there's a lot of races that happen outside the 12 Western states. So it's a real opportunity as we're raising the Be the One campaign in our Western division, Dutch Brothers are getting their brand out in the Eastern half of the US. So there's lots of ideas about having Dutch Brothers pay for coffee provided at all the race tracks, pay for all the weekend's new memberships that get signed up. Again, it's just a nugget, but it's something to be very excited about if we can make it happen. My name is Cory Brockmann, and it's been an honor to serve you this year. Thank you.

Don Weber:

And Dan Burks. I would bet that Dan is... Oh, he is here. Okay. I was guessing that you would be at the [inaudible 00:11:47] meeting.

Dan Burks:

Thank you. Thank you, Commander. Just so you know... I am short. I requested a stool, so, but... [inaudible 00:12:14].

Speaker 3:

You're wasting your mind.

Dan Burks:

My name is Dan Burks. I'm the District 10 commander. I'd like you to join me in a mission. My mission here is to help build the Department of Oregon this next year, if elected I'll have oversight of your guys' programs, also our potential commander to be would like me to remain as membership chair. We would like to build that as well. I can't do that by myself. So I'm going to keep this short and ask you for your vote and join me on my mission to help build Department of Oregon.

Speaker 3:

I just nominated you.

Don Weber:

I believe our candidate for finance officer is Bob Huff. Standing ovation, please. [inaudible 00:13:17].

Room:

Bob. Bob. Bob. Bob. Bob.

Bob Huff:

Bob only has two letters in a B-O. It's easy. I asked our outgoing commander if he would take the job next year and he refused.

Speaker 1:

Well, we should nominate him anyway?

Larry Wittmayer:

That's a good idea.

Bob Huff:

No, if anybody would like the job, I'd be happy to support you. But God, I've been in it, I think nine years plus being district commander three years. John was in it and then I've been seven years, since eight years since.

Speaker 3:

Two year, two years. What's his name? [inaudible 00:14:07].

Bob Huff:

Oh, that's right. But I was doing the job when I was a vice-commander commander. But yeah, I'll stay for another year because I also do other stuff. When our incoming commander, if elected, said he was going to fire us all, I went out and bought a 30 foot motor home, which is sitting in my driveway. But I thank you very much. Maybe next year after Don gets off, if his junior past commander, he might want to take it and I'll move out of the way for it. Thank you very.

Don Weber:

So this is your opportunity to ask questions of any of the candidates, find out what things you would like to know about them before you place your vote. Do we have any questions from the floor?

Speaker 1:

Do you want to ask if there's any other candidates now?

Don Weber:

Yeah. Would anyone else like to make a candidate, a campaign speech? And I think anyone who has their hands [inaudible 00:15:20]... Yes, sir.

Tom Harris:

I would like to make comment for Comrade Daniel Burks, if I could do that, do I need to come up there? Can I stand back here?

Don Weber:

This is not [inaudible 00:15:33].

Tom Harris:

I apologize.

Speaker 3:

We thought you wanted to run.

Don Weber:

We'll get to you in a few minutes here.

Tim Troop:

Tom wants to be the new department treasurer. [inaudible 00:15:47].

Don Weber:

At this point in time, I'd like to call for the credentials committee report. And by the way, this is a Convention Committee duty. It is not a finance officer position duty.

Speaker 3:

That's correct.

Speaker 10:

Those of you who have been here before, and most of you have, this is going to take a while. What I'm going to do is I'll read each post in the department and how many votes that they have as of right now. Portland, post one, has zero votes. Washington, post two, has three votes. Eugene, post three, has three votes. Ban, post four, has three votes. Willamette Falls, post five, has three plus one for four votes. Hillsborough, post six, has four plus one delegate vote for five votes. Silverton, post seven, has zero votes. Klamath falls, post eight, has five votes. Capital, post number nine, has four votes. Albany, post 10, has seven votes. Corvallis, post 11, has three plus one delegate vote for four votes. Astoria, post 12, has zero votes. Ashland, post 14, has zero votes. Medford, post 15, has four votes.

Speaker 10:

Umpqua, post 16, has four plus one delegate vote for five votes. Kaiser post 17 has two votes. The Dells post 19 has three votes. Carl B Fenton, post 2,0 has three votes. Can you hear me in the back? Thank you. McMenville, post 21, has six plus two delegate votes for eight votes. Hood River post 22 has zero votes. Post 23, Pendleton, has two votes Post 24, Milton Free Water, has three plus one delegate for four votes. Post 25, Condon, has zero votes. Post 26, Bandon, has three votes. Post 28, Grants Pass, has five votes. Post 29, Crook County, has four plus one delegate vote for five votes. Post 30, Gresham, has no votes. Post Cottage Grove 32, has three votes. Post 33, Independence, has two votes. Post 34, Bay Area, has four plus two votes for six votes. Post 36, Coquilla, has six votes or has zero votes.

Speaker 10:

I'm sorry. Post 37, Hermiston, has zero votes. Post 40, Springfield, has zero votes. Post 41, Baker City, has three votes. Post 42, St. Helens, has three votes. Post 43, LaGrand, has four votes. Post 44, Ray Johnson, has zero votes. Post 45, Lapine, has six votes. Post 46, Woodburn, has two votes. Post 47, Tilamook, has zero votes. Post 48, Warm Springs, has zero votes. Post 49, Morel, has two votes. Post 50,

Williams Valley, has two plus one for three votes. Post 51, St. Anne, has eight plus two delegate votes for 10 votes. Post 55, Moser, has zero votes. Post 56, Oregon, has four votes. Post 57, Lester Reese, has three votes. Post 58, Staton, has four votes. Post 59, Florence, has zero votes. Post 61, TriCounty, has three plus one delegate at large for four votes. Both 62 Reachport has zero votes.

Speaker 10:

Post 63, Herney County, has three plus one delegate at large for four votes. Post 64, Oak Ridge, has two votes. Post 65, Wilsonville, has three plus one delegate large for four votes. Post 67, Ontario, has three plus one delegate large for four votes. Post 68, clack... The one that Dan can't pronounce either has three votes. [inaudible 00:21:16] yeah, and I should have said that, but I'm going to this. Post 69, Rope River, has zero votes. Post 70, Glenn Morrison, has two votes. Post 72, Walla Walla, has two votes. 74, Carl Douglas, has three plus one delegate large for four votes. Post 75, Sheridan, has three votes. Post 76, Port Orford, has zero votes. Post 77, Ellis Tracy, has zero votes. Post 79, Issa, has zero votes. Post 83, Santa Clara, has zero votes. Post 84, Malin, has three votes. Post 86 Sisters, has three plus two delegates at large for five votes.

Speaker 10:

87 Hepner, has zero votes. Post 89, Mount Angel, has three votes. Post 90, Banks, has three votes. Post 95, Lone, has zero votes. Post 96, Vale, has zero votes. Post 97, Lincoln City, has zero votes. Post 98, St. John's, has excuse me, zero votes. Excuse me. Three votes. Post 99, Seaside, has six plus two delegates large for eight votes. Post 100, Klamath, has zero votes. Post 104, Aloha, has seven plus two delegate at large for nine votes. Post 106, Prairie City, has three votes. Post 108, Corbit, has zero votes. Post 110, Aurora, has zero votes. Post 115, Dayville, has zero votes. Post 116, Newport, has five votes. Post 119, Vernonia, has two plus one delegate large for three votes. Post 121, Sutherland, as zero votes. Post 122, Canby, as five votes. Post 123, Fallen, has three votes. Post 124, Beaverton, has three votes.

Speaker 10:

Post 125, Jefferson County, has two votes. Post 126, Nehalem, has zero votes. Post 127, Sandy, has no vote. Post 129, Central Point, has three votes. Post 131, Athena, has zero votes. Post 131, Deer Ridge, has zero votes. Post 133, Sweet Home, has two votes. Post 134, F and J Raven. Has three votes. Post 135, Wamic, has zero votes. Post 136, Salem, has zero votes. Post 137, Dana King, has two votes. Post 140, Mission, zero votes. Post 148, Monument, zero votes. Post 149, Pioneer, has two votes. Post 150, Oregon Trail, has three votes. Post 152, Oakland, has two votes. Post 157, Joseph, has zero votes. Post 158, Tigard, has eight plus one delegate at large for nine votes. Post 159, Mill City, has zero votes.

Speaker 10:

Post 164, Spray, has zero votes. Post 168, Cannon Beach, has three votes. Post 173, Carleton Memorial, has three votes. Post 180, Milwaukee, has eight plus one delegate at large for nine votes. Post 184, Brownsville, has three votes. Post 185, Musicians, has zero votes. Post 192, White City, has three plus one delegate large for four votes.

Speaker 10:

I'm not finished. A post in standing as all the emails I've been sending, out is when the post has paid the delegate fees. Out of our 112 posts, we had 80 posts in good standing. Of the 80 posts and good standing, we have 54 posts here, which is 67.5% of our posts. We have to have 51% of those 80, which we have. Commander, we have a [inaudible 00:26:31].

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Speaker 1:

That didn't take that long. [inaudible 00:26:43].

Don Weber:

Amazing. Okay. I would like to call for nominations for the position of department commander. Are there any nominations for the department of commander? Yes, sir. Pardon?

Larry Edwards:

I would like to be a nomination.

Don Weber:

Okay. I will ask for nominations to come to the front podium and seconds to give their seconding speech from the floor stand. So come on up.

Speaker 1:

And no more than five minutes.

Don Weber:

Yeah. Five minutes for the nominating speech, three minutes for the seconds. So thank you, sheriff. Welcome,

Larry Edwards:

I'm Larry Edwards, commander post 65 Wilsonville, the newest post in the state of Oregon. And I'm here to nominate Larry Wittmayer for department commander for the coming year. I do this with a great deal of pride and with a great deal of confidence and trust. I've worked alongside Larry for the last few years within our post. I served as his post adjutant as he was post commander. He has served as our post adjutant as I have been post commander. I know his level of commitment to the American Legion. I know how hard he is willing to work to get the things done that we need to do.

Larry Edwards:

Larry was one of two people that founded our post. He knows how to build an organization. He built us from nothing. We're a little better than nothing now, we're at least 55 members solid.

Speaker 3:

That's good.

Larry Edwards:

And we're looking to get bigger than that, but I trust in him to do what has to be done to get the Legion moving forward here again in the Department of Oregon. He has got the experience at this point. He has worked for the last three years. He's worked with Steve Adams as second vice commander. He's worked with Don Weber as first vice commander. And the value of that is we all expect the department commander to know what the heck they're doing when they come into office.

Larry Edwards:

You've got to have been there to know the groundwork, to know what to do. I know he's done that now. In serving in those positions over the last three years, you get the exposure. They have worked with all the committees throughout the organization. They have traveled around the state of Oregon and visited various districts in posts. At this point, I know he understands the Department of Oregon. He understands the state. He understands what has to happen here to get us going again, to get our membership back up. Really, I'm impressed with the team that he's got coming along with him. I'm enthusiastic and looking forward very much to see what they can do for this coming year. With that commander, I nominate Larry Wittmayer as our next department commander.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. Is there a second? Dave?

Dave:

Comrade commander, I would definitely second, that motion for Larry Wittmayer as the commander of the department. Larry knows how to listen to two sides of something, does not judge, and would lead this department out of financial problems and would definitely know that everybody would be behind this. God bless him. You'll win.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the position of department commander? Are there any further nominations for the position of department commander? Are there any further nominations for the position of department commanders? [inaudible 00:31:46].

John Reese:

Commander, John Reese, Crook County post 29. I move the nominations be closed and the adjutant be instructed to cast the unanimous ballot for Larry Wittmayer for department commander.

Don Weber:

Thank you.

Greg Hartman:

Greg Hartman, post 49, adjutant a district five vice commander, I second that motion.

Don Weber:

Thank you. There's been a motion a second to close the nominations and direct the adjutant to place, one unanimous vote by acclamation for Larry Wittmayer as department commander. Is there any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Greg Hartman:

All those opposed, signify by saying nay. Motion carries. Thank you.

Larry Wittmayer:

Thank you. [inaudible 00:32:44].

Don Weber:

They're ready? Okay. At this point in time, I'd like to take a moment for a special guest. There they are. Okay. So the Sergeant in Arms will escort the distinguished Madame President to the podium.

Madame President:

Yeah. Yes. It's me again. Give me the mic. So I just wanted to come over and let you guys know that I have had one of the best years of my life and not only with the auxiliary, but with the support from the American Legion. When I was at National Convention, I had one veteran sit on a bench waiting for, of course the big bus is in the sunshine and the heat, tell me that the Legion, when they see the auxiliary coming, they know everything's going to be okay, because we take care of our Legion. Correct?

Madame President:

We do a lot of what you guys tell us to do, sometimes. So I am going to be bugging you all again next year. So next year we're going to have even a better year. I guess I know that this has been a tough membership year, not for the auxiliary. We're at 96.8%. We need 50 members to hit a goal of a hundred percent and we couldn't even find the date the last time that the auxiliary in the state of Oregon had reached a hundred percent. That's how long it has been. So to me, the Department of Oregon is alive and waking up from COVID, correct? Yeah.

Madame President:

Oh no. They're picking on me. You can't even dress them up cute, take them anywhere. [inaudible 00:34:54] When the year started, I need to appreciate this man right here. He invited me to a lot of what he did. We got to travel together twice and actually had a great time. He went with me to Williams to present the charter to the new William 50 unit. That was great. And then he stuck by the Kathy [inaudible 00:35:17] tour every day, every hour and put up with every one of us. That takes a guy.

Don Weber:

And it was a pleasure.

Madame President:

Yes. Kathy did state that Don Weber, our Department Commander, the first commander that had ever traveled the state with her. So that to me, stands out, it does, bless his heart.

Speaker 3:

Go Maters.

Madame President:

Hey, and taters. Maters and taters. I couldn't have done this without my post and unit, post 21 and unit 21. It's his fault that I love the American Legion families as much as I do because he dragged me down buy my hair one day.

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Don Weber:

Literally.

Madame President:

So it's been a year. I will never forget. And I can't wait to add another year. So enthusiasm, membership, and I got to put up with that.

Don Weber:

We don't know that yet.

Madame President:

So anyway, thank you guys. And once again, thank you for all of your support each and every one of you.

Don Weber:

It has been a pleasure. It has been a pleasure to work with Deborah for this last year. But I got to tell you, I had to learn another language

Madame President:

Maters and taters.

Don Weber:

We drove past the tortilla stand and it took me a while to figure out what that was. Maters came pretty quickly, but because of the context where it was used, but then we almost had an accident as we were driving along. And of course we had to teach the department president how to swirl and sniff when we stop by a wine vineyard. I'm still not sure what a tutor is.

Madame President:

A tutor? That's a tater.

Don Weber:

No, no. I'm sure that was something else.

Madame President:

A tutor.

Don Weber:

Absolutely. Didn't learn that very well.

Madame President:

Oh, I think tutor is when you get somebody to help you learn stuff. Maybe I needed tutor.

Speaker 1:

I thought that was coming out the back end, was a tutor.

Don Weber:

And of course, we almost got stopped by a few Po-po's along the way. The Croquettes, man, you didn't think we were taking notes?

Madame President:

No, I didn't.

Don Weber:

The two-fist list?

Madame President:

Two-fist list? There was a few of those over there in Eastern Oregon. [inaudible 00:38:24]. You burying me here. Dang it.

Don Weber:

Of course, we had lots of idears along the way.

Madame President:

That's post 21's fault.

Don Weber:

The bickets, I think, came at the banquet, the barbecue banquet that we were at. And of course we can't forget the idears.

Speaker 1:

The bickets and gravy?

Madame President:

Bickets and gravy. Oh. And then there's to kill you.

Don Weber:

I don't drink that stuff. So it was a wonderful year.

Madame President:

Thanks Don. It was. [inaudible 00:39:30].

Don Weber:

Okay. We'll reconvene here. I do believe we have a motion and a second on the table and the motion to close nominations and direct the adjutant to place. One vote. One unanimous vote by acclamation for Larry Wittmayer as president. We took the vote? Did we vote?

Speaker 1:

I will do that.

Don Weber:

The adjutant moves that the nomination be closed and the adjutant will be instructed to place a unanimous ballot for Larry Wittmayer.

Speaker 1:

You're not making the motion, you're placing one vote.

Don Weber:

I was getting to that. I [inaudible 00:40:30] will place one unanimous vote for Larry Wittmayer, as the new department commander.

Larry Wittmayer:

Thank you.

Speaker 1:

Woo.

Larry Wittmayer:

I got a speech now for you. I just want to, I just want to say this. Thank you for your support.

Don Weber:

All right. Thank you. All right. Are there any nominations for the position of first vice commander?

Kevin Owens:

My name is Kevin Owens. I'm your national executive committee and post department commander. I would like to place the name of Cory Brockmann for the high office department, of vice commander. Cory earned his eligibility for the membership within the American Legion, with nearly seven years of honorable active duty service during the Cold War and Lebanon Grenada eras. He served in the United States army from 1981 to 84 and in the United States Air Force from 1984 to 1988. And he was decorated with accommodations at both branches along with receiving numerous other awards for his leadership and service. Commander Brockmann's home-post is Aloha post 104. I don't know, where you come from. Cory is a nine year paid up for life member. His service within the Department of Oregon is no secret to... Sorry I ate chili.

Kevin Owens:

I'm supposed to be serious about this, Cory. His service within the Department of Oregon is no secret to most of all of you. Today, he has held numerous officer and leadership positions at the post, district, and department levels, work to make positive impacts for our Department of Oregon. And he has held several national appointments, including meeting and communications, counsel, Americanism counsel, children and youth law enforcement committee, furthering his leadership to the benefit of the American Legion and the Department of Oregon. In addition to serving as your department vice, second vice commander, Commander Brockmann serves on the permit of finance commission and he is the revenue subcommittee chair on the Oregon American Legion foundation.

Kevin Owens:

In prior years, he has chaired the Americanism commission providing leadership to the seven youth committee chairs, as well as chairing the media and communications commission with its three media and IT committees. Additionally, he has served as a committee member on numerous other committees, all which further strengthen his qualifications to serve you as your department first vice commander. He has completed the American Legion extension, almost talked like Deborah there. American Legion extension Institute course the basic training course, Oregon Legion College, and he is a graduate of the national American Legion College Rohan class of 2017. In addition to the American Legion, he is a member of ANAFVICUS- the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada, United States unit. A lifetime member of the Air Force and Space Force association and he supports other several military and veteran advocacy projects.

Kevin Owens:

We continue to experience significant challenges within our organization, following the pandemic from which membership challenge to member engagement, to inspiring veterans into action and more. Throughout this past year, commander Brockmann has worked diligently to elevate our department's visibility, leveraging high level visibility opportunities to reach more veterans and more supporters. More importantly, these endeavors further add to our critical efforts in supporting a top America Legion priority, working to address veteran suicide awareness and prevention. Comrade commander Brockton gets work done. It is that simple. He is the leader we need to help expand our engagement with members both current and past, and to lead us into difficulties facing our beloved American Legion. As a delegate to this 103rd annual department convention of the Department of Oregon, it is my great privilege and honor to hereby nominate Cory Brockmann for the high office of department first vice command for 2022-2023.

Don Weber:

Thank you, sir. Is there a second?

Mike Warrens:

Commander, I'm Mike Warrens from [inaudible 00:46:13] post 90. I got to know Cory several years ago at a convention in Florence, and we were discussing ways to raise membership through some of the community events, such as the air show. And I was really impressed with Cory. You could really tell his dedication to the American Legion. He's serious about raising the membership and taking care of veterans. Cory Brockmann candidate for the high office of department first vice, has clearly and successfully demonstrated his abilities throughout his years of membership of in the American Legion, as you just heard from this nomination.

Mike Warrens:

I share further, that vice commander Brockmann has a Bachelor of Science degree in Ranged Management. He has also spent 30 of nearly 38 years of federal service employed by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, where he has held technical and managerial leadership positions throughout his career. He has served as range land conservationists, soil conservationists, and state resources, inventory, and geographic information systems coordinator. For the last 17 plus years, he has served here in Oregon as a lab leader and as a team leader at the west remote sensing laboratory in Portland. Vice commander, Brockmann is a dedicated Legionnaire and truly exemplifies the tagline

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Veterans Strengthening America. It is my great privilege to hereby second the nomination of Cory Brockmann for the high office of the department first vice commander, 2022-23. Thank you.

Don Weber:

Thank you. There's been a motion and a second to nominate Cory Brockmann for first vice commander. Any questions? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by saying nay. Motion carries. Thank you. Are there any further nominations for first vice commander? Do you have a nomination? Oh, okay. Are there any further nominations for first vice commander? Are there any further nominations for first vice commander? Ah, okay.

John Reese:

Commander John Reese Crook County post 29, I move the nominations be closed and that the adjutant be instructed to cast the unanimous ballot for Cory Brockmann for first vice commander.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Is there a second?

Tom Harris:

I second motion.

Don Weber:

Thank you. There's been a motion in a second two to... Where am I at?

John Reese:

Unanimous ballot.

Don Weber:

Oh yeah. Been a motion to second to direct the adjutant to place one unanimous vote by acclamation for Cory Brockmann as first Vice Commander. All of those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signified by saying nay. Motion carries. Adjutant. The adjutant casts unanimous vote for Cory Brockmann for the office of first vice commander.

Cory Brockmann:

I'm happy to say that. I do not have any prepared remarks at this time, other than thank you for your service.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Are there any further nominations for first vice commander?

Speaker 3:

[inaudible 00:50:42]. No, nominations for second vice.

Don Weber:

Are there any nominations for second vice commander? Are there any nominations for second vice commander? [inaudible 00:51:00].

Tom Harris:

Thank you, sir. Thank you. Welcome.

Don Weber:

Yeah. Oh yeah.

Tom Harris:

Been a while since I've stood up here. So good afternoon, everybody. My name's Tom Harris. I'm the adjutant for American Legion post 119 in Vernonia and the past department commander. I was asked less than 48 hours ago to actually take care of this for Daniel Burks. And I said, normal thing, give me your bio and I'll be able to talk about it. And he handed to me something that would resemble the New Testament.

Tom Harris:

At any rate I had to scribble a little bit and let me tell you he's a great guy, but I'm here to nominate comrade Daniel Burks to second vice commander for the American Legion Department of Oregon. His eligibility comes from honorable service in the world's greatest Navy from January 2001 until July 2007, serving in both Iraqi freedom and enduring freedom campaigns. He's a five year paid up for life member in the American Legion Department of Oregon and has held numerous leadership positions

Tom Harris:

As National Veterans Preference Committee, National Legislative Council, the Department Membership and Post Activities Commission Chair, Department Sons of the American Legion Committee chair, department vice chairman for the Internal Affairs Commission. And he has served as an officer for five years in District 10, four of which as District 10 commander, and five years as post commander of Ontario, post 67. He's done a lot in a very short time.

Tom Harris:

He's completed the American Legion Education Institute basic training course, as well as numerous other training sessions conducted by the Department of Oregon and virtually by the national staff. As a member of this great organization, he believes that our greatest asset is our membership far as none,

and he has made his mission to reach out and assist many members and veterans as possible. As the department's second vice commander, he will have oversight on our department's programs. That's a tough job. I think we all know that, trying to manage something through the department wide, it's quite a feat. But if anybody can do it, he can, and we must continue to work together, in his words, to help the next generation of members and volunteers who will follow behind us. Our programs are vital to healthy America and our youth, and can only be successful with our continued teamwork and dedication.

Tom Harris:

He's a dual member of the Sons of the American Legion, a life member of the VFW, as well as a member of the Army Navy and Air Force veterans in Canada, United States, ANAFVICUS. Recently a life member of DAV and proudly supports educational opportunities for youth of veterans. And he's a veteran's advocate supporter as well as a patriot. Endeavors that embrace a strong America and routinely teach US flag history and etiquette to elementary school children, and just recently supported our districts first oratorical contest in well over a decade.

Tom Harris:

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management, as well as an associate's degree in computer networking. He's owned his own and operated his own small business. He's managed several other companies, including national companies that achieved honors in Forbes Fortune 500. He has consistent history since he was 18 years old of responsibility of leadership and accomplish accomplishments, both in personal growth, as well as business. As Legionnaires, we have a visibility that allows us to teach it, reach out to other veterans of our communities and it is his desire to do that across the Department of Oregon. With that, I ask that you join me in nominating Daniel Burks to the high office of second vice commander in the American Legion Department of Oregon. Thank you very much.

Don Weber:

Is there a second to the nomination?

Kevin Owens:

Again, my name is Kevin Owens, past department commander. I'm doing this behalf of Charlie Schmidt, as you know, he is home with COVID. He wishes he had been here for Dan, but I'll tell you a little bit about what it takes to be a department commander, a department officer. It takes heart. It takes passion. It takes drive and a willing to serve. And Dan is that man, he will make things happen. Heart goes a long ways. That's what gets the job done. Heart and Dan has that heart and that desire and that passion. So please join me in supporting Daniel Burks for the high office of second vice commander.

Don Weber:

Thank you. There's been a motion and a second to nominate Dan Burks for second vice commander. Are there any questions? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Don Weber:

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All those opposed signify by nay. Motion carries. Are there any further nominations for second vice commander? Are there any further nominations for second vice commander? Are there any further nominations for second vice commander? You did such a good job Dan.

John Reese:

John Reese, Crook County post 29 adjutant, I moved that the nominations be closed and the adjutant be instructed to cast unanimous ballot it for Dan Burks for second vice commander.

Don Weber:

Thank you. Is there a second?

Fort Allen:

Fort Allen, 180, I second the motion.

Don Weber:

Been a motion to second to close nominations and direct the adjutant in place. One unanimous vote by acclamation for Dan Burks. Are there any questions? All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by nay. Motion carries. Thank you.

Speaker 3:

The adjutant casts unanimous ballot for court, Dan Burks for second vice commander.

Don Weber:

Dan? Here, I thought you left though. [inaudible 00:58:37].

Dan Burks:

I'll make this real quick. Thank you all for your support. And I hope that your vote means that you're ready to join me in my mission to Let's Rebuild Oregon

Don Weber:

Are there any nominations for finance officer?

Tim Troop:

Can I borrow the podium, sir?

Don Weber:

Please do.

Tim Troop:

My name is Tim Troop. I'm the post commander for post five Willamette Falls and the district date elect commander to be, if I survive this weekend. I have the distinct pleasure to put forth in nomination, a man that when he comes to your post is greeted one of two ways. He's either greeted as your best friend or there's terror because the IRS is on his tail. Bob has a long history of supporting veterans. He's done it in all manners of weather, health, and he's even fought the apathy buck. He would love for someone else to step up and learn from him and take over. So he can then go play in his motor home until he finds an M113 that he can actually afford.

Tim Troop:

Bob gets his service from his time in the Southeast Asia. And he enjoyed his time there in their surfing and other types of clubs. On the serious side, the man has heart. The man gives and he continues to, and he's always willing to help with education, empowerment, and even with a sense of humor, he's willing to step up and do what needs to be done. He's a past department commander. He's served at multiple offices even now throughout his district in the Southern area and the posts down there.

Tim Troop:

I don't have all that information, because this is a wing it 101 class. He's done a whole bunch of training at various levels. And I think you've done Legion College, right?

Bob Huff:

Done Legion College.

Tim Troop:

Yeah, he's done Legion College, could probably teach you. So with that, I would ask all of you to join me in supporting Bob Huff as our continued finance officer, until we get a new one.

Bob Huff:

Thank you. [inaudible 01:01:35].

Don Weber:

Thank you, Tim. Is there a second? [inaudible 01:01:50].

John Reese:

John Reese, Crook County post 29 past department finance officer. I've known Bob Huff, way back when he was a district commander and I've watched him come up through the ranks. And when he became department finance officer taking my place, it was one of the greatest days of my life. And I'm glad that he's been there to lead the department and the finance. So I forward the second to his nomination.

Don Weber:

Thank you.

Bob Huff:

Thank you.

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Don Weber:

There's been a motion to second to nominate Bob Huff as the Department of Finance Officer, are there any questions?

Speaker X:

Great. Votes over. Bob, you're in.

Don Weber:

All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those post signify by nay. Motion carries. Congratulations, Bob. Would you like to close? [inaudible 01:03:03]. I'm not in a hurry or anything.

Speaker 1:

Yeah, you are.

Don Weber:

Are there any further nominations for finance officer? Are there any further nominations for finance officer? Are there any further nominations for finance officer?

Tim Troop:

Comrade commander, Tim Troop, post five 11 Willamette Falls. I move that we close nominations and then we instruct Kevin Owens to cast a single unanimous ballot for the entire department to show that we have the money behind Bob Huff.

Don Weber:

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

Speaker 1:

Did you get that in a minute?

Don Weber:

Yeah. Yeah.

Don Weber:

[inaudible 01:03:54].

Speaker 3:

That's Robert, right?

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Greg Hartman:

Greg Hartman, adjutant post 49. I second that motion.

Speaker 1:

That's okay, Mark. Kevin couldn't catch you anyway. [inaudible 01:04:11]

Don Weber:

There's been a motion to second to close nominations and place one unanimous vote for Bob Huff as department finance officer, where am I at?

Speaker 1:

The adjutant will be instructed to casting a unanimous vote.

Don Weber:

Do I need to vote on that? Vote on the closure? So all those in favor signify by saying aye.

Room:

Aye.

Don Weber:

All those opposed signify by nay. Motion carries. So thank you. Congratulations Bob.

Speaker 3:

Fabulous, unanimous vote for Bob.

Don Weber:

Kevin just asked you to do that. Yes.

Kevin Owens:

Delegation in action. [inaudible 01:05:03].

Don Weber:

All right. This year is our off year for NEC and alternate NEC. So we do not have NEC elections today. So we need to ratify district commanders and vice commanders. Adjutant, do you have-

Speaker 3:

Next commander for post DEC to ratify.

Don Weber:

Yeah. [inaudible 01:05:26].

Speaker 3:

Oh, the new, I'm sorry.

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Don Weber:

Okay.

Speaker 3:

I'm jumping to tomorrow since [inaudible 01:05:42].

Don Weber:

Do you have the list of-

Speaker 1:

Committees?

Don Weber:

No. This is district commanders and vice commanders.

Speaker 1:

Oh, it should be in your script. We pasted it in [inaudible 01:06:00].

Don Weber:

Where in my script?

Speaker 1:

I think. Let's see.

Don Weber:

Okay, so apparently this is going to take a few minutes longer than I expected. Let's take a short recess. We will reconvene at 2:05, 14:05, for those who served in the military, to finish up.

Speaker X:

For those who served in the army. It's the big-

Speaker 3:

Oh, thank you, John. Congratulations. You said that just [inaudible 01:06:41].

Speaker 1:

Thank you.

Tim Troop:

I tried to get you your camper. I made the pitch, and don't worry, we'll get you a replacement. I've got bungee cord and duct tape. So next year, [inaudible 01:07:00].

Speaker 1:

Do you want me to hold for a while?

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Don Weber:

Do you want to put it over there that, it says convention box? Just open the lid and drop it in. [inaudible 01:07:08].

Speaker 3:

Army guy has to teach a Navy guy the number of bells.

Don Weber:

Well, you know, they don't understand bells. And how come you're not striking bells during the meeting? You know, ding, ding, ding, ding? And of course, if you're departing, when you go outside we need you ring you off, four bells to head out.

Larry Wittmayer:

Yeah, I never did that process

Tim Troop:

I do, because I was boasted [inaudible 01:07:31].

Larry Wittmayer:

I thought you were army.

Tim Troop:

No, I'm Navy. [inaudible 01:07:36]. I drive river boats in addition to the big ships and also can drive river boats And lending crafts and I speak Jarhead. I started nuclear electronics technicians until I pissed a [inaudible 01:07:48] I was in prototype. [inaudible 01:07:54].

Bob Huff:

My grandson just graduated, I think, what's it called? EMN?

Tim Troop:

Okay. Yeah. Electric [inaudible 01:08:08].

Bob Huff:

And apparently, there's another one with the N on the end of it.

Tim Troop:

Yeah. You've got ETN, EMN and MMN. Because you got machinist mates, they take care of the machinery. Electricians mates, they take care of the wiring, and electronic technicians will take care of all the hardware to run it. I went to nuke school.

Bob Huff:

I know he has been in the school for a year and a half.

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Tim Troop:

Oh yeah. Nuke school is a long school.

Bob Huff:

He's got to finish up his certification.

Tim Troop:

[inaudible 01:08:37] Right, So he'll go to a ship or a reactor sub sea school.

Bob Huff:

Reactor on land, yeah.

Tim Troop:

Right on land. But you have to do that sea school to get qualified on that make. Whether, if it's a large reactor, then he's going on carriers. Small reactor, he's going on submarines.

Bob Huff:

He applied for a sub.

Tim Troop:

Then he'll be a small reactor.

Bob Huff:

His wife is in the same class and she applied for surface.

Tim Troop:

Yeah. They'll never see each other. No, because the shore rotation for nukes is six to two. Six years at sea, two years of shore. The two years of shore, you either spend at nuke school or you might do recruiting duty or you might... But mostly it's you go back to doing schooling, whether primary school or nuke school.

Bob Huff:

Even more school?

Tim Troop:

Yep. You're now teaching others [inaudible 01:09:28].

Speaker 1:

Boil water.

Don Weber:

I'm getting tired. [inaudible 01:09:42].

Tim Troop:

Yeah. And to brew a good cup of tea. [inaudible 01:09:45]. And then of course [inaudible 01:09:49]. [inaudible 01:09:59]. Not yet, doing great. Yup, two-minute break. You done? Okay. It'll be a bit. We got a couple more things to do. Let me get my cell phone, 'cause I got to tell my wife. [inaudible 01:10:32]. [inaudible 01:10:28].

Speaker 1:

Ian says you might have it pasted it in the actual [inaudible 01:10:40]. Where? [inaudible 01:10:41]. Because I remember seeing something. I said paste it in and I saw it.

Madame President:

I know she was making the list. Here, she put it in the script.

Speaker 1:

Ah, okay. I knew I seen it. [inaudible 01:11:30]. See payback's a bitch, now I'm stuck.

Don Weber:

You're going to write this though. Right? When I reconvene, we'll do that. And then delegates, I thought I had the same thing. Don't I need to be on this list somewhere? Well, you're not a district... I think you're on the list by virtue of... [inaudible 01:12:27] I think you're on it anyway. But you can write your name in because you're the delegate chair. So there's some talk of changing that [inaudible 01:12:41]. Well, I don't. Yeah, but I think that's a national rule. But you're district court or do you put it under staff? See, 'cause I'm a delegate. I'm staff. I'm the adjutant. [inaudible 01:13:04]. Correct. But I go. [inaudible 01:13:24].

Speaker 1:

[inaudible 01:13:41] stuff we're going to pick.

Don Weber:

Thank you. This is the kind of stuff I've been asking for. I definitely [inaudible 01:13:47]. [inaudible 01:14:19].

Speaker 1:

We must be smoking the schedule for this afternoon. I think we're doing good because I mean this is the... I've only been to what? Six or seven of these now, I've never seen one go this fast.

Don Weber:

Well, because Kevin got me to change how we do the award ceremony. Instead of bringing each individual person up here and [inaudible 01:14:58], you spend five minutes, at least per one guy, and you've got a minimum of 116 and all this other stuff.

Speaker 1:

The awards are still... They're challenging to get. They really are.

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Don Weber:

They're very challenging.

Speaker 1:

I want to bring [inaudible 01:15:21] to get the ball rolling, to make it quick. I've been sitting [inaudible 01:15:18].

Don Weber:

[inaudible 01:15:31], she showed up at the last minute when I basically got all the [inaudible 01:15:37] night after night after night, trying to get [inaudible 01:15:42]. Sorry.

Speaker 1:

Yeah.