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THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024.

Location: Department Headquarters
60 Big Run Road
Delaware, Ohio 43015

*Dragon Reporting Service
Cincinnati, Ohio
(513) 600-6151 or (513) 600-6152*

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1 Saturday, August 3, 2024.

2 . . . CALL TO ORDER . . .

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Colors of our nation in place,
4 hand salute. Two.

5 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

6 Uncover.

7 Invocation by our Assistant Chaplain.

8 ASST CHAPLAIN WHITE: Let us pray.

9 Dear Lord, Heavenly Father, we thank You again for
10 another opportunity to do work for this great
11 organization. Please lead, guide and direct our paths
12 throughout the day in these deliberations. As the
13 scripture reads in Proverbs 4:6, get wisdom, knowledge
14 and understanding. But in all that getting, get
15 understanding.

16 And now, Heavenly Father, as we continue on, we
17 ask Your divine blessings.

18 In Your holy name, amen.

19 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Pledge of Allegiance by 1st
21 Vice Commander Stan.

22 . . . PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The preamble, by 2nd Vice
24 Commander Gary Cox, Jr.

25 Cover.

1 . . . PREAMBLE BY ASSEMBLY . . .

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay, next is the POW/MIA
3 recognition by 1st Vice Commander Stand Oren.

4 Uncover.

5 . . . RESOLUTION 288 READ BY 1VC OREN . . .

6 Cover.

7 Roll call of officers.

8 . . . ROLL CALL CONDUCTED . . .

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, you have a quorum.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

11 Sergeant-at-Arms, can you introduce our guests?

12 SGT-AT-ARMS BLACKWELL: Yes, sir.

13 We have Robert E. "Bob" Schmitt, Alternate
14 NEC-elect, Past Department Commander; Doug Russell,
15 Department Assistant Judge Advocate; Dayna Beyer,
16 Auxiliary Department Historian; Bernie Rau, 2nd Vice
17 Commander of the great 1st District; Mike White, from
18 the thundering 3rd District, 2nd Vice Commander; and we
19 have Mel Cantrell, Assistant Chaplain from the sizzling
20 6th District.

21 Those are all your guests.

22 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

23 Reading of the previous minutes by John Robinson,
24 Department Adjutant.

25 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd

1 District Commander, I move that we accept the meeting
2 minutes as presented.

3 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th District,
4 seconds that motion.

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly
6 made and seconded that we accept the reading of the
7 minutes from our last meeting.

8 Discussion?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The minutes from the last DEC
15 was e-mailed to all of you. So you should have them.

16 Hearing none, all for it say aye.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same
19 right.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

22 Good morning, everybody.

23 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

24 COMMANDER WHATLEY: I'm glad to see all of you
25 here. I'm hoping we can get through our tasks today

1 without any drawbacks.

2 I want to say a couple of things today.

3 Going forward, I would appreciate it if you would
4 use the chain of command. Instead of just coming to
5 me, use the process, please. You may get your answer
6 before you get to me. If you come to me before that,
7 I'm just going to send you right back down to talk to
8 the person who's in charge of that particular issue
9 that you're talking about.

10 My Commander's Project is for homeless women
11 veterans, located in the Dayton, Ohio VA. With the
12 diversity of our military, I think it's important that
13 we take care of all our veterans. But it seems like
14 right now the woman veteran is lacking a little bit.
15 So that's where my support is going this year. And I
16 would appreciate if you would help me support that
17 program.

18 Save the date: March 8, 2025. It's my
19 homecoming. Save that date, please. There's flyers on
20 the table. There should be a flyer in the next
21 newsletter.

22 I'll say a little bit about membership.

23 As you know, at Department Convention the
24 convention body voted down a \$5 increase. So what that
25 do for us is we're going to have to go to work a little

1 bit. We're going to have to retain all our members.
2 We're going to have to recruit new ones. And we're
3 going to have to utilize the 888 list.

4 I think if we utilize that 888 listing, every Post
5 should become quota, if you use it correctly. If you
6 don't use it, somebody else is going to take people out
7 of your area and use it. All right?

8 So promise me you'll do that? Yes?

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Yes.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

11 Going forward, we will now have our 1st Vice
12 Commander, Stan Oren, for membership.

13 1VC OREN: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

15 1VC OREN: Did I hear you?

16 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

18 1VC OREN: Well, as membership goes, and AJ
19 brought it up, we didn't get a dues increase. So we
20 need to increase our membership.

21 All of you that voted for or against the dues
22 increase, I really believe we need to get two members
23 from each of you. And I mean that's everybody in your
24 Post.

25 We need to drive it home, that membership is the

1 only way we're going to raise money right now. And we
2 can do it. We can do the 888 list and all the above
3 things.

4 And the rest of my comments will be under my
5 report.

6 Thank you for coming.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

8 Now we'll have a report from our 2nd Vice
9 Commander, Gary Cox, Jr.

10 2VC COX, JR.: Morning.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

12 2VC COX, JR.: O-H.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: I-O.

14 2VC COX, JR.: I don't really have too much to say
15 right now. I'm going to save it all for the committee
16 report.

17 But I want to thank you all for coming here on
18 this gloomy Ohio day. And I look forward to working
19 with you guys here. Oorah.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

21 We will now hear from our Department Treasurer,
22 Holly.

23 TREASURER LEWIS: Good morning.

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

25 TREASURER LEWIS: All right, I want you all to

1 keep an open mind. We're going to be presenting a
2 couple of things today in order to, perhaps, augment
3 our membership money. And I want you to keep an open
4 mind about it, please.

5 We are going to have to look for additional ways
6 to raise money. And we're open to ideas. So if you
7 guys have any, we're open to hearing them.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: We will now hear from our
10 Department Assistant Chaplain.

11 Do you have anything?

12 ASST CHAPLAIN WHITE: Good morning.

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

14 ASST CHAPLAIN WHITE: I had an opportunity to
15 speak with our Department Chaplain. I request that you
16 keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

17 We did have a long conversation. There are some
18 things that will be coming out throughout the year and
19 we'll notify everybody via e-mail.

20 Mr. Commander, that completes my report.

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

22 Department Historian, Al Beyer.

23 HISTORIAN BEYER: Good morning.

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

25 HISTORIAN BEYER: Or guten morgen. Maganda umaga.

1 What language you want?

2 Anyway, Commander Whatley, Department Executive
3 Officers, distinguished guests, aloha.

4 It is the start of a new year, with Post
5 activities and events already scheduled across the
6 state to meet the mission. And I, along with my
7 assistant, Kevin Motter, Bob White has taken on a new
8 position this year and Kevin Motter is my assistant
9 this year, anyway, either Kevin or I will be attending
10 some of these events to capture the history of our Ohio
11 members, including that of our Commander. The good
12 they're doing in representing the world's largest
13 veteran organization serving veterans must be recorded
14 and is highly encouraged by the National Historian,
15 Edward DeGumbia.

16 You need not be a professional historian to get
17 the job done, to record the what, when, where, why and
18 who of the activity or event. And a picture or two
19 wouldn't hurt.

20 And so it starts to fill the book of our history
21 that we will one day reflect on to say thank you, loyal
22 and faithful comrades, for the service you have done.
23 To document the information will be of considerable
24 value in the years to come.

25 And I've got to say -- of course this is after

1 God, right? -- the presence of The American Legion is
2 probably the most valuable commodity that us veterans
3 have, here or anywhere.

4 And I have a lot of triple-8 members that I've
5 talked to over the past two years. And a lot of them
6 are really disappointed with how some of the Posts are
7 being run, or Districts. And that's another story in
8 itself. However, I feel we can help influence the
9 wanting of the triple-8 members to be a member of an
10 active Post.

11 And I know sometimes we get into a position where
12 we forget the little guy. And some of us, you know,
13 we've just got to start remembering how we got where
14 we're at.

15 Tomorrow, my wife and I will be out there in
16 Hanover, with the 6th District. They're having their
17 Annual 6th District Picnic. They're not a very big
18 Post, but, boy, I'm sure that they would love to have
19 more of us out there.

20 You know, if you've got a minute, take a little
21 adventure and get out and see something else besides
22 your own Post and your own town, you know. Because
23 there's other things out there, other people. They
24 have wonderful things going on and they're just
25 wonderful people to get to know.

1 It's my prayer, it's my hope and my prayer that
2 each one of you will make this year one of purpose and
3 progress in reaching your goals in the mission of The
4 American Legion. In all things, remember to be the one
5 to save the one.

6 Commander Whatley, I wish you and your team a very
7 successful year. For this appointment, I am honored to
8 represent Ohio and the duties of the Department
9 Historian, along with my assistant, Kevin Motter, and
10 of course with the help of my gorgeous wife, Auxiliary
11 Historian Dayna Beyer.

12 This concludes my report, Commander.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

14 We will hear next from our NEC, Steve Masowick.

15 NEC MASOWICK: Thank you, Commander.

16 Does anybody happen to know who's got the baseball
17 record this year in the American League and National
18 League?

19 FROM THE FLOOR: The Guardians.

20 Or the Indians.

21 NEC MASOWICK: The Cleveland Guardians.

22 They are no longer the Indians.

23 FROM THE FLOOR: Yeah, they are.

24 NEC MASOWICK: They're the Guardians. The best
25 baseball team in the country.

1 FROM THE FLOOR: Amen.

2 NEC MASOWICK: October baseball coming.

3 To clean up a couple things with National, they're
4 on me about JD Vance. I'm going to meet with his
5 office, getting his money, transferring him to 888. Is
6 that okay until we can come up with someplace to put
7 him? Because right now it doesn't look like he's a
8 member of The American Legion.

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: He is not.

10 NEC MASOWICK: Okay, so we're going to follow up
11 on that.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We're allowed to make him a
13 member?

14 NEC MASOWICK: No, we have to go through the
15 process.

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

17 NEC MASOWICK: We'll probably go out to his office
18 and get that done. We're going to do that on
19 Wednesday.

20 Commander, your account has been hacked. I'm
21 tired of sending you thousands and thousands and
22 thousands of dollars. They're asking me to send you
23 money. Well, I'm not sending you any money, but they
24 want me to.

25 So it happened to you, too, when you were

1 Commander (indicating).

2 Mid-Winter. Anybody with the idea that they want
3 to run for office next year, we're going to meet at
4 Mid-Winter and we'll talk about it. Chappy will be
5 here, Bob, Stanley Pleasant. It's the same price as
6 last year. It will be \$25 a delegate.

7 And as far as the National Convention, everybody
8 but three people have been confirmed.

9 Charles Stennis, I've tried to call him. He's not
10 confirmed. And he's probably going to end up getting
11 your money when you go to the National Convention,
12 which would be sent to you at home.

13 Gary Cox, we're still working on that one. We'll
14 know a little more on Monday. Gary is a replacement
15 for Mr. Looker.

16 And George Mussi, anybody got ahold of him? I
17 left messages on his phone. He's not getting back with
18 me. Anybody have personal contact with George?

19 FROM THE FLOOR: (Indicating).

20 NEC MASOWICK: Will you call him?

21 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, I will.

22 NEC MASOWICK: Yeah. Because it's in his e-mail.
23 He just has to look for it.

24 National Convention -- I'm sorry, let me back up.

25 Fall conferences. We are only allowed seven

1 call-ins. It went from 11 to nine to seven.

2 National Convention, the same thing. We used to
3 have two-day call-ins. Now we're down to one-day
4 call-ins. Maybe one day they'll just all be Zoom
5 meetings somewhere. Well, either way.

6 So if you don't get a call-in, it's not because we
7 didn't want to. We just don't have the slots. When
8 membership drops, so does our slots.

9 Is there any other questions for the NEC before I
10 go?

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, sir.

13 NEC MASOWICK: Can I be excused before lunch?

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

15 We will next hear from Alternate NECman Ron
16 Chapman.

17 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Ditto on what you just
18 heard.

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Department Judge Advocate Josh
20 Brown.

21 JUDGE ADVOCATE BROWN: Good morning.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

23 JUDGE ADVOCATE BROWN: I just want to say we're
24 humming along with what we're doing, and wanted to say
25 thank you to Jason Rue for giving me an opportunity to

1 be the Judge Advocate. I think he did a fantastic job.

2 So I really appreciate you.

3 And thank you to Mr. Whatley for keeping me on. I
4 really appreciate it.

5 And as always, I want to give you my phone number
6 in case there's anything I can do for you. It is
7 (614)284-4394. If you want to talk to me while I'm
8 here, please feel free to walk up to me and have a
9 conversation.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: John Robinson, Department
12 Adjutant.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Morning, everybody.

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: As you know, we are trying to
16 cut costs here at Department. One of the easy ways to
17 cut costs is mailings. As you've probably noticed from
18 years ago till now, you are getting less and less in
19 the mail.

20 Every District has the Commander, 1st Vice, 2nd
21 Vice and Adjutant e-mails. If you need yours reset to
22 be able to log in, you need to understand how to do it,
23 call me. I will walk you through it. We've done
24 several of them this year.

25 I do know that several of the Districts are all

1 using it. That is how we are wanting to start
2 communicating. That way there is a chain of record
3 from command year to command year of what went on.

4 So if your District had Posts in 2020, 2024, that
5 screwed up this, this and that, you can look back
6 through that e-mail and find what the issues were.

7 So don't delete the e-mails. That way, everybody
8 can be on the same page and it will make our lives a
9 little bit easier.

10 So if you need help getting logged in to those
11 e-mails, please get ahold of me.

12 Thank you, Commander.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Now we'll get into the
14 commission reports.

15 Stan Oren, Membership.

16 1VC OREN: I'm back.

17 Okay, we have two Posts that's hit quota already:
18 Post 532, in the 12th District, and 726, in the 11th
19 District. Excellent work. Thank you.

20 (Applause).

21 Post inspection forms. We've been clearing them
22 out. The list isn't cleared. The form is online at
23 ohiolegion.com, under "Forms," for those who haven't
24 got them done yet.

25 PDRs. There was a six percent error at National.

1 We will be fixing the dues as call-ins let us know that
2 they didn't send them out.

3 So, ABC, always be closing. Show value in
4 membership revitalization. And we need to do
5 revitalizations. I'm open to come to anybody's Post,
6 any District. Let me know.

7 Buddy checks. We need to get one before
8 Thanksgiving and one before Christmas. Let them know
9 or let them see how they are doing on holidays. Okay?
10 And we'd like to get that throughout the Districts.

11 New membership. Building welcome packets. The
12 history of your Post, where did the name come from;
13 legislative agenda; new on-line videos; share calendars
14 and events; open the Post to the community.

15 New applications. Legion plus, renewed membership
16 made more accessible with a QR code. You just use the
17 QR code and it will take you right in.

18 Membership quota was raised by one, as usual. Our
19 Department goal, set at National, is 74,420. So I need
20 some help, and a lot of it. Please go out and push the
21 membership.

22 Also, Sherry has some quota plaques and stuff, and
23 membership cards. So after the meeting or at lunch,
24 get with Sherry and she will be happy to give them to
25 you.

1 Our membership: First place, 12th District.
2 Second place, 2nd District; third place, 13th; fourth
3 place, 4th; fifth place, 3rd; sixth place, 1st; seventh
4 place, 9th; eighth place, 5th; ninth place, 10th; tenth
5 place, 11th; eleventh place, 8th; twelfth is the 6th;
6 thirteenth is District 14; and then the 7th.

7 Did we bring the lanterns?

8 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: I got the green lantern
9 in my car.

10 1VC OREN: We've got the green one.

11 Anybody got the red lantern?

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

13 NEC MASOWICK: I do hear a donation, but we
14 haven't figured out an amount this year. We need to
15 work on that.

16 1VC OREN: Okay, I need the green lantern to go to
17 the 12th District.

18 Thank you, Chris.

19 And the red lantern to the 7th.

20 FROM THE FLOOR: Should I go ahead and keep this,
21 since they didn't come?

22 FROM THE FLOOR: I'll take it for the 12th
23 District. Thank you, sir.

24 COMMANDER WHATLEY: When you're speaking, please
25 identify yourselves so our recorders can keep our

1 records up to date. Thank you.

2 1VC OREN: I made a bet with Michigan on
3 membership. And they say they're going to kick Ohio's
4 ass.

5 FROM THE FLOOR: You don't need to bet.

6 1VC OREN: I really don't want to have to wear a
7 Michigan shirt, and have all of you have to wear a
8 Michigan shirt as representatives of your District that
9 didn't help me win. So, the challenge has been placed
10 out there. The loser has to wear a Michigan or Ohio
11 State shirt at next year's National Convention.

12 Thank you very much. That's my report.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Just keep I mind, too, I lost
14 my bet last year to Indiana. So we don't want to keep
15 losing like that.

16 Post Activities, 2nd Vice Commander Gary Cox, Jr.

17 2VC COX, JR.: Good morning again.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

19 2VC COX, JR.: I would actually like to take a
20 quick moment to introduce a guest we didn't call out.
21 My daughter Kaylynn is actually in the back. She's 11.

22 And she's come with me because, Commander, if you
23 don't mind us being excused after this, I have to work
24 the Ohio Stadium tonight for the Premier League game,
25 Manchester City versus Chelsea, and she's actually

1 attending it with me. So I appreciate you guys.

2 But for Post activities, I believe right now we
3 have two slated.

4 We have September 8th, which is just down the road
5 here in Marengo, at the Cardinal Center, for the skeet
6 shooting. For you gun enthusiasts, I would highly
7 suggest you do it. And if you've never shot skeet
8 before, it is a ton of fun. That's No. 1.

9 No. 2, we have September 14th through the 15th, in
10 Beverly, Ohio, for the Department Golf Tournament.

11 I believe, Thom Stan, you have spots still open
12 for Districts to sponsor some holes.

13 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Yes.

14 2VC COX, JR.: So get your guys' name out there.
15 This is a Department tournament. Get your District out
16 there. Get some sponsorship with this. That's the
17 only way we're going to be able to grow this.

18 And that is pretty much what I have. So if you
19 don't mind, we would like to be excused at this time.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Have a safe trip.

21 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: I have letters --

22 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Name.

23 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Thom Stan, District 11
24 Commander.

25 I have letters for hole sponsors and team

1 registrations with me if anybody needs them.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: You're welcome. Thank you.

4 Our next report, our next several reports, will
5 come from Christie White.

6 COORDINATOR WHITE: Thank you, Commander.

7 All right, I will try to be quick. I'm sorry that
8 you guys have so many reports from me, but okay.

9 So, Americanism met on July 20th, here, in person.

10 The 8th District Chairman moved, seconded by the
11 11th District Chairman, to approve the minutes from the
12 last meeting.

13 Discussion was had to change the authorized
14 meetings to state that the commission gets one
15 in-person meeting a year. The 3rd District Chair
16 moved, seconded by the 9th District Chair, to change
17 the authorized meetings to one in person, determined by
18 the commission chairman, and then accept the commission
19 rules.

20 So everyone should have gotten a copy of the new
21 commission rules as well.

22 The A&G testing dates will be October 28th through
23 November 1st. The make-up dates will be November 4th
24 through November 8th.

25 The trip dates for the A&G trip will be March 3rd

1 through March 7th or March 10th through March 14th. It
2 depends on when the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has
3 openings for a wreath laying. So we're going to try to
4 pinpoint it down to one of those two weeks.

5 The essay question for the 2024 A&G test will be:
6 "Should the United States Flag Code have enforcement
7 penalties added if the U.S. flag is being misused?
8 Please explain your answer." So that was motioned and
9 seconded, and that motion passed for that question.

10 In new business, they discussed the Convention
11 Committee voting criteria for Alice Friedman, Alice
12 Friedman runner-up, and the Mickael Golato. The 11th
13 District Chair moved, seconded the 3rd District Chair,
14 to create a "Department Convention CPR Awards" packet
15 that Posts can fill out for all their own CPR Award
16 nominations. The CPR information that coincides with
17 the criteria for each award will be added to the back
18 of each criteria for the convention award. The packets
19 will be made available to each District Commander and
20 Americanism Chairmen by October 1st. And the District
21 will be responsible for notifying their Posts. It will
22 be available on-line as well.

23 So instead of going at convention, the Convention
24 Committee is getting the criteria then and trying to
25 figure it out. We're creating criteria based off of

1 the CPR for each one. So the criteria will be on the
2 back of the actual award nomination.

3 The 3rd District Chair moved, seconded by the 1st
4 District Chairman, to change the Alice Friedman Award
5 so there is only one summary narrative and one
6 application for the Alice Friedman Award. The
7 runner-up award should not be applied for. It will be
8 given to the second best Alice Friedman Award nominee..

9 And the meeting adjourned at 11:17.

10 That is my Americanism report.

11 Added in there, I'm not sure if anyone received
12 copies of the Baseball report.

13 Baseball had a meeting early this week. They met
14 on July 29th, at 9:30 AM, at Beaver's Field, during our
15 senior tournament.

16 Our Assistant Baseball Chairman moved, seconded by
17 our Region 1 Commissioner, to appoint Mel Cantrell as
18 the new Region 4 Commissioner.

19 Phil Lightfoot from Region 6 moved, seconded by
20 Bryce Agner of Region 1, to create new Baseball
21 regions. Region 1 will be Districts 1 and 5. Region 2
22 will be Districts 2, 3, 6 and 12. Region 3 will be
23 Districts 4, 7 and 8. And Region 4 will be Districts
24 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14.

25 The Commissioners for each region will be: Region

1 1, Bryce Agner; Region 2, Mel Cantrell; Region 3, Bret
2 Mavis; and Region 4 is to be determined.

3 Everyone should have received a copy of the new
4 region diagram also.

5 Bryce Agner, Region 1, moved, seconded by Mel
6 Cantrell, District 6, to appoint Marv Shamhart as the
7 Assistant Baseball Chairman and Phil Lightfoot as the
8 Junior Baseball Director.

9 Phil Lightfoot, Region 6, moved, seconded by Marv
10 Shamhart, Assistant Chairman, to create a new Baseball
11 bracket. All four region winners will advance to the
12 junior or senior state tournament. The runner-up from
13 each region will also go to the junior or senior state
14 tournament, and compete in a single-elimination game to
15 determine the two teams that will complete the state
16 tournament bracket. So that's for junior and senior.

17 There will be six teams competing in each state
18 tournament. There will be four games on Friday, four
19 games Saturday, three games on Sunday, one game plus a
20 what-if game on Monday.

21 Both tournaments will be held at Beaver's Field.

22 If a region does not have enough teams to produce
23 a runner-up, the committee has the authority to set the
24 bracket for the state tournament.

25 Everyone should have also received a copy of the

1 new bracket as well.

2 Phil Lightfoot moved, seconded by Marv Shamhart,
3 to change the name of the "Baseball Committee" to the
4 "Athletic Committee." The committee will consist of
5 the Department Program Coordinator; Department
6 Chairman, appointed by the Department Commander;
7 Assistant Chairman, appointed by the Baseball or
8 Athletic Chairman and approved by the DEC; Junior
9 Directors, appointed by the Baseball Chairman and
10 approved by the DEC; four Region Directors, appointed
11 by the Baseball Chairman and approved by the DEC.

12 The subcommittee: State Tournament Site Liaison,
13 appointed by the Athletic Committee, and District
14 Chairmen, appointed by District Commanders, and they
15 will assist their region teams with the super regional
16 tournaments.

17 And that should have been in the attachments that
18 you guys received as well.

19 Commander, if it's okay, I would like to call the
20 Baseball Chairman up here for any additional comments
21 and a small presentation.

22 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Sure.

23 BASEBALL CHAIRMAN EMMONS: Thank you.

24 As many of you know, first off, thank you for the
25 support. We had a lot of officers attend both the

1 tournaments and I really greatly appreciate that.

2 We've got a program that's not growing, but it's
3 still a great, viable program. Re-regioning the state,
4 redistricting, if you will, will allow us to have the
5 most competitive players on the field, but also cutting
6 some of our largest costs, which is the hotel rooms.
7 That's why we're going to four regions.

8 But we're going to have that at-large game, kind
9 of like Major League Baseball did several years ago,
10 have a one-game playoff. You're here. You've got one
11 shot to be seated into this bracket. And it's going to
12 really give us the best competitive landscape I think
13 we can get.

14 Thank you all for the support.

15 I've got a couple balls here. We had some
16 dignitaries in attendance.

17 Steve Masowick came down and watched some
18 baseball. So I got all the commissioners to sign a
19 baseball for you. He stayed and watched a lot of
20 baseball with us.

21 NEC MASOWICK: Thank you.

22 BASEBALL CHAIRMAN EMMONS: The Commander got his
23 during the game. He threw out a wonderful first pitch.
24 It was a screaming strike right down the middle of the
25 plate. He got his signed ball.

1 Unfortunately, Gary Cox I didn't know was sneaking
2 out. He came down and supported the program as well,
3 along with Brad Beatty.

4 We just had people from all over the state. So it
5 must mean we're doing something right down there.

6 Thank you, Commander, for allowing me to be the
7 chairman of one of the, it's going to be 100 years old
8 next year, one of the oldest programs The American
9 Legion supports. Thank you very much.

10 I'll leave this for Gary.

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

12 BASEBALL CHAIRMAN EMMONS: Thank you for the time.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: We need a motion on this one.

14 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
15 District Commander, so moves.

16 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th District
17 1st Vice Commander, seconds.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been properly
19 made and seconded.

20 Discussion.

21 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS BEATTY: Brad Beatty, 12th
22 District, Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, just a
23 question.

24 Baseball is Baseball. But overall, it's
25 "Athletic," or it's no longer going to be Baseball,

1 it's "Athletic"?

2 COORDINATOR WHITE: So the commission wanted to
3 change the name to "Athletic Committee." It still
4 would be baseball but with hopes, in the future,
5 potentially, to maybe start getting into softball. The
6 Athletic Committee can kind of help create a new
7 softball committee.

8 ASST. SGT-AT-ARMS BEATTY: Thank you.

9 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, Chapman,
10 Alternate NEC. Point of the order. Let's keep the
11 voice to the voting members.

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

13 Any other discussion?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all for it by
16 saying aye.

17 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same
19 right by saying nay.

20 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

21 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion carries.

22 COORDINATOR WHITE: All right. I also would like
23 to add that, for the Senior Baseball Tournament,
24 Lancaster Post 11 won the state tournament. They are
25 going to their Regional Great Lakes Tournament. It's

1 the first time ever in Legion Baseball that Lancaster
2 has won. So they're going to be playing on
3 Wednesday --

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Thursday.

5 COORDINATOR WHITE: Thursday.

6 You can go on National's website and then you can
7 listen to the games. They have links on there. I'll
8 get it for you if you would like it.

9 NEC MASOWICK: Where is the game at?

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Illinois.

11 Steve Masowick, NEC.

12 Where is the game at?

13 COORDINATOR WHITE: Carol Stream, Illinois.

14 NEC MASOWICK: Up, down, bottom?

15 COORDINATOR WHITE: That way (indicating). I'm
16 really good with directions. Somewhere that way
17 (indicating).

18 NEC MASOWICK: Okay.

19 COORDINATOR WHITE: So the Children and Youth
20 Commission met on July 20th, and they met virtually.

21 The 9th District Chair moved, seconded by the 4th
22 District Chair, to approve the minutes from the last
23 meeting.

24 Discussion was had to change the authorized
25 meetings to state that the commission gets one

1 in-person meeting a year. The 12th District
2 Chairman -- in your minutes it says "9th," so there is
3 a correction -- the 12th District Chairman moved,
4 seconded by the 5th District Chair, to change the
5 authorized meetings to one in-person, determined by the
6 Commission Chairman, and then accept the commission
7 rules.

8 You all should have received a copy of the new
9 ones.

10 The 3rd District Chairman -- there's a correction
11 in that one also. It says "Chairwoman". He's a man.

12 The 3rd District Chairman moved, seconded the 9th
13 District Chair, to table the 2024-2025 donations until
14 the Commander selects his project. And the commission
15 will see if it fits with Children and Youth before they
16 decide on where their donations are going to go to this
17 year.

18 The 4th District Chair moved, seconded by the 13th
19 District Chair, to donate \$25,000 to Special Olympics
20 to be a presenting sponsor to them. They do that every
21 year.

22 Our Country Flag Program. The new forms will be
23 mailed out to the Post Commanders and put on the
24 website. The District Children and Youth Chairs will
25 notify their Posts about the program and encourage them

1 to participate.

2 They discussed the Convention Committee criteria
3 for the Edward McBane Award. They decided on the same
4 thing as Americanism.

5 The 9th District Chair moved, seconded by the 13th
6 District Chair, to create a Department Convention CPR
7 Awards Packet that Posts can fill out for all their own
8 CPR award nominations. The CPR information that
9 coincides with the criteria for each award will be
10 added to the back of each criteria. The packets will
11 be made available to each District Commander and
12 Children and Youth Chair by October 1st, and the
13 District will be responsible for notifying their Posts.
14 It will be available on-line as well. The question
15 will be added of the number of quota amounts for each
16 Post to the top of the CPR information and will be
17 added to the back of each award's criteria. They will
18 focus on Post participation and have the dollar amount
19 towards the bottom of the applications. So that way
20 it's fair for everyone.

21 And the meeting adjourned at 12:30.

22 Moving on to National Security.

23 National Security met on July 20th, at 1:00,
24 virtually.

25 The 10th District Chair moved, seconded by the

1 11th District Chair, to approve the minutes of the last
2 meeting.

3 Approval of the commission rules. Discussion was
4 had to change the authorized meetings to state that the
5 commission gets one in-person meeting a year. The 10th
6 District Chair moved, seconded by the 3rd District
7 Chair, to change the authorized meetings to one
8 in-person, determined by the Commission Chair, and then
9 accept the commission rules.

10 So on all of the commission rules that fall under
11 me, now it states in there that everyone is only
12 allowed one-person. If there's more that needs to be
13 made, then the Commander has to be the one to approve
14 that. So there's only one in-person for the
15 commissions.

16 The National Security Commission decided to table
17 the resolution for Ralph Doll, and renaming the
18 resolution until the commission finds out more
19 information about Ralph Doll.

20 The 3rd District Chair moved, seconded by the 11th
21 District Chair, to create a Department Convention CPR
22 Awards Packet that Posts can fill out for their own CPR
23 Awards. The CPR information that coincides with the
24 criteria for each award will be added to the back of
25 each criteria. The same thing as Americanism and

1 Children and Youth.

2 The next National Security meeting will be October
3 5th, and it will be their one in-person meeting, so
4 they can vote on all of their of-the-year award
5 nominees.

6 And their meeting was adjourned at 1:35.

7 Everyone should have received the new National
8 Security Commission Rules as well.

9 Legislative.

10 Legislative met the next day, on July 21st, at
11 4:00 o'clock, virtual.

12 The 14th District Chair moved, seconded by the 6th
13 District Chair, to approve the minutes from the
14 previous meeting.

15 Approval of the commission rules. Discussion was
16 had to change the authorized meetings to state that the
17 commission gets one in-person meeting a year. The 6th
18 District Chairman -- sorry -- moved, seconded by the
19 11th District Chair, to change the authorized meetings
20 to one in-person, determined by the Commission Chair,
21 and then accept the commission rules.

22 The 2023 Legislator of the Year Proclamation was
23 discussed. The 6th District Chair moved, seconded by
24 the 14th District Chair, to approve the Legislator of
25 the Year Proclamations as written and formatted, and

1 mail out the proclamations and awards to the Districts
2 that those Legislators cover.

3 Their meeting adjourned at 4:30.

4 Convention Corp. They met July 23rd, at 3:30,
5 virtually. The Convention Corp discussed the 2025 and
6 2026 Department Convention proposals.

7 We received proposals from Cincinnati, which was
8 the Hilton Netherlands; Toledo, we received proposals
9 from Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites,
10 Renaissance, and the convention center; and Dayton,
11 only the convention center sent a proposal, the hotels
12 did not send in a proposal by the cutoff date.

13 The Auxiliary was on the call. They discussed
14 having a meeting location where we don't have to share
15 the general session space.

16 I don't know if anyone notices, but it's kind of a
17 pain if one of us runs over and the next one's trying
18 to get set up.

19 The Convention Corp discussed the different
20 proposals and different years. I mentioned to the
21 Convention Corp that I also reached out to Columbus and
22 Sharonville, two different convention centers. They
23 are not available until after 2028.

24 A lot of these cities book years and years and
25 years and years in advance. So we're only on '25, '26.

1 If we are to get it to be other cities, Columbus,
2 Sharonville, the Canton area, we have to start looking
3 way far in advance in order to get dates for them.

4 The Convention Corp agreed that Toledo had the
5 better prices. Hospitality was discussed. It will be
6 held at the convention center for both groups.

7 Department Adjutant Robinson motioned, seconded by
8 James Lockyer, 13th District Convention Corp, to have
9 the Department Convention in Toledo for 2026 and 2027,
10 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Homewood Suites, Renaissance
11 and the convention center.

12 The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 o'clock.

13 Any questions on Convention Corp?

14 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
15 District Commander.

16 The hospitality rooms at next year's convention,
17 are they going to be the same as this year's
18 convention? That's my first question.

19 And if so, can we figure out the District
20 break-outs way further in advance than we did this
21 year?

22 COORDINATOR WHITE: Yes.

23 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: I speak for my
24 District. We all sit on a lot of committees. And
25 cleaning up a hospitality room in the middle of the

1 night isn't a real fun challenge when you've got to
2 teach a class or do something at 7:00 o'clock the next
3 morning. So I was just asking if we are going to do
4 that, we need to do that soon. Preferably there's a
5 room we don't have to clean up every night.

6 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, Alternate NEC
7 Chapman.

8 Just to follow up on what Chris said about the
9 hospitality rooms, I don't know, we changed the
10 policies here a few years ago when everybody was in the
11 same room. And I don't have a problem with Districts
12 sharing. I think it helps with the expense.

13 Why can't way we go back to an old system when the
14 District Commanders were given the opportunity to
15 travel to that city, at their own expense, to negotiate
16 a hospitality room with that hotel? I don't know why
17 that can't happen.

18 We used to do that all the time. The District
19 Commanders traveled to the city. The city knows, the
20 hotels know, what they're there for, and you negotiate
21 your own hospitality room.

22 COORDINATOR WHITE: I can add that a lot of the
23 hotels that we had talked to, a lot of their policies
24 have changed. So their hotels will not allow that, no
25 matter who goes and asks. They won't allow that

1 because of liquor licenses. So we get what we can get
2 or we don't get hospitality at all.

3 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Thom Stan, 11th District
4 Commander.

5 For Toledo, you said hospitality rooms will be at
6 the convention center?

7 COORDINATOR WHITE: Correct. The CVB is pulling
8 strings to get a liquor license. It's one large room.

9 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Yeah.

10 COORDINATOR WHITE: A large room, like a ballroom.
11 So they're pulling strings and working on getting a
12 liquor license for that room. The individual hotels
13 will not allow hospitality rooms.

14 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: So there will be a
15 midnight bus then?

16 COORDINATOR WHITE: Yes, there will be busing.

17 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Okay.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Adjutant Robinson.

19 One of the things that we are looking at for
20 Cleveland next year that I've mentioned to several
21 people is look at the surrounding Posts for your
22 candidates, your Districts, to host their hospitality
23 rooms there. That way you do not have to clean up at
24 the hotel. Just an idea. Thinking outside the box a
25 little bit.

1 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
2 District.

3 While we're still on the committee reports, I just
4 want to make a comment and an apology to Stan. Stan
5 did throw out a dinger at our junior tournament. And I
6 was under the assumption that he was presented a ball
7 before I got there.

8 So I apologize. You will have a signed ball as
9 soon as I get that committee back together. But I do
10 apologize, Stan. You spent the whole weekend there.
11 It was fantastic to spend time with you and get to know
12 you a little better. So I do apologize for that. I
13 did miss the beginning of that because I was still at
14 work. And I thought that -- it's tradition that we
15 give it to you right after the pitch.

16 I want that on the record.

17 I apologize, Stan.

18 1VC OREN: Thank you, Chris. Accepted.

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Let me do this for Christie.
20 She had a lot of reports here and I think she did an
21 excellent, excellent job.

22 (Applause).

23 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, Alternate NEC
24 Chapman.

25 Do we need a motion to approve the city?

1 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

2 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC,
3 moves to accept the Convention Corp's recommendation
4 for Toledo.

5 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Howard Marotto, 10th
6 District Commander, I second it.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay, there has been a first
8 and second that we accept the Convention Corp's
9 convention report.

10 Discussion.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all for it by
15 saying aye.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

17 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against by saying nay.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion carries.

20 Wonderful job.

21 (Applause).

22 COORDINATOR WHITE: That completes my report,
23 Commander.

24 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

25 COORDINATOR WHITE: For now.

1 COMMANDER WHATLEY: At this time, the Finance
2 Chair.

3 TREASURER LEWIS: Well I'm not the Finance Chair
4 anymore but Ken couldn't be here today. So I just
5 wanted to give you a couple of updates.

6 One is on our investments. We're currently up
7 \$458,000 for the year.

8 If anyone wants to see the specifics of what we're
9 invested in, how that all works, let me know. I have a
10 report. You can look at it, all the things.

11 We did have a Finance meeting on July 24th, via
12 Zoom. And there's a couple of things there I just want
13 to bring to your attention. You all have this.

14 We did discuss the committee's life membership
15 project, which Adjutant Robinson, I believe, will be
16 discussing with you today. This is very important. As
17 you know, we have quite a bit of money reserved for
18 Ohio's life members that, if we could free it up, it
19 would help us a lot. So please pay attention to that
20 and do what you're being asked to do.

21 Secondly, we did discuss the new phone system. So
22 we got a quote for a new phone system. The new phone
23 system and upgraded internet is going to be the same
24 cost as what we currently have. And hopefully we'll
25 get a little bit better use out of it and have more

1 capabilities. So we did have a motion to accept the
2 new phone system. I made the motion and Dean Boyers
3 seconded the motion and everybody agreed.

4 We did also talk about the 50/50 raffle, which
5 we're going to talk about that later.

6 The Two Brothers Gutters are going to clean and
7 install the gutter guards that we have and it's done.

8 And then we also asked for a finance report from
9 Charities, Inc., which I'm happy to say we did get the
10 day before yesterday. So we will be sharing that with
11 you all as well.

12 What Ken wants is for us to have a budget versus
13 actual review every quarter. You will be getting that,
14 as members of the DEC, at every DEC meeting. So we'll
15 probably do it about six times a year.

16 As soon as we get an approved budget, which
17 hopefully will happen today, I will be talking to each
18 of the budget holders to make sure that they understand
19 that they cannot go over budget without coming back to
20 the Finance Commission.

21 All right, we did make a couple of recommendations
22 on employee moves and openings. So one is to move
23 Cassie to be more of an assistant for Becky for the
24 finances, because there's a lot of things that have to
25 happen for the books to get closed every month so that

1 we can have a budget versus actual, credit card
2 receipts, all of that kind of stuff. She's also
3 probably going to be helping with membership as well,
4 once we can get her acclimated to the position.

5 The another thing is we do have, the budget does
6 include room for the hiring of two employees. So we
7 have put out a legislative position, because we all
8 feel that that's a very, very important thing. We
9 don't have anybody right now who's focused on
10 legislative. So we do need that.

11 The other thing that we talked about is computers.
12 We currently don't have like a rotation procedure on
13 the computers. And there are at least three of the
14 computers that need to be replaced right now. So I
15 made a motion to replace the three computers for right
16 now. John Life seconded that motion. And then I will
17 be working with the Adjutant to create an SOP,
18 basically, for the life cycle of the computers, how
19 long, you know, each person is going to have them
20 before they get replaced and so on. That's a standard
21 corporate thing.

22 Let's see what else.

23 We did discuss employee reviews. And Adjutant
24 Robinson is working on that. And then we'll look at
25 all the reviews and make a recommendation on increases

1 and such later in the year.

2 And that is my report. So I make a motion to
3 approve this report.

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: I need a second.

5 1ST DISTRICT 1VC BOYERS: Commander, Dean Boyers,
6 1st District, seconds.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been properly
8 made and seconded that we accept the Finance report.

9 Discussion.

10 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Yes, Alternate NEC
11 Chapman.

12 First of all, this is a proposed budget, right?

13 TREASURER LEWIS: Yeah.

14 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: What you gave us is
15 proposed. I want to know how you arrived at those
16 figures. Don't you think it would have been a good
17 idea if you put the actual figures from last year on
18 there too, so we could see what numbers you reduced and
19 what numbers you increased, and then maybe give us an
20 explanation on each if we had a question as to why you
21 did that?

22 TREASURER LEWIS: We can talk about that after.
23 On unfinished business is where I think we're talking
24 about that, the budget.

25 But yeah, that would be a great idea. I can give

1 you that.

2 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Because I see budget cuts
3 here on some things that, you know, I don't understand
4 how you can cut them with prices increasing in certain
5 areas.

6 And I think in future reports that you should
7 always give us, I don't think it would be too hard to
8 create a couple more columns on this report to have us
9 see the proposed budget, the actual figures and then
10 the to-date budget, --

11 TREASURER LEWIS: Sure.

12 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: -- so that we can prepare
13 and make rational decisions.

14 TREASURER LEWIS: Sure.

15 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: And also, I'd like to
16 remind the Finance Committee that you're not there for
17 operational purposes. That comes back to this
18 committee.

19 TREASURER LEWIS: Sure, of course, yeah.

20 And if I can, I just want to state something. We
21 couldn't even do that last year. Okay? So the budget
22 that we had had no bearing or similarities of what was
23 in QuickBooks. So it wasn't even possible to do budget
24 versus actual.

25 But I hear what you're saying. And we can update

1 it with what was on the end of the year last year. But
2 going forward, you will get, every DEC, budget and
3 actual. You will get it every DEC so that you can
4 compare.

5 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Very good.

6 Because you mentioned it before and I respect the
7 fact that you have said that you want to be
8 transparent.

9 TREASURER LEWIS: Yes.

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: And I think that would just
11 also be transparency.

12 TREASURER LEWIS: Sure. I appreciate that.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, Alternate NEC, for
14 your comments.

15 Yes.

16 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: Commander, we're
17 voting on --

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Name.

19 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: Wright, 13th District.
20 Sorry.

21 So we're voting on this report now?

22 TREASURER LEWIS: We're voting on the Finance
23 minutes.

24 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: Yes.

25 TREASURER LEWIS: The budget is under unfinished

1 business. We're not voting on that right now.

2 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: All right.

3 What about the new employees, is that included in
4 this report that we're voting on?

5 TREASURER LEWIS: Yes.

6 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: Thank you.

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Treasurer Lewis did not state
8 that the funds for the computers will be coming out of
9 the withdrawal that we make every year from our
10 investments for all of the scholarships and that type
11 of thing. We make a withdrawal every year. There is a
12 rehab fund that we have that we are drawing those funds
13 out of. So it will not be coming directly out of the
14 membership money. It will be coming out of the
15 investments.

16 And that's why that fund was created. So when the
17 Department does have issues with computers or roofs or
18 parking lot projects, that's what that is there for,
19 for us to maintain and keep the Department running in
20 top shape. So just to clarify where that money comes
21 from.

22 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

23 I think we have a first and second for the Finance
24 report. Is that correct?

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

1 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other questions?

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other discussion?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All for it by saying aye.

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same
8 right.

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: We will next have William
11 Genochio, our VA&R Commission Coordinator.

12 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Thank you, Commander.

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

14 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: DEC, the Department
15 Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee meeting
16 was called to order at 2:14 PM, on July 28th, by David
17 Cook of the 6th District. David Cook appointed
18 himself, from the 6th District, as secretary. The
19 Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the invocation was
20 given by Darell Bishop of the 5th District.

21 Guests that attended were myself, as the VBA
22 Coordinator.

23 There was a reading and approval of minutes, the
24 previous minutes. The minutes were sent out via
25 e-mail. There was a motion by Darell Bishop to accept

1 as written. Leroy Brinkhoff of the 13th seconded.

2 Motion carried.

3 We did District reports.

4 We had the 4th District, Jerry Perry, reported the
5 hospital needs more help. They have three Posts that
6 stepped up to provide support. They have Tuesdays and
7 Fridays scheduled for coffee and doughnuts.

8 Darell Bishop of the 5th District reported that a
9 flag decorating for Memorial Day will take place, as
10 well as Christmas events are being planned. Also, that
11 Post 118 Legion Riders and Auxiliary members are
12 hosting bingo at Wade Park VA Medical Center.

13 William Dittebrand of the 9th District reported
14 they're hosting bingo at Wade Park.

15 Leroy Brinkhoff of the 13th District reported that
16 the VAVS needed letters from clinics to see what they
17 need. And a golf cart was approved for Wade Park.

18 Under unfinished business, there was a discussion
19 on Veteran Treatment Courts, on what the Veteran
20 Treatment Courts need. A motion was made by Darell
21 Bishop of District 5 to design a challenge coin, a
22 universal challenge coin, one side being The Legion
23 logo, the other side being the universal completion of
24 the Veterans Rehabilitation Courts. So he is going to
25 prepare that and bring it to the DEC once we have a

1 template or guideline. It was seconded by Jerry Perry
2 of the 4th District. Motion passed.

3 Myself went over the following:

4 The House Bill 69, which is still in the House
5 committee. No movement, no travel.

6 The H.R. 1287 (sic), the Major Star Act, still no
7 movement, still in the House committee.

8 And the H.R. 303 Bill, to allow retired veterans
9 to receive both VA pay and retirement pay, with no
10 offset, that's still in committee as well. So I might
11 have more information in my OneSat, but there's no
12 traffic.

13 Genochio gave a report on the Cleveland VARO. We
14 currently have five DSOs and one assistant. Dayton has
15 one VSO. Per the new list, Cincinnati is vacant, which
16 we have corrected that. I'll give you the introduction
17 on that in a second. Columbus is vacant. It's on the
18 agenda to discuss later on.

19 The team holds an 84 percent success rate on our
20 board hearings and we have accumulated over
21 \$25,518,105.80 since 2017.

22 I gave a report on TERA, which is the Toxic
23 Exposure Risk Activities. It was brought to my
24 attention by the Chairman so I did some research. So
25 basically the TERA is the Temporary Exposure Risk

1 Activity. It covers many veterans that did not deploy
2 but were exposed to toxins or hazards at home or
3 abroad.

4 So as everybody knows, the presumption is that you
5 either have to have Agent Orange exposure, Camp Lejeune
6 water, whatever. This opens it up. Because the VA has
7 realized certain jobs, GAPA, toxins, chemicals, those
8 exposures can exist. So they are eligible for free
9 exams at your local VA facilities.

10 So contact them if you think you had an exposure.
11 They'll set you up for the exam, treat you, and then
12 they have something they can point you to, they can get
13 you the right guidance and possibly help care for those
14 conditions.

15 Darell Bishop of the 5th District gave a Gifts for
16 Yanks report. He said they raised \$240,000 for the
17 program. There was a motion to hold 300,000 in
18 reserves for donation years where donations are down to
19 cover the program. He also noted that donations were
20 up for this year.

21 We approved the awards for the committee.
22 Discussion on awards. We noted that our spring meeting
23 is planned to be our one in-person, to make any
24 decisions on awards. I stated that the VA&R Commission
25 votes go to National. So we'll work at getting those

1 submitted.

2 The Resolution Chairman read the amended
3 resolution. Okay, so we're talking about the video
4 gaming resolution. So the resolution was done to
5 clarify the wording from what was voted on at
6 Department Convention. Discussion followed. After
7 discussion, there was a motion made by Jerry Perry of
8 the 4th District, it was seconded by Steve Wainwright
9 of District 11, to approve as amended. Motion passed.

10 For the good of The Legion, Darell Bishop spoke on
11 veterans suicide. We need to do more in the area.
12 Discussion followed. It was suggested we have someone
13 come in and hold classes, either the Buckeye American
14 Legion College, the DEC, or have somebody come in. I
15 spoke at the meeting, saying that I would get with the
16 Department, see if that's feasible, and talk to our
17 Buckeye Legion College and see if veterans suicide
18 awareness is something we can build in. So we kind of
19 tabled that for discussion.

20 Steven Wainwright stated that he would like to get
21 more donations for Gifts for Yanks out of the 11th
22 District. So he's working that.

23 Closing prayer was given by Darell Bishop of the
24 5th District. There was a salute to colors. And our
25 meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

1 That concludes my report.

2 I can go to the DSO report if you want me to give
3 you that now, or wait till --

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes, sir.

5 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: Okay.

6 So the DSO report, just some new VA news that came
7 out recently.

8 August 1st, the VA launched the redesigned
9 Airborne Hazards and Open Pit Burn Registry. This does
10 not affect the veterans right to health care benefits,
11 but helps the VA understand the challenges that face
12 the veteran population as a whole. So they revamped it
13 to get, I guess the old registry was too complicated so
14 they like key-pointed it to try to get, you know, more
15 understanding of what our veterans are suffering from.
16 And that goes back to that TERA we talked about
17 earlier.

18 July 17th, the VA put out that to protect veterans
19 using VA.gov, which is now your new portal to go in and
20 make office appointments, check your claims, file new
21 claims, see where your claim is sitting. If you use
22 the E-benefits, they are transitioning to VA.gov. So
23 what they've done is they've partnered with, it's
24 called Login.gov, where most of you all are familiar
25 with IDme, that way you can go into the portal VA.gov

1 and use those two verification factors, which are
2 secure and are up to speed with the security encryption
3 you need to access those websites.

4 Under DSO News, Post Service Officers School is
5 scheduled for September 21st, here at Department
6 Headquarters, from 08:00 to 16:30.

7 FROM THE FLOOR: September 21st?

8 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: September 21st, from 08:00
9 to 16:30.

10 Right now we currently have 40 registered for that
11 class.

12 The Cleveland VA Regional office, there's been no
13 change. The staff is still there, open to the public.

14 Columbus is currently vacant and we'll discuss it
15 later.

16 The Cincinnati VA Medical Center, I am pleased to
17 announce that we have finally found a qualified
18 candidate for the VA Medical Center. Lauren Champion,
19 she's Army National Guard. She's currently in. She's
20 set to exit on October 12th of this year. So she's
21 National Guard. She will start August 13, 2024, for
22 training.

23 Now there has been some changes to the Cincinnati
24 VA Medical Center's on-boarding process. So her
25 actual, physical, in the office every day helping

1 veterans is to be determined.

2 But I'm going to utilize Dayton, Ohio, Gary. I'm
3 going to do the initial training, getting her up to
4 speed, and then Gary is going to work with her. She's
5 going to travel to that hospital. It's just more
6 feasible than me being down there for a month.

7 Dayton is open. Gary Felver is there.

8 Production we've already talked about.

9 So Commander, that concludes my DSO report.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you, sir.

11 We next have Jon Vulgamore for the Media,
12 Marketing and Communications Commission.

13 FROM THE FLOOR: He's not here.

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: He's not here.

15 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Okay, Chris Emmons, 3rd
16 District Commander and Chair of the Media, Marketing
17 and Communications, for our recorders.

18 I'll spare you the boring details.

19 We called the meeting to order. We had the quota.
20 We discussed the previous minutes. They were accepted.

21 New business. Well, everybody knows we're moving
22 to a complete digital Ohio newsletter. So that last
23 production run was the last production run. So we'll
24 be saving the Department close to \$30,000 on that next
25 run.

1 There was really no other new business to come
2 before that meeting. So that concludes the report.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

4 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
5 District Commander, moves to approve the report.

6 FROM THE FLOOR: It's just information.

7 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: I withdraw.

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: John Robinson, Sons of The
9 American Legion.

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Morning again.

11 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Good morning.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: How is everybody doing this
13 morning?

14 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: All right.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The SAL had their DEC on
16 July 20th, at Paschall Post 164. We had a quorum.
17 Business was discussed and taken care of.

18 The only major thing they did, they donated about
19 \$3,000 out to different charities.

20 They did pick up several of their Squadron cards.
21 We took those down and they were passed out.

22 One thing the Commander and Adjutant did okay was
23 not every Post was cleared but the District officers
24 would get their forms and bring them in, or get them
25 submitted to us before the cards were passed out. That

1 was the major change that they made during that
2 meeting.

3 Any questions?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander, that is my report.

6 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

7 We're trying to do a lunch here. It hasn't gotten
8 here yet, so we're going to move on.

9 We're going to Post Charters, suspensions.

10 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Okay, we discussed this Post
11 last year. They actually sent us a new charter
12 application. This is the Chillicothe prison would like
13 to start a Post. They have filed out all the
14 paperwork. It is submitted. It is up to this body
15 whether we allow that to happen or not. I cannot make
16 a motion or not make a motion. So at this time, I'll
17 let you guys discuss it and decide.

18 NEC MASOWICK: Steve Masowick, NEC.

19 Is that what the 1917 Post number is?

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

21 NEC MASOWICK: Who determined that number?

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That's just what they wrote
23 down.

24 NEC MASOWICK: Okay.

25 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The floor is open for a new

1 charter for Post 1917. Can I get a motion or a
2 comment?

3 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
4 District.

5 Commander, how many prison Posts do we have in the
6 State of Ohio currently?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Zero.

8 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Zero.

9 So I think at this point it might be a good idea
10 to introduce this so it opens up the other prisons. We
11 are veterans. We do do bad things in our lives and we
12 do make mistakes and we do grow. So I think this might
13 be the first step of moving it forward.

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Commander.

15 PDC RUE: Jason Rue, Immediate Past Department
16 Commander.

17 I know that there are other states who have prison
18 Posts. Like Indiana has, I think --

19 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Seven.

20 PDC RUE: They're up to seven. So they have
21 seven.

22 I know one of the great things that they do is,
23 we're struggling to get people to make copies, they get
24 paid to make copies as part of their job in the prison.
25 So I know our Auxiliary has had a problems getting

1 copies and they bought a lot off of Indiana's prisons.

2 So it could be a valuable resource for us and I
3 would make a motion to accept that.

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: NECman Masowick, sir.

5 NEC MASOWICK: Do they have representation at
6 District meetings? Do they let them out of prison to
7 come to a meeting?

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: The way that it would work
9 would be their CO that is in charge of them, the
10 correction officer that would be over them, would be
11 their representation at District meetings. And then he
12 would take that information back to them.

13 11TH DISTRICT CMDR STAN: Commander, Thom Stan,
14 Commander of District 11. I'd like to second the
15 motion to accept.

16 I would say the discussion will come up, but what
17 I would like to stress is we need members. This is a
18 way to do it. We need copies. This is a way to do it.
19 I would say the CO would have to be a member of The
20 Legion though.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: He has to be.

22 9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: Jacqueline
23 Whetstone, Commander, District 9.

24 So these gentlemen --

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Point of order, Commander. You

1 have a motion and a second. You have to continue with
2 that. This can come up during discussion.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: Well that was made during
4 discussion.

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay, a motion has been
6 properly made and seconded.

7 Any discussion?

8 Commander.

9 9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: Thank you.

10 I just want to know how that works. They're in
11 prison. And I understand, like the gentleman said,
12 everybody makes a mistake and we're all veterans. What
13 happens when they're paroled? Are they then presented
14 to a Post on the outside?

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No. They will be remain a
16 member of that Post until they transfer to a new Post.
17 It's up to them whether they stay in that Post or if
18 they want to join the local Post in the area that they
19 reside in.

20 9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: Okay. So when
21 they're paroled and they want to go into a Post, is
22 that Post going to get the information about that
23 person or is that a privacy problem?

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That would be up to the Post
25 to do their investigation. That is not our

1 responsibility or the prison's responsibility to
2 investigate their membership.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: They'll know what Post they're
4 coming from.

5 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman Alternate NEC.

6 The National Constitution and our constitution
7 states that each Post determines its membership. And
8 that's all it would be. That Post can either accept
9 him or not.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: I'll take one more question.
11 Thank you, Alternate NEC.

12 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: Commander, Wright,
13 13th District.

14 The 13th District had a member that's in prison
15 right now. That's Dennis Clausing. He's a child
16 rapist. He raped his grandkid. He was thrown out of
17 his Post in Fairview Park. So I don't want him coming
18 back to any Post in my District. Okay? This is what
19 we're dealing with.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: This is the last question and
21 then we're moving on.

22 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
23 District.

24 So many of you don't know what I do here, but what
25 I actually do is I work on the ground. So I go around

1 the county and I kick down doors and help veterans save
2 their lives. Guys that are struggling, like Chris
3 said. Many are struggling with PTSD issues, alcohol
4 issues, drug issues.

5 You know, when you guys think of prisons, you're
6 thinking rapists and murderers. A lot of veterans that
7 are in prison are not in prison for that. They're in
8 prison for dumb, dumb things, like crashing into cop
9 cars and going out and causing issues and having PTSD
10 breakouts. That's why their in prison for five to ten
11 years. So these other prisons that do these systems,
12 that's what they're there for. They're not there for
13 life. Because you don't want murderers in your Post.

14 In my Post I have, I think, five guys.
15 "Second-chance guys" I call them. We call them "Second
16 chances." And if they go back into that kind of way of
17 life, unfortunately, guys, you're not going to be in my
18 Post anymore. But if you keep on the track, I'm going
19 to help you keep on that track. And that's what I
20 encourage all your Posts to do. Because we're all
21 veterans and we help each other.

22 But, you know, God forbid, Chris goes down the
23 wrong path tomorrow, if nobody is going to lift him up,
24 what happens? Then he's not your brother no more?

25 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you. Thank you for all

1 the comments.

2 To accept the new Charter for Post 1917, all those
3 for it by saying aye.

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Those against have the same
6 right.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: No.

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay.

9 FROM THE FLOOR: Call for a vote, a hand vote.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Those who are willing to
11 accept a new Charter for Post 1917, please stand.

12 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

13 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Sergeant-at-Arms, count them.

14 SGT-AT-ARMS BLACKWELL: Eighteen, 18 for.

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: You may be seated.

16 All those with voting rights please stand for
17 against.

18 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (Indicating).

19 SGT-AT-ARMS BLACKWELL: Seven.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: You may be seated.

21 Motion carried.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Thank you, folks.

23 Closing Posts: Post 101, out of the 6th District.

24 The membership is aged. They no longer have a meeting
25 hall. And they wish to close.

1 Post 102, 5th District, is the same.

2 Post 220 should have been closed two years ago.

3 They've moved all their members out already. This is
4 just a formality of putting it in the record to have it
5 completely closed.

6 Squadrons that are closing: Squadron 31, out of
7 the 10th; Squadron 486, out of the 12th.

8 Commander, that will take a motion to accept.

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: I need a motion on the closing
10 of Post 101, from the 6th District; Post 102, 5th
11 District; Post 220, 12th District; and closing Squadron
12 31, 10th District; Squadron 486, 12th District.

13 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
14 District Commander, makes a motion to start closing
15 said Posts and closing said Squadrons.

16 2ND DISTRICT 1VC SHAW: Tim Shaw, 2nd District,
17 seconds it.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly
19 made and seconded that we proceed to the closings of
20 Post 101, 102, 220, and Squadrons 31 and 486.

21 Discussion.

22 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any discussion?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all those for it

1 by saying aye.

2 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Those against have the same
4 right by saying nay.

5 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

6 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carried.

7 Okay, resolutions, constitutional amendments.

8 And I have one here on The American Legion
9 Department of Ohio Video Gaming Committee. And I will
10 read the "Resolved" of that.

11 "Resolved, that at The American Legion Department
12 Executive Committee assembled in Delaware, Ohio on
13 August 3, 2024, approves the formation of the Video
14 Gaming Sub-Committee of the Veterans Affairs and
15 Rehabilitation Committee; and, be it further

16 "Resolved, that each year the Department Commander
17 shall appoint a five-member Video Gaming Committee to
18 research and study the effects of gaming within the
19 Department for social interaction among its interested
20 members and the veteran community at large with regard
21 to veterans' mental health, and potential for
22 membership and business enhancement in the support of
23 American Legion programs; and, be it further

24 "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee shall
25 collaborate and establish relationships with other

1 military gaming charities and organizations; and, be it
2 further

3 "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee make
4 semiannual reports to the Veterans Affairs and
5 Rehabilitation Commission and the Department Executive
6 Committee regarding findings and recommendations; and,
7 be it finally

8 "Resolved, that the Video Gaming Committee will
9 meet digitally to incur no cost when they meet at least
10 quarterly to discuss any business of the committee or
11 whenever called upon by the Department Commander."

12 And I need a first and second on this.

13 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
14 District, motions to accept this resolution.

15 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th District
16 1st Vice Commander, seconds the motion.

17 COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly
18 made and seconded that we accept the Video Gaming
19 Committee Resolution.

20 Discussion.

21 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC.

22 Okay, if we approve this, are we approving to move
23 this to Internal Affairs or has it already been there?

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's not been there yet, I
25 don't think.

1 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: That's probably what we
2 should do is refer it to Internal Affairs for their
3 recommendations and bring it back for a final vote.

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Got you.

5 To make sure that we get all the I's and the T's
6 crossed, we can send it back to the VA&R Committee for
7 referral and bring it back.

8 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th District
9 1st Vice Commander.

10 I just want to point out this resolution, of
11 course I tried to get it introduced to the convention
12 floor, this resolution is not just created my me. As a
13 matter of fact, I met a gentleman at National
14 Convention last year. This is the exact resolution,
15 with minor changes to make it more fitting for Ohio
16 language. The Department of California passed this
17 over a year ago.

18 As a matter of fact, there is now a similar
19 resolution that the Department of California, from my
20 understanding, passed this year to send to National
21 Convention for the National to look at to create a
22 Video Gaming Commission on the National level.

23 I know the majority of people in this room are not
24 like me. I've been the youngest member of the DEC for
25 many years since I've been active with the District.

1 This is my third time on the DEC.

2 When I first came home from the Marines, I spent
3 hours video gaming with fellow Marines that I served
4 with. We were all across the nation. We got out and
5 were doing our own lives. I went from 10:00 o'clock at
6 night to 8:00 o'clock in the morning just gaming with
7 them.

8 This is a way to bring in that younger membership.
9 Now certain games I don't play anymore, but it's still
10 very popular. "Call of Duty" is a big name in the
11 military community of video gaming. We can go after
12 these folks and say, "Hey, have you heard of The
13 American Legion? We have this."

14 There's money to actually be won. I keep stating
15 it, and you can look it up, several years ago, there
16 was a 16-year-old kid from Pennsylvania who won
17 millions of dollars playing a video game called
18 "Fortnite." I tried playing the game. I don't
19 understand the game. My nephews are amazing at that
20 game. We can set up competitions that will bring money
21 back in to our Department and help our Posts and help
22 us. And that's what we're talking about continuously,
23 trying to find ways to raise funds. We do these
24 competitions, we go to these competitions, we can raise
25 money for our Department.

1 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC.

2 Just for clarification, I'm not opposing this
3 resolution. I just want us to start using the
4 committees that we've set up, the commissions that
5 we've set up, so that we just don't pop up here at the
6 DEC meetings and make motions off of the top of our
7 head when they should be introduced by a resolution and
8 referred to the proper committees and commissions for
9 their approval and then brought back for the final
10 votes.

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

12 5TH DISTRICT 1VC RODGERS: Commander, yes, Melissa
13 Rodgers, District 5 1st Vice Commander. I have just a
14 question. Is this for a development of a system, of a
15 program like the "Call of Duty," to put into your
16 Posts? I think that we'd have to spend money to put
17 the gaming systems into the Posts. Or is it for people
18 to sit at home and say yes, I'm part of The American
19 Legion, like a chat room? Or what is it? I think
20 that's what I'm trying to figure out, how it all
21 happens.

22 I'm on the cusp. Okay? I understand gaming, but
23 I've never really had time for it. So I'm just trying
24 to figure it out.

25 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: Commander, John Life,

1 14th District 1st Vice Commander.

2 It's not going to cost anything. It's actually --
3 do you want to speak on this?

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: If you don't mind, sir.

5 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: I'll defer to JD,
6 actually.

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Adjutant Robinson.

8 The way this committee is going to work, it's
9 going to determine those types of issues, how we can
10 help the Posts, how we can help our members engage. We
11 already have tools put in place. Now they're free
12 tools. It's not costing the Department anything. We
13 just need a leadership team to lead us in the right
14 direction, that can report back to this body to let us
15 know what we're doing.

16 And as John stated, we do talk to other
17 departments a lot. I just talked to California. They
18 went to "Fleet Week," which we don't have "Fleet Week"
19 in Ohio, but it's a very profitable place when they
20 signed up 392 members in one day. So there is a call
21 for this.

22 And Chappy, I will give you full credit. We did
23 not do it the correct way. I completely understand
24 what you're saying.

25 But I would -- I can't ask that. Never mind.

1 I'll shut up and sit down.

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: What we're going to do today
3 is, since this has already been put on the floor, it's
4 been first and seconded, we're going to accept this or
5 reject it. Then we're going to get the VA&R Commission
6 involved with it.

7 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Commander, you don't have
8 to accept it -- Chapman, Alternate NEC -- you don't
9 have to accept it or reject it. You just have to refer
10 it to the proper committee to make the proper
11 recommendation. I'm not asking for a rejection.
12 That's not what my point was. It's just to get it
13 through the proper channels.

14 It should have gone through a Resolution Committee
15 first. And then it should have gone from there,
16 probably to Internal Affairs. Because I think, down
17 the road, we'll get a constitutional amendment to
18 create this subcommittee.

19 So, you know, there's other channels that need to
20 be followed. If we have these committees and
21 commissions in place and we're just going to vote here
22 on the floor, we don't need those committees.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Okay, the people who made the
24 motions, can I get you to withdraw your motions? Can
25 you withdraw your motions?

1 And what we're going to do, we're going to refer
2 it to the VA&R Commission. And then we will send
3 everything out via e-mail to all the members.

4 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th
5 District Commander, withdraws his motion for the
6 resolution.

7 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th District
8 1st Vice Commander, withdraws.

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

10 At this time we're going to take our lunch break.
11 The colors of our nation in place, hand salute.

12 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

13 Thank you.

14 (THEREUPON, THE PROCEEDINGS STOOD IN RECESS)

15 The colors of our nation in place, hand salute.

16 Two.

17 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

18 The DEC is reconvened.

19 We are now under unfinished business and
20 ratification of the budget.

21 TREASURER LEWIS: You all have a copy of the
22 budget. We did our very best to propose this budget
23 based off of the May budget versus actual report out of
24 QuickBooks.

25 I will tell you that there will probably be some

1 adjustments made during the year, but we will do that
2 at Finance Commission meetings, which you will see the
3 minutes and we will make sure that you guys all get an
4 invite to the Finance Commission meetings so that you
5 can listen if you would like to come.

6 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
7 District Commander, moves to accept the budget.

8 PDC RUE: Jason Rue, Immediate Past Department
9 Commander, seconds that.

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: A motion has been properly
11 made and seconded that we accept the budget.

12 Discussion.

13 14TH DISTRICT CMDR WIANZ: Rodger Wianz,
14 Commander, 14th District.

15 I understand that this budget shows that we're
16 within profit and loss of, it's showing a profit what,
17 \$18,000?

18 TREASURER LEWIS: Uh-huh.

19 14TH DISTRICT CMDR WIANZ: As discussed
20 previously, you know, that's pretty tight.

21 I'm looking at the chart of accounts. I'm looking
22 grants at zero. I'm looking also at fundraising
23 program, zero; sponsorship revenue, \$7,000.

24 I mean I'm just, I'm bringing this up, and maybe
25 this is the wrong place to do it, maybe another

1 commission or committee should look at this, but, you
2 know, we ask our Posts to do these things so that we
3 can raise revenue so we don't go bankrupt. Is there a
4 way we can our State of Ohio for grants? Is there
5 anybody within the staff that can do that? Do we ask
6 corporations for sponsorships, and is there anything in
7 place for that?

8 I think there's a lot of ways we could raise
9 revenue for the State of Ohio that aren't being done
10 within the budget. And I was wondering if there's any
11 contemplation or consideration of doing that.

12 TREASURER LEWIS: I agree. And yes, we do have
13 somebody who is qualified to do grant writing on staff.
14 So that is something that we will be looking into.

15 And then you're going to hearing about, under new
16 business, you'll be hearing about a proposal to raise
17 money and revenue.

18 I basically went from last May's budget versus
19 actual. And at that time there were no grants, there
20 was no donations, and there was only \$7500 in
21 sponsorships. So I just made it even with what it was
22 last year.

23 But yes, you are right, there are plenty of
24 opportunities to look for money.

25 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other discussion?

1 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other discussion?

3 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Hearing none, all for it by
5 saying aye.

6 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same
8 right by saying nay.

9 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

10 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion passed.

11 New business. We're now going to the 50/50
12 raffle.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Good afternoon again.

14 This was brought up, roughly a year ago we looked
15 at doing this. There were several questions. And I
16 was able to go through and find out answers. I'm just
17 passing information along. It is completely
18 informational.

19 As you know, in your Posts, you run a lot of
20 raffles. We generate a lot of money off of raffles.
21 Within our state it is legal for a nonprofit to run a
22 raffle. Guess what? We are a nonprofit.

23 The raffle company that we are looking at, there
24 was one in Canada, based, and then I recently found one
25 U.S. based. I've talked to them once. I've not vetted

1 them completely but I do know the Department of Florida
2 is using them and they are also looking at North
3 Carolina and going into there.

4 I'm not making a recommendation for one company or
5 the other. Their proposals were identical. They do
6 what they do. We'll see who we want to use if we
7 decide to do it.

8 The way this raffle works, it's geo located. So
9 you have to be inside the boundaries of Ohio. It would
10 be downloaded as an app onto your phone or you can set
11 up a computer within your Post.

12 The contract, the way we can work it, is if your
13 Post decides to participate and help, they can receive
14 some of the prize money. It's a 50/50. We can decide
15 whether we want to do a weekly drawing, a bi-weekly
16 drawing, a monthly drawing, a six-month drawing.
17 However we decide we want to do it, we can design it
18 however.

19 It does have a web page and anybody can play this.
20 That's the key. It's not just Legionnaires. We're not
21 taking more money from our members. We can go out to
22 the peewee soccer game and say, "Hey, I know you guys
23 like 50/50s. You want to get in on this?" And they
24 can download the app right on their phone and keep
25 playing.

1 I'm a salesman. I'm selling. If you have
2 questions, please ask the Commander and I will do my
3 best to answer them if he cannot.

4 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Commander.

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

6 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
7 District.

8 Since there's no motion, can I ask a question?

9 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

10 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Is this something that
11 if we were to make a motion to advance this, can it go
12 to the Internal Affairs Committee to set up what that
13 would look like as a drawing, payments, percentage of
14 payouts, et cetera? And I assume the Internal Affairs
15 Committee would be the --

16 COMMANDER WHATLEY: That would be a yes.

17 I think what he's doing right now is getting the
18 information out there to you, as a voting body, so we
19 can go forward with this.

20 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Thank you, sir.

21 With that being said, Chris Emmons, 3rd District
22 Commander, moves that this be approved and go to
23 Internal Affairs to set up the logistics of said
24 raffle.

25 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller, 6th

1 District Commander, seconds.

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The motion has been properly
3 made and seconded.

4 Discussion.

5 9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: Jacqueline
6 Whetstone, Commander, District 9.

7 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

8 9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: Is this the same
9 company that the gentleman came and spoke to us like a
10 couple of years ago?

11 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Commander?

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That is one of the companies.
14 The other company is out of Maryland, I believe, and it
15 is a U.S.-based company. And personally, I would
16 rather we keep our money stateside versus sending it to
17 Canada.

18 But their programs are almost identical. And they
19 are able to complete our raffles within the confines of
20 what the State of Ohio has deemed a raffle should be.

21 9TH DISTRICT CMDR WHETSTONE: If I remember, each
22 Post that gets on this, they get a percentage of what
23 happens?

24 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That would be up to the IA
25 Committee to determine how they want to set this up, to

1 be presented back to the DEC for final approval.

2 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: Is there an Ohio company that
4 does this?

5 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No.

6 FROM THE FLOOR: So we looked for an Ohio company?

7 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I have not particularly looked
8 for an Ohio company. I have talked to several other
9 people who have run raffles, such as Ohio State, the
10 Cincinnati Reds, the Cleveland Guardians. They use
11 this company.

12 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC.

13 I know that several of the ballparks do it.
14 Several people do this. If a Post has participated,
15 and say that they receive something, or have the
16 opportunity to receive some of the revenue, are they
17 going to be responsible to our state gaming commission
18 to report that gaming profit like we do with our
19 machines?

20 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: There is no reporting to the
21 state on the gaming, other than just the revenue we
22 make off the money. There is no contract, no
23 licensing, none of that has to take place.

24 I've called the AG three different times. They
25 assured me that we are legal in doing a statewide

1 raffle. Because it's a raffle. It's not e-gaming.
2 It's none of the other stuff that a Post runs. We do
3 not need a license.

4 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Seeing no more questions, we
5 will go into a vote.

6 All for it by saying aye.

7 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Aye.

8 COMMANDER WHATLEY: All against have the same
9 right by saying nay.

10 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

11 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Motion carries.

12 Mr. Commander, Chris Emmons, 3rd District.

13 When will the IA Committee be convened to discuss
14 this?

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It will be before National
16 Convention.

17 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Thank you.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: If the Commander is good with
19 that.

20 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Yes, absolutely.

21 Moving on, good of The American Legion and
22 announcements.

23 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I've got one under new
24 business.

25 We've been approached by the Chalmers VA Medical

1 Center here in Columbus. We have had a rep in there.
2 Every time we get a rep, they leave and go to the VA.
3 It's a revolving door. We can't find a quality person
4 to put in that facility. What has happened is the
5 county veterans service would like to take our office
6 over.

7 What I am proposing is to let that happen but take
8 our employee and move them to Chillicothe, where they
9 need a VSO. I feel that if we put a VSO in
10 Chillicothe, that person will be there many years and
11 be a large asset for our Department.

12 I have talked with Jamie, which is the coordinator
13 at Chillicothe. They are fully on board. They have an
14 office that's ready to go.

15 But I don't want to make that decision without
16 asking you folks for your opinion first.

17 So, Commander, I will turn it over to you.

18 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

19 You've heard his remarks about that. So what's
20 your pleasure?

21 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It's not a vote or anything.
22 It's just discussion.

23 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Howard Marotto,
24 Commander, 10th District.

25 Columbus is such a big area. Would they

1 eventually develop a representative? But then they
2 wouldn't have an office, correct, if they hired someone
3 for that position?

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: No. If we turn the, if we
5 would turn the office back over to the county veterans
6 service office, they did say we could try to share it
7 if we would like.

8 But the county veterans service office can still
9 represent Legionnaires. We can still sign Legionnaires
10 up.

11 Bill, do you have anything you want to add?

12 I'm going to call on Mr. Genochio, because he is
13 the one that actually deals with this day in and day
14 out. He's the one I get my information from. So
15 instead of me talking to you, I'll let him answer some
16 questions.

17 COORDINATOR GENOCHIO: So the main reason is I was
18 approached by Traci Washington, who is the Chief of
19 Volunteer Services at the hospital. Franklin County
20 wants that position. So we did talk about it. She
21 said we can do a part-time deal.

22 The problem is I'm going to need to find somebody
23 that's willing to work part time. You know, to be able
24 to find somebody coming in only two days a week or
25 three days a week, I'm not going to be able to find a

1 young veteran or middle-aged veteran that's going to be
2 able to do that. The salary won't be there for them.
3 And there's no ascending to a higher position.

4 We at one time discussed trying to do a full-time
5 DSO that would cover Chillicothe a couple days a week
6 and Columbus a couple days a week. Again we found,
7 logistically, it's hard to find that person that's
8 geographically located right in the middle to be
9 driving to two locations.

10 So we have an opening available at Chalmers. We
11 discussed putting a full-time in Chillicothe, which has
12 been champing at the bit for someone.

13 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: I don't understand.
14 Chillicothe is a growing area.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: If you look at -- part of our
16 reasoning, and we've had a lot of discussion, part of
17 the reasoning is that 42,500 is what we offer. That's
18 in the Finance minutes. Everybody is aware of where we
19 stand with the price. But 42,500 in Columbus isn't
20 great. And 42,500 in Chillicothe, that ain't a
21 horrible wage. So it's a matter of being able to fit
22 the best for what we can do for our community.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

24 Do you have any other announcements?

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: All right, the Ohio Life

1 Project. Everybody should have received e-mails. You
2 should have the printouts.

3 Please get with the Posts in your District to
4 confirm. We are giving you six weeks. If we don't
5 hear back in six weeks, we will start decreasing
6 members.

7 Come on now. We've got to start figuring this
8 out. We were at 1188 before we started this. When we
9 renewed, we took 25 of them off. I've had one District
10 already reach out to three different Posts to me to let
11 me know their members.

12 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: John Life, 14th District
13 1st Vice Commander.

14 Just a quick question, since we're bringing this
15 up. I'm not sure if you're aware, I have an 888 member
16 on my roster.

17 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I am not aware. But I can
18 investigate it.

19 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: Okay. I didn't know what
20 you wanted us to do. They live in Pennsylvania but,
21 yeah, they're on our roster.

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: I don't know why that was
23 pulled. I did not go through each roster. I will be
24 honest.

25 14TH DISTRICT 1VC LIFE: Okay.

1 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Chris Emmons, 3rd
2 District. Another question.

3 That program is done, is that correct?

4 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: You can no longer purchase it.

5 We are sitting on 1.6 million that is reserved for
6 these members. So the more accurate count we can get,
7 we can look at using those funds in other areas.

8 3RD DISTRICT CMDR EMMONS: Okay.

9 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: So that is why we're trying to
10 get an accurate count so we can plan out, long term,
11 and work with getting our funds directed in the way
12 they should go.

13 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: Chapman, Alternate NEC,
14 through you to the Adjutant.

15 I talked to Sherry this week about an Ohio Life
16 Member who was not on our roster. But she assured me
17 he has been paid now.

18 However, the one that I turned in deceased last
19 year was still on our roster.

20 So I think what happened was, well, they're
21 both -- one was a B and one was a C. They were right
22 together on the roster. That's something that i think
23 is straightened out now.

24 The other thing is, on the regular roster, I can
25 get with you later, I have a duplicate member. It's

1 the same guy, two numbers. There's a misspelled name
2 on one.

3 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We can take care of that.

4 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: Howard Marotto,
5 District 10 Commander.

6 Well, I started working this as soon as I got the
7 e-mail. And I sent a note out to all my Posts, all 64.
8 And I'm getting replies back of Posts telling me how
9 many live members that they have. So I have to send a
10 note back individually saying, "Please let Department
11 know the ones who have passed away in the last year.
12 It's great that you have all these life members that
13 are still alive, but we need to adjust the head count."

14 And so I'm still working on it. And I'll keep
15 going. And if I get somebody that says they've got
16 somebody that died, I'll get the name. I'll send it to
17 Cassie or one of the other folks, or even to you.

18 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Send it to me.

19 10TH DISTRICT CMDR MAROTTO: So we're working on
20 it.

21 When is the deadline on it again?

22 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Six weeks from today.

23 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: One more quick thing.

24 Chapman, Alternate NEC.

25 One more quick thing that could possibly happen.

1 If you go in on the National website, and you go in as
2 a person that's authorized from your Post to go in and
3 edit somebody's demographics, and you mark them as
4 deceased and you hit the wrong person, man, they come
5 off immediately on their roster out there. So then you
6 need to get in contact with Department so that you can
7 get that one reinstated and get the right person.

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: We keep spare jumper cables to
9 bring them right back.

10 ALTERNATE NEC CHAPMAN: It's something that's very
11 easy to do.

12 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: It is.

13 I actually, a little comedy for you, I was doing a
14 membership training a couple years ago. I had the
15 Commander and the new elected Commander in the office.
16 And of course they're bickering back and forth, having
17 fun. And I showed the incoming Commander how easy it
18 was to decessate his Commander. They got a lot of fun
19 out of that.

20 The next thing I wanted to go over is National
21 Convention. We'll be in New Orleans, August 23rd to
22 the 29th.

23 If you haven't already got everything taken care
24 of, Lord help you. Sorry.

25 We are going on Saturday, August 24th, on a boat

1 trip, if you have tickets. If you don't have tickets,
2 they're scarce to come by. I may have to reach out to
3 one of the other Departments to see if they have any
4 extras. We have a very large contingent going. We're
5 over 150 people on the boat.

6 National Commander's Banquet. We've got about 15
7 tickets left. If anybody would like a ticket, please
8 notify me. We will get you tickets. We could probably
9 quadruple our money on them. People are trying to get
10 those things left and right.

11 As a reminder, you must attend the caucus and all
12 the convention sessions to be paid when you're in New
13 Orleans.

14 FROM THE FLOOR: With a report.

15 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: With a report, yes.

16 Dress code is as required, polos and khakis unless
17 you're on stage, then you need to be in a suit and tie.
18 Okay? We've done this before.

19 The National Headquarters hotel is Hilton
20 Riverside. The Auxiliary is the same.

21 Delegate checks will be sent at 30 cents per paid
22 member, minus the \$30 registration fee.

23 Any questions?

24 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

25 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: At this time, Miss Christie

1 White would like to make a few announcements. I will
2 turn it over to her.

3 COORDINATOR WHITE: Hi. It's me again.

4 I just want everyone to mark, I just want everyone
5 to save the date on their calendar, Mid-Winter
6 Conference, January 17th through 19th, 2025, at the
7 Marriott Dublin. Rooms are \$122 a night. The cut-off
8 date is December 27th, book your room before December
9 27th. I can't tell you the number of calls I get the
10 week before, "Oh, I called the hotel and they're sold
11 out." Duh. So December 27th.

12 Department Convention will be July 12th (sic)
13 through July 15th (sic), 2025. It's at the Holiday Inn
14 Independence, where we just were. Rooms are \$129 a
15 night.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: Book it now.

17 COORDINATOR WHITE: I'm sorry.

18 FROM THE FLOOR: Book it now.

19 COORDINATOR WHITE: Book it now. Because the
20 cut-off date is June 10th.

21 So if you call me after June 10th and say, "Hey,
22 the hotel is sold out," duh.

23 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

24 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: Excuse me, when was
25 Mid-Winter?

1 COORDINATOR WHITE: January 17th through the 19th.

2 FROM THE FLOOR: I believe you said the wrong
3 dates for Department.

4 COORDINATOR WHITE: Department, July 12th (sic)
5 through the 15th (sic), 2025.

6 FROM THE FLOOR: Department should be the 10th
7 through the 13th.

8 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: That is correct. It is the
9 10th through the 13th.

10 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: I've got something for
11 the good of The Legion.

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Who are you?

13 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Name.

14 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Chris Miller,
15 Commander, 6th District.

16 Tuesday, September 10th, they have the Ride for
17 the Wall that Heals that comes through Ohio. It only
18 comes through every so many years. They want a
19 motorcycle escort from the Rural King at Liberty
20 Township, in Delaware, Ohio, at 1:00 PM, to it's
21 resting spot for three or four days in Havener Park in
22 Delaware, Ohio. Admission is free for that. That's
23 something that's coming through Ohio. You know we've
24 got a lot of veterans, Vietnam veterans, in our ranks.
25 So that would be something useful to take back to your

1 Posts and put it out to your Posts.

2 FROM THE FLOOR: One more time on the dates,
3 please.

4 TREASURER LEWIS: September 10th.

5 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: So it's September the
6 12th through the 15th. And September 10th is the ride
7 from Liberty Township, Delaware, Ohio, to its resting
8 spot. And that starts at 10:00 AM.

9 There's also a website. It's
10 thewallthathealsohio.com. And all that information is
11 on there too.

12 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

13 6TH DISTRICT CMDR MILLER: Thank you.

14 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Any other announcements?

15 13TH DISTRICT CMDR WRIGHT: It's not an
16 announcement. Commander, Wright 13th District.

17 Commander, these pins, are these five dollars
18 apiece, or what is the cost?

19 COMMANDER WHATLEY: The same as they've sold for
20 in the past. The price hasn't changed. If you want to
21 do five and then five more, that's fine with me.

22 Yes.

23 14TH DISTRICT CMDR WIAANT: Commander, Rodger
24 Wiant, 14th District.

25 I have a 14th District check for \$100 to the

1 Commander's project.

2 Commander, would you like to explain it to us?

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

4 As I mentioned before, my project is for homeless
5 women veterans located at the Dayton VA. I think
6 Charles, Past Commander Charles Stennis had the same
7 thing in Cleveland during his tenure. I just wanted to
8 reach out and support our women veterans because
9 they're doing a lot more things today than they've done
10 yesterday in our military.

11 So we have families that are homeless with
12 children. And I just can't stand by and not support
13 this particular project.

14 Thank you, sir, for your donation. Thank you.

15 Adjutant.

16 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Just real quick, I was made
17 aware of there were e-mails sent to the entire DEC from
18 Eric Hall pertaining to our 401(k). I have not
19 investigated it. But as I have talked to a couple of
20 the DEC members, we are in the process of changing from
21 one 401(k) company to another one. Everything is in
22 line. We have handled this. I have repeatedly worked
23 with the former 401(k) company to remove him from the
24 account. Why he is still getting the information, I am
25 not sure. I have repeatedly requested them to stop it.

1 The other thing, on a much happier and upbeat
2 note, we will have the leading candidate at the time,
3 Dan Wiley, from Kansas, will be in Ohio for the
4 Cleveland Regatta, Saturday the 21st. So we will be
5 running around in that area. We are going to a hog
6 roast at 610, and a steak dinner at 91. If you want to
7 come out and hang out with us and you need tickets,
8 either reach out to me or get ahold of somebody in
9 those Posts. We would love to have a large contingent
10 out to greet Dan and show him some Ohio hospitality.

11 Thank you. I'm done. Thank you.

12 FROM THE FLOOR: Are you sure?

13 ADJUTANT ROBINSON: Yes.

14 2ND DISTRICT 1VC SHAW: Commander, Tim Shaw, 2nd
15 District 1st Vice.

16 Many of you might not know, but the VA is going to
17 be short on funding. It's like \$15 billion for 2025.

18 Senator Brown's office reached out. I'm a
19 veterans commissioner. He reached out to our office.
20 He has put forth a bill to get that funding, because
21 it's going to impact seven million veterans.

22 So you need to reach out to your state
23 representatives to get this passed or come 2025, or
24 sooner, people are going to not get their benefit
25 payments. So we need to put pressure on those state

1 reps to get that money and get it funded.

2 I know I rely on that funding. And I know many of
3 you do. And the veterans that we represent, they need
4 our voice. That's what we're here for.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

7 Yes.

8 13TH DISTRICT 1VC LOCKYER: To expand on what our
9 Adjutant said -- Lockyer, Post 91, 13th District.

10 You don't sell tickets to the state. They're
11 going to provide me a list of those coming from
12 Department. But it's first come, first served. We're
13 going to serve from 6:00 to 8:00. And we'll go until
14 8:00 or until the cow is dead, or gone.

15 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Thank you.

16 In closing --

17 Yes.

18 HISTORIAN BEYER: Al Beyer, Post 523.

19 Is there a bill number that we can associate with
20 that request on the VA funding?

21 2ND DISTRICT 1VC SHAW: In my e-mail, I did not
22 get a bill number.

23 Tim Shaw, 2nd District 1st Vice.

24 I can look into it and I can send it over here to
25 Department and they can get it out.

1 HISTORIAN BEYER: I would appreciate it. Thank
2 you.

3 COMMANDER WHATLEY: It's all clear now?

4 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: (No response).

5 COMMANDER WHATLEY: In closing, as you can see, we
6 are seriously trying to make a transition to where
7 everything is transparent to you. We appreciate the
8 questions and the feedback that you give us. In order
9 for us to proceed and make this thing happen in a more
10 expeditious manner, your input is very important.

11 Secondly, I think the buddy check, I think the 1st
12 Vice mentioned Christmas and Thanksgiving. As I
13 mentioned last year, I think we should do it every
14 month. That's six times a year to check on our
15 comrades.

16 A lot of you take pictures of me at some of the
17 events that I have attended thus far. I would
18 appreciate it if you would forward those pictures to
19 our Historian on a monthly basis. That way they're not
20 getting clogged up trying to go through three months
21 worth of pictures. We would appreciate it.

22 Lastly, I want to thank everybody for coming out
23 today and being patient. We got a lot done today.

24 As we go forward, everything is going to move a
25 lot faster in my meetings. Because I don't believe in

1 taking longer than necessary. My time is valuable just
2 as yours is.

3 With that being said, Chaplain, can you give us a
4 prayer out.

5 ASST CHAPLAIN WHITE: The benediction. Let us
6 pray.

7 Heavenly Father, as we conclude this meeting, we
8 give thanks for the opportunity to gather in service to
9 our veterans, our community and our nation. We ask for
10 Your continued guidance and wisdom as we strive to
11 uphold the values of The American Legion. May we go
12 forth with renewed dedication to support and honor
13 those who have served.

14 Grant us safe travels and a spirit of unity and
15 peace. Amen.

16 FROM THE ASSEMBLY: Amen.

17 COMMANDER WHATLEY: Cover.

18 The colors of our nation in place, hand salute.

19 Two.

20 . . . SALUTE TO COLORS BY ASSEMBLY . . .

21 This meeting is now closed.

22 * * * * *

23 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED)

24 * * * * *

25

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